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**From:** Evenson, Ronald (Rudy)  
**Sent:** 2017-02-16T19:54:27-05:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Re: PBS NewsHour Interview re: Gold Butte National Monument: 3-4 PM PST today or 8:30-9 AM PST tomorrow  
**Received:** 2017-02-16T19:55:18-05:00

Awesome, thanks Gayle! Great job.  
I am copying to WO 600 for awareness.

Rudy Evenson  
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On Thu, Feb 16, 2017 at 4:46 PM, Marrs-Smith, Gayle <[gmarrssm@blm.gov](mailto:gmarrssm@blm.gov)> wrote:

Hi Rudy,

I just completed my interview with PBS. It was pretty straight forward. Sam Weber had previously spoken with Friends of Gold Butte, Partners in Conservation, Crescent Hardy, and a local jeep club to get their views. Some of the questions Sam asked me were:

- Are there differences between the proclamation and the management before? I stated that the proclamation does not change the way Gold Butte has been managed since 1998. I stated that the area was managed for conservation through our local land use plan. Designated routes have been in place for nearly 10 years.
- What are the next steps for the Gold Butte plan? I stated that I could only answer generally about the planning process - but that the first step would be to have in place the advisory committee who would represent the diverse public interests relative to Gold Butte. The advisory committee would assist BLM with planning issues and concerns, and would reach out to their constituents. I stated that the proclamation calls out for rigorous public involvement in the plan. I described the planning process (1) public meeting to work on a common vision for Gold Butte (2) public scoping meeting to identify issues and concerns; (3) creating a range of alternatives and releasing a draft with a public comment period; (4) incorporating and addressing public's comments and releasing a final with appeal rights. I emphasized that there are lots of points in the development of a plan that the public is involved. I stated that plans can take several years to complete, but that Gold Butte has pieces of the planning already completed (like route designations).
- Can you promise that nothing will ever change (like a closure) with managing Gold Butte? I stated that we cannot promise that we will never change our management

actions to protect the objects of the monument. We must evaluate the plan and monitor the landscape to ensure that we are meeting our objectives. I stated that what BLM will promise is that any modification or change in the plan will be vetted again through the public process and be transparent.

- Sam asked if the monument designation would mean better management on the ground. I stated that the proclamation did not come with funding and we would have to seek this funding through congress. I stated that the monument status would put more public eyes on the ground, and that the public would report problems to us so we could respond more quickly.
- Sam asked if the meeting in Mesquite last week was a planning meeting. I stated that the meeting in Mesquite was not a planning meeting - it was an informational meeting to dispel misinformation and answer questions.
- My final statement was that BLM is honored to be stewards of the public lands - the public has a great stake in our decisions and we need to work closely with them.

Sam said that Reno (but not Vegas) carries the National PBS program. It broadcast on Sunday, but they will send a link to view on line on Saturday evening.

Cheers.

Gayle Marrs-Smith  
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On Thu, Feb 16, 2017 at 2:08 PM, Evenson, Ronald (Rudy) <[revenson@blm.gov](mailto:revenson@blm.gov)> wrote:

Hi Gayle and Sam,  
Here is the electronic introduction I promised each of you in separate phone calls earlier today.

Sam, Gayle is the Las Vegas Field Manager for the Bureau of Land Management. She is the line officer responsible for the newly-designated Gold Butte National Monument. Her desk phone number is 702-515-5199 and she is available for the following time slots:

This afternoon, from 3:00 to 4:00 PM Pacific Standard Time (so an hour from now)

OR

Tomorrow morning, Friday, Feb. 17, from 8:30 to 9:00 AM Pacific Standard Time

Gayle can address questions such as how the presidential proclamation for the new monument affects or does not affect existing uses or access. She can also discuss the typical planning

process for setting up a management plan. However, any questions specific to the future of this particular monument will be up to the incoming administration and the new Secretary of the Interior, who is yet to be confirmed, so Gayle will not be addressing those.

Gayle, Sam is a producer at PBS NewsHour, a national TV news program. He will likely be calling with his colleague Laura Fong.

Please let me know if you need further assistance from the Nevada State Office. Otherwise, Sam and Laura, please feel free to work directly with Gayle to set up a time for the call.  
Thanks!

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