

Livestock Grazing Plan Amendment EIS

FACT SHEET: Special Designations

WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

In 1964, Congress passed the Wilderness Act, establishing a national system of lands for the purpose of preserving a representative sample of ecosystems in a natural condition for the benefit of future generations. With the passage of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act in 1976 (FLPMA), Congress directed the BLM to inventory, study, and recommend which lands under its administration should be designated wilderness. An inventory conducted between 1978 and 1980 identified 16 areas totaling approximately 882,000 acres in the planning area as having wilderness character, and these areas were identified as wilderness study areas. All of these areas are in what is now GSENM. The BLM analyzed the suitability of these wilderness study areas for designation and issued the Utah Statewide Final Environmental Impact Statement in 1990. In 1991, the BLM made recommendations to Congress on which portions of wilderness study areas were suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. These recommendations are documented in the Utah Statewide Wilderness Study Report. The BLM is and will continue to manage these wilderness study areas so as not to impair their suitability for preservation as wilderness until Congress acts on the recommendation and either designates the wilderness study areas as wilderness or releases them for other uses. The BLM recognizes grandfathered uses such as grazing and mineral uses, even if those uses may impair the wilderness study

areas' suitability for wilderness. These pre-existing uses are allowed to continue but are restricted to the same manner and degree that was occurring on October 21, 1976, the date that the FLPMA was enacted.

Livestock Grazing in Wilderness Study Areas

Domestic livestock graze in the majority of wilderness study areas in GSENM. Livestock grazing may continue in the same manner and degree as it took place in 1976. Developments such as fences, wells, and pipelines may be maintained. New livestock facilities may be constructed if they are temporary, or if they benefit overall management of wilderness values. Vehicles may be used on designated routes to support grazing management. No special permits or authorization are required for this use.



The BLM is an agency in the US Department of the Interior that manages approximately a quarter billion acres – more than any other Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. Approximately 27 million acres of BLM administered lands make up the collection of National Conservation Lands, also known as the National Landscape Conservation System. These include BLM National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, Wilderness Areas, Wilderness Study Areas, and National Scenic and Historic Trails. The mission of the National Conservation Lands is to conserve, protect, and restore these nationally significant landscapes that are recognized for their outstanding cultural, ecological, and scientific values.

**NATIONAL
CONSERVATION
LANDS**



Special Designations *(continued)*

WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

Wild and scenic rivers are streams or segments of streams designated by Congress under the authority of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 for the purpose of preserving the stream or stream section in its free-flowing condition, preserving water quality, and protecting its outstandingly remarkable values. Outstandingly remarkable values are identified on a segment-specific basis and may include scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values.



Section 5(d)(1) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act directs federal agencies to consider potential wild and scenic rivers in their land and water planning process. To fulfill this requirement, the BLM evaluates streams when developing or revising its land use plans. During the development of the monument management plan, the BLM evaluated streams for their potential inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The BLM determined approximately 252 miles of streams in GSENM were suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Each segment was assigned a classification of wild, scenic, or recreational.

Livestock Grazing along Suitable Wild and Scenic Rivers

Only Congress can designate rivers or portions of rivers as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Accordingly, GSENM must, within the confines of its authority, protect the free-flowing nature, outstandingly remarkable values, and assigned classifications (i.e., wild, scenic, or recreational). Livestock currently graze along many of the suitable segments and should be managed to protect identified river values. Existing structures may be maintained and any new facilities to facilitate livestock management should be unobtrusive so as to maintain the values for which the segment was found suitable.

OLD SPANISH NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

The Old Spanish National Historic Trail is part of the National Trails System, a network of scenic, historic, and recreation trails created by the National Trails System Act of 1968. These trails provide for outdoor recreation needs; promote the enjoyment, appreciation, and preservation of outdoor areas and historic resources; and encourage public access and citizen involvement.

The Old Spanish National Historic Trail was designated on December 4, 2002, by the Old Spanish Trail Recognition Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-325). The trail was a 2,700-mile trade route linking Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Los Angeles,

California, passing through New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Arizona, Nevada, and California. Spanish traffic and trade with the Ute was fairly constant between 1765 and 1821. The trail had brief but heavy use between 1829 and 1848. During that period, Mexican and American traders took woolen goods west by mule train and returned eastward

with California mules and horses for the eastern US and Mexican markets. Use lapsed after the end of the Spanish American War in 1848, and the Old Spanish National Historic Trail had been abandoned as a principal trade route by 1853. The various historical routes together make up what is today known as the Old Spanish National Historic Trail.

The BLM and Park Service jointly administer the Old Spanish National Historic Trail in collaboration with the Old Spanish Trail Association, which serves as the primary non-federal partner.



For more information, please visit the GSENM Livestock Grazing Plan Amendment Webpage: <http://blm.gov/pgld>

**Please submit your comments by
January 13, 2013.**

You can email, fax, or mail your comments.

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