

140905 - Bureau of Land Management News Release

For additional information, contact Larry Crutchfield, 435-691-4310

Grand Staircase Region Recreation Study – Last Chance to Participate

GRAND STAIRCASE-ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENT, Utah – If you missed participating in any of the previous focus groups looking at recreation management and the places in the Grand Staircase region of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM) that many folks consider special, you have two more opportunities to have your views heard. The third and last round of local area focus groups will be hosted by Colorado Mesa University’s (CMU) Natural Resource Center (NRC) and GSENM on September 19 and 20 in Kanab and Cannonville. These groups will focus on areas accessed via Cottonwood Road, Skutumpah Road, and Johnson Canyon Road and the secondary roads that stem from them.

These sessions are associated with the second phase of the GSENM Recreation Experience Baseline Study being conducted by CMU to help the BLM better respond to the public’s interests and expectations for how recreation on the Monument is managed. The first phase of the project was conducted in 2013 and studied the Hole the Rock area.

This research seeks to engage local leaders, business owners, residents, and visitors that either participate in recreational activities in this area of the Monument, or have a stake in the quality of the experience of those that do. A focus group is a form of qualitative research in which a group of people are asked about their perceptions, opinions, preferences, and attitudes towards, in this case, recreational use in the Grand Staircase region of the Monument. Questions are asked in an interactive group setting where participants are free to talk with other group members.

The idea behind the focus groups is to open dialogue between GSENM and the public on recreation issues, to provide information for future planning efforts and project assessments, and to gather data needed to better understand the public’s desired outcomes for recreation management in the Monument.

The focus groups will be facilitated by Dr. Tim Casey, Professor of Political Science at CMU in Grand Junction, Colorado. Dr. Casey is a lead researcher and field coordinator at NRC who has extensive experience working with BLM on similar social science projects on the Colorado Plateau. He has been responsible for facilitation of public meetings and focus groups regarding public lands since 2006.

Each focus group session will last approximately 90 minutes and is limited to 25 people. The dates, times, and locations are noted below:

FRIDAY - Sept 19	10 AM	Kanab Visitor Center	745 HWY 89 East, Kanab, UT
FRIDAY - Sept 19	1 PM	Kanab Visitor Center	745 HWY 89 East, Kanab, UT
SATURDAY - Sept 20	9 AM	Kanab Visitor Center	745 HWY 89 East, Kanab, UT
SATURDAY - Sept 20	2 PM	Cannonville Visitor Center	10 Center Street, Cannonville, UT

This second phase of the GSENM Recreation Experience Baseline Study has been funded by a National Landscape Conservation System Science Grant and Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act fees. If funding allows, additional areas of the Monument will be studied in subsequent years.

To reserve a space in a particular focus group, please contact Allysia Angus, GSENM Landscape Architect/Land Use Planner at 435-826-5615 or aangus@blm.gov. If you have questions about the research, please contact Dr. Tim Casey at 970-248-1095 or tcasey@coloradomesa.edu.



Focus group participants locating special places on map of area.
Photo by BLM/Allysia Angus.



Hiking in Willis Creek
Photo by BLM/Allysia Angus.