

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

GRAND STAIRCASE-ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENT

**PROPOSED MANAGEMENT PLAN
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

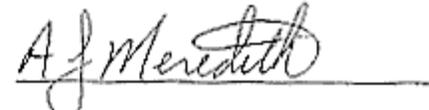
Prepared by

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument
Cedar City, Utah

July 1999



Linda S. Colville, Acting State Director, Utah



A. J. Meredith, Monument Manager

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau Of Land Management
Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument
337 South Main, Suite 010
Cedar City, Utah 84720

1600
(UT-030)

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review is the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Proposed Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (Proposed Plan). The Proposed Plan is a refinement of the Preferred Alternative and accompanying environmental analysis contained in the Draft Management Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft Plan) that was issued to the public in November 1998. Elements of each of the five alternatives analyzed in the Draft Plan were drawn upon to create this Proposed Plan. The Proposed Plan reflects consideration given to public comments, corrections, and rewording for clarification.

The Proposed Plan is published in condensed format and can be used in conjunction with the Draft Plan to facilitate review. The description of the affected environment and detailed descriptions of alternatives contained in the Draft Plan, as well as some of the appendices, are referenced but not reproduced in the Proposed Plan.

Upon Publication of this Plan, a 30-day protest period and a 60-day Governor's Consistency review will be held. The Record of Decision (ROD) and the Approved Management Plan will then be prepared. Approval will be withheld on any portion of the Proposed Plan under protest until the final action has been completed on any protests. Distribution of the ROD/Approved Plan is expected to occur in the Fall of 1999.

We appreciate the time and effort you have given during your involvement in this process. Your continued participation is essential to achieve wise management of public lands and resources within the Monument.

Sincerely,



A. J. Meredith
Monument Manager

**GRAND STAIRCASE-ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENT
MANAGEMENT PLAN and ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

Draft Environmental Statement

Final Environmental Statement

Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management

Type of Action: Administrative

Legislative

Abstract: This is the Proposed Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement for Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

This document responds to public comments received on the Draft Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. The Proposed Plan also corrects errors in the Draft Plan identified through the public comment process and internal BLM review. The Proposed Plan and associated analysis presents a refined and modified version of the Preferred Alternative and the accompanying impact analysis contained in the Draft Plan.

This document is published in a condensed form. To facilitate review, it can be used in conjunction with the Draft Plan, which was published in November 1998.

Protests to this Management Plan must be received within 30-days of the date of publication, in the Federal Register, of the Notice of Availability by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. A news release will also be provided to local newspapers.

For further information contact:

Ms. Chris Killingsworth, Planning Coordinator
Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument
337 South Main Street, Suite 010
Cedar City, Utah 84720
(435) 865-5100

PROTEST PROCEDURES

The resource management planning process provides for an administrative review to the BLM Director for those who believe approval of the Proposed Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (Proposed Plan) for Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument would be in error (See 43 CFR 1610.5-2). The following guidelines outline the process for preparation and submission of a protest that will assure the greatest consideration to your point of view.

Only those persons or organizations who participated in the scoping or comment period for the 1998 Draft Management Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement planning process leading to this Proposed Plan may protest. If our records do not indicate a person's involvement in any stage in the preparation of the Proposed Plan, the protest will be dismissed without further review.

A protesting party may raise only those issues which he/she submitted for the record during the planning process. New issues raised in the protest period should be directed to the Monument Manager for consideration in plan implementation, as a potential plan amendment, or as otherwise appropriate.

The period for filing a plan protest begins with the Environmental Protection Agency publication of the Notice of Availability of the Proposed Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement in the Federal Register. The protest period extends for 30 days. There is no provision for an extension of time. To be considered timely, a protest must be postmarked no later

than the last day of the protest period.

Although not a requirement, we suggest that protests be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested.

Protests must be in writing to:

Director, Bureau of Land Management
Attn: Ms. Brenda Williams, Protests Coordinator
1849 C Street NW
WO-210/LS-1075
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20240

Overnight mail address is:

Director, Bureau of Land Management
Attn: Ms. Brenda Williams, Protests Coordinator (WO-210)
1620 L Street, NW, Suite 1075
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: 202/452-5045

To expedite consideration, **in addition to the original sent by mail or overnight mail**, a copy of the protest may be sent by:

FAX to 202/452-5112; or E-mail to bhudgens@wo.blm.gov

Protest Procedures

Protests filed late, or filed with the State Director or Monument Manager shall be rejected by the Washington Office. To be considered complete, a protest must contain, at a minimum, the following information:

1. The name, mailing address, telephone number, and interest of the person filing the protest.
2. A statement of the issue or issues being raised.
3. Identification of the part or parts of the Proposed Plan being protested. To the extent possible, this should be done by reference to specific pages, paragraphs, sections, tables, maps, etc. included in the document.
4. A copy of all documents addressing the issue or issues that you submitted during the planning process, or a reference to the date the issue or issues were discussed by you for the record.
5. A concise statement explaining why the Utah BLM State Director's proposed decision is believed to be incorrect. This is a critical part of your protest. Take care to document all relevant facts. As much as possible, reference or cite the planning documents, environmental analysis documents, or available planning records (e.g., meeting minutes or summaries, correspondence). A protest which merely expresses disagreement with the proposed decision, without any data, will not provide us with the benefit of your information and insight. In this case, the Director's review will be based on the existing analysis and supporting data.

At the end of the 30-day protest period and after the Governor's consistency review, the Proposed Plan, excluding any portions under protest, will become final. Approval will be withheld on any portion of the Proposed Plan under protest until final action has been completed on such protest.

USER'S GUIDE

The Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Proposed Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) is divided into five chapters, and includes maps, appendices, a glossary, references, an index, and an errata. This document is published in a condensed format and can be used in conjunction with the Draft Management Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) distributed in November 1998.

Chapter 1 (Purpose and Need) contains introductory material for the Proposed Management Plan/FEIS. It describes the purpose and need for the preparation of the document and identifies the issues that will be addressed. It also describes the planning and scoping process and outlines the planning criteria. This chapter also outlines changes that have occurred since the publication of the Draft Plan. A table comparing the Proposed Plan actions with the five draft alternatives can be found at the end of this chapter.

Chapter 2 (Proposed Management Plan) outlines the general management direction for the Monument including resource objectives and actions to accomplish those objectives. This chapter is organized as follows: Introduction, Resource and Management Objectives, Specific Resource Objectives and Actions, Zone Management Direction, Management Across Zones, Special Emphasis Areas, and Cooperation and Consultation. Maps and tables are found throughout the chapter.

Chapter 3 (Environmental Consequences) analyzes the potential impacts of implementation of the Proposed Plan. The analysis covers the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the proposed actions on Monument resources. This chapter also identifies and discusses issues considered but not analyzed in detail.

Chapter 4 (Public Participation and Coordination) includes a summary of public involvement, a collaborative management strategy, a list of agencies and organizations receiving the document, and the list of preparers for this Proposed Management Plan/FEIS. This chapter also addresses the consistency of the Proposed Plan with other approved plans.

Chapter 5 (Public Comments on the Draft Management Plan/DEIS and Responses) addresses the public comments received on the Draft and includes responses to those comments.

The **Appendices** contain additional information to help in the understanding of the document.

The **Glossary, References, and the Index** provide an aid to the reader in finding and understanding the material contained in this document.

An **Errata** to the Draft Management Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement is provided at the end of this document.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern	PSD	Prevention of Significant Deterioration
ADC	Animal Damage Control	PWR	Public Water Reserves
AMP	Allotment Management Plans	RMIS	Recreation Management Information System
APHIS	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service	RNA	Research Natural Area
APD	Application for Permit to Drill	ROD	Record of Decision
ATV	All-Terrain Vehicle	ROW	Rights-of-Way
AUM	Animal Unit Month	SITLA	Utah School Institutional and Trust Lands Administration
BLM	Bureau of Land Management	SRMA	Special Recreation Management Area
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality	TDS	Total Dissolved Solids
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations	TGA	Taylor Grazing Act
DEIS	Draft Environmental Impact Statement	TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
DMP	Draft Management Plan	UDEQ	Utah Department of Environmental Quality
DOGMA	Utah Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining	UDWQ	Utah Division of Water Quality
FACA	Federal Advisory Committee Act	UDWR	Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
FEIS	Final Environmental Impact Statement	UGS	Utah Geological Survey
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission	USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act	USC	United States Code
GCNRA	Glen Canyon National Recreation Area	USDOJ	United States Department of the Interior
GIS	Geographic Information System	USGS	United States Geological Survey
GOPB	Utah Governors Office of Planning and Budget	VER	Valid Existing Right
GSENM	Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument	VRM	Visual Resource Management
IM	Instruction Memorandum	WPPA	Wolverine Petrified Forest Area
IMP	Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review	WSA	Wilderness Study Area
ISA	Instant Study Area	WSR	Wild and Scenic Rivers
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding		
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act		
NWSRS	National Wild and Scenic River System		
OHV	Off-Highway Vehicle		
ONA	Outstanding Natural Area		
PFC	Proper Functioning Condition		