

Livestock Grazing Plan Amendment EIS

FACT SHEET: GSENM's Objects & Values

The Presidential Proclamation establishing Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM) recognizes outstanding opportunities for the study of geology, paleontology, archaeology, history, and biology. The five life zones represented in the Monument—from low-lying desert to coniferous forest—coupled with challenging terrain and limited water, have shaped the region's long and dignified human history. Rugged and remote, the area remained a frontier through the late 1800s.

Ranching and livestock management remain at the core of the traditional uses of this region's public lands, and have created a cultural landscape rich in both tangible objects — trails, inscriptions, ghost towns, rock houses, and cowboy line camps — and the intangible forces which have shaped essential values of hard work, self-reliance, strong ties to the land, and strong ties to family.

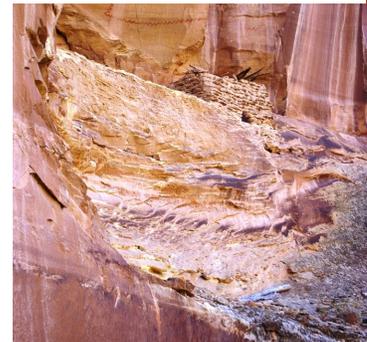
The Monument also contains the traces of more than 10,000 years of human occupation. The area was the contact point for the Anasazi and Fremont cultures. Archeological values include hundreds of recorded sites—rock art panels, occupation sites, campsites, and granaries.

Known today as a geologic treasure, the Monument contains one of the most complete fossil records of the late Cretaceous period in the world. The diverse geologic objects include the Grand Staircase itself, the upper Escalante Canyons, the Kaiparowits Plateau, and arches and natural bridges throughout the Monument.

GSENM's outstanding ecological values include unusual and diverse soils, cryptobiotic crusts, endemic plants and their pollinators, habitat for mountain lion, bear and big horn sheep, and more than 200 species of birds including bald eagles and peregrine falcons.

While the Proclamation specified that the Monument shall be reserved for the purpose of protecting an array of historic, biological, geological, paleontological, and archeological objects, it also allowed for the continuation of valid existing rights. Hunting and fishing would continue to be regulated by the State of Utah. Existing grazing uses would be governed by application laws and regulations.

This Livestock Grazing Plan Amendment EIS strives to find a decision that will enable sustained use of the land through improved land health and science-based grazing management.



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.

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