



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
CANYONS OF THE ANCIENTS NATIONAL MONUMENT
29211 Highway 184
Dolores, CO 81323
www.blm.gov/co/st/en/nm/canm.html

In Reply Refer To:
1020 (S07000)
October 21, 2015

OPTIONAL REPLY DUE: November 23, 2015

Dear Interested Parties, and Tribal Governments:

The Bureau of Land Management's Canyons of the Ancients National Monument is accepting scoping comments on a proposal to remove a recent rock slide in the Sandstone Allotment (see map attached). This route is one of the few access points to the upper end of Yellow Jacket Canyon on the Monument and is vital to the management of the livestock grazing allotment.

The BLM is preparing an Environmental Assessment to analyze the proposed rock slide removal (proposed action). Comments received would be used to help the BLM Interdisciplinary Team identify issues and refine the proposed action, develop measures to mitigate potential effects, and develop reasonable alternatives to the proposed action if necessary to address any issues.

What: The BLM is proposing to remove rocks from a recent rock slide I to allow safe passage for livestock and hikers. The rock slide removal project would be done with the use of air powered drills to make holes and expanding slurry or explosives to fracture the rocks. Other options in removing large rocks will also be explored. In addition, heavy equipment would be used to remove the rock fragments. Management practices that will be used to reduce the risks associated with the use of explosives are, small explosive charges reducing or eliminating the chance of fly rock, and seismic monitoring.

Where: Access to this part of the monument is from Montezuma County road 14 and BLM road #4528. Access to the site includes travel through a small corner of private land.

When: BLM is proposing to remove the rock slide during the upcoming winter months (January or February, 2016).

The BLM needs to remove the recent rock slide blocking access to the upper end of Yellow Jacket Canyon on the Monument. The purpose of this action is to provide safe access and allow the permittee to effectively manage the livestock grazing in the Sandstone Allotment in accordance with the Federal Land Management Policy Act (1976) and the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument Record of Decision/Resource Management Plan (2010). In addition, the trail would also continue to provide safe public access to the area.

Comment regarding the project should be submitted via email or hard copy by November 23, 2015 to:

BLM Canyons of the Ancients National Monument
Attn: Garth Nelson
29211 Highway 184,
Dolores, CO 81323
or gnelson@blm.gov

This letter also requests your comments, if any, on the potential effects to historic properties. This request is made to satisfy consultation requirements with local governments pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment –including your personally identifiable information –may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personally identifiable information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

If you have questions or concerns regarding this proposal, please contact Garth Nelson, BLM Rangeland Management Specialist, at (970) 882-6847.

Sincerely,



Marietta Eaton
Canyons of the Ancients National Monument Manager
Anasazi Heritage Center Director

