ASDO NEPA DOCUMENT ROUTING SHEET

NEPA Document Number: **DOI-BLM-AZ-A030-2015-0007-CX**

Project Title: University of New Mexico Thermochronology Research Permit (Application # 82466)

Project Lead: **Jennifer Fox**

Date that any scoping meeting was conducted: N/A

Date that concurrent, electronic distribution for review was initiated: August 20, 2015

Deadline for receipt of responses: **Friday, September 11, 2015**

ID Team/Required Reviewers will be determined at scoping meeting or as a default the following:

Gloria Benson, Tribal Liaison
Whit Bunting, Range/Vegetation/Weeds/S&G
Lorraine Christian, Lands/Realty/Minerals
Diana Hawks, Recreation/Wilderness/VRM
David Van Alfen, Cultural Resources
Jace Lambeth, Special Status Plants
Travis Legler, Supervisory Law Enforcement
Richard Spotts, Environmental Coordinator
Jeff Young, Wildlife/T&E Animals
Mark Wimmer, Monument Manager

Required Recipients of electronic distribution E-mails only (not reminders):

Steve Rosenstock (E-mail address: srosenstock@azgfd.gov)
Daniel Bulletts (E-mail address: dbulletts@kaibabpaiute-nsn.gov)
Peter Bungart (E-mail address: pbungart@circaculture.com)
Dawn Hubbs (E-mail address: dawn.hubbs101@gmail.com)

(Mr. Rosenstock is an Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) Habitat Program Manager. Mr. Bulletts is acting Environmental Program Director for the Kaibab Paiute Tribe (KPT). Mr. Bungart and Ms. Hubbs are cultural staff for the Hualapai Tribe. They may review and/or forward on ASDO NEPA documents to other employees. If a Project Lead receives comments from any AGFD employee on their draft NEPA document, they should include them in the complete set/administrative record and share them with Jeff Young as the ASDO Wildlife Team Lead. Mr. Young will then recommend how these comments should be addressed. If a Project Lead receives comments from any KPT or Hualapai Tribe employee, they should include them in the complete set/administrative record and share them with Gloria Benson as the ASDO Tribal Liaison. Ms. Benson will then recommend how these comments should be addressed.)

Discretionary Reviewers:

Eathan McIntyre, Physical Scientist
Steve Daron, Archeologist, Lake Mead NRA

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)
COMPLIANCE RECORD FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS (CX)
U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management

PART I. – PROPOSED ACTION

BLM Office: Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument (GCPNM)

NEPA No.: DOI-BLM-AZ-A030-2015-0007-CX
Case File No.:

Proposed Action Title/Type: University of New Mexico Thermochronology Research Permit (Application # 82466)

Applicant: Carmen Winn (UNM)

Location of Proposed Action:
Gila and Salt River Meridian, Arizona
Within the bounds of GCPNM:

T. 31 N., R. 11 W., sec. 20; sec. 28. T. 32 N., R. 9 W., sec. 4, S1/2; sec. 9. T. 32 N., R. 11 W., sec. 5, 6, 7 and 8; sec. 18. T. 32 N., R 12 W., sec. 1 and 2; sec. 3, N1/2 sec. 4; sec. 8; sec. 12 and 13; sec. 14, E1/2; sec. 17; sec. 21; sec. 23 and 24; sec. 28. T. 33 N., R 9 W., sec. 1, SW1/4; sec. 8, S1/2; sec. 12, NW1/4.	T. 33 N., R 11 W., sec. 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7; sec. 8, E1/2; sec. 9; sec. 10, S1/2; sec. 15, 16 and 17; sec. 31, SW¼. T. 33 N., R 12 W., sec. 1, S1/2; sec. 2, E½; sec. 12; sec. 23, S1/2; sec. 24, S1/2; sec. 25; sec. 26, E1/2; sec. 33, sec. 34, S1/2; sec. 35, S1/2. T. 34 N., R. 9 W., sec. 3, W1/2; sec. 4, E1/2; sec. 5, 6, 7 and 8; sec. 10; sec. 17 and 18; sec. 20, N1/2. T. 34 N., R. 10 W., sec. 12; sec. 33 and 34. sec. 32, E1/2.	T. 34 N., R. 11 W., sec. 1, N1/2; sec. 4 and 5; sec. 6, N1/2; sec. 18, S1/2; sec. 19; sec. 27; sec. 29; T. 34 N., R. 12 W., sec. 1; sec. 22 and 23; sec. 26; sec. 27, N1/2; sec. 35. T. 35 N., R. 9 W., sec. 22, SW1/4; sec. 27 and 28; sec. 29, E1/2; sec. 30 and 31; sec. 33 and 34. T. 35 N., R. 11 W., sec. 31; sec. 33, S1/2. T. 35 N., R. 12 W., sec. 26, S1/2; sec. 27, SE1/4; sec. 34, NE1/4; sec. 35 and 36.

Description of Proposed Action: University of New Mexico researchers propose to collect rocks and detrital zircon sand for thermochronologic dating of the Mesozoic strata of Grand Staircase (Moenkopi Formation) and determination of paleoriver systems. Two 1-gallon ziplock bags of rock chips and/or sand would be collected from up to 15 sites within the Monument. Locations include the Uinkaret and Shivwits Plateaus. Primary focus would be where Moenkopi Formation is within walking distance of a public, open road (see Map 1) and would not include any wilderness areas or private or state property. Samples would be collected along roads at discreet distances, avoiding potential public congregation sites such as trailheads, and using Leave No Trace principles. Method of access to collection sites would be on foot, via established roads, with no off road vehicle use proposed. Researchers would collect samples at any time of the year from the date the permit is signed until early 2017. Researchers would comply with GCPNM Scientific Research Permit Stipulations and National Park Service General Conditions for Scientific Research and Collecting (see attached).

PART II. – PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW

This proposed action is subject to the following land use plan(s): Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument Resource Management Plan (RMP)

Decisions and page nos.: MA-SR-01 and MA-SR-02 pg 2-103

> *"Permits will be required for approved scientific research to insure compatibility and reporting of results."*
>
> *"The collection of any objects in the Monument will not be authorized except by permit for scientific research or use."*

Date plan approved/amended: January 29, 2008

This proposed action has been reviewed for conformance with this plan (*43 CFR 1610.5-3, BLM Manual 1601.04.C.2)*.

PART III. – NEPA COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION REVIEW

A. The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 43 CFR 46.210,(e);

> Nondestructive data collection, inventory (including field, aerial, and satellite surveying and mapping), study, research, and monitoring activities.

And

B. Extraordinary Circumstances Review: In accordance with **43 CFR 46.215**, any action that is normally categorically excluded must be subjected to sufficient environmental review to determine if it meets any of the 12 Extraordinary Circumstances described. If any circumstance applies to the action or project, and existing NEPA documentation does not adequately address it, then further NEPA analysis is required.

IMPORTANT: Appropriate staff should review the circumstances listed in Part IV, check the appropriate box (yes/no), comment and initial for concurrence. Add any appropriate additional reviewers and applicable manager. Rationale supporting the concurrence should be included in the appropriate block. If no response is received from a mandatory reviewer, enter the comment due date along with the notation "No response received."

PART IV. – EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES DOCUMENTATION

PREPARERS/REVIEWERS:	DATE:
Jennifer Fox, Project Lead	September 11, 2015
Gloria Benson, Tribal Liaison	No response received
Whit Bunting, Range/Vegetation/Weeds/S&G	September 8, 2015
Diana Hawks, Recreation/Wilderness/VRM	August 20, 2015
David van Alfen, Cultural Resources	No response received
Whit Bunting acting for Lorraine Christian, Lands/Realty/Minerals	September 8, 2015
Jace Lambeth, Special Status Plants	August 31, 2015
Travis Legler, Law Enforcement	September 4, 2015
Richard Spotts, Environmental Coordinator	August 27, 2015
Jeff Young, Wildlife/T&E Animals	No response received
Eathan McIntyre, Physical Scientist	August 31, 2015
Steve Daron, Archeologist, Lake Mead NRA	No response received
Mark Wimmer, Monument Manager	August 25, 2015
Steve Rosenstock, AGFD	August 20, 2015

The action has been reviewed to determine if any of the extraordinary circumstances (43 CFR 46.215(a)-(l)) apply. The project would:

(a) Have significant impacts on public health or safety.

Yes	No	
☐	☒	**Rationale:** No significant impacts on public safety would result from the proposed action because of the minimal impacting nature of the proposal. The safety of the researchers would be addressed through the approval process of a required Backcountry Travel Plan and through the Parashant Research Permit stipulations (General #8, 12, 14, 15, 16, Backcountry camping and travel # 1). Preparer's Initials JEF

(b) Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.

Yes	No	
☐	☒	**Rationale:** All proposed sampling locations are outside designated wilderness and not near any wild and scenic river segment. The proposed action would not have significant impacts on the national monument objects or on recreation. Preparer's Initials DCH

(c) Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102 (2) (E)].		
Yes ☐	**No** ☒	**Rationale:** There are no controversial environmental effects or unresolved conflicts concerning alternative use of available resources because of the minimal impacting nature of the proposed action. Preparer's Initials JEF
(d) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		
Yes ☐	**No** ☒	**Rationale:** The minimal impact of collection of a small amount of sand and rock near roads using Leave No Trace principles would not have significant environmental effects or risks. Preparer's Initials JEF
(e) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principal about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		
Yes ☐	**No** ☒	**Rationale:** No. Proposed action is similar to and smaller in scope to previous geological collections on the Monument and does not represent a decision in principal about future actions with potential significant environmental effects. Each research permit is assessed individually. Preparer's Initials JEF
(f) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		
Yes ☐	**No** ☒	**Rationale:** There would be no cumulative effect because all access is via designated and existing roads or on foot on trails/disturbed areas and the proposed action is at a level with minimal environmental impact. Preparer's Initials JEF
(g) Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the bureau.		
Yes ☐	**No** ☒	**Rationale:** Proposed collection locations are not on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the bureau. Preparer's Initials JEF
(h) Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		
Yes ☐	**No** ☒	**Rationale:** The removal of a small amount of sand/rock from barren areas would have no effect on listed wildlife species or Critical Habitat because no listed wildlife species or Critical Habitat occurs within the project area. Preparer's Initials JEF

(i) Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		
Yes ☐	**No** ☒	**Rationale:** No environmental laws/requirements would be violated. The small surface collections are not findable, leasable or saleable by the BLM. Preparer's Initials JEF
(j) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		
Yes ☐	**No** ☒	**Rationale:** The proposed action is not near any population centers. Preparer's Initials JEF
(k) Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).		
Yes ☐	**No** ☒	**Rationale:** This project would involve very short-term field time at the research site and would not impede access or significantly affect the integrity of the sites. Preparer's Initials JEF
(l) Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).		
Yes ☐	**No** ☒	**Rationale:** Protocols to minimize the spread of non-native invasive species are in place and would be followed. Preparer's Initials JEF

PART V. – COMPLIANCE REVIEW CONCLUSION

I have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record, and have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan and that no further environmental analysis is required.

MITIGATION MEASURES/OTHER REMARKS:

- Research and Collecting Permit General Conditions and Restrictions Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument
- General Conditions For Scientific Research And Collecting Permit, United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

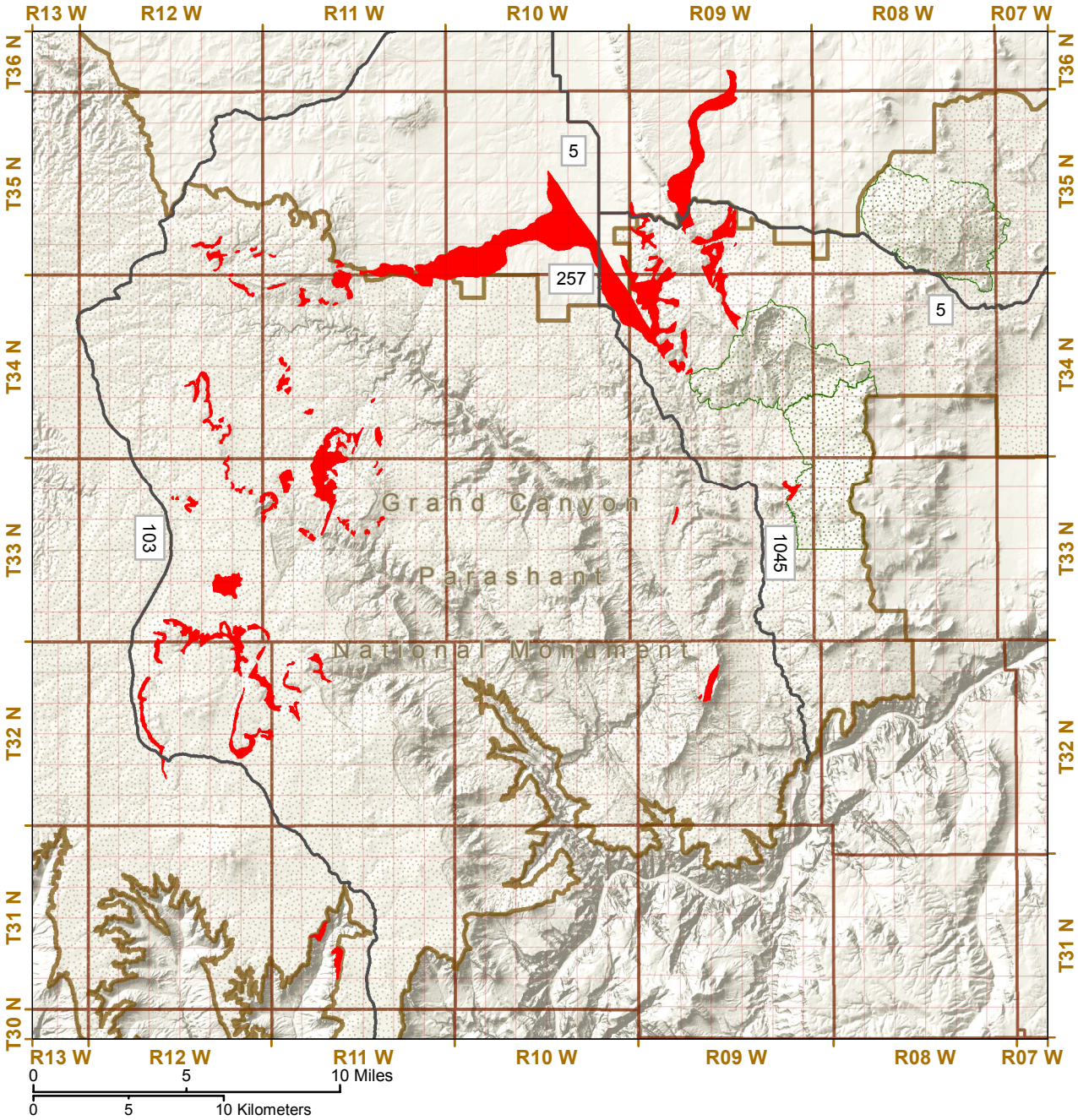
APPROVING OFFICIAL: Mark Weiss DATE: September 16, 2015

TITLE: Monument Manager, Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument

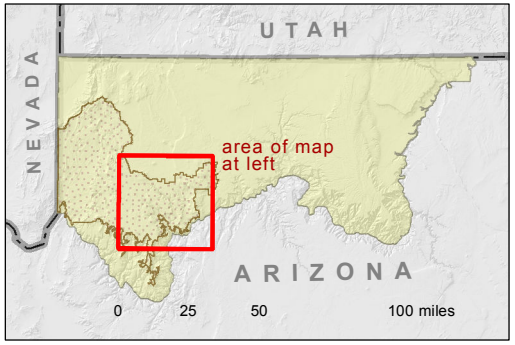
Note: The signed conclusion on this compliance record is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. A separate decision to implement the action should be prepared in accordance with program specific guidance.

University of New Mexico - Thermochronology Research Permit CX
DOI-BLM-AZ-A030-2015-0007-CX Map 1

Bureau of Land Management - Arizona Strip District - Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument



Map Location within the Arizona Strip District



District Boundary
Grand-Canyon Parashant NM

Moenkopi Formation
Designated Wilderness
Arizona Strip Routes and Road Number

U.S. PLSS Features
Township
Section

Map produced by BLM - Arizona Strip District GIS Program

User: jefox
File Path: \\blm\dfs\loc\EGIS\AZ\Arizona_Strip_DO\GIS_Users\jefox\Research_Permits\Thermochronology_Research_Permit_CX_2015_Map1.mxd

Date: August 2015

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 12N
Reference System: U.S. PLSS Sections

Data Sources: BLM-ASDO Corporate Geodatabases

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled for various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.

BLM

Arizona Strip District

DECISION MEMORANDUM

University of New Mexico Thermochronology Research Permit (Application # 82466)
NEPA No.: DOI-BLM-AZ-A030-2015-0007-CX
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument

Approval and Decision

Based on a review of the project described in the attached Categorical Exclusion (CX) documentation and resource staff recommendations, I have determined that the project is in conformance with the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument Resource Management Plan (approved January 29, 2008) and is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis. It is my decision to approve the action as proposed with the mitigation measures/special conditions identified in Part V of the CX.

Administrative Review or Appeal Opportunities

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR, Part 4 and the attached Form 1842-1. If an appeal is taken, your notice of appeal must be filed in the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument, 345 East Riverside Drive, St. George, Utah 84790 within 30 days from receipt of this decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

In accordance with 43 CFR 2920.2-2(b), this decision remains in effect pending appeal unless a stay is granted. If you wish to file a petition pursuant to regulations at 43 CFR 2920.2-2 for a stay of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the standards listed below. Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to each party named in this decision and to the Interior Board of Land Appeals and to the Department of the Interior, Office of the Field Solicitor, Sandra Day O'Connor U.S. Court House #404, 401 West Washington Street SPC44, Phoenix, AZ 85003-2151 (see 43 CFR 4.413) at the same time the original documents are filed in this office. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulations, a petition for a stay of a decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

(1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
(2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits,
(3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
(4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Mark Wimmer, Monument Manager

9/16/2015
Date

Attachment: Form 1842-1

Form 1842-1
(September 2006)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

INFORMATION ON TAKING APPEALS TO THE INTERIOR BOARD OF LAND APPEALS

DO NOT APPEAL UNLESS
1. This decision is adverse to you,
AND
2. You believe it is incorrect

IF YOU APPEAL, THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES MUST BE FOLLOWED

1. NOTICE OF APPEAL

A person who wishes to appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals must file in the office of the officer who made the decision (not the Interior Board of Land Appeals) a notice that he wishes to appeal. A person served with the decision being appealed must transmit the *Notice of Appeal* in time for it to be filed in the office where it is required to be filed within 30 days after the date of service. If a decision is published in the FEDERAL REGISTER, a person not served with the decision must transmit a *Notice of Appeal* in time for it to be filed within 30 days after the date of publication (43 CFR 4.411 and 4.413).

2. WHERE TO FILE

NOTICE OF APPEAL

Monument Manager, Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument
Bureau of Land Management
345 East Riverside Drive
St. George, UT 84790

WITH COPY TO SOLICITOR

Office of the Field Solicitor
Sandra Day O'Connor US Courthouse, Suite 404
401 West Washington Street, SPC-44
Phoenix, AZ 85003-2151

3. STATEMENT OF REASONS

Within 30 days after filing the *Notice of Appeal*, file a complete statement of the reasons why you are appealing. This must be filed with the United States Department of the Interior, Office of Hearings and Appeals, Interior Board of Land Appeals, 801 N. Quincy Street, MS 300-QC, Arlington, Virginia 22203. If you fully stated your reasons for appealing when filing the *Notice of Appeal*, no additional statement is necessary (43 CFR 4.412 and 4.413).

WITH COPY TO SOLICITOR

Office of the Field Solicitor
Sandra Day O'Connor US Courthouse, Suite 404
401 West Washington Street, SPC-44
Phoenix, AZ 85003-2151

AND COPY TO

Monument Manager, Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument
Bureau of Land Management
345 East Riverside Drive
St. George, UT 84790

4. ADVERSE PARTIES

Within 15 days after each document is filed, each adverse party named in the decision and the Regional Solicitor or Field Solicitor having jurisdiction over the State in which the appeal arose must be served with a copy of: (a) the *Notice of Appeal*, (b) the Statement of Reasons, and (c) any other documents filed (43 CFR 4.413).

5. PROOF OF SERVICE

Within 15 days after any document is served on an adverse party, file proof of that service with the United States Department of the Interior, Office of Hearings and Appeals, Interior Board of Land Appeals, 801 N. Quincy Street, MS 300-QC, Arlington, Virginia 22203. This may consist of a certified or registered mail "Return Receipt Card" signed by the adverse party (43 CFR 4.401(c)).

6. REQUEST FOR STAY

Except where program-specific regulations place this decision in full force and effect or provide for an automatic stay, the decision becomes effective upon the expiration of the time allowed for filing an appeal unless a petition for a stay is timely filed together with a *Notice of Appeal* (43 CFR 4.21). If you wish to file a petition for a stay of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Interior Board of Land Appeals, the petition for a stay must accompany your *Notice of Appeal* (43 CFR 4.21 or 43 CFR 2801.10 or 43 CFR 2881.10). A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the standards listed below. Copies of the *Notice of Appeal* and Petition for a Stay **must** also be submitted to each party named in this decision and to the Interior Board of Land Appeals and to the appropriate Office of the Solicitor (43 CFR 4.413) at the same time the original documents are filed with this office. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay. Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulations, a petition for a stay of a decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards: (1) the relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied, (2) the likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits, (3) the likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and (4) whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Unless these procedures are followed, your appeal will be subject to dismissal (43 CFR 4.402). Be certain that **all** communications are identified by serial number of the case being appealed.

NOTE: A document is not filed until it is actually received in the proper office (43 CFR 4.401(a)). See 43 CFR Part 4, Subpart B for general rules relating to procedures and practice involving appeals.

(Continued on page 2)

43 CFR SUBPART 1821–GENERAL INFORMATION

Sec. 1821.10 Where are BLM offices located? (a) In addition to the Headquarters Office in Washington, D.C. and seven national level support and service centers, BLM operates 12 State Offices each having several subsidiary offices called Field Offices. The addresses of the State Offices can be found in the most recent edition of 43 CFR 1821.10. The State Office geographical areas of jurisdiction are as follows:

STATE OFFICES AND AREAS OF JURISDICTION:

Alaska State Office ---------- Alaska
Arizona State Office --------- Arizona
California State Office ------- California
Colorado State Office -------- Colorado
Eastern States Office --------- Arkansas, Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri
and, all States east of the Mississippi River
Idaho State Office ---------- Idaho
Montana State Office --------- Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota
Nevada State Office ---------- Nevada
New Mexico State Office ---- New Mexico, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas
Oregon State Office ---------- Oregon and Washington
Utah State Office ---------- Utah
Wyoming State Office -------- Wyoming and Nebraska

(b) A list of the names, addresses, and geographical areas of jurisdiction of all Field Offices of the Bureau of Land Management can be obtained at the above addresses or any office of the Bureau of Land Management, including the Washington Office, Bureau of Land Management, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240.