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*"Rummaging in the government's attic"*

Description of document: Bureau of Land Management (BLM) memos, emails, or reports about the consideration of limitations/restrictions on aerial rope activities in Moab, such as at Corona Arch, 2014-2015

Request date: 31-July-2014

Released date: 10-February-2015

Posted date: 02-March-2015

Source of document: Bureau of Land Management  
Utah State Office  
Freedom of Information Act Request  
440 West 200 South, Ste. 500  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101  
Fax: 801-539-4183  
Email: [BLM\\_UT\\_FOIA@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_UT_FOIA@blm.gov)

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# United States Department of the Interior



## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Utah State Office  
440 West 200 South, Suite 500  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101-1345  
<http://www.blm.gov>

IN REPLY REFER TO:

1278

(UT-950)

FOIA 2014-40

EFTS BLM-2014-00772

FEB 10 2015

This letter responds to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, dated July 31, 2014 and received in the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Utah State Office via email on this same date. Your request seeks documents pertaining to the following:

Copies of any BLM memos, emails, or reports about the consideration of limitations/restrictions on aerial rope activities in Moab, such as at Corona Arch. You may limit this request to documents originated since October 1, 2013. You may limit this search to documents/records/emails in the Utah State Office of BLM.

Enclosed (CD) are those records responsive to your request.

No fee is charged in responding to your request as the cost was below the threshold amount of \$50 established by the Department of the Interior for fee collection under the FOIA 43 CFR 2.49(a)(1).

If you have any questions regarding this FOIA response, you may contact Susan Bauman, FOIA Specialist, at (801) 539-4206 or e-mail to [BLM\\_UT\\_FOIA@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_UT_FOIA@blm.gov) for the status of your request.

Sincerely,

Juan Palma  
State Director



Bauman, Susan <s2bauman@blm.gov>

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## Fwd: Recreational Liability Considerations

1 message

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**Curtis, Aaron** <acurtis@blm.gov>  
To: Susan Bauman <s2bauman@blm.gov>

Tue, Sep 23, 2014 at 11:29 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Roegner, Cory** <croegner@blm.gov>  
Date: Thu, Aug 29, 2013 at 10:05 AM  
Subject: Recreational Liability Considerations  
To: Kevin Jones <kevin.jones@sol.doi.gov>  
Cc: Shelley Smith <ssmith@blm.gov>, Aaron Curtis <acurtis@blm.gov>, Sheryl Foot <sfoot@blm.gov>

Hi, Kevin,

As you may recall, the BLM Utah State Office met with you in April of 2013 to discuss the agency's liability associated with arch swinging, recreational brochures, and volunteers. As a follow-up to that meeting, staff have recommended that this topic be discussed during the next joint BLM Utah Executive Leadership Team (ELT) and Field Committee Meeting - scheduled for Thursday, September 12, from 1:00 to 1:45 p.m. in Cedar City. This briefing would provide a forum for BLM managers to better understand the legal aspects of liability associated with outdoor recreation management.

In preparation for this briefing, we would like to invite you to participate, as well as provide input into the presentation is being prepared. If you have interest in participating, but are unable to make the trip in person, you are welcome to participate by phone. Your knowledge of the subject would provide a considerable asset to the presentation and overall discussion.

Pending your availability, I would be happy to provide you with additional details concerning the meeting (i.e., location, call-in information, etc.) or a copy of the presentation for review.

Thanks again,

Cory

Cory Roegner  
Recreation Program Lead  
BLM Utah State Office  
440 West 200 South, Suite 500  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101-1345  
Office: (801) 539-4228

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Smith, Shelley** <ssmith@blm.gov>  
Date: Wed, Apr 17, 2013 at 1:00 PM  
Subject: Fwd: draft liability agenda  
To: Kevin Jones <kevin.jones@sol.doi.gov>, Cory Roegner <croegner@blm.gov>, Aaron Curtis <acurtis@blm.gov>, Megan Crandall <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Hi Kevin - here's our topics of interest for our meeting next week. Thanks!

BLM's liability in various situations is the general topic. Specific questions include:

1. The recent advent of swinging from natural arches and high-lining (essentially rope walking between high points) has raised questions, especially given the recent swinging fatality at Corona Arch near Moab. Should BLM prohibit the uses, place warnings...what should BLM's response be, if any?
2. What are the liability concerns when BLM makes information available about a dangerous activity, such as the draft rock-climbing brochure?
3. BLM often has short-term volunteer activities, such a National Public Land Day trash pick-up. Is BLM liable if participants do things like drive their ATVs as part of the project, but have not had BLM's ATV training?

Shelley J. Smith  
Deputy State Director, Natural Resources  
BLM Utah  
801-539-4034

--  
Shelley J. Smith  
Deputy State Director, Natural Resources  
BLM Utah  
801-539-4034

--  
*Aaron Curtis  
Branch Chief for Outdoor and Heritage Resources  
Bureau of Land Management, Utah State Office  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
(801) 539-4225*



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## Fwd: Notes from 04/23/13 Liability Meeting

1 message

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Curtis, Aaron <acurtis@blm.gov>  
To: Susan Bauman <s2bauman@blm.gov>

Tue, Sep 23, 2014 at 11:29 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Roegner, Cory** <croegner@blm.gov>  
Date: Thu, Apr 25, 2013 at 11:29 AM  
Subject: Notes from 04/23/13 Liability Meeting  
To: Aaron Curtis <acurtis@blm.gov>

Aaron,

My notes from our Tuesday, April 23 meeting with Kevin Jones, DOI Solicitor, are summarized as follows:

**Background:** In March of 2013, the BLM Utah State Office received several inquiries from the field pertaining to issues of liability. In an effort to provide the field with accurate guidance, the UTSO sought the advice and counsel of Kevin Jones, DOI Solicitor. A total of three situation-specific questions were asked, including:

**Question 1:** The recent advent of swinging from natural arches and high-lining have raised questions, especially given the recent swinging fatality at Corona Arch near Moab. Should the BLM prohibit these uses, place warnings....what should BLM's response be, if any?

**SOL Advice:** The BLM was advised of its legal obligation to warn (the public) or make safe any known actions or conditions. This can be done through the posting of warnings or notices at kiosks, on the web, or other locations the public would reasonably frequent.

**Question 2:** What are the liability concerns when BLM makes information available about a dangerous activity, such as in a draft rock-climbing brochure?

**SOL Advice:** Any attempts by the agency to inform or otherwise warn the public about hazardous conditions or the inherent dangers of an activity, reduces liability. For this reason, Mr. Jones appeared encouraged and supportive of Cedar City's efforts to produce a rock-climbing brochure. During the meeting, Kevin reviewed the draft disclaimer, to determine its ability to sufficiently mitigate any perceived liability associated with the brochure. The revised disclaimer reads as follows:

**Revised Disclaimer:** Though efforts were made to ensure that the information presented within this guide is accurate, no guarantees to the accuracy of this information or conditions on the ground are implied or suggested. Your safety depends on your own good judgement, based on experience and a realistic assessment of your climbing ability. You are ultimately responsible for your own actions and decisions. Neither the BLM nor its representatives shall be held responsible for any omissions or mistakes, nor liable for any personal or third party injuries or damage, howsoever caused, arising from the use of this guide.

**Questions 3:** BLM often has short-term volunteer activities, such National Public Lands Day or trash pick-up events. Is BLM liable if participants drive their ATVs as part of the project, but have not had BLM's ATV training?

**SOL Advice:** The BLM was advised of its obligations towards the health and safety of volunteers (inclusive of their use of personal property). Once a volunteer has signed their volunteer agreement, they are

essentially acting in the capacity of a Federal employee. The volunteer agreement is a contract with the Federal government, entitling the volunteer to certain provision (e.g., compensation for injuries incurred, reimbursement for loss or damage to personal property [if noted in their agreement], etc.).

**Additional Information:** Please note that the BLM Volunteer Guide states the following: "You may be permitted to use personal property during your volunteer service. If your supervisor allows you to use your own tools or other personal property as part of a volunteer project, this permission should be noted in your volunteer agreement. Compensation may be authorized in the event of on-the-job loss or damage to personal property designated for use in the performance of your duties."

In general, the BLM was advised of its obligation to warn (the public) or make safe any known actions or conditions (e.g., known capabilities or traits of volunteers, hazardous conditions of geographic areas, etc.). Until such time as the BLM has made a determination on the appropriateness of questionable activities (e.g., rope swinging, highlining, base-jumping, etc.), the BLM may wish to incorporate *hold harmless clauses* into permit stipulations or agreements. A hold harmless clause is a statement affirming that an individual or group (the BLM) is not liable for injuries or damages caused by the individual signing the document. Past DOI cases have proven clauses to be effective at protecting the interests of DOI agencies; however, the BLM was not advised to include clauses into *volunteer agreements*.

Cory Roegner  
Recreation Program Lead  
BLM Utah State Office  
440 West 200 South, Suite 500  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101-1345  
Office: (801) 539-4228

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Aaron Curtis  
Branch Chief for Outdoor and Heritage Resources  
Bureau of Land Management, Utah State Office  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
(801) 539-4225



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## Fwd: quick rope-swinging data call, DD: 4/5

1 message

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**Curtis, Aaron** <acurtis@blm.gov>  
To: Susan Bauman <s2bauman@blm.gov>

Tue, Sep 23, 2014 at 11:30 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Roegner, Cory** <croegner@blm.gov>  
Date: Mon, Apr 8, 2013 at 9:25 AM  
Subject: Fwd: quick rope-swinging data call, DD: 4/5  
To: Shelley Smith <:ssmith@blm.gov>  
Cc: Aaron Curtis <acurtis@blm.gov>

Hi Shelley,

A total of four replies were received in response to Aaron's recent request for information pertaining to the level of non-commercial participation and commercial outfitter interest in rope swinging from arches, over canyons, or other similar activities on BLM lands. Replies were received from the Ritchfield, Kanab, GSENM and Moab FO's. While most offices have received interest in canyoneering or rappelling type activities, **only Moab has received interest in those activities involving rope swinging from arches or over canyons.** To date, Moab has not received any commercial interest in rope swinging on BLM lands. They have received some private interest in rope swinging on Looking Glass Arch, located partially on BLM and partially on SITLA (about 25 miles south of Moab).

The Moab FO has also received a great deal of interest in *highlining*. To date, they have received one request for a competitive highlining festival event SRP, which they are currently in the process of considering. However, they have not received any requests for commercially guided highlining permits.

Cory Roegner  
Recreation Program Lead  
BLM Utah State Office  
440 West 200 South, Suite 500  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101  
Office: (801) 539-4228

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Aaron Curtis** <acurtis@blm.gov>  
Date: Fri, Mar 29, 2013 at 2:57 PM  
Subject: quick rope-swinging data call, DD: 4/5  
To: "Anderson, Jason R" <jranders@blm.gov>, "Angus, Allysia C" <aangus@blm.gov>, "Barber, Harry A" <hbarber@blm.gov>, "Beal, Jeffrey H" <jbeal@blm.gov>, "Beesley, Russell M" <rbeesley@blm.gov>, Benjamin J Cramer <bjcramer@blm.gov>, "Blocker, Matt" <mblocker@blm.gov>, "Bodine, Cameron S" <cbodine@blm.gov>, "Bonar, Steven D" <sbonar@blm.gov>, Buchmann Melissa A <mbuchmann@blm.gov>, "Christensen, Thomas M" <tmchris@blm.gov>, "Chrobak-Cox, Judith A" <jchrobakcox@blm.gov>, "Corson, Ann B" <acorson@blm.gov>, "Cram, Jay B" <jcram@blm.gov>, "Dewitz, Mary A" <mdewitz@blm.gov>, "Durfey, Dirk" <ddurfey@blm.gov>, "Edwards, Scott U" <sedwards@blm.gov>, "Evans, Jennifer K" <jkevans@blm.gov>, "Ferris, Dawna E" <d8ferris@blm.gov>, "Fivecoat, Sue L" <sfivecoa@blm.gov>, "Fletcher, Dan T" <dfletche@blm.gov>, "Frampton, Teresa" <tframpto@blm.gov>, "Freudiger, Carol A" <cfreudig@blm.gov>, "Gale,

Lora L" <landersongale@blm.gov>, "Gandy, Victoria L" <vgandy@blm.gov>, "Giles, Christie D" <cdgiles@blm.gov>, "Gilfillan, Daniel T" <dgilfillan@blm.gov>, "Glickman, Lawrence R" <lglickma@blm.gov>, "Glines-Bovio, Noelle C" <nglinesb@blm.gov>, "Gomm, Katie M" <kgomm@blm.gov>, "Graffam, Merle H" <mgraffam@blm.gov>, "Gurtler, Miles C" <mgurtler@blm.gov>, "Haines, Misti E" <mhaines@blm.gov>, "Hand, Cara A" <chand@blm.gov>, "Holt, Shannon R" <sholt@blm.gov>, "Howatt, Gary" <ghowatt@blm.gov>, "Jacobson, Dave C" <djacobso@blm.gov>, "Jeffer, Myron" <mjeffer@blm.gov>, "Jeppesen, David K" <d1jeppes@blm.gov>, Joelle McCarthy <jmccarth@blm.gov>, "Jones, Jennifer L" <jljones@blm.gov>, "Kachulis, Andrea N" <akachulis@blm.gov>, "Kelsey, Rayner W" <rkelsey@blm.gov>, "Kiel, David E" <dkiel@blm.gov>, "Klein, Patricia S" <pklein@blm.gov>, "Kolle, Elizabeth A" <lkolle@blm.gov>, "Kranendonk, Don W" <dkranendonk@blm.gov>, Kyle D Voyles <kvoyles@blm.gov>, "Lantz, Laura K" <llantz@blm.gov>, "Leaver, Robert A" <rleaver@blm.gov>, "Leschin, Michael F" <mleschin@blm.gov>, "Linn, Jeanie M" <jlinn@blm.gov>, "Matovich, Jeanette L" <jmatovic@blm.gov>, Matthew J Betenson <mbetenso@blm.gov>, "May, Whitney N" <wmay@blm.gov>, "Mead, Jaydon B" <jmead@blm.gov>, "Mecham, David R" <drmecham@blm.gov>, "Morgan, Susan L" <smorgan@blm.gov>, "Murdock, Todd M" <tmurdock@blm.gov>, "Nelson, Michael G" <mnelson@blm.gov>, "Nelson, Torrian L" <tnelson@blm.gov>, "Palette, Julie A" <jpallett@blm.gov>, "Parker, Todd M" <tmparker@blm.gov>, "Rawlings, Tarik J" <trawlings@blm.gov>, "Richmond, Linda M" <lrichmon@blm.gov>, "Roegner, Cory" <croegner@blm.gov>, "Salamacha, Michael S" <msalamac@blm.gov>, "Scott, Lynne M" <lscott@blm.gov>, "Shelton, Carolyn Z" <czshelto@blm.gov>, "Sparks, Silas" <ssparks@blm.gov>, "Spellman, Kathleen F" <kspellman@blm.gov>, "Sterin, Bernice G" <bsterin@blm.gov>, "Stevens, Kathleen C" <kstevens@blm.gov>, "Stevens, William P" <bpstevan@blm.gov>, "Stevenson, Robert R" <bstevens@blm.gov>, "Stewart, Clay M" <c1stewar@blm.gov>, "Stringer, William C" <bstringe@blm.gov>, "Sweeten, Robert L" <rsweeten@blm.gov>, "Tea, Roxanne M" <rtea@blm.gov>, "West, Jason R" <jrwest@blm.gov>, "Wetzel, Wayne A" <wwetzel@blm.gov>, "Winkler, Joshua U" <jwinkler@blm.gov>  
Cc: "Boik, Eric R" <eboik@blm.gov>, "Love, Daniel" <dlove@blm.gov>

Hi, gang, long-time no email.

In response to last week's tragedy at Corona Arch, we are doing a quick informal status check on the level of non-commercial participation and commercial outfitter interest you've been seeing in rope swinging from arches, over canyons, or other similar activities on BLM lands within your field office. If there's anything worth mentioning, please send Cory a note no later than Friday, April 5.

I hope everyone is doing well, please don't be strangers!

Aaron Curtis

Branch Chief for Outdoor and Heritage Resources

Bureau of Land Management

Utah State Office

Salt Lake City, Utah

(801) 539-4225

*Love your land, stay informed, get involved!*



--  
*Aaron Curtis  
Branch Chief for Outdoor and Heritage Resources  
Bureau of Land Management, Utah State Office  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
(801) 539-4225*



Bauman, Susan <s2bauman@blm.gov>

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## Fwd: fact-check

1 message

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**Curtis, Aaron** <acurtis@blm.gov>  
To: Susan Bauman <s2bauman@blm.gov>

Tue, Sep 23, 2014 at 11:31 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov>  
Date: Fri, Mar 29, 2013 at 10:12 AM  
Subject: Re: fact-check  
To: Mary Catherine O'Connor <mc@mcoconnor.com>  
Cc: Aaron Curtis <acurtis@blm.gov>

MaryCatherine, it might be a bit late to respond to this, but I wanted to anyway. First, your statement is correct. If you combine energy leasing and grazing fees, it's definitely more than what we receive from rec fees. In FY 2011, the BLM-Utah received \$2.9 million in rec fees from permits, etc. (you can find amts for all of the states on page 198 of the 2011 edition of BLM's Public Lands Statistics). Although I couldn't find an exact amt (everyone seems to be on vacation today), I am fairly confident that what we receive in Utah from rec permitting is more than what we receive from grazing permits. Aaron asked that I make sure you were aware of that. It's a fine point, but just to be sure you have all the info, I'm passing it on. Let me know if you have any questions.

Megan

p.s. Public Land Statistics might be helpful for you in some of your other stories because it has numbers for just about everything. From visitation numbers to leasing figures, it's in there. [http://www.blm.gov/public\\_land\\_statistics/](http://www.blm.gov/public_land_statistics/)

On Thu, Mar 28, 2013 at 7:36 PM, Mary Catherine O'Connor <mc@mcoconnor.com> wrote:

Megan,  
Is this an accurate statement?

The BLM must, by mandate, maintain lands for multiple uses and while leases sold to energy developers and ranchers represent most of its income, it does earn a 3 percent cut of gross revenues through the special recreation permits it issues.

Mary Catherine O'Connor  
Independent Journalist  
415-861-9001  
mc@mcoconnor.com  
mcoconnor.com  
twitter: @mcoc

On Mar 28, 2013, at 3:50 PM, Crandall, Megan wrote:

<http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/moab/recreation/SRP.html>

Special Recreation Permits (SRPs) are authorizations that allow specific recreational uses of the public lands and related waters. They are issued as a means to manage visitor use, protect natural and cultural resources, and provide a mechanism to accommodate commercial recreational uses. Authorized by the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, permits are required for the following types of uses: commercial, vending, competitive, individual or group use in special areas, and organized group activities and events.

The objective of the BLM recreation permitting system is to satisfy recreational demand within allowable use levels in an equitable, safe, and enjoyable manner while minimizing adverse resource impacts and user conflicts. In issuing recreation permits to recreational users of public lands, the BLM authorizes permittees' use of the lands and/or related waters for permitted purposes. This represents a privilege to use public lands and/or related waters which is subject to the terms and conditions of the permits.

Recreation permits are managed in a manner which is consistent with management objectives determined in Resource Management Plans, Recreation Area Management Plans, or in their absence, through recreation management objectives resulting from analysis of resources and visitor use in each area.

--  
Aaron Curtis  
Branch Chief for Outdoor and Heritage Resources  
Bureau of Land Management, Utah State Office  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
(801) 539-4225



Bird, Lola &lt;lbird@blm.gov&gt;

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**Corona Arch Press Release for Approval**

1 message

**Bird, Lola** <lbird@blm.gov>

Fri, Dec 19, 2014 at 2:25 PM

To: Jeff Krauss &lt;jkrauss@blm.gov&gt;

Cc: Derrick Henry &lt;djhenry@blm.gov&gt;

Enclosed is a press release for your review and approval. When responding, please email both myself and Megan.

For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Megan Crandall, (801) 539-4020

Jan. 5, 2015

[mcrandal@blm.gov](mailto:mcrandal@blm.gov)**BLM Restricts Roped Activities at Corona Arch and Gemini Bridges***Temporary two-year restriction provides planning time*

**Moab, Utah**—The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Utah, Moab Field Office will temporarily restrict roped activities at Corona Arch and Gemini Bridges for a two-year period. These activities include ziplining, highlining, slacklining, climbing, rappelling, and rope swinging.

“This temporary restriction provides the BLM with time to continue working with the public to develop appropriate recreation management strategies for these two popular recreation destinations,” said Moab Field Office Manager, Beth Ransel.

The decision to temporarily restrict these activities is in response to comments expressed by the public regarding user conflicts, particularly in the Corona Arch area. Corona Arch and Gemini Bridges each receive more than 40,000 visitors each annually and are located at the end of very popular hiking trails that are iconic destinations for visitors to the Moab area.

Maps of the restricted areas are available on the Moab Field Office webpage at:  
<http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/moab.html>

The Environmental Assessment, Finding of No Significant Impact and Decision Record are posted on the Environmental Notification Bulletin (ENBB) at:

<https://www.blm.gov/ut/enbb/index.php>; search for project name "Corona."

For additional restriction-specific information, contact Beth Ransel at (435) 259-2100. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to leave a message or question with the above individual. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Replies are provided during normal business hours.

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's mission is to manage and conserve the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations under our mandate of multiple-use and sustained yield. In Fiscal Year 2013, the BLM generated \$4.7 billion in receipts from public lands.

-BLM-

Follow us on Twitter [@BLMUtah](#)

—  
Thank you,  
Lola Bird  
BLM Utah External Affairs  
801-539-4033



Bird, Lola &lt;lbird@blm.gov&gt;

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**Corona Arch release and restriction maps**

2 messages

**Bird, Lola** <lbird@blm.gov>

Mon, Jan 5, 2015 at 1:59 PM

To: Beth Ransel &lt;bransel@blm.gov&gt;

Cc: Lisa Bryant &lt;lbryant@blm.gov&gt;, "Jeffrey (Rock) Smith" &lt;jeffreysmith@blm.gov&gt;

Hi Beth,

Attached is the latest version of the Corona Arch restriction press release. Just touching base to make sure it looks good and that the link listed for the map location is correct. If not, we need to insert the link that will take the public to the restriction maps.

Thanks for your help!

—  
Lola Bird  
BLM Utah External Affairs  
801-539-4033

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 **Corona Arch Restriction Final Decision PR 12-18-2014.docx**  
246K**Ransel, Beth** <bransel@blm.gov>

Tue, Jan 6, 2015 at 12:47 PM

To: "Bird, Lola" &lt;lbird@blm.gov&gt;

Cc: Lisa Bryant &lt;lbryant@blm.gov&gt;, "Jeffrey (Rock) Smith" &lt;jeffreysmith@blm.gov&gt;

Here is the updated PR. We will contact you once we are posted and ready to go.

Regards,  
Beth

**Beth Ransel**  
*Field Manager*  
Moab Field Office

desk: 435.259.2119 cell: 435.220.0046 [bransel@blm.gov](mailto:bransel@blm.gov)

MOAB FIELD OFFICE  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

[Quoted text hidden]

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 **Corona Arch Restriction Final Decision PR 1-6-2015.docx**  
246K



# Bureau of Land Management

Utah  
News

MOAB FIELD OFFICE  
82 EAST DOGWOOD, MOAB, UT 84532  
PHONE (435) 259-2100. FAX (435) 259-2106  
[HTTP://WWW.BLM.GOV/UT/ST/EN.HTML](http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en.html)

For Immediate Release  
Jan. 5, 2015

Media Contact: Megan Crandall, (801) 539-4020  
[mcrandal@blm.gov](mailto:mcrandal@blm.gov)

## **BLM Restricts Roped Activities at Corona Arch and Gemini Bridges** *Temporary two-year restriction provides planning time*

**Moab, Utah**—The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Utah, Moab Field Office will temporarily restrict roped activities at Corona Arch and Gemini Bridges for a two-year period. These activities include ziplining, highlining, slacklining, climbing, rappelling, and rope swinging.

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Crandall, Megan <mcrandal@blm.gov>

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## CoronaArch

4 messages

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**Douglas, Chad** <cdouglas@blm.gov>  
To: Megan Crandall <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Mon, May 5, 2014 at 1:40 PM

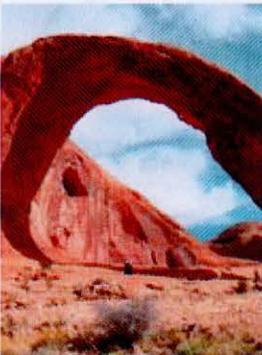
**Chad Douglas** | Public Affairs  
Bureau of Land Management - Utah  
Office | 801-539-4089 | Email | [cdouglas@blm.gov](mailto:cdouglas@blm.gov)



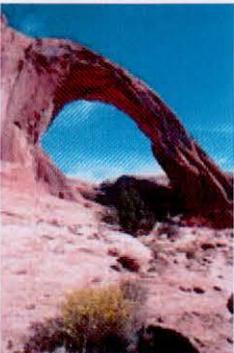
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### 3 attachments

 **CoronaArch08.jpg**  
13009K



**CoronaArch.jpg**  
45K



**CoronaArch11small.jpg**  
491K

---

**Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov>  
To: Celia Boddington <cbodding@blm.gov>  
Cc: Jeff Krauss <JKrauss@blm.gov>, Craig Leff <cleff@blm.gov>

Mon, May 5, 2014 at 1:42 PM

Celia,

Attached are 3 hi res photos of Corona Arch. I have a call in to the Moab office to get details on what exactly they are planning for swinging, high lining, rappelling, etc. at the arch after it is officially transferred to BLM. I will let you know as soon as I hear anything concrete from them.

Megan

[Quoted text hidden]

**Megan M. Crandall**  
*External Affairs Chief*

Bureau of Land Management Utah  
440 West 200 South, Ste. 500  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Ph: 801-539-4020  
Fx: 801-539-4013

**Join the Conversation!**



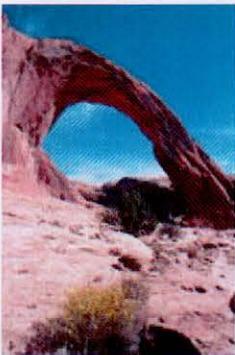
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**3 attachments**

 **CoronaArch08.jpg**  
13009K



**CoronaArch.jpg**  
45K



**CoronaArch11small.jpg**  
491K

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**Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov>  
To: Celia Boddington <cbodding@blm.gov>

Mon, May 5, 2014 at 2:36 PM

Celia, I just spoke w/Moab and their plan is to "evaluate" limiting roped activities (swinging, rappelling, climbing, high lining), but they have not identified a timeline or process for doing so after the exchange is complete. In other words, it will be business as usual until they can get something else in place, which I don't see happening in the very near future due to other planning endeavors and staffing limitations.

M

—  
**Megan M. Crandall**  
*External Affairs Chief*

Bureau of Land Management Utah  
440 West 200 South, Ste. 500  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Ph: 801-539-4020  
Fx: 801-539-4013

**Join the Conversation!**



---

**Boddington, Celia** <cbodding@blm.gov>  
To: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Mon, May 5, 2014 at 6:51 PM

THnkas – comm stuff re Paria was great.  
[Quoted text hidden]



Crandall, Megan <mcrandal@blm.gov>

---

## Week Ahead

---

**Bryant, Lisa** <lbryant@blm.gov>

Wed, May 7, 2014 at 10:42 PM

To: Megan Crandall <mcrandal@blm.gov>, Lola Bird <lbird@blm.gov>

Cc: Beth Ransel <bransel@blm.gov>, Lance Porter <l50porte@blm.gov>, Donald Hoffheins <dhoffhei@blm.gov>, Brian Quigley <bquigley@blm.gov>

Nothing for WO

Attached report has a few local media happenings, on the horizon items, and two heads up for UTSO regarding Dead Horse Lateral and a new potential fossil vandalism issue.

-

Lisa Bryant

Assistant Field Manager, Moab BLM

82 East Dogwood

Moab, Utah 84532

435 259-2150

"If your knees aren't green by the end of the day, you need to seriously re-examine your life" - Calvin to Hobbes, just prior to bathtime.



**CCYD Weekly Report 5-7-2014.docx**

26K

**Week Ahead Report**  
**Canyon Country District**  
April 30, 2014

**WO Week Ahead Items (really 2 weeks)**

Nothing for two week ahead. Several items in the on the horizon, inching closer to being sent up.

*UTSO only:*

- 1) *We have multiple mining notices (4 now), filed in the last month for "agate" or "metals" in the Yellow Cat area at a site known to have fossil resources and that has been previously disturbed. We are trying to determine the best course of action for protecting the paleontological resources there, given limitations due to the mining regulations.*
- 2) *PHMSA and UDOC have scheduled a field review of the Dead Horse Lateral Pipeline 5/8/14; BLM and Fidelity are both invited. Purpose is to evaluate jurisdiction around Horsethief Campground and to address additional reported citizen concerns regarding pipeline construction practices.*

**Local Media Report**

1. Moab Sun News – BLM to Host Master Leasing Plan Open House May 14  
[http://www.moabsunnews.com/news/article\\_cb9237b0-d554-11e3-9d87-001a4bcf6878.html](http://www.moabsunnews.com/news/article_cb9237b0-d554-11e3-9d87-001a4bcf6878.html)  
PR + interview quotes from Beth Ransel. BLM neutral.
2. Denver Post – Recapture Canyon Utah, may be the next BLM Showdown  
[http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci\\_25692048/recapture-canyon-utah-be-site-next-blm-showdown?source=email](http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_25692048/recapture-canyon-utah-be-site-next-blm-showdown?source=email)

Media requests

1. **Justin Clifton** – [ourcanyonlands.org](http://ourcanyonlands.org), [canyonlandsfilm@gmail.com](mailto:canyonlandsfilm@gmail.com) made a request to interview either the Field Manager or District Manager here in the Moab Office, sometime in early June, for a documentary film on the 1.4 million acre greater Canyonlands proposal. Request was to discuss issues and challenges faced by BLM managers with respect to recreation and energy development. Management is considering the request, but strongly considering denying it at this time.
2. **Rudy Herndon** – Times Independent – question regarding the MLP open house and then also asked for additional information regarding ramifications of the proposed Bishop lands bill with respect to management of bike trails within existing WSA's should they be designated as wilderness.

**On the Horizon:**

- Canyon Country Lease Sale scheduled for May 20, 2014
- Monticello – Expect to issue final decision on travel plan modifications, including designation of 5 routes. These designations were carefully analyzed and designed to minimize resource conflicts, user conflicts, and improve safety.

- Moab – Gathering gas lines for wells connecting to the Dead Horse Lateral Pipeline. EA in progress. Many of the lines have been previously analyzed, but over a period of years and in several different EAs, so this EA will put them all in one document for consideration, public review and comment. Due to previous scoping and analysis for many of these lines, this was not formally scoped, although it has been posted on the ENBB. Lines will be buried, some adjacent to existing roads. A few pipeline connector facilities such as pig receivers for clearing the lines will be above ground. All areas will be reclaimed following construction. Expect to have the draft EA out for 30 day comment closer to mid-May.
- Moab – Behind the Rocks Grazing Permit Renewal – anticipate initiating a 30 day public comment soon (note this deadline keeps slipping due to other priority workload, it needs NEPA/mgmt review). It will be sent to interested parties and posted on the ENBB, we do not plan on issuing a press release.
- Moab - Researching options for a potential temporary closure of the Corona Arch area to rope/climbing/rapelling/swinging activities, while a management plan is developed to address user conflicts after gaining management responsibility of the area upon completion of the recreation land exchange. Not ready to recommend a specific course of action yet.

**Ongoing or previously sent up as week ahead – status updates (*new info in italics*):**

**CCYD**

- Master Leasing Plan: Analysis of Management Situation has been completed and shared with Cooperating Agencies. Cooperator meeting held 5/7/2014 to discuss preliminary alternatives. Public Meeting with project updates and preliminary review of alternatives scheduled for May 14, 2014 at the Grand Center in Moab.
- Canyon Country May 2014 Oil and Gas Lease Sale – protest response period, otherwise on schedule

**Moab**

- *Moab – Lion Mesa Seismic EA – comment period extended from 5/6/14 to 5/9/14. Then we will be addressing comments and getting ready to draft a final decision.*
- Proposed decisions for Highlands and Fisher Valley Grazing allotments were signed 7/17/2013 and sent to interested parties and posted on the ENBB. We are currently responding to protests and expect to issue a final decision for the Fisher Valley Allotment. Upon further management review and consultation with UTSO, some additional changes will be made, another alternative will be added to Fisher and it will go out again for public comment prior to a new proposed decision. The final decision for Highlands may go out during this Fisher review period. Based on emails, FOIA request, and phone calls from WWP, we are expecting these two decisions to be appealed and litigated.
- Moab - Lisbon Valley Copper Mine Pit Backfill Proposal – LVCM submitted a proposal to partially backfill one of their largest pits. This was analyzed in an alternative as part of the original EIS and not chosen due to groundwater concerns. BLM has requested kinetic testing which would be the industry standard for addressing these concerns, but the mine has refused that and asked to do other types of tests/studies as a substitute. BLM is working with experts from USGS, UGS, the NOC and UTSO to evaluate results of the latest testing. The mine plan modification has been submitted and scoping began 4/9/14 and will run to 5/12/14. Internal scoping and external scoping are occurring simultaneously.

- Moab LaSal Complex Uranium Mine – An Amended Plan of Operations for the LaSal Complex Uranium Mine was submitted to BLM and FS on December 10, 2009. BLM is the lead agency in preparation of a joint BLM-USFS EA. Both agencies have offered scoping and comment periods. The EA is in final staff review stages, currently working through USFS process.

### **Monticello**

- Daneros – receiving lots of comment letters (primarily form letters) during scoping period – over 2000 in first week. EA in progress, field review completed March 6, 2014.
- Recapture ATV route – this is the status of the EA process:  
Programmatic Agreement for protection of cultural resources has been discussed and accepted by Consulting Parties. Extended 40 day Public Scoping for a new draft EA from 12/18/2013 – 1/26/2014. This scoping is part of initiating NEPA for this new project proposal. ID Team is reviewing new maps and finalized proposed action. The EA will be by third-party contractor. Multiple form letters being received (approx. 3000) and about 40 substantial comments as of 1/23/2014. Responding to comments, EA in progress.



Crandall, Megan <mcrandal@blm.gov>

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## Got sucked into the morning call ... sorry!

2 messages

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**Megan Crandall** <mcrandal@blm.gov>  
To: Lisa Bryant <lbryant@blm.gov>  
Cc: Pamela C Jarnecke <pjarnecke@blm.gov>

Mon, May 19, 2014 at 8:48 AM

Heard there was a significant injury at Corona before we got it on 5/8 and that you guys are now working on a quick turn around closure of the Arch to swinging ... can you get me a quick sentence or two of explanation for our hip pocket. Neil specifically asked if we would be closing it to swinging on 5/7 so I need to be ready to keep WO informed through 600.

M

Sent from my iPad

---

**Bryant, Lisa** <lbryant@blm.gov>  
To: Megan Crandall <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Mon, May 19, 2014 at 1:19 PM

See Beth's information below regarding a temporary closure at Corona Arch & Gemini Bridges, will that work for you? It seems like even this temp closure will take awhile. I think management considered an emergency closure, but did not have sufficient justification to warrant it, based on the regulations for issuing those. This temporary closure will allow us to work through the public process in making longer term management decisions with respect to these types of activities within our office. Its a larger issue that needs a more systematic and careful approach for the long term resolution.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ransel, Beth** <bransel@blm.gov>  
Date: Mon, May 19, 2014 at 10:04 AM  
Subject: Re: Got sucked into the morning call ... sorry!  
To: "Bryant, Lisa" <lbryant@blm.gov>  
Cc: Jeffrey R Smith <jeffreysmith@blm.gov>, Lance Porter <l50porte@blm.gov>

Hi Lisa,

The Moab FO has initiated the process for consideration of a temporary closure (in accordance with IM 2013-035) to any activities requiring ropes and/or bolts (including swinging), in the vicinity of both Corona Arch and Gemini Bridges. The process outlined in the policy requires NEPA compliance and the Moab FO kicked-off the EA process on May 14, 2014. The Moab FO expects that it could take several months to complete the NEPA process and route the temporary closure Notice for publication in the Federal Register.

Regards,  
Beth

**Beth Ransel**  
Field Manager  
Moab Field Office

desk: 435.259.2119 cell: 435.220.0046 [bransel@blm.gov](mailto:bransel@blm.gov)

MOAB FIELD OFFICE  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

On Mon, May 19, 2014 at 9:48 AM, Bryant, Lisa <[lbryant@blm.gov](mailto:lbryant@blm.gov)> wrote:

Can either of you update me on this. It doesn't have to be done this morning, but since Neil has been asking, Megan wants to be ready. She'd heard a rumor about an emergency closure procedure until something more definitive can be put in place through the public process? I know you've both been working on it, but am unsure of the current status.

thanks.

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Lisa Bryant  
Assistant Field Manager, Moab BLM  
82 East Dogwood  
Moab, Utah 84532  
435 259-2150

"If your knees aren't green by the end of the day, you need to seriously re-examine your life" - Calvin to Hobbes, just prior to bathtime.

--

Lisa Bryant  
Assistant Field Manager, Moab BLM  
82 East Dogwood  
Moab, Utah 84532  
435 259-2150

"If your knees aren't green by the end of the day, you need to seriously re-examine your life" - Calvin to Hobbes, just prior to bathtime.



Crandall, Megan <mcrandal@blm.gov>

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## PAO Week Ahead (really 2 weeks) for Canyon Country

1 message

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**Bryant, Lisa** <lbryant@blm.gov>

Wed, May 28, 2014 at 6:53 PM

To: Megan Crandall <mcrandal@blm.gov>, Lola Bird <lbird@blm.gov>, "Sheryl (Sherry) Foot" <sfoot@blm.gov>

Cc: Beth Ransel <bransel@blm.gov>, Donald Hoffheins <dhoffhei@blm.gov>, Lance Porter <l50porte@blm.gov>

Full report attached. Key items here:

### Week Ahead for WO:

- **Moab** - Initiating a 30 comment period for EA "Temporary Restriction of Corona Arch and Gemini Bridges to Rope Use, including Ziplining, Highlining, Slacklining, Climbing, Rappelling, and Swinging". Corona Arch is a hiking focus area for the Moab Field Office and Gemini Bridges is a highly visited destination with a prominent geologic feature. While roped activities have become more popular at these sites, these activities can detract from the visitor experience and scenic quality of these features for those seeking a quieter hiking experience. Corona Arch was recently acquired by BLM as part of the Recreation Land Exchange. The temporary closure will provide time to analyze and involve the public in a decision about whether permanent closure to these activities at these sites is appropriate to address user conflicts.

### Week Ahead UTSO information - send up if appropriate - WO briefed on these already and these are no longer two weeks out

- **Monticello** - Monticello Field Office expects to issue the final decision on travel plan modifications, including designation of 5 routes. The designations will authorize ATV, UTV, and motorcycle travel on approximately 10 miles of trail. Portions of several trails, completing loops, totaling a little less than 2/3 of a mile would be open to all vehicles. Designation of these routes was carefully analyzed and designed to minimize resource conflicts including impacts to wildlife and riparian habitat, user conflicts, provide spur trail access to popular destinations, and improve safety. Decision to be released immediately pending WO/UTSO approval and upon completion of any necessary revisions to previously approved PR.
- **Monticello** - Recapture Canyon ATV Routes EA; Contractor Stop Work Order - Following the illegal ATV ride Recapture Canyon on May 10, 2014, the BLM's preliminary investigation has shown that on-the-ground conditions related to riparian, soils, and cultural resources within the canyon have changed as a result of the ride. The BLM is still assessing the significance of changed conditions. If the changed conditions are significant substantial enough, the affected environment section of the San Juan County right-of-way environmental assessment may need to be re-drafted to reflect the current conditions.

### On the Horizon:

- **Monticello** -ATV Safari 2014 - Annual fall ATV event in San Juan County. EA will be for a 10 year permit. This project has been on internal hold because of a vacant recreation position and because it tiers to the Five Designated Routes project. One of the Five routes (Blanding to Bulldog) overlaps with a route in Five Designated Routes project and similarly overlaps a portion of one of the routes

in San Juan County's 2012 Recapture ATV routes application. Intend to initiate scoping as soon as issues with Five Designated Routes project are resolved.

- Monticello Indian Creek ATV Trail EA - EA is in progress. FM is scheduling a field trip with the NPS later this month to go over the mitigation. A couple chapters of the EA have been drafted by our team lead and will be finalized and sent to the interdisciplinary team for review after the NPS trip so we can include the mitigation in the description of the proposed action and alternatives. Thirty day public comment period is anticipated.
- Moab - Gathering gas lines for wells connecting to the Dead Horse Lateral Pipeline. EA in progress. Many of the lines have been previously analyzed, but over a period of years and in several different EAs, so this EA will put them all in one document for consideration, public review and comment. Due to previous scoping and analysis for many of these lines, this was not formally scoped, although it has been posted on the ENBB. Lines will be buried, some adjacent to existing roads. A few pipeline connector facilities such as pig receivers for clearing the lines will be above ground. All areas will be reclaimed following construction. Expect to have the draft EA out for 30 day comment closer to mid June.
- Moab - Lisbon Valley Copper Mine - Seismic exploration. Reviewing most recent revision of proposed action. Working with proponent to see if it can be designed in such a way as to meet criteria for a Categorical Exclusion; otherwise FO will initiate public scoping once proposal is complete.
- Moab - Lisbon Valley Copper Mine - Mine Plan Modification Centennial Pit Backfill. BLM working with USGS, NOC, UTSO to complete technical reviews of proposal. Thirty day scoping complete. Third party contractor has initiated EA, although BLM IDT checklist is not complete pending technical reviews of the supporting documentation for the proposed action.

—  
Lisa Bryant  
Assistant Field Manager, Moab BLM  
82 East Dogwood  
Moab, Utah 84532  
435 259-2150

"If your knees aren't green by the end of the day, you need to seriously re-examine your life" - Calvin to Hobbes, just prior to bathtime.



Crandall, Megan <mcrandal@blm.gov>

---

## Rock has agreed to handle the Corona Arch press inquiries

4 messages

**Bryant, Lisa** <lbryant@blm.gov>

Wed, Jun 11, 2014 at 10:25 AM

To: Jeffrey R Smith <jeffreysmith@blm.gov>, Beth Ransel <bransel@blm.gov>, Lola Bird <lbird@blm.gov>, Megan Crandall <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Cc: "Kathleen (Katie - Moab) Stevens" <kstevens@blm.gov>

Thanks Rock!

Rock will call the AP wire reporter and also will respond to Channel 2, if they call us back again.

He'll document the conversation in an email and send it to Lola/Megan to forward to WO, given thier interest and request for reports of media inquiries on this.

Rock says this all better in his words, but these are key points we are working with.

Corona Arch is a hiking focus area for the Moab Field Office and Gemini Bridges is another highly visited destination with a prominent geologic feature. These sites each have 40,000-50,000 visitors a year.

BLM has received comments from hikers regarding the noise and visual impacts created by the roped activities that have become popular at these sites. Unfortunately these activities can detract from the visitor experience and scenic quality of these features for those seeking a quieter hiking experience.

There are other areas within the Moab Field Office with opportunities for roped activities such as ziplining, highlining, slacklining, climbing, rappelling, and swinging.

Corona Arch was recently acquired by BLM as part of the Recreation Land Exchange. BLM is asking for public comments to an EA to help decide if a temporary restriction of roped activities at these two hiking destinations to geologic and scenic wonders is appropriate.

The temporary restriction of these uses will provide time in the next two years to more fully analyze and involve the public in a land use planning decision about appropriate management at these sites to address user conflicts.

—  
Lisa Bryant  
Assistant Field Manager, Moab BLM  
82 East Dogwood  
Moab, Utah 84532  
435 259-2150

"If your knees aren't green by the end of the day, you need to seriously re-examine your life" - Calvin to Hobbes, just prior to bathtime.

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**Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov>  
To: "Bryant, Lisa" <lbryant@blm.gov>

Wed, Jun 11, 2014 at 11:07 AM

Can you let Rock know that we need to be circumspect in our answers and not offer opinions on whether or not it is closed only that the EA will enable us to make appropriate decisions.

m  
[Quoted text hidden]

—  
**Megan M. Crandall**  
*External Affairs Chief*

Bureau of Land Management Utah  
440 West 200 South, Ste. 500  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Ph: 801-539-4020  
Fx: 801-539-4013

**Join the Conversation!**



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**Bryant, Lisa** <lbryant@blm.gov>  
To: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Wed, Jun 11, 2014 at 11:36 AM

done. and the Moab Times Independent called on the same topic. I sent them to Rock as well.  
[Quoted text hidden]

---

**Bryant, Lisa** <lbryant@blm.gov>  
To: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Wed, Jun 11, 2014 at 11:38 AM

Just FYI as well, the SLC has misquotes and misinformation that we are a bit perturbed by... I haven't read it, but if that was what prompted the comment, it's likely Rock didn't say it.

On Wed, Jun 11, 2014 at 11:07 AM, Crandall, Megan <mcrandal@blm.gov> wrote:  
[Quoted text hidden]  
[Quoted text hidden]



Crandall, Megan <mcrandal@blm.gov>

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## Corona Arch

4 messages

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**Devon Dolan** <ddolan@ksl.com>

Wed, Jun 11, 2014 at 3:05 PM

To: "mcrandal@blm.gov" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Hi Megan,

We heard BLM may restrict access to the Corona Arch after two people died in May and in 2013. Is this true? If so, is there someone we can interview this afternoon?

Thank you,

Devon

## Devon Dolan

Reporter/Anchor



KSLTV  
KSLNEWSRADIO  
KSL.com

C: (801) 419-4652

Twitter: DevonDolanKSL

Facebook: KSLDevonDolan

---

**Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Wed, Jun 11, 2014 at 3:15 PM

To: Devon Dolan <ddolan@ksl.com>

Cc: Lance Porter <l50porte@blm.gov>, Lisa Bryant <lbryant@blm.gov>

Bcc: Lola Bird <lbird@blm.gov>

Devon, we can't speak to those incidents because Corona was managed by the state at that time. We did not take over management until May 8. You may want to reach out to SITLA regarding those earlier incidents.

Megan

[Quoted text hidden]

-

**Megan M. Crandall**

*External Affairs Chief*

Bureau of Land Management Utah  
440 West 200 South, Ste. 500  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Ph: 801-539-4020

Fx: 801-539-4013

**Join the Conversation!**



---

**Devon Dolan** <ddolan@ksl.com>  
To: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Wed, Jun 11, 2014 at 3:19 PM

I read the following article which states BLM may be making the restrictions.

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/news/58003748-78/amp-arch-corona-blm.html.csp>

**From:** Crandall, Megan [mailto:mcrandal@blm.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 11, 2014 3:15 PM  
**To:** Devon Dolan  
**Cc:** Lance Porter; Lisa Bryant  
**Subject:** Re: Corona Arch

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]



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**Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Wed, Jun 11, 2014 at 3:33 PM

To: Devon Dolan <ddolan@ksl.com>

Cc: Lance Porter <l50porte@blm.gov>, Lisa Bryant <lbryant@blm.gov>, Beth Ransel <bransel@blm.gov>

Devon, we will be engaging in an environmental planning process to analyze potential impacts associated with roped activities at Corona and the end result of that will help us make decisions regarding how to manage the area. That end result may or may not include restrictions, but we won't know that until we have completed a thorough analysis.

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]





Crandall, Megan <mcrandal@blm.gov>

---

**Fwd: "Extreme sports in Arches"**

2 messages

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**SO\_Public\_Room, BLM\_UT** <blm\_ut\_so\_public\_room@blm.gov>  
To: Megan Crandall <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Thu, Jun 12, 2014 at 7:36 AM

----- Forwarded message -----  
From: **Rick Noel** <rnoel1962@gmail.com>  
Date: Wed, Jun 11, 2014 at 6:39 PM  
Subject: "Extreme sports in Arches"  
To: [blm\\_ut\\_so\\_public\\_room@blm.gov](mailto:blm_ut_so_public_room@blm.gov)

To whom it may concern,

I saw this article on the AP newswire (<http://www.boston.com/travel/destinations/2014/06/11/iconic-utah-arch-could-soon-close-rope-swinging/KqDZz8hHn2IbKD5ngODOL/story.html>) about people engaging in activities like swinging from Corona Arch. I just wanted to express my concern about this. In my opinion this country started setting aside land as national parks so that people could come and enjoy their beauty, not to have them turned into venues for extreme sports. Not only should these types of activities (swinging, zip-lining, etc.) be prohibited from Arches but all national parks.

Rick Noel

—  
Public Room  
BLM Utah State Office  
440 W 200 S  
Salt Lake City UT 84101-1345  
Phone: (801) 539-4001  
Fax: (801) 539-4237

---

**Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov>  
To: Lisa Bryant <lbryant@blm.gov>

Thu, Jun 12, 2014 at 9:02 AM

I think you may want to send this man a quick message letting him know that you value his opinion and that he should definitely comment on the EA when it is open for comment. You may also want to let him know that Corona Arch is not in Arches and that as far as you know, roped activities like swinging remain off-limits in the parks.

M  
[Quoted text hidden]

—  
**Megan M. Crandall**  
*External Affairs Chief*

Bureau of Land Management Utah  
440 West 200 South, Ste. 500

Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Ph: 801-539-4020

Fx: 801-539-4013

**Join the Conversation!**





Crandall, Megan <mcrandal@blm.gov>

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## Media Contact - KSL TV Regarding Corona Arch Restrictions

9 messages

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**Smith, Jeffrey (Rock)** <jeffreysmith@blm.gov>

Wed, Jun 11, 2014 at 4:19 PM

To: Megan Crandall <mcrandal@blm.gov>, Lola Bird <lbird@blm.gov>, Lance Porter <l50porte@blm.gov>, Beth Ransel <bransel@blm.gov>, Lisa Bryant <lbryant@blm.gov>, Katie Stevens <kstevens@blm.gov>, Walter Birkenheier <wbirkenheier@blm.gov>

Greetings:

I just did a telephone interview with KSL TV reporter Devan Dolan (June 11, 2014, 3:45 pm), who mainly wanted to know why we were proposing restrictions. She asked me directly if we were do it because of the injuries and deaths that have occurred. I said, no, that many of the activities people engage in on public lands have some degree of danger, and that we are really trying to determine if these activities are appropriate for those locations. I explained about our acquisition of the area, and that we will manage it as we do the adjacent lands (hiking focus area), and that the 40,000 or so visitors that hike to the arch might have some expectation of a primitive experience. She asked if I knew how many people have engaged in swinging from the arch. I explained that we have no way of knowing the number of swingers, but it is likely much less than the 40,000 who hike to the arch. She asked about the process. I tried to explain the NEPA/EA process and that we will have a public comment period and that this is a temporary restriction (up to 2 years) that would allow us time to do a more in depth analysis during the temporary restriction period. It took some time to get her to understand this concept, and I believe she understood the reasoning in the end.

I did try to call Megan prior to talking to Ms. Dolan, and ended up discussing it with Lola Bird. Of the several interviews that I did today, Dolan seemed most interested in making it a controversy.  
Thanks.

—

Rock Smith  
Recreation Branch Chief  
Moab Field Office  
Bureau of Land Management  
(435) 259-2110 Office  
(435) 259-2106 Fax

---

**Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Wed, Jun 11, 2014 at 5:02 PM

To: "Smith, Jeffrey (Rock)" <jeffreysmith@blm.gov>

Cc: Beth Ransel <bransel@blm.gov>

Rock,

She wanted me to comment on the previous deaths. I said no. Then she wanted me to comment on the fact that we were putting in restrictions because of deaths. I said no and explained our NEPA process and that the environmental analysis allows us to make an informed decision regarding whether restrictions may or may not be needed. Boy, she did not like that! KSL is always looking for controversy and they are notorious for unfortunate (aka borderline unethical) editing so if you don't like how it comes out, don't sweat it...it's KSL and is to be expected.

M

[Quoted text hidden]

—

**Megan M. Crandall**

*External Affairs Chief*

Bureau of Land Management Utah  
440 West 200 South, Ste. 500  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Ph: 801-539-4020  
Fx: 801-539-4013

**Join the Conversation!**



---

**Smith, Jeffrey (Rock)** <jeffreysmith@blm.gov>  
To: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Thu, Jun 12, 2014 at 6:42 AM

Megan:

She did ask me if it was in response to the deaths and I too said no, and that many of the activities that occur on public lands can be dangerous. Katie Stevens has a good line about this that I didn't use. She would point out that many more people get killed in ATV accidents and we never think about limiting their use. My line was that we are simply trying to decide what types of activities are appropriate at those locations. Everyone else I talked to seem to get that. I could tell, though, that she was only interested in finding something salacious. I think they ran the piece at 10 pm last night. I don't stay up that late, so haven't seen what they came up with.

Thanks.

[Quoted text hidden]

---

**Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov>  
To: "Smith, Jeffrey (Rock)" <jeffreysmith@blm.gov>, Beth Ransel <bransel@blm.gov>, Lisa Bryant <lbryant@blm.gov>

Thu, Jun 12, 2014 at 8:43 AM

Rock, you did a great job and we clarified via twitter with Fox13's tweet that we were restricting access due to noise rather than safety. Like I said yesterday, KSL and Fox are rather notorious for this. Sometimes I think it's because their reporters are often formulating their next question when they should be listening to the answer to the first one, which leads to confusion and bad editing – whether by design or accident. At any rate, you were fantastic, so thank you again for stepping up to the plate!

M

[Quoted text hidden]

---

**Smith, Jeffrey (Rock)** <jeffreysmith@blm.gov>  
To: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Thu, Jun 12, 2014 at 9:13 AM

I actually expect reporters to mix things up. Probably like you, I have been misquoted many time through the years. I've been credited with saying some pretty funny things that I never really said. I found this particularly funny because Devan taped our conversation and still got a number of facts wrong. Wonder how Aaron made out with Fox last night? I didn't see his interview and don't see it on their website.

Anyway, talk to you at the next crisis, and thanks for your support!

[Quoted text hidden]

---

**Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov>  
To: "Smith, Jeffrey (Rock)" <jeffreysmith@blm.gov>

Thu, Jun 12, 2014 at 9:33 AM

.I think that is why I am more angry than I normally would be ... it's lazy, sloppy reporting and we do not have to tolerate that. It's not the first time with her. I'm getting crabby in my old age!

[Quoted text hidden]

---

**Smith, Jeffrey (Rock)** <jeffreysmith@blm.gov>  
To: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Thu, Jun 12, 2014 at 10:19 AM

. . . but you are so young. I did tell Devan that we would include her when our press release goes out soliciting EA comments.

[Quoted text hidden]

---

**Ransel, Beth** <bransel@blm.gov>

Thu, Jun 12, 2014 at 11:00 AM

To: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>  
Cc: "Smith, Jeffrey (Rock)" <jeffreysmith@blm.gov>, Lisa Bryant <lbryant@blm.gov>

Hi All,

I am not sure we want to focus on the noise aspect, though it will be a consideration in the EA. My understanding is that it is really more about public comments we have received that have indicated that there is a conflict between the public hiking and enjoying the areas for their scenic values and the natural setting and the people engaging in roped activities at both Corona Arch and Gemini Bridges. The current effort is aimed at attempting to resolve the conflicts identified by the public.

Regards,  
Beth

**Beth Ransel**  
*Field Manager*  
Moab Field Office

desk: 435.259.2119 cell: 435.220.0046 [bransel@blm.gov](mailto:bransel@blm.gov)

**MOAB FIELD OFFICE**  
**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

[Quoted text hidden]

---

**Ransel, Beth** <bransel@blm.gov>

Thu, Jun 12, 2014 at 11:12 AM

To: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>  
Cc: "Smith, Jeffrey (Rock)" <jeffreysmith@blm.gov>, Lisa Bryant <lbryant@blm.gov>

Hi All,

Just saw the talking points that include both noise and visual, if framed together it makes a better case. The twitter post screen shot sent to me only included noise. For future items, I think it would be better to include them both or focus more on the visual aspect.

Regards,  
Beth

**Beth Ransel**  
*Field Manager*  
Moab Field Office

desk: 435.259.2119 cell: 435.220.0046 [bransel@blm.gov](mailto:bransel@blm.gov)

**MOAB FIELD OFFICE**  
**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

[Quoted text hidden]



Crandall, Megan <mcrandal@blm.gov>

---

## Reuters inquiry re: Corona Arch

1 message

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**Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Thu, Jun 12, 2014 at 12:16 PM

To: Jeff Krauss <JKrauss@blm.gov>

Cc: Craig Leff <cleff@blm.gov>, Celia Boddington <cbodding@blm.gov>

Jeff, Rock Smith in our Moab office just spoke with Peg McEntee, who is a stringer for Reuters (11:45 am, 6/12, 2014). She had read the other Corona stories, but asked him to explain why we were proposing a temp closure at Corona and Gemini Bridges. He explained that it was to determine if roped activities were appropriate in these locations, and told her that we were not suggesting stopping roped activities in other areas. That seemed to satisfy her. She did attempt to get some information about the fatalities and any injuries, and he told her she would have to get that from SITLA. She did not ask or imply that we were proposing the action because of the fatalities, perhaps because he dispelled that up front. Story should be on their wire today.

M

--

**Megan M. Crandall**  
*External Affairs Chief*

Bureau of Land Management Utah  
440 West 200 South, Ste. 500  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Ph: 801-539-4020  
Fx: 801-539-4013

**Join the Conversation!**





Crandall, Megan <mcrandal@blm.gov>

---

## Media Report

1 message

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**Bird, Lola** <lbird@blm.gov>

Thu, Jul 10, 2014 at 1:53 PM

To: Megan Crandall <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Al Jazeera America inquiries regarding the Bible Spring Complex wild horse gather in late July, Cerberus artifact collection and Colorado River resource allocation.

The Sun (UK) inquiry regarding Scott Richardson, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument seasonal paleontologist and the recent GSENM dinosaur discoveries.

New York Times inquiry regarding roped recreation activities at Corona Arch and the potential temporary closure to roped activities in the area.

PBS News Hour inquiry regarding Recapture Canyon, the closure to motorized vehicles and cultural resources found in the canyon.

Associated Press Inquiry regarding the Moab Dinosaur Track Site Theft.

—

Thank you,  
Lola Bird  
BLM Utah External Affairs  
801-539-4033



Crandall, Megan <mcrandal@blm.gov>

---

## NBC Nightly News interview regarding Corona Arch

3 messages

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**Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Thu, Jul 31, 2014 at 2:42 PM

To: Jeff Krauss <JKrauss@blm.gov>

Cc: Craig Leff <cleff@blm.gov>, Karl Snow <ksnow@blm.gov>, Celia Boddington <cbodding@blm.gov>, Jenna Whitlock <jwhitloc@blm.gov>, Juan Palma <jpalma@blm.gov>, Lance Porter <l50porte@blm.gov>, Beth Ransel <bransel@blm.gov>

**NBC Nightly News on-camera interview regarding Corona Arch:** The BLM-UT External Affairs Chief conducted an on-camera interview with NBC Nightly News producer Shelley Osterloh regarding Corona Arch in Moab, Utah. The interview focused on BLM-UT's consideration of a temporary restriction on roped activities like swinging and slack lining at Corona Arch and Gemini Bridges but also touched on the fact that BLM-UT has no intention of stopping roped activities across the board. Additionally, the interview covered the fact that Moab is unique in that it is a mecca for all sorts of adrenaline-filled pursuits like base jumping and slack lining. In the interview, it was also mentioned that the BLM actively seeks and encourages people to get involved in the management of their public lands by submitting comments. The interview is scheduled to run on NBC Nightly News tonight at 5:30 p.m. (mountain). It should be neutral.

—  
**Megan M. Crandall**  
*External Affairs Chief*

Bureau of Land Management Utah  
440 West 200 South, Ste. 500  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Ph: 801-539-4020  
Fx: 801-539-4013

**Join the Conversation!**



---

**Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Thu, Jul 31, 2014 at 4:33 PM

To: Jeff Krauss <JKrauss@blm.gov>, Craig Leff <cleff@blm.gov>, Karl Snow <ksnow@blm.gov>, Celia Boddington <cbodding@blm.gov>, Jenna Whitlock <jwhitloc@blm.gov>, Juan Palma <jpalma@blm.gov>, Lance Porter <l50porte@blm.gov>, Beth Ransel <bransel@blm.gov>

Hi, all. NBC just dropped me a text letting me know that the story has been pushed back to tomorrow's newscast.

M

[Quoted text hidden]

---

**Craig Leff** <cleff@blm.gov>

Fri, Aug 1, 2014 at 5:10 AM

To: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Cc: Jeff Krauss <JKrauss@blm.gov>, Karl Snow <ksnow@blm.gov>, Celia Boddington <cbodding@blm.gov>, Jenna Whitlock <jwhitloc@blm.gov>, Juan Palma <jpalma@blm.gov>, Lance Porter <l50porte@blm.gov>, Beth Ransel <bransel@blm.gov>

Thanks for the heads-up, Megan

Craig Leff  
BLM Communications  
202-208-6913 (o)  
202-549-9218 (c)  
[Quoted text hidden]



Crandall, Megan <mcrandal@blm.gov>

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## Fwd: New York Times Corona Arch Article Referenced in Newsweek

1 message

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**Ransel, Beth** <bransel@blm.gov>  
To: Megan Crandall <mcrandal@blm.gov>  
Cc: Lance Porter <l50porte@blm.gov>

Fri, Aug 1, 2014 at 9:13 AM

FYI

Regards,  
Beth

**Beth Ransel**  
*Field Manager*  
Moab Field Office

desk: 435.259.2119 cell: 435.220.0046 [bransel@blm.gov](mailto:bransel@blm.gov)

**MOAB FIELD OFFICE**  
**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Smith, Jeffrey (Rock)** <[jeffreysmith@blm.gov](mailto:jeffreysmith@blm.gov)>  
Date: Fri, Aug 1, 2014 at 9:02 AM  
Subject: New York Times Corona Arch Article Referenced in Newsweek  
To: Beth Ransel <[bransel@blm.gov](mailto:bransel@blm.gov)>, Lance Porter <[l50porte@blm.gov](mailto:l50porte@blm.gov)>, Lisa Bryant <[lbryant@blm.gov](mailto:lbryant@blm.gov)>, Katie Stevens <[kstevens@blm.gov](mailto:kstevens@blm.gov)>, Jennifer L Jones <[jljones@blm.gov](mailto:jljones@blm.gov)>, Bill Stevens <[bpsteven@blm.gov](mailto:bpsteven@blm.gov)>, Ann Corson <[acorson@blm.gov](mailto:acorson@blm.gov)>, Judith Chrobak-Cox <[jchrobakcox@blm.gov](mailto:jchrobakcox@blm.gov)>, Gary Abeyta <[gabeyta@blm.gov](mailto:gabeyta@blm.gov)>, Miles Gurtler <[mgurtler@blm.gov](mailto:mgurtler@blm.gov)>

The Conventional Wisdom section of Newsweek (now online only, I think) had a reference to the NYT article - Daredevils (with a down facing arrow). The Times article had 308 comments as of this morning. The vast majority favoring a restriction on the roped activities.

### Conventional Wisdom Watch

- **Daredevils**  
Using natural sites as giants swing is fun for some, annoying for everyone else.

—  
Rock Smith  
Recreation Branch Chief  
Moab Field Office  
Bureau of Land Management  
(435) 259-2110 Office  
(435) 259-2106 Fax



Crandall, Megan <mcrandal@blm.gov>

---

## Corona Arch plan to address roped activities

2 messages

**Porter, Lance** <l50porte@blm.gov>

Fri, Aug 1, 2014 at 11:17 AM

To: Juan Palma <jpalma@blm.gov>, Jenna Whitlock <jwhitloc@blm.gov>, Cory Roegner <croegner@blm.gov>, Megan Crandall <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Cc: Beth Ransel <bransel@blm.gov>, "Jeffrey (Rock) Smith" <jeffreysmith@blm.gov>

Hi -

Thank you for your coordination and support on the Corona Arch phone call we had yesterday. We have reviewed the options and made the decision that we would continue with the current course of action which is to issue a EA for a 30 day public comment period. The comments will be reviewed and a DR will be issued.

Issuing the EA is consistent with the messages and past media talking points. Issuing an Emergency Restriction right now would be a change in our messaging and could affect our public trust. This direction is also consistent with our Grand County coordination efforts.

We will take a look at the purpose and need and make sure we are capturing the resource concerns along with public comments as it relates to restricting roped activities.

We will keep our options open for using an Emergency Restriction and if we find that this is necessary to address imminent risks to resource an emergency restriction would be considered.

Please call Beth or myself if you have any questions.

Thank you

-

Lance C. Porter  
District Manager  
Canyon Country District  
Office (435) 259-2174

---

**Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Fri, Aug 1, 2014 at 11:19 AM

To: "Porter, Lance" <l50porte@blm.gov>

Cc: Juan Palma <jpalma@blm.gov>, Jenna Whitlock <jwhitloc@blm.gov>, Cory Roegner <croegner@blm.gov>, Beth Ransel <bransel@blm.gov>, "Jeffrey (Rock) Smith" <jeffreysmith@blm.gov>

Hi, all. I now have an on-camera interview with ABC World News at 130 also in City Creek Canyon. I'll be sticking to the same script as yesterday.

M

[Quoted text hidden]

-

**Megan M. Crandall**  
*External Affairs Chief*

Bureau of Land Management Utah  
440 West 200 South, Ste. 500  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Ph: 801-539-4020  
Fx: 801-539-4013

**Join the Conversation!**





Crandall, Megan <mcrandal@blm.gov>

---

## ABC World News interview regarding Corona Arch

7 messages

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**Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Fri, Aug 1, 2014 at 2:50 PM

To: Craig Leff <cleff@blm.gov>, Karl Snow <ksnow@blm.gov>, Amy Krause <alkrause@blm.gov>, Jeff Krauss <JKrauss@blm.gov>

Cc: Celia Boddington <cbodding@blm.gov>, Jenna Whitlock <jwhitloc@blm.gov>, Juan Palma <jpalma@blm.gov>, Lance Porter <l50porte@blm.gov>, Beth Ransel <bransel@blm.gov>, "Jeffrey (Rock) Smith" <jeffreysmith@blm.gov>, Lisa Bryant <lbryant@blm.gov>, Lola Bird <lbird@blm.gov>

**ABC World News on-camera interview regarding Corona Arch:** The BLM-UT External Affairs Chief conducted an on-camera interview with ABC World News regarding Corona Arch in Moab, Utah. The interview focused on the same topics as yesterday's interview with NBC Nightly News. However, it did not seem to go as smoothly, with the reporter repeating the same question 5-6 times and asking for rephrased answers each time. Additionally, the reporter did not seem to accept that a temporary restriction on roped activities was only *under consideration* and was not yet in effect. The interview addressed BLM-UT's consideration of a temporary restriction on roped activities like swinging and slack lining at Corona Arch and Gemini Bridges but also touched on the fact that BLM-UT has no intention of stopping roped activities across the board. The interview covered the fact that Moab is unique in that it is a mecca for all sorts of adrenaline-filled pursuits like base jumping and slack lining. In the interview, it was also mentioned that the BLM actively seeks and encourages people to get involved in the management of their public lands by submitting comments. The interview is scheduled to run on ABC World News tonight at 5:30 p.m. (mountain). It should be neutral, but some of the repetitive questioning and requests for rephrased answers are concerning.

**Update:** The NBC Nightly News crew traveled to Moab to interview the parent of a young man killed swinging on Corona Arch when it was managed by the State of Utah, as well as a member of the Grand County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue Team. The NBC story, including yesterday's interview on Corona Arch here in Salt Lake City, is still expected to air at 5:30 p.m. (mountain).

—  
**Megan M. Crandall**  
*External Affairs Chief*

Bureau of Land Management Utah  
440 West 200 South, Ste. 500  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Ph: 801-539-4020  
Fx: 801-539-4013

**Join the Conversation!**



---

**Smith, Jeffrey (Rock)** <jeffreysmith@blm.gov>  
To: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Fri, Aug 1, 2014 at 3:19 PM

Thanks for carrying our load.  
[Quoted text hidden]

—  
Rock Smith

Recreation Branch Chief  
Moab Field Office  
Bureau of Land Management  
(435) 259-2110 Office  
(435) 259-2106 Fax

---

**Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov>  
To: "Smith, Jeffrey (Rock)" <jeffreysmith@blm.gov>

Fri, Aug 1, 2014 at 3:23 PM

No worries! Today didn't go as smoothly for a variety of reasons, not the least of which was that I was supposed to keep looking at Lola while answering questions coming in on a speaker phone held just off camera near my ear ... awkward!

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Smith, Jeffrey (Rock)** <jeffreysmith@blm.gov>  
To: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Fri, Aug 1, 2014 at 3:32 PM

Funny. It's hard enough without distractions. I'm sure it will be okay. I hope there were hikers at the Arch while the film crew was there.

Have a good weekend!

[Quoted text hidden]

---

**Craig Leff** <cleff@blm.gov>  
To: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Sat, Aug 2, 2014 at 7:07 AM

Thanks, Megan. Appreciate the heads up. Did it air? All quiet on this end.

Craig Leff  
BLM Communications  
202-208-6913 (o)  
202-549-9218 (c)

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov>  
To: Craig Leff <cleff@blm.gov>

Mon, Aug 4, 2014 at 10:28 AM

It aired on Friday and I got a 3 sec clip ... hard to get fired in 3 seconds! :) No word on NBC, though. Now, PBS News Hour is interested, too.

[Quoted text hidden]

---

**Craig Leff** <cleff@blm.gov>  
To: Megan Crandall <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Mon, Aug 4, 2014 at 11:32 AM

Thanks, Megan.

---

Craig Leff

BLM Communications

202-208-6913 – Phone

202-208-6769 – FAX

~~~~~

**From:** Crandall, Megan [mailto:[mcrandal@blm.gov](mailto:mcrandal@blm.gov)]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 04, 2014 12:28 PM  
**To:** Craig Leff  
**Subject:** Re: ABC World News interview regarding Corona Arch

[Quoted text hidden]



Crandall, Megan <mcrandal@blm.gov>

---

## Canyon Country two week ahead report

2 messages

**Bryant, Lisa** <lbryant@blm.gov>

Wed, Aug 6, 2014 at 5:26 PM

To: Megan Crandall <mcrandal@blm.gov>, Lola Bird <lbird@blm.gov>, Beth Ransel <bransel@blm.gov>, Lance Porter <l50porte@blm.gov>, Donald Hoffheins <dhoffhei@blm.gov>, "Sheryl (Sherry) Foot" <sfoot@blm.gov>, Brian Quigley <bquigley@blm.gov>

Here's this week's report.

- Nothing for WO,
- Several updates for UTSO on projects (see attached)
- On the Horizon: I added Corona Arch EA for 30 day comment is probably 3 weeks out, I believe the draft PR went up to you, but I can send it again when we get closer. Indian Creek is still OTH.

—  
Lisa Bryant

Assistant Field Manager, Moab BLM

82 East Dogwood

Moab, Utah 84532

435 259-2150

"If your knees aren't green by the end of the day, you need to seriously re-examine your life" - Calvin to Hobbes, just prior to bathtime.

---

**Bryant, Lisa** <lbryant@blm.gov>

Wed, Aug 6, 2014 at 5:26 PM

To: Megan Crandall <mcrandal@blm.gov>, Lola Bird <lbird@blm.gov>, Beth Ransel <bransel@blm.gov>, Lance Porter <l50porte@blm.gov>, Donald Hoffheins <dhoffhei@blm.gov>, "Sheryl (Sherry) Foot" <sfoot@blm.gov>, Brian Quigley <bquigley@blm.gov>

here it is

[Quoted text hidden]



CCYD Weekly Report 8-6-2014.docx

34K

**Week Ahead Report**  
**Canyon Country District**  
8/6/2014

**WO Week Ahead Items (really 2 weeks)**

**Canyon Country District**

Nothing for WO two week ahead

**UTSO information:**

- Moab to analyze a proposal from Fidelity to amend their ROW Grant for the Dead Horse Lateral Pipeline. The proposed ROW amendment is to clarify language in the EA with respect to construction standards for the pipeline. This is a controversial decision in that the Canyon Country Coalition for a Safe Pipeline is not in favor of the amendment. A decision to amend or not amend the ROW Grant may be appealed by either the CCCSP or the proponent. *This proposal has been incorporated into the Gas Gathering Line EA, which we anticipate will go out for public comment 8/8/14-8/27/14. (Post on ENBB 8/8 and legal notice 8/13). This has been scoped on the ENBB and with the interested publics via meetings.*
- Moab - Behind the Rocks 10 Year Permit Renewal EA expected to go out for 30 day public comment **by 8/15/2014.**
- Moab - 10 year Trailing Permit for Don Holyoak – Sand Flats Area expected to go out for 30 day public comment late August – *permittee has requested addition of another alternative, which will take some time to incorporate.*
- Moab – Expect to issue a 10 year grazing decision for Fisher Valley Allotment **this week (8/8/14) or early next.** It is expected to be appealed.
- Monticello – interagency field crews **have completed** damage repair/reclamation work on non-cultural sites in Recapture Canyon this week.

**On the Horizon:**

- Monticello Indian Creek ATV Trail EA – EA is in progress. FM is scheduling a field trip with the NPS later this month to go over the mitigation. A couple chapters of the EA have been drafted by our team lead and will be finalized and sent to the interdisciplinary team for review after the NPS trip so we can include the mitigation in the description of the proposed action and alternatives. Thirty day public comment period is anticipated.
- Moab –EA “Temporary Restriction of Corona Arch and Gemini Bridges to Rope Use, including Ziplining, Highlining, Slacklining, Climbing, Rappelling, and Swinging”. EA expected to go out for 30 day public comment the week of August 18 or 25. This topic has generated heated discussion and national media attention, expect more when the EA goes out for public comment. Currently working on briefing papers and com plan.

## **Local Media Report**

### **I. Media Coverage**

Moab Times 7/30/14– [http://moabtimes.com/view/full\\_story/25487449/article-County-revenue-vs--business-revenue-?](http://moabtimes.com/view/full_story/25487449/article-County-revenue-vs--business-revenue-?) Letter to editor – blm positive

Moab Times 7/30/2014 – ran press release on Supplementary Rules

Moab Sun News 7/30/2014 Supplementary Rules article plus press release – blm neutral  
[http://www.moabsunnews.com/news/article\\_cbcd9eee-17ef-11e4-b8a0-001a4bcf6878.html](http://www.moabsunnews.com/news/article_cbcd9eee-17ef-11e4-b8a0-001a4bcf6878.html)

### **II. Media requests**

1. Network news NBC, ABC regarding Corona Arch roped activities following a NY Times article on the topic. Network TV Press seems to have their own agenda and are not hearing message we have tried to give them. UTSO is handling these interviews.
2. Multiple requests from local and regional papers (and Outside Magazine) regarding the collapse of Cobra Tower, which was a popular climbing feature in the Fisher Towers area. It is presumed that the pinnacle collapsed during or following one of the intense thunderstorm events that have hit the area recently. It collapsed sometime between Tues 7/29 and Fri 8/1. It was first reported in social media 8/1, but the media requests began in a flurry the morning of 8/4/14. BLM became aware of it through an employee report who saw the facebook posts and photos.
3. Anticipating ABC Nightline News to be in the area week of Aug 11 doing a story on Corona Arch.

### **Ongoing or previously sent up as week ahead – status updates (new info in italics):**

#### **CCYD**

- Master Leasing Plan: *Finalizing Draft for Internal Review.*

#### **Moab**

- Moab - Lisbon Valley Copper Mine Pit Backfill Proposal – LVCM submitted a proposal to partially backfill one of their largest pits. This was analyzed in an alternative as part of the original EIS and not chosen due to groundwater concerns. BLM is working with experts from USGS, UGS, the NOC and UTSO to evaluate results of the latest testing. Based on recent discussions with subject matter experts there may be significant issues with the proposal in that it may not be feasible to move forward. Once all reviews are complete we intend to provide a letter to the proponent and offer to meet with them. Several conference calls and meetings held in early July that included UDEQ Groundwater division, supporting the mine's proposal. *Panel is taking all comments into consideration and plans to meet in Moab, review all the documentation and make recommendations to managers by August 8.*
- Moab – Lisbon Valley Copper Mine Exploration Bond Review – BLM and UDOGM have both reviewed and updated the exploration bond for LVCM. They have sent a check to UDOGM for the increased amount. This was a necessary step prior to commencing exploration activities approved in a previous EA decision. *UDOGM/BLM discovered a mistake in the bond amount and BLM worked with LVCM to make correction.*
- *Moab – LVCM 2-D seismic exploration project processed as a Notice, decision on bond amount was sent 8/5/2014.*

- Moab LaSal Complex Uranium Mine – An Amended Plan of Operations for the LaSal Complex Uranium Mine was submitted to BLM and FS on December 10, 2009. BLM is the lead agency in preparation of a joint BLM-USFS EA. Both agencies have offered scoping and comment periods. The EA is in final staff review stages, currently working through USFS process. The mine recently submitted reports in response to UDGOM and BLM per temporary suspensions.
- Moab is initiating an information gathering process for an EA for Field Office-wide livestock trailing EA. Letter is being sent to all permittees, counties, interested publics, and SITLA requesting information on past, present, and anticipated trailing on public lands. EA has not been initiated yet, we are still in an information gathering stage to develop a proposed action, so this isn't necessarily scoping. *We had considered a press release in the event there are non-permittees that may have a need to trail on public lands, however, now considering whether this is necessary. We will do formal scoping once we have a proposed action and can include it then.*
- Moab – Gathering gas lines for wells connecting to the Dead Horse Lateral Pipeline. EA is expected to go out for public comment 8/8/14-8/27/14. *(Post on ENBB 8/8 and legal notice 8/13).* This gathering line system is critical to capturing gas that is currently being flared. Many of the lines were been previously analyzed, but over a period of years and in several different EAs. An EA is being prepared to update and consolidate the planned gathering line system in a single document for consideration, public review and comment. Lines will be buried and surface laid, some adjacent to existing roads. Pipeline connector facilities such as pig receivers for clearing the lines will be above ground. Several alternatives are being considered to address resource issues. All areas will be reclaimed following construction. *The proposed amendment to DHL ROW is being incorporated into this EA and safety concerns will be analyzed. (FYI, this proposal first sent up in April, but the proposed action and EA has undergone several revisions since then.)*

### Monticello

- Daneros – receiving lots of comment letters (primarily form letters) during scoping period – over 2000 in first week. EA in progress, field review completed March 6, 2014.
- Multiple ROW, SRP, APD, Weed Treatment, paleontological permitting and other smaller project EA's, updates available upon request.
- Monticello –ATV Safari 2014 – Annual fall ATV event in San Juan County. EA will be for a 10 year permit. Project tiers to the Five Designated Routes project. One of the Five routes (Blanding to Bulldog) overlaps with a route in Five Designated Routes project and similarly overlaps a portion of one of the routes in San Juan County's 2012 Recapture ATV routes application. Previous decisions for 2012 and 2013 are still awaiting IBLA ruling per travel management and cultural resource issues. Draft EA went out for public comment July 2, 2014 – August 1, 2014. Expect to address comments and issue EA in early August.



Crandall, Megan <mcrandal@blm.gov>

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## Fwd: PR for Corona Arch

4 messages

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**Bryant, Lisa** <lbryant@blm.gov>

Tue, Aug 19, 2014 at 10:10 PM

To: Lola Bird <lbird@blm.gov>, Megan Crandall <mcrandal@blm.gov>

This is the PR for Corona Arch Temporary Restrictions for Roped Activities EA - 30 day comment period. Beth would like to issue the EA first thing next week. I won't be here, so she's hoping you can be the media point of contact. Anyway we could get this approved by WO this week?

uber thanks.

Also I think I put it in the on the horizon and its been in week ahead before, we may have even put it in last week???? If you need an early alert let me know, but this shouldn't catch anyone off guard and now the momentum is there to push it forward.

This might also be a good talking point on Thursday.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ransel, Beth** <bransel@blm.gov>

Date: Tue, Aug 19, 2014 at 5:12 PM

Subject: PR for Corona Arch

To: Lisa Bryant <lbryant@blm.gov>

Cc: Lance Porter <l50porte@blm.gov>, Walter Birkenheier <wbirkenheier@blm.gov>, "Jeffrey (Rock) Smith" <jeffreysmith@blm.gov>

Hi Lisa,

The attached Press Release has been reviewed by Rock and Walter. Unless you have comments on it, please forward it to Megan for approval. Note the following:

Target Issue Date: Monday (instead of Friday, so that we are open to respond to any media contacts)

Media Contact: Megan (Due to the level of attention this has been receiving and you being out next week)

Thank you Lisa.

Regards,  
Beth

**Beth Ransel**  
*Field Manager*  
Moab Field Office

desk: 435.259.2119 cell: 435.220.0046 [bransel@blm.gov](mailto:bransel@blm.gov)

**MOAB FIELD OFFICE**  
**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

—  
Lisa Bryant  
Assistant Field Manager, Moab BLM  
82 East Dogwood  
Moab, Utah 84532  
435 259-2150

"If your knees aren't green by the end of the day, you need to seriously re-examine your life" - Calvin to Hobbes, just prior to bathtime.



PR EA Corona Arch-Gemini Bridges Roped Restriction 08192014.docx

246K

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**Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Wed, Aug 20, 2014 at 10:23 AM

To: "Bryant, Lisa" <lbryant@blm.gov>

When are you planning to go out with this?

[Quoted text hidden]

—

**Megan M. Crandall**

*External Affairs Chief*

Bureau of Land Management Utah  
440 West 200 South, Ste. 500  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Ph: 801-539-4020

Fx: 801-539-4013

**Join the Conversation!**



---

**Bryant, Lisa** <lbryant@blm.gov>

Wed, Aug 20, 2014 at 11:31 AM

To: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Monday if possible. Beth thought it would be better than Friday, so we have someone here to answer press calls.

[Quoted text hidden]

---

**Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Wed, Aug 20, 2014 at 11:32 AM

To: "Bryant, Lisa" <lbryant@blm.gov>

Friday is not a good day for release ... it looks shady.

[Quoted text hidden]



# Bureau of Land Management

Utah  
News

MOAB FIELD OFFICE  
82 EAST DOGWOOD . MOAB, UT 84532  
PHONE (435) 259-2100. FAX (435) 259-2106  
[HTTP://WWW.BLM.GOV/UT/ST/EN.HTML](http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en.html)

For Immediate Release  
August 25, 2014

Contact: Megan Crandall (801)XXX-XXX

## **BLM Seeks Public Comment on Restricting Roped Activities at Corona Arch and Gemini Bridges**

**Moab, Utah**—The Bureau of Land Management Moab Field Office (BLM) is seeking public comments on an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed temporary restriction to roped activities at Corona Arch and Gemini Bridges for a period of two years. Examples of roped activities include, but are not limited to: ziplining, highlining, slacklining, climbing, rappelling, and rope swinging.

The temporary restriction is being proposed in response to comments received from the public indicating that roped activities occurring at these locations interferes with the experience of visitors hiking to these features to enjoy the views, the natural setting, and to take photographs. Both the Corona Arch and Gemini Bridges are at the terminus of very popular hiking trails and are iconic destinations for visitors to the Moab area, with each arch receiving over 40,000 visitors a year. The Corona Arch is also located within a Hiking Focus Area on a parcel that was acquired by the BLM in May of this year from the State of Utah in the Recreational Land Exchange.

The EA is available on the Environmental Notification Bulletin (ENBB) at <https://www.blm.gov/ut/enbb/index.php>; search for project name "Corona." Comments on the EA should be as specific as possible.

Written comments will be accepted by letter or email through September 25, 2014. Please reference "Corona" when submitting comments. Please note that the most useful comments are those that contain new technical or scientific information relevant to the proposed action. Comments should be as specific as possible. Comments which contain only opinions or preferences will not receive a formal response but may be considered in the BLM decision-making process. Written comments may be mailed or emailed using the following addresses:

Bureau of Land Management  
Moab Field Office  
82 East Dogwood  
Moab, Utah 84532

[blm\\_ut\\_mb\\_comments@blm.gov](mailto:blm_ut_mb_comments@blm.gov)

Before including an address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in any comments, be aware that the entire comment—including personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. Requests to withhold personal identifying information from public review can be submitted, but the BLM cannot guarantee that it will be able to do so. The BLM will not consider anonymous comments. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

For additional information, contact Beth Ransel at (435) 259-2110. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to leave a message or question with the above individual. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's mission is to manage and conserve the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations under our mandate of multiple-use and sustained yield. In Fiscal Year 2013, the BLM generated \$4.7 billion in receipts from public lands.

-BLM-



Crandall, Megan <mcrandal@blm.gov>

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## Corona Arch Press Release

2 messages

**Bird, Lola** <lbird@blm.gov>

Thu, Aug 21, 2014 at 9:43 AM

To: Beth Ransel <bransel@blm.gov>, Lisa Bryant <lbryant@blm.gov>

Cc: Megan Crandall <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Beth and Lisa,

The attached press release regarding the Corona Arch EA is approved. I believe Lisa is out next week so would you like me to send the press release out on Monday? If so, just let me know when the EA is posted on the ENBB and I can send the press release out and get it posted.

—  
Thank you,  
Lola Bird  
BLM Utah External Affairs  
801-539-4033

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 **Corona Arch Restriction 8-25-14.docx**  
246K

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**Ransel, Beth** <bransel@blm.gov>

Mon, Aug 25, 2014 at 9:13 AM

To: "Bird, Lola" <lbird@blm.gov>

Cc: Lisa Bryant <lbryant@blm.gov>, Megan Crandall <mcrandal@blm.gov>, "Kathleen (Katie - Moab) Stevens" <kstevens@blm.gov>

Hi Lola,

Thanks for your offer to send the PR out and get it posted. We are targeting to send it out after 12Pm today and can let you know when we are ready. We have coordinated to get it posted to the Moab Website and will post the EA on the ENBB. We can also send the PR to the local papers, unless you were already planning to do that when you send it out.

Thanks for your help.

Regards,  
Beth

**Beth Ransel**  
*Field Manager*  
Moab Field Office

desk: 435.259.2119 cell: 435.220.0046 [bransel@blm.gov](mailto:bransel@blm.gov)

**MOAB FIELD OFFICE**  
**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

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# Bureau of Land Management

Utah  
News

MOAB FIELD OFFICE  
82 EAST DOGWOOD . MOAB, UT 84532  
PHONE (435) 259-2100. FAX (435) 259-2106  
HTTP://WWW.BLM.GOV/UT/ST/EN.HTML

For Immediate Release  
Aug. 25, 2014

Media Contact: Megan Crandall, (801)539-4020  
Lisa Bryant, (435)259-2150

## BLM Seeks Public Comment on Restricting Roped Activities at Corona Arch and Gemini Bridges

**Moab, Utah**—The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Utah, Moab Field Office is seeking public comment on an Environmental Assessment (EA) analyzing a proposed two-year restriction on roped activities at Corona Arch and Gemini Bridges. Roped activities include ziplining, highlining, slacklining, climbing, rappelling, and rope swinging.

The temporary restriction is proposed in response to public comments indicating that roped activities at these locations may interfere with the experiences of other recreationists in the area. Both Corona Arch and Gemini Bridges are located at the end of very popular hiking trails and are iconic destinations for visitors to the Moab area, each receiving more than 40,000 visitors annually. The Corona Arch is also located within a Hiking Focus Area on a parcel of land acquired by the BLM from the State of Utah in the May 2014 Recreational Land Exchange.

The EA is available for review and comment on the Environmental Notification Bulletin (ENBB) at <https://www.blm.gov/ut/enbb/index.php>; search for project name "Corona." Comments on the EA should be as specific as possible.

Written comments will be accepted by letter or email through Sept. 25, 2014. Please reference "Corona" when submitting comments. Please note that the most useful comments are those that contain new technical or scientific information relevant to the proposed action. Comments should be as specific as possible. Comments which contain only opinions or preferences will not receive a formal response but may be considered in the BLM decision-making process. Written comments may be mailed or emailed using the following addresses:

### Mail

Bureau of Land Management  
Moab Field Office  
Attn: Katie Stevens  
82 East Dogwood  
Moab, Utah 84532

Email

[blm ut mb comments@blm.gov](mailto:blm_ut_mb_comments@blm.gov)

Before including an address, phone number, email address, or other personally identifiable information in any comments, be aware that the entire comment—including personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. Requests to withhold personal identifying information from public review can be submitted, but the BLM cannot guarantee that it will be able to do so. The BLM will not consider anonymous comments. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

For additional restriction-specific information, contact Beth Ransel at (435) 259-2100. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to leave a message or question with the above individual. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Replies are provided during normal business hours.

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's mission is to manage and conserve the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations under our mandate of multiple-use and sustained yield. In Fiscal Year 2013, the BLM generated \$4.7 billion in receipts from public lands.

-BLM-

Follow us on Twitter [@BLMUtah](https://twitter.com/BLMUtah)



Crandall, Megan <mcrandal@blm.gov>

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## BASE jumping info

26 messages

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**Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Thu, Jul 31, 2014 at 3:48 PM

To: Brandon.C.Baur@abc.com

Cc: Jeff Krauss <JKrauss@blm.gov>

Hi, Brandon,

Here is some BASE jumping information:

1. Link to a pdf map that shows the recreation focus areas on BLM-managed lands in the Moab Field Office. In the southwest portion of the field office, there are two competitive BASE jumping areas--Mineral Canyon/Horsethief Point and Tombstone.

[http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/ut/moab\\_fo/rmp/rod\\_approved\\_rmp/maps.Par.41400.File.dat/Maps%2018.pdf](http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/ut/moab_fo/rmp/rod_approved_rmp/maps.Par.41400.File.dat/Maps%2018.pdf)

2. The BLM cannot support or promote any one guiding company over another, but the first page of a basic google search gave me the following groups offering guided BASE jumping tours in the Moab area.

<http://moabbaseadventures.com/>  
[http://www.base-dynamics.com/Moab\\_Cliff\\_Couse\\_p/course2-mjc.htm](http://www.base-dynamics.com/Moab_Cliff_Couse_p/course2-mjc.htm)

Let me know what else we can do to help you pull a story together. In case you need quicker turn around, my cell phone is 801-824-6211. Thanks.

M

P.S. I've got a call in to get more info on that "crazy dino dig" (which is what we've labeled it here) and well get something to you as soon as I have it.

—

**Megan M. Crandall**  
*External Affairs Chief*

Bureau of Land Management Utah  
440 West 200 South, Ste. 500  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Ph: 801-539-4020  
Fx: 801-539-4013

**Join the Conversation!**



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**Baur, Brandon C.** <Brandon.C.Baur@abc.com>  
To: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Thu, Jul 31, 2014 at 3:50 PM

Cool, thank you.

Are there people swinging from the arch every day?

My concern is if you close it before we get there...then we don't really have anything to show.

**From:** Crandall, Megan [mailto:[mcrandal@blm.gov](mailto:mcrandal@blm.gov)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 31, 2014 5:48 PM  
**To:** Baur, Brandon C.  
**Cc:** Jeff Krauss  
**Subject:** BASE jumping info

[Quoted text hidden]

---

**Crandall, Megan** <[mcrandal@blm.gov](mailto:mcrandal@blm.gov)>  
To: "Baur, Brandon C." <[Brandon.C.Baur@abc.com](mailto:Brandon.C.Baur@abc.com)>

Thu, Jul 31, 2014 at 3:57 PM

I don't know if people are swinging there every day or not, but I will let you know if I think a closure is imminent, so you can make a decision. I think you likely have at least a week. If things start moving faster, I'll be sure to give you a heads up.

Megan

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Baur, Brandon C.** <[Brandon.C.Baur@abc.com](mailto:Brandon.C.Baur@abc.com)>  
To: "Crandall, Megan" <[mcrandal@blm.gov](mailto:mcrandal@blm.gov)>

Fri, Aug 1, 2014 at 9:07 AM

World News wants to do this tonight. Are you avail for an intv?

Brandon Baur  
[brandonbaur@gmail.com](mailto:brandonbaur@gmail.com)

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Crandall, Megan** <[mcrandal@blm.gov](mailto:mcrandal@blm.gov)>  
To: "Baur, Brandon C." <[Brandon.C.Baur@abc.com](mailto:Brandon.C.Baur@abc.com)>

Fri, Aug 1, 2014 at 9:11 AM

In Salt Lake?

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Baur, Brandon C.** <[Brandon.C.Baur@abc.com](mailto:Brandon.C.Baur@abc.com)>  
To: "Crandall, Megan" <[mcrandal@blm.gov](mailto:mcrandal@blm.gov)>

Fri, Aug 1, 2014 at 9:12 AM

Yes. Do you know the name of the guy who was injured from NYC?

Brandon Baur  
[brandonbaur@gmail.com](mailto:brandonbaur@gmail.com)

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Crandall, Megan** <[mcrandal@blm.gov](mailto:mcrandal@blm.gov)>  
To: "Baur, Brandon C." <[Brandon.C.Baur@abc.com](mailto:Brandon.C.Baur@abc.com)>

Fri, Aug 1, 2014 at 9:18 AM

Bear with me ... which guy and which injury? If it was recent, I don't have that info. If it was before May 8, that info would be the state and I can find a POC with them for you.

M  
[Quoted text hidden]

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**Baur, Brandon C.** <Brandon.C.Baur@abc.com>  
To: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Fri, Aug 1, 2014 at 9:21 AM

It happened in May. Not sure on the date. He had head injuries.

Brandon Baur  
[brandonbaur@gmail.com](mailto:brandonbaur@gmail.com)  
[Quoted text hidden]

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**Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov>  
To: "Baur, Brandon C." <Brandon.C.Baur@abc.com>

Fri, Aug 1, 2014 at 9:23 AM

That probably would have been before it came under BLM management. However, the Grand County Sheriff's Office responds to those injuries, etc. and they may be able to help.

M  
[Quoted text hidden]

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**Baur, Brandon C.** <Brandon.C.Baur@abc.com>  
To: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Fri, Aug 1, 2014 at 9:25 AM

Are you avail for intv?

Brandon Baur  
[brandonbaur@gmail.com](mailto:brandonbaur@gmail.com)  
[Quoted text hidden]

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**Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov>  
To: "Baur, Brandon C." <Brandon.C.Baur@abc.com>

Fri, Aug 1, 2014 at 9:26 AM

Where?  
[Quoted text hidden]

**Megan M. Crandall**  
*External Affairs Chief*

Bureau of Land Management Utah  
440 West 200 South, Ste. 500  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Ph: 801-539-4020  
Fx: 801-539-4013

**Join the Conversation!**



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**Baur, Brandon C.** <Brandon.C.Baur@abc.com>

Fri, Aug 1, 2014 at 9:29 AM

To: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

We would come to you.

Brandon Baur  
[brandonbaur@gmail.com](mailto:brandonbaur@gmail.com)

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Fri, Aug 1, 2014 at 9:32 AM

To: "Baur, Brandon C." <Brandon.C.Baur@abc.com>

In that case, I can make this afternoon work. Anytime after 1 or so. Sorry for that timing, but I'm out of the office or in meetings (which I had not planned for) until about 1:30 or so. Is there any way that will work for you?

Also, our office is not exactly exciting visually.

[Quoted text hidden]

---

**Baur, Brandon C.** <Brandon.C.Baur@abc.com>

Fri, Aug 1, 2014 at 9:34 AM

To: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

We are you going to be. Is there a scenic place outdoors we can do this ?

Brandon Baur  
[brandonbaur@gmail.com](mailto:brandonbaur@gmail.com)

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Baur, Brandon C.** <Brandon.C.Baur@abc.com>

Fri, Aug 1, 2014 at 9:39 AM

To: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Would Jeff in DC be able to do this?

Brandon Baur  
[brandonbaur@gmail.com](mailto:brandonbaur@gmail.com)

[Quoted text hidden]

---

**Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Fri, Aug 1, 2014 at 9:39 AM

To: "Baur, Brandon C." <Brandon.C.Baur@abc.com>

I did the NBC one last night at City Creek Canyon entrance, but you probably don't want the same thing. I'm mulling it over with my deputy. Gimme 5

[Quoted text hidden]

---

**Baur, Brandon C.** <Brandon.C.Baur@abc.com>

Mon, Aug 4, 2014 at 3:57 PM

To: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Hey,

Thanks for your help Friday? Looks like we're trying to come out the end of next week. I think your intv with WN is going to fine for our purposes. I have to look at it.

Will the arch still be open?

**From:** Crandall, Megan [mailto:mcrandal@blm.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 31, 2014 5:48 PM  
**To:** Baur, Brandon C.  
**Cc:** Jeff Krauss  
**Subject:** BASE jumping info

Hi, Brandon,

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov>  
To: "Baur, Brandon C." <Brandon.C.Baur@abc.com>

Mon, Aug 4, 2014 at 4:12 PM

Brandon,

To the best of my knowledge it will still be open. I will be in DC that week, but if you want to double check on the status of the arch right before you leave, you can call Lisa Bryant at 435.259.2150. Just so you know, there were some incorrect assertions in the WN story. We are not looking at "barring" swinging on "arches" ... we are considering a temporary restriction on only Corona Arch and Gemini Bridges. The temp closure will give us the time and space we need to fully evaluate roped activities like slacklining or swinging and to determine if those activities are appropriate uses of Corona/Gemini. I'm here the rest of the week, so let me know if you have questions or need anything else.

Megan

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Baur, Brandon C.** <Brandon.C.Baur@abc.com>  
To: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Mon, Aug 4, 2014 at 4:17 PM

Oooff. Sorry they did they. I was afraid of that.

Brandon Baur  
[brandonbaur@gmail.com](mailto:brandonbaur@gmail.com)

[Quoted text hidden]

---

**Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov>  
To: "Baur, Brandon C." <Brandon.C.Baur@abc.com>

Mon, Aug 4, 2014 at 4:25 PM

No worries. Hopefully, that footage will work for you. I did talk a little about the fact that Moab is so unique because of the opportunities for backcountry solitude and for extreme sports. I don't want people thinking we're taking a heavy hand and closing everything to "fun". By way of proof that these arches and spires are not completely impervious to damage, we had a formation called the Cobra Pinnacle topple this past week/weekend. It appears that its collapse was due to mother nature after some very strong storms rolled through last week. Also, I am kind of like Morocco Mole when I'm out in the sun without sunglasses, soooo I was squinting pretty badly and undoubtedly spent the whole interview looking perplexed or outright confused. lol

M

M

[Quoted text hidden]

---

**Baur, Brandon C.** <Brandon.C.Baur@abc.com>  
To: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Mon, Aug 11, 2014 at 11:34 AM

Hey,

What are you hearing? Will we be able to shoot people swinging this weekend?

I heard from a source that the anchors were removed?

**From:** Crandall, Megan [mailto:mcrandal@blm.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 31, 2014 5:48 PM  
**To:** Baur, Brandon C.  
**Cc:** Jeff Krauss  
**Subject:** BASE jumping info

Hi, Brandon,

[Quoted text hidden]

---

**Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov>  
To: "Baur, Brandon C." <Brandon.C.Baur@abc.com>

Mon, Aug 11, 2014 at 11:57 AM

Hi, Brandon. We are checking on the removal of anchors. Our initial reaction was that the local climbing community may have done that. I don't think we have folks with that skill set anyway, but I'll let you know for sure when I find out. Also, the arch will be open to swinging in the near term. (Whether or not there are swingers there for sure I cannot say.) When we put out the environmental assessment recommending a temporary restriction on roped activities (to allow the time for additional review and analysis), it will have a public comment period. The public comment period must finish and any comments received must be reviewed and, if substantive, addressed in the final environmental assessment before any decision can be made regarding a temp restriction on roped activities at the arch. At this point, it seems unlikely that the environmental assessment would go out for public comment this week. More like next week at the earliest. But again, even if it does go out, it wouldn't initiate a prohibition on swinging at Corona that could impede your story.

M

P.S. Are you looking at this weekend or next? That dino dig is next week and could be interesting. Apparently, it's difficult to get to the actual dig site (i.e. rappelling etc.) but the base camp is reachable, which could make it more accessible for you if you're interested.

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Baur, Brandon C.** <Brandon.C.Baur@abc.com>  
To: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Tue, Aug 26, 2014 at 11:18 AM

Hey Megan,

I wanted to check in on this to see if there has been an update?

**From:** Crandall, Megan [mailto:mcrandal@blm.gov]

**Sent:** Monday, August 11, 2014 1:57 PM

**To:** Baur, Brandon C.

**Subject:** Re: BASE jumping info

[Quoted text hidden]

---

**Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov>  
To: "Baur, Brandon C." <Brandon.C.Baur@abc.com>

Tue, Aug 26, 2014 at 11:21 AM

There is indeed an update ... this went out yesterday.

For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Megan Crandall, (801)539-4020

Aug. 25, 2014

Lisa Bryant, (435)259-2150

## **BLM Seeks Public Comment on Restricting Roped Activities at Corona Arch and Gemini Bridges**

**Moab, Utah**—The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Utah, Moab Field Office is seeking public comment on an Environmental Assessment (EA) analyzing a proposed two-year restriction on roped activities at Corona Arch and Gemini Bridges. Roped activities include ziplining, highlining, slacklining, climbing, rappelling, and rope swinging.

The temporary restriction is proposed in response to public comments indicating that roped activities at these locations may interfere with the experiences of other recreationists in the area. Both Corona Arch and Gemini Bridges are located at the end of very popular hiking trails and are iconic destinations for visitors to the Moab area, each receiving more than 40,000 visitors annually. The Corona Arch is also located within a Hiking Focus Area on a parcel of land acquired by the BLM from the State of Utah in the May 2014 Recreational Land Exchange.

The EA is available for review and comment on the Environmental Notification Bulletin (ENBB) at <https://www.blm.gov/ut/enbb/index.php>; search for project name "Corona." Comments on the EA should be as specific as possible.

Written comments will be accepted by letter or email through Sept. 25, 2014. Please reference "Corona" when submitting comments. Please note that the most useful comments are those that contain new technical or scientific information relevant to the proposed action. Comments should be as specific as possible. Comments which contain only opinions or preferences will not receive a formal response but may be considered in the BLM decision-making process. Written comments may be mailed or emailed using the following addresses:

Mail

Bureau of Land Management

Moab Field Office

Attn: Katie Stevens

82 East Dogwood

Moab, Utah 84532

Email

[blm\\_ut\\_mb\\_comments@blm.gov](mailto:blm_ut_mb_comments@blm.gov)

Before including an address, phone number, email address, or other personally identifiable information in any comments, be aware that the entire comment—including personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. Requests to withhold personal identifying information from public review can be submitted, but the BLM cannot guarantee that it will be able to do so. The BLM will not consider anonymous comments. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

For additional restriction-specific information, contact Beth Ransel at (435) 259-2100. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to leave a message or question with the above individual. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Replies are provided during normal business hours.

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's mission is to manage and conserve the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations under our mandate of multiple-use and sustained yield. In Fiscal Year 2013, the BLM generated \$4.7 billion in receipts from public lands.

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Baur, Brandon C.** <Brandon.C.Baur@abc.com>  
To: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Tue, Aug 26, 2014 at 11:24 AM

Thanks, so the areas will be open for roped activities until at least Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>?

**From:** Crandall, Megan [mailto:[mcrandal@blm.gov](mailto:mcrandal@blm.gov)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 26, 2014 1:22 PM

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

---

**Crandall, Megan** <[mcrandal@blm.gov](mailto:mcrandal@blm.gov)>  
To: "Baur, Brandon C." <[Brandon.C.Baur@abc.com](mailto:Brandon.C.Baur@abc.com)>

Tue, Aug 26, 2014 at 11:27 AM

Correct. They would only be restricted after the EA is finalized and a decision record is signed.

M

[Quoted text hidden]



Crandall, Megan <mcrandal@blm.gov>

---

## E&E News Inquiry re: Corona Arch

3 messages

---

**Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Tue, Aug 26, 2014 at 10:29 AM

To: Michelle Barret <mbarret@blm.gov>

Cc: Celia Boddington <cbodding@blm.gov>, Craig Leff <cleff@blm.gov>, Jeff Krauss <JKrauss@blm.gov>, Amy Krause <alkrause@blm.gov>, Lola Bird <lbird@blm.gov>, Jenna Whitlock <jwhitloc@blm.gov>, Juan Palma <jpalma@blm.gov>, Beth Ransel <bransel@blm.gov>, Lance Porter <l50porte@blm.gov>, Lisa Bryant <lbryant@blm.gov>

**E&E News Inquiry regarding BLM-Utah's Corona Arch:** Late yesterday, BLM-Utah received an inquiry from Phil Taylor regarding the release of the environmental assessment (EA) analyzing a temporary restriction on roped activities at Corona Arch and Gemini Bridges in the Moab Field Office. The EA was released for public comment on Aug. 25, 2014. The public comment period closes Sept. 25, 2014, and roped activities remain unrestricted at this time. The article is expected to run today and should be neutral toward the BLM.

—

**Megan M. Crandall**  
*External Affairs Chief*

Bureau of Land Management Utah  
440 West 200 South, Ste. 500  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Ph: 801-539-4020  
Fx: 801-539-4013

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**Boddington, Celia** <cbodding@blm.gov>

Tue, Aug 26, 2014 at 11:54 AM

To: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Thanks -- also for Corona

[Quoted text hidden]

---

**Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Tue, Aug 26, 2014 at 12:13 PM

To: "Boddington, Celia" <cbodding@blm.gov>

Celia,

AP just contacted me about Corona, as well. I will be returning their call shortly.

M

[Quoted text hidden]



Crandall, Megan <mcrandal@blm.gov>

---

**(no subject)**

3 messages

---

**Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov>  
To: lindsaywhitehurst@gmail.com, lwhitehurst@ap.org

Tue, Aug 26, 2014 at 12:29 PM

-

**Megan M. Crandall**  
*External Affairs Chief*

Bureau of Land Management Utah  
440 West 200 South, Ste. 500  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Ph: 801-539-4020  
Fx: 801-539-4013

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 **Corona.Gemini\_Temp\_Restriction\_EA\_w\_maps\_-\_08252014.pdf**  
1862K

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**Whitehurst, Lindsay** <LWhitehurst@ap.org>  
To: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Tue, Aug 26, 2014 at 2:31 PM

Hello Megan,

Would the restrictions also cover Bow Tie arch?

Thanks,

Lindsay

**From:** Crandall, Megan [mailto:mcrandal@blm.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 26, 2014 12:29 PM  
**To:** lindsaywhitehurst@gmail.com; Whitehurst, Lindsay  
**Subject:**

[Quoted text hidden]

The information contained in this communication is intended for the use of the designated recipients named above. If the reader of this communication is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this communication in error, and that any review, dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify The Associated Press immediately by telephone at +1-212-621-1898 and delete this email. Thank you.  
[IP\_US\_DISC]

msk dccc60c6d2c3a6438f0cf467d9a4938

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**Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov>  
To: "Whitehurst, Lindsay" <LWhitehurst@ap.org>

Tue, Aug 26, 2014 at 2:43 PM

It is because Bow Tie is part of the bowl.

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]





Crandall, Megan <mcrandal@blm.gov>

**(no subject)**

5 messages

Kornze, Neil <nkornze@blm.gov>

Tue, Aug 26, 2014 at 11:59 AM

To: Juan Palma <jpalma@blm.gov>, Jenna Whitlock <jwhitloc@blm.gov>, Megan Crandall <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Cc: Celia Boddington <cbodding@blm.gov>, Steven A Ellis <sellis@blm.gov>, Linda Lance <llance@blm.gov>

Juan: Given that the press loves to cover this issue, please make sure we're getting an early heads up on actions you take related to Corona. This was news to me.

Neil

## **PUBLIC LANDS:**

### **BLM proposes ban on rope swinging from iconic Utah arch**

Phil Taylor, E&E reporter

Published: Tuesday, August 26, 2014

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**SEPTEMBER 10-11 | CALGARY**

Amid rising complaints from hikers, sightseers and photographers, and at least one horrific death, the Bureau of Land Management yesterday proposed a two-year ban on roped activities at two iconic rock formations in eastern Utah.

The proposal would bar rope swinging, rappelling, tighrope walking, climbing and ziplining from Corona Arch and Gemini Bridges near Moab.

The ban seeks to restore the peace and tranquility that BLM argues have made the geological features the most popular sites in its Moab field office.

An estimated 40,000 people visit the sandstone Corona Arch and 50,000 people visit Gemini Bridges each year. While only a small minority engage in roped activities, they mar the views and atmosphere for a larger number of visitors, said Beth Ransel, BLM's field manager in Moab.

"They don't get to enjoy the arch in its natural state," Ransel said.

According to BLM, the popularity of rope swinging at Corona soared after the posting of a YouTube **videotitled** "World's Largest Rope Swing" on Feb. 15, 2012, by extreme sport videographer Devin Graham, which has garnered nearly 24 million views.

An email to Graham was not returned this morning.

But swinging from the 140-foot arch can be deadly for those who fail to correctly measure the rope. In March of last year, a 22-year-old man from Utah died while swinging from the arch in front of 70 people, including many children, according to BLM. Another severe accident occurred last March that was also in view of many people, BLM said.

BLM acquired Corona in a land exchange with Utah last May. Utah state officials in January 2013 had banned commercial outfitters from rope swinging at Corona, but they allowed private roped activities to continue.

At the time, clients were paying more than \$200 each to Utah High Adventure to swing under the arch, according to the *Salt Lake Tribune*.

Climbing, scrambling, rappelling and swinging are already banned at nearby Arches National Park for any named or unnamed arch with an opening greater than 3 feet, according to the park's climbing **regulations**.

A **sampling** of visitor comments from the Corona Arch trailhead reveals a mix of disgust and awe for the rope enthusiasts.

"Stop jumping off the arch idiots," read one comment from March 2012.

"Looking for blood stains from recent death," read another from last October.

Others complained the arch, which is accessed from a scenic 1.5-mile hiking trail, had become a "Disneyland theme park."

Still, others have raved about watching humans careen through the desert air.

"You guys who rappel Corona are amazing," said one commenter in March 2012.

"Most badass rope swing of all time," read another comment two months later.

But BLM is convinced a temporary ban on roped activities will offer a net benefit to the recreating public, as well as put a halt to the bolts and "scarring" of the rock face caused by roped activities.

Rope enthusiasts often shout and scream while defying death at the arch, and they stay longer than hikers and photographers, Ransel said.

"The fact that visitors to Corona Arch have undertaken a 1.5-mile walk to get there means that the arch experience is a hard-won backcountry goal," BLM said in its **draft environmental assessment** on the proposed ban. "When visitors are engaging in roped activities it generally occupies the Corona Arch 'space' for an extended period of time, which means that for many visitors the viewing as well as photographic opportunities are lost."

In recent years, a group known as Adventure Rabbi was issued a permit to observe Passover under the arch but had its ceremony "impeded" by rope swingers, according to BLM.

The public has until Sept. 25 to comment on the proposed ban.

Ransel said the agency is "not in a hurry" to finish the EA or impose the ban.

If BLM decides to pursue a more permanent ban, it will seek more public comment.

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**Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov>  
To: Celia Boddington <cbodding@blm.gov>

Tue, Aug 26, 2014 at 12:09 PM

Celia, in the event the question comes up, we sent notification that the environmental assessment would be released for comment in the "Week Ahead" weekly report submissions we submitted on Aug. 14. In the submission, we indicated that the EA would go out for comment in "late August." Hope that helps should the question arise.

M

[Quoted text hidden]

—

**Megan M. Crandall**  
*External Affairs Chief*

Bureau of Land Management Utah  
440 West 200 South, Ste. 500  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Ph: 801-539-4020

Fx: 801-539-4013

**Join the Conversation!**



---

**Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov>  
To: Juan Palma <jpalma@blm.gov>, Jenna Whitlock <jwhitloc@blm.gov>  
Bcc: Lola Bird <lbird@blm.gov>

Tue, Aug 26, 2014 at 12:12 PM

Juan and Jenna,

Please see my FYI to Celia below. We did send notification of the forthcoming EA through our weekly report submissions. We'll have to look into whether it was cut after arriving in DC, but I wanted you to know that Lola made sure the notification was handled within the correct time frame and done through the usual processes.

M

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Palma, Juan** <jpalma@blm.gov>  
To: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>  
Cc: Jenna Whitlock <jwhitloc@blm.gov>

Tue, Aug 26, 2014 at 1:27 PM

Thanks Megan.

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov>  
To: "Palma, Juan" <jpalma@blm.gov>

Tue, Aug 26, 2014 at 1:28 PM

We also made sure to get our press release approved beforehand. It was approved by 610 for release the morning of Aug. 21.

M

[Quoted text hidden]



Crandall, Megan <mcrandal@blm.gov>

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## Interview Request: Juan Palma on the Federal Drive

2 messages

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**Crawford, Ciera** <ccrawford@federalnewsradio.com>

Wed, Aug 27, 2014 at 9:15 AM

To: "mcrandal@blm.gov" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Cc: "Temin, Tom" <ttemin@federalnewsradio.com>, "Larson, Lauren" <llarson@federalnewsradio.com>, "Levitz, Dena" <dlevitz@federalnewsradio.com>

Good Morning Meagan,

We would like to speak to Juan Palma or an appropriate principal about the proposed ban on rope swinging in Utah. Our interviews take place via landline phone between the hours of 6-9 A.M. EDT and would last 10-12 minutes.

Our questions would be along these lines:

\*\*Can you give us an example of the different roped activities that people are doing right now.

\*\*How many incidents have occurred at the Corona Arch and Gemini Bridges?

\*\*What effect have the roped activities had on the Corona and Gemini Bridges?

\*\* Because of the uptick in extreme-sports adventures, what is the proper behavior for natural parks, landmarks, bridges etc?

\*\* What would the ban effect? When will it take place and how many acres would it cover?

For reference:

<http://www.federalnewsradio.com/316/3689466/Feds-propose-ban-on-rope-swinging-from-Utah-arches>

Please reply all.

Thanks!

**Ciera Crawford**

Morning Show Producer- The Federal Drive

(202)-274-4824

[ccrawford@federalnewsradio.com](mailto:ccrawford@federalnewsradio.com)

---

**Crawford, Ciera** <ccrawford@federalnewsradio.com>

Wed, Aug 27, 2014 at 9:55 AM

To: "mcrandal@blm.gov" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Cc: "Temin, Tom" <ttemin@federalnewsradio.com>, "Larson, Lauren" <llarson@federalnewsradio.com>, "Levitz, Dena" <dlevitz@federalnewsradio.com>

Hi Meagan,

Thanks for the call and the additional information. As we discussed you are available for an interview on September 2nd at 7:37 A.M. EDT about the temporary restriction on rope swinging. You can be reached at (801)-539-4020 or on your cell at (801)-824-6211. Also, your title is BLM Utah Spokesperson.

Here are a list of revised questions:

**\*\*Why is there a need for BLM to place a temporary restriction on roped activities?**

**\*\*Can you give us an example of the different roped activities that people are doing right now.**

**\*\*BLM acquired the Corona Arch on May 8<sup>th</sup>. What effect has the roped activities had on the bridge since then? What about the Gemini?**

**\*\* How will BLM wade through the comments received during the comment period and how will you use them?**

**\*\*What are the next steps if you decide to go through with a two-year restriction?**

We'll also need a headshot for the website and twitter handle if you like us to tweet about your interview when it airs.

Thanks again!

## **Ciera Crawford**

Morning Show Producer- The Federal Drive

(202)-274-4824

ccrawford@federalnewsradio.com

---

**From:** Crawford, Ciera

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 27, 2014 11:16 AM

**To:** 'mcrandal@blm.gov'

**Cc:** Temin, Tom; Larson, Lauren; Levitz, Dena

**Subject:** Interview Request: Juan Palma on the Federal Drive

**Importance:** High

[Quoted text hidden]



Crandall, Megan <mcrandal@blm.gov>

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**\*\*850KOA Interview confirmation for 3:42pm today Wed!\*\***

1 message

---

**Walker, Kathleen** <KathyWalker@850koa.com>

Wed, Aug 27, 2014 at 11:47 AM

To: "mcrandal@blm.gov" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Cc: "Wargin, Susie" <Susie@850koa.com>

Hi Megan,

Thanks so much for speaking with me today regarding the public comment the BLM is taking regarding roped activities on BLM land near Moab. If it is okay with you I'd like to book you on 850KOA Radio/Denver for our segment at 3:42p...which is just a tad later than I first mentioned to you on the phone. It would be a live phone interview with our host Susie Wargin. It should run about five minutes.

We will be happy to clearly identify you as the BLM – Utah spokesperson on this issue. I will make sure Susie has the news release about this issue in front of her, too!

We'll call you at 801-539-4020 just a few minutes before the interview today.

Thanks so much for your help,

Kathy Walker

News Director

850KOA/Clear Channel-Denver

(303) 713-8500

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Crandall, Megan <mcrandal@blm.gov>

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## BLM-UT Media Inquiries re: Corona Arch

2 messages

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**Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Thu, Aug 28, 2014 at 12:02 PM

To: Michelle Barret <mbarret@blm.gov>

Cc: Celia Boddington <cbodding@blm.gov>, Craig Leff <cleff@blm.gov>, "Krauss, Jeff" <JKrauss@blm.gov>, Amy Krause <alkrause@blm.gov>

Michelle,

On Aug. 25, the BLM-UT released the EA analyzing a two-year temporary restriction on roped activities at Corona Arch and Gemini Bridges for public comment. A number of local and out-of-state media outlets have requested information on the EA, including PBS and AP. Yesterday, BLM-UT external affairs staff did a live radio interview with KOA radio in Denver. On Tuesday, Sept. 2, external affairs staff will do another live radio interview with Federal News Radio in Washington, D.C., at 7:23 EST. If additional national or out-of-state media inquire, we will keep you apprised. Thanks and have a great afternoon.

M

-

**Megan M. Crandall**  
*External Affairs Chief*

Bureau of Land Management Utah  
440 West 200 South, Ste. 500  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Ph: 801-539-4020

Fx: 801-539-4013

**Join the Conversation!**



---

**Barret, Michelle** <mbarret@blm.gov>

Thu, Aug 28, 2014 at 12:12 PM

To: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Thanks, Megan.

[Quoted text hidden]



Crandall, Megan <mcrandal@blm.gov>

---

## BLM-UT Corona Arch interview with UK Guardian

9 messages

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**Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Fri, Aug 29, 2014 at 2:49 PM

To: Amy Krause <alkrause@blm.gov>

Cc: Beth Ransel <bransel@blm.gov>

Today, the BLM-UT Moab Field Office Manager conducted a phone interview with freelance reporter Joanna Walters from the UK Guardian regarding the Corona Arch/Gemini Bridges environmental assessment, which is currently out for public comment. The short interview covered the basics of the proposed temporary restriction on roped activities, as well as the BLM's plan to comprehensively evaluate the use of Corona and Gemini Bridges for roped activities in the future. Ms. Walters plans to file her story later today or early tomorrow. It should be neutral.

-

**Megan M. Crandall**

*External Affairs Chief*

Bureau of Land Management Utah  
440 West 200 South, Ste. 500  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Ph: 801-539-4020

Fx: 801-539-4013

**Join the Conversation!**



---

**Ransel, Beth** <bransel@blm.gov>

Fri, Aug 29, 2014 at 3:09 PM

To: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Thanks Megan! Have a great holiday weekend!

Regards,  
Beth

**Beth Ransel**

*Field Manager*

Moab Field Office

desk: 435.259.2119 cell: 435.220.0046 [bransel@blm.gov](mailto:bransel@blm.gov)

**MOAB FIELD OFFICE**  
**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Fri, Aug 29, 2014 at 3:10 PM

To: "Ransel, Beth" <bransel@blm.gov>

You too!

[Quoted text hidden]

---

**Krause, Amy** <alkrause@blm.gov>

Fri, Aug 29, 2014 at 3:19 PM

To: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Cc: Beth Ransel <bransel@blm.gov>

This is perfect, Megan. Thank you.

[Quoted text hidden]

-

Amy Krause

Public Affairs Specialist | Bureau of Land Management  
202-912-7236 | [alkrause@blm.gov](mailto:alkrause@blm.gov)

---

**Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Fri, Aug 29, 2014 at 3:20 PM

To: "Krause, Amy" <alkrause@blm.gov>

Sadly just sent you another from early in the week ... just hadn't gotten to that one yet because it wasn't due to publish right away. Sorry!

[Quoted text hidden]

---

**Krause, Amy** <alkrause@blm.gov>

Fri, Aug 29, 2014 at 3:27 PM

To: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Saw that one. No questions? No photos? What gives. That sounds bizarre.

[Quoted text hidden]

---

**Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Fri, Aug 29, 2014 at 3:29 PM

To: "Krause, Amy" <alkrause@blm.gov>

Apparently she had visited with Nevada first. Lisa had the impression that she was tired of being on the road and was pretty much over it. She thought it was weird, too.

[Quoted text hidden]

---

**Krause, Amy** <alkrause@blm.gov>

Fri, Aug 29, 2014 at 3:34 PM

To: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

The glamorous life of touring wild horse facilities is apparently not all that.

[Quoted text hidden]

---

**Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Fri, Aug 29, 2014 at 3:47 PM

To: "Krause, Amy" <alkrause@blm.gov>

Who knew?

[Quoted text hidden]



Crandall, Megan <mcrandal@blm.gov>

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## BLM-UT PBS News Hour Interview Updates

9 messages

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**Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Fri, Aug 22, 2014 at 3:40 PM

To: Michelle Barret <mbarret@blm.gov>

Cc: Celia Boddington <cbodding@blm.gov>, Craig Leff <cleff@blm.gov>, Jeff Krauss <JKrauss@blm.gov>, Amy Krause <alkrause@blm.gov>, Donald Hoffheins <dhoffhei@blm.gov>, Beth Ransel <bransel@blm.gov>, Lance Porter <l50porte@blm.gov>, Jenna Whitlock <jwhitloc@blm.gov>, Juan Palma <jpalma@blm.gov>, Karl Snow <ksnow@blm.gov>, Lola Bird <lbird@blm.gov>, Lisa Bryant <lbryant@blm.gov>

**PBS News Hour Interview regarding Recapture Canyon:** On Aug. 21, 2014, BLM-UT public affairs personnel interviewed with PBS News Hour's Jeffrey Brown on location in Recapture Canyon near Blanding, Utah. The interview was at times rancorous as Mr. Brown repeatedly sought comment on the "current unpopularity of the BLM." He also inquired about the length of time the BLM takes on some projects, as well as San Juan County Commissioner Phil Lyman's assertions that the BLM is heavy-handed and does not collaborate. These allegations were refuted. However, given the harsh tenor of the interview, which was quite long, it is possible that the final story will not be favorable to the BLM. The story should air in mid-September. The producer expects to update BLM-UT public affairs when the air date is determined.

**PBS News Hour Interview regarding Roped Activities on Corona Arch:** On Aug. 21, 2014, BLM-UT public affairs personnel interviewed with PBS News Hour's Jeffrey Brown on location at Corona Arch near Moab, Utah. The interview went smoothly and Mr. Brown asked for comment on: extreme sports in the Moab area and BLM-Utah's forthcoming environmental assessment (EA) analyzing a temporary restriction on roped activities like slacklining and swinging at Corona Arch and Gemini Bridges. The final story should be neutral toward the BLM. The story should air in mid-September. The producer expects to update BLM-UT public affairs when the air date is determined. BLM-UT anticipates releasing the EA for public comment on Aug. 25, 2014.

—  
**Megan M. Crandall**  
*External Affairs Chief*

Bureau of Land Management Utah  
440 West 200 South, Ste. 500  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Ph: 801-539-4020  
Fx: 801-539-4013

**Join the Conversation!**



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**Boddington, Celia** <cbodding@blm.gov>

Sat, Aug 23, 2014 at 6:14 AM

To: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Thanks for the read outs ...  
[Quoted text hidden]

---

**Donald Hoffheins** <dhoffhei@blm.gov>

Sat, Aug 23, 2014 at 8:22 AM

To: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Cc: Lisa Bryant <lbryant@blm.gov>, Lance Porter <l50porte@blm.gov>, Brian Quigley <bquigley@blm.gov>

Megan, thanks for taking the lead on this. Hopefully we'll restart the EA soon and move quickly

Sent from my iPhone

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Bryant, Lisa** <lbryant@blm.gov>

Sat, Aug 23, 2014 at 12:23 PM

To: Donald Hoffheins <dhoffhei@blm.gov>

Cc: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>, Lance Porter <l50porte@blm.gov>, Brian Quigley <bquigley@blm.gov>, Jenna Whitlock <jwhitloc@blm.gov>

Megan,

Thank you so much. I was very impressed at how well you handled that interview. You stuck to the high road, did not react or take the bait the reporter kept dishing out and were pleasant and professional throughout and represented BLM well, especially when Jeff went from Mr. Nice guy in the canyon to interrogator in front of the trail closure sign. We couldn't have done that one without your assistance. Thank you.

[Quoted text hidden]

-

Lisa Bryant

Assistant Field Manager, Moab BLM

82 East Dogwood

Moab, Utah 84532

435 259-2150

"If your knees aren't green by the end of the day, you need to seriously re-examine your life" - Calvin to Hobbes, just prior to bathtime.

---

**Megan Crandall** <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Sun, Aug 24, 2014 at 3:19 PM

To: Donald Hoffheins <dhoffhei@blm.gov>

It was one of the hardest interviews I've ever done. It wasn't the most rancorous, but the reporter was like a dog with a bone and just went after us (the BLM) again and again. It was slightly unexpected, but we'll see how negative the final piece is. Fingers crossed it won't be too awful.

M

Sent from my iPad

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Megan Crandall** <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Sun, Aug 24, 2014 at 3:21 PM

To: "Bryant, Lisa" <lbryant@blm.gov>

Never underestimate your ability to do just as well if not better. You're a natural at this and don't get flustered. I will bring you over to the dark side one of these days ... bwaaaa haaa haaa! Enjoy your much deserved time away.

M

Sent from my iPad

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Bryant, Lisa** <lbryant@blm.gov>

Sun, Aug 24, 2014 at 5:20 PM

To: Megan Crandall <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Thanks. Mostly this email was an opportunity to let Jenna et al know how much we appreciated your assistance and sing your praises. Thanks for your vote of confidence. Was out on the SUP on the lake today. It will be a fun week.

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Hoffheins, Donald** <dhoffhei@blm.gov>  
To: "Bryant, Lisa" <lbryant@blm.gov>  
Cc: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Tue, Sep 2, 2014 at 8:05 AM

Megan or Lisa, did this actually air?

## *Don Hoffheins*

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Donald K. Hoffheins  
Field Manager  
Monticello Field Office, Utah  
Work: 435-587-1506, Cell: 435-459-9461  
[dhoffhei@blm.gov](mailto:dhoffhei@blm.gov)

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov>  
To: "Hoffheins, Donald" <dhoffhei@blm.gov>

Tue, Sep 2, 2014 at 8:16 AM

Not yet. Middle of September is what we're hearing.

[Quoted text hidden]



Crandall, Megan <mcrandal@blm.gov>

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## Press Contact - Westminster College Newspaper (The Forum)

1 message

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**Smith, Jeffrey (Rock)** <jeffreysmith@blm.gov>

Mon, Sep 8, 2014 at 11:00 AM

To: Lisa Bryant <lbryant@blm.gov>, Beth Ransel <bransel@blm.gov>, Megan Crandall <mcrandal@blm.gov>, "Thomas (Tom) Gorey" <tgorey@blm.gov>

I was interviewed today by Meagan Rumph, who is writing an article for the Westminster College newspaper, The Forum, on the Corona Arch/Gemini Bridges roped activities temporary restrictions. I gave her the background about us acquiring Corona Arch from the State of Utah, and that we had received comments about the roped activities prior to us acquiring the property. She asked if we were doing it for safety reasons. I said no, but were considering the restriction for visitor conflict and resource damage reasons. I told her the activities could continue to occur in other areas.

Thank you.

—

Rock Smith  
Recreation Branch Chief  
Moab Field Office  
Bureau of Land Management  
(435) 259-2110 Office  
(435) 259-2106 Fax



Crandall, Megan <mcrandal@blm.gov>

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## Recapture Canyon and protecting BLM lands

1 message

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Lisa N. <hildegard102@gmail.com>

Sat, Sep 20, 2014 at 12:12 PM

To: mcrandal@blm.gov

Megan Crandall,

Having watched Channel 8's presentation on Recapture Canyon (9/18/14 and 9/19/14), I'd like to voice my opinion. Please do NOT put the beautiful canyon at risk. Please do NOT allow motorized vehicles. My advocacy is that these portions of the Canyon remain closed to motorized use so its valuable natural, cultural, and historic resources can be protected for and enjoyed by both current and future generations through lower-impact visitation.

I agree with your plan to ban roped activities in order to evaluate the impact they have on the environment.

I believe we need to preserve nature for nature's sake.

Thank you for everything you, and the BLM does, to protect our BLM lands from individuals that would do otherwise.

Lisa Nicholson



Crandall, Megan <mcrandal@blm.gov>

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## corona talking points

1 message

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**Bryant, Lisa** <lbryant@blm.gov>  
To: Megan Crandall <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Fri, Oct 10, 2014 at 12:01 PM

Gemini Bridges and Corona Arch are two outstanding geologic formations located northeast of Moab, Utah, in spectacularly scenic settings reached by short hiking trails. Corona Arch was acquired May 8, 2014 through the Utah Recreational Land Exchange, although the hiking trail leading to the arch has always crossed BLM managed lands.

Both features have been very popular destinations for hikers, sightseers and photographers for many years. It is estimated that 40,000 people visit Corona Arch and 50,000 people visit Gemini Bridges each year. Both geological features, but especially Corona Arch, are among the most often photographed sites on BLM lands.

In recent years Gemini Bridges and Corona Arch and their vicinities have become popular areas for a small number of visitors engaging in roped activities, such as highlining and swinging. This had led to a number of complaints from the public about the roped activities diminishing the experience of hikers and sightseers. Recently damage to the arch has also been noted from the rigging structures and ropes.

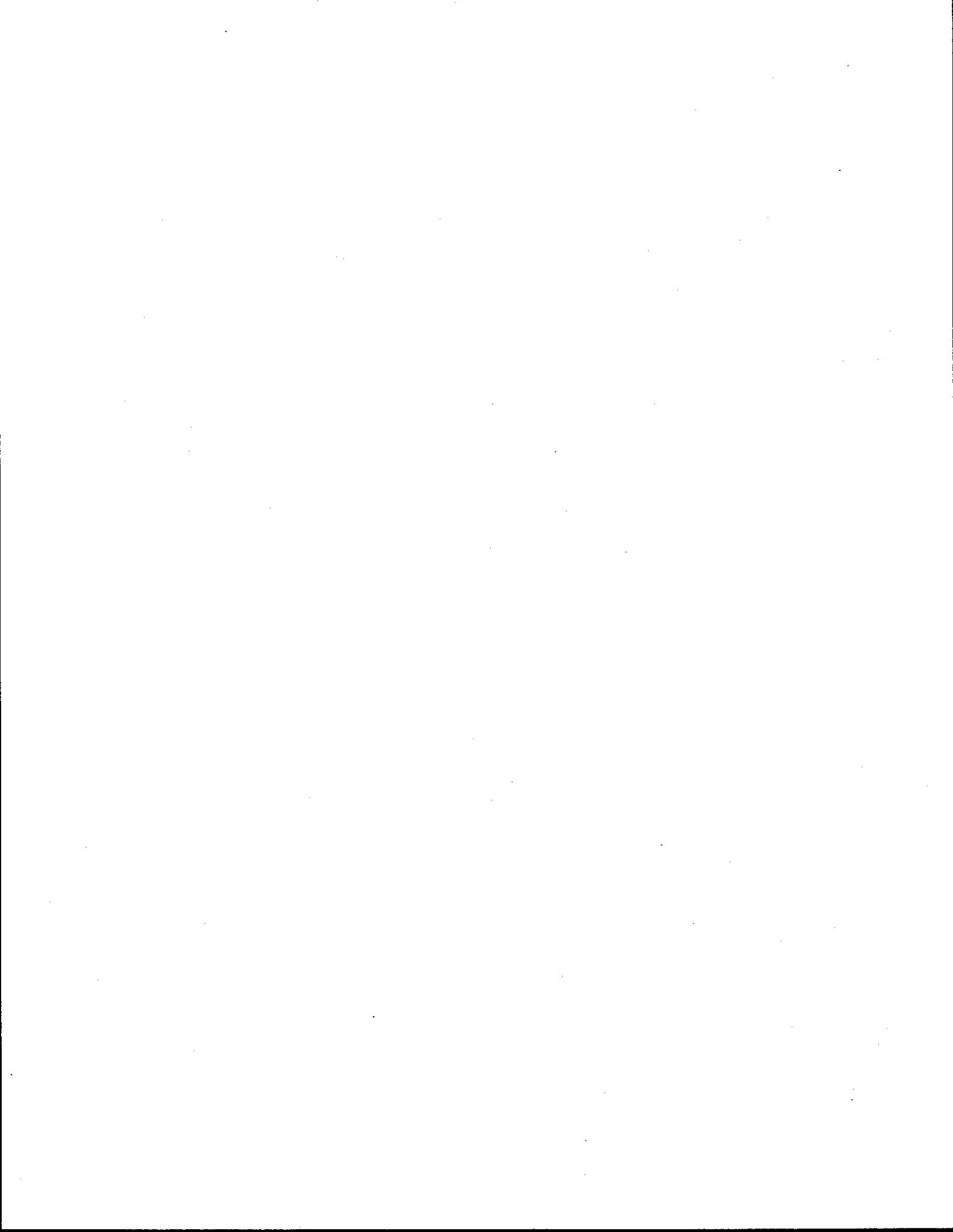
BLM-UT is conducting an environmental assessment (EA) to help guide a decision regarding restrictions of roped activities in these two areas for a period of two years while the BLM considers whether a permanent restriction to roped activities is appropriate to address user conflicts.

The EA underwent a public comment period from Aug. 25, 2014 to Sept. 25, 2014. Approximately 50 comments were received through email and several others through hard mail. The Moab Field Office is addressing public comment and revising the EA and intends to issue a final decision near the end of October 2014.

Prior to the EA going out for public comment the issue of swinging from the arch and other roped activities has gained national media attention, primarily due to accidents and injuries –including a fatality in spring 2013 – at the arch when it was managed by Utah State Institutional Trust Lands Administration. There is also concern from the recreation community of losing the ability to engage in activities currently allowed on BLM lands, not allowed in parks or other public lands.

–  
Lisa Bryant  
Assistant Field Manager, Moab BLM  
82 East Dogwood  
Moab, Utah 84532  
435 259-2150

"If your knees aren't green by the end of the day, you need to seriously re-examine your life" - Calvin to Hobbes, just prior to bathtime.





Crandall, Megan <mcrandal@blm.gov>

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## Indian Creek

17 messages

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**Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Thu, Oct 30, 2014 at 12:17 PM

To: Jenna Whitlock <jwhitloc@blm.gov>

Indian Creek went up in the week ahead report on Sept. 25, 2014. We will send it up again today as an additional CYA.

M

P.S. Would have responded sooner but I couldn't find the email I needed to respond to until it dawned on me that you asked me via text. Aaaaagh. I'm getting flaky in my old age.

—

**Megan M. Crandall**

*External Affairs Chief*

Bureau of Land Management Utah  
440 West 200 South, Ste. 500  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Ph: 801-539-4020

Fx: 801-539-4013

**Join the Conversation!**



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**Whitlock, Jenna** <jwhitloc@blm.gov>

Fri, Oct 31, 2014 at 11:49 AM

To: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>, Lola Bird <lbird@blm.gov>

Lola - can you please send me the paragraph we sent up on Indian Creek draft EA? This is an OHV train in San Juan Co. Thanks. j

[Quoted text hidden]

—  
Jenna Whitlock, Associate State Director, Utah BLM

(801) 539-4010 office

(801) 503-6254 cell

(801) 539-4013 fax

**Join the Conversation!**



---

**Bird, Lola** <lbird@blm.gov>

Fri, Oct 31, 2014 at 11:56 AM

To: "Whitlock, Jenna" <jwhitloc@blm.gov>

Cc: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Below is the Weekly Report entry for Indian Creek.

**BLM-UT Seeks Public Comment on San Juan County ATV Trail Proposal:** In mid-November, the BLM-UT Monticello Field Office will release for public comment an environmental assessment (EA) analyzing the Indian Creek ATV Trail proposal. The EA analyzes San Juan County's proposal for a five-mile right-of-way beginning north of Hamburger Rock Campground and extending southeast to the Davis and Lavender Canyon access road. The proposed trail is intended to enhance recreation and ATV experiences in the Indian Creek Basin. The BLM has worked with San Juan County, the National Park Service, and several other interested publics to collaboratively draft a proposal for analysis. The comment period will run for 30 days. (Contact: Lisa Bryant, 435-259-2150)

[Quoted text hidden]

—  
Thank you,  
Lola Bird  
BLM Utah External Affairs  
801-539-4033

---

**Whitlock, Jenna** <jwhitloc@blm.gov>

Fri, Oct 31, 2014 at 12:18 PM

To: "Bird, Lola" <lbird@blm.gov>

Cc: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>, Donald Hoffheins <dhoffhei@blm.gov>, Lance Porter <l50porte@blm.gov>

Anyone know why we said mid-November? Don/Lance -- I know you wanted to get this out now, but I'm wondering now if we should issue in mid-November as our Week Ahead entry said. Please let me know your thoughts. Thanks. j

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Hoffheins, Donald** <dhoffhei@blm.gov>

Fri, Oct 31, 2014 at 12:35 PM

To: "Whitlock, Jenna" <jwhitloc@blm.gov>

Cc: "Bird, Lola" <lbird@blm.gov>, "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>, Lance Porter <l50porte@blm.gov>, Brian Quigley <bquigley@blm.gov>, "Rebecca (Becky) Doolittle" <rdoolitt@blm.gov>

Mid November was the soonest that the EA would be completed. Also, we didn't want to wait and have the comment period overlap with the late December "holiday season".

***Don Hoffheins***

---

Donald K. Hoffheins  
Field Manager  
Monticello Field Office, Utah  
Work: 435-587-1506, Cell: 435-459-9461  
[dhoffhei@blm.gov](mailto:dhoffhei@blm.gov)

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**Whitlock, Jenna** <jwhitloc@blm.gov>

Fri, Oct 31, 2014 at 12:36 PM

To: "Hoffheins, Donald" <dhoffhei@blm.gov>

Cc: "Bird, Lola" <lbird@blm.gov>, "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>, Lance Porter <l50porte@blm.gov>, Brian Quigley <bquigley@blm.gov>, "Rebecca (Becky) Doolittle" <rdoolitt@blm.gov>

Oh so the Early Alert was for the Final EA? Did we do an an Early Alert on the release of the draft? Thanks. j

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov>  
To: "Whitlock, Jenna" <jwhitloc@blm.gov>  
Cc: "Bird, Lola" <lbird@blm.gov>, Donald Hoffheins <dhoffhei@blm.gov>, Lance Porter <l50porte@blm.gov>

Fri, Oct 31, 2014 at 12:47 PM

Mid-November was the time frame we were given when the first week ahead entry went up in late Sept. I believe we were also hearing that it would be best to avoid early November for potentially controversial actions.

M

On Fri, Oct 31, 2014 at 12:18 PM, Whitlock, Jenna <jwhitloc@blm.gov> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov>  
To: "Whitlock, Jenna" <jwhitloc@blm.gov>  
Cc: "Hoffheins, Donald" <dhoffhei@blm.gov>, "Bird, Lola" <lbird@blm.gov>, Lance Porter <l50porte@blm.gov>, Brian Quigley <bquigley@blm.gov>, "Rebecca (Becky) Doolittle" <rdoolitt@blm.gov>

Fri, Oct 31, 2014 at 12:49 PM

We did not do an early alert. We did the week ahead report, which forestalls an early alert barring something unusual arising. Now that I've probably made it all clear as mud ...

M

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Whitlock, Jenna** <jwhitloc@blm.gov>  
To: "Bird, Lola" <lbird@blm.gov>  
Cc: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Fri, Oct 31, 2014 at 1:35 PM

What date was this sent to the WO?

On Fri, Oct 31, 2014 at 11:56 AM, Bird, Lola <lbird@blm.gov> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Bird, Lola** <lbird@blm.gov>  
To: "Whitlock, Jenna" <jwhitloc@blm.gov>  
Cc: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Fri, Oct 31, 2014 at 1:41 PM

It was in yesterday's Weekly Report.

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Whitlock, Jenna** <jwhitloc@blm.gov>  
To: "Bird, Lola" <lbird@blm.gov>  
Cc: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Fri, Oct 31, 2014 at 1:43 PM

published version?? Thanks. j

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Bird, Lola** <lbird@blm.gov>  
To: "Whitlock, Jenna" <jwhitloc@blm.gov>  
Cc: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Fri, Oct 31, 2014 at 1:48 PM

Enclosed is what went forward.

# Week Ahead Report

BLM Utah State Office

Oct. 30, 2014

## Week Ahead

**BLM-UT to Post Proposed Parcel List for February 2015 Oil and Gas Lease Sale:** The proposed parcel list for the BLM-UT February 2015 oil and gas lease sale will be posted on Nov. 14, 2014. Posting the proposed list initiates a 30-day public protest period. The list includes 29,247 acres comprised of 24 parcels in the Moab Field Office and 32,730 acres comprised of 34 parcels in the Monticello Field Office for a total of 58 parcels covering 61,977 acres. All proposed parcels are identified as open to oil and gas leasing under the current resource management plans for the Moab and Monticello Field Offices. The public comment period for the draft environmental assessment (EA) ended on Oct. 20, 2014; during the comment period, 15 comments were received. The EA will be revised, if appropriate, based on public comments received and a revised draft of the EA, along with a proposed final list of parcels proposed for lease, will be posted for public review and protest on Nov. 14, 2014. The protest period ends Dec. 15, 2014. (Contact: Megan Crandall, 801-539-4020)

**BLM-UT Seeks Public Comment on San Juan County ATV Trail Proposal:** In mid-November, the BLM-UT Monticello Field Office will release for public comment an environmental assessment (EA) analyzing the Indian Creek ATV Trail proposal. The EA analyzes San Juan County's proposal for a five-mile right-of-way beginning north of Hamburger Rock Campground and extending southeast to the Davis and Lavender Canyon access road. The proposed trail is intended to enhance recreation and ATV experiences in the Indian Creek Basin. The BLM has worked with San Juan County, the National Park Service, and several other interested publics to collaboratively draft a proposal for analysis. The comment period will run for 30 days. (Contact: Lisa Bryant, 435-259-2150)

## On the Horizon

**BLM-UT to Issue Decision on Temporary Restriction of Roped Activities at Corona Arch:** In mid to late November, the BLM-UT Moab Field Office will issue a decision on the proposed temporary restriction of roped activities at Corona Arch and Gemini Bridges for a period of two years. Examples of roped activities include, but are not limited to: ziplining, highlining, slacklining, climbing, rappelling, and rope swinging. (Contact: Lisa Bryant, (435)259-2150)

**BLM-UT to Begin Public Scoping for Pipeline Right-of-Way Proposal:** In late November, the BLM-UT Moab Field Office will begin public scoping for the Gray Canyon Energy pipeline ROW Proposal that would run from Green River, Utah to an area north of Moab to connect to the Northwest Pipeline. The goal is to transport gas from the Northwest Pipeline and Big Flat areas to serve the proposed Green River Refinery and the community of Green River. This will likely be controversial due to the connected action of the Green River Refinery, which will be on private land and the continued controversy over oil and gas development in the region. (Contact: Lisa Bryant, 435-259-2150)

## Media Report

Nothing to report.

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Megan Crandall** <mcrandal@blm.gov>  
To: "Whitlock, Jenna" <jwhitloc@blm.gov>

Sat, Nov 1, 2014 at 9:43 AM

It went up originally on 9/25 and again this week.

Sent from my iPad

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Megan Crandall** <mcrandal@blm.gov>  
To: "Whitlock, Jenna" <jwhitloc@blm.gov>

Sat, Nov 1, 2014 at 9:45 AM

We don't receive the final, published version that goes around WO, so I don't know if it made it all the way through the traps, but I'm happy to find out to be on the safe side.

Sent from my iPad

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Jenna Whitlock** <jwhitloc@blm.gov>  
To: Megan Crandall <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Sat, Nov 1, 2014 at 10:38 AM

thanks for the correction - I'll let steve know

Sent from my iPad

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Hoffheins, Donald** <dhoffhei@blm.gov>  
To: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Mon, Nov 3, 2014 at 12:18 PM

Cc: "Whitlock, Jenna" <jwhitloc@blm.gov>, "Bird, Lola" <lbird@blm.gov>, Lance Porter <l50porte@blm.gov>, Brian Quigley <bquigley@blm.gov>, "Rebecca (Becky) Doolittle" <rdoolitt@blm.gov>

I talked with Jenna Friday and we are still looking at mid-November.

We plan to get the draft press release revised and sent up by Wednesday this week.

***Don Hoffheins***

---

Donald K. Hoffheins  
Field Manager  
Monticello Field Office, Utah  
Work: 435-587-1506, Cell: 435-459-9461  
[dhoffhei@blm.gov](mailto:dhoffhei@blm.gov)

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov>  
To: "Hoffheins, Donald" <dhoffhei@blm.gov>  
Cc: Lola Bird <lbird@blm.gov>, Lance Porter <l50porte@blm.gov>, Lisa Bryant <lbryant@blm.gov>

Mon, Nov 3, 2014 at 12:41 PM

Don,

Can you send a few TPs as well? We're looking for the things you think are important and the basic WWWWWH answers. We will also need the timeline of when this all started etc and how we got to where we are today.

M

[Quoted text hidden]



Crandall, Megan <mcrandal@blm.gov>

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## CCYD Week Ahead Report

3 messages

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**Bryant, Lisa** <lbryant@blm.gov>

Wed, Dec 3, 2014 at 5:57 PM

To: Megan Crandall <mcrandal@blm.gov>, Lola Bird <lbird@blm.gov>, "Sheryl (Sherry) Foot" <sfoot@blm.gov>, Beth Ransel <bransel@blm.gov>, Walter Birkenheier <wbirkenheier@blm.gov>, Jeffrey R Smith <jeffreysmith@blm.gov>, Brian Quigley <bquigley@blm.gov>, Donald Hoffheins <dhoffhei@blm.gov>

Nothing to send to WO for Week Ahead or OTH.

FYI for UTSO, there is an update on the Corona Arch decision (reconsidering the timing of final decision), but nothing that needs to go to WO.

Detailed weekly report is attached w/ project updates.

-

Lisa Bryant  
Assistant Field Manager, Moab BLM  
82 East Dogwood  
Moab, Utah 84532  
435 259-2150

"If your knees aren't green by the end of the day, you need to seriously re-examine your life" - Calvin to Hobbes, just prior to bathtime.



**CCYD Weekly Report 12-2-14.docx**

40K

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**Megan Crandall** <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Thu, Dec 4, 2014 at 8:36 AM

To: "Bryant, Lisa" <lbryant@blm.gov>

What is the timing for the decision? Potential timing anyway.

Sent from my iPad

[Quoted text hidden]

<CCYD Weekly Report 12-2-14.docx>

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**Bryant, Lisa** <lbryant@blm.gov>

Thu, Dec 4, 2014 at 9:07 AM

To: Megan Crandall <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Timing may be pushed to jan/feb - starts the 2 yr clock later and there aren't really many people out there now; Katie/Beth also mentioned something about possible coordination with FRN for supplementary rules - but I'd need to get more details to understand that connection. Beth hasn't made a decision about timing yet though, she's still thinking it through and it could go out sooner. We'll keep you posted.

[Quoted text hidden]

**Week Ahead Report**  
**Canyon Country District**  
12/2/2014

**WO Week Ahead Items (really 2 weeks)**

**On the Horizon:**

- Moab – Jeep Safari Federal Register Notice for exclusive use of several key routes on a few selected days during the annual spring Jeep Safari Event. The current exclusive use FRN expires in 2014. The exclusive use is primarily for safety of event participants and the public. *In the Solicitor's office for review.*
- Moab –Arth's Pasture/Dalton Well/Wilson Mesa Grazing Allotment EA to be sent out for 30 day public comment. This is a single permit for three allotments in a high recreation use area. We will prepare a PR for 30 day public comment period for approval.
- Corona Arch - Final Decision on EA to restrict roped activities for two years, to provide time to develop appropriate recreation management plan for the area. EA under management review. Decision was planned for mid Nov and was sent up in Weekly Report 11/4. However, MFO is considering the most appropriate timing for this and may delay until late winter/early spring. Plan to brief SD prior to final decision. A PR for the final decision will be submitted for UTSO/WO approval.

**Of Interest to UTSO – not for WO:**

- Monticello - Recapture Canyon Cultural site stabilization -BLM and NPS crew in Recapture Canyon on November 24, 25 and December 1-4 to stabilize cultural sites damaged in May 10, 2014 illegal ATV ride. SHPO consultation complete, SOL has been consulted and emergency stabilization CX is being drafted.
- Moab - Bill Love has been sending out emails and encouraging people to contact the local Sheriff and complain about inadequate response to a recent tanker turnover and minor spill. It may show up in the papers this week.

**Topics of Interest to Canyon Country District:**

**Local Media Report**

**I. Media Coverage -**

- a) Several Social media sites have been reporting on e-bikes and BLM restriction of their use to motorized trails. Mix of BLM positive and negative, UTSO/MFO working to clarify information on our webpage about which trails are okay for ebikes.
- b) Salt Lake Tribune, Brian Mafley 11/28/2014:  
<http://www.sltrib.com/news/1872384-155/minor-pipeline-leaks-may-pose->  
Industry negative – implied BLM negative, and has misinformation on recent tanker accident/spill in Moab.
- c) Moab Sun News: 11/26/14 Trail Mix Completes Klono Mt Bike Trail System, expands – story about trail mix, mentions partnership with BLM in positive terms.

- d) Moab Sun News: 11/26/14 High Country News Column – Ray Ring “We can do our part to defuse the West” – focuses on anti-fed sentiments and threats to fed workers and need to be more reasonable in our working relationships
- e) Moab Sun News: 12/3/2014 – nada, zip, nothing..... :o)

**Media Requests –**

- a) 11/25/14 3 PM request from Cam McCray, reporter for online publication North Shore Mountain Biking to discuss BLM’s decision to not allow ebikes on trails in our office. Developed media worksheet and talking points in consultation with UTSO prior to interview. Rock Smith responded, and sent Media report to Megan following the interview.

**Ongoing or previously sent up as week ahead:**

| Name/NEPA number         | TYPE | Next PAO Action                              | Last PA action/status                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | POC for PAO & media                                                                       |
|--------------------------|------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MLP                      | EIS  | DEIS for public comment, Feb/March 2015      | 10/17/14 Early alert for media request from High Country News per expected release of DEIS.<br>Chp 4 under BLM review.<br>DEIS anticipated March 2015.<br>Waiting on revised Air Analysis.<br>Moab Website needs updates to reflect this information. Also there is a request to make comments from alternative review public under management consideration.<br>Com plan still needs update/revision prior to going out w/DEIS. | Lance Porter?<br>(Brent Northrup)                                                         |
| CCYD Supplementary Rules | EA   | Coordinate publication of final rules in FRN | 60 day public comment period ended 9/16/14. Revised and is under UTSO review, sent up as week ahead item 11/4/2014.<br><i>Next step will be WO review</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Walter Birkenheier and Lance Porter for Draft Rule publication, need to confirm for Final |
| CCYD Feb 2015 Lease Sale | EA   | Announcement of sale                         | 11/14/14 EA/unsigned FONSI & Notice of Competitive Lease Sale posted for 30 day public protest period ending 12/15/2014. This starts a 60 day protest resolution period before the sale 2/15/2015.<br>9/19/2014; sent up as week                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Megan Crandall/Cliff Giffen                                                               |

|                                                                                                       |     |                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                       |     |                                                                         | ahead item 10/29/2014.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                      |
| Corona Arch                                                                                           | EA  | PR for final decision                                                   | 8/25/2014 PR 30 day public comment ended 9/25/2014. Reviews complete & are pending final Decision. This topic has generated heated discussion and national media attention. Included in WkAhd 11/4/2014. Will need PR for final decision. <i>In final mgmt review, plan to brief UTSO and MFO is considering best timing (eg early spring?)</i> | Beth Ransel/Katie Stevens                                                                                            |
| Recapture                                                                                             | EA  | 30 day public comment period                                            | Scoping completed. Draft EA in progress, following completion of damage assessments for update of chp 3. Third party EA contract will be issued a start-work order in early Nov 2014.                                                                                                                                                           | Don Hoffheins                                                                                                        |
| Open Sky SRP                                                                                          | EA  | PR for 30 day comment period                                            | 10/8/2014 PR for public scoping, ends 11/7/2014. EA in progress.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Don Hoffheins                                                                                                        |
| Hole in the Rock SRP                                                                                  | EA  | PR for 30 day comment period                                            | 10/8/2014 PR for public scoping, ends 11/7/2014. 20? comments received. EA in progress.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Don Hoffheins                                                                                                        |
| Monticello FO Map Trifold Glossy Map for MFO with rec sites, campgrounds, areas of cultural interest. | MAP | Notify UTSO/WO and send up when complete                                | 10/15/14 Sent to UTSO PA as OTH (hasn't gone to WO). Of interest because project was initiated based on a conversation with Neil Kornze.                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Lynn Roth, GIS specialist at the USO has generated a preliminary map for review.                                     |
| San Juan Business Plan Amendment                                                                      | EA  | None – done after going live 12/1/2014 and will be removed from next WR | 11/4/14 included in WkAhd. EA analyzes the proposed move to Recreation.gov and associated changes to business rules, including fee payment timelines, refund policy, and fee collection. Comment period ended 9/29/2014. RAC Approved 11/25/14. Goes live                                                                                       | 12/1/2014 on <a href="http://www.recreation.gov">www.recreation.gov</a> for online river reservations. Don Hoffheins |

|                                      |    |                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                      |
|--------------------------------------|----|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|                                      |    |                                           | December 1, 2014. Decision made 11/26/2014 that a PR is not necessary for going live                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                      |
| Indian Creek ATV Trail               | EA | Final Decision                            | The EA posted for 30 day public review 11/19/2014. <i>In WO 9/25/14 Week Ahead Report</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Don Hoffheins                        |
| Behind the Rocks Grazing Allotment   | EA | Notify UTSO when proposed decision issued | 8/18/2014 issued PR for 30 day public comment. EA and proposed final decision are pending. No PR for final decision necessary, will be sent to interested parties                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Lisa Bryant/Beth Ransel              |
| Fisher Valley Grazing Allotment      | EA | Probably none, track for UTSO info        | 30 day public comment period. Took some time between the proposed and final decision. Final decision was appealed with request for stay in late September 2014. All materials sent to SOL 10/9/2014. Request for stay denied Oct 20, 2014, but there is a 30 day appeal period on OHA's decision. Will wait on further direction from SOL.                                                                                                           | Lisa Bryant/Beth Ransel              |
| Gray Canyon Energy Pipeline Proposal | EA | PR to initiate 30 day scoping             | Cost recovery agreement was completed 10/28/14 and internal scoping began 11/4. External scoping will begin once its determined that we have a complete proposal, probably the week of 12/1/2014. <i>JDenney finalizing draft PR</i> ; may post on ENBB week of 12/2/2014, prior to formal public scoping. Included in WkAhd Rpt 10/29/2014. <i>(unanticipated delays due to changes on Proposal following field visit with arch/hydro/GCE reps)</i> | Lisa Bryant/Jan Denney               |
| Pack Creek/LaSal Livestock/San       |    | Meeting scheduled 12/2/14                 | Private Landowner and livestock trespass concerns in Pack Creek Area. Primarily                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Lance Porter/Lisa Bryant/Kim Allison |

|                                                |           |                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                         |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Juan County                                    |           | with Sheriff and Fed Agencies                                                               | private landowner and livestock owner issue related to Open Range and fencing laws. Could possibly end up in press/media.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                         |
| La Sal Uranium Complex<br><br>Becky Doolittle  | EA        | 2/18/15 or 3/20/15 PR for final decision, may be joint with USFS                            | USFS issued proposed decision and unsigned FONSI 11/20/15. Objection period ends 1/5/15. Objections expected, meaning USFS will undergo review and negotiations, process will conclude 2/18 or 3/20 depending on need for extension. At that time BLM and USFS can sign respective decision documents. BLM's decision is full force and effect, but subject to SDR and/or IBLA appeal (30 days); USFS decision is final. <i>During interim, BLM mgmt. will be reviewing final document as well. Will need to closely coordinate with USFS during objection period and negotiations with objectors (Uranium Watch). May need PR for final decision????</i> | Lisa Bryant/Beth Ransel |
| LVCM Centennial Pit Backfill<br><br>David Pals | EA or EIS | Dec 2014/Jan 2015 PR for 30 day public comment of EA? Or an NOI in FRN to begin EIS process | 30 day Scoping announced 4/9/14, working with LVCM to finalize documentation supporting the backfill proposal; sent letter to LVCM 10/7/2014 determination that an EIS would be required due to scientific controversy; LVCM requested SDR of this determination 11/10/2014. UTISO reviewing record, may request field visit in Dec.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Lisa Bryant/Beth Ransel |
|                                                |           |                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                         |
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Crandall, Megan <mcrandal@blm.gov>

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## PR Corona Arch / Gemini Bridges Roped Activities Decision

8 messages

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**Ransel, Beth** <bransel@blm.gov>

Thu, Dec 18, 2014 at 4:01 PM

To: Megan Crandall <mcrandal@blm.gov>, Lola Bird <lbird@blm.gov>

Cc: Lance Porter <l50porte@blm.gov>, Cory Roegner <croegner@blm.gov>, "Jeffrey (Rock) Smith" <jeffreysmith@blm.gov>, "Kathleen (Katie - Moab) Stevens" <kstevens@blm.gov>, Lisa Bryant <lbryant@blm.gov>

Hi Megan & Lola,

Attached is a draft Press Release for the Decision on this action. We had discussions here about timing for the PR - when the Decision is made (assist with informing on opportunity for appeal) vs. publication in the FR (could take a long time). I also visited with Cory R. and we came to the conclusion that this approach fits best for the need. Please let me know if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Regards,  
Beth

**Beth Ransel**  
*Field Manager*  
Moab Field Office

desk: 435.259.2119 cell: 435.220.0046 [bransel@blm.gov](mailto:bransel@blm.gov)

**MOAB FIELD OFFICE**  
**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**



**Corona Arch Restriction Final Decision PR 12-18-2014.docx**

246K

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**Juan Palma** <jpalma@blm.gov>

Thu, Dec 18, 2014 at 11:28 PM

To: Lance Porter <l50porte@blm.gov>

Cc: Megan Crandall <mcrandal@blm.gov>, Aaron Curtis <acurtis@blm.gov>, Jenna Whitlock <jwhitloc@blm.gov>, Beth Ransel <bransel@blm.gov>

Lance,

Thanks for the note. Let's visit on this topic. When is a good time we can visit?

-Juan  
cell 801.450-5411

Sent from my iPad

On Dec 18, 2014, at 7:00 PM, Lance Porter <l50porte@blm.gov> wrote:

Juan,

This one drew some attention in the past. Please let us know if you would like additional information on this 2 year restrictions on roped activities.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Ransel, Beth" <bransel@blm.gov>  
**Date:** December 18, 2014 at 4:01:52 PM MST  
**To:** Megan Crandall <mcrandal@blm.gov>, Lola Bird <lbird@blm.gov>  
**Cc:** Lance Porter <l50porte@blm.gov>, Cory Roegner <croegner@blm.gov>, "Jeffrey (Rock) Smith" <jeffreysmith@blm.gov>, "Kathleen (Katie - Moab) Stevens" <kstevens@blm.gov>, Lisa Bryant <lbryant@blm.gov>  
**Subject:** PR Corona Arch / Gemini Bridges Roped Activities Decision

[Quoted text hidden]

<Corona Arch Restriction Final Decision PR 12-18-2014.docx>

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**Whitlock, Jenna** <jwhitloc@blm.gov> Fri, Dec 19, 2014 at 4:27 AM  
To: Juan Palma <jpalma@blm.gov>  
Cc: Lance Porter <l50porte@blm.gov>, Megan Crandall <mcrandal@blm.gov>, Aaron Curtis <acurtis@blm.gov>, Beth Ransel <bransel@blm.gov>

Hi thanks for copying me -- the attachment dropped off. Could someone please forward?

Lance -- I (and a few others on the hallway) are hoping to attend your Moab MLP briefing today. Thanks for the invite. j

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Jenna Whitlock, Acting Chief of Staff  
Bureau of Land Management  
(202) 208-4586 office  
(801) 503-6254 cell

**Join the Conversation!**



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**Porter, Lance** <l50porte@blm.gov> Fri, Dec 19, 2014 at 7:18 AM  
To: Juan Palma <jpalma@blm.gov>  
Cc: Megan Crandall <mcrandal@blm.gov>, Aaron Curtis <acurtis@blm.gov>, Jenna Whitlock <jwhitloc@blm.gov>, Beth Ransel <bransel@blm.gov>

Juan,

Reviewing your calendar you - looks like you are in meetings all day today. I could visit at noon or 2 PM if you get some free time or we could visit next week on Tuesday (Dec. 23).

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Lance C. Porter  
District Manager  
Canyon Country District  
Office (435) 259-2174

---

**Beth Ransel** <bransel@blm.gov>  
To: Jenna Whitlock <jwhitloc@blm.gov>  
Cc: Megan Crandall <mcrandal@blm.gov>, Lance Porter <l50porte@blm.gov>

Fri, Dec 19, 2014 at 10:21 AM

Hi Jenna,

Per your request, draft PR attached. I hope you are doing well. You are missed in Utah!

**Beth Ransel**  
Field Manager  
Moab Field Office  
Bureau of Land Management

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Ransel, Beth" <bransel@blm.gov>  
**Date:** December 18, 2014 at 4:01:52 PM MST  
**To:** Megan Crandall <mcrandal@blm.gov>, Lola Bird <lbird@blm.gov>  
**Cc:** Lance Porter <l50porte@blm.gov>, Cory Roegner <croegner@blm.gov>, "Jeffrey (Rock) Smith" <jeffreysmith@blm.gov>, "Kathleen (Katie - Moab) Stevens" <kstevens@blm.gov>, Lisa Bryant <lbryant@blm.gov>  
**Subject:** PR Corona Arch / Gemini Bridges Roped Activities Decision

[Quoted text hidden]



**Corona Arch Restriction Final Decision PR 12-18-2014.docx**  
246K

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**Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov>  
To: "Ransel, Beth" <bransel@blm.gov>  
Cc: Lisa Bryant <lbryant@blm.gov>, "Jeffrey (Rock) Smith" <jeffreysmith@blm.gov>, Lance Porter <l50porte@blm.gov>, Juan Palma <jpalma@blm.gov>

Fri, Dec 19, 2014 at 11:13 AM

Hi, Beth. What time frame did you settle on? I am uncomfortable with it going out when your office is empty and I am the only one in my office. Given the attention this has gotten in the past, I would prefer to push it out Jan. 5 or some time that week, when we're all back up to full strength. Will that work for you?

M

[Quoted text hidden]

-

**Megan M. Crandall**  
*External Affairs Chief*

Bureau of Land Management Utah  
440 West 200 South, Ste. 500  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Ph: 801-539-4020

Fx: 801-539-4013

**Join the Conversation!**



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**Ransel, Beth** <bransel@blm.gov>

Fri, Dec 19, 2014 at 4:58 PM

To: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Cc: Lisa Bryant <lbryant@blm.gov>, "Jeffrey (Rock) Smith" <jeffreysmith@blm.gov>, Lance Porter <l50porte@blm.gov>, Juan Palma <jpalma@blm.gov>

Hi Megan,

Just to follow-up on our phone conversation. January 5th is fine. I also appreciate your willingness to prepare communication materials, if requested by the WO. Thanks for all that you do! Have a great holiday.

Regards,  
Beth

**Beth Ransel**  
*Field Manager*  
Moab Field Office

desk: 435.259.2119 cell: 435.220.0046 [bransel@blm.gov](mailto:bransel@blm.gov)

**MOAB FIELD OFFICE**  
**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

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**Megan Crandall** <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Sat, Dec 20, 2014 at 2:56 PM

To: "Ransel, Beth" <bransel@blm.gov>

You too! Take care and enjoy your time away from the grind!

M

Sent from my iPad

[Quoted text hidden]



# Bureau of Land Management

Utah  
News

MOAB FIELD OFFICE  
82 EAST DOGWOOD . MOAB, UT 84532  
PHONE (435) 259-2100. FAX (435) 259-2106  
HTTP://WWW.BLM.GOV/UT/ST/EN.HTML

For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Megan Crandall, (801) 539-4020

XXX

## BLM Announces Decision on Roped Activities at Corona Arch and Gemini Bridges

**Moab, Utah**—The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Utah, Moab Field Office has decided to temporarily restrict roped activities at Corona Arch and Gemini Bridges for a two year period commencing upon publication of the restriction in the *Federal Register*. These activities include ziplining, highlining, slacklining, climbing, rappelling, and rope swinging.

“This temporary restriction provides the BLM with time to continue working with the public to develop appropriate recreation management strategies for these two popular recreation destinations,” said Moab Field Office Manager Beth Ransel.

The decision to temporarily restrict these activities is in response to comments expressed by the public regarding user conflicts, particularly in the Corona Arch area. Both Corona Arch and Gemini Bridges are located at the end of very popular hiking trails and are iconic destinations for visitors to the Moab area, each receiving more than 40,000 visitors annually.

Maps of the areas affected by the restriction are located online on the Moab Field Office webpage at: <http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/moab.html>

The Environmental Assessment, Finding of No Significant Impact and Decision Record are posted on the Environmental Notification Bulletin (ENBB) at <https://www.blm.gov/ut/enbb/index.php>; search for project name “Corona”.

For additional restriction-specific information, contact Beth Ransel at (435) 259-2100. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to leave a message or question with the above individual. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Replies are provided during normal business hours.

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM’s mission is to manage and conserve the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations under our mandate of multiple-use and sustained yield. In Fiscal Year 2013, the BLM generated \$4.7 billion in receipts from public lands.

-BLM-

Follow us on Twitter [@BLMUtah](https://twitter.com/BLMUtah)



Crandall, Megan <mcrandal@blm.gov>

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## Summary of Public Comments on the Corona Arch EA

1 message

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**Stevens, Kathleen (Katie - Moab)** <kstevens@blm.gov>

Wed, Dec 24, 2014 at 9:25 AM

To: Megan Crandall <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Megan:

Rock asked that I send this to you. I have extracted the relevant section of the EA, and it is attached. As you can see, the document includes both the comments, the numbers of such comments, and the BLM response.

Katie Stevens  
Moab FO



**Summary of Public Comment Received on Corona Arch EA.docx**

21K

## Summary of Public Comment Received on Corona Arch EA

During preparation of this EA, the public was notified of the proposed action by posting on the Utah Internet Electronic Notification Bulletin Board (ENBB) on May 19, 2014.

As early as March of 2013, the Salt Lake *Tribune* noted that the BLM, once it obtained Corona Arch, was considering restrictions on Roped Activities. An article on the proposed restrictions was published in the Salt Lake *Tribune* on June 10, 2014. The proposed restrictions were also covered in many other news media, including the New York *Times* (July 30, 2014). The on-line comments to these newspapers were reviewed by the BLM; the overwhelming majority of the readers favored banning roped activities from the arches.

The BLM released the Environmental Assessment for public comment on August 25, 2014. A Press Release was issued which offered a public comment period ending September 25, 2014. The Press Release was picked up by out-of-area newspapers and the availability of the comment period was widely disseminated. Subsequent television and other media stories (including one on the *PBS NewsHour*) were aired during the comment period.

Guides and outfitters who use Gemini Bridges and Corona Arch were also notified of the proposal.

The BLM received approximately 460 comments on the environmental assessment. The great majority of the comments focused on Corona Arch, although many were more general and some also included specific comments on Gemini Bridges.

The chart below summarizes the comments and provides BLM responses to them.

| Comment Summary/Number of times mentioned                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | BLM Response                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Comments Supporting the Ban of Roped Activities</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Swinging and other roped activities detract from the scenery that the majority of people come to see. This activity ruins the experience of other people (347). Many of the commenters also pointed out that since the set up for such activities takes a long time, merely waiting for roped users to finish so that the hiking experience can be enjoyed is not possible. Other commenters told of their personal experiences at Corona Arch when swinging activity was occurring and how it detracted from their experiences. | These impacts to hikers are detailed in the EA, including the time it takes to set up for roped activities. This means that hikers cannot “wait their turn” as the roped activities take up the majority of the day. |
| Sheer opposition to roped activities at the                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | The EA acknowledges that the majority of the users                                                                                                                                                                   |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| two locations (334). Some commenters pointed out that allowing roped activities “serves only a few and adversely effects tens of thousands of visitors”.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | of the two arches are hikers and not those engaged in roped activities.                                                                          |
| Roped activities, especially swinging, cause defacement of the rock (45)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Wording has been added to the EA to further acknowledge the impact to the rock itself, including the visual impact.                              |
| Roped activities pose a danger to those trying to enjoy the arch from below because items can easily fall from the top of the arch, or swingers can hit an on-looker with their swinging body (7). One commenter was at Corona when items fell from the top of the arch, nearly hitting people below, including his children.                                                                                                                                                     | The potential impact of objects falling off Corona Arch, and the potential danger to people below, has been added to the wording in the EA.      |
| The noise that accompanies these activities impacts or ruins the experience of others (335). Some commenters described the noise they had encountered while witnessing swinging at Corona Arch; one commenter experienced fireworks and a banner unfurled from the top of the arch, triggered by the swinger’s jump. The fireworks rained debris on the hikers and the canyon was clouded with smoke from the explosives, making it “impossible to hike or stay in the vicinity.” | Wording has been added to the EA that further details the impacts of noise associated with roped activities to the hikers coming to Corona Arch. |
| These activities impact or ruin the photographic opportunities of the majority (15). One commenter had travelled to Corona Arch for the family Christmas photo, which he was unable to take because rope users were occupying the arch.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | The impact of roped activities on photographic opportunities has been detailed in the EA.                                                        |
| These two locations have “unique grandeur”, and are due a certain reverence (18).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | The reverence afforded to these arches by some of the public has been acknowledged in the EA.                                                    |
| We have been displaced from the enjoyment of the arch by these activities (12)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Wording has been added to the EA to acknowledge the displacement of some users from the arch.                                                    |
| The trauma to those who have to deal with                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | The potential impact to hikers of witnessing death                                                                                               |

|                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| witnessing a death is too great an impact to others                                                                                                                           | from roped activities has been added to the EA.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| These arches are not playgrounds, or “dirty gyms” (5)                                                                                                                         | The BLM acknowledges that some users share this opinion.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| There are many other places on public lands that are available for roped activities; Corona and Gemini are not suitable, due to the number of visitors who hike to them (276) | The EA acknowledges that roped activities participants would most probably move to other locations on public lands in the Moab area.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| The economic return of “quiet visitors” is greater than adrenaline-seeking visitors (2)                                                                                       | Although the economic return of “quiet visitors” vs. “adrenaline-seeking visitors” is impossible to quantify, the BLM acknowledges that there are more people who wish to hike to the two locations than to engage in roped activities at the two locations. This means that the economic return of the greater number of visitors would outweigh the lesser number of visitors.                                                                                                      |
| Restrictions should be imposed on Corona (because of its special, unique setting), but not on Gemini Bridges (1)                                                              | The BLM has reconsidered the area of the restriction; although the majority of public focus has been on Corona Arch, a recent visit (September 18, 2014) to Gemini Bridges confirmed that is being newly bolted and used for roped activities. The BLM has removed the Gemini “rappelling wall” from the restricted area, but has retained the proposed restrictions on roped activities on the Bridges themselves.                                                                   |
| <i>Comments Opposing the Ban of Roped Activities</i>                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Limit rope use to permitted events only (with signing informing the public that such an activity is going on) (3)                                                             | Discussion of such an alternative has been added to Chapter 2 of the EA, as “Alternatives Considered, but Eliminated from Further Analysis”.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Limit rope use to permitted events only, with no use on the arches themselves, but only on some of the surrounding rock surfaces (1)                                          | The surrounding rock surfaces (i.e. the fin behind Corona Arch used to access the top and the east wall across from Gemini Bridges) have been excluded from the restricted area to allow for limited rope use. Permitted events utilizing these locations, as well as private users, would not be restricted from using ropes outside the restricted area. Detailed maps of the restricted areas have been added to the EA so that these changes to the restricted area are apparent. |
| Limit rope use to only commercial, permitted companies (1)                                                                                                                    | Discussion of such an alternative has been added to Chapter 2 of the EA, as “Alternatives Considered, but Eliminated from Further Analysis”.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| If any ban must be made, ban dynamic, but not static, rope activities (1)                                                                                                     | The intricacies of distinguishing among types of roped activities was considered too arcane to                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | undertake on a site-specific basis.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Employ temporal zoning. Set up one day of the week (or month) during which roped activities can occur (11)                                                                                                           | Discussion of such an alternative has been added to Chapter 2 of the EA, as "Alternatives Considered, but Eliminated from Further Analysis".                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Require a permit for roped activities for both private and commercial users; set limits on the number and timing of the permits (4). One commenter suggested charging a fee for the permit to help recover costs.    | Discussion of such an alternative has been added to Chapter 2 of the EA, as "Alternatives Considered, but Eliminated from Further Analysis".                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Leave the two arches open to all roped activities (7)                                                                                                                                                                | The potential impacts from the proposed restrictions to those who enjoy engaging in roped activities is acknowledged in the EA.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Some hikers enjoy seeing the swinging from the arch (1)                                                                                                                                                              | Based on the comments received on the EA, hikers who enjoy seeing swinging are in the decided minority.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Those who wish to see arches without roped activities should go to Arches National Park (1)                                                                                                                          | The proposed action concerns restrictions on BLM lands.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Swinging and ziplining impact the experience of arch-viewers, but climbing and rappelling do not (1). Allow climbing and rappelling, but not other roped activities.                                                 | By trimming the area of restrictions, the BLM has allowed for some climbing and rappelling use in the larger area. The restricted area would still disallow all roped activities, including rappelling and climbing, from the arches themselves. Detailed maps of the two locations have been added to the EA so that the changes in the restricted areas are apparent.                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| BLM should not regulate activities because they are dangerous to the participants. Where would this stop? (4)                                                                                                        | The BLM has not considered the proposed action because of the danger to the participants. The purpose and need for the proposed action does not include ensuring safety of participants.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <i>Comments on specific points in the EA</i>                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| The EA should include two additional alternatives: 1) an alternative that permanently bans roped activities and 2) an alternative that considers similar restrictions on roped activities at Morning Glory Arch (1). | An alternative that permanently bans roped activities at these locations is not a valid alternative because Washington Office IM 2013-035 dictates that "closures and restrictions that are longer than 24 months in duration generally must be accomplished through the land use planning/land use plan amendment process, which includes a NEPA analysis. Permanent closures must always be accomplished through the land use planning process." The Moab BLM is proposing a temporary restriction of 24 months prior to pursuing the land use plan amendment that must accompany a |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p>permanent closure.</p> <p>Restrictions on roped activities at Morning Glory Arch were not considered as part of the proposed temporary restrictions.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <p>The proposed restriction for Corona Arch is in an area that BLM has yet to determine if it has wilderness characteristics (because BLM only recently acquired this property from the State of Utah). BLM must look at the beneficial effects of the proposed restrictions to the wilderness characteristics of these lands. The inventory of lands with wilderness characteristics must be updated prior to issuing a decision on roped activities. These lands must encompass not only the newly acquired lands, but also the contiguous roadless public lands to the south and east of the former state section. (1)</p> | <p>The BLM has already assessed the newly-acquired land in the vicinity of Corona Arch for wilderness characteristics, and has concluded that it possesses these characteristics. In addition, the 137 acres to the south of the acquired section that had formerly been excluded on the basis of size has also been added. Thus, the entire area of the Corona Arch restriction has been determined to possess wilderness characteristics.</p> <p>The EA erroneously listed wilderness characteristics as “not present” in the body of the text, but stated that wilderness characteristics were “not impacted to a degree that detailed analysis was required” in Appendix A: the Interdisciplinary ID Team Checklist. The body of the text has been corrected and wording has been added to the Interdisciplinary Team Checklist acknowledging that the Proposed Action would be a benefit to wilderness characteristics.</p> <p>The area is not within a BLM Natural Area; the checklist remains NP for Natural Areas.</p> |
| <p>“Heavily visited” must be defined in comparison to other sites in the Moab Field Office. How does the BLM know that the two arches are so popular (1).</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p>The BLM has a trail register and an electronic counter at Corona Arch; the people count was extrapolated from the trail registrants, giving a conservative estimate of 40,000 people per year. At Gemini Bridges, a conservative estimate of 50,000 visitors was made by extrapolating from vehicles observed in the parking lot.</p> <p>For comparison, Westwater Canyon receives approximately 15,000 visitors per year; the Klondike Bluffs bike trail system is estimated to host approximately 31,000 visitors per year. These comparisons allowed the BLM to state that both Corona Arch and Gemini Bridges are “heavily visited”.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <p>The EA states that there have been a “number of complaints”. This must be quantified.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <p>The trail register at Corona Arch allows visitors to write their thoughts. A random search of register pages found 35 entries calling for a ban on</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <p>swinging. Since swinging does not occur on all days of the year, these entries are from those who witnessed the activity and felt that it was ruinous to their experience. In addition, the BLM has received telephone complaints, even when the arch was under the State of Utah's ownership. Commercial companies and permitted events have also registered complaints about roped activities (especially at Corona Arch) impeding their operations. During the comment period on this EA, many hikers present at Corona Arch while people were swinging commented about the activity ruining their experience.</p> |
| <p>Why does the EA only look at roped activities and not other newly popular sports like rock climbing, kayaking, pack-rafting or stand-up paddleboarding? None were addressed in the 2008 RMP (1)</p> | <p>Rock climbing and boating were considered in the 2008 RMP. Recreation Focus Areas were established for these activities (Goldbar, which contains Corona Arch, was established as a Hiking Focus Area). Kayaking, pack-rafting and stand-up paddleboarding are a form of boating, and are thus addressed in the RMP.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <p>The EA needs to provide more detail about how bolts are scarring the rock. (1)</p>                                                                                                                  | <p>Information has been added to the EA about the scarring of the rock from moving ropes. The bolts are described as a visual intrusion to the natural scenery.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <p>There should be more detail as to how the BLM received the state land. (1)</p>                                                                                                                      | <p>The Utah Recreational Land Exchange Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-53) directed the BLM to exchange land with the State of Utah so that recreational values would be protected. Information regarding the law has been added to the EA.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <p><i>Comments beyond the scope of the proposed action</i></p>                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <p>BLM should not regulate activities because they are dangerous to the participants</p>                                                                                                               | <p>While regrettable, the deaths of recreationists engaged in dangerous activities are not the reason that BLM is proposing a restriction of roped activities. The impacts of concern are those affecting other users.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <p>BLM should ban roped activities on all arches on public lands. These types of activities should only be allowed on private lands</p>                                                                | <p>This type of restriction is beyond the scope of the present action</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <p>This is an action that requires an Environmental Impact Statement.</p>                                                                                                                              | <p>Since there are many other locations within the Moab Field Office to engage in roped activities, the removal of two locations is not considered a significant impact upon roped users. For comparison, the Moab Field Office contains 1,821,374 acres; the area of proposed restriction totals 38 acres. That means that 1,821,336 acres</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

remain open to roped activities.



Crandall, Megan <mcrandal@blm.gov>

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## Corona Arch in Moab, Utah

2 messages

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James L. <jal1991b@hotmail.com>  
To: "mcrandal@blm.gov" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Fri, Dec 26, 2014 at 9:18 AM

Ms Crandal,

In response to your the FBL request, I do not think that "roped activities" is NOT appropriate and should be BANNED especially at Corona Arch and other natural formations.

This is part of our American heritage and I was angered to see a handful of self absorbed adrenaline junkies abusing and disrespecting our American iconic symbols for personal pleasure, gain and minor (Internet) fame.

Ranchers or miners abuse our public lands / spaces for the similar reasons of self gratification and ingratiation at the expense of American tax payers (I realize usually this is legal activity - don't agree, but know this is legal). As I object to this miss use of public space, I see no difference with the "roped activities" abusing this space.

Each spike that they plunge into the arch for supporting roped activities is akin to graffiti or liter & disrespects our land. Worse, these spikes and bolts for the ropes accelerates the deterioration of these arched formations from the top and where the rope and rock meet around the perimeter it erodes the stone, weakening the arch long after the activity is done - thus destroying.

I don't think it is possible to stop a junkie completely from seeking their thrills but my hope is that there is criminal consequences put into place to minimize this disregard to our American identity.

Please ban this activity and enforce protection.

Regards,  
James Lord  
734 Noyes St M1  
Evanston, IL 60201

---

Crandall, Megan <mcrandal@blm.gov>  
To: "James L." <jal1991b@hotmail.com>

Mon, Dec 29, 2014 at 9:27 AM

Cc: Lisa Bryant <lbryant@blm.gov>, "Jeffrey (Rock) Smith" <jeffreysmith@blm.gov>

Good morning, Mr. Lord. Thank you for your comment. I wanted to let you know that I will be forwarding it on to the management team at the Moab Field Office. I hope you had a pleasant holiday and thank you again for taking the time to be involved in the management of public lands.

Megan Crandall  
[Quoted text hidden]

**Megan M. Crandall**  
*External Affairs Chief*

Bureau of Land Management Utah  
440 West 200 South, Ste. 500  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Ph: 801-539-4020  
Fx: 801-539-4013

**Join the Conversation!**





Crandall, Megan <mcrandal@blm.gov>

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**Re:**

1 message

---

**Smith, Jeffrey (Rock)** <jeffreysmith@blm.gov>

Mon, Dec 29, 2014 at 11:06 AM

To: mikecrm@yahoo.com

Cc: Beth Ransel <bransel@blm.gov>, Lisa Bryant <lbryant@blm.gov>, Katie Stevens <kstevens@blm.gov>, Megan Crandall <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Ms. McNerney:

Thank you for taking the time to comment on roped activities at Corona Arch and Gemini Bridges. While the comment period for the environmental assessment (that analysed these activities) has ended, we will add your comment to our file. A decision regarding whether these activities will continue at these locations is expected soon. You can keep track of this issue by periodically checking the BLM Moab Field Office website (<http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/moab.html>) for updates.

Again, thank you for your interest in the management of our public lands.

On Mon, Dec 29, 2014 at 10:05 AM, SO\_Public\_Room, BLM\_UT <[blm\\_ut\\_so\\_public\\_room@blm.gov](mailto:blm_ut_so_public_room@blm.gov)> wrote:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <[mikecrm@yahoo.com](mailto:mikecrm@yahoo.com)>

Date: Thu, Dec 25, 2014 at 10:06 PM

Subject:

To: "[blm\\_ut\\_so\\_public\\_room@blm.gov](mailto:blm_ut_so_public_room@blm.gov)" <[blm\\_ut\\_so\\_public\\_room@blm.gov](mailto:blm_ut_so_public_room@blm.gov)>

BLM.

I would like to comment on Corona arch swinging as well as use of national parks for various activities including base jumps and high risk tight rope walking. I understand there are individuals who enjoy these activities on landmarks within the national lands, consideration needs to be given to maintaining the integrity of the structures jurisdiction of the BLM. Take Corona Arch as an example, swinging from the arch can only undermine the stability of the arch and creates a high risk for human injury. I understand that at least one person has died and another with a serious injury that occurred while swinging from Corona arch. Base jumping although exhilarating and has growing interest, is also dangerous and in theory creates liability for the Federal Govt. I encourage enacting restrictions on swinging from Corona arch and base jumping within Federal lands in the land use plans. As a user of federal lands I implore you to evaluate these activities closely for damage to natural structures, disruption of experience for those of us who enjoy the beauty, quiet and peacefulness of nature. I appreciate you consideration.

Sincerely,

Sarah McNerney

Sent from Windows Mail

—  
Public Room  
BLM Utah State Office

440 W 200 S  
Salt Lake City UT 84101-1345  
Phone: (801) 539-4001  
Fax: (801) 539-4237

—  
Rock Smith  
Recreation Branch Chief  
Moab Field Office  
Bureau of Land Management  
(435) 259-2110 Office  
(435) 259-2106 Fax



Crandall, Megan <mcrandal@blm.gov>

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## BLM-UT EARLY ALERT: DR/FONSI for Corona Arch Rope Swinging Restriction due Week of Jan. 5, 2015

3 messages

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**Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Wed, Dec 24, 2014 at 9:46 AM

To: Jeff Krauss <JKrauss@blm.gov>

Cc: Juan Palma <jpalma@blm.gov>, Jenna Whitlock <jwhitloc@blm.gov>, Beth Ransel <bransel@blm.gov>, Lance Porter <l50porte@blm.gov>, Celia Boddington <cbodding@blm.gov>, Craig Leff <cleff@blm.gov>, "Jeffrey (Rock) Smith" <jeffreysmith@blm.gov>, Lara Douglas <ledouglas@blm.gov>, Lisa Bryant <lbryant@blm.gov>

*Please note: This is an internal document only; it is not for external distribution.*

### EARLY ALERT

To: WO BLM/DOI Officials

From: BLM-UT State Office

Through: Division Chief, WO Public Affairs

Subject: BLM-UT to sign Decision Record (DR) and release Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for two-year restriction on roped activities at Corona Arch and Gemini Bridges

Who: BLM-UT, Canyon Country District, Moab Field Office

When: Jan. 5, 2015

### Background:

On Aug. 25, 2014, the BLM-UT Moab Field Office released for public comment the environmental assessment analyzing a proposed two-year restriction on roped activities at Corona Arch and Gemini Bridges. These activities include ziplining, highlining, slacklining, climbing, rappelling, and rope swinging. The temporary restriction was proposed in response to public comments indicating that

roped activities at these locations may interfere with the experiences of other recreationists in the area. The comment period closed on Sept. 25, 2014, more than 450 comments were received. An overwhelming majority of comments supported restricting roped activities due to a variety of factors, including potential damage to the rock, noise pollution, scenic impacts, and the existence of other public lands that might be better suited to roped activities.

Corona Arch and Gemini Bridges are located at the end of very popular hiking trails and are iconic destinations for visitors to the Moab area—each receiving more than 40,000 visitors annually. Corona Arch is also located within a Hiking Focus Area on a parcel acquired by the BLM from the State of Utah in the May 2014 Utah Recreational Land Exchange. Roped activities, especially rope swinging and highlining, at Corona Arch received extensive national media attention in 2014.

**Current Situation:**

The week of Jan. 5, 2014, BLM-UT will sign the DR and release the FONSI restricting roped activities at Corona Arch and Gemini Bridges for two-years. The temporary restriction will provide the BLM with time to identify and develop appropriate recreation management strategies for these two popular recreation destinations. A *Federal Register* notice announcing the temporary restriction will be printed in the coming months, as well.

Contact: Megan Crandall, External Affairs Chief, (801)539-4020 or [mcrandal@blm.gov](mailto:mcrandal@blm.gov)

---

**Ransel, Beth** <bransel@blm.gov>  
To: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Sat, Jan 3, 2015 at 12:30 PM

Hi Megan,

I hope you had a nice holiday. Are we good to go on Monday for signing the DR/FONSI and issuing the PR?

Thank you for your coordination on this project.

Regards,  
Beth

**Beth Ransel**  
*Field Manager*  
Moab Field Office

desk: 435.259.2119 cell: 435.220.0046 [bransel@blm.gov](mailto:bransel@blm.gov)

**MOAB FIELD OFFICE**  
**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Megan Crandall** <mcrandal@blm.gov>  
To: "Ransel, Beth" <bransel@blm.gov>

Mon, Jan 5, 2015 at 10:36 AM

Cc: Lola Bird <lbird@blm.gov>

We are, but I want to wait if we can to get your phones back up.

Sent from my iPad

[Quoted text hidden]



Crandall, Megan <mcrandal@blm.gov>

---

## Fwd: FYI

4 messages

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**Bryant, Lisa** <lbryant@blm.gov>

Sun, Jan 4, 2015 at 11:27 PM

To: Beth Ransel <bransel@blm.gov>, "Kathleen (Katie - Moab) Stevens" <kstevens@blm.gov>, Jeffrey R Smith <jeffreysmith@blm.gov>, Jennifer Jones <jljones@blm.gov>

Cc: Megan Crandall <mcrandal@blm.gov>

You may have seen this already, new to me....

The link shows photos of a "net hammock" connected by slacklines. It has a giant hole in the middle that apparently was used for base jumping.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kiley Miller** <moabkiley@gmail.com>

Date: Sat, Jan 3, 2015 at 1:13 PM

Subject: FYI

To: Lisa Bryant BLM <lbryant@blm.gov>

This is such a junk show to me. Im an old school climber, I love to go out with John into the back country where there is no one around and it is completely quiet & climb towers or go craggin at a quiet wall in Long Canyon. Im so against being around climbers that I don't even go to Indian Creek unless its in the cold of winter, if I see even one car in a parking area at a crag I won't go there since thats too crowded for me. There are many many in Moab who feel the same way. I ask that when y'all are going to enforce more serious regulations of "roped activities" you don't group climbers in with the slackliners, t rope swingers, base jumpers etc like y'all did in regards to Gemini Bridges. Another area that y'all need to regulate from this kind of nonsense like Gemini Bridges is Day Canyon. Whats happening in the region is very distressing to me, its becoming a full blown circus and it breaks my heart. Its seems like its all about the party atmosphere and the big adrenaline rush. Anyway I just thought Id send you guys this but y'all have probably already seen it. Please pass onto Beth, Katie, Jen Jones.

Thanks  
Kiley

<http://www.visualnews.com/2014/12/22/mothership-space-net-penthouse-base-jumping-hammock-400-feet-air/>

—  
"I am not an atheist but an earthiest. Be true to the earth."  
-Ed Abbey

"Growth for the sake of growth is the ideology of a cancer cell"  
-Ed Abbey

"We are obliged, therefore, to spread the news, painful and bitter though it may be for some to hear, that all living things on Earth are

kindred"  
-Ed Abbey

"The idea of wilderness needs no defense, it only needs defenders."  
-Ed Abbey

-  
Lisa Bryant  
Assistant Field Manager, Moab BLM  
82 East Dogwood  
Moab, Utah 84532  
435 259-2150

"If your knees aren't green by the end of the day, you need to seriously re-examine your life" - Calvin to Hobbes, just prior to bathtime.

---

**Jones, Jennifer** <jljones@blm.gov> Mon, Jan 5, 2015 at 6:41 AM  
To: "Bryant, Lisa" <lbryant@blm.gov>  
Cc: Beth Ransel <bransel@blm.gov>, "Kathleen (Katie - Moab) Stevens" <kstevens@blm.gov>, Jeffrey R Smith <jeffreysmith@blm.gov>, Megan Crandall <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Indeed - this is the new and improved 'space thong' turned 'pentagon' at the Fruit Bowl... This was constructed/erected during the annual GGBY/ Turkey Boogie gatherings over Thanksgiving holiday. There are five anchors used for this 'pentagon', two of which are on BLM, three on SITLA. The vast majority of the camping and unorganized festivities occur on SITLA.

[Quoted text hidden]

-  
Jennifer Jones  
Recreation Planner - Moab Field Office  
82 E. Dogwood  
Moab, UT 84532  
phone: 435-259-2136  
email: [jjones@blm.gov](mailto:jjones@blm.gov)

---

**Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov> Mon, Jan 5, 2015 at 9:18 AM  
To: "Bryant, Lisa" <lbryant@blm.gov>

Is this against regs, rules, law in any way??

On Sun, Jan 4, 2015 at 11:27 PM, Bryant, Lisa <lbryant@blm.gov> wrote:  
[Quoted text hidden]

-  
**Megan M. Crandall**  
*External Affairs Chief*

Bureau of Land Management Utah  
440 West 200 South, Ste. 500  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Ph: 801-539-4020

Fx: 801-539-4013

**Join the Conversation!**



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**Bryant, Lisa** <lbryant@blm.gov>  
To: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Mon, Jan 5, 2015 at 2:16 PM

I talked to Rock, and no. These are legal activities. Most of it occurs on state land, only a few of the tie-in's are on BLM. They can't leave equipment there permanently - we have removed bolts from these types of sites. That's one reason for the temporary closure at Corona, let's make sure what we are allowing there is appropriate given all the other uses and visitors.

[Quoted text hidden]



Crandall, Megan <mcrandal@blm.gov>

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## BLM-UT MEDIA UPDATE: Corona Arch inquiries on DR/FONSI

7 messages

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**Crandall, Megan** <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Tue, Jan 6, 2015 at 5:17 PM

To: Jeff Krauss <JKrauss@blm.gov>

Cc: Juan Palma <jpalma@blm.gov>, Jenna Whitlock <jwhitloc@blm.gov>, Michael Gates <mgates@blm.gov>, Lance Porter <l50porte@blm.gov>, Beth Ransel <bransel@blm.gov>, Lisa Bryant <lbryant@blm.gov>

Jeff, see below ...

On Jan. 6, 2015, BLM-UT released the DR and FONSI temporarily restricting roped activities at Corona Arch and Gemini Bridges in the Moab Field Office. Immediately, BLM-UT received multiple media calls. Notably, state office external affairs staff responded to Associated Press, KSL Radio, Fox 13 News and Channel 2 News. Before 6 p.m., BLM-UT external affairs staff will be doing on camera interviews at the state office with the two local TV affiliates. Additional media attention is expected given the high interest it received over the summer and into early fall 2014. The inquiries, thus far, have been very basic—looking for quotable material.

M

—

**Megan M. Crandall**  
*External Affairs Chief*

Bureau of Land Management Utah  
440 West 200 South, Ste. 500  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Ph: 801-539-4020

Fx: 801-539-4013

**Join the Conversation!**



---

**Juan Palma** <jpalma@blm.gov>

Tue, Jan 6, 2015 at 5:21 PM

To: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Cc: Jeff Krauss <JKrauss@blm.gov>, Jenna Whitlock <jwhitloc@blm.gov>, Michael Gates <mgates@blm.gov>, Lance Porter <l50porte@blm.gov>, Beth Ransel <bransel@blm.gov>, Lisa Bryant <lbryant@blm.gov>

Great job Megan. Let's get Beth on camera if they go down to Moab to film. Beth, so a strong sales pitch why we have to do this. It millions - zillions :-)) of years to form these arches and we can't have folks out there pounding bolts and chipping chunks off these special arches.

-Juan

Sent from my iPhone

[Quoted text hidden]

---

**Beth Ransel** <bransel@blm.gov>  
To: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Tue, Jan 6, 2015 at 6:34 PM

Thanks Megan!

Beth Ransel  
Field Manager  
Moab Field Office  
Bureau of Land Management

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 6, 2015, at 5:17 PM, "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Megan Crandall** <mcrandal@blm.gov>  
To: Juan Palma <jpalma@blm.gov>

Tue, Jan 6, 2015 at 6:35 PM

Beth is super strong on camera, so if we get a local crew I think getting her some air time would be fantastic. I'll keep my eye out for opportunities, too

M

Sent from my iPad  
[Quoted text hidden]

---

**Megan Crandall** <mcrandal@blm.gov>  
To: Beth Ransel <bransel@blm.gov>

Tue, Jan 6, 2015 at 6:48 PM

Anytime! I would rather have you or your staff on camera, but these were the guys down the street, so I just went ahead and handled it. Hopefully, it didn't go too badly. I got pinned down a bit on the radio one about when people could comment, so I had to make the case that we welcome input from the public anytime, but especially during open comment periods. Needless to say, some of your staff may not be happy that I said, "come one come all comment here any day you dang well please cuz we're here to serve..." Just didn't want to be on record saying "no you can't give us your opinion now that we've made our decision." Sorry about that.

Sent from my iPad  
[Quoted text hidden]

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**Beth Ransel** <bransel@blm.gov>  
To: Megan Crandall <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Tue, Jan 6, 2015 at 7:28 PM

Sounds like your comment was right on point. Have a good night.

Beth Ransel  
Field Manager  
Moab Field Office  
Bureau of Land Management

Sent from my iPhone  
[Quoted text hidden]

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**Bryant, Lisa** <lbryant@blm.gov>  
To: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

Wed, Jan 7, 2015 at 9:19 AM

I heard it mentioned on KUER last night in a break between NPR coverages - but it was the local announcer not NPR covering it.

[Quoted text hidden]

-

Lisa Bryant

Assistant Field Manager, Moab BLM

82 East Dogwood

Moab, Utah 84532

435 259-2150

"If your knees aren't green by the end of the day, you need to seriously re-examine your life" - Calvin to Hobbes, just prior to bathtime.



Crandall, Megan <mcrandal@blm.gov>

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## New Moab Times Inde request

1 message

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**Bryant, Lisa** <lbryant@blm.gov>

Mon, Jan 12, 2015 at 11:18 AM

To: Megan Crandall <mcrandal@blm.gov>, Beth Ransel <bransel@blm.gov>

Molly just called me. I told her I was working on the information regarding the buildings at the old dispatch center. I said I'd get her something in the next few hours, she was fine with that, didn't seem rushed.

She also had a new inquiry regarding Corona Arch and Gemini Bridges restrictions on roped activities. She mentioned that she'd talked to Megan and was just following up locally.

- she's seeking general information on the restrictions and 1) more information about the nature of public comments mentioned in the Press Release in response to the decision (this didn't quite make sense the way she worded it); and 2) Can BLM strike a balance between adventure sports and other land uses?

I said I'd get back to her on this too - that I wanted to make sure there'd been no updates while I'd been gone over the holidays.

-

Lisa Bryant  
Assistant Field Manager, Moab BLM  
82 East Dogwood  
Moab, Utah 84532  
435 259-2150

"If your knees aren't green by the end of the day, you need to seriously re-examine your life" - Calvin to Hobbes, just prior to bathtime.