



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Arizona Strip District

Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument

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Jimmie Bundy Hughes  
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St. George, UT 84790

## **NOTICE OF PROPOSED DECISION**

*Mt. Logan Allotment - Little Springs Pasture Water Catchment Development  
DOI-BLM-AZ-A030-2023-0009-DNA*

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has conducted an environmental review (DNA Number DOI-BLM-AZ-A030-2023-0009-DNA) to evaluate the proposal to construct a water catchment, pipeline, trough, storage tank or lined pond, and access road within the Mt. Logan Allotment. The BLM, Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument (GCPNM), and the grazing permittee are working cooperatively to improve grazing management, watershed conditions, and rangeland health within the Mt. Logan Allotment. The proposed action is essentially similar to, but not specifically a feature of, the proposed action analyzed in an existing environmental assessment DOI-BLM-AZ-A030-2019-0010-EA. The DNA prepared for the proposed water development DOI-BLM-AZ-A030-2023-0009-DNA was tiered to this EA. This proposed decision is the result of my review and consideration of the Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA) and its associated Finding of No Significant Impact.

The water catchment, pipeline, trough, storage tank or lined pond, and access road will be located in the following described area (Attached Map):

Gila & Salt River Meridian, Mohave County, Arizona.  
T. 34 N., R. 08 W., Section 07.

## **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)**

As described in the attached FONSI, after consideration of the environmental effects described in the EA and supporting documentation, I have determined that the action is not a major Federal action and will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment, individually or cumulatively with other actions in the area.

## **PROPOSED DECISION**

Based on my review and consideration of the DNA and FONSI, it is my decision to approve the Little Springs Water Catchment (see attached Figure 1) as described in the DNA. This range improvement project will be designed, constructed, and maintained according to the description in the DNA, including the best management practices. The action is to construct the water catchment with storage tank or lined pond, pipeline, water trough, and a new access road, at T. 34 N., R. 08 W., Section 07. An 80,000-to-150,000-gallon lined pond or storage tank(s) (EA Attachment C, photos C.2-C.4), would be constructed, and water would be piped from the apron to the tank(s) or pond. If a storage tank is used, it would sit above ground approximately 15 feet tall, 30 to 40 feet in diameter or multiple smaller tanks may be used to provide the same volume (Attachment C, Figure C.3-C.4). Either lids or wildlife escape ramps and floating bird ladders would be installed. Vegetation would be permanently removed for the construction of the apron, water storage tank or lined pond and trough. The new access road would be 10 feet wide and approximately 400 feet in length.

The proposed action includes future maintenance activities for the life of the project, which is expected to be up to 50 years. Fence would be maintained by the permittee. The fence is primarily to prevent damage to the apron from livestock. The site would be monitored for any new weed infestations and these sites would be treated as necessary. The exact maintenance requirements are not known but are expected to include annual inspections using all-terrain vehicles or pick-up trucks to access the site via existing roads. The apron, water storage tank and lined pond, pipeline and trough will be monitored on a yearly basis by the grazing permittee to ensure they are functioning properly. In addition, rangeland monitoring (to evaluate compliance, utilization, composition, and long-term trend) will continue in the allotment.

## **Rationale For Decision**

This proposed decision has been made after considering impacts to resources, such as vegetation, wildlife, cultural resources, and soils, while also meeting the purpose and need for agency action as described below and in the DNA. The water development approved by this proposed decision will support responsible livestock grazing on public land and will allow the vegetation in the pasture to maintain at or better progress toward its natural potential by increasing plant diversity and vigor. The purpose of the action is to encourage and achieve better livestock distribution within the allotment; it is not to increase permitted use or increase AUMs. The uniformity in livestock distribution will enhance rangeland vegetation by accelerating plant succession while increasing plant diversity and vigor.

This water development will benefit rangeland health by providing a reliable year-round water source which will aid in keeping livestock dispersed throughout the respective pasture, resulting

in more uniform utilization of forage (while not exceeding the maximum utilization level of 50%). The action will also ensure the permittee is able to better implement the grazing system established in the allotment management plan.

This proposed decision also best addresses the goals and objectives of the GCPNM Resource Management Plan (RMP), the *Arizona Strip Interdisciplinary Mule Deer Management Plan 2015-2019* and all applicable statutes, regulations, and policies. The action is in conformance with the GCPNM RMP, approved on January 29, 2008. The purpose of the proposed project is to encourage and achieve better livestock distribution within the Little Springs Pasture as part of the pasture rotation system on the Mt. Logan Allotment.

The project provides additional water for wildlife (including mule deer, small mammals, reptiles, and birds). The project is in accordance with the *Arizona Strip Interdisciplinary Mule Deer Management Plan 2015-2019* (2015), developed jointly by the BLM and Arizona Game and Fish Department. Improving water distribution and improving habitat use by a variety of species meet the objectives contained within the GCPNM Resource Management Plan (RMP) (BLM 2008) and documented in the DNA.

The Mt. Logan Allotment, as last assessed for rangeland health, has been determined to be meeting all applicable standards for rangeland health. This project would continue to maintain rangeland health conditions.

## **AUTHORITY**

The authority for this decision is found in a number of statutory and regulatory authorities contained in the Taylor Grazing Act, as amended; the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended; and throughout Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 4100 (Grazing Administration-exclusive of Alaska). The following sections of Part 4100 are noted below, although other subparts of Part 4100 are used to authorize grazing activities, with this list not meant to be exhaustive.

- 43 CFR §4100.0-8: Land use plans
- 43 CFR §4120.3-1 – Conditions for range improvements.
- 43 CFR §4120.3-2 – Cooperative range improvement agreements.
- 43 CFR §4120.3-3 – Range improvement permits.
- 43 CFR §4120.3-4 – Standards, design, and stipulations.
- 43 CFR §4120.3-5 – Assignment of range improvements.
- 43 CFR §4160.1 – Proposed decisions.
- 43 CFR §4160.2: Protests.
- 43 CFR §4160.3: Final decisions.
- 43 CFR §4160.4: Appeals.

## **RIGHT OF PROTEST AND/OR APPEAL**

Any applicant, permittee, lessee, or other interested public may protest the proposed decision in accordance with 43 CFR 4160.2 in person or in writing within 15 days after receipt of such decision to:

Brandon E. Boshell

Monument Manager  
345 East Riverside Dr.  
St. George, UT 84790

If protest is sent by facsimile or email, the date filed is not official until BLM receives the original by mail. Electronic dates of submissions are not acceptable. The protest should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) as to why the proposed decision is in error.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3(a), in the absence of a protest, the proposed decision will become my final decision without further notice, in accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3(a). Should a timely protest be filed, I will consider the points of the protest and other pertinent information and issue my final decision to all persons named in this decision in accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3(b).

Any applicant, permittee, lessee, or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the final decision may file a notice of appeal in writing for the purpose of a hearing before an administrative law judge in accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3(c), 4160.4, and 4.470. The notice of appeal must be filed within 30 days following receipt of the final decision or within 30 days after the date the proposed decision becomes final. The notice of appeal may be accompanied by a petition for a stay of the decision in accordance with 43 CFR 4.471 pending final determination on appeal. The notice of appeal and petition for a stay must be filed in the office of the authorized officer, as noted above.

The BLM cannot accept electronic filing of appeal documents by any other means, including compact disc, thumb drive, or similar media due to Federal Information Systems Security Awareness policies. As defined in 43 CFR 4.22(a), "A document is filed in the office where the filing is required only when the document is received in that office during its regular business hours and by a person authorized to receive it. A document received after the office's regular business hours is considered filed on the next business day."

Within 15 days of filing the appeal, the appellant must provide the BLM with proof of service to the other persons named in this decision (see attached List of all Persons or Groups Receiving this Notice of Proposed Decision (NOPD)) in accordance with 43 CFR 4.470(a). A copy of the appeal must also be served on the Office of the Solicitor located at the address below in accordance with 43 CFR 4.413(a).

Sandra Day O'Connor  
US Courthouse, Suite 404  
401 West Washington Street, SPC-44  
Phoenix, Arizona 85003-2151

In accordance with 43 CFR 4.413(b), failure to serve a notice of appeal will subject the appeal to summary dismissal as provided in 43 CFR 4.402. Appellants are responsible for determining whether the Office of the Solicitor or other persons named in the decision will accept service of a notice of appeal and/or petition for stay electronically via email.

The appeal shall state the reasons, clearly and concisely, why the appellant thinks the final decision is in error and otherwise complies with the provisions of 43 CFR 4.470.

Should you wish to file a petition for a stay, see 43 CFR 4.471 (a) and (b). In accordance with 43 CFR 4.471(c), a petition for a stay must show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
- (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.

- (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

As noted above, the petition for stay must be filed in the office of the authorized officer and served in accordance with 43 CFR 4.471.

Any person named in the decision that receives a copy of a petition for a stay and/or an appeal, is directed to 43 CFR 4.472(b) for procedures to follow if you wish to respond.

**BRANDON  
BOSHELL**

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BOSHELL  
Date: 2023.11.15 15:05:08 -07'00'

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Brandon E. Boshell  
Monument Manager  
Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument

Enclosure:

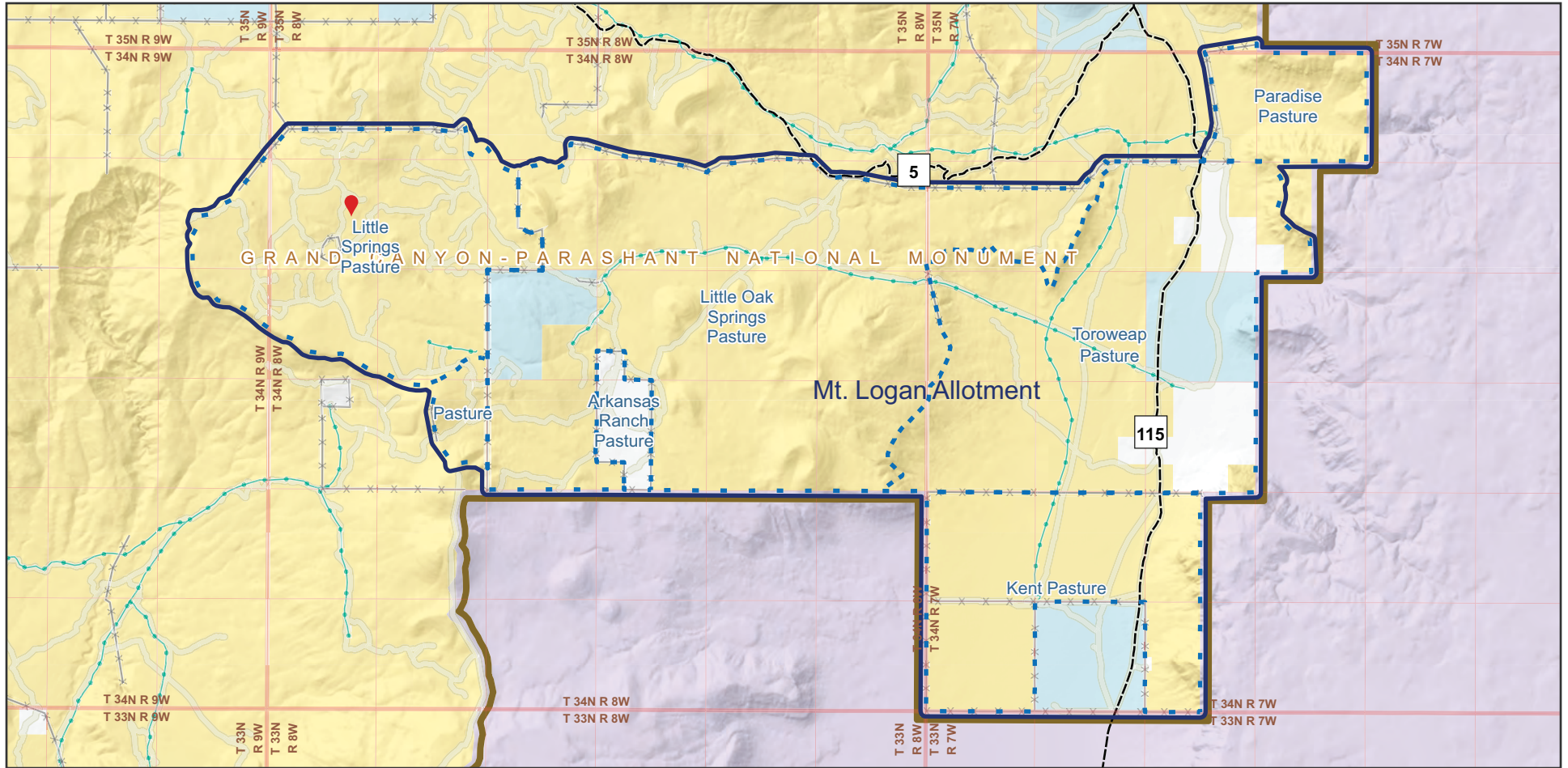
Project Map  
Persons or Groups Receiving this NOPD



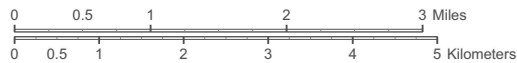
# Figure 1. Mt. Logan Allotment - Little Springs Proposed Water Catchment Vicinity Map

DOI-BLM-AZ-A030-2023-0009-DNA

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



- Little Spring Proposed Catchment Site
- Mt. Logan Pastures
- Mt. Logan Allotment
- BLM
- NPS
- State
- Private
- Arizona Strip Routes
- Unpaved Roads
- Fence (Unspecified)
- Pipeline
- Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument

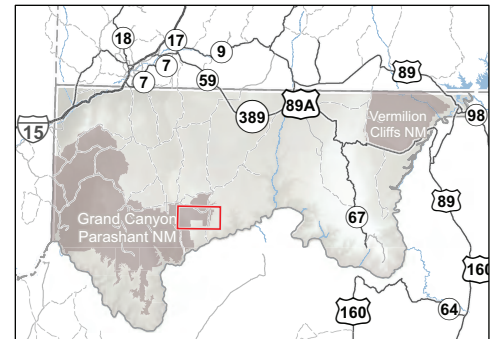


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Map Produced by BLM Arizona Strip District  
 File: DOI-BLM-AZ-A030-2023-XXXX-EA Little\_Springs\_catchment.mxd  
 Coordinate System:  
 Reference System: U.S. PLSS GSR&M  
 Scale: 1: at 8.5x11 page output  
 Date: 8/18/2023



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