

# United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

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**Determination of NEPA Adequacy**  
NEPA # DOI-BLM-AZ-A030-2021-0011-DNA

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## Hobble Canyon Water Catchment

***Location:***

Mud and Cane Spring Allotment.  
Gila & Salt River Meridian, Mohave County, Arizona.

T. 37 N., R.13 W.,  
Section 6, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
Section 7, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ .

***Applicant/Address:*** Layton Cattle Company, L.C.

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**November 2021**

Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument  
345 East Riverside Dr.  
St. George, UT 84790  
435-688-3200  
435-688-3258



**Office:** Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument  
**Project number:** DOI-BLM-AZ-A030-2021-0011-DNA

**Tracking Number:** N/A

**Proposed Action Title/Type:** Hobble Canyon Water Catchment

**Location/Legal description:**

The Mud and Cane Spring grazing allotment (AZ04850) is located in Mohave County, Arizona. It is wholly within the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument, and is approximately 40 miles south, southwest of St. George, Utah.

Gila and Salt River Meridian, Arizona

T. 37 N., R.13 W.,

Section 6, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ ;

Section 7, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ .

**A. Description of the Proposed Action**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument (GCPNM) is considering a proposal from Layton Cattle Co (the Mud and Cane Spring Allotment permittee) to install one new water catchment to provide reliable water to the Hobble Canyon and Hobble Hills Pastures, both on the Mud and Cane Spring Allotment (See Appendix A, Figures 1- 3).

**Background**

Mud Mountain, Pocum Cove and Hobble Canyon are found within the Mud and Cane Spring Allotment along with a variety of vegetative communities, ranging from mountain chaparral and pinyon pines and juniper trees in the higher elevations to desert shrub and perennial and annual grasses in the lower elevations. The proposed project area is not within wilderness or an area of critical environmental concern. The proposed project area is at approximately 4,720 feet elevation and is within the Colorado Plateau major land resources area. The proposed project area is within the Shallow Loamy 10 – 14” precipitation zone ecological site as described by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (BLM 2009). Vegetation at the project area consists of perennial and annual grasses, a mixture of shrubs, including sagebrush, serviceberry, and patches of juniper trees. The Mud and Cane Spring Allotment is making significant progress toward meeting the applicable standards for rangeland health (BLM 2009). See Appendix A, Figure 1 - Mud and Cane Spring Allotment - Overview Map.

The Mud and Cane Spring Allotment consists of 83,110 acres of federal land and has seven fenced pastures. Two of the pastures, Hobble Canyon and Hobble Hills Pastures are grazed during the summer months, June – September. The proposed project area is in both Hobble Canyon and Hobble Hills Pastures within the eastern part of the Mud and Cane Spring

Allotment. Currently there are no developed water sources in either pasture. Cattle travel to neighboring pastures for water. A new water catchment would reduce the distance to water and improve cattle distribution and reduce trailing. The proposed water catchment and troughs would be approximately 1.3 miles south of the water trough in the neighboring Road Canyon Pasture which is fenced separately. Other water troughs are in the Pakoon Pasture in the canyon to the west of the Hobble Hills Pasture. One trough is below Cane Spring and another one along the BLM 1007 road at the corral in Pocum Wash. Cattle travel side canyons and slopes to reach the top of the plateau to graze then return to the bottoms to drink.

The lack of reliable water on the plateau portions of the Hobble Canyon and Hobble Hills Pastures has made it difficult for the permittee to distribute cattle more evenly across these two pastures as part of the pasture rotation system for this allotment. The proposed action would result in a more uniform utilization of forage, while not exceeding the maximum utilization level of 50%, this would maintain and improve the desired plant community (DPC) objectives. The uniformity in livestock distribution would enhance rangeland vegetation by accelerating plant succession while increasing plant diversity and vigor. The proposed water development would allow cattle to graze areas within these pastures which have been underutilized due to distance from water. The purpose of the proposed project is not to increase permitted use, or animal unit months (AUMs), but to encourage and achieve better livestock distribution within the Hobble Canyon and Hobble Hills Pastures. The opportunity for better livestock distribution through water developments is a proven method for overall improvement of vegetation and soil conditions within an allotment and pasture (Horn 2005).

The proposed project would provide an additional water source for wildlife (including mule deer, small mammals, reptiles, and birds). The *Arizona Strip Interdisciplinary Mule Deer Management Plan 2015-2019* (2015), which was developed jointly by the BLM and AGFD states that “water distribution should be improved in [Units 13A and 13B] by utilizing both cooperative projects and wildlife catchments” (AGFD and BLM 2015). The project area is in Unit 13B. It should be noted that habitat management for non-listed, non-game species are typically provided in the form of supplemental benefits from actions designed to address other, targeted (i.e., threatened, endangered, candidate, or game species). These most often take the form of water developments or vegetative treatment projects. Thus, other wildlife species (along with mule deer) would benefit from the proposed water project by improving water distribution and improving habitat use by these species as well, which are also objectives contained within the GCPNM Resource Management Plan (RMP) (BLM 2008).

This DNA is tiered to the Construction of Three Water Catchments for the Mt. Trumbull, Whiterock-Soapstone, Belnap and Big Springs Pipeline Allotments Environmental Assessment, DOI-BLM-AZ-A030-2019-0010-EA. This referenced EA evaluated the construction of water catchments in similar ecological sites, with similar terrain, plant communities and wildlife.

### **Proposed Action**

The proposed action is to construct one new water catchment which would include an apron, a storage tank or lined pond, installation of a buried pipeline, up to two new tire water troughs; a new access road along with maintenance of the existing 1033A road, and a new gate would be

installed in the existing Hobbles Hills/Hobbles Canyon Pasture fence (Appendix A, Figure 2). The water catchment would be in the Hobbles Canyon Pasture. Up to two acres of disturbance would be associated with the construction of the proposed catchment and new access road (Table 1).

Within a fenced enclosure a water catchment apron (approximately 40,000 square feet) would be constructed, up to an acre in size (Appendix B, Figure B.1). There would be a wildlife friendly fence around the water catchment apron and/or lined pond to impede animals from entering the storage pond, so they do not get trapped. Vegetation would be permanently removed for the construction of the apron.

A 12-inch diameter buried pipeline, approximately 10-feet long, would be installed from the apron to the water storage tank or lined pond. Water from the pond or tank would then be piped to the tire troughs. The pipeline would be 1.5 – 2.0 inches in diameter, 200 psi, poly or PVC pipeline and would be buried 18 – 24 inches deep using heavy equipment. The pipeline would be approximately 0.13 miles in length from the water storage tank or lined pond to the tire water tanks. A width of approximately 10-foot wide disturbance area along the pipeline for installation with equipment. The new pipeline would run parallel and close to the existing pasture fence between the Hobbles Canyon and Hobbles Hills Pastures (Appendix A, Figure 2).

An 80,000 to 150,000 gallon lined pond or storage tank(s), would be constructed, and water would be piped from the apron to the tank or pond. An option included within this proposed action would be either the construction of an excavated pond with flexible liner or the installation of a large water storage tank. If a water tank is used it would be partially buried. The excavated pond would typically be 8 to 10 feet deep, 40 to 50 feet in diameter. Excavation of the pond would be done using heavy equipment. The slope ratio around the entire pond would be 1:1 (one-foot vertical depth for every one-foot horizontal distance). The pond would be lined with EPDM 45 mil (ethylene propylene diene monomer), an extremely durable synthetic rubber membrane. This product comes in approximately 50-foot widths and is bonded together using an adhesive (Appendix B, Figure B.2). If a storage tank is used, it would consist of a tank which 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 (Appendix B, Figure B.3). Either lids or wildlife escape ramps and floating bird ladders would be installed. Vegetation would be permanently removed for the construction of the water storage tank or lined pond.

The troughs would be constructed using a heavy equipment sized tire and secured to the ground, outside the fence enclosure, using concrete. One or two large 12-foot diameter tire tank water troughs, holding about 1,000 – 1,100 gallons of water each (Appendix B, Figure B.4). If there are two tire tanks, one would be on each side of the existing pasture fence. If one tire tank is used the existing pasture fence would be modified to create a water box so that livestock from both pastures could access it. One tire water trough and the new access road would be on the westside of the pasture fence in the Hobbles Hills Pasture. Wildlife escape ramps would be secured in each trough before it is filled.

Maintenance of the existing road (BLM 1033A road) and construction of new access road to the catchment project area is proposed (Appendix A, Figure 3). The project area is accessed by the Jump Canyon 1033 Road to the existing road 1033A, which is open to the public with

unrestricted use, a new access road would go to the new catchment for construction and maintenance. The existing 1033A road would need maintenance to make it passable for trailers with equipment and supplies. The new access road would start in the Hobble Hills Pasture then head northeast toward the Hobble Canyon pasture fence (See Appendix A, Figure 2 and 3). A new gate would be installed in the existing Hobble Canyon/Hobble Hills shared pasture fence for access to both pastures during construction and maintenance.

Approximately 0.32 miles of new access road would be created. It would be created by driving over the ground and moving some surface rocks creating a two-track road. The existing surface is rocky and gravelly. No blading or excavating for a new road would be done. The new road would follow a flagged line that has been culturally inventoried. The new road would go on the contour rather than in the drainage. The permittee would walk a loader with blade up to create the new access road along the flagged line, occasionally moving some surface rocks. The new two track road would be approximately 10 feet wide.

The proposed action would include future maintenance activities for the life of the project, which is expected to be 20-30 years. The exact maintenance requirements are not known but are expected to include annual inspections of the catchment apron material and replacing or patching material when repairs are needed, and annual inspections of the fencing, storage tank or lined pond, pipeline, and water troughs, which may include digging to find and repair leaks or clogs in the pipe.

Materials for construction of the proposed project would primarily be provided by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Additional funding may be provided by the permittee, Arizona Strip Grazing Board, Arizona Game and Fish Department, and the BLM. Labor is typically provided by the grazing permittee as part of the cost sharing agreement.

The project components (catchment apron, storage tank or pond, pipeline, water troughs, and access road) are shown in Table 1 to illustrate the potential ground disturbance associated with each component of the water development. No other new structures are proposed.

**Table 1. Hobble Canyon Proposed Catchment.**

<b>Improvement Type</b>	<b>Proposed Number</b>	<b>Proposed Length (feet)</b>	<b>Acres of Potential Ground/Vegetation Disturbance</b>
Apron	1	About 40,000 sq. ft.	1
Tire tank trough(s)	1 or 2	N/A	0.10 each
Storage tank or lined pond	1	N/A	0.25
Pipeline	1	690 sq. ft.	0.16
Access road	1	1690 sq. ft.	0.39
<b>Total</b>			<b>2</b>

## **Best Management Practices/Design Features**

The following best management practices (BMPs)/design features are included in the proposed action to minimize the impacts of the proposed action to social and natural environmental resources.

### ***Cultural Resources***

- The location in which either the pond or storage tank would be constructed has been inventoried for historic and cultural resources. The proposed areas of disturbance are free from any known cultural or historic resources based on the survey.
- Any cultural (historic/prehistoric site or object) or paleontological resource (fossil remains of plants or animals) discovered within the project areas would immediately be reported to the GCPNM Manager or their designee. All operations in the immediate area of the discovery shall be suspended until written authorization to proceed is issued. An evaluation of the discovery shall be made by a qualified archaeologist or paleontologist to determine appropriate actions to prevent the loss of significant cultural or scientifically important paleontological values.
- An additional archaeological survey (intensive level, Class III cultural resources inventory) shall be required in the event the proposed project location is changed or additional surface disturbing activities are added to the project after the initial survey. Any such survey would have to be completed prior to commencement or continuation of the project.
- If in connection with this work any human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony as defined in the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (Public Law 101-601; 104 Stat. 3048; 25 U.S.C. 3001) are discovered, operations in the immediate area of the discovery would stop, the remains and objects would be protected, and the GCPNM Manager (or their designee) would be immediately notified. The immediate area of the discovery would be protected until notified by the GCPNM Manager (or their designee) that operations may resume.

### ***Wildlife Resources***

- The work crew chief must notify the BLM wildlife team lead at 435-688-3373 if California condors visit the worksite while construction is underway. Project activities would be modified or delayed where adverse effects to condors may result.
- If an active bird nest is found during construction in a location that would be adversely affected by operations at the site, the BLM wildlife team lead would be contacted to determine an alternative action.
- Any hollow metal and/or plastic (PVC) pipes and posts used or stored temporarily during construction or left permanently in place would be capped to prevent birds, small mammals, or reptiles from becoming entrapped.
- No hazing or harassment of wildlife is permitted.
- No smooth or barbed wire t-posts structures would be used to strengthen the integrity of the troughs to keep them from moving. Instead, heavy equipment sized tires would be secured using concrete. This would facilitate ingress and egress of wildlife, particularly bat species.

- Wildlife escape ramps would be secured in each trough before it is filled. Either lids or wildlife escape ramps and floating bird ladders would be installed to the storage tanks or ponds.
- Construction would be limited to daylight hours to minimize impacts to wildlife.
- Open trenches have the potential to trap and injure wildlife. During pipeline construction these risks would be mitigated by minimizing the length of time trenches are left open, providing escape avenues (lateral trenches) for wildlife when left overnight, and inspecting the trenches prior to backfill activities.
- The project sites would be cleaned up at the end of each day the work is being conducted (e.g., trash removed, scrap materials picked up); waste materials would be disposed of promptly at an appropriate waste disposal site. “Waste” means all discarded matter including, but not limited to, human waste, trash, garbage, refuse, oil drums, petroleum products, ashes, and equipment. “Waste” also includes the creation of micro-trash such as bottle caps, pull tabs, broken glass, cigarette butts, small plastic, food materials, bullets, bullet casings, etc. No micro-trash would be left at project sites to minimize the likelihood of condors visiting the site. BLM staff may conduct site visits to the area to ensure adequate clean-up measures are taken.

### ***Soil Resources***

- Soil disturbance associated with construction activities would be limited to the proposed project footprint.
- Construction activities would be limited to periods when the ground surface is not excessively wet in order to avoid soil compaction and displacement. Excessively wet is defined by ruts four inches or deeper forming in the soil from the weight of equipment tires or tracks.

### ***Vegetation Resources***

- Vehicles and equipment would be power washed off-site before construction activities begin to minimize the risk of spreading noxious weeds. This would include cleaning all equipment before entering the Arizona Strip. The project areas would be monitored by BLM staff and permittees for noxious weeds for two years following completion of the projects.
- If seeding is deemed necessary to reduce erosion or accentuate restoration of bare ground at any of the sites, site specific seed would be applied at quantities and season to ensure successful restoration.

### ***Hazmat***

- At no time would vehicle or equipment fluids (including motor oil and lubricants) be dumped on public lands. All accidental spills would be reported to the authorized officer and be cleaned up immediately, using best available practices and requirements of the law, and disposed of in an authorized disposal site. All spills of federally or state listed hazardous materials which exceed the reportable quantities would be promptly reported to the appropriate agency and the authorized officer.

## **Monitoring**

Monitoring would consist of BLM staff inspecting the project site during the construction phase of the water catchment to ensure compliance with the BMPs/design features listed above.

Monitoring for invasive noxious weeds would occur for a minimum of two years following completion of the project. The water catchment would be monitored on a yearly basis by the grazing permittee to ensure the water catchment, pipeline, troughs, and storage tank are functioning properly. Monitoring would include inspections of the pipeline routes to determine if public use is occurring such that the routes are becoming new “roads” and therefore if additional mitigation (beyond concealment of the routes using natural materials as barriers) is necessary.

### **B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance**

The proposed action is in conformance with the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument Resource Management Plan (GCPNM RMP) (BLM 2008), approved January 29, 2008.

The following decisions are from Table 2.12 of the GCPNM RMP regarding management of livestock grazing:

**DFC-GM-01:** Healthy, sustainable rangeland ecosystems will be maintained or improved to meet Arizona’s Standards for Rangeland Health and produce a wide range of public values such as wildlife habitat, livestock forage, recreation opportunities, clean water, and functional watersheds.

**DFC-GM-02:** Livestock use and associated management practices will be conducted in a manner consistent with other resource needs and objectives to ensure that the health of rangeland resources is preserved or improved so that they are productive for all rangeland values. Where needed, public rangeland ecosystems will be improved to meet objectives.

The following decisions are from Table 2.4 in the RMP regarding Wildlife and Fish Management.

**DFC-WF-03:** Forage, water, cover, and space will be available to wildlife of sufficient quality and quantity to support productive and diverse wildlife populations.

**DFC-WF-04:** All waters will be safely available to wildlife.

**DFC-WF-13:** Mule deer habitat will provide the necessary forage, water, cover, and shelter components for healthy, self-sustaining populations within the range of natural variability.

**DFC-WF-18:** Water sources within mule deer habitat will be safely accessible to deer and other wildlife.

It has also been determined that the proposed action would not conflict with other decisions throughout the plan.



**C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.**

This DNA is tiered to the Construction of Three Water Catchments for the Mt. Trumbull, Whiterock-Soapstone, Belnap and Big Springs Pipeline Allotments Environmental Assessment, DOI-BLM-AZ-A030-2019-0010-EA, completed in August 2020. These catchments were installed on allotments on both the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument and Arizona Strip Field Office.

**D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria**

**1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?**

Yes, the proposed action for the Hobble Canyon Water Catchment is similar to the water catchments analyzed in the Construction of Three Water Catchments for the Mt. Trumbull, Whiterock-Soapstone, Belnap and Big Springs Pipeline Allotments Environmental Assessment, DOI-BLM-AZ-A030-2019-0010-EA. The EA analyzed construction of three new water catchments, aprons, water storage tanks or line ponds, pipelines, and water troughs, which is the same as the proposed action in this DNA. The only difference is this proposed action is for one water catchment. The EA also analyzed the construction and maintenance of access roads to the project areas. The disturbance area of each catchment analyzed in the EA was approximately three acres per each catchment including access. The approximate disturbance area for this proposed action would be two acres including the proposed new catchment and the new access road (Table 1). The need for additional water on the Hobble Hills and Hobble Canyon Pastures would provide better distribution of forage utilization is the same need analyzed in the Construction of Three Water Catchments for the Mt. Trumbull, Whiterock-Soapstone, Belnap and Big Springs Pipeline Allotments EA, and does not have substantial differences that would need to be addressed in a new EA.

The resource conditions are sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the EA as the proposed catchment would be about 6.5 miles southwest of the Whiterock-Soapstone Allotment catchment. The Whiterock-Soapstone Allotment has similar types of vegetation, soils (both classified as loamy sites), precipitation zone (10-14 inches), and both lack reliable water sources in the pasture. The Whiterock-Soapstone water catchment is about 1/3 of a mile outside of the GCPNM boundary. This proposed project area would be on the GCPNM, the Big Springs Pipeline Allotment and Belnap Allotment catchment analyzed in the EA is on the GCPNM.

The proposed catchment design, materials, and construction and installation methods are the same as describe in the EA. The Best Management Practices/Design Features are the same for the proposed action as those analyzed in the EA. The impacts would be the same as describe in the EA.

**2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the new proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?**

Yes, there were two alternatives analyzed in the existing EA – the proposed action and no action. The catchments proposed for the Belnap Allotment and the Big Springs Pipeline Allotment are on GCPNM.

The proposed action analyzed in the EA included construction of water catchment aprons, water tanks or lined ponds, pipelines, new water troughs and new access roads, which is the same as what is proposed in this DNA. This proposed action would result in better distribution of cattle within the Hobble Hills and Hobble Canyon Pastures.

Under the No Action Alternative analyzed in the EA, the proposed catchment aprons, water tanks, lined ponds, pipelines, troughs, and new access roads would not be installed. Grazing would continue in the above-mentioned allotments without the addition of any new rangeland improvements. The environmental concerns, interests, and resource values are the same as described in the EA: livestock grazing, vegetation, and wildlife, including big game species, migratory birds, and sensitive species.

The purpose of the proposed project is not to increase permitted use, or animal unit months (AUMs), but to encourage and achieve better livestock distribution within the three grazing allotments analyzed in the EA. This proposed action would provide additional water sources for wildlife (including mule deer). The *Arizona Strip Interdisciplinary Mule Deer Management Plan 2010-2014*, which was developed jointly by the BLM and Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) states that “water distribution should be improved in [Units 13A and 13B] by utilizing both cooperative projects and wildlife catchments” (AGFD and BLM 2015). It should be noted that habitat management for non-listed, non-game species are typically provided in the form of supplemental benefits from actions designed to address other, targeted (i.e., threatened, endangered, candidate, or game species). These most often take the form of water developments or vegetative treatment projects. Thus, other wildlife species (along with mule deer) would benefit from the proposed water projects by improving water distribution and improving habitat use by these species as well, which are also objectives contained within the GCPNM RMP (BLM 2008).

The addition of this proposed water source would distribute livestock more evenly throughout the allotment and result in a more uniform use across the pastures (while not exceeding the maximum utilization level of 50%).

The purpose of the new water catchment and water troughs is the same as that for the catchment and troughs analyzed in the existing EA. The range of alternatives analyzed in the existing EA is therefore still appropriate under the current conditions and circumstances.

**3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?**

Yes, the existing Construction of Three Water Catchments for the Mt. Trumbull, Whiterock-Soapstone, Belnap and Big Springs Pipeline Allotments EA is still valid. This EA was completed in August 2020. This proposed action to install a water catchment design, materials, construction, and installation methods are the same as described in the EA. The Best Management Practices/Design Features are the same for the proposed action as those analyzed in the EA. The impacts would be the same, if not slightly less based on the shorter road needed in the above proposed action. Since it was completed, no new changes have occurred, such as listing of new species or revision of the rangeland health evaluation, which would change the analysis of the new proposed action.

**4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?**

Yes, the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects are the same as those identified in the Environmental Consequences section of the Construction of Three Water Catchments for the Mt. Trumbull, Whiterock-Soapstone, Belnap and Big Springs Pipeline Allotments EA. The only difference between this proposed action and the EA's proposed action is the project area size, each water catchment area analyzed in the EA was three acres, this proposed water catchment would disturb approximately two acres including the new access route.

The beneficial effects of the current proposed action include:

- Providing another reliable water source would ensure that pasture rotations occur as planned and provide more reliable deferment and rest of pastures for vegetation, which help maintain and/or improve the desired plant composition objectives that were identified in the Land Health Evaluation and therefore rangeland health within the pastures. Overall utilization would be more uniform throughout the pastures and would not exceed the maximum allowable of 50%.
- The proposed new water source would meet the objectives stated in *the Arizona Strip Interdisciplinary Mule Deer Management Plan 40 2015-2019* (AGFD and BLM 2015) pertaining to water availability and distribution – yearlong water availability and distribution would be increased in Unit 13B. While there would be more impact to vegetation (i.e., habitat) close to water troughs, these impacts would be offset by better distribution of livestock grazing in the Hobble Canyon and Hobble Hills Pastures and the Mud and Cane Spring Allotment.

The adverse effects of the current proposed action include:

- Impacts to vegetation and wildlife that would occur temporarily during construction and maintenance of the proposed water catchment, storage tank or pond, pipeline, troughs, and access road. Wildlife would be expected to return to the area after project completion. The long-term benefits of consistent water sources for wildlife would outweigh any short-term adverse impacts that could result from catchment construction and maintenance.
- Long-term impacts to vegetation and wildlife habitat from permanently removing vegetation at the apron, storage tank or pond, tire tanks, and access road of up to two acres. The pipeline would recover with time, there is adequate seed source in the surrounding area so seeding would not be required.
- Potential impacts would be minimized by implementing the BMPs/ Design Features in the Description of the Proposed Action above. These are the same BMPs as the EA.

These effects are the same as those described in the existing EA.

Like the existing EA, a class III cultural inventory has been conducted at the location of the proposed catchment and access roads. No historic or cultural resources are present in the areas where disturbance is proposed to occur. The proposed access road would be made along a flagged route with the blade up. Maintenance (blading) of the existing access road would be allowed in specific areas. No blading would occur in certain designated areas to avoid potential damage to cultural sites. The specificity of the existing analysis is adequate for this proposed action.

**5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?**

Yes, on January 23, 2020, a Notice of 30-Day Public Comment Period for the EA was sent to all interested parties, Tribal, and Interagency officials inviting public comments on the document. The EA was made available on the BLM's ePlanning website. A total of four comment letters were received. All comments were considered and incorporated as appropriate see Appendix E (Public Comments and Response) of the EA. Public involvement and interagency review were, and continue to be, adequate for the current proposed action. The resulting decision from the EA was not protested or appealed.

## E. Persons/Agencies /BLM Staff Consulted



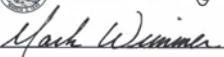
Gloria Benson, Tribal Liaison  
Kendra Thomas, Lands/Realty  
Eathan McIntyre, Soil/Water/Air  
Greg Page, Recreation/Wilderness/VRM  
David Van Alfen, Cultural Resources  
Jennifer Fox, Special Status Plants  
Jannice Cutler, Range/Vegetation/S&G  
Bryan Hansen, Geospatial  
Cody Goff, Fire/Fuel  
Amber Hughes, Planning & Environmental Coordinator  
Jeff Young, Wildlife/T&E Animals  
Mark Wimmer, Monument Manager, GCPNM

Ken Shurtliff, Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD)  
Rob Nelson, AGFD Habitat Evaluation and Lands Program Manager  
Daniel Bulletts, acting Environmental Program Director of the Kaibab Paiute Tribe (KPT)  
Martina Dawley, cultural staff for the Hualapai Tribe

## Conclusion

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the Grand Canyon-Parashant record of decision and land use plan. The existing NEPA documentation for the Construction of Three Water Catchments for the Mt. Trumbull, Whiterock-Soapstone, Belnap and Big Springs Pipeline Allotments EA fully covers the proposed action and constitutes the BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.

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0006-09-51:11 2021.09.23  
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## Attachments

Appendix A. Hobbie Canyon Water Catchment Location Maps

Figure 1 - Mud and Cane Spring Allotment - Overview Map

Figure 2 - Hobbie Canyon Water Catchment – Catchment Features Detail Map

Figure 3 - Hobbie Canyon Water Catchment – Road Access Map

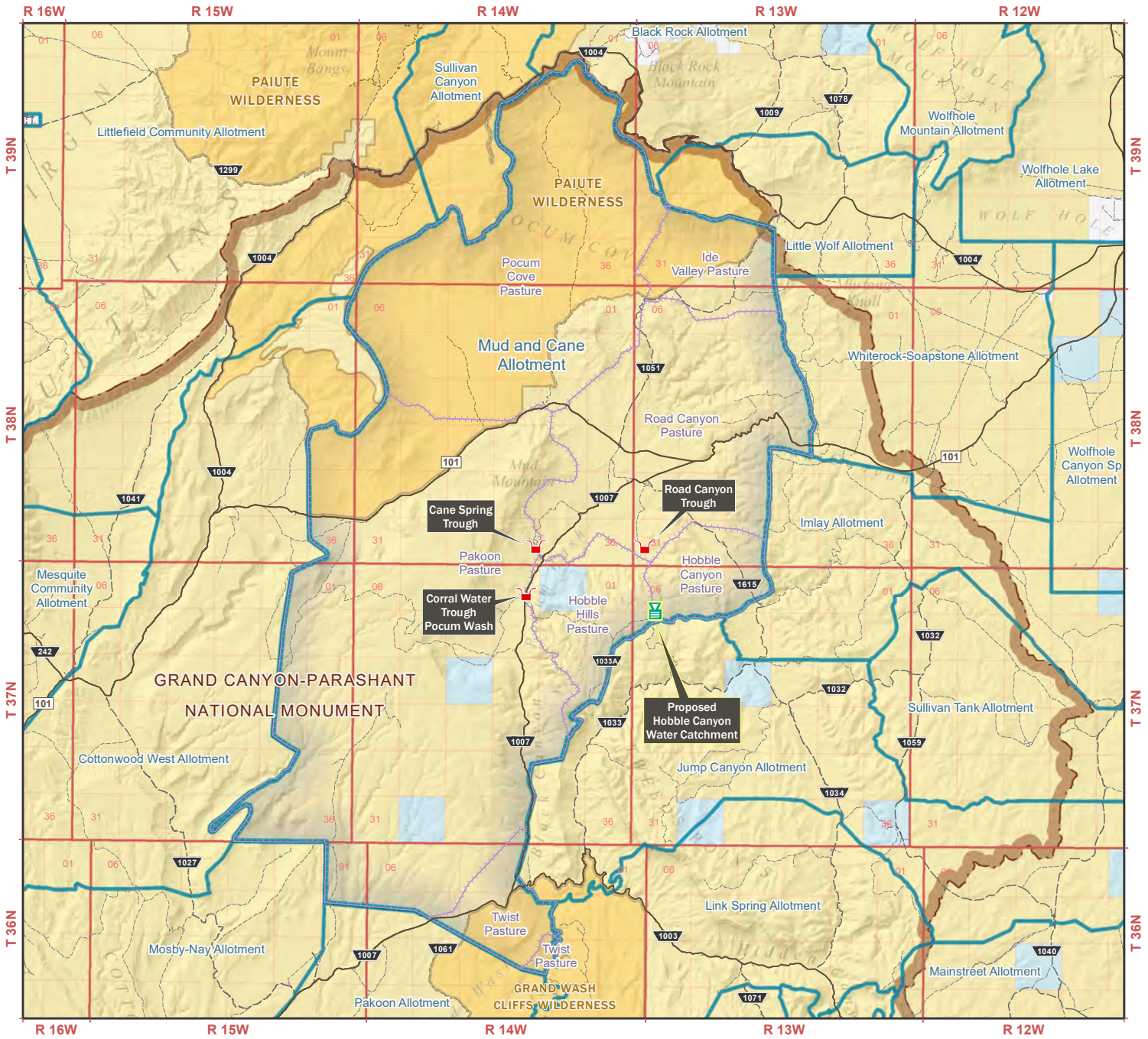
Appendix B. Photos of Proposed Catchment and Infrastructure

References

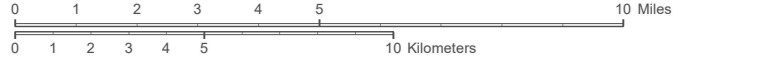




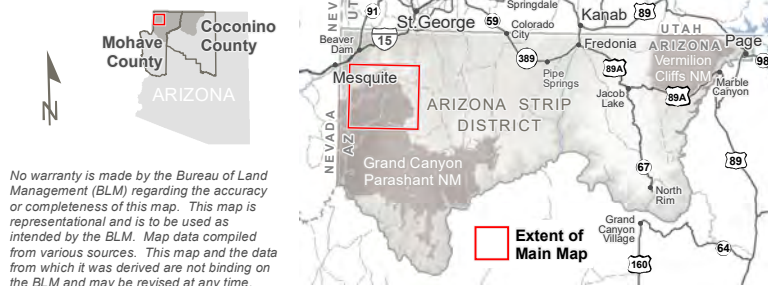
**Figure 1 - Hobble Canyon Water Catchment - Overview Map**  
**NEPA Project DOI-BLM-AZ-A030-2021-0011-DNA**  
**Bureau of Land Management - Arizona Strip District - Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument**



- Proposed Catchment Location
  - Existing Trough in Vicinity of Proposed Catchment and Troughs
  - Grazing Allotment
  - Grazing Pasture within Mud and Cane Allotment
  - BLM National Monument
- Surface Management**
- Bureau of Land Management
  - State
  - Private
- Designated Wilderness**
- BLM Wilderness Area Boundary
  - Federal Land within BLM Wilderness Area
- Arizona Strip Routes**
- Primary Road Unpaved
  - Secondary Road Unpaved
  - Tertiary Road Unpaved
  - Single Track



Map Produced by BLM Arizona Strip District  
 File: Map\_HobbleCanyon\_Catchment\_Overview\_2021.mxd  
 Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 12N  
 Reference System: U.S. PLSS GSR&M  
 Scale: 1:200,000 at 8.5x11 page output  
 Date: 8/19/2021

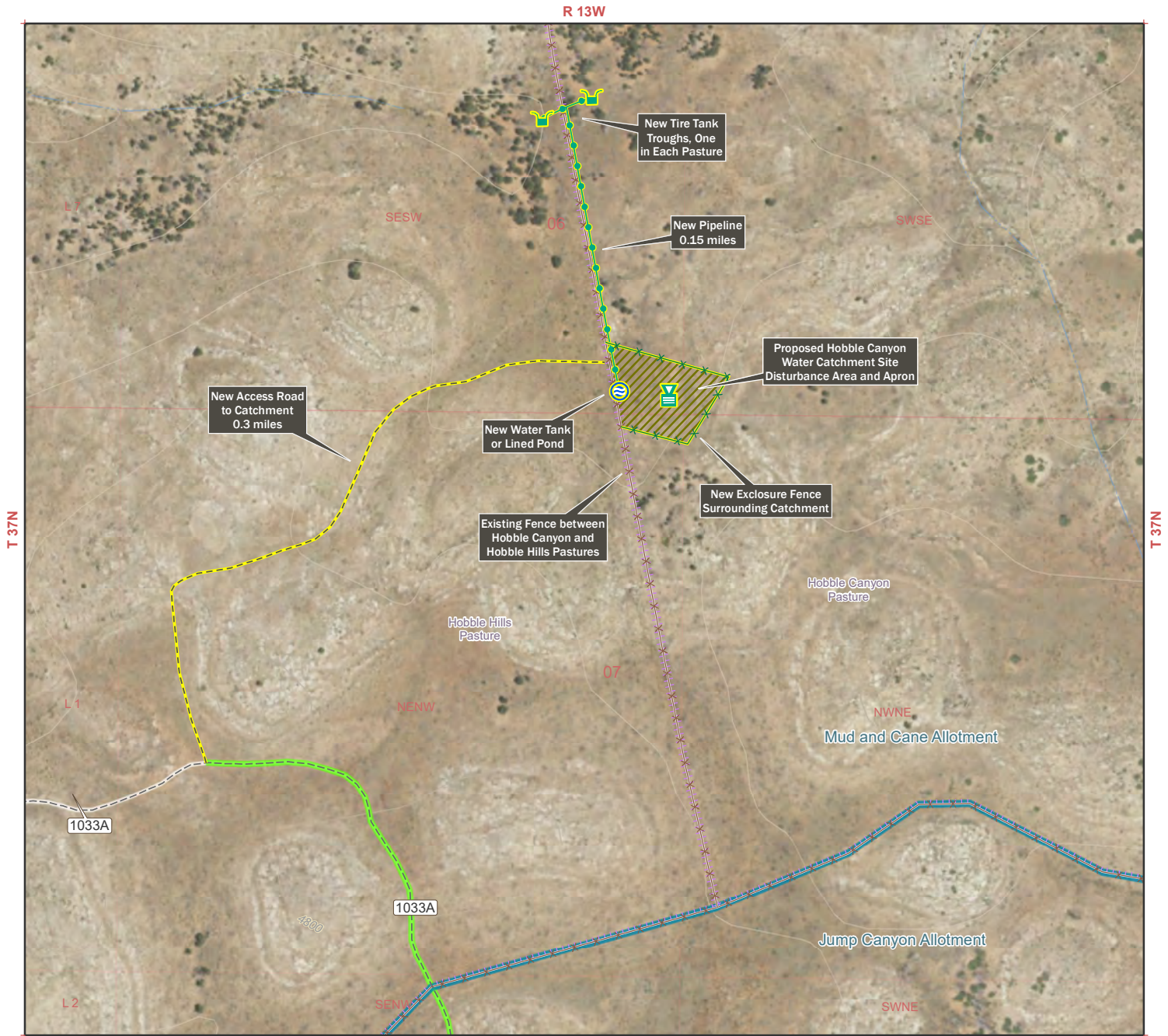


No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) regarding the accuracy or completeness of this map. This map is representational and is to be used as intended by the BLM. Map data compiled from various sources. This map and the data from which it was derived are not binding on the BLM and may be revised at any time.

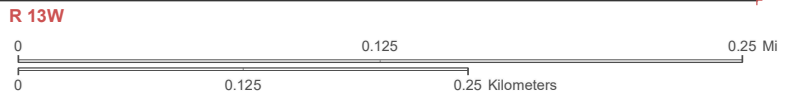




**Figure 2 - Hobble Canyon Water Catchment - Detail Map of Catchment Features**  
 NEPA Project DOI-BLM-AZ-A030-2021-0011-DNA  
 Bureau of Land Management - Arizona Strip District - Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument



- Proposed Catchment Location
- New Access Road
- Existing Access Road
- New Catchment Disturbance Area
- Arizona Strip Routes**
- Tertiary Road Unpaved
- Grazing Allotment
- Grazing Pasture within Mud and Cane Allotment
- Supplemental Storage Tank
- Trough
- Pipeline
- Fence
- Existing Range Improvement Line
- Fence
- Existing Range Improvement Line
- Fence



Map Produced by BLM Arizona Strip District  
 File: Map\_HobbleCanyon\_Catchment\_Detail\_2021.mxd  
 Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 12N  
 Reference System: U.S. PLSS GSRB&M  
 Scale: 1:4,200 at 8.5x11 page output  
 Date: 8/23/2021



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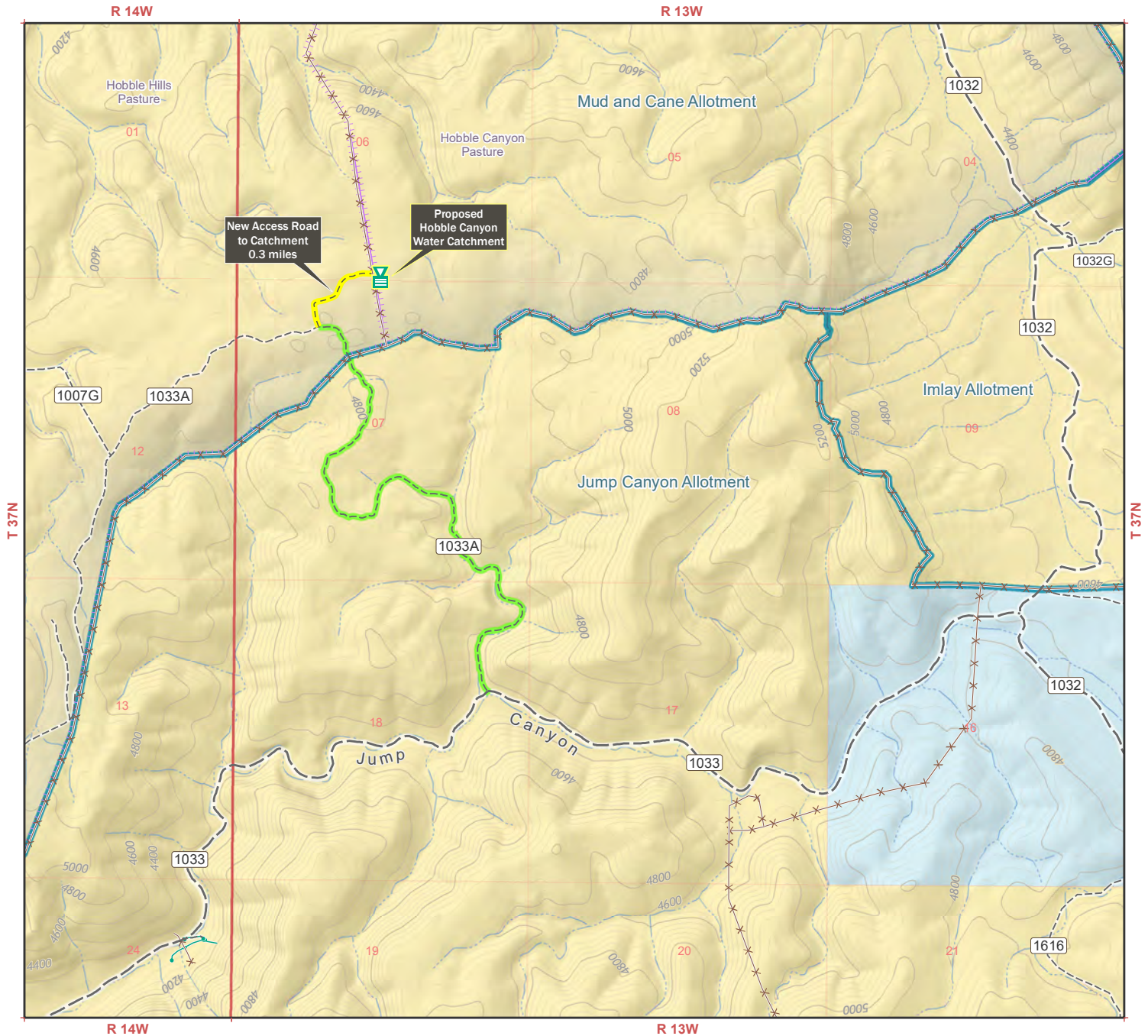


Extent of Main Map

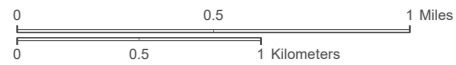




**Figure 3 - Hobble Canyon Water Catchment - Road Access Map**  
**NEPA Project DOI-BLM-AZ-A030-2021-0011-DNA**  
**Bureau of Land Management - Arizona Strip District - Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument**



- Proposed Catchment Location
- New Access Road
- Existing Access Road
- Arizona Strip Routes**
  - Secondary Road Unpaved
  - Tertiary Road Unpaved
- Range Improvement Line**
  - Fence
  - Pipeline
- Grazing Allotment
- Grazing Pasture within Mud and Cane Allotment
- Surface Management Agency**
  - Bureau of Land Management
  - State
- PLSS Township
- PLSS Section



Map Produced by BLM Arizona Strip District  
 File: Map\_HobbleCanyon\_Catchment\_Road\_Access\_2021.mxd  
 Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 12N  
 Reference System: U.S. PLSS GSRB&M  
 Scale: 1:31,000 at 8.5x11 page output  
 Date: 8/23/2021



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**APPENDIX B – Photos of Proposed Catchment and Infrastructure**



Figure B.1. Catchment Apron.



Figure B.2. Lined Storage Pond.





Figure B.3. Metal Storage Tank.



Figure B.4. Tire Trough.

## References

Arizona Game and Fish Department and U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (AGFD and BLM). 2015. *Arizona Strip Interdisciplinary Mule Deer Management Plan 2015-2019*.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM). U.S. Department of the Interior. 2008. *Grand Canyon Parashant National Monument Resource Management Plan*. Bureau of Land Management, St. George, Utah.

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Horn, B. 2005. Livestock Grazing Distribution. University of Wyoming Extension Fact Sheet MP-111.05. Accessed from Global Rangelands Internet sSte 11/7/2019:  
<https://globalrangelands.org/topics/uses-range-and-pasture-lands/managing-distribution-livestock>

## Appendix C - ID Team Checklist

### Hobble Canyon Pasture Water Catchment DNA

NP = Not present in the area impacted by any of the alternative

NI = Present, but not affected to a degree that detailed analysis is required

PI=Present with potential for impact – analyzed in detail in the EA

NC = No Change (DNAs only) actions and impacts not changed from those disclosed in the existing NEPA documents cited in Section D of the DNA form

Resource	Determination	Rationale for Determination
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	NP	No areas of critical environmental concern are within the project area.
Environmental Justice	NC	Actions and impacts not changed from those disclosed in the existing NEPA document.
Farmlands (Prime or Unique)	NP	There are no prime or unique farmlands within the project area.
Native American Religious Concerns	NC	The proposed action is not expected to limit access to or ceremonial use of known American Indian sacred sites.
Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Plant Species	NP	There are no Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Plant Species or habitat known to occur within the proposed treatment area.
Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Animal Species	NC	Actions and impacts not changed from those disclosed in the existing NEPA document.
Cultural Resources	NP	Class III (intensive-level) cultural resources inventories have been conducted within areas proposed for ground-disturbing activities. The proposed activity would have no adverse effect on any eligible property.
Invasive, Non-native Species	NC	Actions and impacts not changed from those disclosed in the existing NEPA document.

Wastes (hazardous or solid)	NC	Measures to prevent the spillage of hazardous materials have been built into the proposed action (see Project Design Features). Actions and impacts not changed from those disclosed in the existing NEPA document.
Wetlands / Riparian Zones	NP	There are no wetlands/riparian zones within or near the project area.
Wild and Scenic Rivers	NP	There are no wild and scenic rivers within or near the project area.
Designated Wilderness	NP	There are no wilderness areas within or near the project area.
Livestock Grazing	NC	Actions and impacts not changed from those disclosed in the existing NEPA document.
Woodland / Forestry	NC	Actions and impacts not changed from those disclosed in the existing NEPA document.
Vegetation	NC	Actions and impacts not changed from those disclosed in the existing NEPA document.
Sensitive Plant Species	NP	There are no Sensitive Plant Species or habitat known to occur within the proposed treatment area.
Wildlife (including sensitive species and migratory birds)	NC	Actions and impacts not changed from those disclosed in the existing NEPA document.
Soil Resources	NC	Actions and impacts not changed from those disclosed in the existing NEPA document.
Recreation	NC	The proposed action and related impacts are not substantially changed from those disclosed and analyzed in the referenced NEPA document.
Visual Resources	NC	The proposed action and related impacts are not substantially changed from those disclosed and analyzed in the referenced NEPA document. They are both in the same VRM class as referenced in the EA.
Geology / Mineral Resources / Energy Production	NC	Actions and impacts not changed from those disclosed in the existing NEPA document.
Paleontology	NC	Actions and impacts not changed from those disclosed in the existing NEPA document.
Lands / Access	NP	There are no land use authorizations issued within the project area nor are there any proposed land tenure

		actions being considered in this area. The project would not affect access to the area.
Fuels / Fire Management	NC	Hazardous fuels prevention and mitigation actions and impacts not changed from those disclosed in the existing NEPA document.
Socio-economic Values	NC	Actions and impacts not changed from those disclosed in the existing NEPA document.
Wild Horses and Burros	NP	There are no wild horses or burros within the project area. No Herd Areas or Herd Management Areas exist within the project area.
Lands Managed to Maintain Wilderness Characteristics	NP	There are no lands managed to maintain wilderness characteristics in or near the project area.