

Southern NV BLM RMP Public Input Meetings January 2018

Talking Points and Background for Gold Butte National Monument

The Gold Butte National Monument has extraordinary cultural, historic, and natural resources. These extraordinary resources include: <Personalize to your own experience. Examples below.>

- Thousands of Native American artifacts such as petroglyph panels and agave roasting pits
- Historic pioneer-era sites such as the Gold Butte townsite
- Rare and threatened wildlife such as the Mojave desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep
- Dramatic geologic features like sculpted red sandstone and rock spires
- Fossil track-sites dating back 170-180 and 280 million years
- Iconic Southern Nevada Joshua trees and the Las Vegas Bear Poppy

I/We want a monument management plan that protects important resources while enhancing the experience for current and future visitors.

A successful monument management plan would:

- **Manage visitation and travel at key sites**, creating a positive visitor experience and protecting the resources for future generations.
 - ◆ We need a management plan that addresses current visitation and travel needs, but which allows room for appropriate changes to **interpretation, signage, infrastructure (i.e., bathrooms), and enforcement** in the future.
 - Personalize your comments and provide specific examples of needs based on your own experience in Gold Butte.
 - ◆ Note: Individual organizations, situations can determine what (if anything) to say specifically about motorized and non-motorized uses
 - **Background:** Motorized travel in Gold Butte is restricted to designated roads and trails as outlined in a 2008 Travel Management Plan. More information can be found on the [BLM's website under the "Designated Roads" tab.](#)
- **Inventory important resources** such as: <Personalize. Examples below>
 - ◆ Cultural sites
 - ◆ Historic sites
 - ◆ Wildlife habitat and corridors
 - ◆ Fossil sites
 - ◆ Native and sensitive plant species and invasive plants
 - ◆ Springs and other water sources
- **Manage invasive species** (such as red brome) affecting native plant populations and ecosystem function.
- **Define management approaches for special designation areas within the monument** (such as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Lands with Wilderness Characteristics, Special Recreation and Extensive Recreation Management areas) to actively safeguarding important resources

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- ◆ **Background:** Administrative management designations, such as those listed above, can be included in land management plans to provide for adequate guidance in the management of historic, cultural, natural, and recreational resources.
 - Currently, the entire Gold Butte area includes 7 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern as listed below. ACECs provide special management attention to protect and prevent damage to historic, cultural and scenic values, fish and wildlife populations, and other natural resources or processes.
 - Gold Butte (Part A) Desert Tortoise Critical Habitat
 - Gold Butte (Part B) Cultural, scenic, wildlife habitat, sensitive species
 - Gold Butte (Part C) Scenic, wildlife habitat, botanical
 - Gold Butte Townsites – Historical
 - Red Rock Spring Prehistoric sites, rock art
 - Whitney Pocket Prehistoric sites, historic sites, rock art
 - Devil’s Throat – natural hazard - sinkhole
 - Gold Butte has two recreation designations. It is a Special Recreation Management Area and an Extensive Recreation Management Area to “maintain a variety of dispersed recreation opportunities that facilitate visitor freedom to access a range of outdoor recreation activities associated with a wide-open landscape with limited developments.” Appendix F of the Draft RMP provides information about the [SRMA](#) and [ERMA](#) for Gold Butte.
 - Lands With Wilderness Characteristics (LWCs) are managed to protect wilderness characteristics in roadless areas with over 5,000 acres of contiguous BLM lands. In Gold Butte, there are 7 areas designated as LWCs described in [Appendix D of the Draft RMP](#).
 - Billy Goat Peak
 - Black Ridge
 - Garrett Buttes
 - Lime Canyon Addition Subunits A, B, and C
 - Whitney Pocket West