



Gold Butte National Monument

Gold Butte National Monument Implementation Plan Virtual Public Scoping Meeting November 29 and 30, 2022

Welcome!

The meeting will begin shortly. Thank you for your patience as we wait for others to join.

Please join using computer audio – if you are having issues accessing your audio, please send a chat message to “Hosts and Panelists.”

To access the live transcript of the meeting, at the bottom of your screen, click Live Transcript, then select Show Subtitle.

**Please note this transcript is computer-generated by Zoom and is not an official verbatim transcript of the meeting.*

This meeting is being recorded.



Meeting Agenda

- Meeting Logistics and Introductions
- Presentation
- Question-and-Answer Session
- Public Scoping Input Session
 - Focused on public input
 - Answers to questions will not be given during this time
 - BLM will record input to inform the Implementation Plan and the Environmental Assessment



This meeting will be recorded, and the video will be provided later on YouTube



Meeting Logistics

Participation Guidelines:

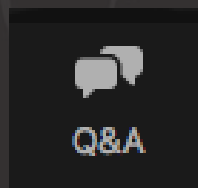
- Attendee videos will remain off for the duration of the meeting today.
- Questions will be received using the Q&A feature.
- The chat feature will not be used for the Q&A or the public scoping input session.
- If you are having a technical issue with your Zoom features, please use the chat feature to send a message to “Hosts and Panelists”.
- Microphones will remain on mute until the final public scoping input session.
- Verbal input during the scoping session will be received first by participants who indicated they wanted to provide input when they registered for today’s meeting. Other participants will then be able to provide input using the raised hand icon.



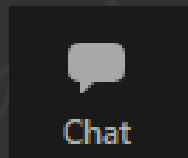
Meeting Details

Tips and Tricks for Zoom:

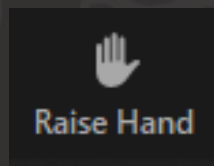
- Use the Q&A icon for the question-and-answer session



- Use the Chat icon only for urgent technical questions.



- Use the Raise Hand feature during the public input session



- Mute/Unmute will be controlled by the host for the entirety of the forum.
- Phone caller instructions –*9 to raise your hand to ask a question or provide input



Introductions

Several project team members will be presenting or participating in the meeting, including:

Presenters

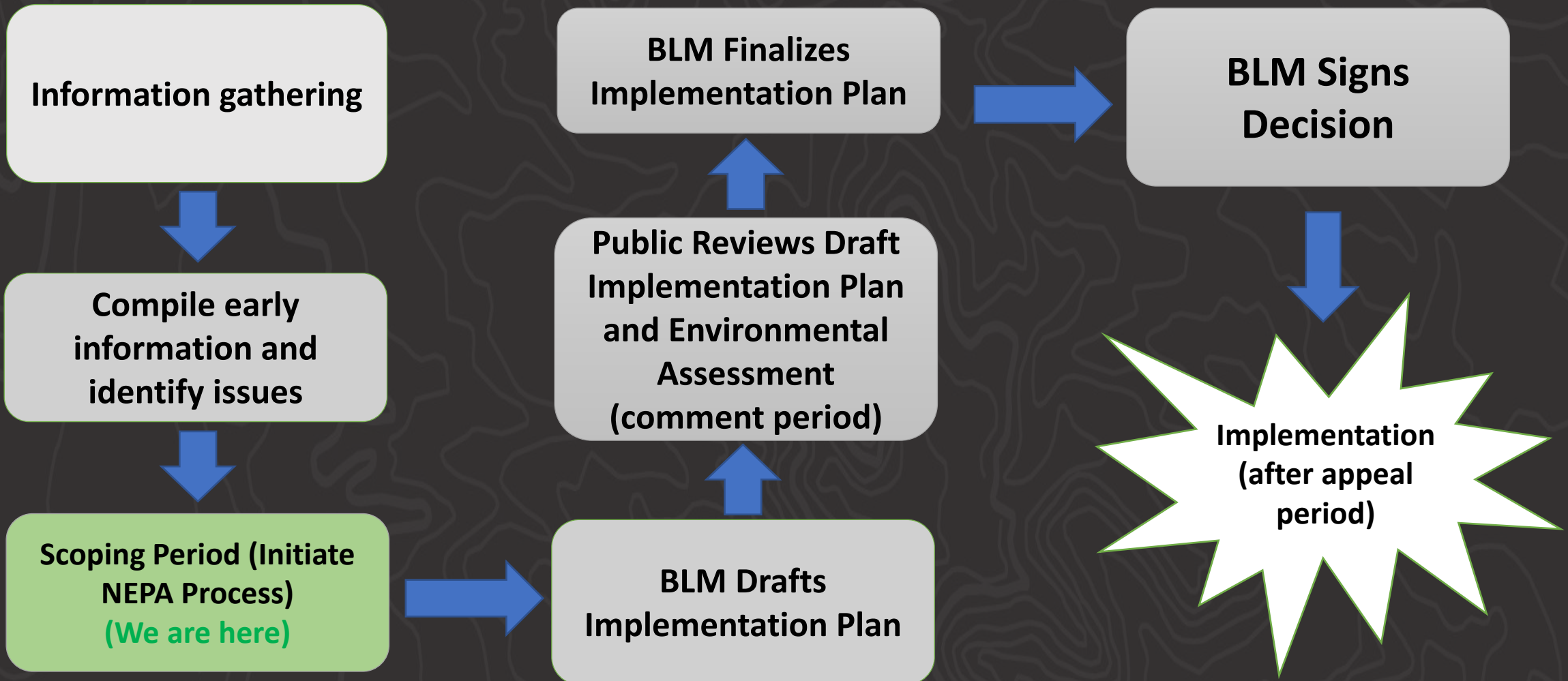
- Stephen Leslie (BLM)
- Kathryn Lloyd (BLM)
- Alli Yamnitsky (EMPSi)

Team Members

- Lee Kirk
- Colleen Cepero Rios
- Jimmy Linares
- John Asselin
- Tyler Warner
- Jennifer Durk
- Tiffany Arend
- Curtis Walker



Implementation Plan Process





Why an Implementation Plan?

Presidential Proclamation 9559

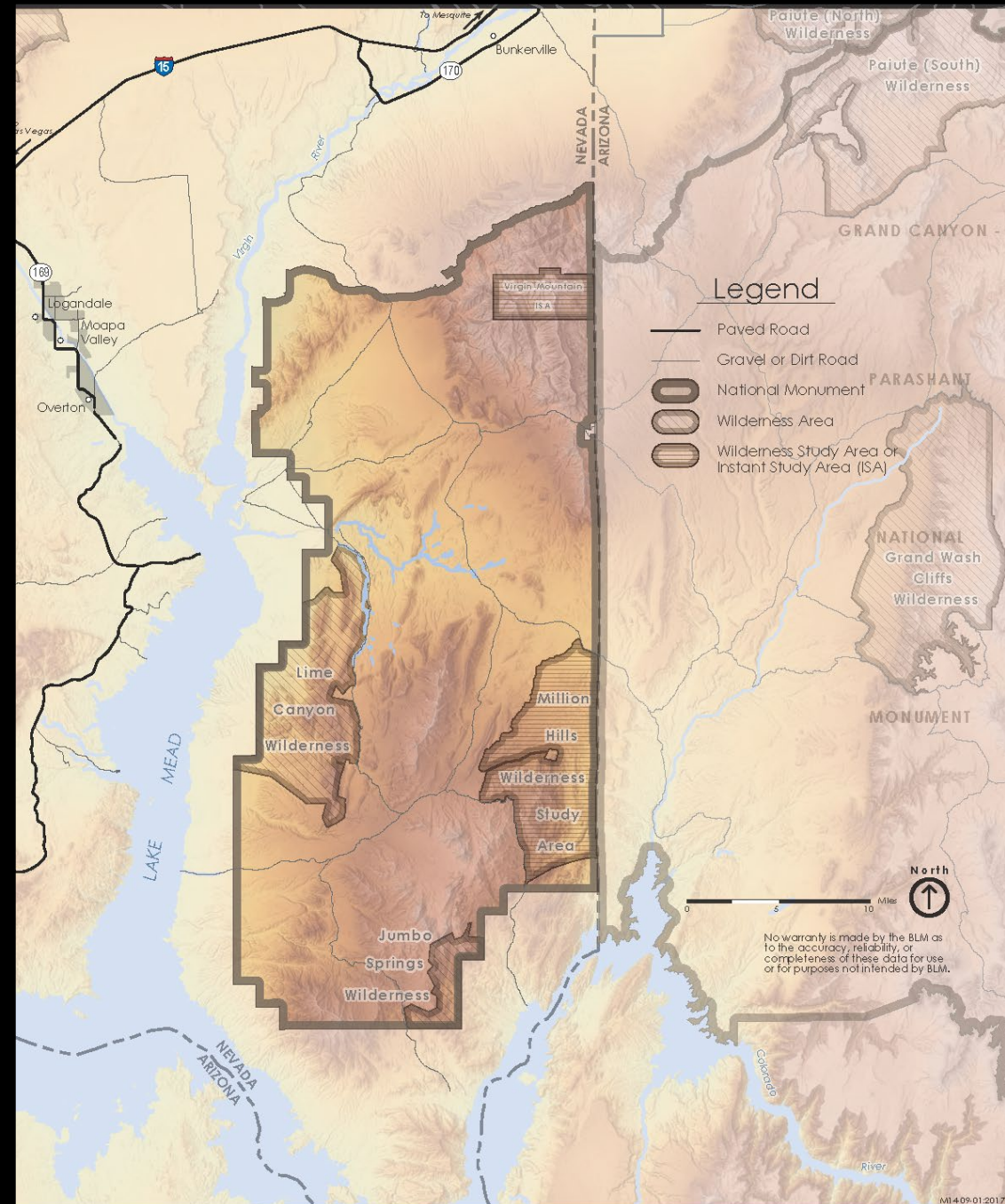
- Directs the Secretary of the Interior to prepare and maintain a management plan for the monument
- Requires maximum public involvement in the plan development

Implementation Plan will:

- Focus management activities
- Consider stakeholder issues and concerns
- Determine site-specific actions to implement
- Provide opportunities for collaboration



Gold Butte National Monument





Gold Butte National Monument Overview

- Gold Butte National Monument was added to the BLM's National Landscape Conservation System by Presidential Proclamation on December 28, 2016
- Located in northeastern Clark County between the City of Mesquite and Lake Mead National Recreation Area
- Covers nearly 300,000 acres of remote and rugged desert landscape in southeastern Nevada





Gold Butte National Monument Overview

- Cultural, historic, and prehistoric resources:
 - Vital plant and wildlife habitat
 - Significant geological formations
 - Rare fossils
 - Remnants of our Western mining and ranching heritage
 - Significant prehistoric sites from the Native American heritage
- Uses include:
 - Hiking
 - Camping
 - Off Highway Vehicle operation
 - Horseback riding
 - Hunting
 - Wildlife viewing



What are BLM's initial Implementation Plan Questions and Considerations?

Cultural, Historic, and Tribal Resources

- What resource concerns are present and what management activities should be taken to protect, restore or enhance cultural and historical sites?
- What management actions are needed to ensure a continuation of tribal activities and traditional uses?
- What site specific concerns do you have?
- *Example:* Should more interpretive and site-specific educational materials be provided at select cultural sites?



What are BLM's initial Implementation Plan Questions and Considerations?

Wildlife and Special Status Species

- What resource concerns are present and what management activities should be taken to protect, restore or enhance priority species and their habitats, including critical habitat for desert tortoise?
- What site specific concerns do you have?
- *Example:* Should a volunteer-based wildlife monitoring program be developed?





What are BLM's initial Implementation Plan Questions and Considerations?

Vegetation Resources

- What resource concerns are present and what management activities should be taken to protect, restore or enhance vegetation, including the biological crusts, and native plant communities?
- What site specific concerns do you have?
- Which treatments should be considered to reduce the spread of exotic or invasive species?
- *Example:* For restoration efforts, should seed and plant materials be solely sourced from Gold Butte National Monument?





What are BLM's initial Implementation Plan Questions and Considerations?

Recreation

- What resource concerns are present and what management actions should be taken to protect, restore or enhance recreational opportunities?
- What site specific concerns do you have?
- *Example:* What types of facilities, such as restrooms, might be needed for current and future recreational uses and where would you like to see them?





Public Input Period Summary

- **Resources, uses, and special designations** – 84.4% of the total comments. The largest percentage of these included:
 - Facilities – 19.1%
 - Cultural Resources – 9.5%
 - Road Maintenance – 5.8%
 - Off-Road Vehicle Use – 5.6%
 - Other resources, uses, and special designations – 40.4%
- **NEPA** (public outreach, cumulative impacts, mitigation and monitoring, etc.) – 14.0% of the total comments
- **Proclamation 9559** – 1.1% of the total comments
- **Other Laws and Policies** – 0.5% of the total comments





Preliminary Alternative A (No Action)

Under the no-action alternative:

- The BLM would not adopt the Gold Butte National Monument (GBNM) Implementation Plan (IP)
- The decisions detailed in the signed Presidential Proclamation 9559, which established the monument, would supersede decisions from the 1998 Las Vegas Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Record of Decision (ROD) 1998
- The goals and objectives for BLM-administered lands would not change
- Appropriate allocations and restrictions pertaining to activities, such as recreation, would also remain the same
- All uses would be consistent with the care and management of the objects identified in the proclamation

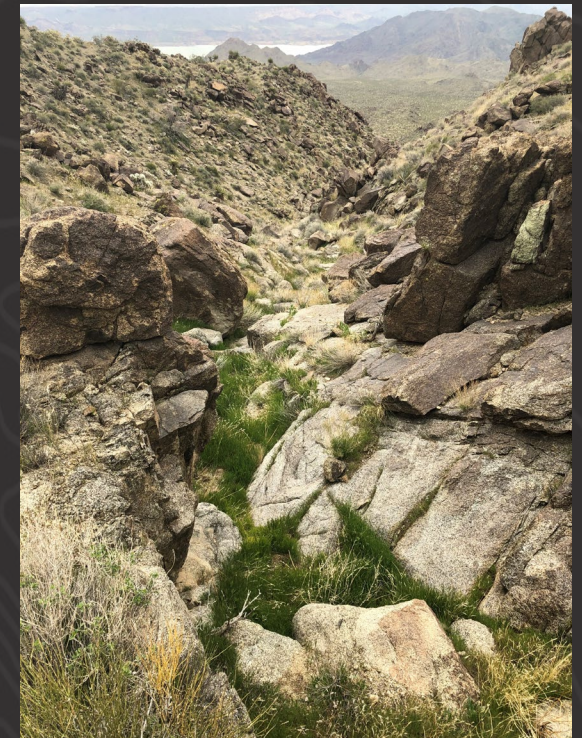




Preliminary Alternative B (Proposed Action)

Alternative B emphasizes maintaining or enhancing priority species and habitats, and preserving and restoring cultural and historic resources, while allowing for appropriate uses consistent with the care and management of the objects identified in the proclamation. Under this alternative, BLM would adopt the GBNM IP.

- **Provides measures for maintaining and improving vegetation, biological crusts, and native plant species.**
- **Implement treatments to reduce the spread of exotic and invasive species**
- **Protect, preserve, and restore cultural and historic resources**
- **Manage high visitation areas to continue to provide sustainable recreation opportunities while protecting sensitive resources**
- **Manage trails and infrastructure in the Whitney Pocket area consistent with the Gold Butte National Monument Historic Properties Treatment Plan**
- **Consider select sites for designated developed camping areas, with limited infrastructure and amenities, such as, but not limited to restrooms, picnic tables, shade structures, and trash receptacles, consistent with the care and management of the objects identified in the proclamation.**





Preliminary Alternative C (Increased Recreation Use)

Alternative C emphasizes opportunities for increased recreational use, while still maintaining or enhancing priority species and habitats, and preserving and restoring cultural and historic resources.



- **Allow for increased recreational use and offer amenities such as, but not limited to, a visitor center/contact station, designated parking areas, trailheads, designated camping areas and specific designated camping areas to accommodate recreational vehicles (RVs)**
- **Install a viewing platform at Devil's Throat**
- **Increased signage throughout the monument**
- **Develop multiple nonmotorized trails and increase road improvements in high visitation areas**
- **Consider adding additional recreation infrastructure specific to the Whitney Pocket area and Cabin Canyon**
- **Consider special recreation permit proposals, such as for off-road vehicle use, equestrian use, and vendors consistent with the care and management of objects identified in the proclamation**



Preliminary Alternative D (Management for Use and Resource Protection)

Alternative D emphasizes maintaining or enhancing priority species and habitats, and preserving and restoring cultural and historic resources, while allowing for appropriate uses consistent with the care and management of the objects identified in the proclamation. This alternative would have the most restrictions on recreational use, infrastructure, and amenities.

- Provide limited opportunities for recreation and nonmotorized travel
- Minimize development of recreational facilities, infrastructure, and amenities
- Minimize and limit sign installations, parking areas, trailheads and trailhead construction, bathroom installations, developed camping areas, and road improvements and maintenance
- Proactive in promoting conservation and recovery of endangered and other special status species, preserving, and restoring cultural and historic resources and protecting other social and scientific values consistent with the care and management of the objects identified in the proclamation

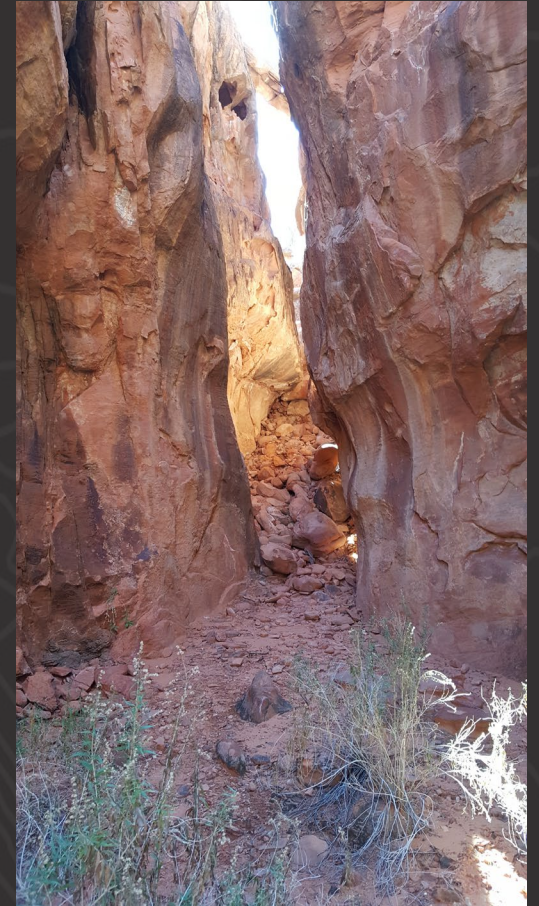




Common to all Preliminary Alternatives

Under all alternatives the BLM would:

- Allow low-level overflight of military aircraft, the designation of new units of special-use airspace, military flight training routes
- Motorized vehicle use on roads designated as open, and non-motorized mechanized use on roads and trails
- Provide for operation, maintenance, replacement, modification, or upgrade within the physical authorization boundary of existing water infrastructure and telecommunication facilities
- Appropriate and withdraw lands within the monument's boundaries from all disposition under public land laws and disposition under laws related to mineral and geothermal leasing
- Renew, operate, maintain, replace, and modify water delivery facilities from valid existing water rights while protecting natural and cultural resources
- Ensure the protection of Indian sacred sites and traditional cultural properties in the monument and provide access for traditional cultural and customary uses
- Not authorize new rights of way, issue new grazing permits or leases, or interfere with the jurisdiction of the State of Nevada
- Consider special recreation permit proposals on a case-by-case basis





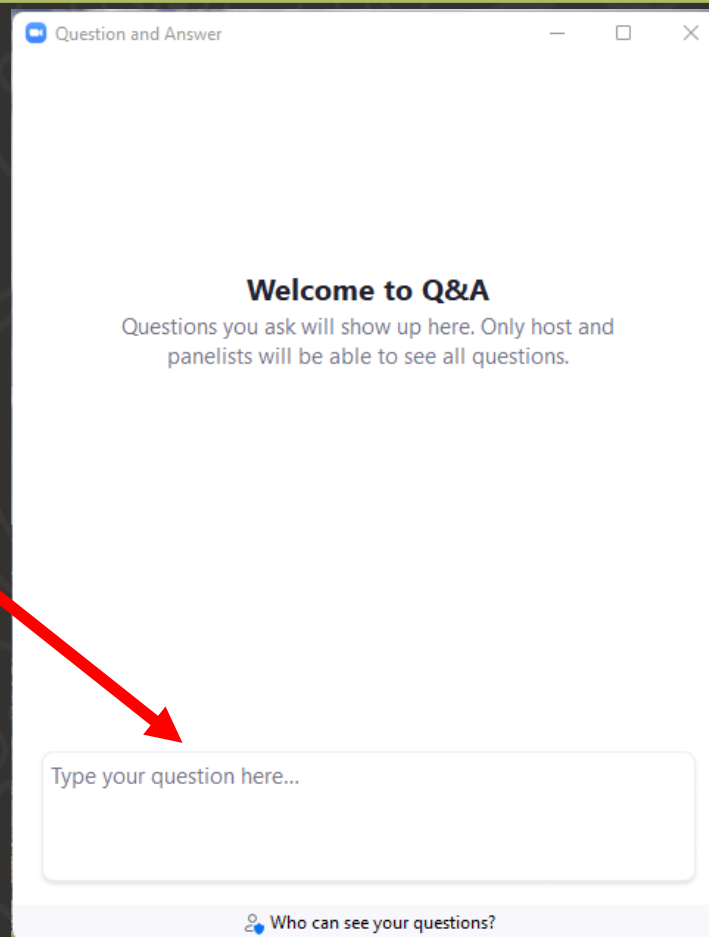
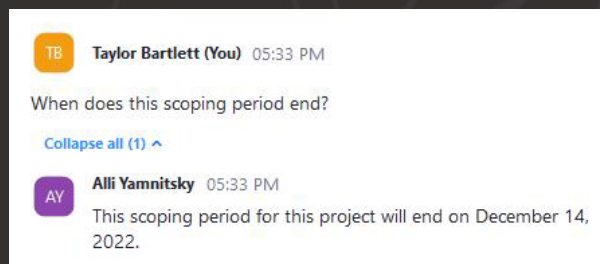
Question and Answer Session

- Step 1: Click the “Q&A” button at bottom of your screen



- Step 2: Type your question and press the send button

- Step 3: Wait for BLM to answer your question live or written



Guidance:

- Only submit your question once
- BLM will answer questions as quickly as possible; however, it may take a few minutes for them to process the question to provide the answer
- Do not use the Chat button to submit a question, only use the Q&A icon.

More information is available at the project website: www.virtualpublicmeeting.com/gold-butte-national-monument-ea



Public Scoping Session: Ground Rules

- Because the BLM wants to hear from all members of the public, we will be using the following guidelines:
 - Be mindful of the length of your comment, so that everyone can speak
 - Please be respectful of others
 - Refrain from profanity
- If guidelines are not followed, your microphone will be muted, and we will move to the next person.



Public Scoping Session: How to Provide Verbal Input

- Input will be accepted in the order of registration
- Once your name is called, use the “Raise Hand” feature and the forum facilitator will open your microphone
- If you are on the phone, you can raise your hand with *9
- Please spell out your full first and last name for the record before you provide your comment.
- A timer will be displayed on your screen to show the time remaining for your input
- Your input will be included in the project record





Public Comment Session

BLM wants to hear from all members of the public. Out of respect for everyone's participation and input, we will be using the following guidelines:

- Stay within your allotted time so that everyone can speak
- Please be respectful of others
- Refrain from profanity

If guidelines are not followed, your microphone will be muted, and we will move to the next person.

2:00



Raise Hand

Next 6 commenters

- 1) TBD
- 2) TBD
- 3) TBD
- 4) TBD
- 5) TBD
- 6) TBD

If you did not get to speak or want to provide more input, please visit the project website for more information www.virtualpublicmeeting.com/gold-butte-national-monument-ea



Closing Remarks

Thank you for attending!

- More information is available at the public meeting website:
www.virtualpublicmeeting.com/gold-butte-national-monument-ea
- How to provide input:
 - BLM National NEPA Register: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2021951/510>
 - Email: BLM_NV_LVFO_GoldButte@blm.gov
 - Mail: BLM – Las Vegas Field Office
Attn: GBNM IP and EA
4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89130

Input must be received by December 14, 2022



Closing Remarks

Thank you for attending!

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The BLM is available until 8pm to accept verbal public comment and provide written response to any further questions

Input must be received by December 14, 2022