Outcome Focused Management Focus Group Report

Bears Ears National Monument

Utah

2022-2023

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Public Lands Recreational Research Partnership

A collaboration between the Bureau of Land Management,
University of Alaska, Fairbanks, and Colorado Mesa University

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Acknowledgements

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement and Burden Estimate Statement

- An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number and expiration date. The OMB control number for this focus group is 1004-0217 (expiration date: 04/30/2025).

- Public reporting for these focus groups was estimated to average 90 minutes per response.

Full Report

Introduction

In 2021-22, the Public Lands Recreation Research Partnership[1] (PLRRP) was asked to conduct research on the outdoor recreation taking place in Bears Ears National Monument and its impacts on surrounding landscapes and communities. This data will be used in the planning process to develop a resource management plan for the monument. The design called for a combination of on-site and take-home visitor surveys administered on the landscape during multiple recreation seasons and at sites across the entire landscape. These surveys were designed and administered by the UAF partners in PLRRP. Additionally, recreation focus groups were held on-line and in communities adjacent to the monument during the summer of 2022. These focus groups were designed and administered by the CMU partners in PLRRP. The following report represents the quantitative and qualitative data collected during those focus groups. A separate report summarizes the data gathered from the survey study.

Characteristics of the Monument

Bears Ears National Monument is a culturally and ecologically significant protected area located in southeastern Utah, United States. Spanning over 1.35 million acres (548,000 hectares) of rugged and diverse landscape, the monument is characterized by its stunning red rock formations, deep canyons, and expansive plateaus. The Monument is managed by the Bureau of Land Management in a unique cooperative management agreement with an Inter-tribal commission of the local indigenous population that have a long-term connection to this area.

This landscape holds great spiritual and cultural significance for numerous Native American tribes, including the Navajo, Hopi, Ute Mountain Ute, and Zuni, who have inhabited this region for thousands of years. The area is rich in archaeological sites, with thousands of artifacts, rock art panels, and cliff dwellings that offer a glimpse into the ancestral Puebloan and other indigenous cultures that have thrived in the area for many generations.

Bears Ears National Monument not only preserves this extraordinary cultural heritage but also safeguards a wide range of ecosystems. The monument encompasses several distinct ecological zones, including high desert, piñon-juniper woodlands, ponderosa pine forests, and riparian corridors. Its diverse habitats support a variety of plant and animal species, some of which are rare or endangered.

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[1] A consortium of researchers from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks (UAF), Colorado Mesa University (CMU), and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) National Office. Principal investigators are Dr. Peter Fix (UAF), Dr. Tim Casey (CMU) and the national office project lead, Matt Blocker.

Outdoor recreation enthusiasts are drawn to Bears Ears National Monument for its abundant recreational opportunities. Hiking, backpacking, rock climbing and camping are popular activities, allowing visitors to explore the monument's stunning natural features, including deep canyons carved by rivers, towering cliffs, and unique rock formations. The area offers numerous trails, ranging from easy walks to challenging multi-day treks. The monument's management seeks to balance the preservation of its cultural and natural resources with responsible outdoor recreation and sustainable land use practices.

The lands included in the Monument are essential to the quality of life and economic livelihood of the gateway communities of Moab, Monticello, Blanding, and Bluff Utah. This focus group study was conducted in these gateway communities to capture their perspective on the recreation activity taking place on the surrounding Monument Landscape. The map in Figure 1 shows the boundaries of the Monument along with the surrounding communities.

Figure 1: Map of Bears Ears National Monument
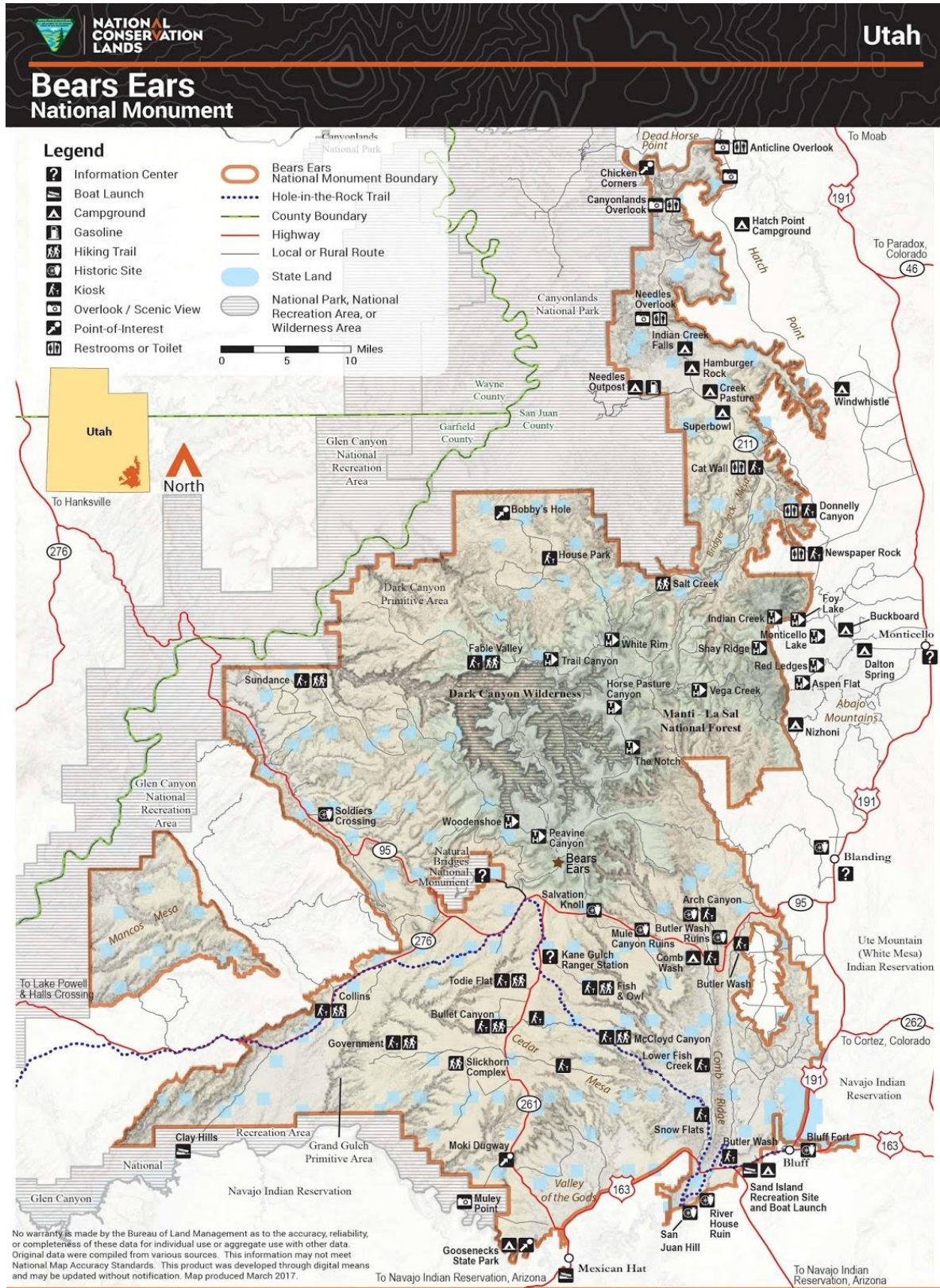
Methodology

The mixed methodology focus group was determined to be the appropriate approach to establish the recreation experience baseline. The mixed methodology focus group uses audience handouts to record individual responses anonymously in addition to engaging participants in open dialogue. This methodology captures both a complete set of responses from each participant using the handouts with maps as well as documenting a rich set of notes from the group dialog that gives context and depth to the handout responses to set questions. Either approach used alone would leave an incomplete picture of the broad and deep relationships people have with this landscape.

The design of the focus group for data collection entailed a series of discussion questions intended to engage participants in open dialogue about their preferences, interests, and expectations so responses could be captured in their own words, followed by a list of choices that represented a spectrum of possible responses to the discussion questions that could be responded to via anonymous handouts given to every participant and collected at the end of the focus group so their responses can be recorded for a larger database. The open dialogue comments were documented with audio recording equipment as well as by consortium researchers taking notes.

The focus group script covered all the major elements needed in planning for recreation on public lands: preferences for outcomes and experiences, interests, and expectations, setting characteristics, activities, and the services needed to support the recreation experience. Additional questions encouraged participants to express their preferences for management practices including the protection and interpretation of the significant number of cultural sites in the monument, and the impact of recreation on community values held in the gateway communities in the area (Moab, Monticello, Blanding, and Bluff, Utah). It included 17 questions, six were open-ended, eleven had prepared responses for audience polling recorded on the handouts[2]. All questions with prepared responses included an "other" option so participants weren't constrained by the prepared responses. Of the prepared response questions, one included a mapping exercise where participants noted an area that was of particular interest to them and many of the questions that followed that were associated with their selection   The number of questions included in the script was tailored to allow for a 90-minute focus group.

A total of nine focus groups were conducted in the summer of 2022.   Two of the focus groups were conducted in a web-based digital webinar format utilizing Adobe Connect software, the

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[2] See Appendix 1 for a copy of the handout provided each participant that includes the wording of every question asked.

remaining 7 focus groups were conducted in person in the gateway communities adjacent to the monument landscape. There was a total of 29 participants in the 9 focus groups. The participants were allowed to remain anonymous; although their responses were tracked and collated using the handouts they filled out and turned in. Their participation in the study and on every question was voluntary and they were reminded that they were free to participate or not as they wished, but that if they did speak up or write something down, that was taken as their consent to participate in the study.   Some basic demographic information was collected at the beginning of each session. Participants were asked to provide home zip codes in order to identify how representative this study was of the overall population. Table 1 indicates the dates, locations, and number of participants for each focus group.

Table 1: Table of Focus Groups, Dates and Locations

Focus Group #	Date	Location	Number of Participants
1	7/6/2022	Blanding, UT	1
2	7/6/2022	Blanding, UT	1
3	7/7/2022	Monticello, UT	1
4	7/7/2022	Monticello, UT	2
5	7/8/2022	Moab, UT	2
6	7/8/2022	Moab, UT	1
7	7/9/2022	Bluff, UT	8
DFG1	6/3/2022	On-Line	7
DFG2	6/3/2022	On-Line	6

Outreach to populate the focus groups included:

- Invitations shared with area board and committees (i.e., Friends of Bears Ears, County governments, city governments, tribal councils, etc.),
- Direct outreach to partners and key stakeholders (local activity-oriented groups),
- Press releases in local newspapers
- Flyers – put up at community centers, bike and outdoor shops, post offices, etc.

The methodology of audience polling using handouts to record responses allows each participant the opportunity to weigh in on every area of the research. This is important to avoid a wide variety of social setting dynamics that arise in traditional focus group settings, such as only hearing from extroverted participants who dominate a conversation. The polling

also minimizes the undue influence of peer settings in small communities. If an individual is worried about the repercussions of their responses mentioned aloud in a focus group within their community, they are not likely to respond, or not as accurately. However, if they can anonymously record their preferences, they may feel more liberated to express their true opinion. The audience polling using written responses on handouts preserves participants' anonymity while being able to link all their answers together for the purposes of analysis. In traditional focus groups, one might be able to link comments and preferences back to a particular focus group, but unless the group was small and homogenous, it would be difficult to determine preferences for groups, or how those preferences might interact with other preferences (i.e., if a person is seeking solitude, do they choose particular activities or settings to achieve that outcome?). Traditionally, a survey was needed to link these variables; however, a survey often misses the nuance of the dialogue. The advantage of using audience polling and open-ended questions in a focus group setting is that participants are allowed to clarify what they mean when they select certain responses.

It is important to note the limitations of using this data. Because the sampling of participants was not random, it would be difficult to suggest this analysis is generalizable to the preferences of the entire population that might be interested in the area, and no attempt to do so is made here. However, an effort was made to hear from a broad sample of groups who have a connection to the landscape including both locals and visitors that were willing to spend 90 minutes participating in the conversation.

In this report, the quantitative data collected in the eleven prepared response questions is displayed in a series of bar graphs indicating the percentage of participants selecting each response. In many questions they were asked to choose their top 5 or 3 responses, while other questions simply asked for a single response. The open-ended question responses were recorded on flip charts during the meeting as well as the hundreds of written comments offered by participants on the handouts as well as clarifying comments for the quantitative set response questions. These responses were coded by management theme and the maps of those coded comments are presented in the body of this report. Appendix 2 displays all responses to each open-ended question, and Appendix 3 has each comment broken out by coded theme and organized into management classification. Comments that were coded for multiple themes are also identified in Appendix 3 with the complete list of additional codes assigned to each concept. Comments that were tied to a specific location are also categorized by location in Appendix 3. The goal of the research was to collect a broad diversity of perspectives on the management of recreation on the landscape and to organize that data into useful themes that relate to the BLM planning process as outlined in the BLM Handbook for Planning for Recreation and Visitors Services (H-8320-1) which became the official planning document for all BLM recreation management in August 2014.

Demographics

The twenty-nine participants in this focus group study were primarily from communities surrounding the Bears Ears National Monument (BENM) as indicated by Figure 2 below. One of the benefits of focus groups in the communities surrounding the landscape is the ability to have a longer conversation with local residents about the impact of outdoor recreation on their communities. Combined with the outcomes focused management survey research done in the monument at the time, these studies provide a rich picture of the public's preferences for outdoor recreation in the area. Because of the relatively low participation in this focus group study, it will be important to balance this information with the results of the recreation survey conducted by University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

Figure 2: Zip code of participants
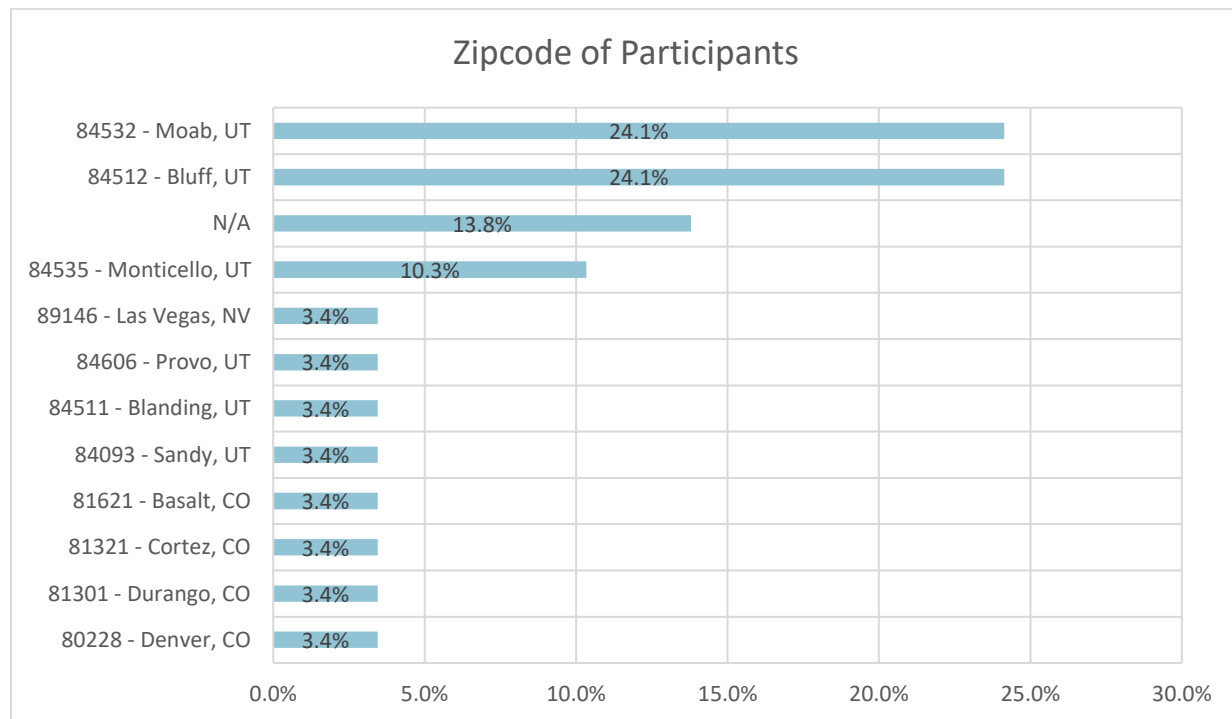
The participants were asked to identify their primary affiliation with the landscape. Although they might wear many hats, they were encouraged to adopt only one of those roles and use it as a lens to answer the rest of the questions[3]. As indicated in Figure 3 below, about half the participants selected "local resident" by affiliation with a large segment choosing "other". Those choosing "other" indicated everything from a member of a local indigenous tribe to an employee of a non-profit organization focused on the monument and surrounding landscape.

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[3] Some of the choices (such as Visitor or Outfitter/guide) were not selected by any participant, so they were left off the graph in Figure 2. In subsequent graphs, if a variable has a value of 0%, it will be left out of the display.

Figure 3: Association with BENM

Association with BENM

Category	Percentage
Local Resident	51.7%
Other	17.2%
Visitor	17.2%
Community Leader (elected/non-elected)	6.9%
Business Owner	3.4%
Outfitter/Guide	3.4%
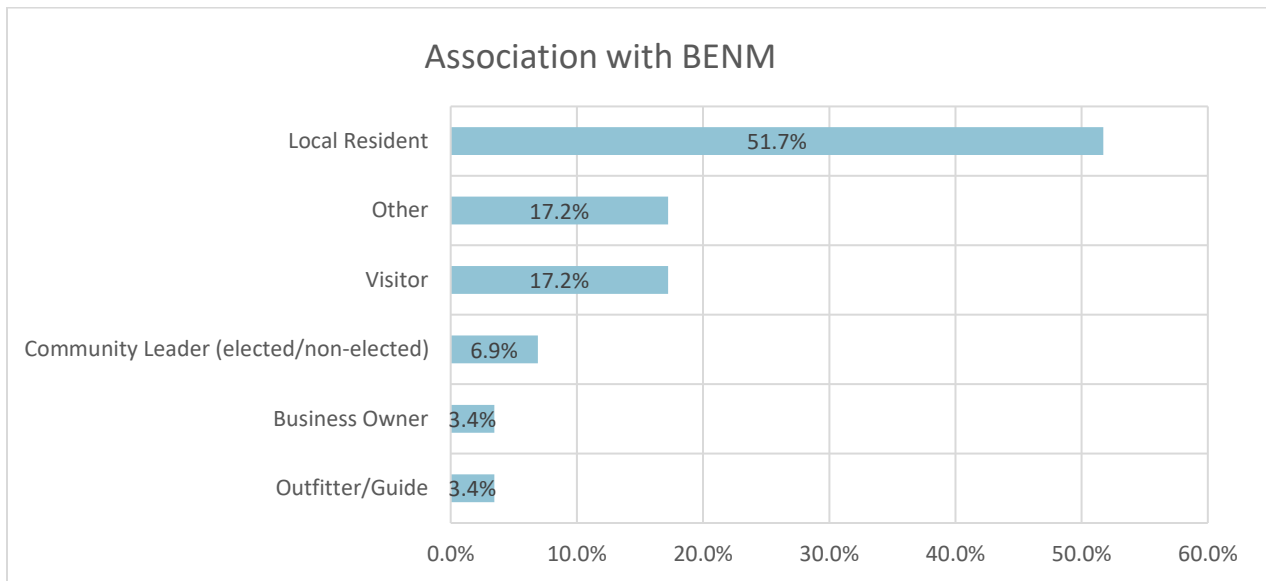
Community Characteristics

Next, participants were asked to describe the unique characteristics of the gateway communities adjacent to the monument, and how public lands affect those characteristics of the communities that contribute to their quality of life. A complete set of spoken and written comments to these and other open-ended questions is in Appendix 2 below. Additionally, each of these comments was coded to identify the key themes that emerged regarding these questions about community identity and value as well as other open ended questions about desired outcomes, reasons the landscape is special, what might diminish the specialness of the landscape, and what the participants thought ought to be management priorities for BLM on the monument, and what improvements to management could be made to preserve the specialness of the landscape and improve the recreational experiences and outcomes that the landscape supports. Although the list of comments in Appendix 2 preserves the responses to individual questions, the coded responses listed in Appendix 3 identify themes that emerged regardless of what question they were responding to. These themes were grouped into several categories. The categories are community characteristics, special places identified, desired recreational outcomes, setting characteristics of the landscape, cultural resources, and management issues. The relationships between these codes are displayed in the "comment code maps" throughout the report. The codes are displayed with the number of individual comments connected to each code in the comment maps. These themes and codes are repeated with the actual codes assigned to each in Appendix 3 for easy reference and greater detail.

The first theme mapped in Figure 4 below related to comments that capture the characteristics that define the gateway communities. Several of these comments refer to the people in the area (either residents or visitors) and the quiet, rural low restriction lifestyle found in these communities. Most participants indicated that public lands and the recreational opportunities and open space they provide close to home are an essential part of the quality of life in the area.

Figure 4: Community characteristics comment code map
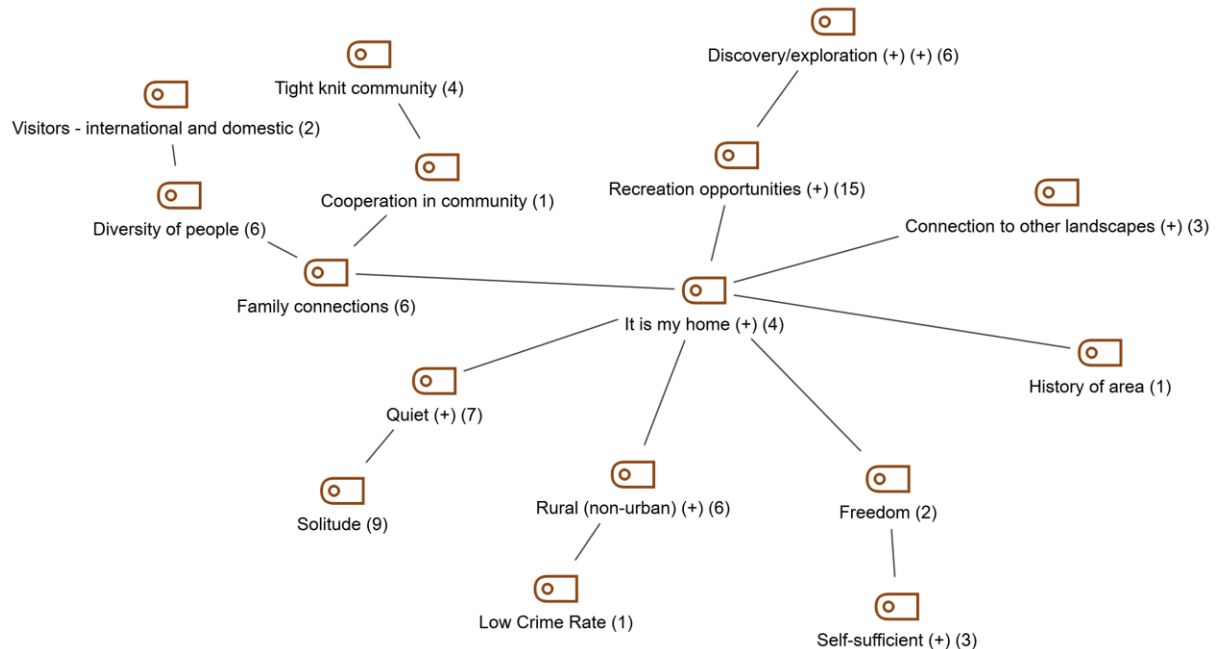
Maps and Locations of Special Places

For the purposes of planning and gathering location specific data, the monument was divided into eight recreational planning zones and the participants were asked to identify the one they wanted to offer more site-specific information about. Several participants found it difficult to choose just one zone to comment on and preferred to direct their comments to the entire monument or a combination of several of the zones. The zones are highlighted in the maps in Figures 5 and 6, and the breakdown of participant selections is captured in the graph in figure 7. The largest group o participants did not identify any area (or chose the entire monument). Indian Creek was the most common selection of the named zones, and several of the zones were not identified by any of the participants n the study.

Figure 5: North zone map of Bears Ears National Monument
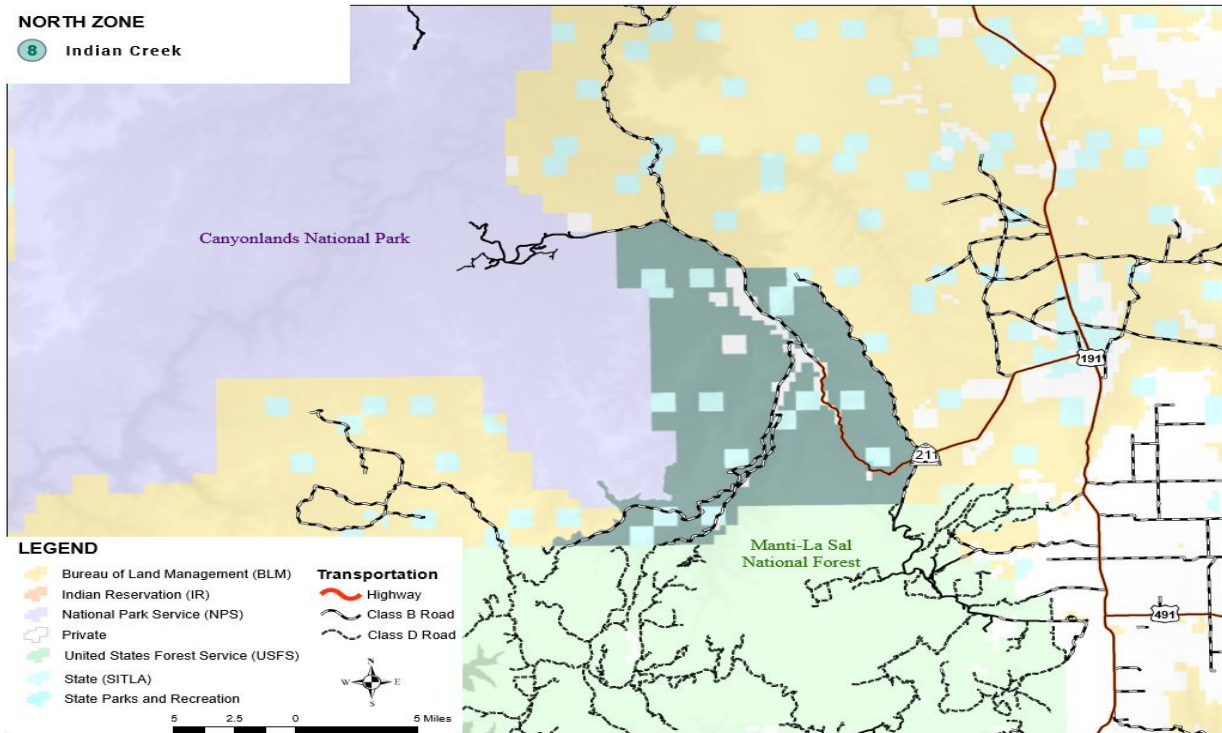
Figure 6: Southern zones map of Bears Ears National Monument
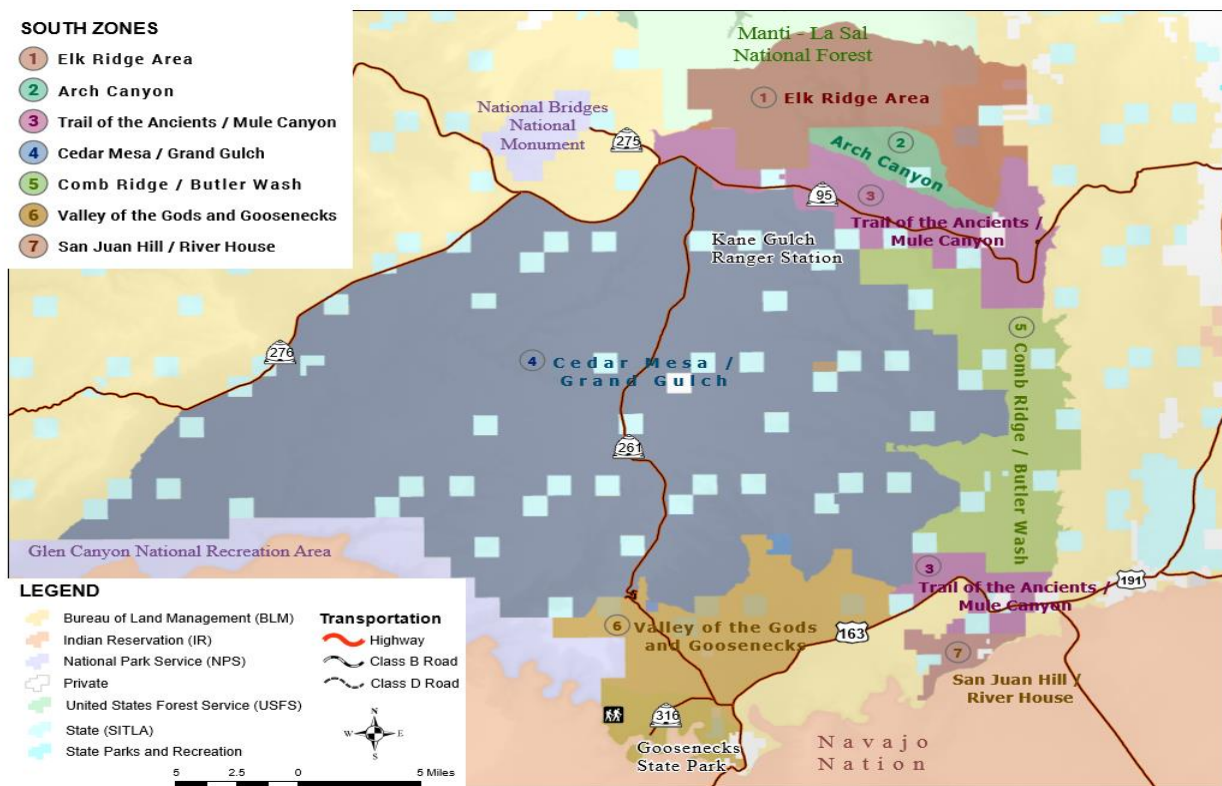
Figure 7: Region/Zones selected
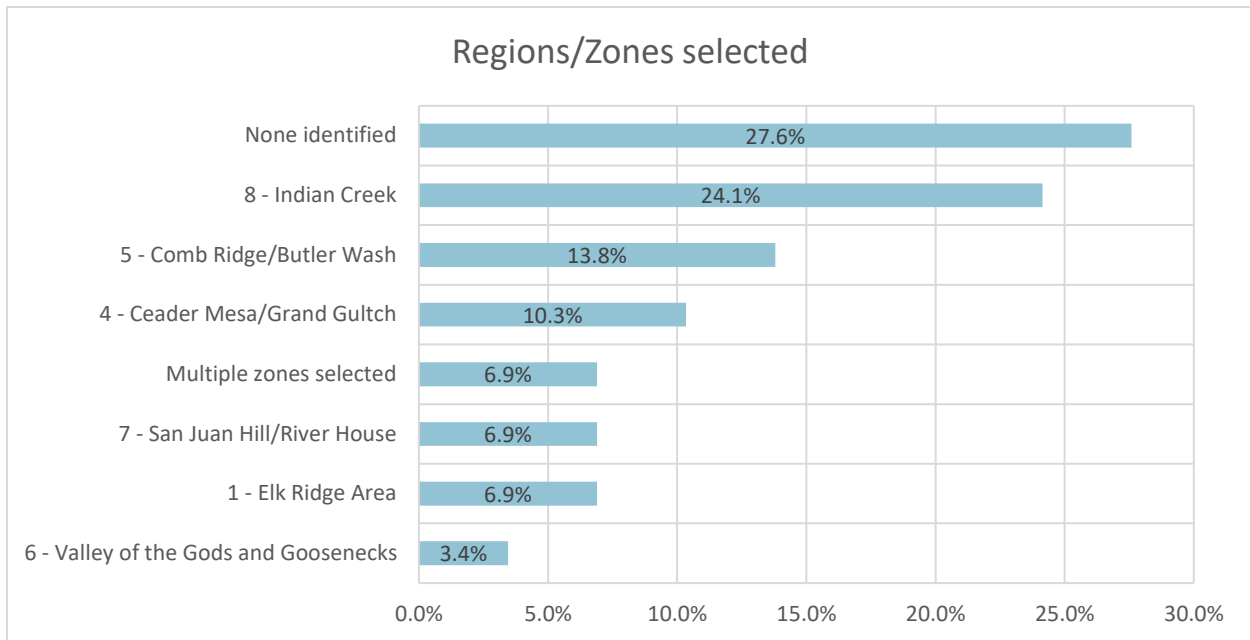
Participants were also asked to name the places in BENM that have special meaning for them and indicate why they are special places in an open-ended question. This question was independent of the zone that they selected (although they could overlap). These comments are mapped for the named specific locations as well as the special places that refer to types of landscapes rather than specific locations in Figure 8 below. A complete list of the text of those comments is found in Appendix 3. There are specific suggestions attached to each of the locations in those comments.

Figure 8: Special Places comment code map
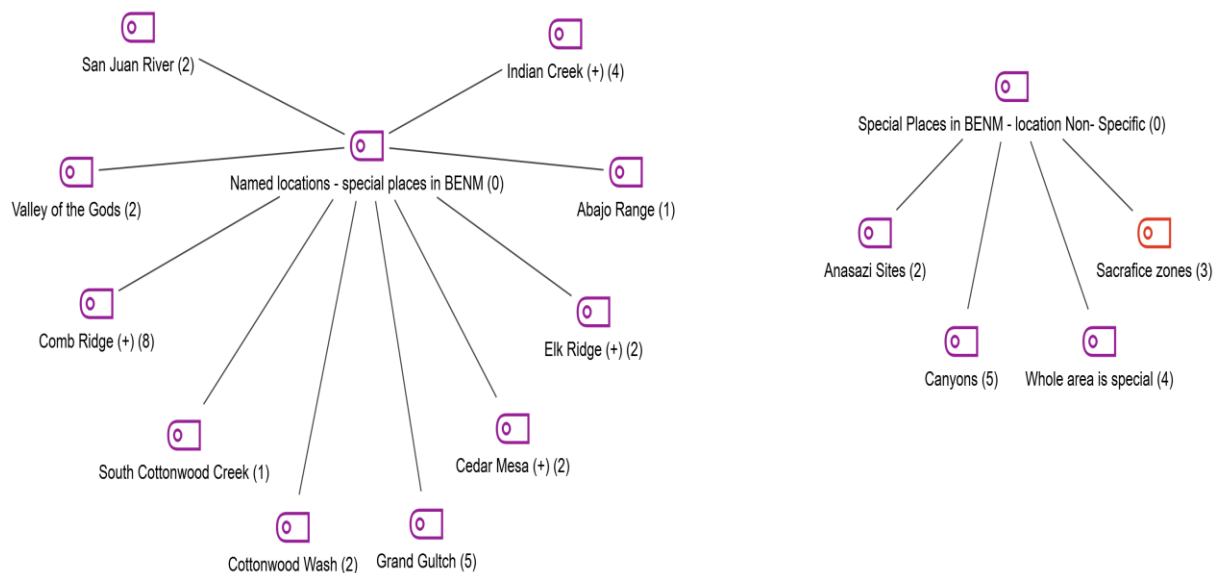
Recreational Outcomes

Once participants identified locations on the landscape they wanted to focus on, they were asked a series of questions about their recreational preferences in the landscape. The Outcomes-Focused Management (OFM) approach, adopted nationally by the BLM in its planning guide, requires land managers to consider not only the recreational activities taking place on the land, but more importantly to also consider the goals (outcomes) that visitors and community members have for recreation in the landscape.

Initially, the participants of the focus groups were asked to talk about what makes particular lands managed by the BLM Kingman Field Office that they have identified "special" places from their perspective. Participants were given a list of 20 qualities that are often identified as special characteristics of public lands according to past research. In each of the lists found in the handouts, the final option is always "other" which allows participants to identify in writing the qualities that are important to them[4]. The special qualities are listed with the percentage of participants selecting them in Figure 9 below.

Next, participants were asked to talk about what might diminish the specialness of places managed by the BLM in the Bears Ears National Monument that they had identified as their area of focus. They were given a list of 20 qualities that often are identified as diminishing special characteristics of public lands according to past research. Figure 10 shows the percentage of participants in each study area that selected a particular quality.

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[4] Participants were asked to focus their selections on the characteristics that really matter to them by limiting their choices to five or fewer for the first two questions in this section, and three or fewer for the rest of the questions in this section. Only the characteristics selected by at least one participant for a specific study area are listed in each figure, thus the lists will differ slightly. This is the case for all data displayed for the remainder of the report. The percentage in each figure is the percentage of overall participants in the study selecting a particular quality.

Special Qualities of Place

Quality	Percentage
Scenic quality	51.7%
Wild, unspoiled, and natural	44.8%
Sense of solitude and privacy	41.4%
Sense of freedom	41.4%
Lack of development or improvements	37.9%
Remote and rugged	37.9%
Cultural resources -archeology, etc.	37.9%
It's where I engage in recreational activities I enjoy	34.5%
Dark night skies	31.0%
It's where I spend quality time with friends and family	31.0%
It's my back yard	27.6%
Sense of discovery/learning opportunities	24.1%
Spiritual and/or religious qualities	24.1%
Historic qualities - how previous generations used the area	24.1%
Natural quietness	20.7%
Physical resources - geology, paleontology, etc.	20.7%
Biological resources - plants, animals, etc.	17.2%
Productive qualities - grazing and hunting	13.8%
Dogs and/or horses are allowed	10.3%
Other	3.4%

Threats to Specialness of Place

Category	Percentage
Vandalism, litter, graffiti, and/or human waste	72.4%
Increased use and crowding	69.0%
Increased use of wider array of vehicles	55.2%
Residential or industrial development (utility lines, pipelines, etc.)	44.8%
Noise	31.0%
Increased traffic	27.6%
Damage to soils and vegetation	24.1%
Lack of connection to or education about place	20.7%
Lack of solitude and privacy	20.7%
Increased access	20.7%
Limited access	17.2%
Additional fees, permits, or restrictions	17.2%
Livestock or evidence of them	13.8%
Artificial light	13.8%
Additional facilities and improvements	13.8%
Culture clashes – locals vs. visitors or long time locals vs. move-ins	10.3%
Group size limits I consider to be inappropriate (too high or too low)	10.3%
Lack of facilities and improvements	6.9%
Other	3.4%
Limitations on historic uses and productive qualities	3.4%

Interest and Expectations when visiting BENM

Research has indicated that people visit public lands to achieve a variety of beneficial outcomes and experiences for themselves, their communities, and the environment, while at the same time trying to avoid adverse outcomes and experiences. Because these interests and expectations can vary depending on the trip, participants were asked to identify their top three interests and expectations from a list developed over several years of research on public lands across the western United States. Participants were given a series of sentences that might be spoken by someone considering the value of recreation on the landscape and they were asked to select up to three statements that most accurately reflect their own interests and expectations for recreation in the area. **Error! Reference source not found.**11 below shows the percentage of participants selecting a particular statement of expectation. Complete wording for each statement can be found in the focus group handout in Appendix 1. Two thirds of the participants selected 'natural landscapes" as one of the top three interests and expectations when visiting the landscape. Other popular choices included the cultural and heritage history in the area, the ability to engage in self-reliant adventures as well as tranquil escapes from modern life and time spent with family and friends.

Figure 11: Interests and expectations on the landscape

Interests and Expectations on the Landscape

Category	Percentage
Natural Landscapes	65.5%
Cultural and Heritage History	41.4%
Self-reliant adventures	31.0%
Tranquil Escapes	27.6%
Family and Friends	24.1%
Health and Fitness	24.1%
Stewardship and Caretaking	17.2%
Natural History and Science	17.2%
Economic well-being	3.4%
Community Life	3.4%
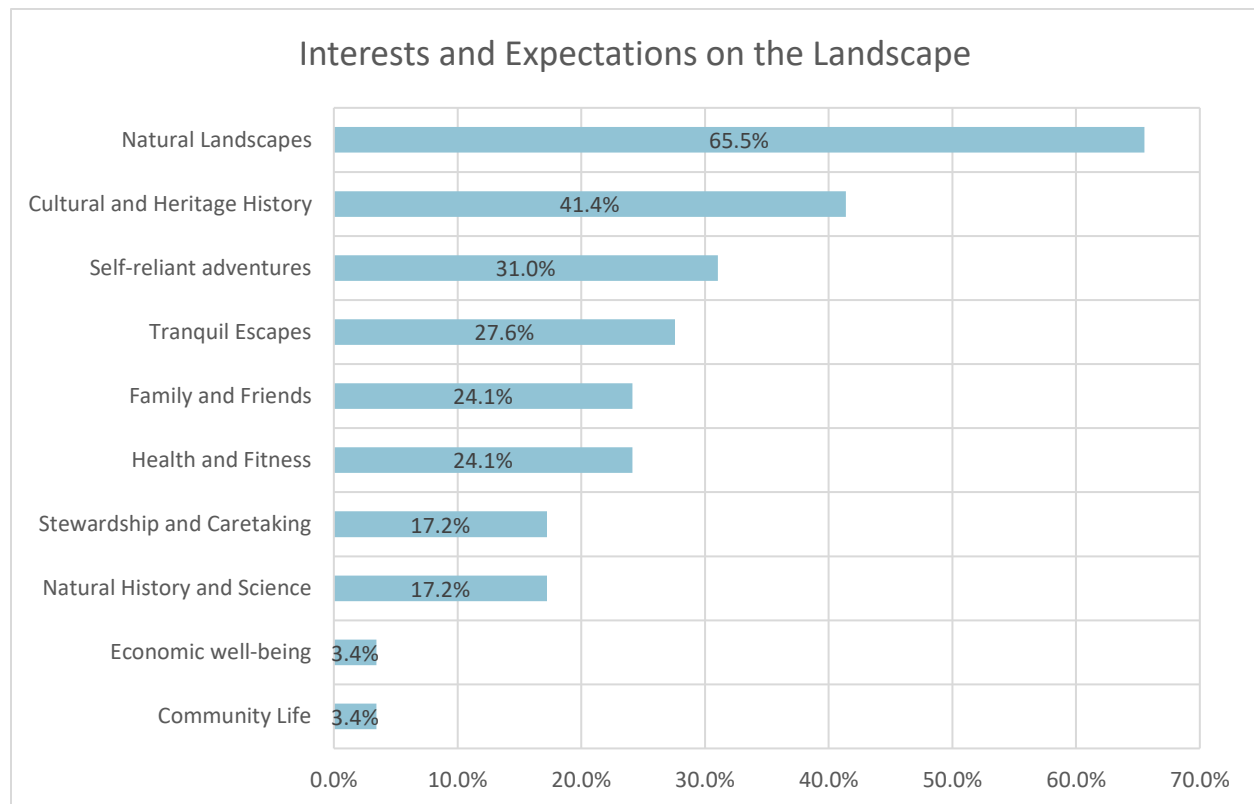
Desired Outcomes

Several of the open-ended questions in the study were designed to better understand the desired recreational outcomes of the participants. These outcomes are essential for the BLM recreational planning process. Some of these recreational outcomes contribute to the character of the community or landscape as noted earlier. Other responses highlight the setting characteristics that are favorable to producing or maintaining those desired outcomes. These responses will be addressed later in the report in the setting characteristics section. However, some of the response and comments have been coded directly as desired outcomes and are mapped in figure 12 below. Those specific comments, and all other coded and mapped comments are located by theme in Appendix 3. It is worth noting in the comment code map below that there are several comments highlighting the economic benefits to the community from recreation in the area, there are also several comments identifying the diversity of experiences one can have on this landscape as a particularly desired outcome. In fact, the serendipity of the experience is captured in the openness of the "discovery and exploration" activity, which is the most popular activity in Figure 13, chosen by over half of all participants in the study. It seems reasonable to conclude that when recreating on this landscape, one should expect the unexpected and plan for pleasant surprises.

Figure 12: Desired outcomes comment code map
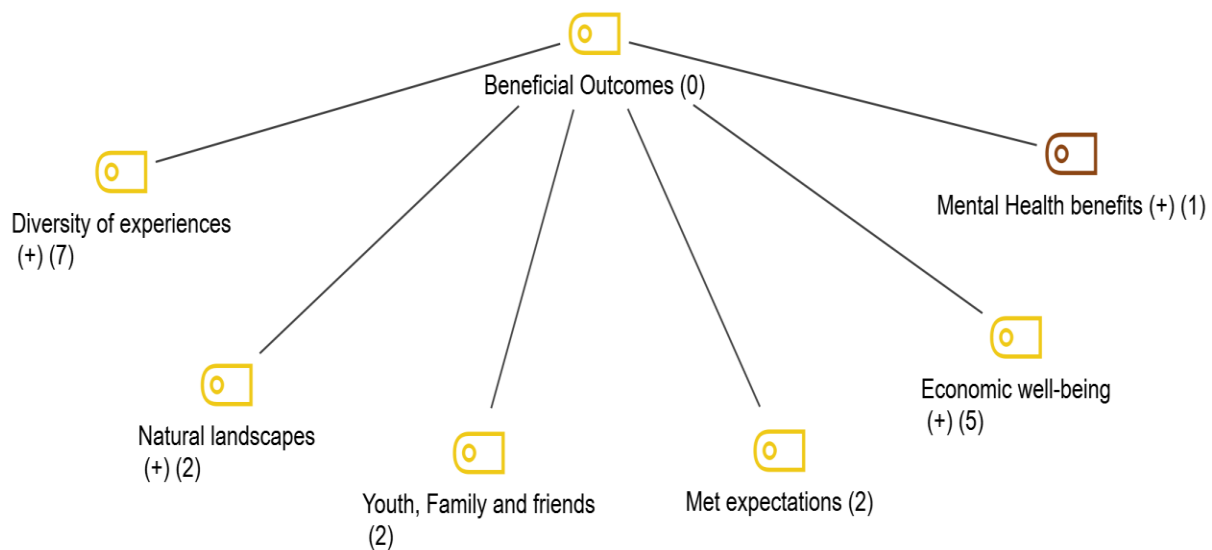
Activities

After considering their expectations and desired outcomes when recreating in the selected area, participants were asked which activities they engaged in most often when visiting public lands in the area. Because many visitors to public lands combine several activities during any particular visit, participants were allowed to select up to three activities they engage in most often in the area. A list of the activities that participants engage in the most in BENM and the percentage of participants selecting each of those activities is listed in Figure 13. "Other" recreational activity was chosen by 17.2% of participants. They identified motorcycle riding and river running several times as missing activities from the list. Some also indicated prayer, ceremony, medicinal herb gathering, and inter-cultural sharing as important activities they engage in throughout BENM.

Figure 13: Activities in BENM

Recreation Activities

Activity	Percentage
Exploring or discovering new areas	51.7%
Hiking/Walking/Running	48.3%
Car Camping	27.6%
Backpacking	24.1%
Scenic Driving	24.1%
Rock Climbing/Canyoneering	20.7%
Other	17.2%
Nature Study (Wildlife Viewing/ Bird…)	17.2%
Art/Writing activities	10.3%
Photography	10.3%
Horseback Riding	10.3%
Learning activities (interpretive programs, educational…)	6.9%
Hunting	6.9%
Bicycling/ Mountain Biking	6.9%
ATV/UTV riding	6.9%
4x4 Driving (Jeep, Truck, SUV)	6.9%
Spiritual renewal activities	3.4%
Ranching activities	3.4%
Organized group activities (i.e. civic groups, clubs, scouts,…)	3.4%

Information and Services

An important aspect of a successful outdoor recreation experience is quality information used in preparation for the outing, and a variety of services that support those experiences. Participants were asked to identify all sources of information and services they rely on. They were allowed to select as many sources of information that they use. The graph in Figure 14 below displays the results and popularity of these information sources the participants rely on to be successful in their recreation in the area. The reliance on "past experience" by almost three fourths of the participants and the selection of "family and friends" by over half the participants indicates a familiarity and deep personal relationship with the landscape among the participants in the study. A larger number of participants (17.2%) selected "other" than in many previous studies. When prompted to identify those "other" sources of information they suggested indigenous traditional knowledge of the area, non-profit groups such as "Friends of Cedar Mesa" and even Google Earth for its interactive satellite data on the landscape.

Figure 14: Sources of Information

Sources of Information

Source	Percentage
Past experience	72.4%
Maps (topographic, National Geographic, etc.)	55.2%
Friends and family	55.2%
Guidebooks	44.8%
Websites (.org or .com)	31.0%
Digital apps	24.1%
On-Site signage, kiosks, bulletin boards	20.7%
Other	17.2%
Websites (.gov)	17.2%
Free guides and maps	17.2%
Area residents	17.2%
Historic references	13.8%
Visitor Center exhibits	13.8%
Contact with park rangers in the field	10.3%
Area business owners	10.3%
Visitor Center staff	6.9%

Participants were also asked about other services they rely on to be successful in their recreation. Typical of other BLM sites, gas stations and grocery stores ranked high among additional services selected by respondents (see Figure 15 below). It is less typical for gear sellers to be selected by such a high percentage of respondents (24,1%) in this question. The gear shops also received more than one mention in the written comments in Appendix 2. Additionally, quite a few participants chose visitor information, while on the previous question visitor center information was not selected as frequently as an important information source.

Figure 15: Services needed for recreation
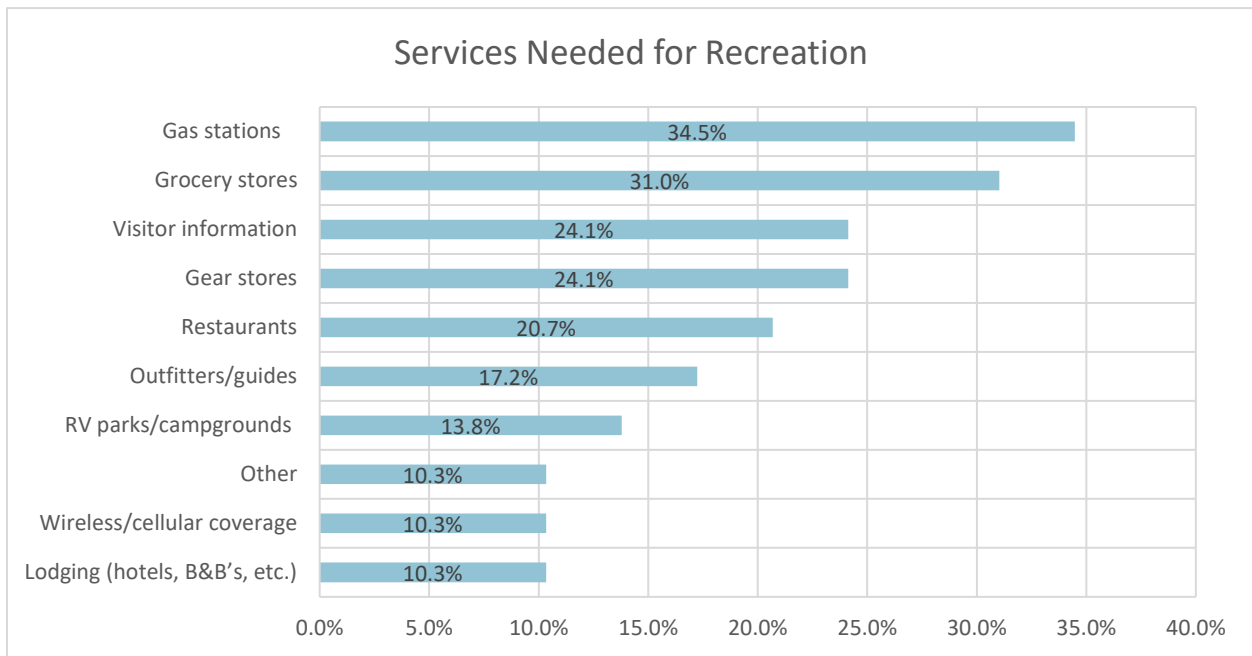
Setting Characteristics of Landscape

An important tool for land managers to use when planning for desired recreational outcomes is the setting characteristics of the landscape. These might include: the physical qualities of the landscape including remoteness, naturalness, and visitor facilities; the social qualities associated with the landscape such as number of contacts, group size and evidence of use; or the operational conditions needed to manage the recreation such as access, visitor services and managerial controls. While these are vital elements needed to produce the recreational outcomes and experiences desired by the public, past experience directly asking about these characteristics often produced more confusion for the public than useful data to inform the planning process. As a result, questions were designed to elicit responses to inform the various dimensions of the recreational opportunity spectrum (ROS) planning tool without directly engaging the public with that management tool. Then their responses were coded and organized to provide actionable data for planning. The physical setting characteristics of the

landscape are captured in the comment code map in figure 16 below. The social and operational setting characteristics are coded and mapped in the management section of the report that follows in figure 17.

Figure 16: Physical setting characteristics comment code map
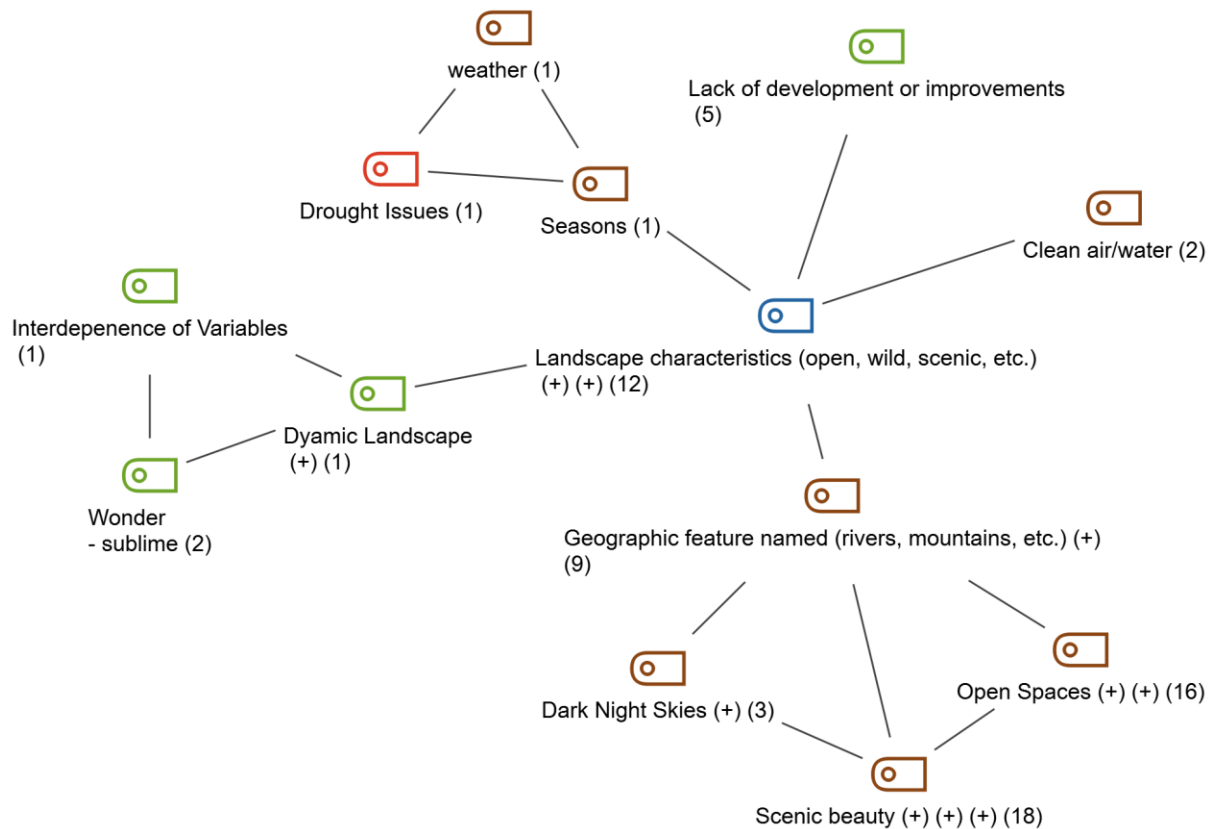
Management of BENM

At the end of the focus group, participants were given a series of open-ended questions to both discuss as a whole group and respond to anonymously by writing on the handout provided to them (see Appendix 2 for complete written responses and responses captured during discussion on the flip charts). The written and verbal responses to each of these open-ended questions were coded for themes observed within the response, which were then organized by the number of comments touching on that theme. (See Appendix 3 for the management themes to emerge from their responses). Those themes are mapped by issue area in Figure 18 below and specific comments for each theme are organized in Appendix 3. Participants often have difficulty drawing clear distinctions between management priorities and improvements needed. Although there were two questions on management (priorities and improvements), both questions tap the participants' desired directions for management of the landscape. Land

managers can determine which of these desires expressed is an objective and which is an actionable item.

Although the usual expected comments on infrastructure needs, range management and regulations/enforcement are present, it is noteworthy how many specific comments related to the need for better communication and information about the landscape (everything from improved signage to outreach efforts needed to inform the public about the management) and long-term education about the resources is needed in this area. There is also an emphasis on managing increasing visitor use and a variety of challenges related to access to the recreation and other resources on the landscape. One management priority that also stands out is the lack of BLM personnel to manage and protect the resource from the increased use (coded as staffing issues). Several suggestions were made to cooperate with other agencies and partner with local communities to address this shortfall.

Figure 177: Management issues comment code map

Funding for resource protection (4)

Future planning (1)

Regulations and enforcement (15)

Staffing (7)

Education (+) (17)

Management approach (6)

COVID increased visitation/crowding (2)

Disruptive visitor behavior (5)

Managing for increased use and overcrowding (1)

Naming place draws attention and threat to sites (4)

Communications and Information (10)

Sacrafice zones (3)

Low population/less crowded (14)

Crowding (13)

boundary issues (1)

Search and Rescue (1)

Traffic (2)

Connection to other landscapes (+) (3)

Travel Management (1)

Diversity of people (6)

Diversity of Stakeholders and Visitors (2)

Management Priorities (0)

Infrastructure (6)

Trail construction (+) (7)

Visitors - international and domestic (2)

Maintenance (trails, facilities, etc.) (6)

Sharing Space with other visitors (+) (+) (5)

Encourage Tourism / Visitation by Non-locals (1)

Range Management (+) (6)

Ecological Issues (ecosystem, flora, fauna, water, etc.) (5)

Protect resources (wildlife, plants, etc.) (4)

water - creeks, rivers, etc. (3)

Threats to wildlife (1)

Activity specific comments (+) (14)

Access issues (+) (9)

Damage to Resources (Vandalism, trash, etc.) (16)

Forest management (clearing trees, brush, or deadfall) (2)

Partnerships/Stewardship/co-management (10)

Access to public lands (+) (+) (10)

Stewardship and care taking (1)

Interagency cooperation (7)

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Cultural Resources

Bears Ears National Monument was created in large part to protect the tremendous cultural resources found on the landscape. The connection to those cultural sites and the cultural connection to the landscape itself is extremely important to the participants of this study as evidenced by the substantial number of comments about this cultural landscape mapped in Figure 18 below and detailed in the cultural landscape section of Appendix 3. The co-management arrangement with the Inter-tribal commission is a unique and important element of this monument and is highly valued according to the comments received. Access and the opportunity to explore and discover the cultural sites is a highly desired recreational outcome in the area, but that access and impact from increased visitation also provides some real challenges to the monument mandate to protect and preserve those sites. The comments also make clear that these cultural connections are not just an artifact of past use, but an on-going relationship with the landscape that is still actively practiced by descendants of the Puebloans who inhabited this region in the past (as evidenced by the thousands of archeological sites in the monument). This indigenous traditional knowledge of the landscape is a valuable perspective to maintain in the management of this area according to the participants in this study. According to their comments, the hope of many of the participants is that the indigenous knowledge and perspective about BENM will not only inform the management of the monument but will be shared with visitors through a variety of education and information opportunities.
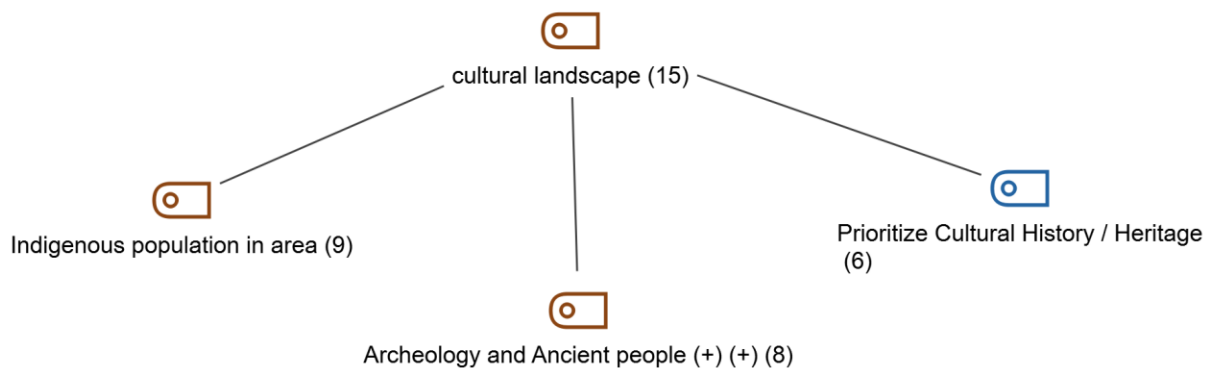
Because of the importance of cultural sites to the management of the monument, additional questions were asked about specific efforts to educate visitors about appropriate behavior around archeological sites and physical management controls to protect those sites. First, participants were asked to select up to three sources of instruction that they would mostly likely follow when visiting the sites (See Figure 19 below). It is worth noting that over 40% of the participants chose not to respond to that question. It is hard to interpret a non-response, and participants were free to skip any question they did not want to respond to; however, it is

unusual for such a high percentage of respondents to skip any particular question. Of those that did respond, "tribal elders" and "tribally affiliated non-profit groups" were the most desired sources of cultural instruction indicating that the participants turn to local indigenous populations to help them understand how to interact with the cultural resources in the area.

Figure 19: Acceptable sources of cultiral instruction at archeological sites
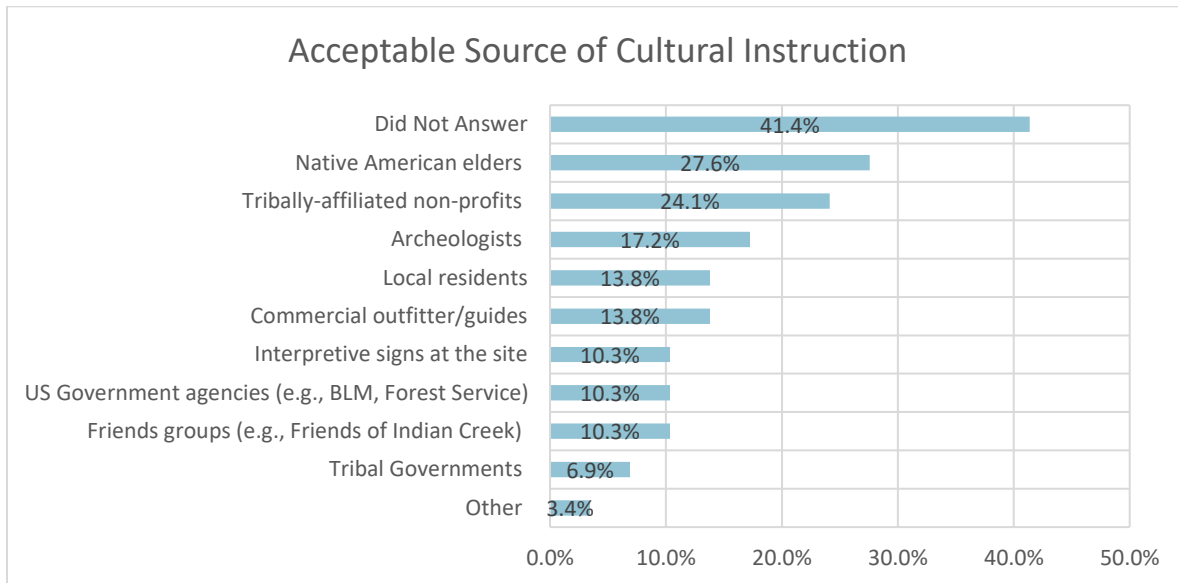
Next, the participants were shown a series of pictures depicting three different management techniques for physically protecting the sites and asked their preference regarding techniques. While participants seemed to understand the differences in techniques from the pictures, their comments indicated a hesitancy to respond to the question because the techniques would be very site specific. As a consequence, two-thirds of the participants did not respond to the question at all by making a selection. The preferences of those that did respond are recorded in Figure 20 below.

Figure 20: Management approach to delicate cultural sites
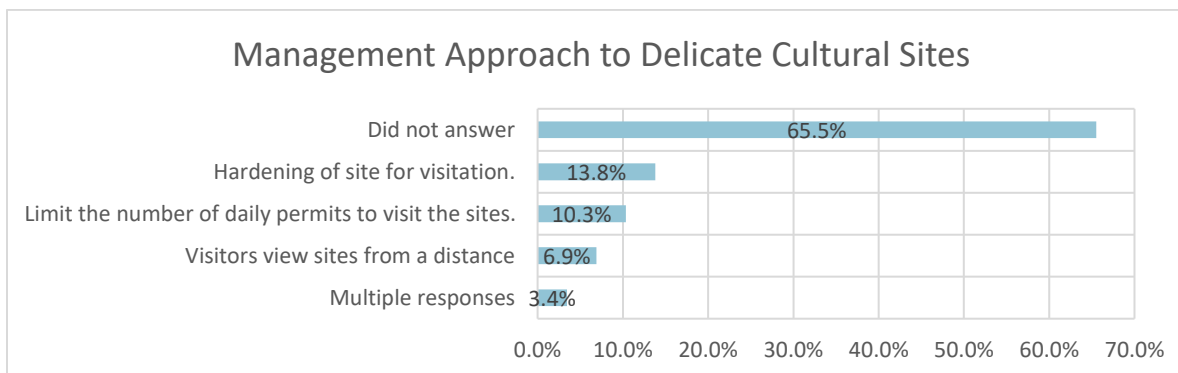
Conclusions

The biggest challenge for conclusions and recommendations from this focus group study is the small number of participants in the study. Although focus group studies are difficult to use as a tool for generalization, they do provide valuable insight into the nuanced perspectives of local communities regarding recreation on public lands in their area. Because of the challenges of holding public meetings in the time of a pandemic, and the lack of many local stakeholders to participate in the study, the conclusions drawn here are not as robust and reliable as one might have hoped for. They should be considered in the context of conclusions made from the survey study of the Bears Ears National Monument conducted by the University of Alaska, Fairbanks at the same time as this study was conducted. Additional focus groups have been planned with tribal communities that will utilize indigenous facilitators and develop questions in collaboration with them to ensure that culturally appropriate questions are asked to elicit useful data. Those focus groups will generate a separate report and it should also be essential information to combine with this study to better understand the wide variety of perspectives needed to be included in the planning effort for this area. Even though the participation rate in this focus group study was less than ideal, it still offers some valuable insight into local community preferences for BLM public land recreation and its impact on those communities.

It is obvious from the comments that the participants in this study, as members of the local communities surrounding the monument, love their connections to this landscape. They often have a long-term relationship with the place that goes back generations whether as members of the indigenous communities that have lived in the area for centuries or descendants of those that settled the area in the nineteenth century and established a deep tradition of agriculture and resource development in the area. These connections to the landscape, while rooted in past activities, are very much alive in the present as well through continued recreational activity of local residents and visitors alike.

The landscape, including its recreational management, is vital to the quality of life for surrounding communities. This study surfaces a variety of issues related to management that should be considered and addressed in the panning process. Chief among these are protection of the resources, access to public lands, management of increased visitation, and education and information about the landscape broadly communicated by the BLM. Although the participants treasure the opportunity to discover and explore learning new things about the area on their own through self-reliant adventures, they also crave more authentic knowledge about the cultural and natural resources in the area to enhance their experience while recreating there.

One of the values of a focus group methodology for collecting data is the rich set of nuanced comments that provide not only preferences for management action, but details about those actions including locations that need attention and protection as well as specific behaviors that

threaten the specialness of this landscape. The coded comments arranged by theme should be invaluable to land managers as they translate the public response to this study into management proscriptions in the planning process. While some of these comments (such as infrastructure, crowding, and access to public lands) are common in other BLM managed landscapes, other comments (regarding cultural resources, co-management, and resource values) are more unique to Bears Ears National Monument and will require particular attention to preserve the tremendous qualities of this protected landscape that the public values.

Certainly, other conclusions and recommendations could be drawn from the data presented in this focus group study. It was designed to complement the Outcomes Focused Management Recreational Visitor Survey conducted at the same time by the University of Alaska, Fairbanks[5]. To maximize the planning value of these studies, the two should be read together for a fuller understanding of the recreational activities and preferences in the monument. Together they present a solid basis to support recreational planning efforts. They offer a complement to the BLM's own analysis of the recreation in the area, as well as other opportunities the public will have to offer their perspective such as the scoping and public comment periods in the RMP process. At the end of every focus group session in this study, the public was encouraged to stay engaged and continue to contribute to the planning process through these public input opportunities.

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[5] Fix, P. J., Garcia, R. A., Smith, C., & Casey, T. T. (2023). Bears Ears National Monument Outcomes-Focused Management (OFM) Recreation Study, Fall 2020 and Spring 2022. Project report for the BLM Monticello Field Office. BLM PLRRP Report #15. Fairbanks, Alaska: University of Alaska Fairbanks, Institute of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Extension.

Appendix 1 – Focus Group Participant Handout

Bears Ears National Monument Recreation Focus Group Study

Focus Group Number: _____

Tim Casey, PhD
Colorado Mesa University
Public Lands Recreational Research Partnership:
a collaboration between the Bureau of Land Management, University of
Alaska, Fairbanks and Colorado Mesa University

2022

Focus Group Questions – Bears Ears National Monument, Utah
OFM Data Collection Project
Summer 2022

Participants Ground Rules:

- ✓ **Listen, contribute, and stay focused on the subject at hand**

- ✓ **Feel free to keep or change your opinions in response to what you hear**

- ✓ **Respect others' right to share their thoughts; do not interrupt**

- ✓ **The moderator will stop anyone who attempts to block another's views**

- ✓ **Feel free to get up and move around or visit the restroom**

- ✓ **Do not engage in separate, private discussions**

- ✓ **Remember, participation is voluntary on all questions**

- ✓ **Must sign an informed consent form to continue with the study**

Privacy Notice:

Topic Area 1: Community Questions

1. What is your home zip code? Or country (if you are not a US resident)?

2. Which of the following choices best describes your association with the Bears Ears National Monument and surrounding area? (Circle one)
   a. Visitor
   b. Local Resident
   c. Community Leader (elected/non-elected)
   d. Outfitter/Guide
   e. Business Owner
   f. Other

3. What are the things you like about living in or visiting this community in Southeastern Utah?

4. How do public lands in the area affect the quality of life issues you just described?

Topic Area 2: Special Places in Bears Ears National Monument

5. What are the <u>names of the places</u> in Bears Ears National Monument that have <u>special meaning</u> to you? Why are they special to you?

6. For the purposes of facilitating this discussion, the recreational managers of the area have divided the landscape into several recreation zones (labeled on map on the back page of this handout); please indicate which zone you would like to tell us more about. When choosing where to recreate in this region, where do you spend the <u>most</u> time?

    a. Zone 1 - Elk Ridge Area
    b. Zone 2 – Arch Canyon
    c. Zone 3 – Trail of the Ancients / Mule Canyon
    d. Zone 4 – Cedar Mesa / Grand Gulch
    e. Zone 5 – Comb Ridge / Butler Wash
    f. Zone 6 – Valley of the Gods and Goosenecks
    g. Zone 7 – San Juan Hill / River House
    h. Zone 8 – Indian Creek

7. What are the <u>qualities</u> of the area you identified in the previous question that make it a <u>special place</u> for you? (Choose up to 5)

a. It's my back yard
b. It's where I spend quality time with friends and family
c. Historic qualities - how previous generations used the area
d. Productive qualities - grazing and hunting
e. Biological resources - plants, animals, etc.
f. Physical resources - geology, paleontology, etc.
g. Cultural resources - archeology, etc.
h. Scenic quality
i. Spiritual and/or religious qualities
j. Sense of freedom
k. Wild, unspoiled, and natural
l. Remote and rugged
m. Sense of solitude and privacy
n. Natural quietness
o. Dark night skies
p. Sense of discovery/learning opportunities
q. Dogs and/or horses are allowed
r. Lack of development or improvements
s. It's where I engage in recreational activities I enjoy
t. Other

8. What could <u>diminish</u> the specialness of the area for you? (Choose up to 5)

a. Additional fees, permits, or restrictions
b. Increased use and crowding
c. Increased traffic
d. Increased use of wider array of vehicles
e. Group size limits I consider to be inappropriate (too high or too low)
f. Limitations on historic uses and productive qualities
g. Additional facilities and improvements
h. Lack of facilities and improvements
i. Increased access
j. Limited access
k. Vandalism, litter, graffiti, and/or human waste
l. Damage to soils and vegetation
m. Lack of solitude and privacy
n. Noise
o. Artificial light
p. Livestock or evidence of them
q. Culture clashes – locals vs. visitors or long time locals vs. move-ins
r. Lack of connection to or education about place
s. Residential or industrial development (utility lines, pipelines, etc.)
t. Other

Topic Area 3: Recreation Outcomes, Activities and Services

9. When you go to your area of interest, which of these phrases best captures your <u>interests and expectations</u> for going there? (Choose up to 3)
    a. To experience and appreciate the beauty and wonders of <u>Natural Landscapes</u>
    b. To experience <u>Rural Landscapes</u> where people live closely connected to the land
    c. To experience and learn about/connect with <u>Cultural & Heritage History</u> of the area
    d. To experience and learn about <u>Natural History & Science</u> of the area
    e. To improve my <u>Health & Fitness</u>
    f. To experience a <u>Self-Reliant Adventure</u> in the outdoors
    g. <u>Tranquil Escapes</u> - to get away from the hustle and bustle of daily life
    h. To have time outdoors to be with <u>Family and Friends</u> or share it with other generations
    i. It contributes to the richness of <u>Community Life</u> in the area
    j. It enhance the <u>Economic</u> <u>well-being</u> of myself or the local community
    k. To give back to the land by engaging in <u>Stewardship & Caretaking</u> activities

10. Did your last recreational outing in the Monument area <u>meet your expectations</u>?   Why or why not? What was the most <u>surprising</u> thing about your visit compared to what you expected?

11. When visiting the area you have been describing so far, what <u>activities</u> do you engage in most often? (Choose up to 3)

a. Scenic Driving
b. Exploring or discovering new areas
c. Hiking/Walking/Running
d. Backpacking
e. Car Camping
f. Picnicking
g. Rock Climbing/Canyoneering
h. Nature Study (Wildlife Viewing/ Bird Watching/Geology/Plants)
i. 4x4 Driving (Jeep, Truck, SUV)
j. ATV/UTV riding
k. Bicycling/ Mountain Biking
l. Horseback Riding
m. Organized group activities (i.e. civic groups, clubs, scouts, church, etc.) including historic reenactments
n. Ranching activities
o. Hunting
p. Photography
q. Learning activities (interpretive programs, educational outings, etc.)
r. Art/Writing activities
s. Spiritual renewal activities
t. Other

12. Which <u>sources of information</u> do you depend upon to plan your recreation in the Bears Ears National Monument area? (Choose all that apply)

a. Friends and family
b. Past experience
c. Area business owners
d. Area residents
e. Visitor Center staff
f. Contact with park rangers in the field
g. Visitor Center exhibits
h. On-Site signage, kiosks, bulletin boards
i. Travel and tourism councils and associations
j. Free guides and maps
k. Guidebooks
l. Websites (.gov)
m. Websites (.org or .com)
n. Digital apps
o. Historic references
p. Maps (topographic, National Geographic, etc.)
q. Other

13. When visiting cultural sites in Cedar Mesa, which would you be <u>most likely</u> to follow <u>visitation behavior instructions given by</u>: (please choose up to 3)

   a. Tribal Governments
   b. Native American elders
   c. Friends groups (e.g., Friends of Indian Creek)
   d. Tribally-affiliated non-profits
   e. Archeologists
   f. US Government agencies (e.g., BLM, Forest Service)
   g. Interpretive signs at the site
   h. Commercial outfitter/guides
   i. Local residents
   j. Other (please specify): _____

14. What <u>services</u> do you depend on to have a successful recreational experience? (Choose all that apply.)
   a. Gas stations
   b. Gear stores
   c. Grocery stores
   d. Lodging (hotels, B&B's, etc.)
   e. Outfitters/guides
   f. RV parks/campgrounds
   g. Restaurants
   h. Visitor information
   i. Wireless/cellular coverage
   j. Other

Topic Area 4: Management Questions

15. Looking at the three labeled photos on the back page of this handout, please select your most preferred approach to cultural site visitation management. (Select One)
    a. Hardening of site for visitation.
    b. Limit the number of daily permits to visit the sites.
    c. Visitors view sites from a distance.

16. If you were the public lands manager for a day and could set management priorities for the area of BENM you have been discussing with us, what would your priorities be?

17. As you think about BENM and the surrounding areas, what is/are the most important improvements(s) that recreation managers could make to enhance your visits in the future?

We appreciate your involvement in this important focus group.

Your input is an important part of maintaining an ongoing inventory of our recreational users' preferences, expectations, and concerns.
Thank you very much!

Appendix 1: Zone Map
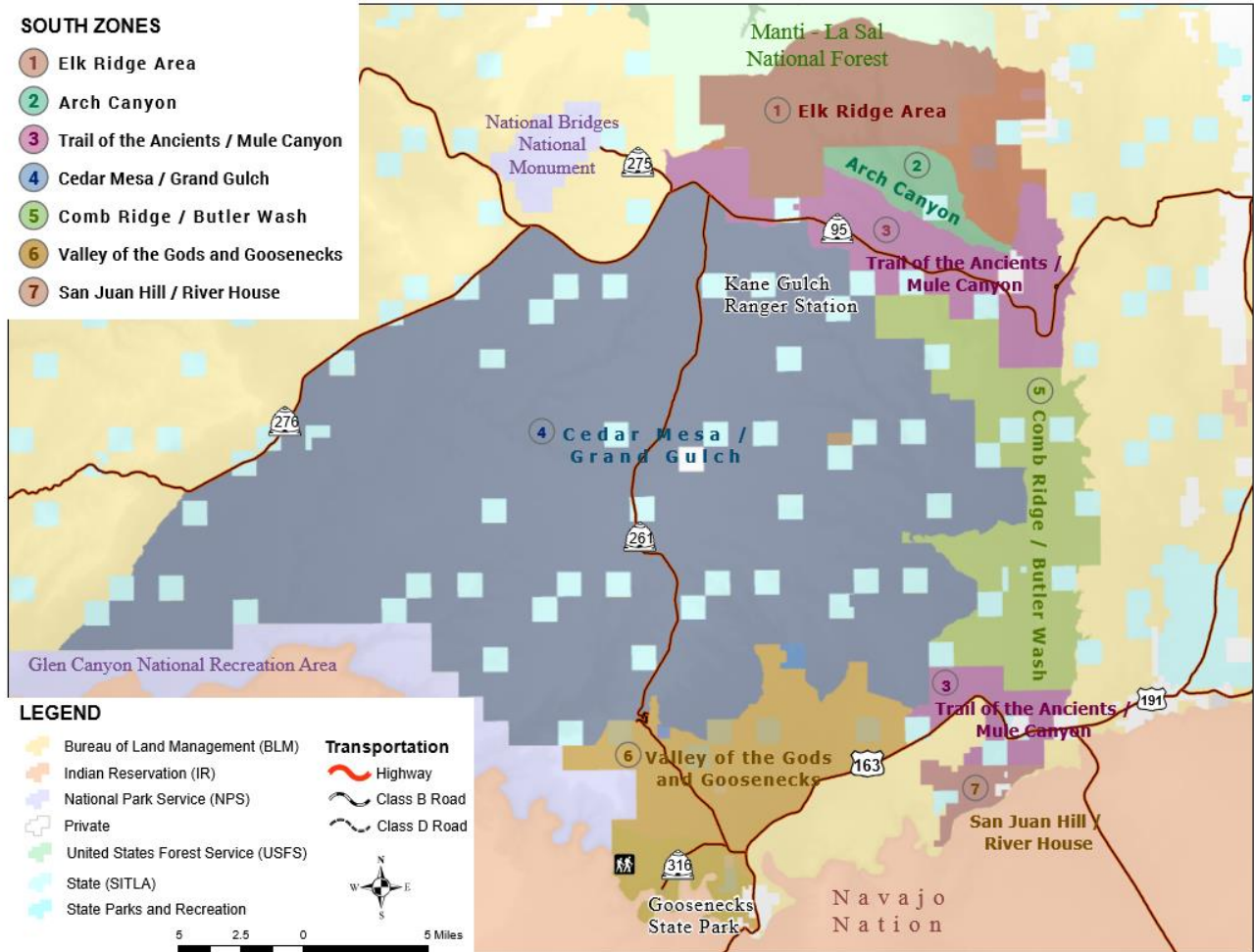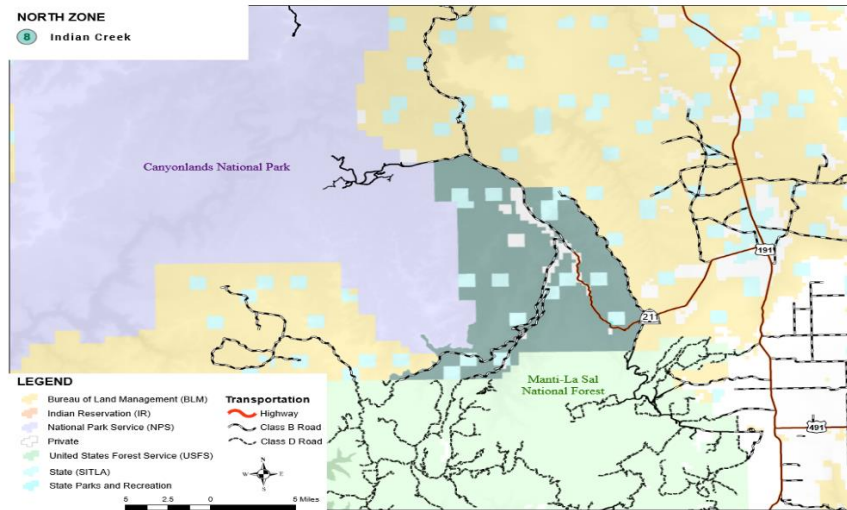
Appendix 2: Cultural Site Visitation Management Photo Options

Option A: Hardened Site

Option B: Limiting the number of daily permits to visit a site

Option C – Visit at a distance

Appendix 2 – Spoken and Written comments

Q3: Qualities of the community

- Rootedness in the history of the area
- Family connections
- Ancient Cultures
- Volume of ancient people living here in the past
- Access to public lands
- Ability to find solitude
- Beauty
- Diversity of experiences
- Diversity of people
- Knowledge that this area is important to other cultures
- Knowledge of places you can't go, or are unknown. Just knowing they are there
- Cultural landscapes are important across peoples and times
- It is a crucible of cultures
- Links/connections to other landscapes
- Not static
- Low population
- Solitude
- Further from major metro area than most places in the country
- Clean air and clean water
- Less noise
- Scenic beauty
- Communities are connected to surrounding lands
- People recreate on surrounding lands
- Tight-knit community
- Diversity in community – ethnically, racially, politically
  - There is no super majority (changing lately)
- People are willing to work together
  - Value diversity of opinions
- Sense of self-sufficiency
- Love the country and the people
- Less crowded
- Weather
- Long family connection
- Family is part of the community

- I grew up here
- Small town
- Close to public lands
- Intimacy of knowing virtually all the people
- Close to indigenous populations
- Stunning beauty of the landscape
- Freedom to roam
- International visitors
- Quiet
- Dark night skies
- The beauty
- Its been our home since time immemorial
- Traditional and cultural classroom
- A staple of my life, my kids, family and community members
- Remoteness
- Solitude
- Quiet
- Darkness
- Good place for kids
- Open spaces – freedom to roam
- Clean air
- Small town/ access to river and hiking
- Beauty of landscape
- International visitation
- Stunning beauty
- Close-knit community
- Close to public lands
- Freedom to roam
- Rural lifestyle dominated by massive land area
- The beauty of place and the people

Q4: How do public lands affect those values?

- Access to public lands
- Beautiful deserts
- Lots of people coming here
    - Good for tourism economy
    - Decreases the quietness of country life
- Access in front country
- Options for back country

- - o Solitude
    - o Lack of roads and services, etc.
- Lands are open, accessible and exceptional
- Diversity of biological zones and cultural zones
- Learning from cultures (traditional practitioners) changed [participant's] world view
    - o Understand so much more depth – there is a lot more going on out there than one realizes
    - o This deeper understanding of culture and the landscape led to a huge increase in quality of life
- It allows for recreational pursuits in a less crowded area
- Diversity of opportunities to recreate
- Impacts of increased use will hurt community values
- It is an iconic place that draws in tourism (economic benefits)
- Balanced diversity of types of public lands (BLM, NPS, State lands, etc.)
- Economic livelihood is impacted by public lands
- Problems come from increased use
- Rec.gov does not work well as a reservation system, it is much better to talk to local agency office to get permits.
- Recreation requires self-sufficiency
- Live and let live attitude is supported because so much land
- Sharing lands encourages one to be mindful and considerate of other users – this supports that attitude in community affairs as well
    - o New users have less of these ethics
- Diversity of landscape encourages diversity of encounters and activities
- Multi-use encourages people to be respectful of different interests and activities
- Public lands used to force compromise over a shared resource
- Incredible stuff out there – many unique things
- Explore it with kids
- So much to see
- Solitude
- People can explore places and find things out there
- Do not see this area as "public" lands, but rather "native" lands
- Puebloans are still here, not past memory
- Lots of stories connected to the landscape, to make them public removes the indigenous people's identity if they can't access the land
- It offers these values – access to beauty all around
- Makes them all possible
- Open spaces
- Not a lot of private land

- People living in town creates open space
- (Mormon desire to have everyone live in town for community and/or discipline of members created far fewer homesteads in Utah, thus leaving so much of Utah open to public lands – unintended consequence)
- Too much traffic in the area because of public lands could affect wildlife and ecosystems
- It affects my life and others by the invasiveness of people, livestock and noise
- It brings visitors to learn of this valuable resource
- Open spaces allow for all of the above
- Access to the beauty of the public lands
- Open space
- Dispersed recreation
- Surrounded by non-private land

Q5: Where are the special places in BENM for you and why are they special?

- Anasazi sites
  - History of old structures in North America
  - Ancientness of it
- Naming places draws attention and people to the area – this is problematic
- There is something different about this place because of co-management
- Traditional Knowledge is a resource to protect and help to manage – this is beyond ecological knowledge
- Recreation is secondary – it is only legitimate if it enhances protection of the cultural resources that are at the heart of the proclamation for the monument
- This landscape as a monument is fundamentally different and new in public lands
- Whole area has meaning, it is not really site specific
- Rich stories of sacred places all over the area
- Boundaries don't make sense, cuts one part of the land off from the other.
- Cedar Mesa
- Canyons in general because that is where the water is and more visible archeology
- Comb Ridge – amazing geological formation that is easy to access and never fails to impress visitors to area
- Grand Gulch – archeology, it is well known area
- Open spaces to walk and wander in where no one kicks you off the land
- Cottonwood Wash – backyard to Bluff – solitude and fewer people because it isn't well known outside the area
- Known spots become "sacrificial sites" – keeps the majority of people away from the other places that are special
- All of it, I'm indigenous to the land

- Shash Jaa' is ancestral homeland for my family, Dine, for millennia
- The system of canyons and mesa tops – the unknown places
- Comb Ridge – endless hiking/view at top
- Comb Ridge
- Cedar Mesa
- Cottonwood wash
- Grand Gulch
- San Juan River
- Grand gulch – slickrock canyon
- The remote little visited areas
- Grand Gulch
- Comb Ridge

Q10: Expectations/surprises?

- Met expectations
- Surprised by media influencer with drone disrespecting cultural sites. This was an unfortunate experience.
- Concerned about how close visitors can get to fragile places
- There is little education on how to behave around cultural sites
- Sharing these spaces with so many people who are new to the area/experience
- The variety of people out on the landscape
  - Often lack the knowledge and skills to be out there safely in a rugged environment
- Increased need for search and rescue
- COVID and the internet impacts on increased visitation
- Need to clean trails on Blues and out of Indian Creek
- Too much traffic – new visitors do not know where they are going, they do not have the equipment or knowledge of where they are going
- The lack of single track trails for motorcycle – only 2 miles of trails in the whole area
- Comb Ridge – increased visitation and disappearance of cultural resources
- Comb Ridge – met expectations because we take family and friends there and it never ceases to amaze them. It is also easy part of landscape to access
- Comb Ridge – surprised there weren't as many campers as I thought there would be – the one person out there had set up a porta potty right out in the open
- Surprised that grazing is still happening in a drought
  - Poor quality of range for grazing because of drought

- o BLM should be addressing this, but doesn't – Non-profits are doing BLM's job in their absence from range management to visitor services to field ranger encounters
- There is a tradeoff between recreation (support of and infrastructure for) and money spent on grazing, especially plan to add millions of dollars of new water wells. Concern over the depletion of the underground water needed for the area from these wells
- No, it has diminish in vegetation (Indigenous medicine) and damaged cultural sites
- Yes, because I was in the company of Indigenous visitors who had vested connections to the land
- Comb Ridge – still beautiful – fresh air, etc. but more people for sure
- Yes – unparalleled beauty and solitude
- Surprised by increased visitation, disappearance of cultural resources
- Yes – we take friends and family to share the wonder of place and it always surprises them

Q 16: Priorities for management

- Change in public relations
  - o Outside groups are demonizing locals
  - o Develop realistic expectations of what they find here, and what it means
- Educate people on the damage that was done
- Travel management
  - o How people are moving through the landscape
  - o Limit motorized vehicles (noise, pollution, ecological impacts)
- Cultural sites – designation requires protection and brings more people that want to see them
- Zone monument for a wide array of economic impacts
- Downplay "politics" around the monument by bringing all users to the table
- Don't destroy "local" stewardship, instead enhance common ground among locals
- Harden sites – protect without destroying access
- Education – signage using native narratives
- Visitor Center needs more education for public
- Education about co-management plan
- Enforcement – LEOs, rangers in the field – so protection continues – relates to all uses from recreation to grazing
- Choose the degree of necessary (acceptable) visitation/usage for each area
- Limit visitations
- Limit road access and additional roads
- No fires built where they shouldn't be
- Graffiti on cultural sites

- Firewood gathering problem
  - Limit wood cutters
  - Permit service of some wood cutters to gather and sell to visitors
- Scientific studies – wood gathering, grazing and recreational impacts on ecology
- SITLA lands in monument should be acquired
- Public education
- Signage
  - Existing and future
  - Misinformation on signs or culturally inappropriate (i.e. Arch Canyon Ruins sign)
- Educating public
  - Why and how BENM is preserving cultural resources
  - Behavior around cultural resources and back country ethics
  - Explain "why" you are telling people not to do things rather than just saying "no"
  - Don't take artifacts
- Names of landmarks and landforms
  - Offensive or outdated
  - Should consult indigenous population for cultural correction
- Infrastructure to handle increasing tourism and visitation
- Visitor center
- Change management culture from managing resource extraction and recreation to protecting those resources. National Conservation Lands should bring more funding and a new understanding of how to protect these lands
- Work with the Monument Advisory Council – fill the open positions more quickly so it can function properly as an advisory board.
- Re-vegetation of overgrazed lands
- Set up "hardened sites" – "sacrificial sites" for public to enjoy/learn; take pressure and attention off of the rest
- Keep managing wildlife – big game keep open hunting available
- Enhanced emphasis on protection of the natural and cultural resources of BENM which is why the monument was created in the first place
- Direct funding, staff and policy towards conservation rather than grazing and other conflicting uses – more "boots on the ground"
- Limit human impact
- Enforcement of the management plan

Q17: Improvements

- More boots on the ground to protect the resources
- Educate people
- Solidify the boundary question

- Noise pollution and light pollution management
- Keep natural areas – natural
- Increase Law Enforcement officers
- More loop trails and single track trails open to motorcycles
- Connectivity of trails
- Primitive trails of all widths
- Motorized users do hundreds of hours of service for landscape and monument excludes their use of it
- Quality of trails – challenge, flow, scenic, varied
- Trail maintenance
- Don't close roads, just don't advertise them
- Do not improve roads to keep down traffic, but don't close them either.
- More single track trails
- Loops are awesome – people don't want to repeat their trail on the same journey if possible
- Get parks and rec baby cat and clean up John's canyon road
- Other recreation uses beyond destination focus
- Dispersed camping, wildlife, open spaces
- "sacrificial sites" – concentrate the casual visitors to specific hardened sites that are easy to access
- Grazing hurts biodiversity – add more lands to 30x30, but make it meaningful protection – grazing may not be compatible with that
- More personnel to contact visitors
    - Paid or volunteer
    - Need and in-field presence
    - More like river ranger program
- Recreation only works if it is part of comprehensive overall management
- Public education about BLM and forestry policy that includes the monument
- Limit visitation – keep tribes informed and involved
- More presence of official managers, even as representative volunteers
- Keep mixed use – i.e dispersed hiking and camping not focused on archeology – Cedar Mesa hunting and Elk Ridge area.
- Adequate funding, staffing priorities
- More education to the public at large in terms of "visit with respect."
- More boots on the ground talking to people about site etiquette
- Please keep "improvements" i.e. construction to a minimum and keep the dispersed camping opportunities in place, not restricted.
- Manage human impacts

- Determine that recreation is a priority and enforce the rules on all land uses so it benefits the experience for everyone

Appendix 3: Comments Coded by Theme

A. Community Characteristics in BENM

1. Connection to other landscapes

1. "Links/connections to other landscapes"
   Code: ● Connection to other landscapes
   BENM Focus Group Comments

2. "Communities are connected to surrounding lands"
   Code: ● Connection to other landscapes
   BENM Focus Group Comments

3. "Connectivity of trails"
   Code: ● Connection to other landscapes
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Infrastructure > Trail construction

2. Family connections

1. "Family connections"
   Code: ● Family connections
   BENM Focus Group Comments

2. "Long family connection"
   Code: ● Family connections
   BENM Focus Group Comments

3. "Family is part of the community"
   Code: ● Family connections
   BENM Focus Group Comments

4. "A staple of my life, my kids, family and community members"
   Code: ● Family connections
   BENM Focus Group Comments

5. "Good place for kids"
   Code: ● Family connections
   BENM Focus Group Comments

6. "Shash Jaa' is ancestral homeland for my family, Dine, for millennia"
   Code: ● Family connections
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   cultural landscape > Indigenous population in area
   Community characteristics > It is my home

3. Discovery/exploration

1. "Sense of exploration"
   Code: ● Discovery/exploration
   BENM Focus Group Comments

2. "Explore it with kids"
   Code: ● Discovery/exploration
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Youth, Family and friends

3. "People can explore places and find things out there"
   Code: ● Discovery/exploration
   BENM Focus Group Comments

4. "I enjoy going to this area for its hiking opportunities and sense of exploration and discovery"
   Code: ● Discovery/exploration
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Recreation opportunities

5. "We have this thing in our family we call the "Butler Wash adventure", where you think you are going to one place, and you end up two canyons over having seen the most fascinating, wonderful thing. It's a really special thing"
   Code: ● Discovery/exploration
   BENM Focus Group Comments

6. "It is also fun to discover clues from the past and we found those."
   Code: ● Discovery/exploration
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   cultural landscape > Archeology and Ancient people

4. Recreation opportunities

1. "People recreate on surrounding lands"
   Code: ● Recreation opportunities
   BENM Focus Group Comments

2. "The expansive recreational opportunities and wide open spaces that allow for exploration."
   Code: ● Recreation opportunities
   BENM Focus Group Comments

3. "hiking and backpacking opportunities"
   Code: ● Recreation opportunities
   BENM Focus Group Comments

4. "Options for back country"
   Code: ● Recreation opportunities

5. "It allows for recreational pursuits in a less crowded area"
      Code: ● Recreation opportunities
      BENM Focus Group Comments
      Other codes assigned to segment:
      Managing for increased use and overcrowding > Low population/less crowded

6. "Diversity of opportunities to recreate"
      Code: ● Recreation opportunities
      BENM Focus Group Comments

7. "Sharing lands encourages one to be mindful and considerate of other users – this supports that attitude in community affairs as well New users have less of these ethics"
      Code: ● Recreation opportunities
      BENM Focus Group Comments
      Other codes assigned to segment:
      Diversity of Stakeholders and Visitors > Sharing Space with other visitors
      Community characteristics > Community Life

8. "Multi-use encourages people to be respectful of different interests and activities"
      Code: ● Recreation opportunities
      BENM Focus Group Comments
      Other codes assigned to segment:
      Diversity of Stakeholders and Visitors > Sharing Space with other visitors
      Diversity of experiences

9. "Dispersed recreation"
      Code: ● Recreation opportunities
      BENM Focus Group Comments

10. "I enjoy going to this area for its hiking opportunities and sense of exploration and discovery"
      Code: ● Recreation opportunities
      BENM Focus Group Comments
      Other codes assigned to segment:
      Discovery/exploration

11. "Comb Ridge – endless hiking/view at top"
      Code: ● Recreation opportunities
      BENM Focus Group Comments
      Other codes assigned to segment:
      Named Locations > Comb Ridge
      Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.) > Scenic beauty

12. "The variety of people out on the landscape"
      Code: ● Recreation opportunities
      BENM Focus Group Comments
      Other codes assigned to segment:
      Diversity of Stakeholders and Visitors > Diversity of people

13. "Scientific studies – wood gathering, grazing and recreational impacts on ecology"
      Code: ● Recreation opportunities
      BENM Focus Group Comments

Other codes assigned to segment:
 Range Management
        Maintenance (trails, facilities, etc.)
 > Forest management (clearing trees, brush, or deadfall)
 Protect resources (wildlife, plants, etc.)
 > Damage to Resources (Vandalism, trash, etc.)

14. "Other recreation uses beyond destination focus"
    Code: ● Recreation opportunities
    BENM Focus Group Comments
    Other codes assigned to segment:
     Diversity of experiences

15. "Keep mixed use – i.e. dispersed hiking and camping not focused on archeology – Cedar Mesa hunting and Elk Ridge area."
    Code: ● Recreation opportunities
    BENM Focus Group Comments
    Other codes assigned to segment:
     Location specific comment
     Managing for increased use and overcrowding
     Partnerships/Stewardship/co-management
     Activity specific comments

4.1. Prioritize recreation

1. "Determine that recreation is a priority and enforce the rules on all land uses so it benefits the experience for everyone"
    Code: ● Prioritize recreation
    BENM Focus Group Comments
    Other codes assigned to segment:
     Regulations and enforcement

5. Solitude

1. "Ability to find solitude"
    Code: ● Solitude
    BENM Focus Group Comments

2. "Solitude"
    Code: ● Solitude
    BENM Focus Group Comments

3. "Solitude"
    Code: ● Solitude
    BENM Focus Group Comments

4. "Solitude"
    Code: ● Solitude
    BENM Focus Group Comments

5. "solitude"
    Code: ● Solitude
    BENM Focus Group Comments

6. "Solitude"
    Code: ● Solitude
    BENM Focus Group Comments

7. "Solitude"
    Code: ● Solitude
    BENM Focus Group Comments

8. "The ability to experience solitude and quiet is necessary for well-being and respite"
    Code: ● Solitude
    BENM Focus Group Comments
    Other codes assigned to segment:
    Mental Health benefits
    Solitude > Quiet

9. "unparalleled beauty and solitude"
    Code: ● Solitude
    BENM Focus Group Comments
    Other codes assigned to segment:
    Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.) > Scenic beauty

5.1. Quiet

1. "Less noise"
    Code: ● Quiet
    BENM Focus Group Comments

2. "Quiet"
    Code: ● Quiet
    BENM Focus Group Comments

3. "Quiet"
    Code: ● Quiet
    BENM Focus Group Comments

4. "quiet"
    Code: ● Quiet
    BENM Focus Group Comments

5. "quiet"
    Code: ● Quiet
    BENM Focus Group Comments

6. "Peace and quiet (on a good day"
    Code: ● Quiet
    BENM Focus Group Comments

7. "The ability to experience solitude and quiet is necessary for well-being and respite"
    Code: ● Quiet
    BENM Focus Group Comments
    Other codes assigned to segment:
    Mental Health benefits
    Solitude

5.2. Noise and/or light pollution

1. "Noise pollution and light pollution management"
   Code: ● Noise and/or light pollution
   BENM Focus Group Comments

5.3 Noise

1. "It affects my life and others by the invasiveness of people, livestock and noise"
   Code: ● Noise
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Low population/less crowded > Crowding
   Range Management

2. "Last time was a disappointment. There were rock climbers everywhere and their dogs and vehicles were blocking the roads. Some were camped on cultural resource sites. The climbers chatter carried up and down the valley"
   Code: ● Noise
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Low population/less crowded > Crowding
   Managing for increased use and overcrowding > Disruptive visitor behavior
   Activity specific comments

6. Community characteristics

6.1. History of area

1. "Rootedness in the history of the area"
   Code: ● History of area
   BENM Focus Group Comments

6.2. Community Life

1. "Sharing lands encourages one to be mindful and considerate of other users – this supports that attitude in community affairs as well New users have less of these ethics"
   Code: ● Community Life
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Diversity of Stakeholders and Visitors > Sharing Space with other visitors
   Recreation opportunities

6.3. Rural (non-urban)

1. "Further from major metro area than most places in the country"
   Code: ● Rural (non-urban)
   BENM Focus Group Comments

2. "Small town"
   Code: ● Rural (non-urban)
   BENM Focus Group Comments

3. "Small town/ access to river and hiking"
> Code: ● Rural (non-urban)
> BENM Focus Group Comments
> Other codes assigned to segment:
> Access issues > Access to public lands

4. "Rural lifestyle dominated by massive land area"
> Code: ● Rural (non-urban)
> BENM Focus Group Comments
> Other codes assigned to segment:
> Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.) > Open Spaces

5. "Rural nature, fabulous landscapes"
> Code: ● Rural (non-urban)
> BENM Focus Group Comments

6. "Lots of people coming here - Good for tourism economy Decreases the quietness of country life"
> Code: ● Rural (non-urban)
> BENM Focus Group Comments
> Other codes assigned to segment:
> Low population/less crowded > Crowding
> Economic well-being

6.4. Low Crime Rate

1. "Low crime rate"
> Code: ● Low Crime Rate
> BENM Focus Group Comments

6.5. It is my home

1. "I grew up here"
> Code: ● It is my home
> BENM Focus Group Comments
> Other codes assigned to segment:
> It is my home > Its where my memories are

2. "Its been our home since time immemorial"
> Code: ● It is my home
> BENM Focus Group Comments

3. "Cottonwood Wash – backyard to Bluff – solitude and fewer people because it isn't well known outside the area"
> Code: ● It is my home
> BENM Focus Group Comments
> Other codes assigned to segment:
> Named Locations > Cottonwood Wash
> Managing for increased use and overcrowding > Low population/less crowded

4. "Shash Jaa' is ancestral homeland for my family, Dine, for millennia"
> Code: ● It is my home
> BENM Focus Group Comments

Other codes assigned to segment:
Youth, Family and friends
> Family connections
cultural landscape > Indigenous population in area

6.5.1. Its where my memories are

1. "I grew up here"
    Code: ● Its where my memories are
    BENM Focus Group Comments
    Other codes assigned to segment:
    Community characteristics > It is my home

6.6. Cooperation in community

1. "People are willing to work together"
    Code: ● Cooperation in community
    BENM Focus Group Comments

6.7. Self-sufficient

1. "Sense of self-sufficiency"
    Code: ● Self-sufficient
    BENM Focus Group Comments

2. "Lack of roads and services, etc."
    Code: ● Self-sufficient
    BENM Focus Group Comments

3. "Recreation requires self-sufficiency"
    Code: ● Self-sufficient
    BENM Focus Group Comments

6.7.1. Freedom

1. "Freedom to roam"
    Code: ● Freedom
    BENM Focus Group Comments
    Other codes assigned to segment:
    Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.) > Open Spaces

2. "Freedom to roam"
    Code: ● Freedom
    BENM Focus Group Comments
    Other codes assigned to segment:
    Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.) > Open Spaces

6.8. Tight knit community

1. "Tight-knit community"
    Code: ● Tight knit community
    BENM Focus Group Comments

2. "Intimacy of knowing virtually all the people"
>   Code: ● Tight knit community
>   BENM Focus Group Comments

3. "Close-knit community"
>   Code: ● Tight knit community
>   BENM Focus Group Comments

4. "The beauty of place and the people"
>   Code: ● Tight knit community
>   BENM Focus Group Comments
>   Other codes assigned to segment:
>   Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.) > Scenic beauty

B. Cultural Landscapes in BENM

1. cultural landscape

1. "Knowledge that this area is important to other cultures"
>   Code: ● cultural landscape
>   BENM Focus Group Comments

2. "Cultural landscapes are important across peoples and times"
>   Code: ● cultural landscape
>   BENM Focus Group Comments

3. "It is a crucible of cultures"
>   Code: ● cultural landscape
>   BENM Focus Group Comments

4. "cultural resources"
>   Code: ● cultural landscape
>   BENM Focus Group Comments

5. "Cultural resources"
>   Code: ● cultural landscape
>   BENM Focus Group Comments

6. "Diversity of biological zones and cultural zones"
>   Code: ● cultural landscape
>   BENM Focus Group Comments
>   Other codes assigned to segment:
>   Natural landscapes   > Diversity of biota

7. "Learning from cultures (traditional practitioners) changed [participant's] world view
Understand so much more depth – there is a lot more going on out there than one realizes
This deeper understanding of culture and the landscape led to a huge increase in quality of life"
>   Code: ● cultural landscape
>   BENM Focus Group Comments

Other codes assigned to segment:
cultural landscape > Archeology and Ancient people
cultural landscape > Indigenous population in area

8. "Do not see this area as "public" lands, but rather "native" lands"
Code: ● cultural landscape
BENM Focus Group Comments

9. "Lots of stories connected to the landscape, to make them public removes the indigenous people's identity if they can't access the land"
Code: ● cultural landscape
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
cultural landscape > Indigenous population in area

10. "Recreation is secondary – it is only legitimate if it enhances protection of the cultural resources that are at the heart of the proclamation for the monument"
Code: ● cultural landscape
BENM Focus Group Comments

11. "the Abajo range--all of their wilderness values and cultural resources"
Code: ● cultural landscape
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Named Locations > Abajo Range
Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.)

12. "Overall, I love the canyons, cultural resources and landscape of all these places"
Code: ● cultural landscape
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Special Places in BENM - location Non- Specific > Canyons
Special Places in BENM - location Non- Specific > Whole area is special

13. "Yes, because I was in the company of Indigenous visitors who had vested connections to the land"
Code: ● cultural landscape
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
cultural landscape > Indigenous population in area

14. "Cultural sites – designation requires protection and brings more people that want to see them"
Code: ● cultural landscape
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Managing for increased use and overcrowding > Naming place draws attention and threat to sites

15. "Education – signage using native narratives"
Code: ● cultural landscape
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Communications and Information > Education

1.1. Prioritize Cultural History / Heritage

1. "Comb Ridge – increased visitation and disappearance of cultural resources"
   Code: ● Prioritize Cultural History / Heritage
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Location specific comment
   Low population/less crowded > Crowding
   Protect resources (wildlife, plants, etc.)
   > Damage to Resources (Vandalism, trash, etc.)

2. "Harden sites – protect without destroying access"
   Code: ● Prioritize Cultural History / Heritage
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Protect resources (wildlife, plants, etc.)
   > Damage to Resources (Vandalism, trash, etc.)   Access issues

3. "Educating public
Why and how BENM is preserving cultural resources
Behavior around cultural resources and back country ethics
Explain "why" you are telling people not to do things rather than just saying "no"
Don't take artifacts"
   Code: ● Prioritize Cultural History / Heritage
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Communications and Information > Education
   Protect resources (wildlife, plants, etc.)
   > Damage to Resources (Vandalism, trash, etc.)

4. "Set up "hardened sites" – "sacrificial sites" for public to enjoy/learn; take pressure and attention off of the rest"
   Code: ● Prioritize Cultural History / Heritage
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Management approach > Sacrifice zones

5. "Enhanced emphasis on protection of the natural and cultural resources of BENM which is why the monument was created in the first place"
   Code: ● Prioritize Cultural History / Heritage
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Management approach
   Protect resources (wildlife, plants, etc.)
   > Damage to Resources (Vandalism, trash, etc.)

6. "Preserve ALL the remaining cultural resources of the area."
   Code: ● Prioritize Cultural History / Heritage
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Protect resources (wildlife, plants, etc.)

1.2. Archeology and Ancient people

1. "Ancient Cultures"
   Code: ● Archeology and Ancient people
   BENM Focus Group Comments

2. "Volume of ancient people living here in the past"
   Code: ● Archeology and Ancient people
   BENM Focus Group Comments

3. "archeological resources"
   Code: ● Archeology and Ancient people
   BENM Focus Group Comments

4. "Learning from cultures (traditional practitioners) changed [participant's] world view
Understand so much more depth – there is a lot more going on out there than one realizes
This deeper understanding of culture and the landscape led to a huge increase in quality of life"
   Code: ● Archeology and Ancient people
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   cultural landscape
   cultural landscape > Indigenous population in area

5. " Anasazi sites
History of old structures in North America
Ancientness of it"
   Code: ● Archeology and Ancient people
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Special Places in BENM - location Non- Specific > Anasazi Sites

6. "Canyons in general because that is where the water is and more visible archeology"
   Code: ● Archeology and Ancient people
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Special Places in BENM - location Non- Specific > Canyons
   Ecological Issues (ecosystem, flora, fauna, water, etc.) > water - creeks, rivers, etc.

7. "Grand Gulch – archeology, it is well known area"
   Code: ● Archeology and Ancient people
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Named Locations > Grand Gulch

8. "It is also fun to discover clues from the past and we found those."
   Code: ● Archeology and Ancient people
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Discovery/exploration

1.3. Indigenous population in area

1. "Close to indigenous populations"

Code: ● Indigenous population in area
BENM Focus Group Comments

2. "Learning from cultures (traditional practitioners) changed [participant's] world view
Understand so much more depth – there is a lot more going on out there than one realizes
This deeper understanding of culture and the landscape led to a huge increase in quality of life"
Code: ● Indigenous population in area
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
cultural landscape
cultural landscape > Archeology and Ancient people

3. "Puebloans are still here, not past memory"
Code: ● Indigenous population in area
BENM Focus Group Comments

4. "Lots of stories connected to the landscape, to make them public removes the indigenous
people's identity if they can't access the land"
Code: ● Indigenous population in area
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
cultural landscape)

5. "There is something different about this place because of co-management"
Code: ● Indigenous population in area
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Partnerships/Stewardship/co-management > Interagency cooperation

6. "Traditional Knowledge is a resource to protect and help to manage – this is beyond
ecological knowledge"
Code: ● Indigenous population in area
BENM Focus Group Comments

7. "All of it, I'm indigenous to the land"
Code: ● Indigenous population in area
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Special Places in BENM - location Non- Specific > Whole area is special

8. "Shash Jaa' is ancestral homeland for my family, Dine, for millennia"
Code: ● Indigenous population in area
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Youth, Family and friends > Family connections
Community characteristics > It is my home

9. "Yes, because I was in the company of Indigenous visitors who had vested connections to the
land"
Code: ● Indigenous population in area
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
cultural landscape

C. Special Areas in BENM

1. Special Places in BENM - location non-Specific

1.1. Anasazi Sites

1. "Anasazi sites - History of old structures in North America Ancientness of it"
   Code: ● Anasazi Sites
   BENM Focus Group Comments

2. "Indian creek."
   Code: ● Anasazi Sites
   BENM Focus Group Comments

1.2. Canyons

1. "Canyons in general because that is where the water is and more visible archeology"
   Code: ● Canyons
   BENM Focus Group Comments

2. "The system of canyons and mesa tops – the unknown places"
   Code: ● Canyons
   BENM Focus Group Comments

3. "Grand gulch – slickrock canyon"
   Code: ● Canyons
   BENM Focus Group Comments

4. "Grand Gulch and other canyon systems"
   Code: ● Canyons
   BENM Focus Group Comments

5. "Overall, I love the canyons, cultural resources and landscape of all these places"
   Code: ● Canyons
   BENM Focus Group Comments

2.3. Sacred place

1. "Rich stories of sacred places all over the area"
   Code: ● Sacred place
   BENM Focus Group Comments

2.4. Whole area is special

1. "Whole area has meaning, it is not really site specific"
   Code: ● Whole area is special
   BENM Focus Group Comments

2. "Boundaries don't make sense, cuts one part of the land off from the other"
    Code: ● Whole area is special
    BENM Focus Group Comments

3. "All of it, I'm indigenous to the land"
    Code: ● Whole area is special
    BENM Focus Group Comments

4. "Overall, I love the canyons, cultural resources and landscape of all these places"
    Code: ● Whole area is special
    BENM Focus Group Comments

2. Location specific comment

1. "Need to clean trails on Blues and out of Indian Creek"
    Code: ● Location specific comment
    BENM Focus Group Comments
    Other codes assigned to segment:
    Infrastructure > Maintenance (trails, facilities, etc.)
    Protect resources (wildlife, plants, etc.)
     > Damage to Resources (Vandalism, trash, etc.)

2. "Comb Ridge – increased visitation and disappearance of cultural resources"
    Code: ● Location specific comment
    BENM Focus Group Comments
    Other codes assigned to segment:
    Low population/less crowded > Crowding
    Protect resources (wildlife, plants, etc.)
     > Damage to Resources (Vandalism, trash, etc.)
    cultural landscape > Prioritize Cultural History / Heritage

3. "Comb Ridge – met expectations because we take family and friends there and it never
ceases to amaze them. It is also easy part of landscape to access"
    Code: ● Location specific comment
    BENM Focus Group Comments
    Other codes assigned to segment:
    Access issues
    Youth, Family and friends

4. "Comb Ridge – surprised there weren't as many campers as I thought there would be – the
one person out there had set up a porta potty right out in the open"
    Code: ● Location specific comment
    BENM Focus Group Comments
    Other codes assigned to segment:
    Managing for increased use and overcrowding > Disruptive visitor behavior

5. "Keep mixed use – i.e dispersed hiking and camping not focused on archeology – Cedar Mesa
hunting and Elk Ridge area."
    Code: ● Location specific comment
    BENM Focus Group Comments
    Other codes assigned to segment:
    Managing for increased use and overcrowding
    Partnerships/Stewardship/co-management

Activity specific comments
Recreation opportunities

3. Named Locations

3.1. Abajo Range

1. "the Abajo range--all of their wilderness values and cultural resources"
   Code: ● Abajo Range
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.)
   cultural landscape

3.2. Cedar Mesa

1. "Cedar Mesa"
   Code: ● Cedar Mesa
   BENM Focus Group Comments

2. "Cedar Mesa"
   Code: ● Cedar Mesa
   BENM Focus Group Comments

3.3. Comb Ridge

1. "Comb Ridge – amazing geological formation that is easy to access and never fails to impress visitors to area"
   Code: ● Comb Ridge
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Access issues   > Access to public lands
   Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.) > Wonder - sublime
   Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.)
      > Geographic feature named (rivers, mountains, etc.)

2. "Comb Ridge – endless hiking/view at top"
   Code: ● Comb Ridge
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.) > Scenic beauty
   Recreation opportunities

3. "Comb Ridge"
   Code: ● Comb Ridge
   BENM Focus Group Comments

4. "Comb Ridge"
   Code: ● Comb Ridge
   BENM Focus Group Comments

5. "There is little education on how to behave around cultural sites"
   Code: ● Comb Ridge

6. "Often lack the knowledge and skills to be out there safely in a rugged environment"
   Code: ● Comb Ridge
   BENM Focus Group Comments

7. "Too much traffic – new visitors do not know where they are going, they do not have the equipment or knowledge of where they are going"
   Code: ● Comb Ridge
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Travel Management > Traffic

8. "Comb Ridge – still beautiful – fresh air, etc. but more people for sure"
   Code: ● Comb Ridge
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Low population/less crowded > Crowding
   Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.) > Scenic beauty

3.4. Cottonwood Wash

1. "Cottonwood Wash – backyard to Bluff – solitude and fewer people because it isn't well known outside the area"
   Code: ● Cottonwood Wash
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Managing for increased use and overcrowding > Low population/less crowded
   Community characteristics > It is my home

2. "Cottonwood wash"
   Code: ● Cottonwood Wash
   BENM Focus Group Comments

3.5. Elk Ridge

1. "the south end of Elk Ridge for its Ponderosa Pine forest. I also enjoy seeing the landscape without trailers and OHVs but that is getting really hard to achieve"
   Code: ● Elk Ridge
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.)
      > Geographic feature named (rivers, mountains, etc.)

2. "Elk Ridge is such a landmark and refuge during the summer heat"
   Code: ● Elk Ridge
   BENM Focus Group Comments

3.6. Grand Gulch

1. "Grand Gulch – archeology, it is well known area"
   Code: ● Grand Gulch

BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
 cultural landscape > Archeology and Ancient people

2. "Grand Gulch"
Code: ● Grand Gulch
BENM Focus Group Comments

3. "Grand gulch – slickrock canyon"
Code: ● Grand Gulch
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
 Special Places in BENM - location Non- Specific > Canyons

4. "Grand Gulch"
Code: ● Grand Gulch
BENM Focus Group Comments

5. "Grand Gulch and other canyon systems"
Code: ● Grand Gulch
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
 Special Places in BENM - location Non- Specific > Canyons

3.7. Indian Creek

1. "Indian Creek"
Code: ● Indian Creek
BENM Focus Group Comments

2. "Indian Creek for the red rock walls"
Code: ● Indian Creek
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
 Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.)
   > Geographic feature named (rivers, mountains, etc.)

3. "Indian Creek - For climbing mostly"
Code: ● Indian Creek
BENM Focus Group Comments

4. "Indian creek."
Code: ● Indian Creek
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
 Special Places in BENM - location Non- Specific > Anasazi Sites

3.8. San Juan River

1. "San Juan River"
Code: ● San Juan River
BENM Focus Group Comments

2. "San Juan river"
> Code: ● San Juan River
> BENM Focus Group Comments

3.9. South Cottonwood Creek

1. "South Cottonwood Creek for its riparian beauty"
> Code: ● South Cottonwood Creek
> BENM Focus Group Comments
> Other codes assigned to segment:
> Ecological Issues (ecosystem, flora, fauna, water, etc.) > water - creeks, rivers, etc.

3.10. Valley of the Gods

1. "Valley of the Gods"
> Code: ● Valley of the Gods
> BENM Focus Group Comments

2. "In Valley of the Gods, it's all dispersed camping (which is good) but hardening the sites so they don't proliferate is key."
> Code: ● Valley of the Gods
> BENM Focus Group Comments
> Other codes assigned to segment:
> Infrastructure > Maintenance (trails, facilities, etc.)
> Activity specific comments

D. Desired Recreation Outcomes in BENM

1. Diversity of experiences

1. "Diversity of experiences"
> Code: ● Diversity of experiences
> BENM Focus Group Comments

2. "lots to do"
> Code: ● Diversity of experiences
> BENM Focus Group Comments

3. "Diversity of landscape encourages diversity of encounters and activities"
> Code: ● Diversity of experiences
> BENM Focus Group Comments
> Other codes assigned to segment:
> Natural landscapes > Diversity of Landscapes

4. "Multi-use encourages people to be respectful of different interests and activities"
> Code: ● Diversity of experiences
> BENM Focus Group Comments
> Other codes assigned to segment:
> Diversity of Stakeholders and Visitors > Sharing Space with other visitors
> Recreation opportunities

5. "Provide a range of recreation experiences so that some areas are made more accessible and provide education for larger numbers of people, while other areas remain remote and pristine"

Code: ● Diversity of experiences
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Natural landscapes > Diversity of Landscapes

6. "Create areas with different recreation experiences. More interpretation / expectation of running into others in some areas; solitude and limited numbers of visitors in other areas"

Code: ● Diversity of experiences
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Natural landscapes   > Diversity of Landscapes

7. "Other recreation uses beyond destination focus"

Code: ● Diversity of experiences
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Recreation opportunities

2. Economic well-being

1. "Lots of people coming here
Good for tourism economy
Decreases the quietness of country life"

Code: ● Economic well-being
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Low population/less crowded > Crowding
Community characteristics > Rural (non-urban)

2. " It is an iconic place that draws in tourism (economic benefits)"

Code: ● Economic well-being
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Natural landscapes

3. "Economic livelihood is impacted by public lands"

Code: ● Economic well-being
BENM Focus Group Comments

4. "Zone monument for a wide array of economic impacts"

Code: ● Economic well-being
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Regulations and enforcement

5. "Firewood gathering problem. Limit wood cutters
Permit service of some wood cutters to gather and sell to visitors"

Code: ● Economic well-being
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Maintenance (trails, facilities, etc.)

> Forest management (clearing trees, brush, or deadfall)
Protect resources (wildlife, plants, etc.) > Damage to Resources (Vandalism, trash, etc.)

3. Youth, Family and friends

1. "Explore it with kids"
   Code: ● Youth, Family and friends
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Discovery/exploration

2. "Comb Ridge – met expectations because we take family and friends there and it never ceases to amaze them. It is also easy part of landscape to access"
   Code: ● Youth, Family and friends
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Location specific comment)
   Access issues

3.1. Family connections

1. "Family connections"
   Code: ● Family connections
   BENM Focus Group Comments

2. "Long family connection"
   Code: ● Family connections
   BENM Focus Group Comments

3. "Family is part of the community"
   Code: ● Family connections
   BENM Focus Group Comments

4. "A staple of my life, my kids, family and community members"
   Code: ● Family connections
   BENM Focus Group Comments

5. "Good place for kids"
   Code: ● Family connections
   BENM Focus Group Comments

6. "Shash Jaa' is ancestral homeland for my family, Dine, for millennia"
   Code: ● Family connections
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   cultural landscape > Indigenous population in area
   Community characteristics > It is my home

4. Natural landscapes

1. "It is an iconic place that draws in tourism (economic benefits)"
   Code: ● Natural landscapes

BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Economic well-being

2. "Keep natural areas – natural"
Code: ● Natural landscapes
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Protect resources (wildlife, plants, etc.)

4.1. Diversity of Landscapes

1. "Balanced diversity of types of public lands (BLM, NPS, State lands, etc.)"
Code: ● Diversity of Landscapes
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Partnerships/Stewardship/co-management
Partnerships/Stewardship/co-management > Interagency cooperation

2. "Diversity of landscape encourages diversity of encounters and activities"
Code: ● Diversity of Landscapes
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Diversity of experiences

3. "Incredible stuff out there – many unique things"
Code: ● Diversity of Landscapes
BENM Focus Group Comments

4. "Proactively manage visitation. As step one, identify front-country and backcountry areas. One established, managed backcountry areas for wilderness values and focus development in front-country areas"
Code: ● Diversity of Landscapes
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Management approach
Management approach > Future planning

5. "Provide a range of recreation experiences so that some areas are made more accessible and provide education for larger numbers of people, while other areas remain remote and pristine"
Code: ● Diversity of Landscapes
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Diversity of experiences

6. "Create areas with different recreation experiences. More interpretation / expectation of running into others in some areas; solitude and limited numbers of visitors in other areas"
Code: ● Diversity of Landscapes
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Diversity of experiences

4.2. Diversity of biota

1. "Diversity of biological zones and cultural zones"
   Code: ● Diversity of biota
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   cultural landscape

5. Met expectations

1. "Met expectations"
   Code: ● Met expectations
   BENM Focus Group Comments

2. "I think my expectations were met."
   Code: ● Met expectations
   BENM Focus Group Comments

6. Mental Health benefits

1. "The ability to experience solitude and quiet is necessary for well-being and respite"
   Code: ● Mental Health benefits
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Solitude
   Solitude > Quiet

E. Setting Characteristics in BENM

1. Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.)

1. "Remoteness"
   Code: ● Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.)
   BENM Focus Group Comments

2. "Wilderness character"
   Code: ● Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.)
   BENM Focus Group Comments

3. "The wildness"
   Code: ● Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.)
   BENM Focus Group Comments

4. "Pristine, undeveloped"
   Code: ● Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.)
   BENM Focus Group Comments

5. "wild public lands are 100% connected to my quality of life"
   Code: ● Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.)
   BENM Focus Group Comments

6. "The remote little visited areas"
   Code: ● Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.)
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Managing for increased use and overcrowding > Low population/less crowded

7. "the Abajo range--all of their wilderness values and cultural resources"
   Code: ● Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.)
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Named Locations > Abajo Range
   cultural landscape

8. "I seek more remote areas so I headed for an area that I thought would not be crowded."
   Code: ● Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.)
   BENM Focus Group Comments

9. "Magical camping and climbing"
   Code: ● Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.)
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Activity specific comments

10. "Harden specific sites along Hwy 95 that are already overrun, but generally no new improvements. The beauty of this area is its undeveloped, remote, wilderness values, even when car camping. Don't push use into new areas."
   Code: ● Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.)
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Infrastructure
   Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.) > Lack of development or improvements

11. "Make sure large areas remain remote and pristine, and continue"
   Code: ● Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.)
   BENM Focus Group Comments

12. "designated dispersed camping, and an overflow site, so that people can be directed where to go....but limited improvements to the sites....to maintain the naturalness"
   Code: ● Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.)
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Activity specific comments
   Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.) > Lack of development or improvements

1.1. Lack of development or improvements

1. "It's openness and undisturbed quality are essential for providing these experiences"
   Code: ● Lack of development or improvements
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.) > Open Spaces

2. "Surprised at the thought of development."

Code: ● Lack of development or improvements
BENM Focus Group Comments

3. "Harden specific sites along Hwy 95 that are already overrun, but generally no new improvements. The beauty of this area is its undeveloped, remote, wilderness values, even when car camping. Don't push use into new areas."
Code: ● Lack of development or improvements
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Infrastructure
Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.)

4. "Remove camping from within BENM but make camping areas available outside the monument. No more parking lots and toilet developments to limit visitors."
Code: ● Lack of development or improvements
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Low population/less crowded > Crowding
Infrastructure

5. "designated dispersed camping, and an overflow site, so that people can be directed where to go....but limited improvements to the sites....to maintain the naturalness"
Code: ● Lack of development or improvements
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Activity specific comments
Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.)

1.2. Clean air/water

1. "Clean air and clean water"
Code: ● Clean air/water
BENM Focus Group Comments

2. "Clean air"
Code: ● Clean air/water
BENM Focus Group Comments

1.3. Scenic beauty

1. "Beauty"
Code: ● Scenic beauty
BENM Focus Group Comments

2. "Scenic beauty"
Code: ● Scenic beauty
BENM Focus Group Comments

3. "Stunning beauty of the landscape"
Code: ● Scenic beauty
BENM Focus Group Comments

4. "The beauty"
    Code: ● Scenic beauty
    BENM Focus Group Comments

5. "Beauty of landscape"
    Code: ● Scenic beauty
    BENM Focus Group Comments

6. "Stunning beauty"
    Code: ● Scenic beauty
    BENM Focus Group Comments

7. "The beauty of place and the people"
    Code: ● Scenic beauty
    BENM Focus Group Comments
    Other codes assigned to segment:
    Community characteristics > Tight knit community

8. "natural beauty"
    Code: ● Scenic beauty
    BENM Focus Group Comments

9. "scenic quality"
    Code: ● Scenic beauty
    BENM Focus Group Comments

10. "the beauty"
    Code: ● Scenic beauty
    BENM Focus Group Comments

11. "Beautiful deserts"
    Code: ● Scenic beauty
    BENM Focus Group Comments

12. "Lands are open, accessible and exceptional"
    Code: ● Scenic beauty
    BENM Focus Group Comments
    Other codes assigned to segment:
    Access issues   > Access to public lands
    Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.) > Open Spaces

13. "So much to see"
    Code: ● Scenic beauty
    BENM Focus Group Comments

14. "It offers these values – access to beauty all around"
    Code: ● Scenic beauty
    BENM Focus Group Comments
    Other codes assigned to segment:
    Access issues > Access to public lands

15. "Access to the beauty of the public lands"
    Code: ● Scenic beauty

        BENM Focus Group Comments
        Other codes assigned to segment:
         Access issues   > Access to public lands

16. "Comb Ridge – endless hiking/view at top"
        Code: ● Scenic beauty
        BENM Focus Group Comments
        Other codes assigned to segment:
         Named Locations > Comb Ridge
         Recreation opportunities

17. "Comb Ridge – still beautiful – fresh air, etc. but more people for sure"
        Code: ● Scenic beauty
        BENM Focus Group Comments
        Other codes assigned to segment:
         Named Locations > Comb Ridge
         Low population/less crowded > Crowding

18. "unparalleled beauty and solitude"
        Code: ● Scenic beauty
        BENM Focus Group Comments
        Other codes assigned to segment:
         Solitude

1.4. Drought Issues

1. "Surprised that grazing is still happening in a drought
Poor quality of range for grazing because of drought
BLM should be addressing this, but doesn't – Non-profits are doing BLM's job in their absence
from range management to visitor services to field ranger encounters"
        Code: ● Drought Issues
        BENM Focus Group Comments
        Other codes assigned to segment:
         Range Management
         Regulations and enforcement

1.5. weather

1. "Weather"
        Code: ● weather
        BENM Focus Group Comments

1.6. Interdependence of Variables

1. "Makes them all possible"
        Code: ● Interdependence of Variables
        BENM Focus Group Comments

1.7. Wonder - sublime

1. "Comb Ridge – amazing geological formation that is easy to access and never fails to impress
visitors to area"
        Code: ● Wonder- sublime

BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Named Locations > Comb Ridge
Access issues   > Access to public lands
Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.)
    > Geographic feature named (rivers, mountains, etc.)

2. "we take friends and family to share the wonder of place and it always surprises them"
Code: ● Wonder- sublime
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Diversity of Stakeholders and Visitors
  > Sharing Space with other visitors

1.8. Dark Night Skies

1. "Dark night skies"
Code: ● Dark Night Skies
BENM Focus Group Comments

2. "Darkness"
Code: ● Dark Night Skies
BENM Focus Group Comments

3. "dark skies"
Code: ● Dark Night Skies
BENM Focus Group Comments

1.9. Seasons

1. "the spring/fall seasons"
Code: ● Seasons
BENM Focus Group Comments

1.10. Geographic feature named (rivers, mountains, etc.)

1. "San Juan river"
Code: ● Geographic feature named (rivers, mountains, etc.)
BENM Focus Group Comments

2. "desert landscape"
Code: ● Geographic feature named (rivers, mountains, etc.)
BENM Focus Group Comments

3. "unique landscape"
Code: ● Geographic feature named (rivers, mountains, etc.)
BENM Focus Group Comments

4. "Access in front country"
Code: ● Geographic feature named (rivers, mountains, etc.)
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Access issues   > Access to public lands

5. "Comb Ridge – amazing geological formation that is easy to access and never fails to impress visitors to area"

Code: ● Geographic feature named (rivers, mountains, etc.)
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Named Locations > Comb Ridge
Access issues   > Access to public lands
Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.) > Wonder- sublime

6. "Indian Creek for the red rock walls"

Code: ● Geographic feature named (rivers, mountains, etc.)
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Named Locations > Indian Creek

7. "the south end of Elk Ridge for its Ponderosa Pine forest. I also enjoy seeing the landscape without trailers and OHVs but that is getting really hard to achieve"

Code: ● Geographic feature named (rivers, mountains, etc.)
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Named Locations > Elk Ridge

8. "Get parks and rec baby cat and clean up John's canyon road"

Code: ● Geographic feature named (rivers, mountains, etc.)
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Infrastructure > Maintenance (trails, facilities, etc.)

9. "Dispersed camping, wildlife, open spaces"

Code: ● Geographic feature named (rivers, mountains, etc.)
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Activity specific comments

1.11. Dynamic Landscape

1. "Not static"

Code: ● Dynamic Landscape
BENM Focus Group Comments

1.12. Open Spaces

1. "Freedom to roam"

Code: ● Open Spaces
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Self-sufficient   > Freedom

2. "Open spaces – freedom to roam"

Code: ● Open Spaces
BENM Focus Group Comments

3. "Freedom to roam"

Code: ● Open Spaces

BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
 Self-sufficient   > Freedom

4. "Rural lifestyle dominated by massive land area"
Code: ● Open Spaces
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
 Community characteristics > Rural (non-urban)

5. "Viewshed is large and open"
Code: ● Open Spaces
BENM Focus Group Comments

6. "size/expansiveness"
Code: ● Open Spaces
BENM Focus Group Comments

7. "Big, wide open spaces"
Code: ● Open Spaces
BENM Focus Group Comments

8. "Lands are open, accessible and exceptional"
Code: ● Open Spaces
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
 Access issues   > Access to public lands
 Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.) > Scenic beauty

9. "Live and let live attitude is supported because so much land"
Code: ● Open Spaces
BENM Focus Group Comments

10. "Open spaces"
Code: ● Open Spaces
BENM Focus Group Comments

11. "People living in town creates open space"
Code: ● Open Spaces
BENM Focus Group Comments

12. "(Mormon desire to have everyone live in town for community and/or discipline of members created far fewer homesteads in Utah, thus leaving so much of Utah open to public lands – unintended consequence)"
Code: ● Open Spaces
BENM Focus Group Comments

13. "Open spaces allow for all of the above"
Code: ● Open Spaces
BENM Focus Group Comments

14. "Open space"
Code: ● Open Spaces

BENM Focus Group Comments

15. "It's openness and undisturbed quality are essential for providing these experiences"
Code: ● Open Spaces
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.) > Lack of development or improvements

16. "Open spaces to walk and wander in where no one kicks you off the land"
Code: ● Open Spaces
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Access to public lands > Opportunities on PUBLIC land

F. Management Priorities in BENM
1. Managing for increased use and overcrowding

1. "Keep mixed use – i.e dispersed hiking and camping not focused on archeology – Cedar Mesa hunting and Elk Ridge area."
Code: ● Managing for increased use and overcrowding
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Location specific comment
Partnerships/Stewardship/co-management
Activity specific comments
Recreation opportunities

1.1. Low population/less crowded

1. "Low population"
Code: ● Low population/less crowded
BENM Focus Group Comments

2. "Less crowded"
Code: ● Low population/less crowded
BENM Focus Group Comments

3. "Very few people but that is rapidly changing"
Code: ● Low population/less crowded
BENM Focus Group Comments

4. "It allows for recreational pursuits in a less crowded area"
Code: ● Low population/less crowded
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Recreation opportunities

5. "Impacts of increased use will hurt community values"
Code: ● Low population/less crowded
BENM Focus Group Comments

Other codes assigned to segment:
Low population/less crowded > Crowding

6. "I don't like close neighbors"
Code: ● Low population/less crowded
BENM Focus Group Comments

7. "Cottonwood Wash – backyard to Bluff – solitude and fewer people because it isn't well known outside the area"
Code: ● Low population/less crowded
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Named Locations > Cottonwood Wash
Community characteristics > It is my home

8. "Known spots become "sacrificial sites" – keeps the majority of people away from the other places that are special"
Code: ● Low population/less crowded
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Managing for increased use and overcrowding
> Naming place draws attention and threat to sites
Management approach > Sacrifice zones

9. "The system of canyons and mesa tops – the unknown places"
Code: ● Low population/less crowded
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Special Places in BENM - location Non- Specific > Canyons

10. "The remote little visited areas"
Code: ● Low population/less crowded
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.)

11. "Limit visitations"
Code: ● Low population/less crowded
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Access issues

12. "Limiting the number of visitors per day or per location so that the resources that make the BENM special will last longer"
Code: ● Low population/less crowded
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Regulations and enforcement
Protect resources (wildlife, plants, etc.)

13. "sacrificial sites" – concentrate the casual visitors to specific hardened sites that are easy to access"
Code: ● Low population/less crowded
BENM Focus Group Comments

Other codes assigned to segment:
Management approach
Management approach > Sacrafice zones

14. "Limit visitation – keep tribes informed and involved"
Code: ● Low population/less crowded
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Low population/less crowded > Crowding
Partnerships/Stewardship/co-management

1.1.1. Crowding

1. "Lots of people coming here - Good for tourism economy - Decreases the quietness of country life"
Code: ● Crowding
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Economic well-being
Community characterisitics > Rural (non-urban)

2. "Impacts of increased use will hurt community values"
Code: ● Crowding
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Managing for increased use and overcrowding > Low population/less crowded

3. "Problems come from increased use"
Code: ● Crowding
BENM Focus Group Comments

4. "It affects my life and others by the invasiveness of people, livestock and noise"
Code: ● Crowding
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Range Management
Quiet (+) > Noise

5. "Comb Ridge – increased visitation and disappearance of cultural resources"
Code: ● Crowding
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Location specific comment
Protect resources (wildlife, plants, etc.)
> Damage to Resources (Vandalism, trash, etc.)
cultural landscape > Prioritize Cultural History / Heritage

6. "Comb Ridge – still beautiful – fresh air, etc. but more people for sure"
Code: ● Crowding
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Named Locations > Comb Ridge
Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.) > Scenic beauty

7. "Surprised by increased visitation, disappearance of cultural resources"

Code: ● Crowding
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Protect resources (wildlife, plants, etc.)
> Damage to Resources (Vandalism, trash, etc.)

8. "Yes, but the increasing levels of use are concerning, both for the on-the-ground impacts (resource damage and crowding and areas being used for camping) and the difficulty of securing permits for rivers and canyons"
Code: ● Crowding
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Regulations and enforcement
Protect resources (wildlife, plants, etc.)
> Damage to Resources (Vandalism, trash, etc.)

9. "Last time was a disappointment. There were rock climbers everywhere and their dogs and vehicles were blocking the roads. Some were camped on cultural resource sites. The climbers chatter carried up and down the valley"
Code: ● Crowding
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Managing for increased use and overcrowding > Disruptive visitor behavior
Activity specific comments
Quiet > Noise

10. "I noticed a more heavily visited area was being treated respectfully."
Code: ● Crowding
BENM Focus Group Comments

11. "Choose the degree of necessary (acceptable) visitation/usage for each area"
Code: ● Crowding
BENM Focus Group Comments

12. "Limit visitation – keep tribes informed and involved"
Code: ● Crowding
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Managing for increased use and overcrowding > Low population/less crowded
Partnerships/Stewardship/co-management

13. "Remove camping from within BENM but make camping areas available outside the monument. No more parking lots and toilet developments to limit visitors."
Code: ● Crowding
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Infrastructure
Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.) > Lack of development or improvements

1.2. Naming place draws attention and threat to sites

1. "Naming places draws attention and people to the area – this is problematic"
Code: ● Naming place draws attention and threat to sites
BENM Focus Group Comments

2. "Known spots become "sacrificial sites" – keeps the majority of people away from the other places that are special"
> Code: ● Naming place draws attention and threat to sites
> BENM Focus Group Comments
> Other codes assigned to segment:
> Managing for increased use and overcrowding > Low population/less crowded   Management approach > Sacrafice zones

3. "I prefer not to name specific areas as I value their anonymity"
> Code: ● Naming place draws attention and threat to sites
> BENM Focus Group Comments

4. "Cultural sites – designation requires protection and brings more people that want to see them"
> Code: ● Naming place draws attention and threat to sites
> BENM Focus Group Comments
> Other codes assigned to segment:
> cultural landscape

1.3. Disruptive visitor behavior

1. "Surprised by media influencer with drone disrespecting cultural sites. This was an unfortunate experience"
> Code: ● Disruptive visitor behavior
> BENM Focus Group Comments

2. "Concerned about how close visitors can get to fragile places"
> Code: ● Disruptive visitor behavior
> BENM Focus Group Comments

3. "Comb Ridge – surprised there weren't as many campers as I thought there would be – the one person out there had set up a porta potty right out in the open"
> Code: ● Disruptive visitor behavior
> BENM Focus Group Comments
> Other codes assigned to segment:
> Location specific comment

4. "Last time was a disappointment. There were rock climbers everywhere and their dogs and vehicles were blocking the roads. Some were camped on cultural resource sites. The climbers chatter carried up and down the valley"
> Code: ● Disruptive visitor behavior
> BENM Focus Group Comments
> Other codes assigned to segment:
> Low population/less crowded > Crowding
> Activity specific comments
> Quiet > Noise

5. "I was surprised by some of the behavior of other climbers to the area. Someone placed a rope at the base to claim a route they wanted to climb- which is something you see in a more urban area"
> Code: ● Disruptive visitor behavior
> BENM Focus Group Comments

Other codes assigned to segment:
Activity specific comments

1.4. COVID increased visitation/crowding

1. "COVID and the internet impacts on increased visitation"
   Code: ● COVID increased visitation/crowding
   BENM Focus Group Comments

2. "It was very busy with campers, much more so than pre-COVID."
   Code: ● COVID increased visitation/crowding
   BENM Focus Group Comments

2. Management approach

1. "Change management culture from managing resource extraction and recreation to protecting those resources. National Conservation Lands should bring more funding and a new understanding of how to protect these lands"
   Code: ● Management approach
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Protect resources (wildlife, plants, etc.) > Funding for resource protection

2. "Enhanced emphasis on protection of the natural and cultural resources of BENM which is why the monument was created in the first place"
   Code: ● Management approach
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Protect resources (wildlife, plants, etc.)
   > Damage to Resources (Vandalism, trash, etc.)
   cultural landscape > Prioritize Cultural History / Heritage

3. "Proactively manage visitation. As step one, identify front-country and backcountry areas. One established, managed backcountry areas for wilderness values and focus development in front-country areas"
   Code: ● Management approach
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Management approach > Future planning
   Natural landscapes > Diversity of Landscapes

4. "Practice Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly (for motorized rec.)"
   Code: ● Management approach
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Activity specific comments

5. "sacrificial sites" – concentrate the casual visitors to specific hardened sites that are easy to access"
   Code: ● Management approach
   BENM Focus Group Comments

Other codes assigned to segment:
 Managing for increased use and overcrowding > Low population/less crowded　　Management approach > Sacrifice zones

6. "Recreation only works if it is part of comprehensive overall management"
 Code: ● Management approach
 BENM Focus Group Comments

3. Travel Management

1. "Travel management - How people are moving through the landscape
Limit motorized vehicles (noise, pollution, ecological impacts)"
 Code: ● Travel Management
 BENM Focus Group Comments

4. Range Management

1. "It affects my life and others by the invasiveness of people, livestock and noise"
 Code: ● Range Management
 BENM Focus Group Comments
 Other codes assigned to segment:
 Low population/less crowded > Crowding
 Quiet > Noise

2. "Surprised that grazing is still happening in a drought
Poor quality of range for grazing because of drought
BLM should be addressing this, but doesn't – Non-profits are doing BLM's job in their absence from range management to visitor services to field ranger encounters"
 Code: ● Range Management
 BENM Focus Group Comments
 Other codes assigned to segment:
 Regulations and enforcement
 Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.) > Drought Issues

3. "There is a tradeoff between recreation (support of and infrastructure for) and money spent on grazing, especially plan to add millions of dollars of new water wells. Concern over the depletion of the underground water needed for the area from these wells"
 Code: ● Range Management
 BENM Focus Group Comments
 Other codes assigned to segment:
 Protect resources (wildlife, plants, etc.)
  > Ecological Issues (ecosystem, flora, fauna, water, etc.)
 Ecological Issues (ecosystem, flora, fauna, water, etc.) > water - creeks, rivers, etc.

4. "Scientific studies – wood gathering, grazing and recreational impacts on ecology"
 Code: ● Range Management
 BENM Focus Group Comments
 Other codes assigned to segment:
 Maintenance (trails, facilities, etc.)
  > Forest management (clearing trees, brush, or deadfall)
 Protect resources (wildlife, plants, etc.)

> Damage to Resources (Vandalism, trash, etc.)
Recreation opportunities

5. "Re-vegetation of overgrazed lands"
   Code: ● Range Management
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Protect resources (wildlife, plants, etc.)
   > Ecological Issues (ecosystem, flora, fauna, water, etc.)

6. "Grazing hurts biodiversity – add more lands to 30x30, but make it meaningful protection – grazing may not be compatible with that"
   Code: ● Range Management
   BENM Focus Group Comments

5. Staffing

1. "Direct funding, staff and policy towards conservation rather than grazing and other conflicting uses – more "boots on the ground""
   Code: ● Staffing
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Protect resources (wildlife, plants, etc.) > Funding for resource protection

2. "Probably more boots on the ground (obviously with much needed funding) to help lead and educate."
   Code: ● Staffing
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Communications and Information > Education
   Protect resources (wildlife, plants, etc.) > Funding for resource protection

3. "More boots on the ground to protect the resources"
   Code: ● Staffing
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Protect resources (wildlife, plants, etc.)

4. "Increase Law Enforcement officers"
   Code: ● Staffing
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Regulations and enforcement

5. "More personnel to contact visitors - Paid or volunteer
Need and in-field presence - More like river ranger program"
   Code: ● Staffing
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Partnerships/Stewardship/co-management

6. "More presence of official managers, even as representative volunteers"
   Code: ● Staffing

BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Partnerships/Stewardship/co-management

7. "Adequate funding, staffing priorities"
Code: ● Staffing
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Protect resources (wildlife, plants, etc.) > Funding for resource protection

6. Infrastructure

1. "Limit road access and additional roads"
Code: ● Infrastructure
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Access issues

2. " Infrastructure to handle increasing tourism and visitation"
Code: ● Infrastructure
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Diversity of Stakeholders and Visitors > Encourage Tourism / Visitation by Non-locals

3. "Visitor center"
Code: ● Infrastructure
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Communications and Information

4. "Harden specific sites along Hwy 95 that are already overrun, but generally no new improvements. The beauty of this area is its undeveloped, remote, wilderness values, even when car camping. Don't push use into new areas."
Code: ● Infrastructure
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.)
Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.) > Lack of development or improvements

5. "Remove camping from within BENM but make camping areas available outside the monument. No more parking lots and toilet developments to limit visitors."
Code: ● Infrastructure
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Low population/less crowded > Crowding
Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.) > Lack of development or improvements

6. "Bathrooms, yes!"
Code: ● Infrastructure
BENM Focus Group Comments

6.1. Maintenance (trails, facilities, etc.)

1. "Need to clean trails on Blues and out of Indian Creek"
   Code: ● Maintenance (trails, facilities, etc.)
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Location specific comment
   Protect resources (wildlife, plants, etc.)
   > Damage to Resources (Vandalism, trash, etc.)

2. "Trail maintenance"
   Code: ● Maintenance (trails, facilities, etc.)
   BENM Focus Group Comments

3. "Do not improve roads to keep down traffic, but don't close them either."
   Code: ● Maintenance (trails, facilities, etc.)

   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Access issues (+) (Weight: 0)

4. "Get parks and rec baby cat and clean up John's canyon road"
   Code: ● Maintenance (trails, facilities, etc.)
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.)
   > Geographic feature named (rivers, mountains, etc.)

5. "Please keep "improvements" i.e. construction to a minimum and keep the dispersed camping opportunities in place, not restricted."
   Code: ● Maintenance (trails, facilities, etc.)
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Regulations and enforcement
   Activity specific comments

6. "In Valley of the Gods, it's all dispersed camping (which is good) but hardening the sites so they don't proliferate is key."
   Code: ● Maintenance (trails, facilities, etc.)
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Named Locations > Valley of the Gods
   Activity specific comments

6.1.1. Forest management (clearing trees, brush, or deadfall)

1. "Firewood gathering problem - Limit wood cutters
   Permit service of some wood cutters to gather and sell to visitors"
   Code: ● Forest management (clearing trees, brush, or deadfall)
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Protect resources (wildlife, plants, etc.)
   > Damage to Resources (Vandalism, trash, etc.)
   Economic well-being

2. "Scientific studies – wood gathering, grazing and recreational impacts on ecology"
   Code: ● Forest management (clearing trees, brush, or deadfall)
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Range Management
   Protect resources (wildlife, plants, etc.)
   > Damage to Resources (Vandalism, trash, etc.)
   Recreation opportunities

6.2. Trail construction

1. "The lack of single track trails for motorcycle – only 2 miles of trails in the whole area"
   Code: ● Trail construction
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Activity specific comments

2. "More loop trails and single track trails open to motorcycles"
   Code: ● Trail construction
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Activity specific comments

3. "Connectivity of trails"
   Code: ● Trail construction
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Travel Management > Connection to other landscapes

4. "Primitive trails of all widths"
   Code: ● Trail construction
   BENM Focus Group Comments

5. "Quality of trails – challenge, flow, scenic, varied"
   Code: ● Trail construction
   BENM Focus Group Comments

6. "More single track trails"
   Code: ● Trail construction
   BENM Focus Group Comments

7. "Loops are awesome – people don't want to repeat their trail on the same journey if possible"
   Code: ● Trail construction
   BENM Focus Group Comments

7. Communications and Information

1. "It's unfortunate to see things about climbing published online about the place, needlessly."
   Code: ● Communications and Information

BENM Focus Group Comments

2. "Surprised to find out about this meeting having not heard about it online or through other advocacy groups."
   Code: ● Communications and Information
   BENM Focus Group Comments

3. "Change in public relations"
   Code: ● Communications and Information
   BENM Focus Group Comments

4. "Develop realistic expectations of what they find here, and what it means"
   Code: ● Communications and Information
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Communications and Information > Education

5. "Signage - Existing and future
   Misinformation on signs or culturally inappropriate (i.e. Arch Canyon Ruins sign)"
   Code: ● Communications and Information
   BENM Focus Group Comments

6. "Names of landmarks and landforms - Offensive or outdated
   Should consult indigenous population for cultural correction"
   Code: ● Communications and Information
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Partnerships/Stewardship/co-management

7. "Visitor center"
   Code: ● Communications and Information
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Infrastructure

8. "Don't close roads, just don't advertise them"
   Code: ● Communications and Information
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Access issues

9. "Provide more educational opportunities through signage at trailheads and other use areas and visitor center."
   Code: ● Communications and Information
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Communications and Information > Education

10. "Maps on where to go, yes!"
    Code: ● Communications and Information
    BENM Focus Group Comments

7.1. Education

1. "It brings visitors to learn of this valuable resource"
   Code: ● Education
   BENM Focus Group Comments

2. "Develop realistic expectations of what they find here, and what it means"
   Code: ● Education
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Communications and Information

3. "Educate people on the damage that was done"
   Code: ● Education
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Protect resources (wildlife, plants, etc.)
   > Damage to Resources (Vandalism, trash, etc.)

4. "Education – signage using native narratives"
   Code: ● Education
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   cultural landscape

5. "Visitor Center needs more education for public"
   Code: ● Education
   BENM Focus Group Comments

6. "Education about co-management plan"
   Code: ● Education
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Partnerships/Stewardship/co-management

7. "Public education"
   Code: ● Education
   BENM Focus Group Comments

8. "Educating public
   Why and how BENM is preserving cultural resources
   Behavior around cultural resources and back country ethics
   Explain "why" you are telling people not to do things rather than just saying "no"
   Don't take artifacts"
   Code: ● Education
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Protect resources (wildlife, plants, etc.)
   > Damage to Resources (Vandalism, trash, etc.)
   cultural landscape > Prioritize Cultural History / Heritage

9. "Education and engagement with the folks."
   Code: ● Education

10. "Probably more boots on the ground (obviously with much needed funding) to help lead and educate."
Code: ● Education
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Staffing
Protect resources (wildlife, plants, etc.) > Funding for resource protection

11. "I think a well-managed area at a landscape level and good visitor education would limit the need of permitting"
Code: ● Education
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Regulations and enforcement

12. "Educate people"
Code: ● Education
BENM Focus Group Comments

13. "Public education about BLM and forestry policy that includes the monument"
Code: ● Education
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Partnerships/Stewardship/co-management > Interagency cooperation

14. "Require more stringent guidelines and education for those visiting more remote and sensitive areas"
Code: ● Education
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Regulations and enforcement

15. "Educate people about the cryptobiotic soils!"
Code: ● Education
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Protect resources (wildlife, plants, etc.)
> Ecological Issues (ecosystem, flora, fauna, water, etc.)

16. "Provide more educational opportunities through signage at trailheads and other use areas and visitor center."
Code: ● Education
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Communications and Information

17. "Designate a few popular areas for easier access and learning experiences."
Code: ● Education
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Access issues

8. Diversity of Stakeholders and Visitors

1. "Downplay "politics" around the monument by bringing all users to the table"
   Code: ● Diversity of Stakeholders and Visitors
   BENM Focus Group Comments

2. "Don't destroy "local" stewardship, instead enhance common ground among locals"
   Code: ● Diversity of Stakeholders and Visitors
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Partnerships/Stewardship/co-management

8.1. Encourage Tourism / Visitation by Non-locals

1. "Infrastructure to handle increasing tourism and visitation"
   Code: ● Encourage Tourism / Visitation by Non-locals
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Infrastructure

8.1.1. Visitors - international and domestic

1. "International visitors"
   Code: ● Visitors - international and domestic
   BENM Focus Group Comments

2. "International visitation"
   Code: ● Visitors - international and domestic
   BENM Focus Group Comments

8.2. Sharing Space with other visitors

1. "Sharing lands encourages one to be mindful and considerate of other users – this supports that attitude in community affairs as well
New users have less of these ethics"
   Code: ● Sharing Space with other visitors
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Recreation opportunities
   Community characteristics > Community Life

2. "Multi-use encourages people to be respectful of different interests and activities"
   Code: ● Sharing Space with other visitors
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Diversity of experiences
   Recreation opportunities

3. "Public lands used to force compromise over a shared resource"
   Code: ● Sharing Space with other visitors

BENM Focus Group Comments

4. "Sharing these spaces with so many people who are new to the area/experience"
    Code: ● Sharing Space with other visitors
    BENM Focus Group Comments

5. "we take friends and family to share the wonder of place and it always surprises them"
    Code: ● Sharing Space with other visitors
    BENM Focus Group Comments
    Other codes assigned to segment:
    Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.) > Wonder- sublime

8.3. Diversity of people

1. "Diversity of people"
    Code: ● Diversity of people
    BENM Focus Group Comments

2. "Diversity in community – ethnically, racially, politically
There is no super majority (changing lately)"
    Code: ● Diversity of people
    BENM Focus Group Comments

3. "Value diversity of opinions"
    Code: ● Diversity of people
    BENM Focus Group Comments

4. "Love the country and the people"
    Code: ● Diversity of people
    BENM Focus Group Comments

5. "the people"
    Code: ● Diversity of people
    BENM Focus Group Comments

6. "The variety of people out on the landscape"
    Code: ● Diversity of people
    BENM Focus Group Comments
    Other codes assigned to segment:
    Recreation opportunities

9. Regulations and enforcement

1. "Rec.gov does not work well as a reservation system, it is much better to talk to local agency office to get permits"
    Code: ● Regulations and enforcement
    BENM Focus Group Comments
    Other codes assigned to segment:
    Partnerships/Stewardship/co-management > Interagency cooperation

2. "National Parks have too many rules, so BLM and USFS are the heart of my enjoyment"
> Code: ● Regulations and enforcement
> BENM Focus Group Comments
> Other codes assigned to segment:
> Partnerships/Stewardship/co-management
> > Interagency cooperation

3. "Surprised that grazing is still happening in a drought
Poor quality of range for grazing because of drought
BLM should be addressing this, but doesn't – Non-profits are doing BLM's job in their absence from range management to visitor services to field ranger encounters"
> Code: ● Regulations and enforcement
> BENM Focus Group Comments
> Other codes assigned to segment:
> Range Management
> Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.) > Drought Issues

4. " Yes, but the increasing levels of use are concerning, both for the on-the-ground impacts (resource damage and crowding and areas being used for camping) and the difficulty of securing permits for rivers and canyons"
> Code: ● Regulations and enforcement
> BENM Focus Group Comments
> Other codes assigned to segment:
> Low population/less crowded > Crowding
> Protect resources (wildlife, plants, etc.)
> > Damage to Resources (Vandalism, trash, etc.)

5. "Zone monument for a wide array of economic impacts"
> Code: ● Regulations and enforcement
> BENM Focus Group Comments
> Other codes assigned to segment:
> Economic well-being

6. "Enforcement – LEOs, rangers in the field – so protection continues – relates to all uses from recreation to grazing"
> Code: ● Regulations and enforcement
> BENM Focus Group Comments

7. "No fires built where they shouldn't be"
> Code: ● Regulations and enforcement
> BENM Focus Group Comments
> Other codes assigned to segment:
> Protect resources (wildlife, plants, etc.)
> > Damage to Resources (Vandalism, trash, etc.)

8. "Enforcement of the management plan"
> Code: ● Regulations and enforcement
> BENM Focus Group Comments

9. "Limiting the number of visitors per day or per location so that the resources that make the BENM special will last longer"
> Code: ● Regulations and enforcement

BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Managing for increased use and overcrowding > Low population/less crowded
Protect resources (wildlife, plants, etc.)

10. "I think a well-managed area at a landscape level and good visitor education would limit the need of permitting"
Code: ● Regulations and enforcement
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Communications and Information > Education

11. "Increase Law Enforcement officers"
Code: ● Regulations and enforcement
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Staffing

12. "Please keep "improvements" i.e. construction to a minimum and keep the dispersed camping opportunities in place, not restricted."
Code: ● Regulations and enforcement
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Infrastructure > Maintenance (trails, facilities, etc.)
Activity specific comments

13. "Determine that recreation is a priority and enforce the rules on all land uses so it benefits the experience for everyone"
Code: ● Regulations and enforcement
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Recreation opportunities > Prioritize recreation

14. "Require more stringent guidelines and education for those visiting more remote and sensitive areas"
Code: ● Regulations and enforcement
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Communications and Information > Education

15. "Designate dispersed camping areas and enforce closures"
Code: ● Regulations and enforcement
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Activity specific comments

10. Protect resources (wildlife, plants, etc.)

1. "Limiting the number of visitors per day or per location so that the resources that make the BENM special will last longer"
Code: ● Protect resources (wildlife, plants, etc.)
BENM Focus Group Comments

Other codes assigned to segment:
Managing for increased use and overcrowding > Low population/less
Regulations and enforcement

2. "Preserve ALL the remaining cultural resources of the area."
Code: ● Protect resources (wildlife, plants, etc.)
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
cultural landscape > Prioritize Cultural History / Heritage

3. "More boots on the ground to protect the resources"
Code: ● Protect resources (wildlife, plants, etc.)
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Staffing

4. "Keep natural areas – natural"
Code: ● Protect resources (wildlife, plants, etc.)
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Natural landscapes

10.1. Ecological Issues (ecosystem, flora, fauna, water, etc.)

1. "There is a tradeoff between recreation (support of and infrastructure for) and money spent on grazing, especially plan to add millions of dollars of new water wells. Concern over the depletion of the underground water needed for the area from these wells"
Code: ● Ecological Issues (ecosystem, flora, fauna, water, etc.)
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Range Management
Ecological Issues (ecosystem, flora, fauna, water, etc.) > water - creeks, rivers, etc.

2. "No, it has diminish in vegetation (Indigenous medicine) and damaged cultural sites"
Code: ● Ecological Issues (ecosystem, flora, fauna, water, etc.)
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Protect resources (wildlife, plants, etc.)
> Damage to Resources (Vandalism, trash, etc.)

3. "Re-vegetation of overgrazed lands"
Code: ● Ecological Issues (ecosystem, flora, fauna, water, etc.)
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Range Management

4. "Keep managing wildlife – big game keep open hunting available"
Code: ● Ecological Issues (ecosystem, flora, fauna, water, etc.)
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Activity specific comments

5. "Educate people about the cryptobiotic soils!"

Code: ● Ecological Issues (ecosystem, flora, fauna, water, etc.)
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Communications and Information > Education

10.1.1. water - creeks, rivers, etc.

1. "Canyons in general because that is where the water is and more visible archeology"
    Code: ● water - creeks, rivers, etc.
    BENM Focus Group Comments
    Other codes assigned to segment:
    Special Places in BENM - location Non- Specific > Canyons
    cultural landscape > Archeology and Ancient people

2. "South Cottonwood Creek for its riparian beauty"
    Code: ● water - creeks, rivers, etc.
    BENM Focus Group Comments
    Other codes assigned to segment:
    Named Locations > South Cottonwood Creek

3. "There is a tradeoff between recreation (support of and infrastructure for) and money spent on grazing, especially plan to add millions of dollars of new water wells. Concern over the depletion of the underground water needed for the area from these wells"
    Code: ● water - creeks, rivers, etc.
    BENM Focus Group Comments
    Other codes assigned to segment:
    Range Management
    Protect resources (wildlife, plants, etc.)
    > Ecological Issues (ecosystem, flora, fauna, water, etc.)

10.1.2. Threats to wildlife

1. "Too much traffic in the area because of public lands could affect wildlife and ecosystems"
    Code: ● Threats to wildlife
    BENM Focus Group Comments
    Other codes assigned to segment:
    Travel Management > Traffic

10.2. Funding for resource protection

1. "Change management culture from managing resource extraction and recreation to protecting those resources. National Conservation Lands should bring more funding and a new understanding of how to protect these lands"
    Code: ● Funding for resource protection
    BENM Focus Group Comments
    Other codes assigned to segment:
    Management approach

2. "Direct funding, staff and policy towards conservation rather than grazing and other conflicting uses – more "boots on the ground""

Code: ● Funding for resource protection
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Staffing

3. "Probably more boots on the ground (obviously with much needed funding) to help lead and educate."
Code: ● Funding for resource protection
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Staffing
Communications and Information > Education

4. "Adequate funding, staffing priorities"
Code: ● Funding for resource protection
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Staffing

10.3. Damage to Resources (Vandalism, trash, etc.)

1. "Need to clean trails on Blues and out of Indian Creek"
Code: ● Damage to Resources (Vandalism, trash, etc.)
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Location specific comment
Infrastructure > Maintenance (trails, facilities, etc.)

2. "Comb Ridge – increased visitation and disappearance of cultural resources"
Code: ● Damage to Resources (Vandalism, trash, etc.)
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Location specific comment
Low population/less crowded > Crowding
cultural landscape > Prioritize Cultural History / Heritage

3. "No, it has diminish in vegetation (Indigenous medicine) and damaged cultural sites"
Code: ● Damage to Resources (Vandalism, trash, etc.)
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Protect resources (wildlife, plants, etc.)
 > Ecological Issues (ecosystem, flora, fauna, water, etc.)

4. "Surprised by increased visitation, disappearance of cultural resources"
Code: ● Damage to Resources (Vandalism, trash, etc.)
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Low population/less crowded > Crowding

5. "Yes, but the increasing levels of use are concerning, both for the on-the-ground impacts (resource damage and crowding and areas being used for camping) and the difficulty of securing permits for rivers and canyons"
Code: ● Damage to Resources (Vandalism, trash, etc.)
BENM Focus Group Comments

Other codes assigned to segment:
Low population/less crowded > Crowding
Regulations and enforcement

6. "{Archeological sites} thought weren't well know had foot prints all over them"
Code: ● Damage to Resources (Vandalism, trash, etc.)
BENM Focus Group Comments

7. "Educate people on the damage that was done"
Code: ● Damage to Resources (Vandalism, trash, etc.)
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Communications and Information > Education

8. "Harden sites – protect without destroying access"
Code: ● Damage to Resources (Vandalism, trash, etc.)
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Access issues
cultural landscape > Prioritize Cultural History / Heritage

9. "No fires built where they shouldn't be"
Code: ● Damage to Resources (Vandalism, trash, etc.)
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Regulations and enforcement

10. "Graffiti on cultural sites"
Code: ● Damage to Resources (Vandalism, trash, etc.)
BENM Focus Group Comments

11. "Firewood gathering problem - Limit wood cutters
Permit service of some wood cutters to gather and sell to visitors"
Code: ● Damage to Resources (Vandalism, trash, etc.)
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Maintenance (trails, facilities, etc.)
 > Forest management (clearing trees, brush, or deadfall)
Economic well-being

12. "Scientific studies – wood gathering, grazing and recreational impacts on ecology"
Code: ● Damage to Resources (Vandalism, trash, etc.)
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Range Management
Maintenance (trails, facilities, etc.)
 > Forest management (clearing trees, brush, or deadfall)
Recreation opportunities

13. "Educating public
Why and how BENM is preserving cultural resources
Behavior around cultural resources and back country ethics
Explain "why" you are telling people not to do things rather than just saying "no"
Don't take artifacts"

Code: ● Damage to Resources (Vandalism, trash, etc.)
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Communications and Information > Education
cultural landscape > Prioritize Cultural History / Heritage

14. "Enhanced emphasis on protection of the natural and cultural resources of BENM which is why the monument was created in the first place"
Code: ● Damage to Resources (Vandalism, trash, etc.)
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Management approach
cultural landscape > Prioritize Cultural History / Heritage

15. "Limit human impact"
Code: ● Damage to Resources (Vandalism, trash, etc.)
BENM Focus Group Comments

16. "Manage human impacts"
Code: ● Damage to Resources (Vandalism, trash, etc.)
BENM Focus Group Comments

11. Partnerships/Stewardship/co-management

1. "Balanced diversity of types of public lands (BLM, NPS, State lands, etc.)"
Code: ● Partnerships/Stewardship/co-management
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Partnerships/Stewardship/co-management > Interagency cooperation
Natural landscapes > Diversity of Landscapes

2. "Don't destroy "local" stewardship, instead enhance common ground among locals"
Code: ● Partnerships/Stewardship/co-management
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Diversity of Stakeholders and Visitors

3. "Education about co-management plan"
Code: ● Partnerships/Stewardship/co-management
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Communications and Information > Education

4. "Names of landmarks and landforms - Offensive or outdated
Should consult indigenous population for cultural correction"
Code: ● Partnerships/Stewardship/co-management

BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Communications and Information

5. "Work with the Monument Advisory Council – fill the open positions more quickly so it can function properly as an advisory board."
Code: ● Partnerships/Stewardship/co-management

BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Partnerships/Stewardship/co-management > Interagency cooperation

6. "Motorized users do hundreds of hours of service for landscape and monument excludes their use of it"
Code: ● Partnerships/Stewardship/co-management
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Partnerships/Stewardship/co-management > Stewardship and care taking
Access issues

7. "More personnel to contact visitors - Paid or volunteer
Need and in-field presence More like river ranger program"
Code: ● Partnerships/Stewardship/co-management
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Staffing

8. "Limit visitation – keep tribes informed and involved"
Code: ● Partnerships/Stewardship/co-management
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Managing for increased use and overcrowding > Low population/less crowded
Low population/less crowded > Crowding

9. "More presence of official managers, even as representative volunteers"
Code: ● Partnerships/Stewardship/co-management
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Staffing

10. "Keep mixed use – i.e dispersed hiking and camping not focused on archeology – Cedar Mesa hunting and Elk Ridge area."
Code: ● Partnerships/Stewardship/co-management
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Location specific comment
Managing for increased use and overcrowding
Activity specific comments
Recreation opportunities

11.1. Interagency cooperation

1. "Balanced diversity of types of public lands (BLM, NPS, State lands, etc.)"
Code: ● Interagency cooperation
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Partnerships/Stewardship/co-management
Natural landscapes > Diversity of Landscapes

2. " Rec.gov does not work well as a reservation system, it is much better to talk to local agency office to get permits"
Code: ● Interagency cooperation

BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
  Regulations and enforcement

3. "National Parks have too many rules, so BLM and USFS are the heart of my enjoyment"
   Code: ● Interagency cooperation
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
     Regulations and enforcement

4. "There is something different about this place because of co-management"
   Code: ● Interagency cooperation
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
     cultural landscape > Indigenous population in area

5. "This landscape as a monument is fundamentally different and new in public lands"
   Code: ● Interagency cooperation
   BENM Focus Group Comments

6. "Work with the Monument Advisory Council – fill the open positions more quickly so it can function properly as an advisory board."
   Code: ● Interagency cooperation
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
     Partnerships/Stewardship/co-management

7. "Public education about BLM and forestry policy that includes the monument"
   Code: ● Interagency cooperation
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
     Communications and Information > Education

11.2. Stewardship and care taking

1. "Motorized users do hundreds of hours of service for landscape and monument excludes their use of it"
   Code: ● Stewardship and care taking
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
     Partnerships/Stewardship/co-management
     Access issues

12. Activity specific comments

1. "The lack of single track trails for motorcycle – only 2 miles of trails in the whole area"
   Code: ● Activity specific comments
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
     Infrastructure > Trail construction

2. "Last time was a disappointment. There were rock climbers everywhere and their dogs and vehicles were blocking the roads. Some were camped on cultural resource sites. The climbers chatter carried up and down the valley"
>Code: ● Activity specific comments
>BENM Focus Group Comments
>Other codes assigned to segment:
>Low population/less crowded > Crowding
>Managing for increased use and overcrowding > Disruptive visitor behavior
>Quiet > Noise

3. "I was surprised by some of the behavior of other climbers to the area. Someone placed a rope at the base to claim a route they wanted to climb- which is something you see in a more urban area."
>Code: ● Activity specific comments
>BENM Focus Group Comments
>Other codes assigned to segment:
>Managing for increased use and overcrowding > Disruptive visitor behavior

4. "Magical camping and climbing"
>Code: ● Activity specific comments
>BENM Focus Group Comments
>Other codes assigned to segment:
>Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.)

5. "Keep managing wildlife – big game keep open hunting available"
>Code: ● Activity specific comments
>BENM Focus Group Comments
>Other codes assigned to segment:
>Protect resources (wildlife, plants, etc.)
>> Ecological Issues (ecosystem, flora, fauna, water, etc.)

6. "Practice Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly (for motorized rec.)"
>Code: ● Activity specific comments
>BENM Focus Group Comments
>Other codes assigned to segment:
>Management approach

7. "Managing dispersed camping"
>Code: ● Activity specific comments
>BENM Focus Group Comments

8. "More loop trails and single track trails open to motorcycles"
>Code: ● Activity specific comments
>BENM Focus Group Comments
>Other codes assigned to segment:
>Infrastructure > Trail construction

9. "Dispersed camping, wildlife, open spaces"
>Code: ● Activity specific comments
>BENM Focus Group Comments
>Other codes assigned to segment:
>Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.)
>> Geographic feature named (rivers, mountains, etc.)

10. "Keep mixed use – i.e dispersed hiking and camping not focused on archeology – Cedar Mesa hunting and Elk Ridge area."
> Code: ● Activity specific comments
> BENM Focus Group Comments
> Other codes assigned to segment:
> Location specific comment
> Managing for increased use and overcrowding
> Partnerships/Stewardship/co-management
> Recreation opportunities

11. "Please keep "improvements" i.e. construction to a minimum and keep the dispersed camping opportunities in place, not restricted."
> Code: ● Activity specific comments
> BENM Focus Group Comments
> Other codes assigned to segment:
> Infrastructure > Maintenance (trails, facilities, etc.)
> Regulations and enforcement

12. "Designate dispersed camping areas and enforce closures"
> Code: ● Activity specific comments
> BENM Focus Group Comments
> Other codes assigned to segment:
> Regulations and enforcement

13. "In Valley of the Gods, it's all dispersed camping (which is good) but hardening the sites so they don't proliferate is key."
> Code: ● Activity specific comments
> BENM Focus Group Comments
> Other codes assigned to segment:
> Named Locations > Valley of the Gods
> Infrastructure > Maintenance (trails, facilities, etc.)

14. "designated dispersed camping, and an overflow site, so that people can be directed where to go....but limited improvements to the sites....to maintain the naturalness"
> Code: ● Activity specific comments
> BENM Focus Group Comments
> Other codes assigned to segment:
> Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.)
> Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.) > Lack of development or improvements

13. Access issues

1. "Comb Ridge – met expectations because we take family and friends there and it never ceases to amaze them. It is also easy part of landscape to access"
> Code: ● Access issues
> BENM Focus Group Comments
> Other codes assigned to segment:
> Location specific comment
> Youth, Family and friends

2. "Harden sites – protect without destroying access"
> Code: ● Access issues

BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Protect resources (wildlife, plants, etc.)
> Damage to Resources (Vandalism, trash, etc.)
cultural landscape > Prioritize Cultural History / Heritage

3. "Limit visitations"
Code: ● Access issues
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Managing for increased use and overcrowding > Low population/less crowded

4. "Limit road access and additional roads"
Code: ● Access issues
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Infrastructure

5. "Motorized users do hundreds of hours of service for landscape and monument excludes their use of it"
Code: ● Access issues
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Partnerships/Stewardship/co-management
Partnerships/Stewardship/co-management > Stewardship and care taking

6. "Don't close roads, just don't advertise them"
Code: ● Access issues
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Communications and Information

7. "Do not improve roads to keep down traffic, but don't close them either."
Code: ● Access issues (+)
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Infrastructure > Maintenance (trails, facilities, etc.)

8. "Designate a few popular areas for easier access and learning experiences."
Code: ● Access issues
BENM Focus Group Comments
Other codes assigned to segment:
Communications and Information > Education

9. "natural barriers, yes!"
Code: ● Access issues
BENM Focus Group Comments

13.1. Access to public lands

1. "Access to public lands"
Code: ● Access to public lands
BENM Focus Group Comments

2. "Small town/ access to river and hiking"
	Code: ● Access to public lands
	BENM Focus Group Comments
	Other codes assigned to segment:
	Community characteristics > Rural (non-urban)

3. "Access to public lands"
	Code: ● Access to public lands
	BENM Focus Group Comments

4. "Access in front country"
	Code: ● Access to public lands
	Other codes assigned to segment:
	Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.)
	> Geographic feature named (rivers, mountains, etc.)

5. "Lands are open, accessible and exceptional"
	Code: ● Access to public lands
	BENM Focus Group Comments
	Other codes assigned to segment:
	Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.) > Scenic beauty
	Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.) > Open Spaces

6. "It offers these values – access to beauty all around"
	Code: ● Access to public lands
	BENM Focus Group Comments
	Other codes assigned to segment:
	Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.) > Scenic beauty

7. "Access to the beauty of the public lands"
	Code: ● Access to public lands
	BENM Focus Group Comments
	Other codes assigned to segment:
	Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.) > Scenic beauty

8. "Access to public lands in the area are the what make it great."
	Code: ● Access to public lands
	BENM Focus Group Comments

9. "Without access or limited access would drastically lessen the quality of life aspects"
	Code: ● Access to public lands
	BENM Focus Group Comments

10. "Comb Ridge – amazing geological formation that is easy to access and never fails to impress visitors to area"
	Code: ● Access to public lands
	BENM Focus Group Comments
	Other codes assigned to segment:
	Named Locations > Comb Ridge
	Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.) > Wonder - sublime
	Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.)
	> Geographic feature named (rivers, mountains, etc.)

13.1.1. Opportunities on PUBLIC land

1. "Open spaces to walk and wander in where no one kicks you off the land"
   Code: ● Opportunities on PUBLIC land
   BENM Focus Group Comments
   Other codes assigned to segment:
   Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.) > Open Spaces

13.1.2. Proximity to public lands

1. "Close to public lands"
   Code: ● Proximity to public lands
   BENM Focus Group Comments

2. "Close to public lands"
   Code: ● Proximity to public lands
   BENM Focus Group Comments

3. "Not a lot of private land"
   Code: ● Proximity to public lands
   BENM Focus Group Comments

4. "Surrounded by non-private land"
   Code: ● Proximity to public lands
   BENM Focus Group Comments

5. "Public lands are absolutely essential to quality of life and personal satisfaction"
   Code: ● Proximity to public lands
   BENM Focus Group Comments

14. Search and Rescue

1. "Increased need for search and rescue"
   Code: ● Search and Rescue
   BENM Focus Group Comments