

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Posting of Federal Register Comments?

Date: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at 3:56:05 PM Mountain Standard Time

From: Hall, Steven B <sbhall@blm.gov>

To: Grant Stevens <grant@wildernessworkshop.org>

CC: Boyd, David - FS <David.Boyd@usda.gov>, Phillips, Kim- FS <Kimberlee.Phillips@usda.gov>, Peter Hart <Peter@wildernessworkshop.org>, Shedlowski, Kirby-Lynn H <kshedlowski@blm.gov>

Hi Grant,

Thank you for reaching out. We do plan to make all of the public comments available at the Colorado State Office as well as the Colorado River Valley and Uncompahgre field offices in the near future. We are currently working through the logistics of making that information available.

Below is a brief summary from our staff reviewing the comments:

BLM received 34 unique substantive public comments: 9 from local governments, 15 from organizations, 8 from individuals, and 2 form letters with substantive points. Many of the organization letters had multiple co-signers and represent more than a single organization.

Two letters were in opposition (one from an industry group and one from a local landowner outside the withdrawal area). Five letters were mostly supportive but identified specific adjustments to the withdrawal boundary. The rest were fully supportive.

BLM also received 63,100 comments with standardized messages and text. The exact number is awaiting QA/QC. Some commenters had the ability to add unique text to the form letters and all unique text was pulled and reviewed. Two unique additions were substantive and so are logged under the "substantive" count above, as were two instances of form letters with substantive points.

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From: Grant Stevens <grant@wildernessworkshop.org>

Sent: Sunday, January 22, 2023 11:34 AM

To: Hall, Steven B <sbhall@blm.gov>

Cc: Boyd, David - FS <David.Boyd@usda.gov>; Phillips, Kim- FS <Kimberlee.Phillips@usda.gov>

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Hi Stephen –

I hope your 2023 is starting off well. Does the BLM have a plan for posting all of the recently received comments regarding the proposed Thompson Divide Withdrawal online? If so, when do you anticipate that being available? The Federal Register notice stated:

“Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the BLM Colorado State Office during regular business hours, 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives of officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.”

While it sounds like they’re available at the BLM Colorado State Office in Lakewood, I hope an electronic version will also be available, as that’s much easier for community members out here on Western Slope to access. I look forward to hearing back from you!

Grant

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