



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

San Rafael Swell Recreation Area Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

August 29, 2022

Emery County Courthouse
75 East Main Street
Castle Dale, Utah

August 29 – Public Meeting

Meeting Attendees

- San Rafael Swell Recreation Area Advisory Council members: Sue Bellagamba, Rodney Player, Leslie (Les) Wilberg, Commissioner Kent Wilson, Wade Allinson
- BLM employees: Lance Porter, Angela Hawkins, Amber Koski, Kyle Beagley, Jaydon Mead, Emmy Ellison (minutes) **Virtual Attendees:** Dana Truman, Stephanie Howard
- Members of the public: Larry Ellertson, Clay Crozier, Ray Peterson, Jim Jennings **Virtual Attendees:** JD Bosner, David Crim, Judi Brawer, Kendall Laws, Mark Boshell, Wayne Bennett

Welcome and Introductions

Review of May Meeting Minutes

- The council recommended an amendment to the minutes to reflect that the livestock corrals discussed in recommendations were at Johanson's Corrals, not at Swinging Bridge.

San Rafael Swell Recreation Area Review of Planning Process Presentation

- Presentation by Amber Koski
- Review of Land Use Plan Amendment process includes Scoping, Analysis of the Management Situation, Special Recreation Management Area Review, and Area of Critical Environmental Concerns Evaluation. Goal is to reconcile what Congress requires and what Resource Management Plan requires.
- Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976 established the authority and requirements for lands managed by BLM. Passage of the Dingell Act required Land Use Plans to be amended as needed.
- Resource Management Plans set goals, objectives, and management direction; provide framework for BLM undertakings. Plan Amendments narrower in scope than Resource Management Plans. Focus of this amendment is on how much or how little new San Rafael Swell Recreation Area designation requires changes to existing management.
- Public scoping is collaborative and multi-jurisdictional part of planning process.
- Analysis of the Management Situation (AMS) is internal document, not required for the Environmental Assessment, but helps BLM determine opportunities to resolve planning issues. Helps identify issues to



be addressed in the amendment. Essentially a snapshot of what is happening on the ground. Provides information useful for developing the affected environment and preliminary alternatives in Environmental Assessment. Steps include gathering data and information for the planning area, identifying conflicts/trade-offs between resource protection/uses, gathering existing data/information, collecting new data/information, and analyzing/documenting.

- Special Recreation Area(s) Review not required but helpful for alternative development. Definitions from BLM Manual 8320:
 - Recreation Management Area (RMA) – unit (area) where recreation and visitor services objectives are recognized as a primary resource management consideration and specific management is required to protect the recreation opportunities.
 - Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) – administrative unit where existing or proposed recreation opportunities and Recreation Setting Characteristics are recognized for their unique value, importance, and/or distinctiveness, especially as compared to other areas used for recreation.
 - Recreation Management Zones (RMZ) – division of a Special Recreation Management Area delineating specific recreation opportunities.
 - Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA) – administrative unit that requires specific management consideration to address recreation use, demand, or Recreation and Visitor Services program investments.

Special Recreation Management Areas generally managed to protect and enhance specific things while Extensive Recreation Management Areas managed to protect and enhance multiple resources.

- Overlapping and Adjacent Management Area Designations maps discussed. Three Recreation Management Zones overlap or are adjacent to the newly designated recreation area making it a complicated management area. Existing Special Recreation Management Areas and Recreation Management Zones will determine if management is consistent with legislation and if additional management or changes to existing management are necessary. Moving to outcome-based objectives.
- Question from council member about management style moving to outcome-based and how changing political leadership will affect that. BLM acknowledged complexity of the situation and described science-based process through which decisions are made when modifying management plans while applying legal requirements. BLM acknowledged the need for management to protect resources which is the goal of plan amendments.
- Areas of Critical Environmental Concern Evaluations highlight areas where special management attention is necessary for resource protection. Uses changed since 2008 Resource Management Plan. BLM policy discourages overlapping designations, looking to determine if special management is still needed given the Dingell Act designations. Contractor will be preparing this report.
- Council member request to consider fewer restrictions, better management, maintaining partnerships.
- Alternative Development must be effective (incorporate Dingell Act requirements), practical, and within BLM jurisdiction. The alternatives consist of Management Goals, Objectives, Actions, and Allowable

Uses. BLM and contractor will host workshops for developing range of alternatives with BLM specialists and cooperating agency representatives.

- Council member discussion about outcome-based management direction, expansion of planning area boundaries, and congressional decisions. BLM advised that in Environmental Assessments, sometimes impact is greater than designated area and indirect impacts as well as related activities occurring on the fringes of the designated area can be considered by increasing the planning area boundary. BLM is unable to change the recreation area boundary and must balance multiple layers of planning while meeting Dingell Act/Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976 needs and be understood by the public. Management and Planning processes aim to capture concerns and follow legal designations.

Land Use Plan Amendment Scoping Period Report Presentation

- Presentation by Amber Koski
- Scoping report results include refined planning area, refined purpose and need, refined preliminary planning criteria, preliminary alternatives, and incorporates Recreation Area Advisory Council input where appropriate. Scoping began October 28, 2021, and lasted 71 days total.
- Refined planning area and management plan scope defines planning area to help identify current conditions, trends, resource uses, social and economic conditions relevant to the area, and determines known thresholds, constraints, and conditions. BLM makes decisions for the area but considers how other areas interact. On maps, planning area boundary is blue, recreation area is green, recreation management zones crisscross. Refined Purpose and Need includes distinct purposes for each plan and is documented in Scoping Report which will be posted/sent out soon.
- Name of Resource Management Plan Amendment changed to San Rafael Swell Special Recreation Management Area.
- Refined Planning Criteria defines how we analyze potential impacts to resources and uses. Describes framework for issues in the National Environmental Policy Act analysis and is updated to be specific to issues raised in public scoping. Planning Criteria will be familiar to people as they are things people have already seen in the Dingell Act and BLM policy.
- Council member asked question about what issues were most popular. BLM responded that most were for the recreation area and a couple were for cherry-stemmed roads and wilderness.
- Three documents being released simultaneously: Scoping Report, Area of Critical Environmental Concern Report, and Plan Maintenance for Wilderness areas.
- Discussion of Plan Maintenance and explanation that inside wilderness areas, BLM does not have authority to change what Congress has passed.

Visitor Use and Recreation Project Updates Presentation

- Presentation by Jaydon Mead
- Use of TRAFx counters for tracking visitor use, installed in 2021. “D” on chart indicates figure is divided by two. Chart is main access points. Vehicle considered about three people. Covid’s effects on



numbers are considered. Motorized trails all similar. TRAFx monthly totals showcase spring and fall peaks with spring being highest. Lower use on weekdays. Emery County purchased ten more counters and is working with BLM to get them installed this fall for 2023 data, focusing on main county roads and Swell access.

- Council member comment that data could be skewed on years the San Rafael River is floated because of shuttling river floaters.
- Council member comment regarding improving the turnaround after the boat launch and the Swinging Bridge takeout.
- Discussion of equipment options for determining type of vehicle and different uses, various mapping applications, and issues with maintaining accurate data for the public.
- Cane Wash update: signed Environmental Assessment on July 21, 2022, will implement decision this fall.
- Justensen Flat Trailhead update: still working on equestrian use and drainage issues, have grant funding, waiting on construction to go out to bid, toilet purchased and delivered for next spring season, goal to finish parking lot before spring.
- Rock Project with Back Country Horsemen update: Back Country Horsemen received two Emery County Trails grants, over 3,500 feet of boulder lines installed near Swinging Bridge/Equestrian Campground and Goodwater Rim trailheads. Continued plans for having more boulders installed and to improve trailheads and signage in areas like Johanson's Corral.
- Swinging Bridge Campground update: new fence being installed around Swinging Bridge North and Equestrian Campgrounds. Will be first site to utilize recreation.gov for scan and pay feature that does not require internet. Reservation options will be discussed in the future.
- Council member suggested reservations for group sites and leaving individual sites as first come, first served.
- Swinging Bridge will be first for fees, then Price Canyon Recreation Area and Swasey's Beach.
- Temple Mountain Town Site and South Temple Wash update: site improvements, road base added, will be ready for next spring.
- Buckhorn Draw update: ordering more signs, finishing kiosks. Intern doing a campsite inventory to keep track of dispersed camping.
- Previous recommendations and progress:
 - Rock Art sites: meeting scheduled with State Historic Preservation Office, Emery County Historic Preservation Commission and BLM for project discussion, role clarification. Trail cams installed at Buckhorn Panel and rock barricade was fixed at Silent Sentinel.
 - Signage: working with partners on five sign developments – Buckhorn Wash, Bellevue Flats, Justensen Flats, Fossil Point, and general/travel information.
 - Travel Management: recommendation will be considered when time comes for decision on San Rafael Swell Travel Management Plan.

- Johanson's Corral: working with Back Country Horsemen to install tie rail, have plans to develop signs for clarifying proper parking and highlight multiple use needs. Tie rail should be finished before spring.
- Camping: implementing three campground developments that will be new fee sites in January 2023, working on planning. Request from BLM that council members think about camping options such as if BLM should close dispersed camping near developed campgrounds, limit camping to dispersed campsites in key areas, leave areas available for free and unconfined dispersed camping, how to clarify where free dispersed camping is allowed, where it is limited to designated and where closed/limited to fee sites. Have workshops planned with contractors. Council should consider those questions for future meetings and discussions.

Public Comments

- Larry Ellertson – expressed desire to have the intent language penned by Senator Romney and Representative Curtis in response to the Dingell Act be considered in the planning process. Stressed the value of preserving the original intent of the recreation area. Intent language is intended to be from sponsors of legislation. Council member asked if legislation is being honored and how the Travel Management Plan affects the access of cherry-stemmed roads within the recreation area. BLM clarified that cherry-stemmed roads are not part of wilderness and that existing roads on existing plans are followed.
- Ray Peterson – expressed importance of clarifying that the Planning Area and the Recreation Area boundaries are different things and having them both separated on maps is valuable. Was happy to see raw data and BLM partnerships. Articulated need for data collection on river floaters and potential permitting/fee collection system. Suggested that BLM not allow industry to dictate management with the example that industry will continue to increase vehicle size and BLM should not feel obligated to accommodate all use. Encouraged to see such progress on projects. Recommended local management of fee/reservation system be used in lieu of recreation.gov.
- No virtual attendees had comments.
- Public comment period closed after council member motion.

Council Member Recognition

- Commissioner Kent Wilson commissioner seat will change due to recent elections and Rod Player and Les Wilberg terms expire on September 10. These council members were recognized for their contributions.

Advisory Council Discussion and Recommendations

- Intent letter from Senator Romney and Representative Curtis was shared, read, and discussed. Copies were distributed to council members. It is public congressional record.

- Council member motioned that when BLM looks at Dingell Act, they also look at the two documents as well. Motion seconded. All in favor, none opposed.
- Discussion of industry affecting management with examples of locations where overused areas need attention (exit 131 and behind the Reef). Suggestion that dispersed use and recreation areas be inventoried, question about how to measure those impacts. BLM noted that human-built fire rings have been counted at the Wedge and behind the Reef. Route evaluations factor some information into the process.
- Council member suggested that BLM spend equal time and effort on the ground dealing with local area issues as is spent on upper management regulations to stay ahead of increasing use trends. Also discussed the value of field trips.
- Council member motioned to appreciate the work done in the Recreation Area and support recreation projects outside of the Recreation Area. Motion seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

Agenda

- Possible agenda items will wait to be discussed as council vacancies need to be filled before having a full quorum and may take some time. BLM will call on current and new boards members once established to look at dates for next meeting before scheduling the Federal Register Notice. Will likely be after the first of the year.

Motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded. Meeting adjourned at 12:33 pm.

Approved by: Les Wilberg

Agenda, Federal Register Notice, Presentation Slides

San Rafael Swell Recreation Area Advisory Council Virtual Meeting Agenda

Time	Topic	Presenter
8:30	Welcome and Introductions	Les Wilberg, Advisory Council Chair and Lance Porter, Green River District Manager



8:45	<p>Review of May meeting minutes</p> <p>Agenda review and meeting logistics</p> <p>Purpose: Review meeting minutes from May meeting, review current agenda and adjust if necessary</p>	<p>Angela Hawkins</p> <p>Les Wilberg, Advisory Council Chair</p>
9:00	<p>San Rafael Swell Recreation Area Review of Planning Process and next steps</p> <p>Purpose: Review next steps in the planning process</p>	BLM- Amber Koski
9:30	Break	
9:45	<p>Land Use Plan Amendment Scoping Period Report</p> <p>Purpose: Provide an update of Land Use Plan Amendment scoping and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern reports including revised preliminary criteria and purpose and need, and publicly identified alternatives for the San Rafael Swell Recreation Area and report on Advisory Council planning recommendations.</p>	BLM-Amber Koski
10:30	<p>San Rafael Swell Spring/Summer Visitor Information and Updates on Ongoing Work in the Recreation Area</p> <p>Purpose: Report of visitor use and experiences and report on Advisory Council implementation recommendations.</p>	BLM-Jaydon Mead
11:00	Public Comment Period	
11:30	Break	
11:40	<p>Council Member Recognition</p> <p>Purpose: Recognize the contributions of departing council members</p>	Lance Porter



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12:10	Advisory Council Review, discuss, and consider recommendations. Purpose: Advisory Council to formalize recommendations to the BLM	Advisory Council
12:30	Closing Purpose: Discuss next meeting date, nomination process	Advisory Council
12:45	Adjourn	

certain lands to Calista Corporation, an Alaska Native regional corporation, pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA). The lands approved for conveyance lie entirely within Clarence Rhode National Wildlife Range now known as the Yukon Delta Wildlife Refuge. As provided by ANCSA, ownership of the subsurface estate in the same lands will be retained by the United States.

DATES: Any party claiming a property interest in the lands affected by the decision may appeal the decision in accordance with the requirements of 43 CFR part 4 within the time limits set out in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section.

ADDRESSES: You may obtain a copy of the decision from the Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office, 222 West Seventh Avenue, #13, Anchorage, AK 99513-7504.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Abby Muth, Land Law Examiner, BLM Alaska State Office, 907-271-3345 or amuth@blm.gov. Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States. The relay service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the BLM. The BLM will reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As required by 43 CFR 2650.7(d), notice is hereby given that the BLM will issue an appealable decision to Calista Corporation. The decision approves conveyance of surface estate in certain lands pursuant to ANCSA (43 U.S.C. 1601, *et seq.*), as amended. Ownership of the subsurface estate will be retained by the United States.

The lands are located within the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, in the following townships, and aggregate 78.31 acres: T. 15 N., R. 86 W., Seward Meridian (SM); T. 10 N., R. 88 W., SM; T. 15 N., R. 88 W., SM; T. 17 N., R. 88 W., SM; T. 18 N., R. 88 W., SM; T. 10 N., R. 89 W., SM; and T. 12 N., R. 89 W., SM.

The decision addresses public access easements, if any, to be reserved to the United States pursuant to Sec. 17(b) of ANCSA (43 U.S.C. 1616(b)), in the lands approved for conveyance.

The BLM will also publish notice of the decision once a week for four

consecutive weeks in "The Delta Discovery" newspaper.

Any party claiming a property interest in the lands affected by the decision may appeal the decision in accordance with the requirements of 43 CFR part 4 within the following time limits:

1. Unknown parties, parties unable to be located after reasonable efforts have been expended to locate, parties who fail or refuse to sign their return receipt, and parties who receive a copy of the decision by regular mail which is not certified, return receipt requested, shall have until June 3, 2022 to file an appeal.

2. Parties receiving service of the decision by certified mail shall have 30 days from the date of receipt to file an appeal.

Parties who do not file an appeal in accordance with the requirements of 43 CFR part 4 shall be deemed to have waived their rights. Notices of appeal transmitted by facsimile will not be accepted as timely filed.

Abby Muth,
Land Law Examiner, Adjudication Section.
[FR Doc. 2022-09524 Filed 5-3-22; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310-JA-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[223 LLUTG02000 L12200000.PM00000]

Notice of Public Meetings, San Rafael Swell Recreation Area Advisory Council, Utah

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior
ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the Federal Advisory Committee Act, and the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) San Rafael Swell Recreation Area Advisory Council (Council) will meet as indicated below.

DATES: The Council will meet at the Emery County Courthouse on May 24, 2022, to depart for a field tour of the San Rafael Swell Recreation Area from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Council will hold an in-person public meeting with a virtual participation option on May 25, 2022, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., with public comments accepted at 11:00 a.m.

The Council will hold an in-person public meeting with a virtual participation option on August 29, 2022, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., with public comments accepted at 11:00 a.m.

The meetings and field tour are open to the public.

ADDRESSES:

- On May 24, participants will meet at the Emery County Courthouse, 75 East Main Street, Castle Dale, UT 84513 for a field tour to the San Rafael Swell Recreation Area. The May 25 meeting will also be held at the Emery County Courthouse. Individuals that prefer to participate virtually must register in advance at <https://tinyurl.com/bdcs6npr>.

- The August 29 meeting will be held at the Emery County Courthouse. Individuals that prefer to participate virtually must register in advance at <https://tinyurl.com/yckrjtfa>.

Written comments may be sent prior to each meeting either by mail to the BLM Green River District, Attn: Lance Porter, 170 South 500 West, Vernal, UT 84078, or by email: utprmail@blm.gov, with the subject line "San Rafael Swell Recreation Area Advisory Council Meeting."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: BLM Green River District Manager Lance Porter, telephone: (435) 781-4400 or email: utprmail@blm.gov. Persons in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (Pub. L. 116-9) established the San Rafael Swell Recreation Area Advisory Council to advise the Secretary of the Interior, through the BLM, in planning and managing the San Rafael Swell Recreation Area. The seven-member Council represents a wide range of interests including local government, recreational users, grazing allotment permittees, conservation organizations, people with expertise in historical uses of the recreation area, and Tribes.

The Council will host a field tour on May 24 to the San Rafael Swell Recreation Area, which features badlands of brightly colored and wildly eroded sandstone formations, deep canyons, and giant plates of stone tilted upright through massive geologic upheaval. The recreation area offers numerous recreational opportunities including hiking, biking, four-wheel driving, horseback, canyoneering, and river running. Members of the public are welcome on the field tour but must provide their own transportation and meals. Individuals who plan to attend

must RSVP at least one week in advance of the field tour to the contact listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this notice. Individuals who need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation and other reasonable accommodations, also should contact the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this notice. The field tour will follow current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 guidance regarding social distancing and wearing of masks. Agenda items for the May 25 meeting include wild horse and burro management and special recreation permits. Agenda items for the August 29 meeting include a review of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, land use plan amendments updates, and spring/summer visitor information updates.

Detailed meeting minutes will be maintained in the BLM Green River District Office and will be made available for public inspection and reproduction during regular business hours within 90 days following each meeting. Minutes will also be posted to the Council's web page <https://go.usa.gov/xzk5Q>. The amount of time for individual oral comments may be limited, depending on the total number of commenters. Written comments may also be sent to the BLM Green River District Manager at the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice. All comments received will be provided to the Council.

Public Disclosure of Comments: 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 in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Authority: 43 CFR 1784.4–2.

Anita Bilbao,

Associate State Director.

[FR Doc. 2022–09522 Filed 5–3–22; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

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Notice of Public Meetings of the Idaho Resource Advisory Council and the Proposed Lava Ridge Wind Energy Project Subcommittee

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Idaho Resource Advisory Council (Idaho RAC) and the Proposed Lava Ridge Wind Energy Project Subcommittee (Lava Ridge Subcommittee) will meet as indicated below.

DATES: The BLM Idaho RAC and Lava Ridge Subcommittee will meet as follows:

- The Idaho RAC and Lava Ridge Subcommittee will host a field tour on Wednesday, June 15, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time.
- The Lava Ridge Subcommittee will host virtual meetings on Thursday, July 7, 2022; Thursday, August 25, 2022; and Thursday, September 22, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time.
- The Idaho RAC will host an in-person meeting on Wednesday, October 19, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time at the BLM Twin Falls District Office, 2878 Addison Avenue East, Twin Falls, Idaho, 83301. A virtual participation option will also be available. The entire meeting may be held virtually depending on public health recommendations in place at the time of the meeting. Public notice of the change will be posted on the RAC's web page 15 days in advance of the meeting. The field tour and all meetings are open to the public and public comment periods will be held at each meeting and at the field tour.

ADDRESSES: The June 15 field tour will commence at 8:00 a.m. at the BLM Twin Falls District Office, 2878 Addison Avenue East, Twin Falls, Idaho, 83301. Participants will then travel to the Minidoka National Historic Site, Wilson Butte Cave, and Sid Butte. All virtual meetings will be held via the Zoom platform. Agendas, Zoom registration, and participation information will be available on the RAC's web page 30 days in advance of the meetings at

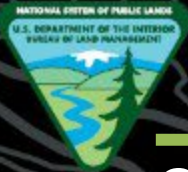
<https://www.blm.gov/get-involved/resource-advisory-council/near-you/idaho>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: MJ Byrne, 1387 South Vinnell Way, Boise, Idaho 83709; (208) 373–4006; mbyrne@blm.gov. Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Idaho RAC is chartered, and the 15 members are appointed by the Secretary of the Interior. Their diverse perspectives are represented in commodity, non-commodity, and local interests. The Idaho RAC serves in an advisory capacity to BLM officials concerning issues relating to land use planning and management of public land resources located within the State of Idaho. The Idaho RAC formed the Lava Ridge Subcommittee to compile information, conduct research, and report their recommendations to the full Council for consideration. The BLM Shoshone Field Office is currently developing an Environmental Impact Statement to analyze the proposed Lava Ridge Wind Energy Project, a commercial-scale wind energy facility that is proposed to be constructed on BLM-managed public land in southern Idaho.

The June 15 Subcommittee and RAC field tour is to sites associated with the proposed Project. The public comment period for the Wednesday, June 15, 2022, field tour will be held at 4:45 p.m.

The July 7 Subcommittee meeting will focus on providing background information on the proposed Project, the NEPA process, and stakeholder perspective. The August 25 Subcommittee meeting will include a review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and presentations on alternatives. The September 22 Subcommittee meeting will focus on compiling information for consideration of the RAC on the DEIS alternatives. The October 19 RAC meeting will include State Director and District Office updates; a presentation on the Payette River System Draft Business Plan; an update on the proposed Project, a presentation on Subcommittee findings relating to the proposed Project, and development of associated RAC recommendations; and a presentation on Bipartisan Infrastructure Law implementation and projects.



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Bureau of Land Management

San Rafael Swell Special Recreation Area

Land Use Plan Overview and Next Steps





Outline

Review of the Land Use Plan
Amendment Process

Current Steps

- Scoping
- Analysis of the Management Situation
- Special Recreation Management Area Review
- Area of Critical Environmental Concerns Evaluation

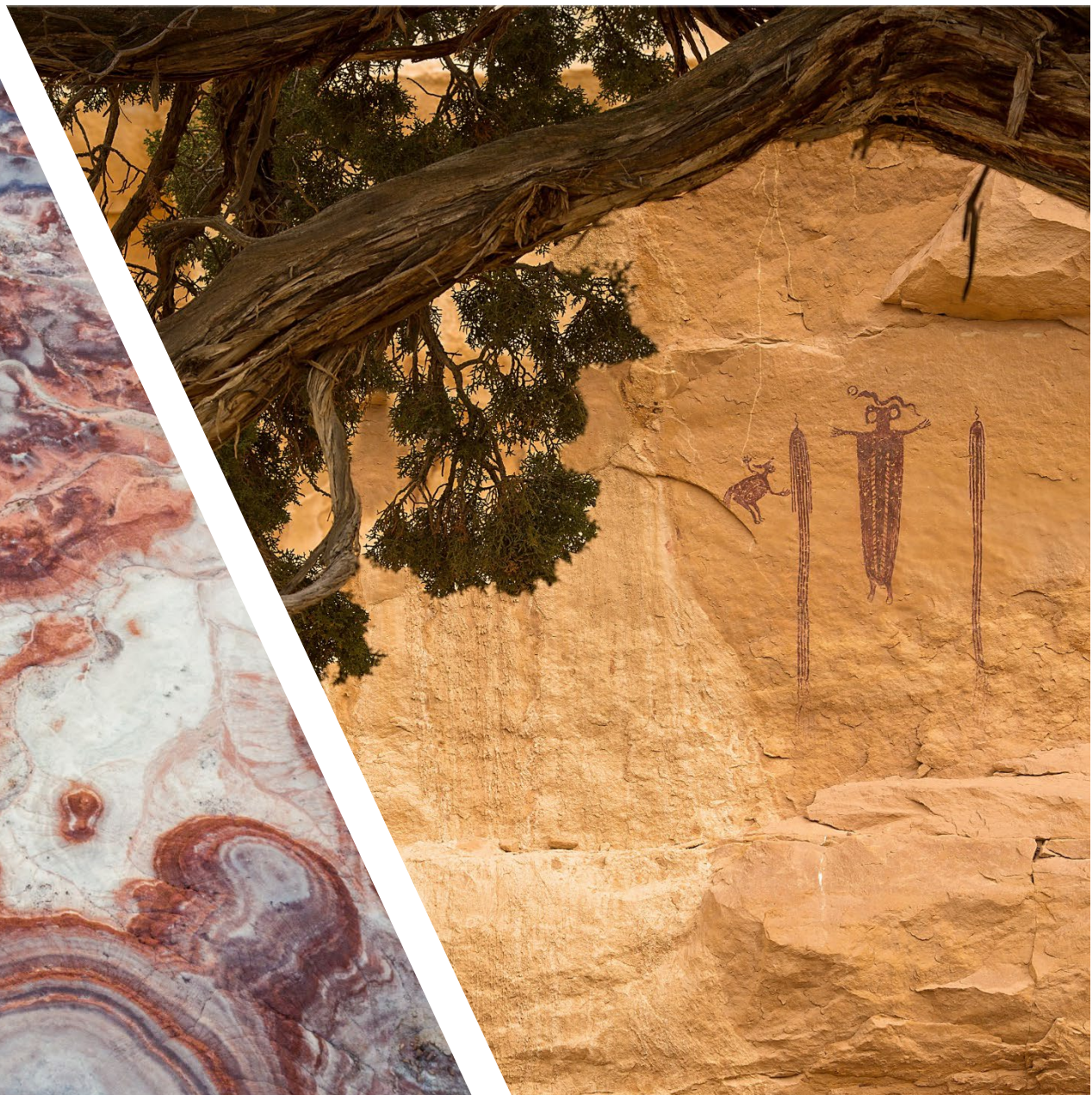
Next Steps





Resource Management Plans

- Set goals, objectives, and management direction
- Provide the framework for BLM undertakings





Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976

Sec. 202. [43 U.S.C. 1712] (a) The Secretary shall, with public involvement and consistent with the terms and conditions of this Act, develop, maintain, and, when appropriate, revise land use plans which provide tracts or areas for the use of the public lands.

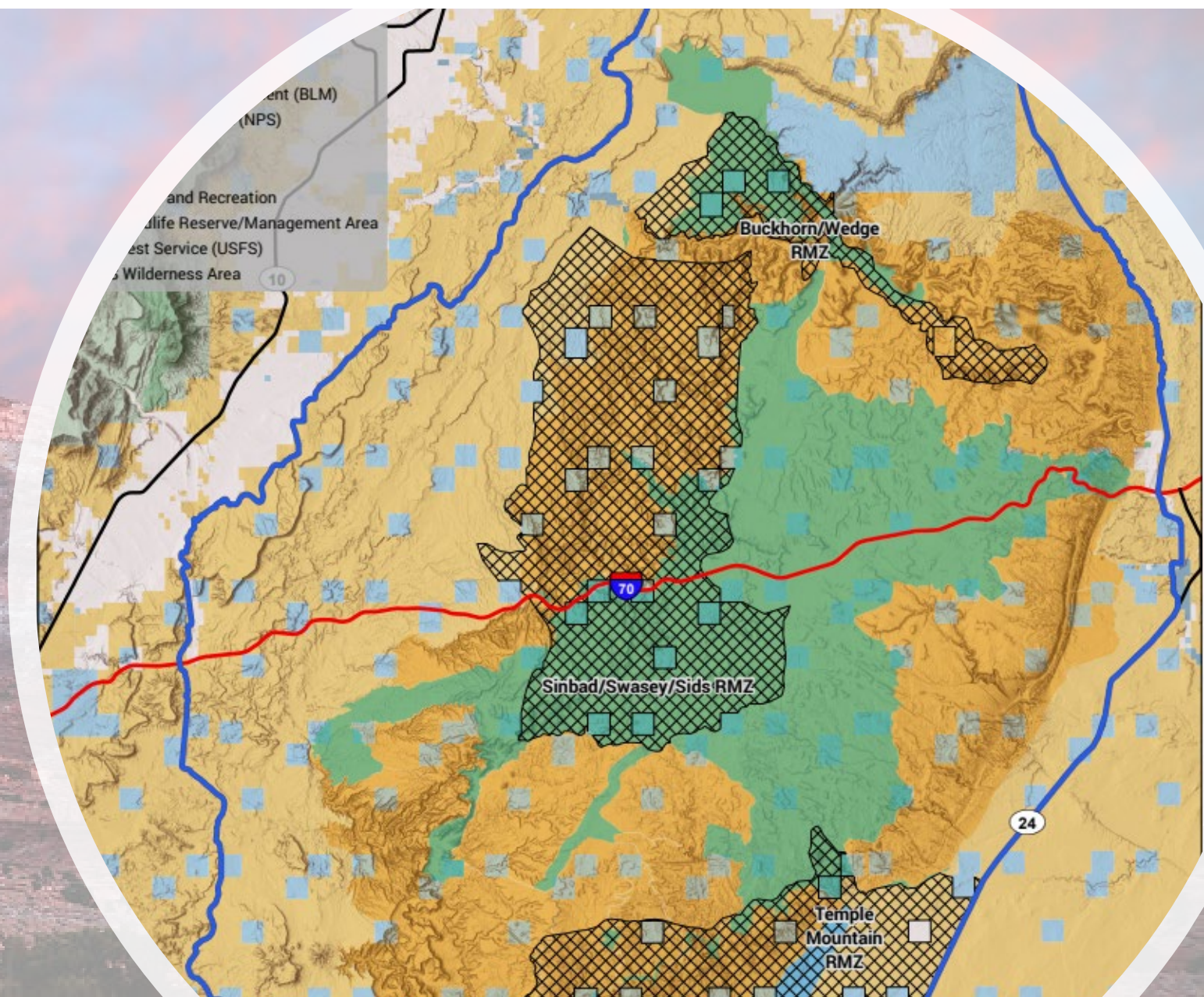




1. Prepare to Plan
2. Issue a Notice of Intent to Prepare the RMP Amendment
3. Conduct Scoping → Analyze the Management Situation (optional)
4. Document Results

NEXT STEPS

5. Formulate Alternatives
6. Analyze Effects of Alternatives
7. Prepare a Draft RMP Amendment (EA/FONSI)
8. Provide a minimum 30-day Public Comment Period





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Scoping



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The Scoping Report





Analysis of the Management Situation (AMS)

- Internal Document
- Helps BLM determine opportunities to resolve planning issues
- Builds upon known issues (raised during public scoping)
- Helps refine planning criteria



Step 1. Gather data and information for the planning area.





Step 2. Determine Conflicts and Trade- offs Between Resource Protection & Uses.





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Step 3. Gather Existing Data and Information





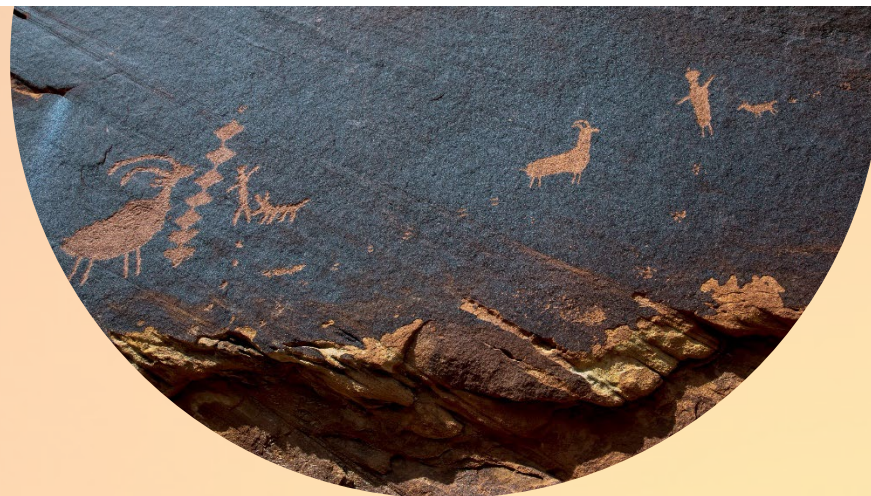
Step 4. Collect New Data and Information

- If required by law or policy
- If current inventories are inadequate or out-of-date
- If additional information is needed to address identified issues
- Obtaining the data is reasonable based on budget/time constraints.





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Step 5. Analyze and Document



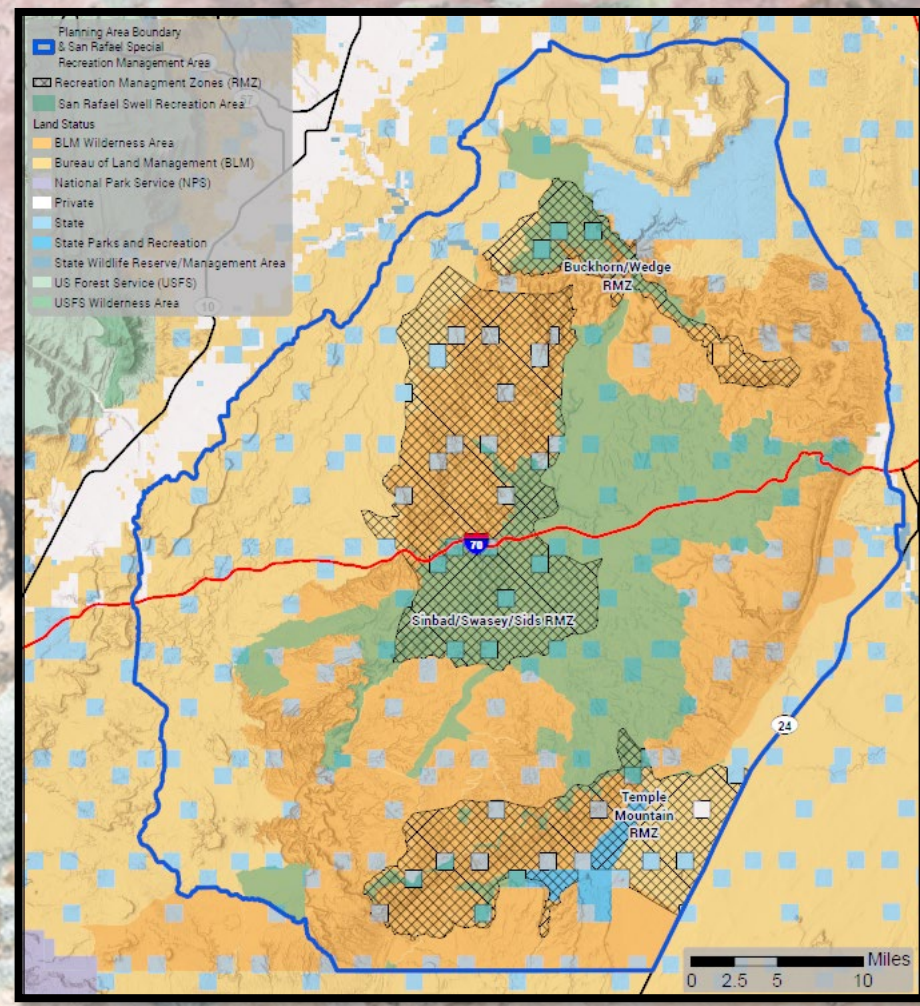
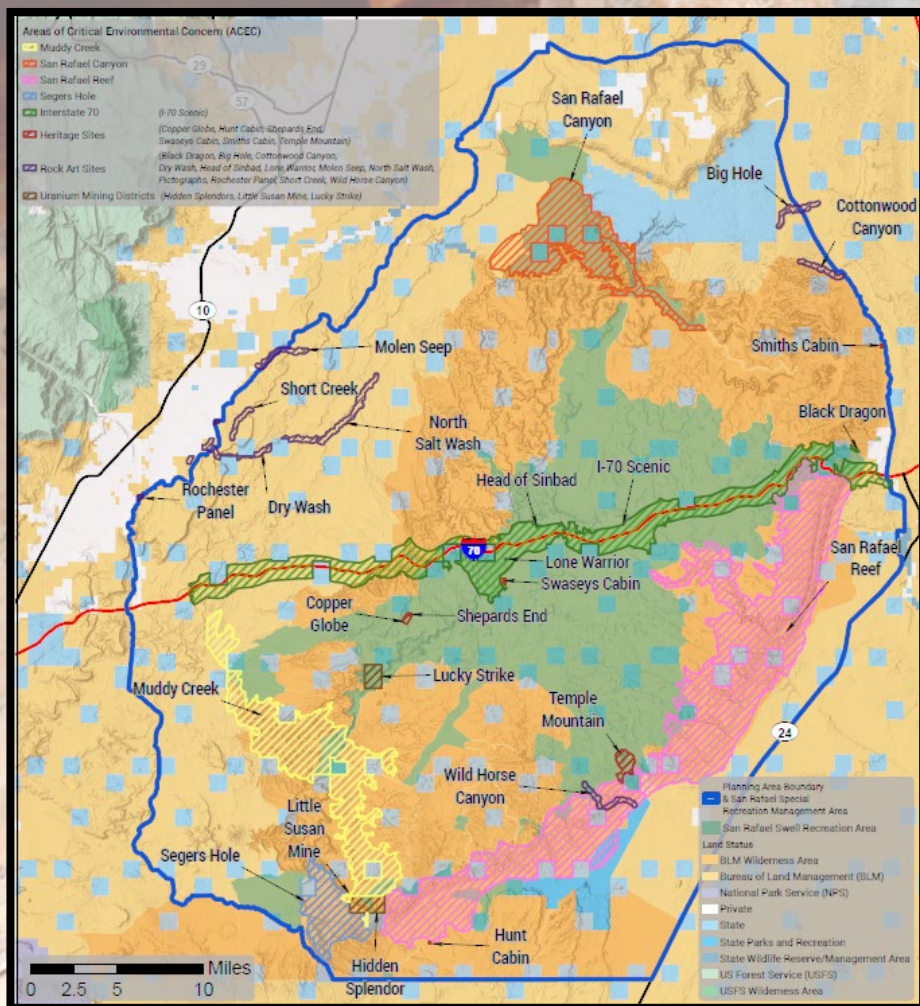
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Special Recreation Area(s) Review



Overlapping and Adjacent Management Area Designations





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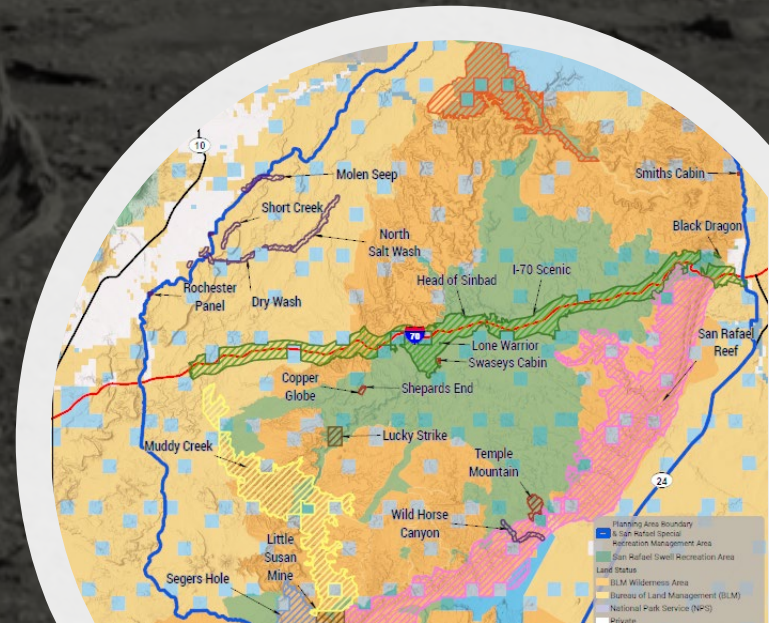
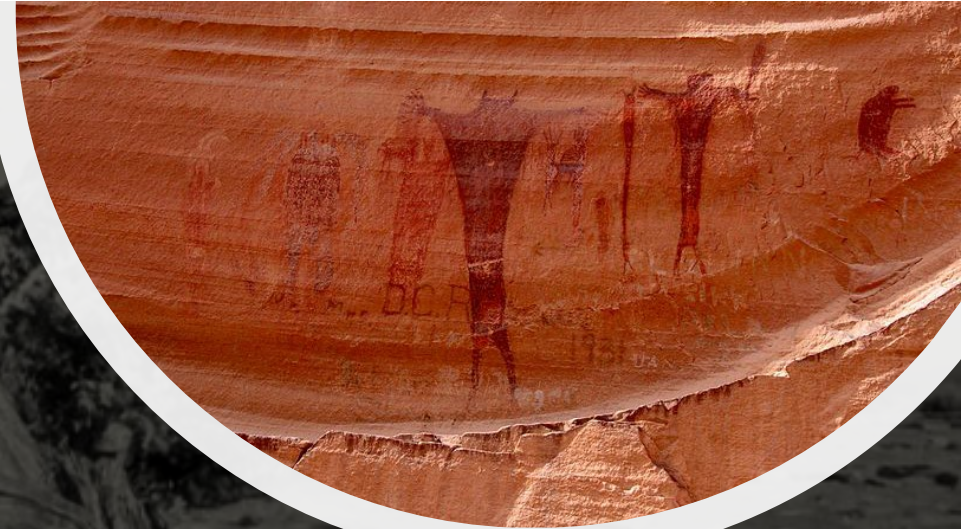


Areas of Critical Environmental Concern Evaluations





- List ACECs located within the SRS





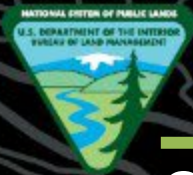
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**Next Step – Alternative
Development**

Questions?





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San Rafael Swell Recreation Plan Amendment Scoping Period Report and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern Re-evaluation Report





Scoping

- Resource issues to be considered
- Data to be used
- Data gaps to be addressed
- Proposed Action and Alternatives
 - Existing management to be changed or removed
 - Existing management to be carried forward unchanged
 - Special designation, creation, modification, or removal
- Consultation/Coordination needs





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Refined Planning Area and Management Plan Scope

Did you know that BLM expanded
the planning boundary for the SRS
– Recreation Area by
approximately 500,000 acres?





- Add map of designated Recreation area boundary
- Updated planning area



Refined Purpose and Need

“The need for the San Rafael Special Recreation Management Area RMP Amendment is to bring the 2008 Price RMP into conformance with the Dingell Act’s purposes and management for the San Rafael Swell Recreation Area, and its release of Wilderness Study Area acreage...”

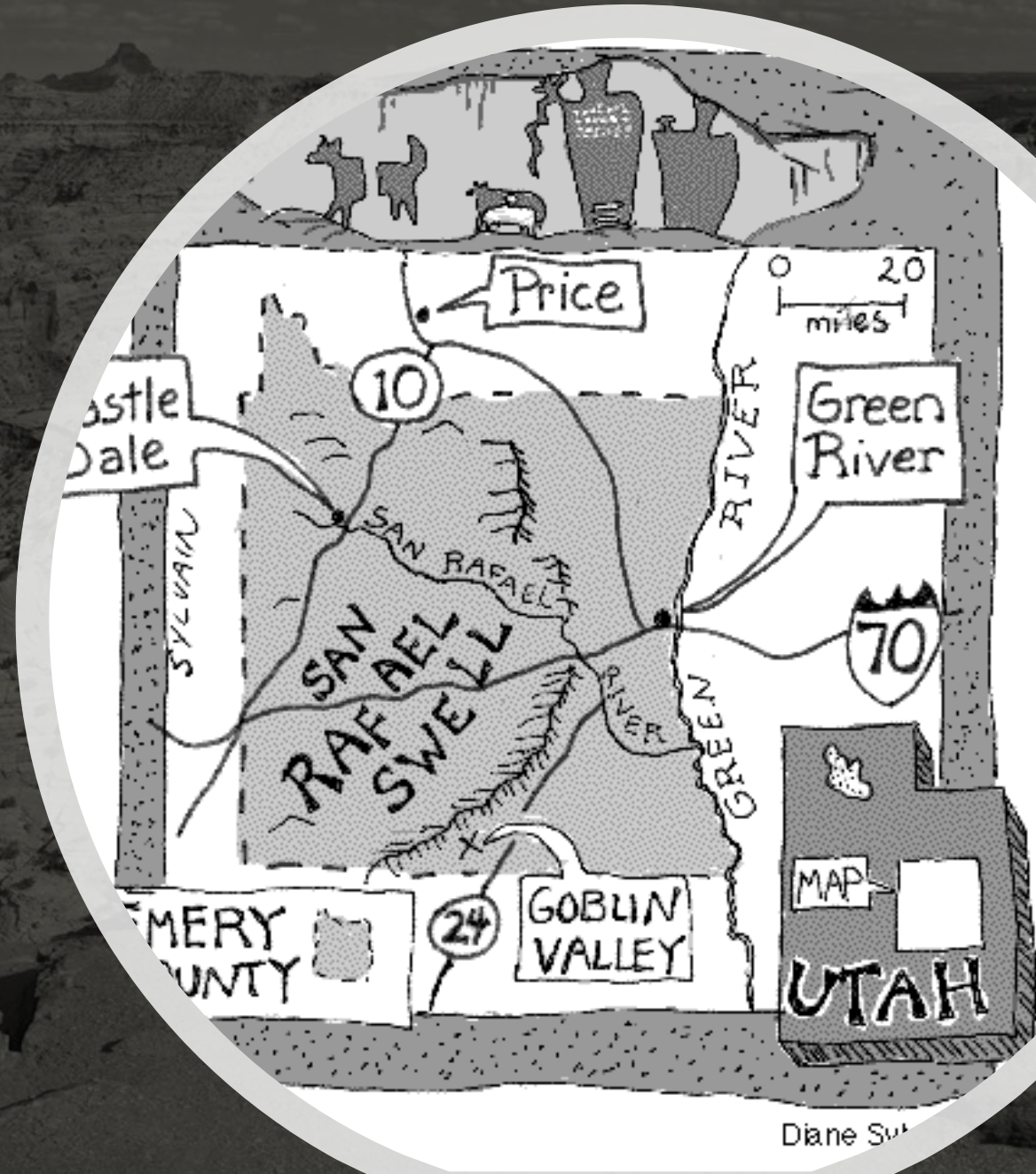
Pre-scoping Purpose and Need

The BLM will review current RMP outcomes and modify goals and objectives to meet outcomes described in the Dingell Act.

The BLM will develop legal descriptions and Refinements as needed to boundaries established by the Dingell Act and modify or remove any unnecessary land use designations established under the current RMPs.

The BLM will modify, add, or remove current RMP allowable uses to meet the outcomes described in the Dingell Act and reduce resource conflicts. The BLM will modify or remove current RMP management actions and develop new actions to meet the outcomes described in the Dingell Act.

Refined Planning Criteria





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Publicly Identified Alternatives



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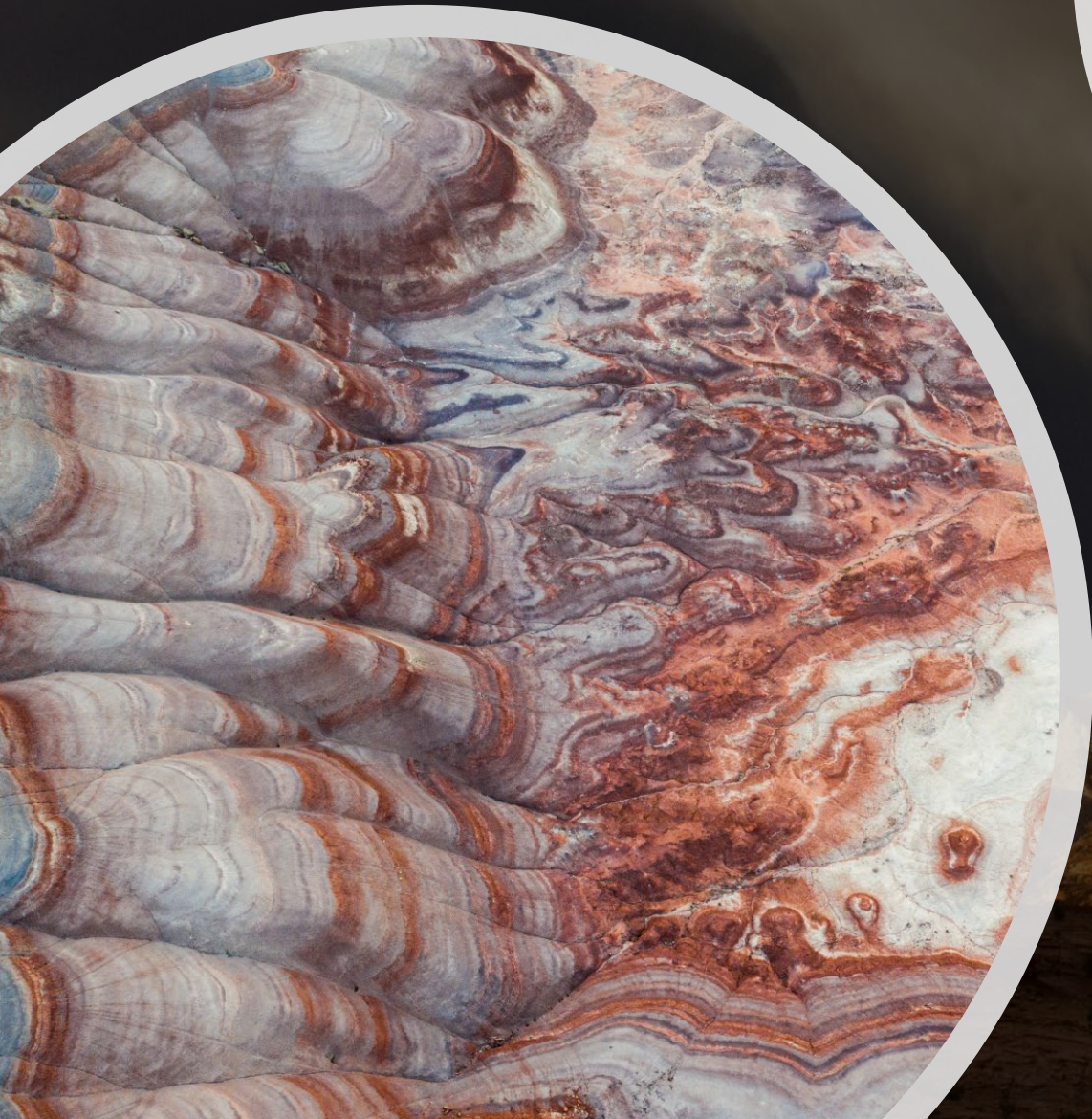


Advisory Council Recommendations





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Areas of Critical Environmental Concern Report





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San Rafael Swell Special Recreation Area

San Rafael Swell Recreation Plan Amendment Scoping Period Report and
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern Re-evaluation Report



QUESTIONS?



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Health and Human Safety





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Lands and Realty



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Livestock Grazing





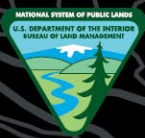
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Public and Stakeholder Involvement



Purpose and Need

The BLM will review current RMP outcomes and modify goals and objectives to meet outcomes described in the Dingell Act. The BLM will develop legal descriptions and refinements as needed to boundaries established by the Dingell Act and modify or remove any unnecessary land use designations established under the current RMPs. The BLM will modify, add, or remove current RMP allowable uses to meet the outcomes described in the Dingell Act and reduce resource conflicts. The BLM will modify or remove current RMP management actions and develop new actions to meet the outcomes described in the Dingell Act.



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San Rafael Swell

Visitor Use and Recreation Project Updates



Jaydon Mead
Outdoor Recreation Planner

August 29, 2022



San Rafael Swell Recreation Area Visitor Use Information

TRAFx Counter Data at main access points

Year	Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	ADT [†]	ADT [†] x365	Days with data
2021	Base of Cedar Mtn	104*	161	883	2,022	1,036	191	170	113	349	251	358	94	16.420	5,993	345
	BTR Road ^D	1,052	94	686	1,493	1,044*								28.738	10,489	145
	Buckhorn Draw	1,000*	1,228	3,638	6,865	6,126	1,668	1,178	1,255	2,399	3,186	2,160	816	89.490	32,664	345
	Front of Reef Road	59*	87	461	781	463	154	42	71	185	422	185	68	8.522	3,110	345
	Johansen Corral ^D	31*	98	297	611	614	160	36	28	131	351	184	43	7.432	2,713	345
	Justensen Flat ^D	48*	67	363	641	663	204	96	78	246	430	243	59	9.006	3,287	345
	Main W of Reef ^D	106	147	833	1,730	1,269*	243	128	161	408	829	304	73	16.939	6,183	363
	Mex Mtn Road ^D	79*	234	611	1,685	1,438	237	88	112	442	590	392	90	17.238	6,292	345
	South Temple Wash ^D	260*	551	2,959	5,630	4,383	1,337	629	602	1,767	3,074	1,278	340	65.797	24,016	344
	Swinging Bridge North	433	186	821	1,894	1,776	479	293	289*	603	844	503	83	22.548	8,230	363
	Wedge East ^D	87*	169	646	1,535	1,267	240	139	187	626	779	361	78	17.559	6,409	345
	Wedge Overlook ^D	228*	420	1,446	3,215	2,789	926	627	604	1,235	1,366	986	273	40.487	14,778	345
2022	Base of Cedar Mtn	233	271	547	2,435	789	192	228	128*					21.491	7,844	220
	BTR Road ^D					1,095*	140*	42	13*					5.370	1,960	73
	Buckhorn Draw	1,596	1,878	2,675	5,789	5,864	1,756	1,020	1,112*					94.841	34,617	220
	Front of Reef Road	92	169	308	689	524	108	65	40*					8.968	3,273	219
	Johansen Corral ^D	100	125	292*	516	477	90	40	39*					7.493	2,735	219
	Justensen Flat ^D	78	77	243	629	554	177	94	107*					8.520	3,110	221
	Main W of Reef ^D	60*				1,612*	295	124	84*					8.678	3,167	90
	Mex Mtn Road ^D	251	399	431	1,324	1,521	371	120	101*					20.195	7,371	220
	South Temple Wash ^D	309	597	2,415	5,249	3,640	1,376	490	492*					64.781	23,645	219
	Swinging Bridge North	115*		372*	1,349	1,511	553	273	283*					25.039	9,139	154
	Wedge East ^D	121	214	519	1,313	1,178	324	113	66*					17.268	6,303	220
	Wedge Overlook ^D	405	538	1,116	2,326	2,369	924	524	488*					37.855	13,817	220

ADT[†] = Average Daily Traffic

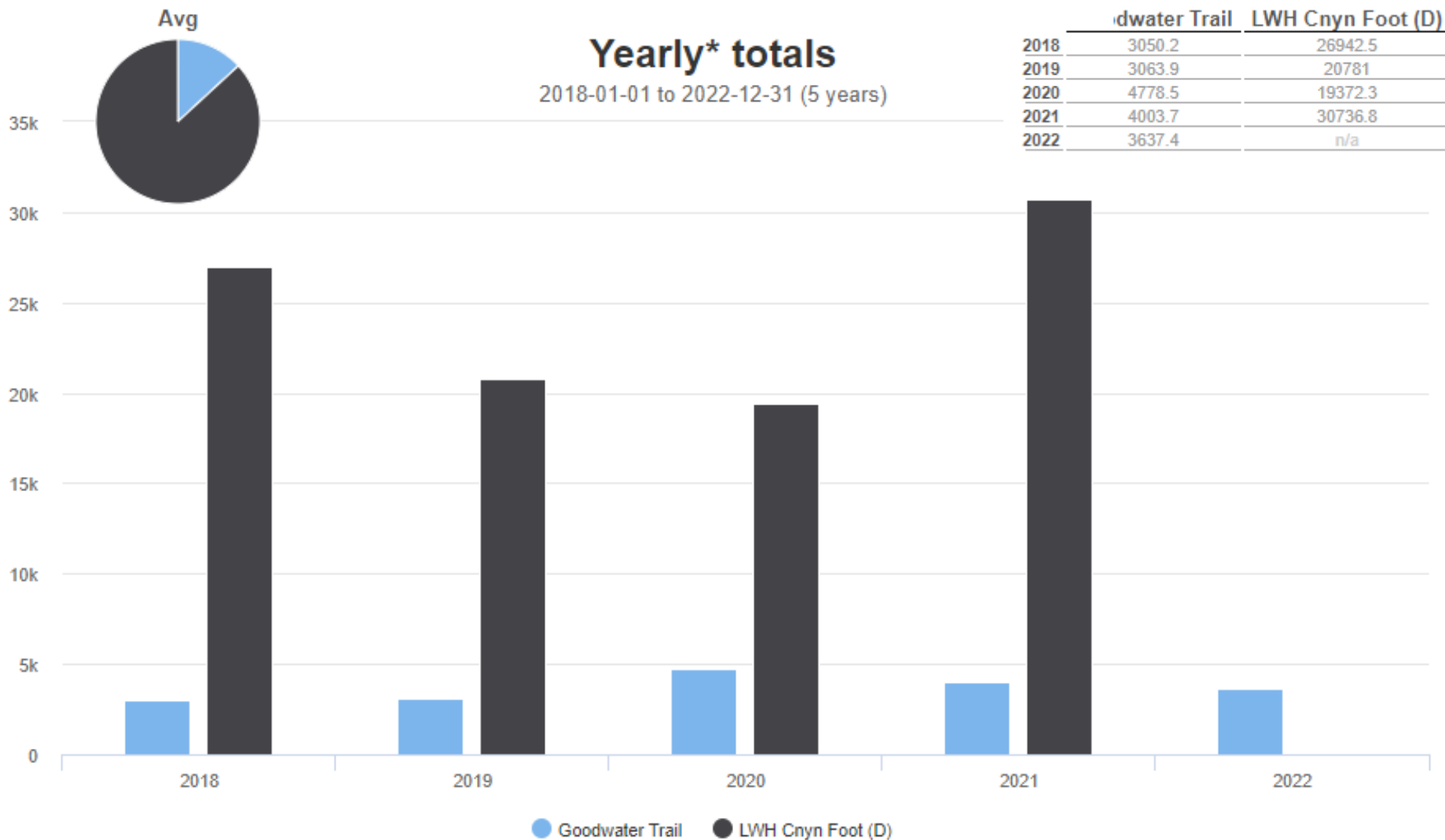
* = based upon that month's ADT [Learn more](#) Indicates months with less than 6 days of data.

^D = divide by 2 applied [Learn more](#)



San Rafael Swell Recreation Area Visitor Use Information

TRAFx Counter Data on non-motorized trails





San Rafael Swell Recreation Area Visitor Use Information

TRAFx Counter Data on motorized trails

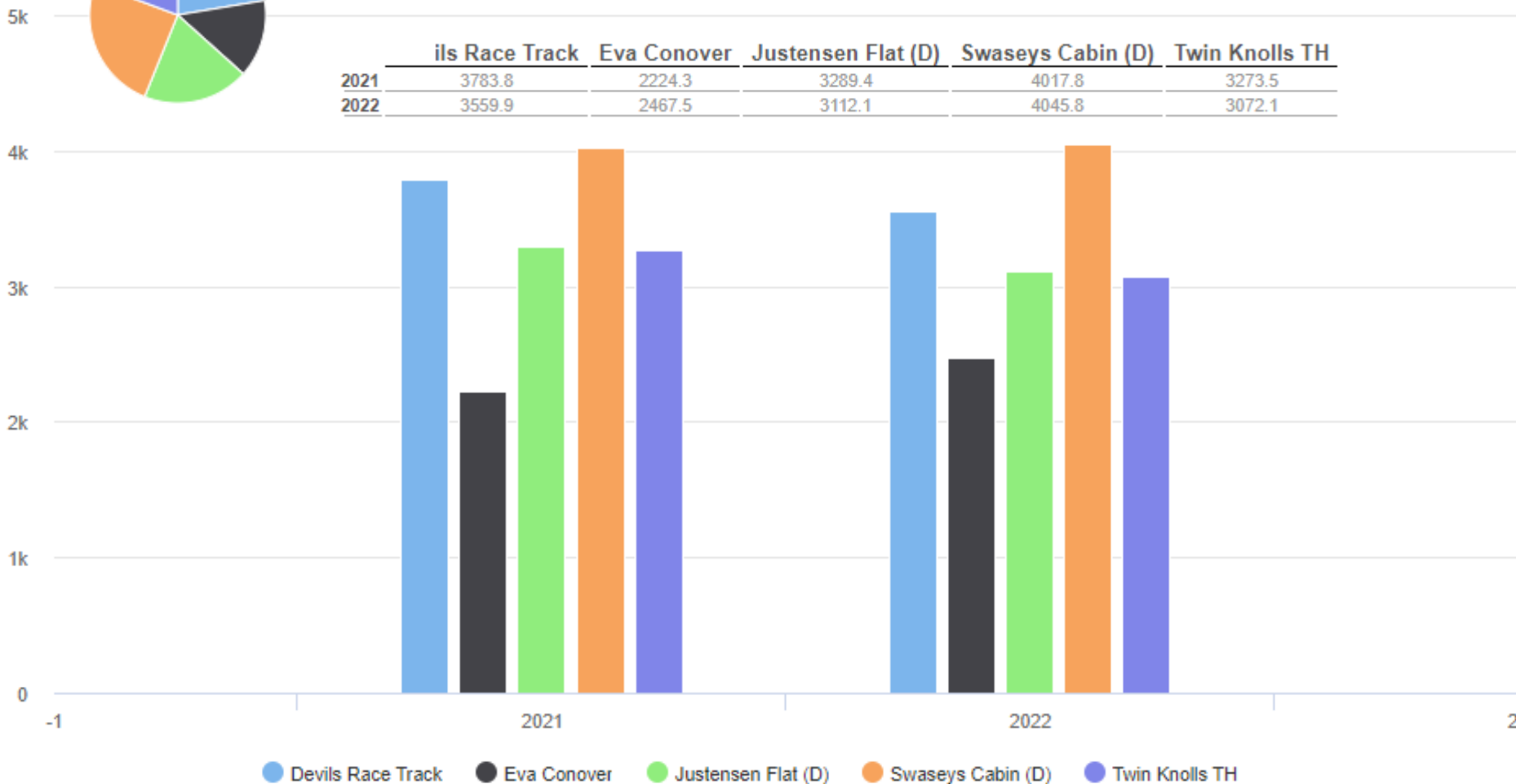
Avg



Yearly* totals

2021-01-01 to 2022-12-31 (2 years)

	ils Race Track	Eva Conover	Justensen Flat (D)	Swaseys Cabin (D)	Twin Knolls TH
2021	3783.8	2224.3	3289.4	4017.8	3273.5
2022	3559.9	2467.5	3112.1	4045.8	3072.1





San Rafael Swell Recreation Area Visitor Use Information

Recreation Use Permits (RUP's) (AKA Campground Envelopes)

From the San Rafael Swinging Bridge Campgrounds

FY2020

620 Permits
2,139 Visitors

FY2021

483 Permits
1,524 Visitors

FY2022 (so far)

421 Pemits
1,271 Visitors

TRAFx Data

Year	Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	ADT [†]	ADT [†] x365	Days with data
2021	Buckhorn Draw	1,000*	1,228	3,638	6,865	6,126	1,668	1,178	1,255	2,399	3,186	2,160	816	89.490	32,664	345
	Mex Mtn Road ^D	79*	234	611	1,685	1,438	237	88	112	442	590	392	90	17.238	6,292	345
	Swinging Bridge North	433	186	821	1,894	1,776	479	293	289*	603	844	503	83	22.548	8,230	363
2022	Buckhorn Draw	1,596	1,878	2,675	5,789	5,864	1,756	1,020	1,112*					94.841	34,617	220
	Mex Mtn Road ^D	251	399	431	1,324	1,521	371	120	101*					20.195	7,371	220
	Swinging Bridge North	115*		372*	1,349	1,511	553	273	283*					25.039	9,139	154

ADT[†] = Average Daily Traffic

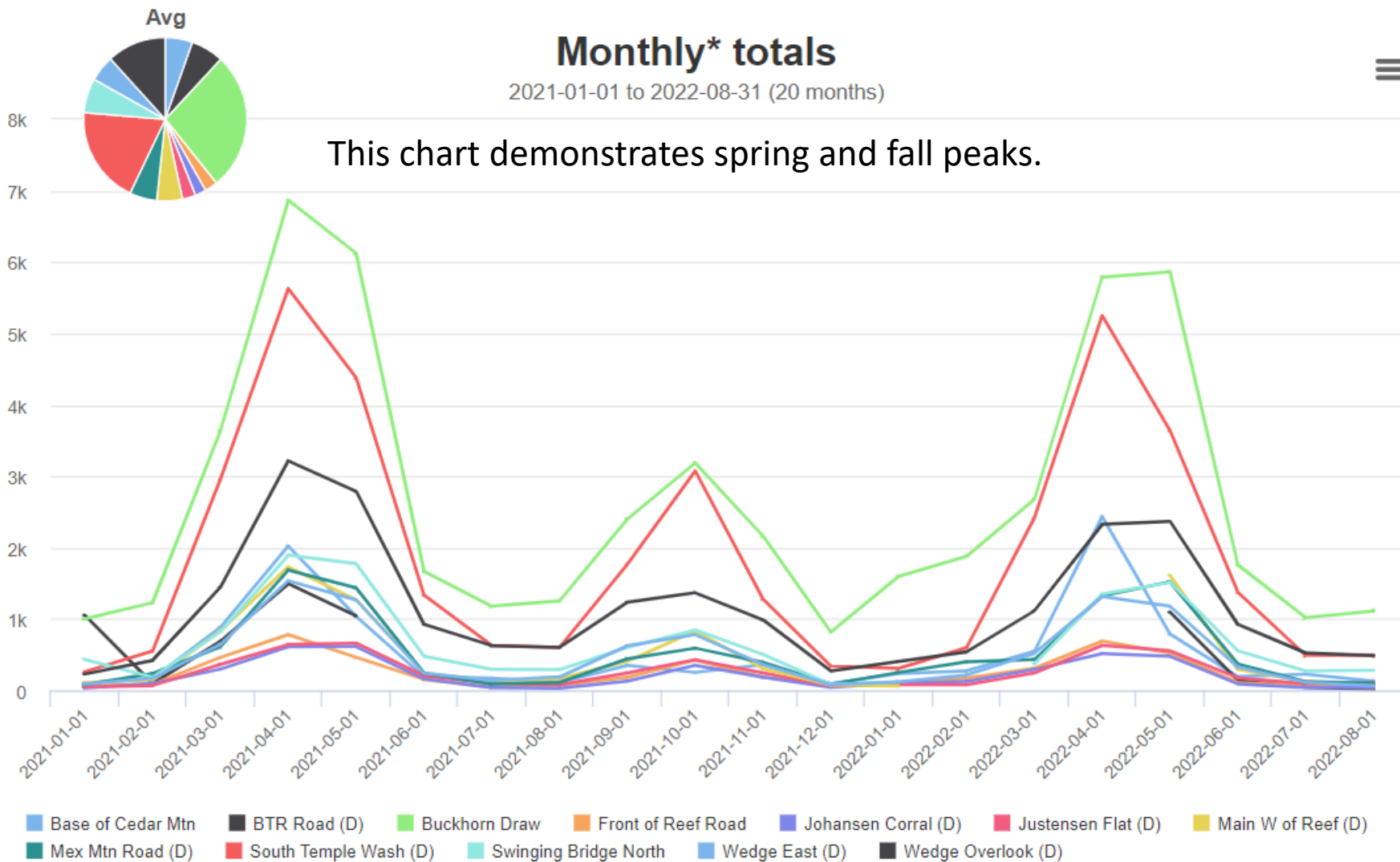
* = based upon that month's ADT [Learn more](#) Indicates months with less than 6 days of data.

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San Rafael Swell Recreation Area Visitor Use Information

TRAFx Counter Data at main access points

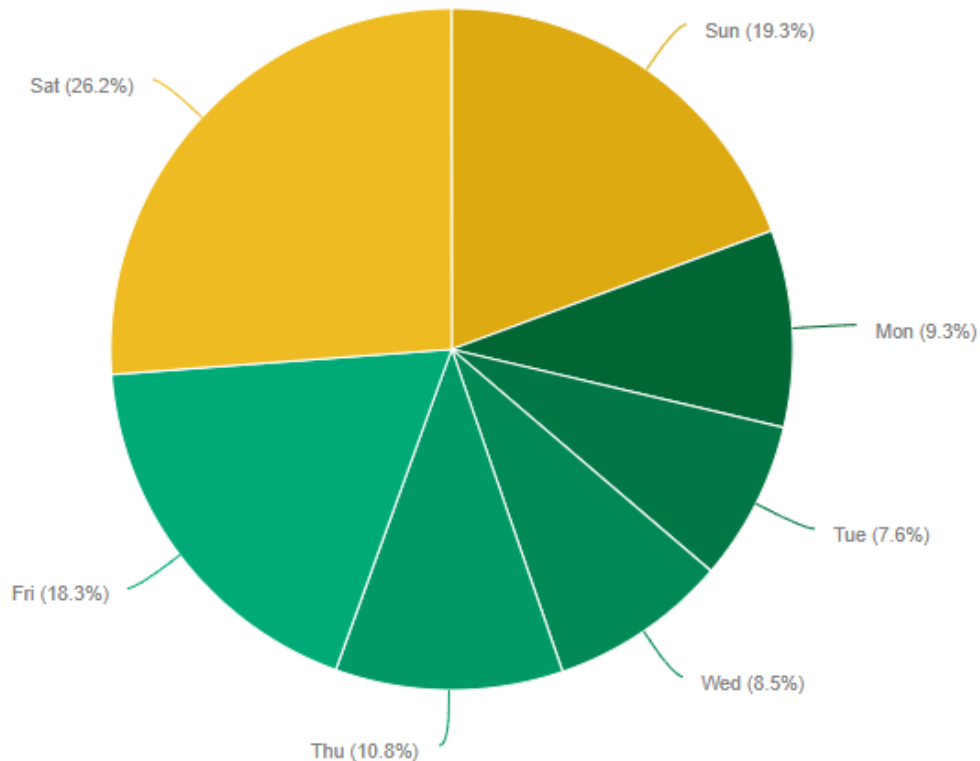




San Rafael Swell Recreation Area Visitor Use Information TRAFx Counter Data showing weekday use.

Days of the Week

2021-01-01 to 2022-08-06



Site Name	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Base of Cedar Mtn	9.4	6.1	7.2	12.8	25.4	38.2	29.6
BTR Road (D)	18.2	13.6	12.2	15.2	28.2	34.8	23.7
Buckhorn Draw	59.8	47.3	54.5	65.6	110.3	170	134.1
Front of Reef Road	6.3	4.5	5.3	6.1	10.9	15.7	12.1
Johansen Corral (D)	4.5	3.7	3.7	5.5	9.7	16	9.1
Justensen Flat (D)	5.2	4.2	5.2	7.8	11	17.8	10.5
Main W of Reef (D)	10.8	8.8	9.1	12	18.9	26.6	20.3
Mex Mtn Road (D)	10.3	7.6	9.4	12.2	26.3	35	28.1
South Temple Wash (D)	46	41	43.8	57.7	84.4	105.5	79.2
Swinging Bridge North	13.9	12	14.9	18.4	33	42.9	27.3
Wedge East (D)	9.9	8.1	9.9	13.7	24.1	33.1	23.5
Wedge Overlook (D)	24.9	20.8	23.3	26.2	47.1	78.1	56.1



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San Rafael Swell Recreation Area Visitor Use Information

Plans to install 10 more counters in partnership with Emery County.



General observations and trends.



San Rafael Swell Recreation Area Visitor Use Information

Other Recreation Trends we have observed

ATV's to Side by Sides

Size of RV's and campsites. (Toy haulers vs Overland Camping)

Increase in Gravel Grinding/Bike Packing

Increase in Rock Climbing and Bouldering.

Increasing interest in organized events and commercial uses.

Keeping up with Social Media and Internet is a huge challenge





Cane Wash Project Update

2/17/22 The Council recommended to accept BLM's proposal and recommendations for controlling motorized encroachments into the wilderness area in Cane Wash.



Environmental Assessment Decision was signed on July 21, 2022.

We plan to implement this decision this fall!

This project has been a good example of how we can all work together to accomplish projects.





Justensen Flat Trailhead Project Update:

2/17/2022 The Council recommended to continue with the improvements to Justenson Flat keeping in mind equestrian use and drainage issues.

\$55k project

\$35k grant awarded

- Parking Area
- Fencing
- Toilet
- Signage

Timeline:

Fall 2022/Summer 2023

Contracting Updates:

We hope to go out for bids on construction work soon.

We recently received bids for the toilet.





Rock Project with the Backcountry Horseman and Emery County Grants

The San Rafael Back Country Horseman received two Emery County Trails Grants.

Over 3,500 ft of boulder lines have been installed in key places near the San Rafael Swinging Bridge/Equestrian Campground in the Wedge area including the proposed equestrian campsite and near the Goodwater Rim Trailheads.

Plans to continue working together to have more boulders delivered and installed, and to improve some trailheads and signage in areas like the Johansson Corral





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Swinging Bridge Campground Updates and Plans

UCC Crew and our Park Rangers have been installing the new fence around Swinging Bridge North and Equestrian Campgrounds.

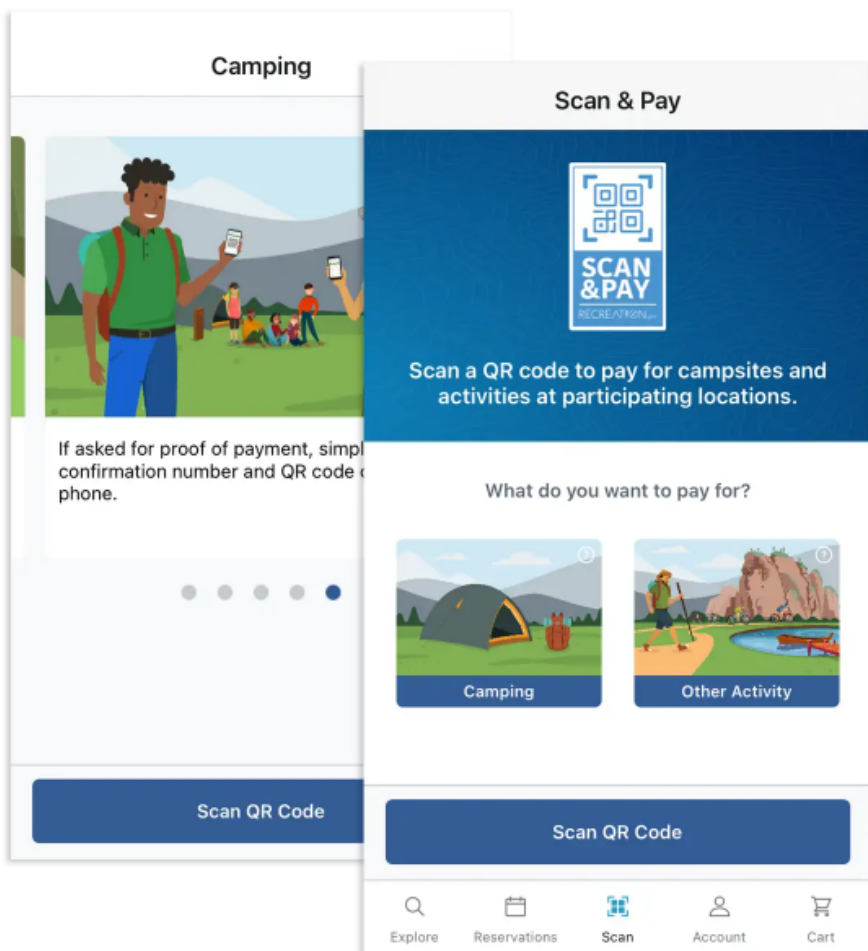


We are working with Recreation.gov to have this site, that way we can use the new Scan and Pay feature.



Swinging Bridge Campground Updates and Plans

Ecommerce is the future of BLM fee collection, and Scan and Pay will be the first phase of our transition to Recreation.gov. Campsite Reservations are being considered but introduce new challenges to our remote recreation sites.



Claim a Campsite When You Arrive with Scan & Pay

Didn't make a reservation in advance and looking to grab a campsite when you arrive? Available at select campgrounds, the Recreation.gov mobile app now features Scan & Pay to pay directly from your mobile device for first come, first served campsites.



Easy Mobile Payment

Claim your spot by placing your equipment down and use the camera on your phone to scan the unique campground QR code to pay for the campsite.



No Need to Wait or Carry Cash

Payment is conveniently made right on your phone, without the hassle of waiting in line, carrying cash, or writing a check and dropping it in a fee tube.



No Signal, No Problem

Even in remote areas with no cell service, Scan & Pay allows you to pay when you're offline and then processes your transaction once you're back online.



Temple Mountain Town Site, South Temple Wash Updates and Plans



Improvements at Temple Mountain Townsite Campground

Still need to finish site delineation, fire rings, and kiosks.



Buckhorn Draw Campground Updates and Plans

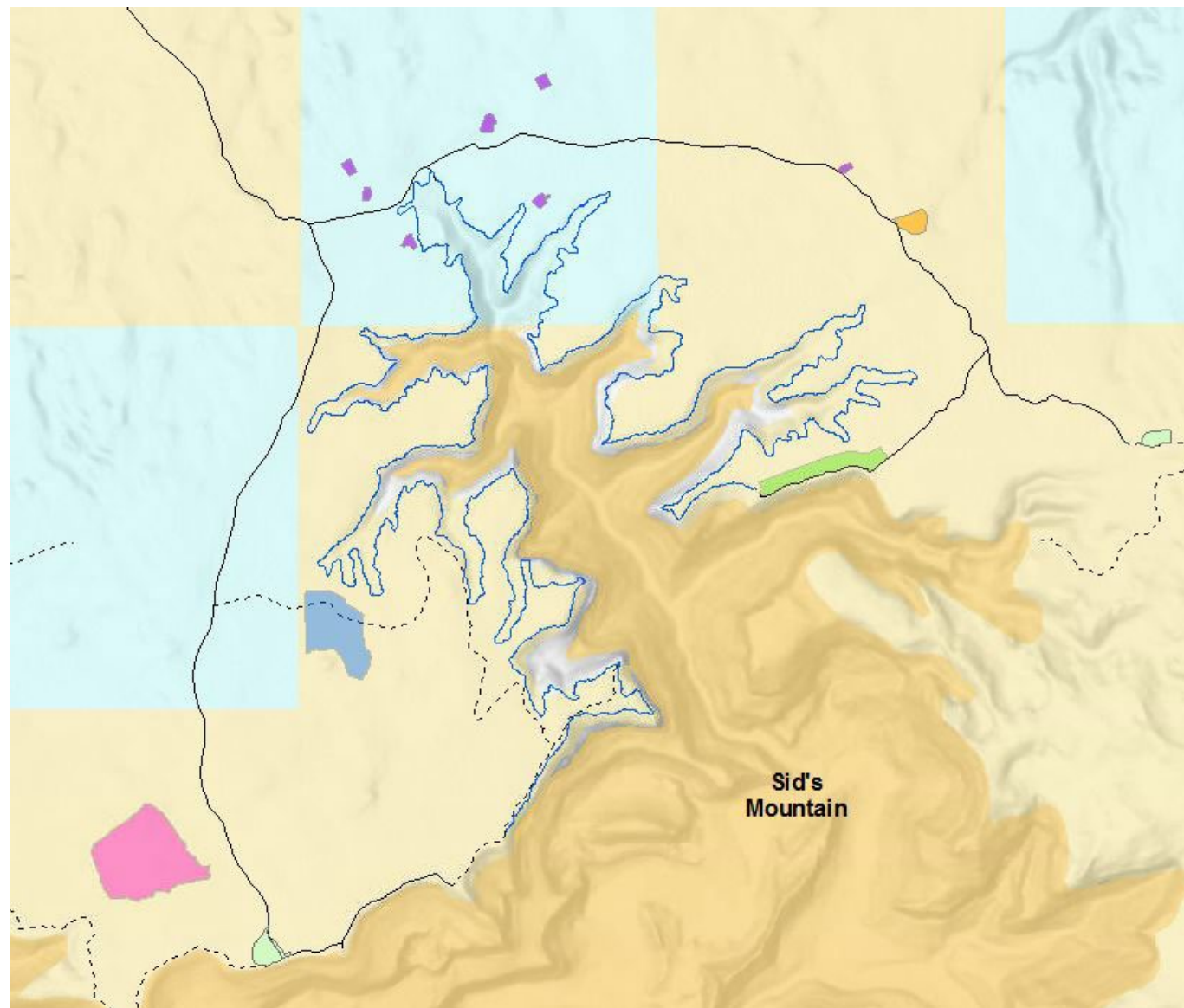


Ordering more signs.

Still need to finish kiosks and add some finishing touches.



Wedge Campground Planning Update



2/17/22 "The Council recommended that BLM move forward on the Wedge Campground NEPA process. They request regular status update. BLM should consider keeping dispersed camping experiences and evaluate the trail/road for its recreational and search and rescue values before closure."

Next step will be completing campground layout designs and alternatives while considering recommendations and avoiding sensitive areas as much as possible.



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Questions or Recommendations?



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Jaydon Mead

Outdoor Recreation Planner

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Price Field Office

125 South 600 West

Price, UT 84501



Past recommendations and what we have done with them?

Rock Art Site Recommendation

2/17/2021 “Consider adding rock art protections like fences, new signs, ect.”

5/25/2022 “Prioritize protection of cultural sites over individual campsites.”

On September 14th, there is meeting scheduled with the State Historic Preservation Office, the Emery County Historic Preservation Commission, and the BLM to further discuss site project priorities, clarify each partners role, and hopefully schedule a few projects.

In addition to that, we have also installed trail cameras at the Buckhorn Panel, and fixed the rock barricade at the Silent Sentinel, which was a site we visited during the field trip in May.



Past recommendations and what we have done with them?

Signage Recommendation

2/17/21 “BLM add signage to next agenda. Review details and options for how to improve signage and education. (Talk to Emery County and look at other areas for ideas)”

BLM presented about signs at the following meeting. We shared our sign inventory, we showed how we were improving our signage, and we shared challenges we face.

BLM is currently working with Emery County on 5 sign development priorities. Buckhorn Wash Campground, Bellevue Flats Trailhead, Justenson Flats Trailhead, Fossil Point Trail, and General/Travel Info.

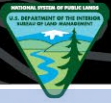


Past recommendations and what we have done with them?

Travel Management Recommendation

2/17/2021 “Keep all currently used routes in the San Rafael Swell Recreation Area open and maintain those roads and trails.”

This recommendation will be considered by management when its time to make a decision on the San Rafael Swell Travel Management Plan.



Past recommendations and what we have done with them?

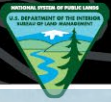
Back Country Airstrip Recommendations

8/10/2021

Conversation on back country airstrips should be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

BLM presented and gave details about the 5 backcountry airstrips that are located within the San Rafael Swell Recreation Area.





Past recommendations and what we have done with them?

Johansson Corral Recommendation

5/25/2022

“Johanson Corral needs a kiosk explaining multi-use needs of all user groups. Tie rails should be installed on the south end for horses allowing cattlemen to get in and out particularly from February to May. Specific parking areas should be defined for vehicles using the wilderness area. Designate a small vehicle parking area on the west end.”

We are working with the Backcountry horsemen to install a tie rail. We have plans to develop new signage for the area to clarify how to properly park and to highlight the multiple use needs at that site.

Ina Lee Magnuson
1998



Past recommendations and what we have done with them?

Camping Recommendations

2/17/2021 “Be more pro-active for camping, think about where it is appropriate, consider camping only in designated sites, review where dispersed camping is allowed.”

5/25/2022 “BLM should continue implementing developed campgrounds and should continue planning for new infrastructure at the Wedge and Wikiup to better manage the increasing use”

We are currently implementing campground developments that will become fee sites in January 2023. Future camping decisions will need to be made during our land use amendments and/or during the recreation area planning efforts.



Possible camping restrictions/clarification in the recreation area

Should the BLM close dispersed camping near developed campgrounds, and if so, how large should that closure be?

Should we limit camping to designate dispersed campsites in key areas such as the behind the reef road? Where else?

Should we leave areas available for free and unconfined dispersed camping?

How can we best clarify where free dispersed camping is allowed, where it is limited to designated, and where it is closed/limited to fee sites? Is it best to establish these polygons/area for the entire recreation area?

I don't want answers now...but I do want to challenge you to think more about this. Maybe we can brainstorm some ideas next meeting?



Goblin Valley Land Conveyance was completed this summer!

How will that impact the recreation area moving forward?

How will the new fee collection impact access to BLM managed lands.

How can we best co-manage this area?

Will the SRSRAAC play a role in that process?

DELETE THIS SLIDE???