



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

Utah Resource Advisory Council

March 20, 2024

Meeting Minutes

Ramada St. George

St. George, Utah

Color Country District

Meeting Attendees:

- **Utah Resource Advisory Council Members:** Gregory Sheehan (DFO), Tyler Thompson (Chair), Clif Koontz (Vice Chair), Joan Hayes, Rick Draney, Sim Weston, William Cox, Patrick Hearty, Brandon Yardley, Mary Lane Poe, Karen Goodfellow, Neal Clark, Dean Draper
- **BLM Employees:** Gloria Tibbetts, Melanie Oberhelman, Randy Peterson, Jaqueline Russell, Jason West, Ade Nelson, Dan Fletcher, Diana Barg, Christina Fithian, Cindy Gallo, Jeremy Dyer, Vicki Tyler, Jake Palma (virtual)
- **Public:** Larry Ellertson, Loren Campbell,

Welcome & Introductions

- Tyler Thompson: Opened meeting and introduced board and everyone in the room.

BLM Utah Projects Overview

Designated Federal Officer, Utah State Director Greg Sheehan

- Introduce Jeremy Dyer – Tech and Social Media
- **Little Sahara Recreation Area:**
 - Easter Weekend – 40-60k expected (above average number of visitors).
 - Opened new visitor center that also serves as medical center.
 - Work closely with Juab County Sheriff to make this a safe place to recreate.
 - Shoutout to all SAR teams statewide with whom we collaborate, they are mostly volunteers and we appreciate them
- **Fire Season:**
 - Most commonly 1-2 years after a wet cycle we get a bigger fire year.
 - May have a heavier than average fire year.
 - Making preparations (spring fire meetings)
 - 5-year avg. = 35,000 acres of BLM Utah burn
 - Only about 5,400 acres of BLM burned in 2023.
 - We have a great fire team with partners – local, state and federal.

- **Summary of National Leadership:**
 - Tracy Stone Manning, BLM Director
 - Nada Wolff Culver, BLM Principal Deputy Director
 - New! Mike Need, Deputy Director Administrations and Programs
 - New! Karen Kelleher, Deputy Director for State Operations
- **Budget:**
 - Reduced by 8% nationally.
 - States will begin implementing guidance to absorb cuts as soon as possible.
- **Bills that are being implemented by BLM/DOI**
 - GAOA – Great American Outdoor Act
 - Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
 - to acquire properties
 - Cottonwood inholding in GSENM
 - Red Cliffs Conservation Area – UTLA/Private lands inholding
 - Other GAOA
 - improvement of recreation areas – maintenance, repair and upgrade of existing projects
 - Lower Calf Creek Falls – expanded parking area will move traffic off main road.
 - BIL – Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
 - Fire and Fuels, plugging orphaned and abandoned wells – other landscape work.
 - IRA – Investment Recovery Act
 - ~10 million received for Rich Co
 - ~10 million received for Iron/Washington County
- **Planning Efforts**
 - November 14 and 15 – Previous RAC tour in Blanding/Bears Ears National Monument
 - RAC reviewed video overview of Bears Ears field trip and Tribal considerations.
 - Bears Ears – Encourage everyone to comment on plan.
 - GSENM – will share that final plan in the coming months.
 - TMP – Travel Management Planning
 - Pre-draft – San Rafael Swell for public review; alternatives range from closures to opening new routes; important to understand individual routes and uses
 - Henry Mountains – world-renowned bison herd, lots of ecosystems in the area – TMP forthcoming
 - Transmission Line Projects
 - TransWest – runs from Central Utah (Mona) to Central Nevada; renewables coming on from states – transmission moves energy.
 - Gateway South – approved Gateway South two years ago (WY/CO/UT/NV)
 - Cross Tie – public comment period ended in January.
 - Councilperson asked how much support are other entities, like private sector or the state, getting to move power? Greg responded companies have to negotiate with landowners along the route to try and keep transmission lines all together. Can be difficult for those companies to get power to the lines.
 - Councilperson asked how much taxes that Utah gets from these projects and and Greg answered not a lot but some counties get some real property tax from them
 - Warner Valley Exchange – land exchange in Washington Co. is ongoing.
 - Northern Corridor Supplemental EIS – Gloria Tibbetts, Color Country District Manager, to discuss later in the day.

- Dingell Land Exchange
 - Exchange of 96k acres of BLM for 115k acres of UTLA lands
 - Expected to be completed (NEPA) later this year
 - Also created 17 new wilderness areas in Utah
 - Conveyance of lands to county and state to Emery County/UTLA
- Sage Grouse Plan Amendment – Draft Plan available and public comment period open

Restoration Landscapes

Dan Fletcher, State IRA Coordinator

Melanie Oberhelman, Color Country Converging Landscapes Restoration Coordinator

- IRA across Western states – 22 different restoration landscapes (~\$10 million funding each)
- Color Country District and Upper Bear River Restoration Landscapes each received ~\$10 million.
- Goal to engage partners and prioritize project. The collaboratives also hope to create a model for investing in future landscape projects at the watershed scale. Utah has been ahead of the curve with Utah's Watershed Initiative, which includes over 100 funding partners.
- Projects include a variety of landscape-level type projects with our partners to include (but not limited to): range fencing, noxious weed monitoring, cultural site inventory, watershed restoration, wild horse water, water quality improvements, upland restoration efforts, virtual fencing, wildlife guzzlers, etc.
- Project considerations/limitations may include need for: NEPA, Cultural/Wildlife Clearances extra workload, contracting timelines, contractor capabilities, inflation.
- Project Outcomes – Create Model to Invest in Public Lands at the Watershed Scale
- **Council discussion**
 - Councilperson asked the timeline for project and was told one to three years.
 - Councilperson asked how BLM keeps the additional positions with this one-time funding and was told the current strategy is to absorb the positions through attrition. Hopefully if success is shown, there will be other similar funding streams.
 - Councilperson asked what kind of acreage or mileage of streams and waterways will be affected. Presenter said it was hard to answer as even if you can get a 1/10 of an acre expansion into a riparian area, it's a big deal because so much depends on water. BLM would like to do some drone flights to show before and after and measurements will include acres seeded, miles of trails, etc.
 - Councilperson asks what projects were not funded in comparison to what projects are needed. Presenter said just two areas were over \$18M and there are other areas where BLM could do this type of restoration.
 - Councilperson stated their county has been working on restoration for many years, and with miles of fence being built producers are watching closely. Asked how BLM can maintain the pipelines and fences with maintenance needs and is concerned if the IRA funding goes away that maintenance costs will fall on grazing permittees. Presenter said some things are being done for longevity like metal pipelines and fences, leaving a lasting legacy and requiring less maintenance.

Color Country District Field Office Updates

Gloria Tibbetts – for BLM Richfield Field Office

Jacqueline Russell, PAO – BLM Cedar City Field Office Manager

Jason West, BLM St. George Field Manager

- **Gloria Tibbetts, Color Country District Manager (for BLM Richfield)**
 - **Wild Burro Herd Management Area (HMA) Burro Gather**

- Appropriate Management Level (AML) is 60-100 animals.
 - Pre-gather population estimated at 151 wild burros.
 - February 23, 2024 - Animals gathered: 46 (29 jacks, 17 Jennies). Shipped 46 to Axtell Off-Range Facility.
- **Henry Mountains/Fremont Gorge TMP**
 - Early stages of plan
 - 1.5 million acres – Garfield, Wayne counties with 2,000 routes under evaluation
 - Looking at a comprehensive route system
 - April or May will begin public feedback on alternatives.
- **Henry Mountain Bison Habitat Funding**
 - \$447,650 to be used for improving habitat to include guzzlers and metal fencing around spring areas.
 - Councilperson asked how much a mega guzzler holds and was told approximately the size of three small guzzlers.
 - Councilperson asked how many bison are in the herd and asked what keeps it in check. Gloria explained hunting permits maintain herd size.
- **Saul's Meadow Campground**
 - Improvement project is a model of partnerships.
 - Day and group use for recreation.
 - State of Utah Grant, Sevier County, Volunteers, BLM for a total of \$293,346
- **Jacqueline Russell – Acting Cedar City Field Manager**
 - **Projects overview**
 - C-Overlook – Sidewalk and overlook are accessible. New vault toilet.
 - Spring Creek – Vault Toilet
 - Hanging Rock – Updating day-use sites to overnight site – 6 new campsites and fire rings and better access (GAOA funded)
 - Iron Hills Trail System – Designated as National Recreation Trail in 2023 – only BLM trail and only one in Utah. Something for everyone – easy-to-hard, young-to-old; lots of partners
 - Breaks Trail – IRA Project and partnership with IMBA and Iron Trail Craft. Will be a hiking and biking trail. Councilperson asked about the impact of bikes on the landscape. Jacqueline explained they are designed by IMBA and the trails last a long time. They've had good success with trail designs. Councilperson asked if the trail went through a full NEPA process and was told it did.
 - Pyramid Ridge Campground – Access point to Iron Hills Trail System with more work to be done.
 - Coal Creek Day Use Site – In the works. Will be a 55-acre day-use site in Cedar Canyon. It is largely supported by the local communities. Overnight camping restriction will prevent wildfire risks. Councilperson asked what recreation aspects were in this location that keep people visiting here and was told there are picnic tables, trails, and toilets.
 - **2024 Sulphur Wild Horse Gather**
 - August 12-31, 2024. Plan to gather 420 and remove 360.
 - Will be sent to Delta and Axtell and open-range pastures in the Midwest.
 - Burrows are easy to adopt. Some are released back into the wild after receiving fertility control. Majority of the horses are adopted back East.
 - **Renewable Energy**

- Solar, wind, and geothermal within the district
 - Three solar energy zones
 - Working on expansion request from FERVO
- **Cedar City Tanker Base Renovation**
 - GAOA funded, fall 2025, improving facilities, HVAC, etc.
 - Tanker Base hosts a variety of agencies.
 - Better response time, operations during wildfire season. Located in Cedar City Airport. Other tanker base located in Tooele, UT
- **Council discussion**
 - Councilperson asked the status of the Pine Valley Water Conservancy Project and was told the applicant has requested a pause to include some other conservation measures. Councilperson advised they have not received new information on the project in their role with the county as per requirements.
 - Councilperson asked the status of the Hamlin Valley EA and was told an update is in the works and should be updated in the next couple of months, ready to implement projects within the next year.
- **Jason West, St. George Field Manager**
 - **Revenant Bike Trail**
 - West Mountain Bike Trail – 15 minutes southwest of Santa Clara, UT
 - Lots of engineering and trail building. Lots of phases to this. Some will be completed this spring and some this fall.
 - Matching funds – BLM and grants from the State of Utah
 - Councilperson asked what BLM does about social trails in the community and making them designated trails. Jason said they're looking at it as we don't have enough trails in the area. National Parks are pushing use to BLM land to stem overcrowding. BLM is looking at funding pools and partnerships for sustainable recreation use. Very overwhelmed with recreation. May have to look at staggered use and other ways to disperse recreation. Some education will be needed, as well as more community involvement as trail ambassadors. Have places for donations to BLM to help stem costs of developing recreation.
 - Councilperson asked if trails are used year-round and Jason answered yes.
 - **New St. George Field Office Facility**
 - Late 2025 – early 2026 – new shared BLM UT/AZ facility near the airport
 - There will be a large conference room.
 - Share with Forest Service, Park Service. It will be a public land information center – one-stop shop and house BLM Arizona Strip District and Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument office.
 - **Tempi Po-op – Trail improvements in Santa Clara River Preserve (Anasazi Trail)**
 - GAOA funded.
 - 1st phase – Parking lot, dog area, picnic, vault toilet, etc.
 - 2nd phase – Paving, ADA Trail Access – bottom part of trail is ADA accessible; sealed, wider surface. Should be completed by the end of April.
 - **NCA Habitat Restoration**
 - Beaver Wash NCA – Designated by Congress; 63,500 acres critical habitat for Mojave Desert Tortoise
 - Much of it has burned and tortoise populations continue to be in decline.

- 2016 created fertile islands in fire-damaged tortoise habitat by planting nursery grown native species (USFWS, ACE, UDWR, TNC, Conserve Southwest Utah, SUWA, ACE – lots of volunteers)
- In 2023, 15,000 plants to date native grasses/forbs. Plants show overall a 75% survival rate over 5 years.
- **Warner Valley Land Exchange**
 - Three party agreement exchanging approximately 80 acres of high value tortoise habitat in the Red Cliffs NCA for up to 1,000 acres of other lands in Warner Valley. Water Conservancy has the option of buying 3rd party out and will exercise that option for the exchange should the NEPA be completed this year.
 - Still awaiting the second component of the appraisal to know if we need to adjust acreages on either side.

NAGPRA overview

Diana Barg, BLM archaeologist

- **Museum Collections**
 - Repositories (National Parks, USGS Ice Core lab, BLM Canyons of the Ancients Visitor Center and Museum)
 - Repositories – BLM works closely with federal and non-federal repositories.
 - Provide long-term care of museum collections and make them available for education, scientific study and public interpretation.
 - DOI owns and manages millions of artifacts in trust for the American public.
- **NAGPRA – Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act – 1990 law**
 - Protection of ancestral human remains and cultural items.
 - Repatriation of ancestral human remains and cultural items.
 - Involves identifying, developing and identifying affinity to cultural resources.
 - Engaging with tribes regarding ancestors involves a *Federal Register* notice and understanding the cultural items and value to the tribes.
 - NAGPRA updated earlier this year – changes included additional requirements for Tribal consultation, timelines; more deference given to tribal nations; how Tribal items should be cared for and accessed. Collections identified; go through NAGPRA to determine with Tribal nations, requesting access to collections and return to the descendent Tribal communities.
- **Success Stories – BLM Utah**
 - Repatriated two ancestors and 35 cultural items in 2016.
 - Repatriated 16 ancestors and 979 cultural items in 2019 and assisted with reburial of ancestors.
 - Currently – continue to work with revised NAGPRA process to consult and build relationships with Tribal Nations
- **Council discussion**
 - Councilperson asked what happens to the objects that are returned. Diana explained it depends on the object. Some are sacred and brought back to use for ceremonies and are cared for by communities. Some are buried with the ancestor, which can happen on BLM land under a policy that allows for reburial.
 - Councilperson asked what happens if BLM can't be sure where the artifact came from. Diana explained they consult with several Tribes to figure it out.

- Councilperson asked if BLM would put things back at a cultural site. Diana said it depends but would not disturb a cultural site to return an object. It's a case-by-case decision to find the appropriate disposition.
- Councilperson asked if Tribes make items available to archaeologists for research and was told this does not usually happen. Their intent is to rebury most items.

Public Comment Period

- Teresa Barber (online): Data shows that the wild horse HMAs are meeting objectives and where they are not, it can be attributed to livestock grazing. Excited to see the water projects for wild horses. Would like us to consider doing new assessments to consider climate change and to do more water projects. Please pause to consider new data within HMAs.
- Larry Ellertson: Requested that RAC remembers there is an aging population that should be able to enjoy public resources, including motorized travel. There is plenty of room for all of us to play together in utilizing public lands. Keep roads open to allow as much use as possible, especially during travel management planning. Encouraged group to consider keeping routes that are open already, open. They were opened for a purpose and keep as many as we can open to the benefit of all.

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument RMP Update

Adé Nelson – Monument Manager

- Resource Management Plan Update
 - Administrating boundary includes some of the grazing allotments on the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area
 - Timeline
 - Working on Proposed RMP and Final EIS – May 31, 2024
 - 30-day protest period – May 31-June 30, 2024
 - 60-day Governors Consistency Review – May 31-June 30, 2024
 - Late September Final Decision; ROD September 19, 2024 – Approved RMP and ROD
 - Total comments = 7,024; unique comments numbered 1,604 with 5,216 form letters; approx. 900 substantive comments that merit response – will be provided in an appendix to the FEIS
 - EIS are overarching documents and not intended to be site-specific (i.e. a route)
 - Protest Information – how to file a protest.
- Council discussion
 - Councilperson asked how many comments came from outside the area around the monument. Ade indicated she could find that data based on if location information was provided with the comment.
 - Councilperson asked for a definition of substantive comments and what was not considered substantive comment. Greg defined substantive comment from the BLM NEPA handbook and suggested referring to November 2023 RAC meeting presentation on how to provide substantive comments. RAC members will be sent a cheat sheet.
 - Councilperson asked if a letter can include more than one substantive comment and was advised yes.
 - Councilperson asked for clarification on if a form letter is considered substantive and was told it depends. Numerous comments, if they are the same form letter, could count as one substantive comment. It's better to have unique comment for broader consideration.

- Councilperson asked how substantive comments get responded to and was told response is based on policy. BLM must show their work and how the comments tie to the document or if the decision was set in policy. This determines how the comment is addressed.
- Councilperson asked how BLM decides which comment is the better substantive comment when it provides two scientific sources at odds. BLM said would consider credible science, required to use the best available science.
- Councilperson asked why some decisions are made when BLM will go back at some point later to do site-level implementation planning. Said seemed like decisions, such as OHV access, are not advantageous to do travel planning outside of a TMP. Why include these designations in the NEPA process?
- Councilperson stated they want to see maps and other visuals published on separate links within ePlanning so they can see more clearly; too hard to see digitally within the entire RMP document.

Bears Ears National Monument RMP Update

Jake Palma, BLM Monticello Field Manager

• RMP update

- Two weeks back released the BENM RMP – Creating a new plan to protect and restore objects identified above and in Presidential Proclamation 9558
- Has a range of alternatives to address (A-E)
- Preferred Alternative – Alternative E (Emphasizes Traditional Indigenous Knowledge with consideration of natural processes and seasonal cycles). As a note, Alternative E does not constitute a commitment or decision. Agencies can select a different alternative, or a blend based on comments received. Open to all alternatives.
- Draft Plan out for 90-day public comment period. Then will develop a proposed plan. How do we get from a range to a proposed plan. (March-June 11).
- Jake noted that there is an interactive map, and you can zoom in and out, depending on how you want to look at it
- TMP – Area designations – no designation on specific routes (Open, limited, closed). Typically, BLM does not have Open. All areas will be limited or closed.
- Grazing – not an object under the proclamation, but a use recognized in the proclamation. Ninety percent of monument is grazed. Two percent pocket that has not been grazed would be removed under B, C and E.
- Hiking – All options allowed but may be mitigated based on impacting monument objects.
- Camping – allowed but may mitigate based on impacting monument objects.
- See BLM website for public meeting dates.

• Council discussion

- Councilperson commented a lot of OHV areas are closed that have routes that could be considered. There should be reasoning to have some OHV limited designation areas. Concerned there is not enough latitude to give managers the space to make future decisions based on growth, etc.
- Councilperson commented on sheer size of the plans and the daunting task to manage multiple land boundaries. Opposed to large swaths of land made into a WSA.
- Councilperson asked why some areas not available for grazing. Jake explained those areas are not accessible or they're unavailable based on land geology.

- Councilperson asked why E is the preferred alternative. Jake indicated it best meets the purpose and need as determined to date. It's not a commitment and the final plan will include consideration from public comments to determine how plan best meets the need.
- Councilperson asked what kind of education efforts would be established throughout the different alternatives. Jake responded we are educating the public in all alternatives and an interpretive strategy will be developed. Hopes to answer questions as to where makes sense to educate the public, how to disseminate information, etc.
- Councilperson asked why drones are prohibited in the monument. Jake explained there is a cultural sensitivity (e.g. visual and audible – traditional perspectives) and there's risk of crash at cultural sites.
- Councilperson asked why target shooting is eliminated in the monument. Jake responded due to sensitivity to cultural resources and protection of monument objects. Councilperson commented if there's a prohibition across the board, is it actually addressing cultural interest on a landscape level? Jake responded that is one perspective and sometimes the landscape itself is a monument object.
- Councilperson commented interactive maps are helpful.

Northern Corridor Supplemental EIS Update

Gloria Tibbetts, Color Country District Manager

- **Northern Corridor location**

- All three alternatives located in the Red Cliffs NCA to some degree.
- 2018-2019 – UDOT applied for a ROW for northern transportation route in county; also needed to renew Washington County Incidental Take Permit for Desert Tortoise
- BLM and FWS – joint agencies
- Also Needed an RMP amendment to be consistent with other 5 zones.

- **History of Northern Corridor**

- 1995 - Washington County issued 20-year take permit for Desert Tortoise and Red Cliffs Reserve established
- Washington County needs a new Habitat Conservation Plan and New Incidental Take Permit (in conjunction with USFWS)
- 2020 – Several wildfires with considerable acreage burning in the NCA
- Northern Corridor Decision remanded back to BLM – November 16, 2023
- Prepare Supplemental EIS – November 16 – December 2023 – Public scoping period for Supplemental EIS (i.e. extension of previous work – issue a new decision after we consider the new factors)

- **Key Issues**

- Fire Fuels
- Vegetation and Wildlife Species
- Socioeconomics, including environmental justice
- National Conservation Area Compatibility
- Acquisition of public lands
- National Historic Preservation Act Compliance

- Decision expected by November.

- **Council Discussion**

- Councilperson asked if the Omnibus Public Land Management Act designated an exact route, does it all affect Desert Tortoise habitat. Gloria said it did not, it was very vague. It is not all Desert Tortoise habitat.
- Councilperson asked if judge said BLM got it wrong and Gloria clarified the issue was settled out of court. A judge made no decision.
- Councilperson asked how many acres would be encumbered with the corridor and Gloria answered it involves nine miles total, four on public land.
- Councilperson asked if Washington County favors the UDOT ROW. Gloria affirmed, clarified T-Bone Mesa is also a preferred alignment.
- Councilperson asked how Zone 6 is impacted by any of the options. Gloria said under the action alternatives, there will be no particular change. RMP land amendment to enhance habitat. UTLA (no action alternative) would likely move forward with development since it is state's mission to maximize income for UTLA. Further questions on UTLA land should be directed to their organization. Councilperson indicated recreation community worried about UTLA lands in Zone 6 and there are concerns that 20 years from now that area may not always be fully protected. Gloria explained in an action alternative, an implementation agreement is triggered and BLM will prioritize acquisition of those lands to protect Desert Tortoises. Said purchasing Zone 6 is feasible through mitigation fee - ongoing funding source for development to help purchase it. Put a pause on development (private and state lands) Land and Conservation Fund and mitigation funding. Current cost estimates only account for construction of road itself and number is years' old now.
- Councilperson asked what information BLM could share on how fires impacted Desert Tortoise. Gloria said there's not an indication of an increase. Trend line continues to decline.
- Councilperson asked what has grown on the Turkey Farm Fire site. Gloria said it's hit or miss as it is hard to rehab the Mojave. Fire frequency continues to increase. Previously, natural interspacing of plants prevented spread, but invasive plants make it more contiguous and susceptible to fire movement. Human activity also a fire factor.

Wrap Up Discussion & Action Items

Tyler Thompson, RAC Chair

- Future RAC meetings:
 - Aug. 14-15, 2024, in Logan
 - Nov. 12-13, 2024, in Price (later changed to Nov. 13-14)
 - Mar. 19-20, 2025, in Kanab
- Potential future agenda items:
 - Updates from BLM office in that area
 - Water issues (Upper Bear River Watershed)
 - GSENM update
 - Grazing bill, grazing projects in Logan area, collaboration at Three Creeks
 - Service project—build a beaver dam analog
 - Recreation fee updates
 - Recreation updates on all future agendas
 - Forest Service presentation on proposed trail, tie FS to Garden City area
 - TMPs
 - Like Greg's overall updates
 - Fire season

- Number of rules that are scheduled to come out this year
- Lithium mining/tech minerals
- Greater Sage Grouse Plan Amendments
- Solar plans and impacts to public land

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Tyler Thompson', written over a solid black horizontal line.

Tyler Thompson
Utah RAC Chair



U.S. Department of the Interior
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Public Land Investment Projects and Funding (BIL and IRA)

**Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
(BIL, Public Law 117-58 – November 2021)**

**Inflation Reduction Act
(IRA Public Law 117-169 – August 2022)**



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Color Country Converging and Upper Bear River Restoration Landscapes (Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Funded Projects)





Investment Strategy - Goals

Prioritize BLM's significant restoration need

Engage partners in those priorities

**Concentrate diverse projects and treatments to
realize resource goals**

Create and promote storytelling

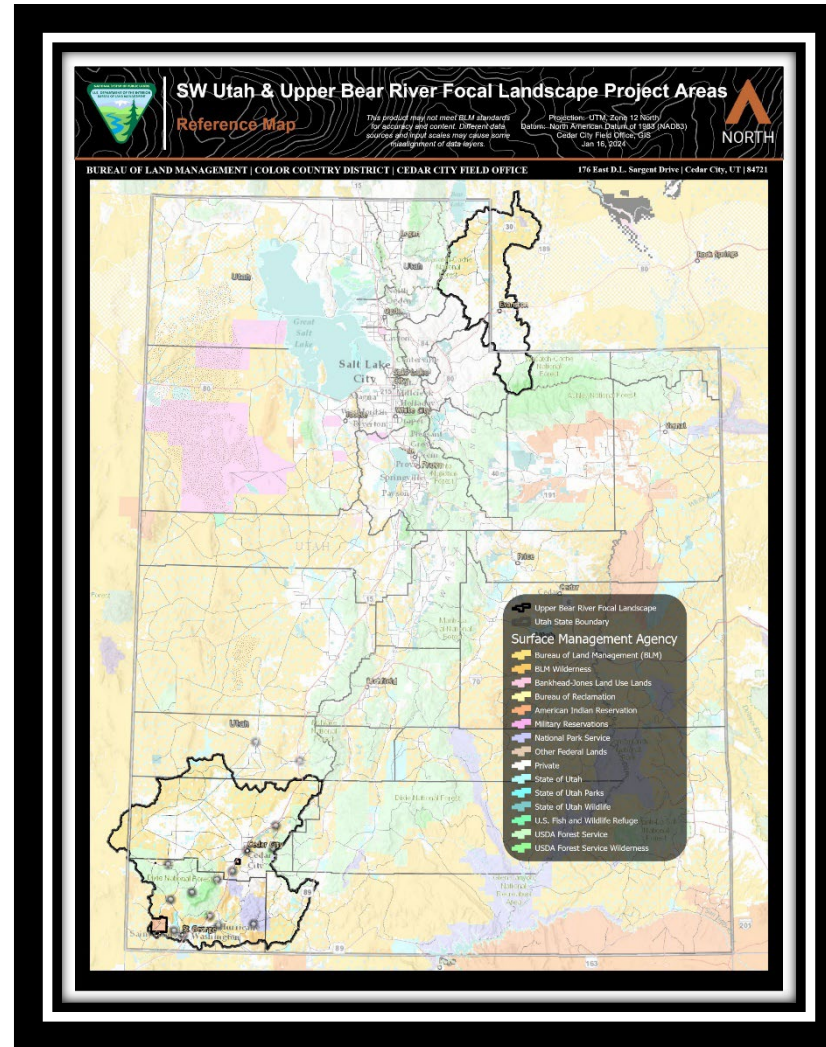


Restoration Landscapes

State	Restoration Landscape	District Office
Alaska	Birch Creek Forty Mile	Fairbanks
Arizona	Skylands Yanawant	Gila Arizona Strip
California	Consumnes	Central California
Colorado	North Park San Luis Valley	Northwest Colorado Rocky Mountain
Idaho	East Idaho Rivers and Plains Snake River Plain Upper Salmon River	Idaho Falls Boise and Twin Falls Idaho Falls
Montana	Black Foot – Clark Fork Hi-Line Sagebrush Anchor Missouri Headwaters	Western Montana North Central Montana Western Montana
Nevada	Montana Mountains Upper Humboldt, O'Neil	Winnemucca Elko
New Mexico	Lower Pecos	Pecos
Oregon/Washington	Southeast Oregon Sagebrush Southwest Oregon	Burns, Lakeview, Vale Coos Bay, Medford, Roseburg
Utah	Color Country Converging Landscapes Upper Bear River	Color Country West Desert
Wyoming	Greater La Barge Muddy Creek	High Desert



Utah Restoration Landscapes



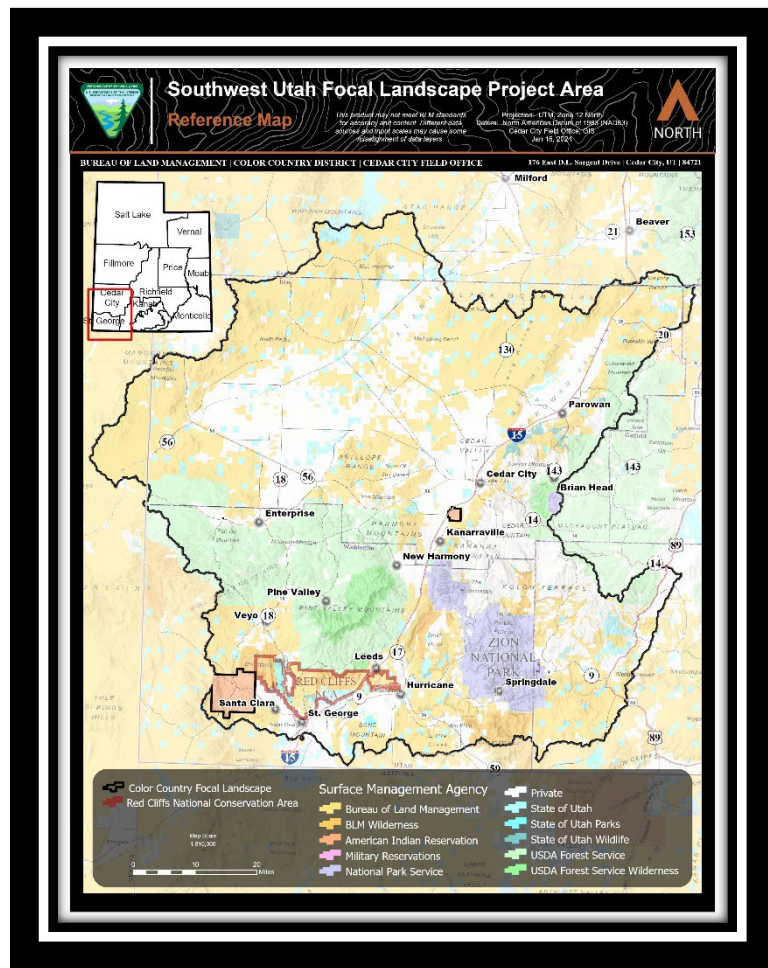


Project Funding

District Office	Field Office	Restoration Landscape Area	Funding
Color Country District Office	Cedar City St. George	Color Country Converging Landscapes	\$9,725,989
West Desert District Office	Salt Lake	Upper Bear River	\$9,599,000



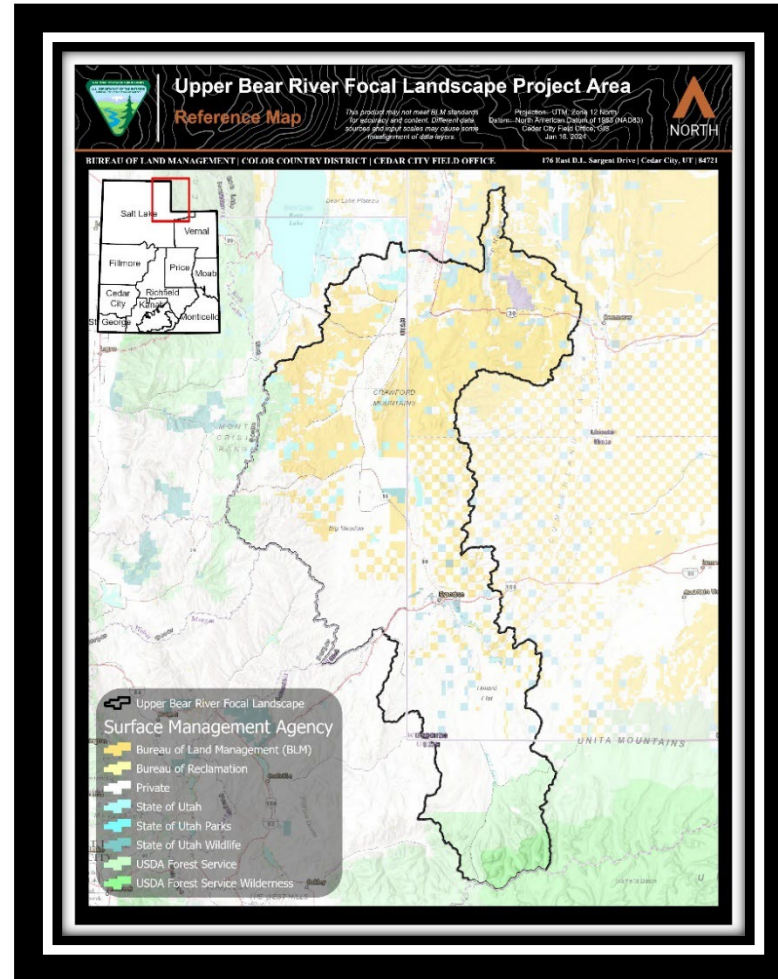
Color Country Converging Restoration Landscape (CCDO)





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Upper Bear River Restoration Landscape (WDDO)





Color Country Converging Landscape – Projects

Cultural Resources Surveys	\$875,000	Inventory and record cultural sites
Livestock and Wildlife Water Developments	\$375,000	Livestock and Wildlife Water (Provide additional water sources)
Lands and Realty Trespass Resolution	\$200,750	Resolve outstanding trespass concerns
Perennial Forb and Shrub Plantings	\$750,000	Focus in areas with GSG and Desert Tortoise habitat
Post Fire Rehabilitation	\$375,000	Cheatgrass control
Range Fencing	\$625,000	Reconstruction wildlife friendly
Riparian Fencing	\$468,750	Construction of exclosures in to protect riparian resources
Recreation Development	\$2,808,739	Construct new recreation developments (campgrounds and trails)
Road Improvements	\$312,500	Install new culverts and replace existing culverts in areas of concern. Install cattle guards on highly traveled roads
Sensitive Plant and Wildlife Surveys	\$300,000	Complete plant and wildlife species inventories
Special Status Species Plant Propagation	\$187,500	Create habitat/plant propagation for SSS plants that are endemic to area
Stream and Wet Meadow Restoration	\$150,000	Restore riparian ecosystems (Construct BDA and Zeedkye structures)
Upland Habitat Improvement	\$437,500	Upland Vegetation Management (Interseed existing seeding with diverse seed mix and expand pollinator habitat)
Upper Virgin River Restoration	\$1,312,500	Stream restoration
Weeds Management	\$281,250	Noxious weed inventory, monitoring and eradication
Wild Horses	\$266,500	Water development and fencing
Total Funding	\$9,725,989	



Upper Bear River Landscape – Projects

Project	Funding	Description
Livestock and Wildlife Water Developments	\$767,250	Livestock and Wildlife Water (Provide additional water sources)
Monitoring	\$200,750	Soil and chronology monitoring
NHPA Section 106 and 110 Compliance	\$857,000	Inventory and record cultural sites
Range and Riparian Fencing	\$2,853,000	Reconstruction wildlife friendly
Recreation Development	\$2,512,700	Promote resilient recreation (Little Birch Creek, Little Creek Campground and Laketown Canyon)
Road Improvements	\$821,700	Install new culverts and replace existing culverts in areas of concern. Install cattle guards on highly traveled roads
Stream and Wet Meadow Restoration	\$626,300	Restore riparian ecosystems (Construct BDA and Zeedkye structures)
Upland Habitat Improvement	\$599,000	Upland Vegetation Management (Interseed existing seeding with diverse seed mix and expand pollinator habitat)
Water Quality Improvements	\$133,300	Ongoing and additional water quality monitoring
Weeds Management	\$188,000	Noxious weed inventory, monitoring and eradication
Virtual Fencing	\$40,000	Test efficiencies of virtual fencing
Total Funding	\$9,599,000	



Project Development and Prioritization

Considerations

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Requirements

Clearances (Cultural and Wildlife)

Extra Workload

Contracting Timelines

Contractor Capabilities

Inflation (e.g., increasing costs)



Additional Permanent Positions (Field Offices) (Support Restoration Landscape Area Projects)

Color Country Converging Landscapes	Upper Bear River
Archaeologist (Vacant)	Hydrologist (Filled)
Land Law Examiner (Filled)	Natural Resource Specialist (Filled)
Natural Resource Specialist (Filled))	NEPA Planner/PEC (Vacant)
Outdoor Recreation Planner (Vacant)	Outdoor Recreation Planner (Vacant)
Project Manager (Filled)	Wildlife Biologist (Filled)



Additional Permanent Positions (UTSO) (Support Restoration Landscape Area Projects)

Utah State Office (4 Positions Identified)

Contracting Officer (Vacant)

Grants Management Officer (Vacant)

Human Resource Officer (Filled)

Project Manager (Restoration Landscape) (My Position)



Additional Permanent Positions Support Renewable Energy and Transmission Infrastructure

Renewable Energy and Transmission Infrastructure

Archaeologist

Contracting Officer

Grants Management Officer

Human Resources

NEPA Planner/PEC

Project Manager

Realty Specialist – 2 positions

Wildlife Biologist



Opportunities

Project Outcomes

Showcase what BLM can Accomplish in a Short Timeframe

Reduce Project Backlog

Improve Efficiencies

Build Capacity to Complete More Work

Create a Model to Invest in Public Lands at the Watershed Scale



Upper Bear River Restoration Landscape





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

Upper Bear River Restoration Landscape - Fencing





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

Upper Bear River Restoration Landscape – Water Developments





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

Upper Bear River Restoration Landscape – Cattle Guards and Culverts





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

Upper Bear River Restoration Landscape – Noxious Weeds Management





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

Upper Bear River Restoration Landscape – Recreation Development





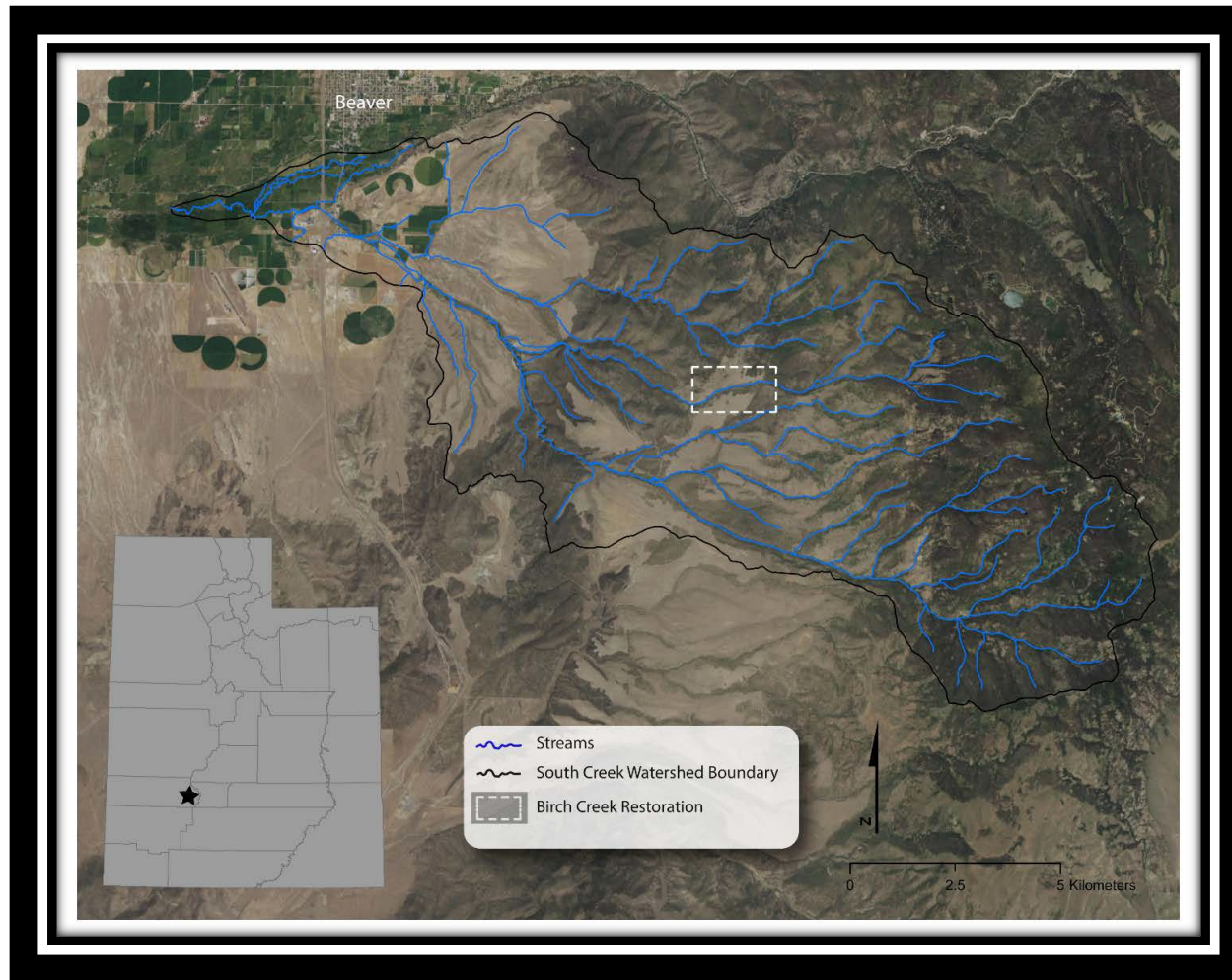
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Upper Bear River Restoration Landscape – Riverscape Restoration



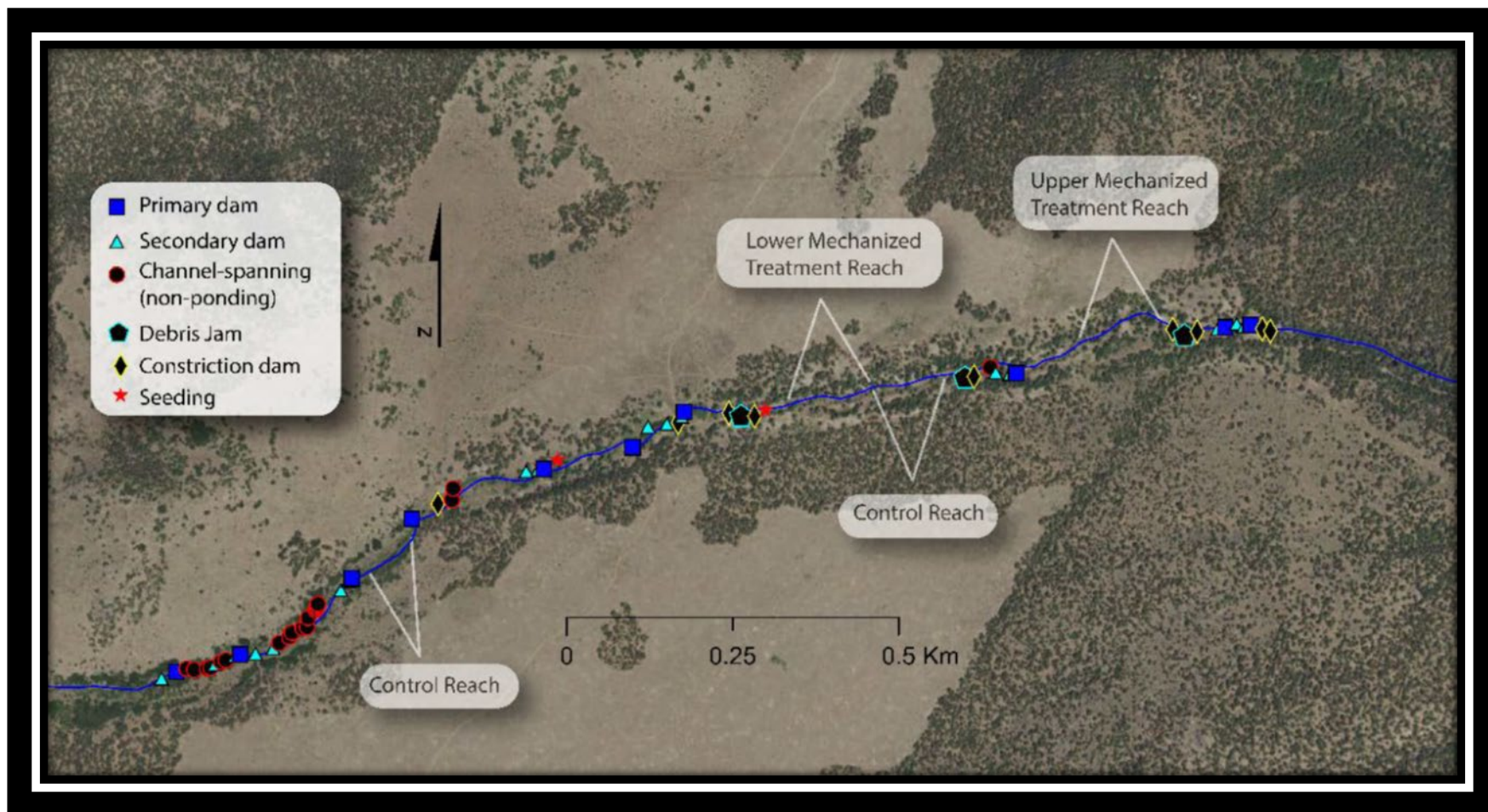


Upper Bear River Restoration Landscape – Project Planning - Site Selection and Prioritization



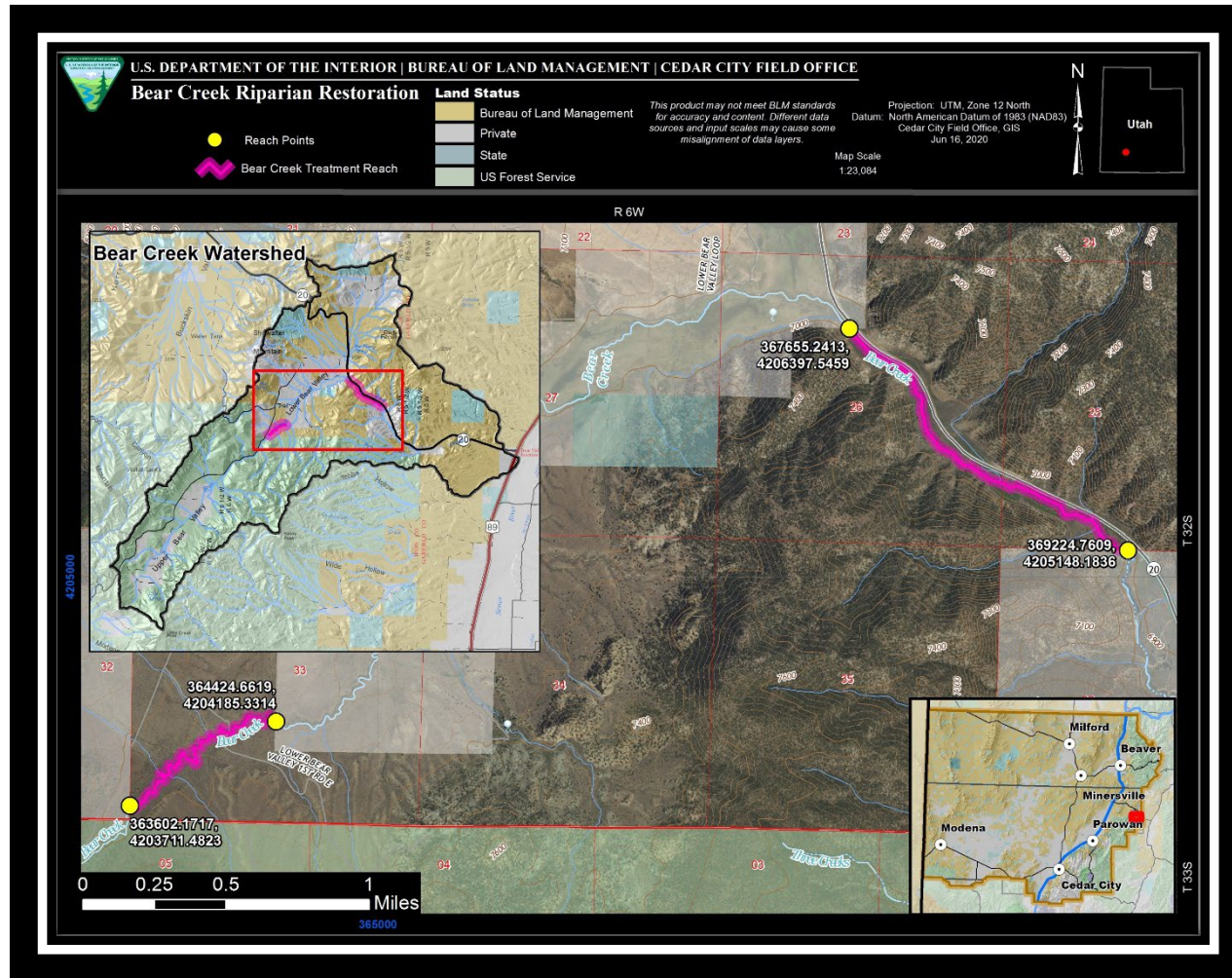


Upper Bear River Restoration Landscape – Project Planning - Design and Monitoring





Upper Bear River Restoration Landscape – Stream Alteration Permits





Upper Bear River Restoration Landscape – Beaver Dam Analog





Upper Bear River Restoration Landscape – BDAs in Action





Upper Bear River Restoration BDAs in Action





Upper Bear River - Post Assisted Log Structure (PALS)





Upper Bear River - PALS in Action





Upper Bear River - PALS in Action





Upper Bear River – How About Zeedyke Structures





Upper Bear River – Rock Layback in Action



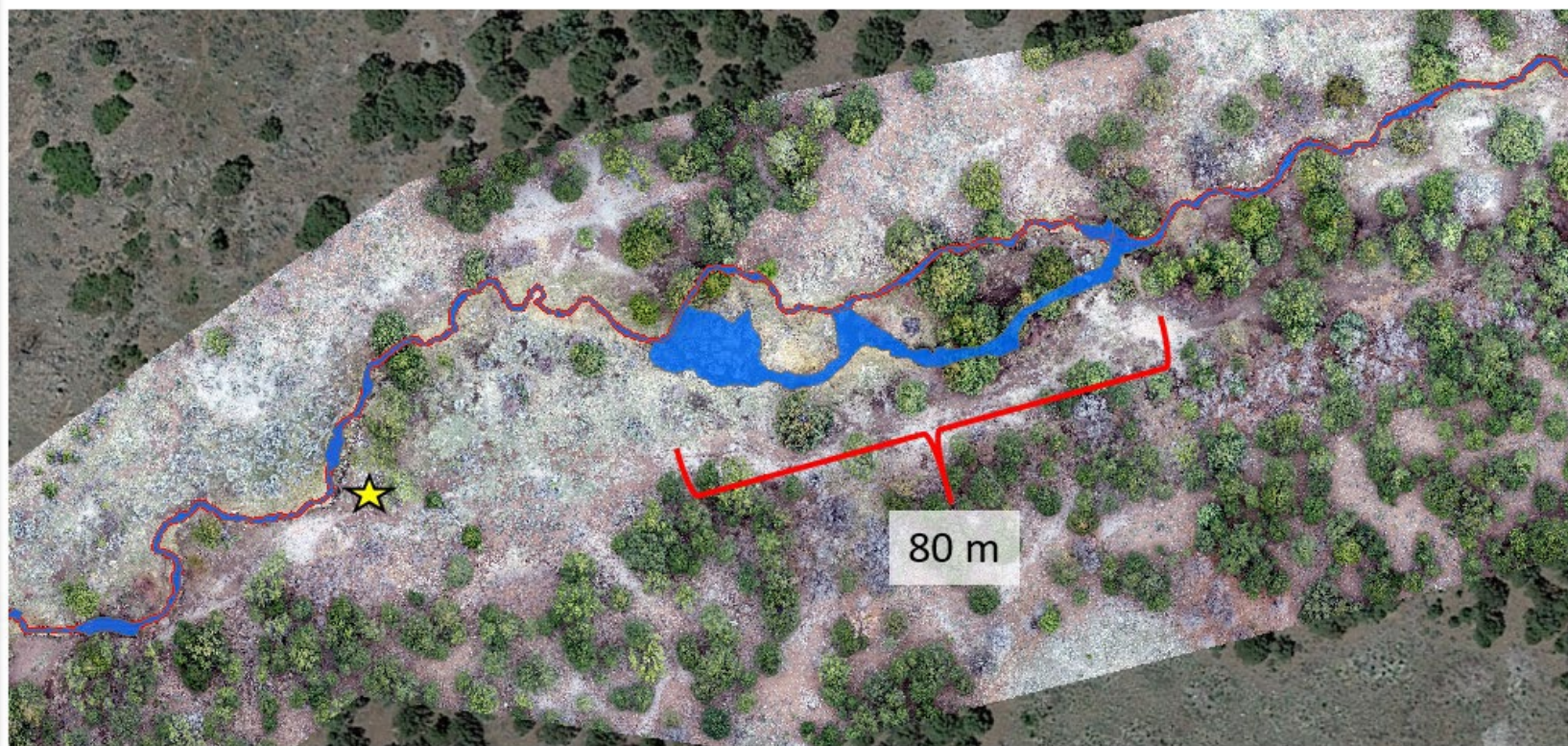


Stream Restoration - Results

★ Sub-surface re-entry point

Pre-restoration water extent

Post-restoration surface water extent





Upper Bear River Restoration Landscape – Wetland Meadow Restoration





Upper Bear River Restoration Landscape – One Rock Dam





Upper Bear River Restoration Landscape – Rock Layback and One Rock Dam





Upper Bear River Restoration Landscape – Project Example Cottonwood Meadow (Cedar City Field Office)

- Cottonwood Meadow encompasses approximately 34 acres in the Pine Valley Watershed
- Important habitat for a large variety of wildlife including mule deer, elk and sage grouse
- Identified to stabilize headcuts that are present within the meadow.
- Over twenty headcuts were stabilized within the meadow area by thirteen BLM personnel (permanent and seasonal) over a two-day period in August 2023.



Upper Bear River Restoration Landscape – Headcut



Photo (Before): Headcut



Upper Bear River Restoration Landscape – Headcut



Photo (After): Rock Layback Structure



Upper Bear River Restoration Landscape – Headcut



Photo (Before): Headcut



Upper Bear River Restoration Landscape – Headcut



Photo (After): Rock Layback Structure



Upper Bear River Restoration Landscape



Photo (After): Rock Layback and Zuni Bowl Structure



Upper Bear River Restoration Landscape



Upper Bear River Restoration Landscape



Project will modify and replace fences to ensure that fences are wildlife friendly.



Replacement of riparian enclosures with durable steel pipe materials will make them less susceptible to damage from snow loads that occur in the area.



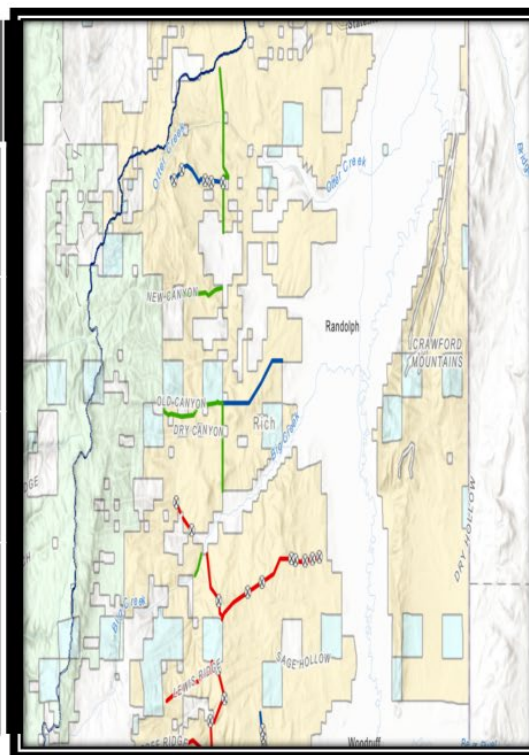
Low tech process-based restoration projects. Stream structures will help with erosion control. Structures are for creating complex and diverse instream and riparian habitat, reconnecting the stream to the floodplain, and creating a bigger "sponge" to absorb water during high flows and slowly release during low flows.



Recreation improvements at Birch Creek and Little Creek Campground will provide resilient recreation opportunities.



Pipeline extensions and troughs will provide additional water sources for livestock and wildlife. Water developments improve livestock distribution across the landscape and will be designed to move livestock use from valley bottoms to upland areas.





Upper Bear River Restoration Landscape - Partnerships





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

Color Country District Field Office Updates

Utah Resource Advisory Council March 20, 2024



View of the Pink Cliffs, Henry Mountains, Garfield County, Utah



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

Welcome to Color Country





Color Country District Updates

- Richfield Field Office
- Cedar City Field Office
- St. George Field Office
 - Beaver Dam Wash National Conservation



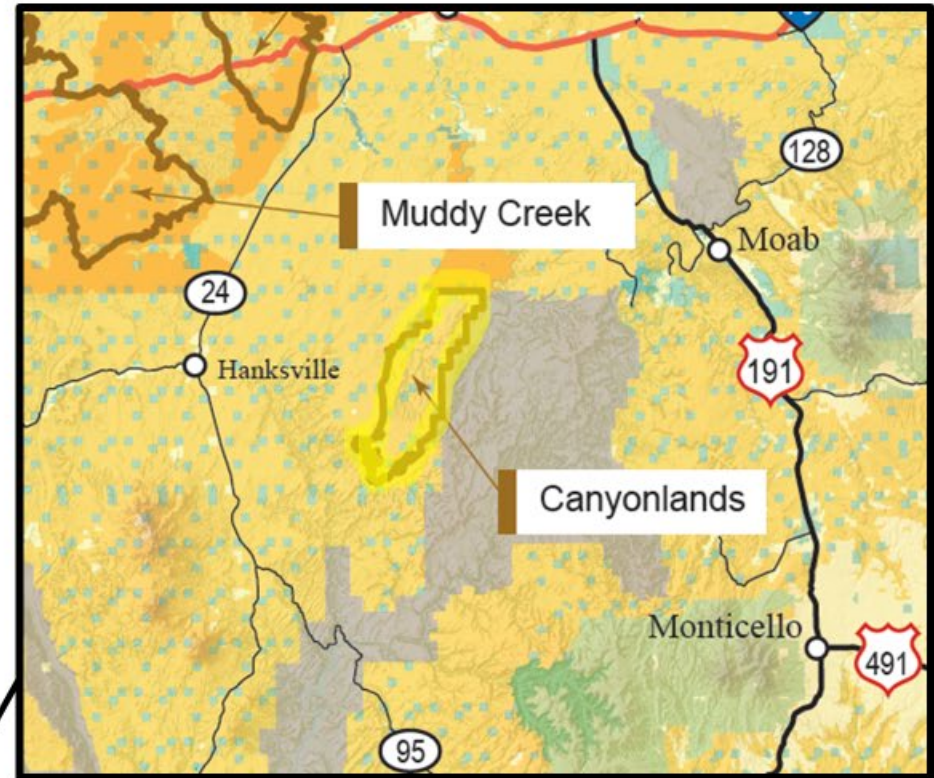
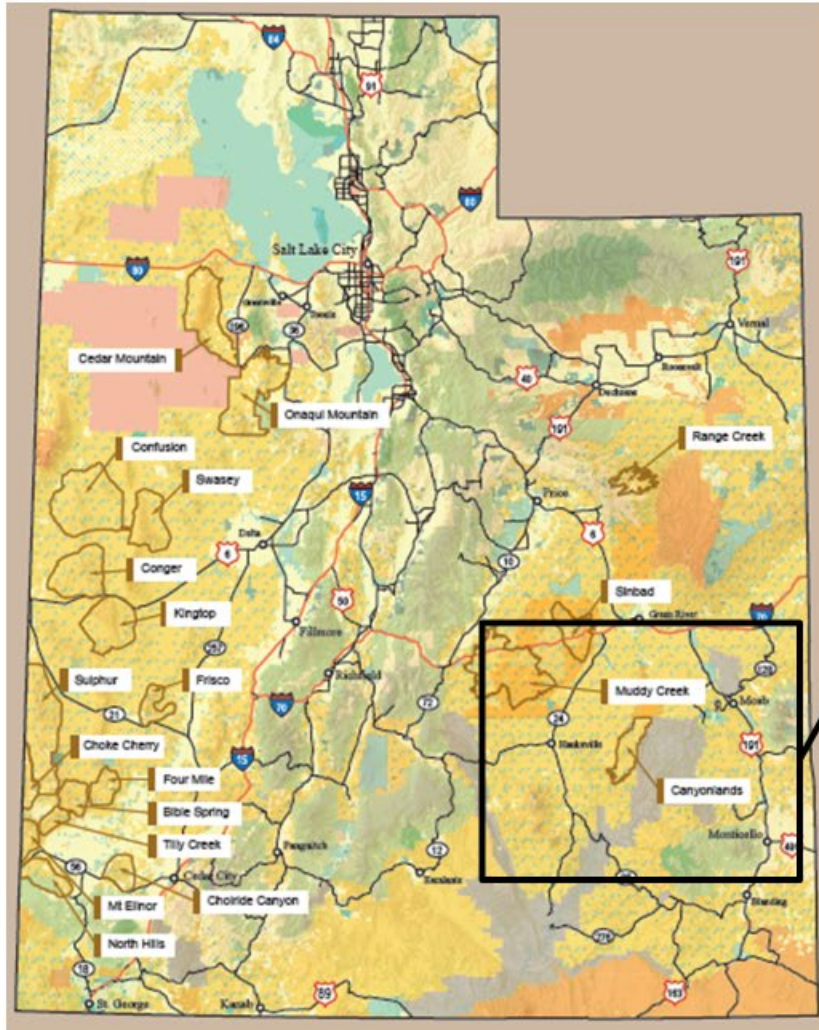
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Richfield Field Office

Utah Resource Advisory Council March 20, 2024



Canyonlands Herd Management Area Wild Burro Gather





Canyonlands Herd Management Area Wild Burro Gather

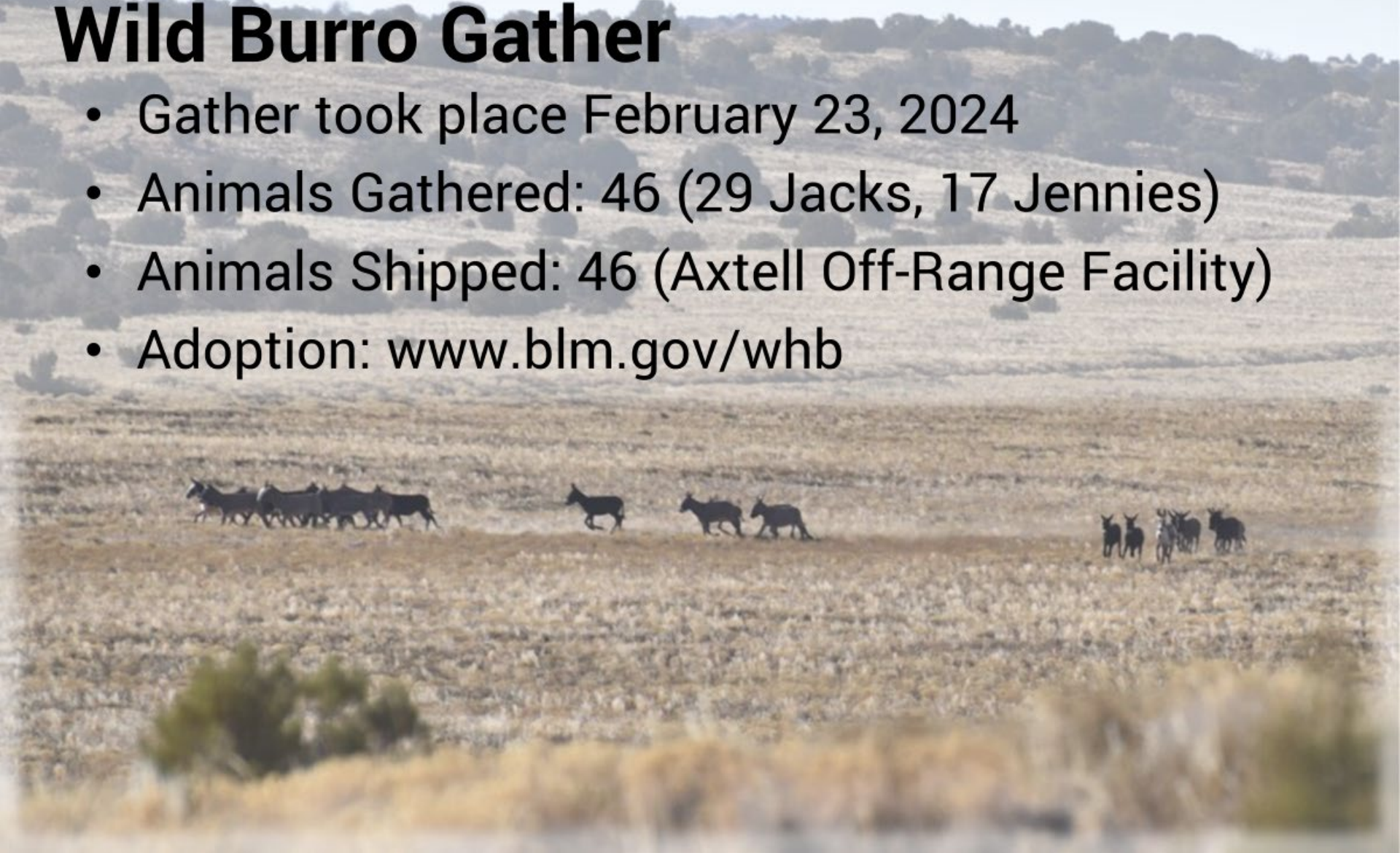
- HMA is 89,392 acres, including Utah TLA lands
- Appropriate Management Level (AML) is 60-100 animals
- Pre-gather population estimated at 151 wild burros





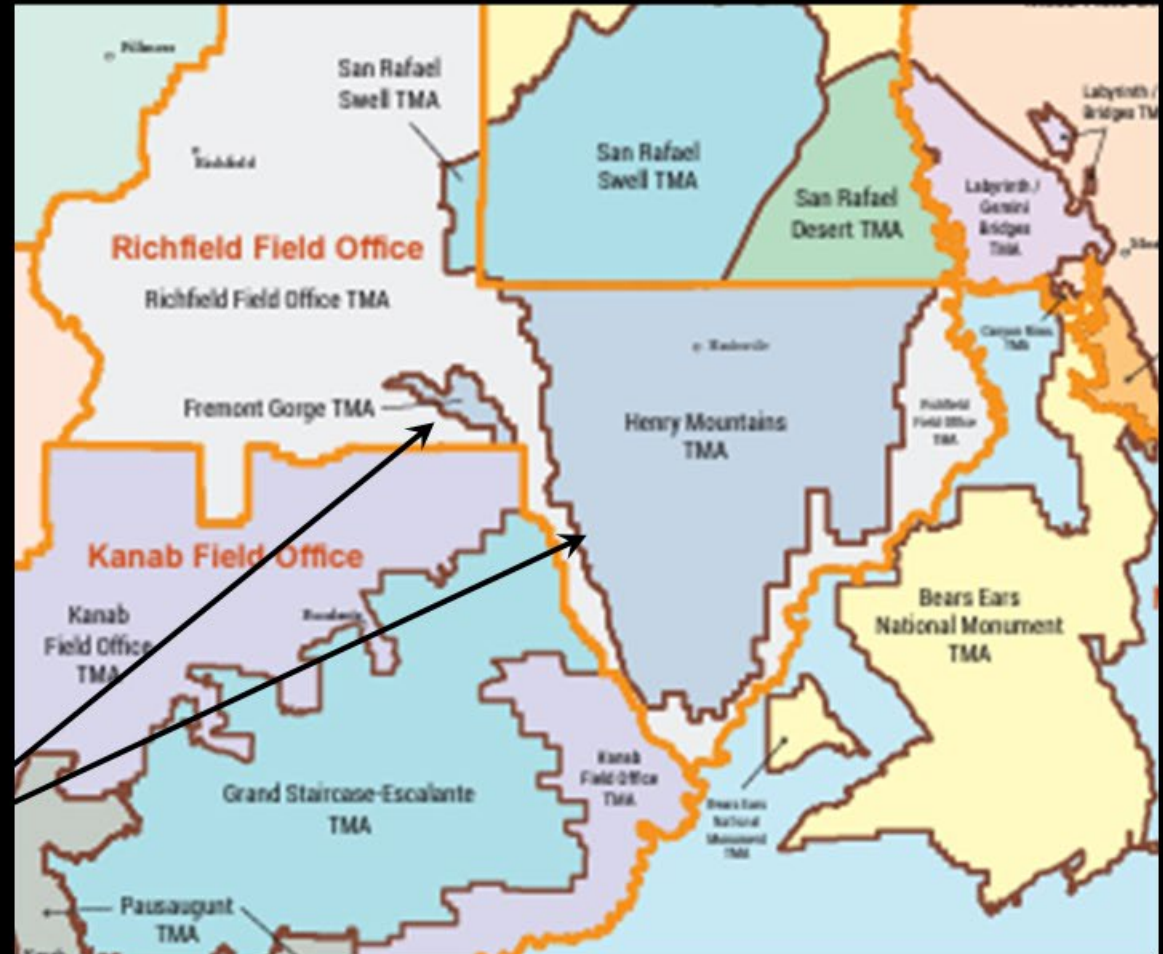
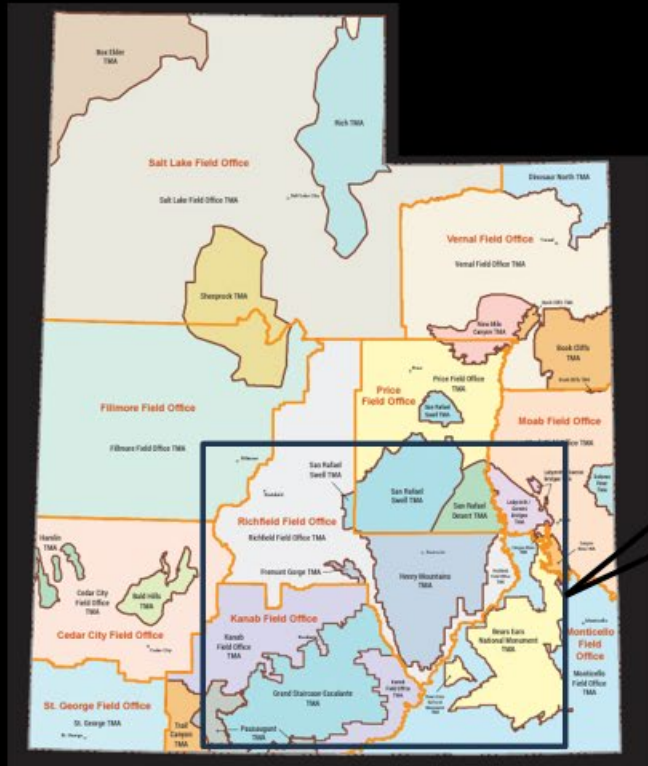
Canyonlands Herd Management Area Wild Burro Gather

- Gather took place February 23, 2024
- Animals Gathered: 46 (29 Jacks, 17 Jennies)
- Animals Shipped: 46 (Axtell Off-Range Facility)
- Adoption: www.blm.gov/whb





Henry Mountains / Fremont Gorge Travel Management Plan





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

Henry Mountains / Fremont Gorge Travel Management Plan

- ~1,450,000 acres
- Portions of Garfield and Wayne Counties
- Approximately 2,287 miles





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

Henry Mountains Bison Habitat Funding

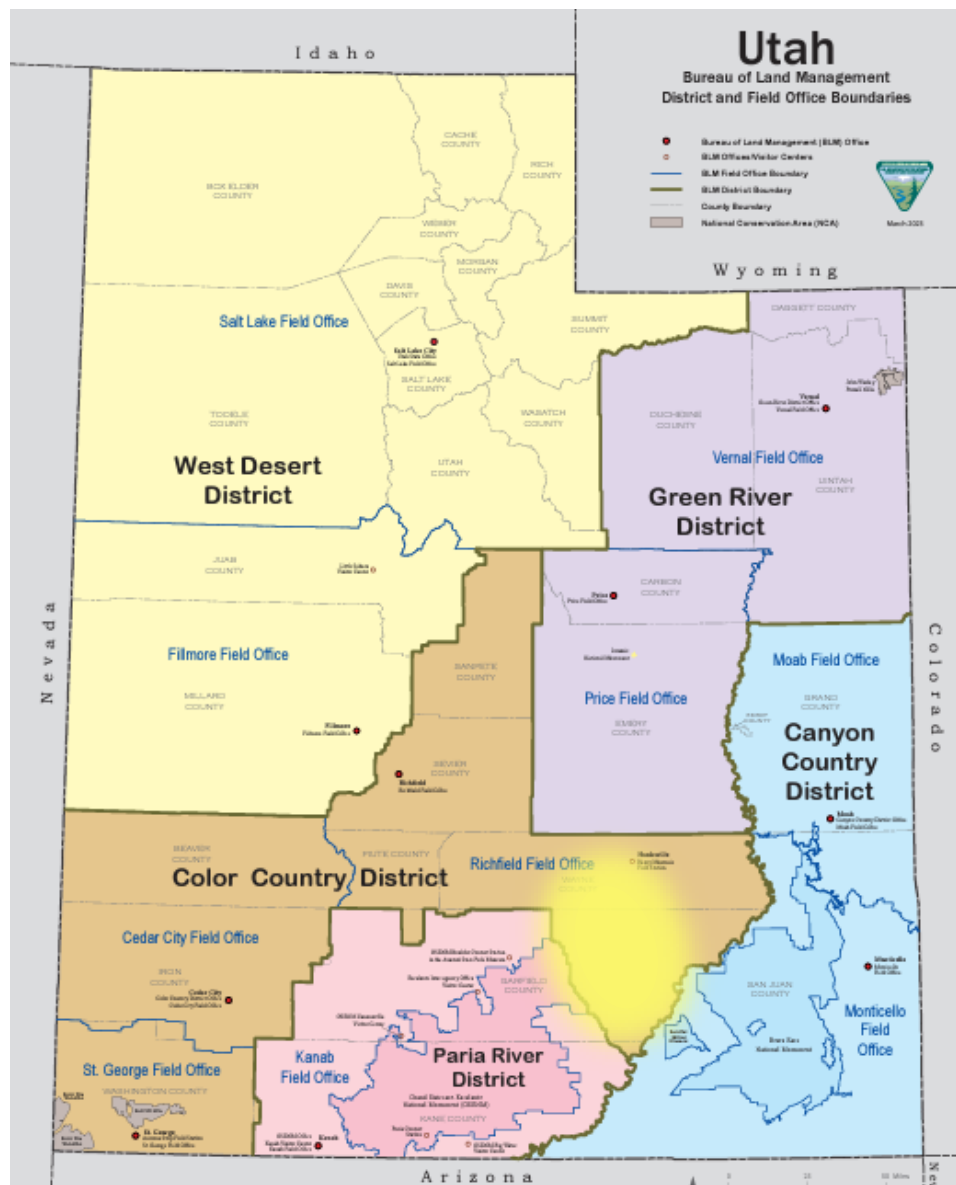
- One of only four free-roaming bison herds on public lands in North America





Henry Mountains Bison Habitat Funding

- \$447,650 to be used for improving bison habitat on the Henry Mountains

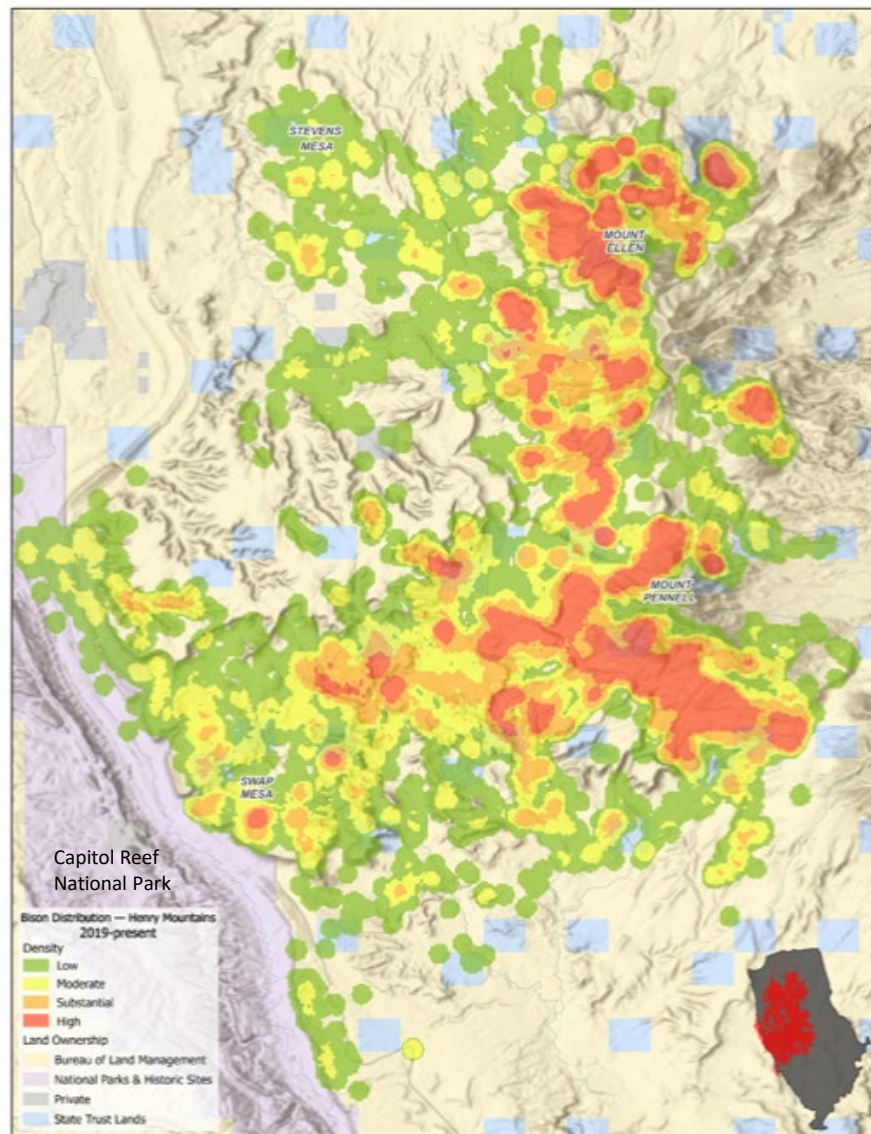




Henry Mountains Bison Habitat Funding

- Mega guzzler construction on the Applebrush-Steven's Mesa and Eagle Benches, with additional smaller guzzlers at other locations
- Metal exclosure fencing around spring areas

UDWR Bison Habitat Management Plan 2022





Henry Mountains Bison Habitat Funding

- Mega-guzzler (3 tanks)
 - Requires water right
- Metal fencing more durable





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

Saul's Meadow Campground



Group Camping Areas



Saul's Meadow Campground

- Partnerships make it happen!!
 - State – Utah Outdoor Recreation Grant \$95,000.00 (Shade Structures)
 - Federal – Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Funding \$60,000.00 (Concrete and Steel Increase Costs, Cattle Guards)
 - Sevier County \$37,746.00 (Culverts, Road Dept Material Hauling Costs)
 - BLM Match – \$38,992 (Double Vault Toilet) and \$4,000 (Frisbee Golf Baskets, Concrete)
 - BLM & County Labor – \$57,608
- **Total: \$293,346**



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



**Constructed by Richfield Field Office &
Color Country District employees**



Cattleguards, Fences, & Gates



Large Shade Structure



Medium Shade Structure



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

Questions?

Bull Creek Pass Area, Garfield County, Utah



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

Cedar City Field Office

Utah Resource Advisory Council March 20, 2024



View of Parowan Gap, Iron County, Utah



CCFO Updates

- Improved recreation access and infrastructure
- Sulphur Wild Horse Gather
- Renewable Energy
- Tanker Base Renovations

Hanging Rock Campground, Beaver County, Utah



'C' Overlook





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

Spring Creek



Hanging Rock





Iron Hills Trail System

- Designated as National Recreation Trail in 2023





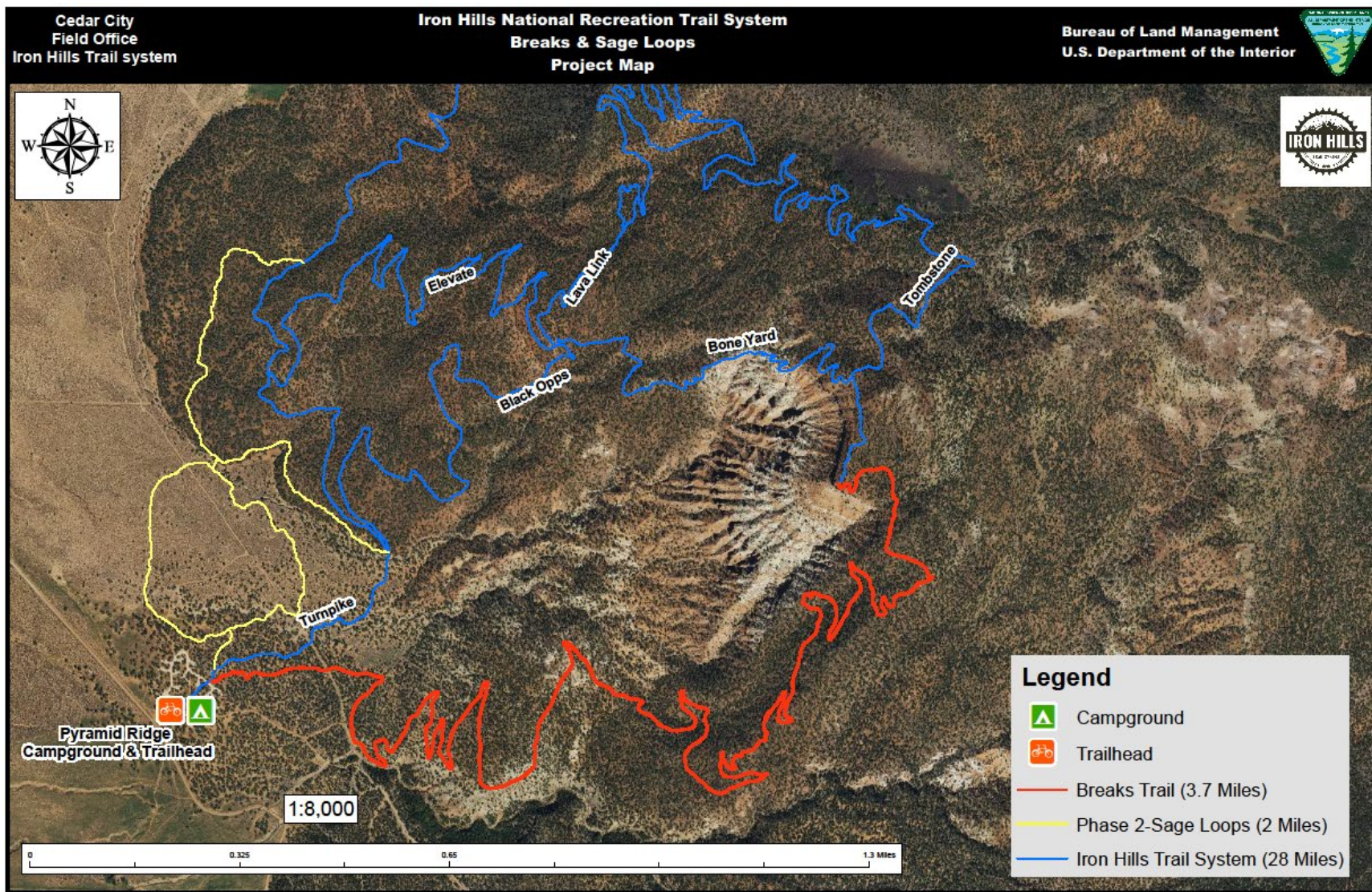
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Breaks Trail





Breaks Trail





Pyramid Ridge Campground Expansion

- \$300,000 from Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for expansion, including new toilets and campsites





Coal Creek Day Use Site EA

- Proposed 55 acre day use site in Cedar Canyon





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Bureau of Land Management

2024 Sulphur Wild Horse Gather



- Scheduled for August 12-31, 2024
- Animals planned to be gathered: 420
- Animals planned to be removed: 360



Renewable Energy

- Solar
- Wind
- Geothermal





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

Cedar City Tanker Base Renovation

- GAOA Funded
- Coming fall 2025





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

Questions?

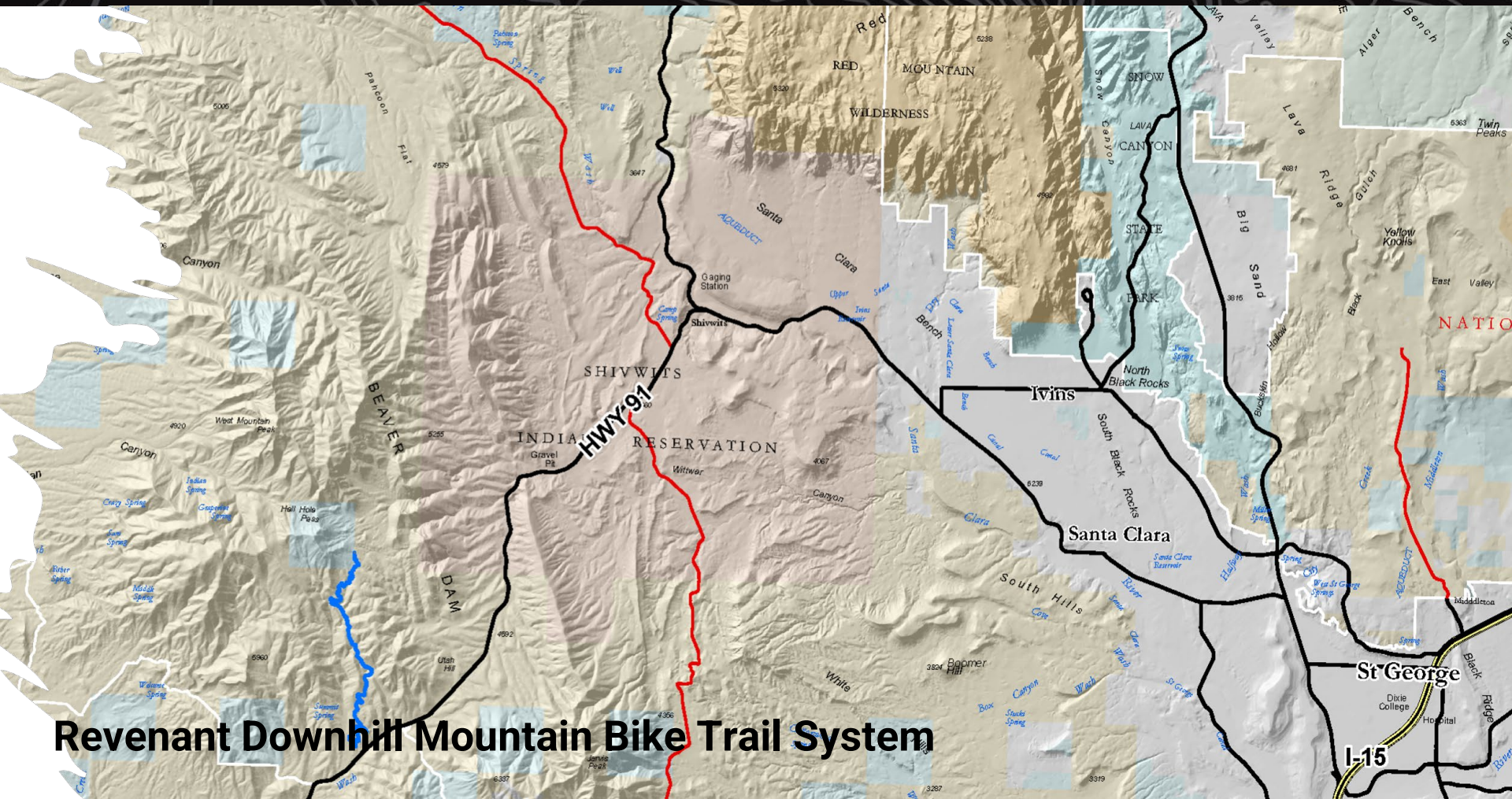
Rock Corral Recreation Area, Beaver County, Utah



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

St. George Field office

Utah Resource Advisory Council March 20, 2024

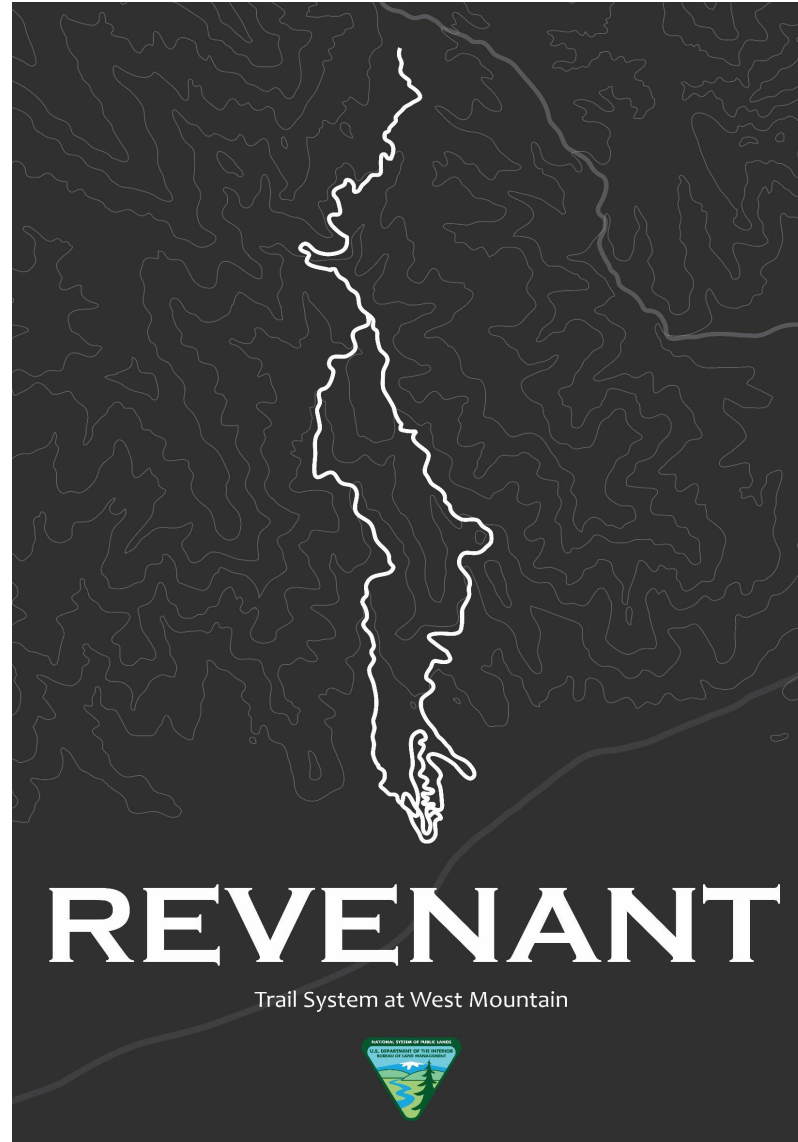


Revenant Downhill Mountain Bike Trail System



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

Partner Created Logo





- Terrain

West Mountain, 15 minutes Southwest of Santa Clara, UT



- Engineering Workload for unique project

Revenant Trail layout and Design





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Revenant Flyover





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

New St. George Field Office Facility





Tempi Po-op

- Trail Improvements





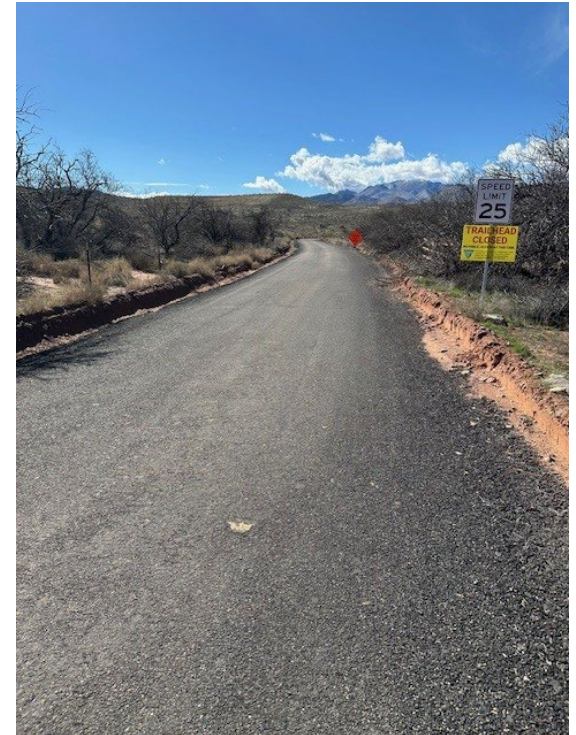
Results of Phase 1





Phase 2

- Paving
- ADA Trail Access





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

Tempi Po-op Flyover





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

Habitat Rehabilitation

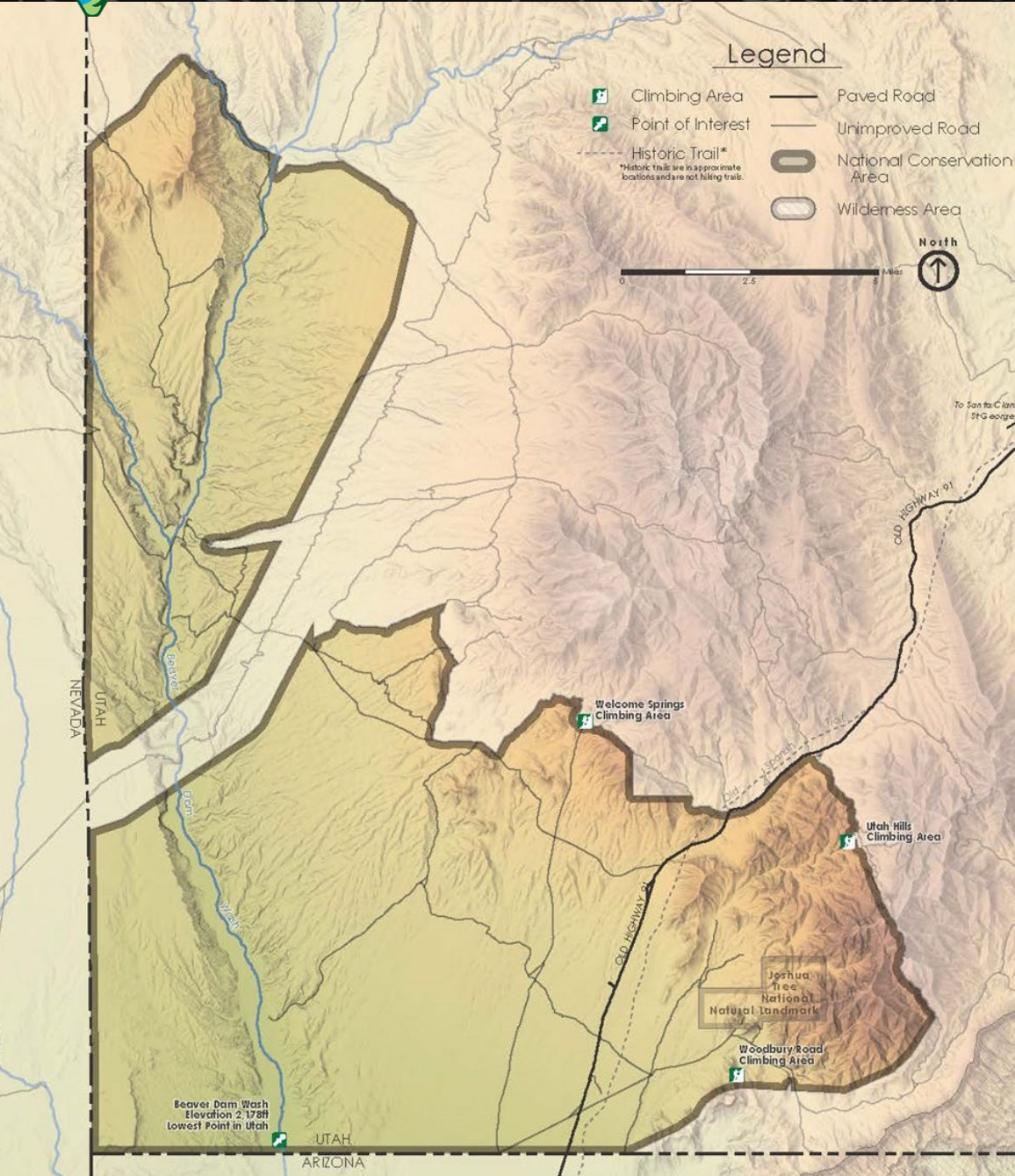
Utah Resource Advisory Council March 20, 2024



Beaver Dam Wash National Conservation Area



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



Beaver Dam Wash NCA

Designated by Congress
in March of 2009

63,500 acres

Critical habitat for the
threatened Mojave
desert tortoise



During the summers of 2005-2006, wildfires burned large areas of the Mojave Desert, including the Beaver Dam Wash NCA.





As a result, desert tortoise populations across its range and in the NCA have declined, primarily due to direct mortality and habitat degradation.





Since 2016, NCA staff, with partners, have created “fertile islands” in fire-damaged tortoise habitat by planting nursery grown native species.





Our partners include the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, The Nature Conservancy, Conserve Southwest Utah, and the American Conservation Experience (ACE).





We also have a partnership with the National Park Service's Song Dog Native Plant Nursery which grows native plants for our habitat rehabilitation projects.





2023 Rehabilitation Project

In early December 2023, 50 volunteers worked with NCA staff and ACE crews to plant and cage 3,000 native species, in the Woodbury Desert Study Area.

The Study Area is a research plot where studies of the desert tortoise and Mojave Desert vegetation have been ongoing since the 1930s.



On November 30, 2023, we picked up the plants at Song Dog Nursery and “U-Hauled” them to the NCA.





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Bureau of Land Management





The 2023 project will create another “fertile island” of native vegetation in fire-damaged tortoise habitat, thanks to the support of our partners, youth crews, and community volunteers!



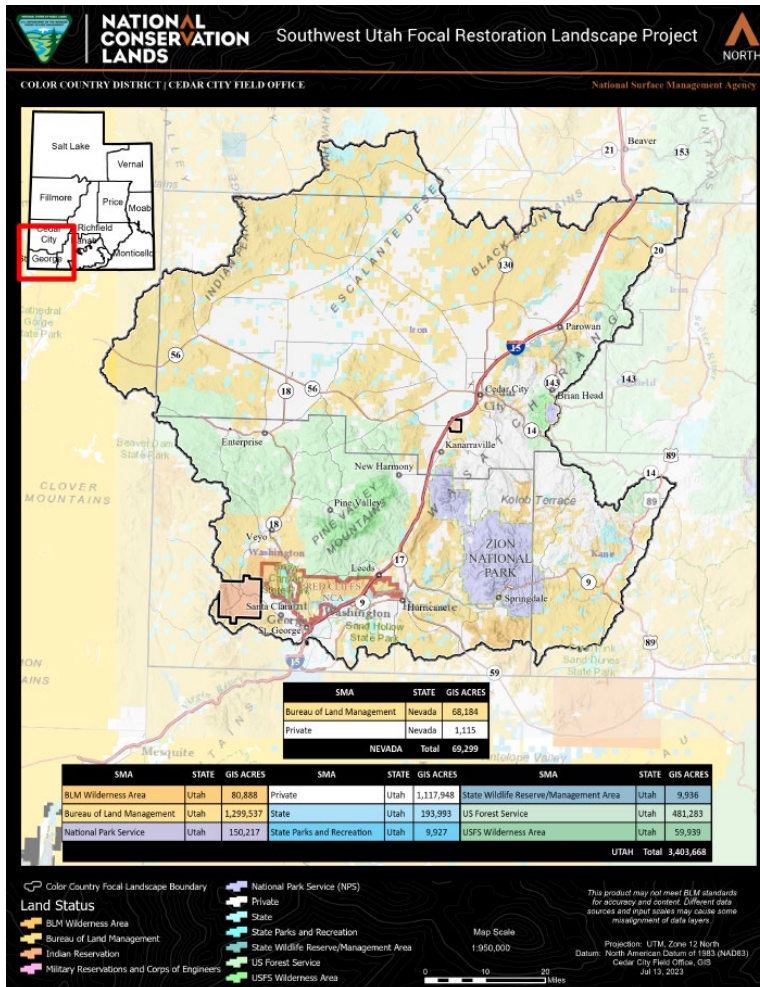


Questions?





Color Country Converging Restoration Landscape



Two adjacent watersheds:
Escalante Desert and
Upper Virgin River





Virgin River Restoration

Partners:

- Virgin River Program (UDWR, Washington County Water Conservancy District and associated partners)
- NPS Lake Mead Inter-Regional Invasive Plant Management Team





Wildlife Guzzlers

Project is partnered with the Utah Watershed Restoration Initiative and UDWR (WRI project number 6986). Additional partners are Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, Mule Deer Foundation, and Utah Foundation for North American Wild Sheep.





County Weed Partnerships

- Washington County Weed Department
- Iron County Weed Department



Maltese star-thistle (*Centaurea melitensis*) high priority Class 1A Early Detection Rapid Response species for the State of Utah.



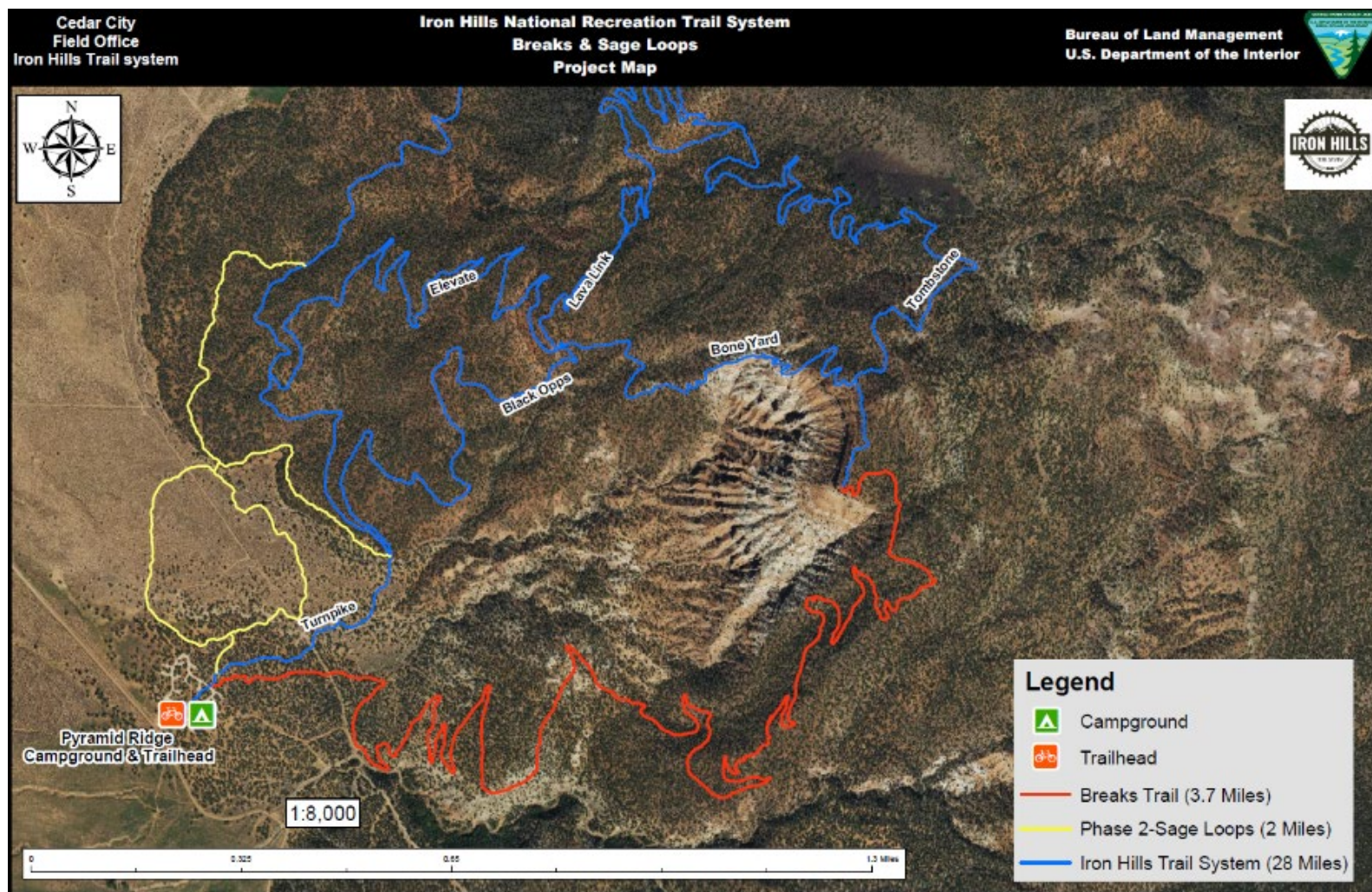
Washington County worker applies herbicide.

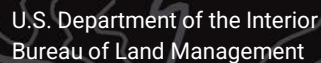


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Resilient Recreation Projects

Partners: International Mountain Bicycling Association Trail Solutions and Iron Trailcraft volunteer trail club.





Thank you!
Questions?

Color Country Converging Restoration Landscape
☆ ...

Introduction
Color Country Converging Map

Hurricane Cinder Knolls Desert Tortoise Fencing Project
This project will upgrade and maintain range fence and desert tortoise mesh along boundaries and major roadways within the Red Cliffs National Conservation Area...

Quichapa Lake Hydrology and Vegetation Enhancement Project
This project is to restore and improve Quichapa Lake Hydrology and Vegetation. Quichapa Lake is a federally designated lacustrine wetland that is periodically...

Red Cliffs National Conservation Area Invasive Annual Grass Res...
The proposed treatment areas have become invaded with introduced annual grasses and have caused increased fire frequency. The project goal is to build...

Flatt Fire Weed Treatment
The Flatt Fire started June 18, 2021, and was a fast-moving fire that burned 14,356 acres of pinyon juniper, sagebrush flats, and cliff rose and bitterbrush communiti...

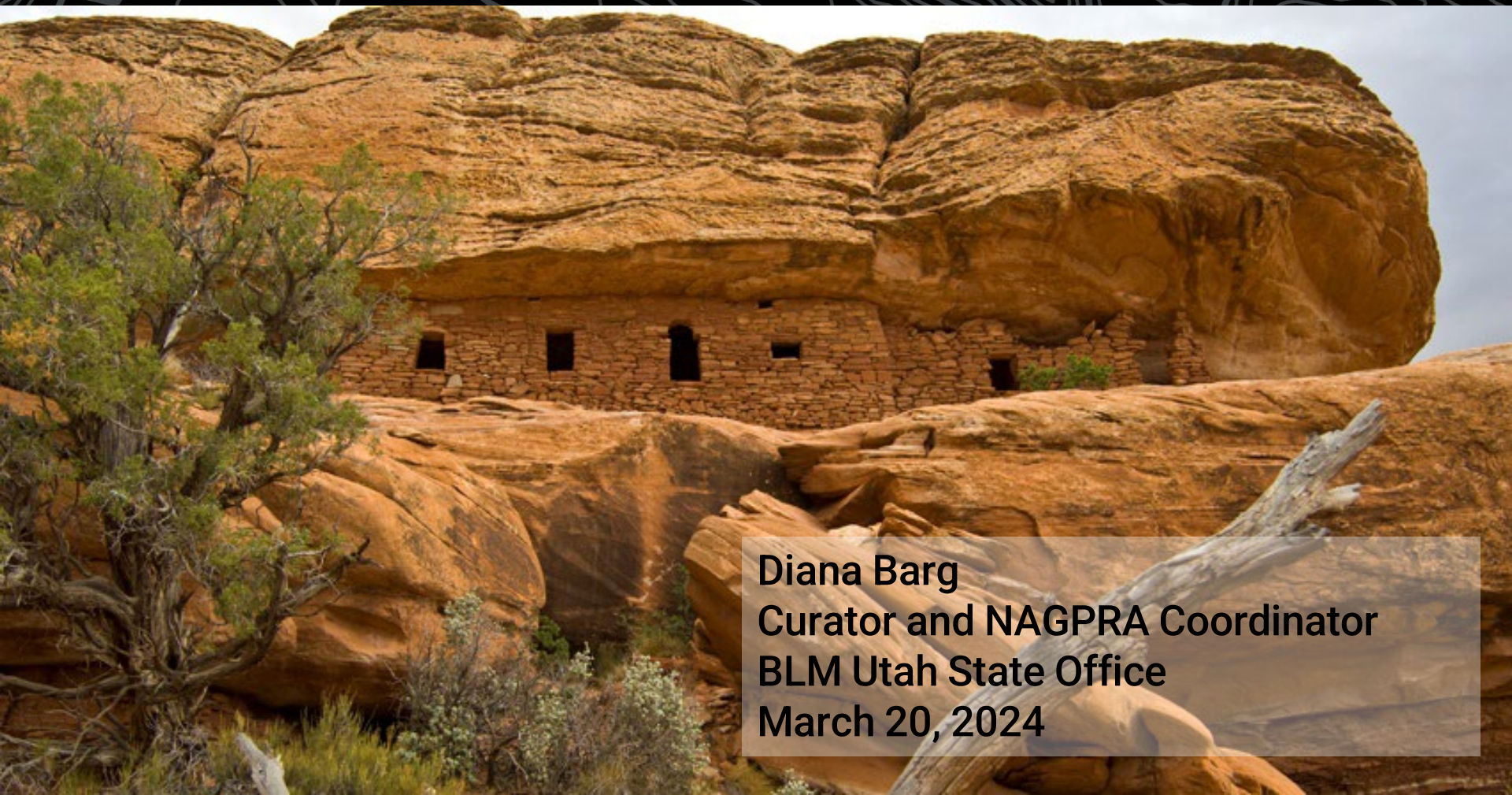
Antelope Bitterbrush Planting Project
This project will grow and handplant antelope bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentate*) seedlings in restoration areas along the Parowan Front for mule deer winter rang...

Wildlife Water Development landscape wide project
This project would install wildlife guzzlers at approximately six locations throughout



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Bureau of Land Management

Museum Collections and Working with Communities



Diana Barg
Curator and NAGPRA Coordinator
BLM Utah State Office
March 20, 2024



Museum Collections

An assemblage of museum objects acquired according to a documented plan and preserved, studied, and interpreted for public benefit





Museum Collections

- The Federal government owns repositories
 - Those at National Parks
 - USGS Ice Core Lab and Research Center
 - BLM Canyons of the Ancients Visitor Center and Museum





Museum Collections

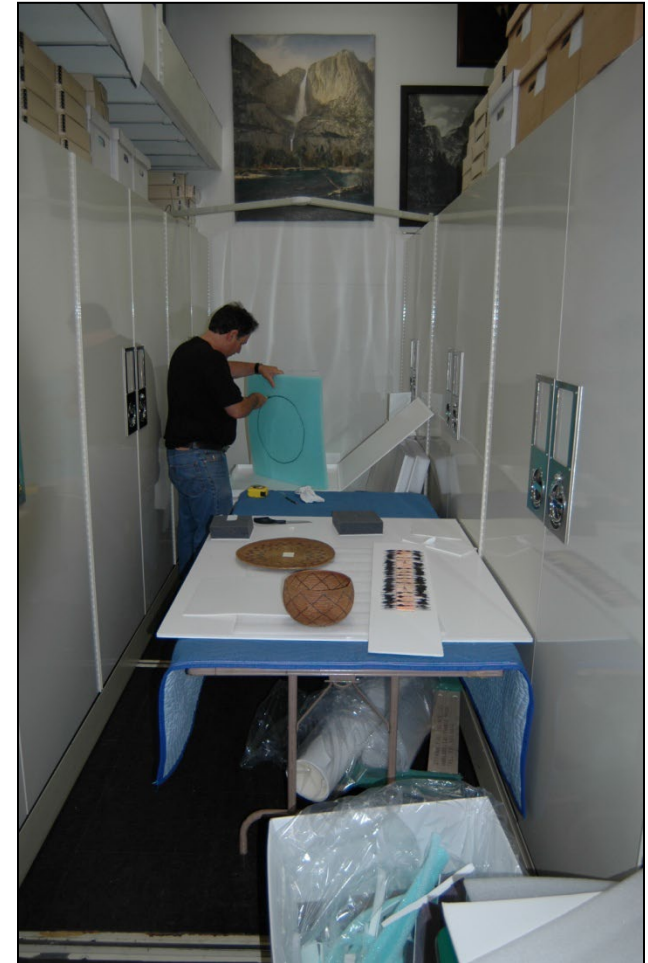
- The Federal government works closely with non-Federal partner repositories, which curate collections on behalf of the Federal government
- The Repositories are capable of providing long-term care of the museum collections and make them available for education, scientific study, and public interpretation





Interior Museum Collections

- DOI owns and manages over 193 million museum objects and archives
- Almost all DOI Bureaus and Offices and the DOI Museum own and manage collections
- DOI maintains museum collections in trust on behalf of the American public





The Federal Government Holds Significant Cultural and Scientific Collections in Trust for the Nation





Acquiring Collections: Bureau/Unit Mandate

- Indian Arts and Crafts Board collections of contemporary American Indian art
- Donation of emigrants' diaries to the BLM's National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center
- Donation of ethnographic artifacts to Navajo National Monument





Generating Collections

- Research
- Archaeological and paleontological investigations
- Federal projects or Federally permitted projects by others





Recovering Looted Resources

- Looting of resources on public lands has been an issue for over a century
- Looting can take many forms including unintentional, intentional, and large-scale behaviors



Law Enforcement Ranger rappels down a cliff face to inspect an archaeological site.



Collections Resulting from Law Enforcement Cases

The Federal government recovers thousands of objects a year that were removed illegally.



Well preserved deer skin moccasins filled with juniper bark padding.



Shell pendant of a blue heron.



Sandal in the process of being constructed.



Public Return of Objects

Increase in members of the public voluntarily returning objects removed in the past without proper permissions.



Casas Grandes effigy jar.



Pottery sherds from unknown locations.



NAGPRA



- Protection of ancestral human remains and cultural items
- Repatriation of ancestral human remains and cultural items



Revised NAGPRA Regulations



Photo from the National NAGPRA Program website of a consultation and review of cultural items.



Returning Objects to Tribal Nations



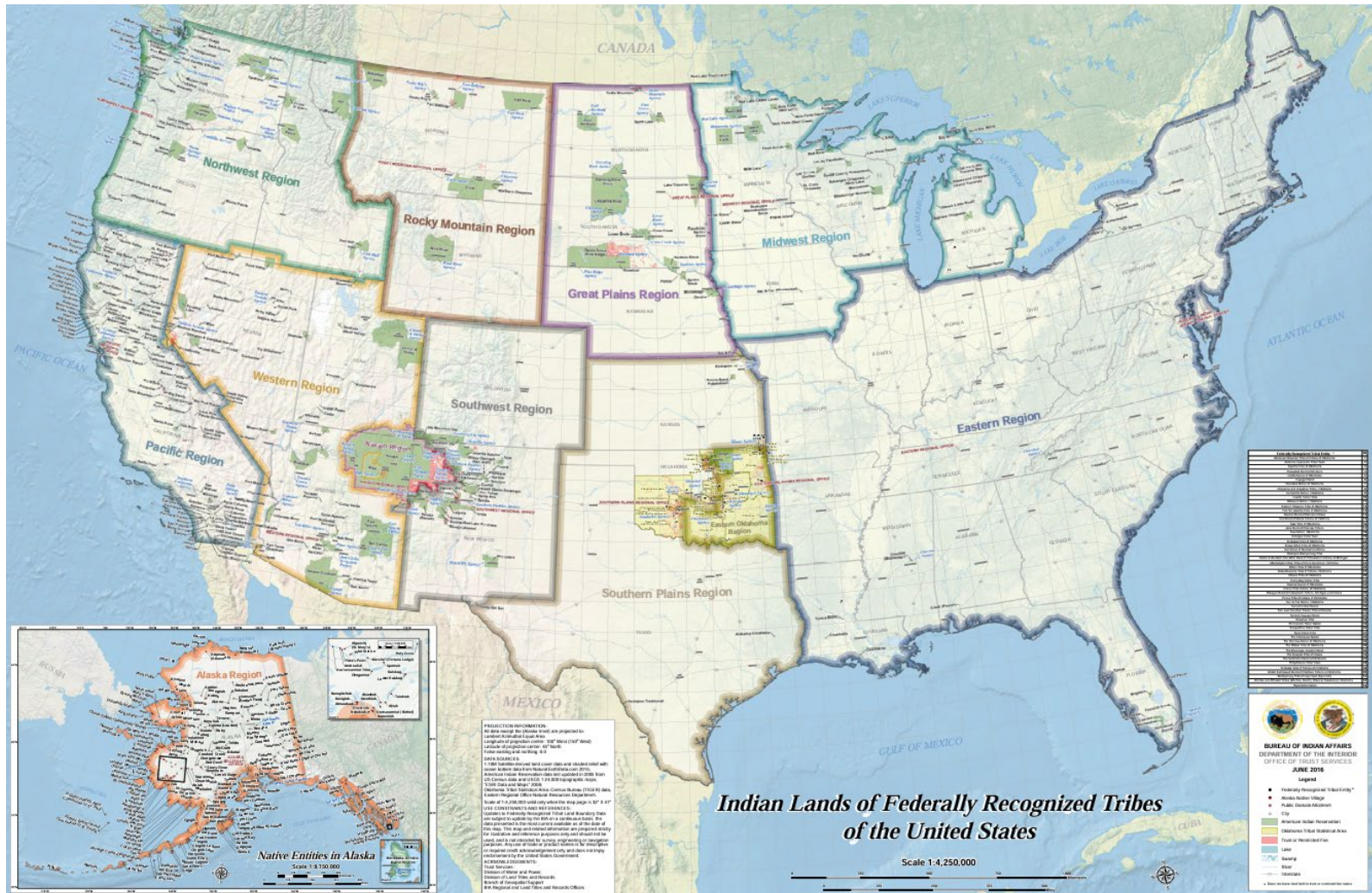
BLM Utah's June 2013 Tribal Summit and object review for NAGPRA.



Working Towards Repatriation



Return of Objects from Reservations



Bureau of Indian Affairs map of Indian Lands of Federally recognized Tribes in the United States.



Return of a Polychrome Bowl





Completed Repatriations

- Repatriated 2 ancestors and 35 cultural items in 2016.
- Repatriated 16 ancestors and 979 cultural items in 2019 and assisted with reburial.



The Work Continues

- Continue NAGPRA work at 10 partner repositories
- Start NAGPRA for any collections newly reported to BLM Utah by museums
- Continue collections reviews to identify cultural items
- Consult and continue building relationships with Tribal Nations





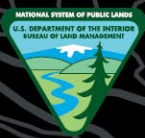
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Questions

ARCH CANYON RUIN

PROTECT AND PRESERVE FOR
FUTURE GENERATIONS





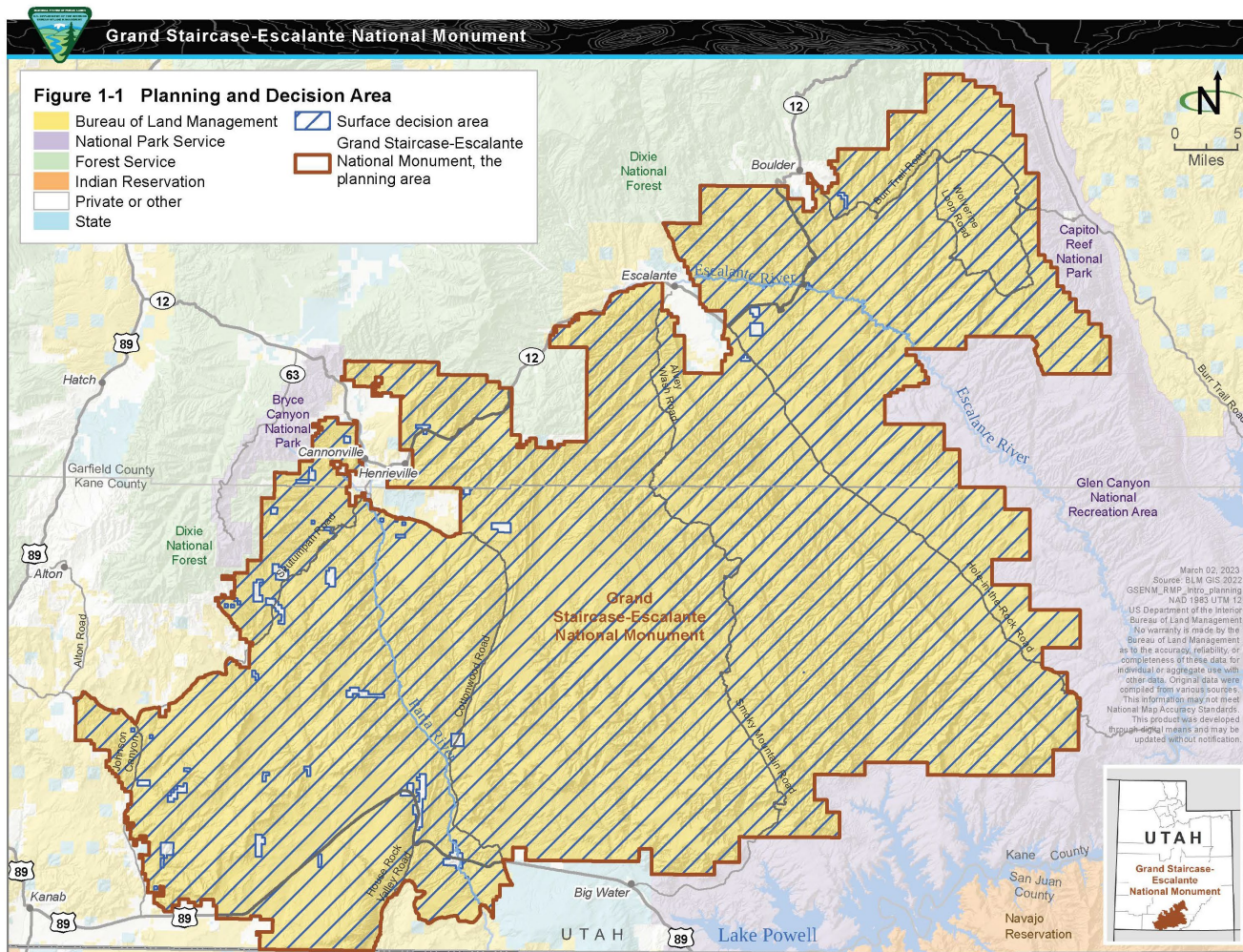
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Bureau of Land Management

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement Updates





Planning Area



Note on Glen Canyon National Recreation Area: The draft and final EIS analyzed management actions applicable to livestock grazing allotments in Glen Canyon NRA, however those lands are not included in BLM's planning area, nor are they included in the proposed plan. Decisions associated with the NRA would be made by the National Park Service in a subsequent decision.



Project Schedule

Milestone	Dates
Notice of Intent	July 29, 2022
Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement	August 11, 2023
90-day Public Comment Period	August 11 – November 9, 2023
Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement	May 31, 2024
30-day Protest Period	May 31 - June 30, 2024
60-day Governor's Consistency Review (runs concurrent with 30-day protest)	May 31- July 30, 2024
Approved Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision	September 19, 2024



Results of the 90-day public comment period on the Draft RMP/EIS

Affiliation	Number of Submissions
Federal Agency	2
State Agency	6
Local Government	5
Tribal Government	4
Non-governmental Organization	35
Unaffiliated	1,552

Total comments received: 7,024
Unique Submissions: 1,604
Form Letters: 5,216

1. Comment submissions were parsed into substantive and non-substantive comments.
2. Similar substantive comments were sorted, grouped, and summarized.
3. This resulted in approximately 900 substantive comments that merit a response.
4. Merited responses will be provided in an appendix to the FEIS.



Next Steps

Milestone	Date
GSENM Proposed RMP and FEIS	May 31, 2024
30-day protest period	May 31 - June 30, 2024
60-day Governor's Consistency Review <i>(runs concurrent with 30-day protest)</i>	May 31- July 30, 2024



Protest Information

[Filing a Plan Protest | Bureau of Land Management \(blm.gov\)](#)

← ↻ 🔒 https://www.blm.gov/programs/planning-and-nepa/public-participation/filing-a-plan-protest#:~:text=All%20protests%20must%20be%20in,are%20those%20filed%20through%20ePl... 📄 🗑️ 🔍 ⌂ ☆ 📁 ⌵ 📧

[Home](#) / [Programs](#) / [Planning and NEPA](#) / [Public Involvement](#) / [Filing a Plan Protest](#)

Filing a Plan Protest

Release of the proposed RMP and final EIS initiates a 30-day protest period for any person who previously participated in the planning process and has an interest that is (or may be) adversely affected by the proposed plan.

The [protest regulations](#) specify the required elements for filing a valid protest. To help guide you through this process, we have created a [Critical Item Checklist](#). As much as possible, cite specific planning documents or available planning records (e.g. meeting minutes or summaries, correspondence, etc.) in your protest.

All protests must be in writing and filed with the BLM Director, either as a hard copy or electronically via BLM's ePlanning website by the close of the protest period. The only electronic protests the BLM will accept are those filed through ePlanning. All protest letters sent to the BLM via fax or e-mail will be considered invalid unless a properly filed protest is also submitted.

The ePlanning page for each planning project will contain a tool for submitting a valid protest electronically. The link to the respective ePlanning project page where a protest may be filed will be included in the Notice of Availability for the proposed RMP and final EIS, and in related news releases and Dear Reader letters.

If you do not have the ability to file your protest electronically, hard copy protests must be mailed to the following address, postmarked by the close of the protest period:

Regular and Overnight Mail:

BLM Director
Attention: Protest Coordinator (HQ210)
Denver Federal Center, Building 40 (Door W-4)
Lakewood, CO 80215

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your protest, be advised that your entire protest – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your protest to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Public Involvement

Filing a Plan Protest

[Protest Resolution Reports](#)

Quick Links

- [Critical Item Checklist for Filing a Valid Protest](#)
- [Regulations for Filing a Valid Protest](#)



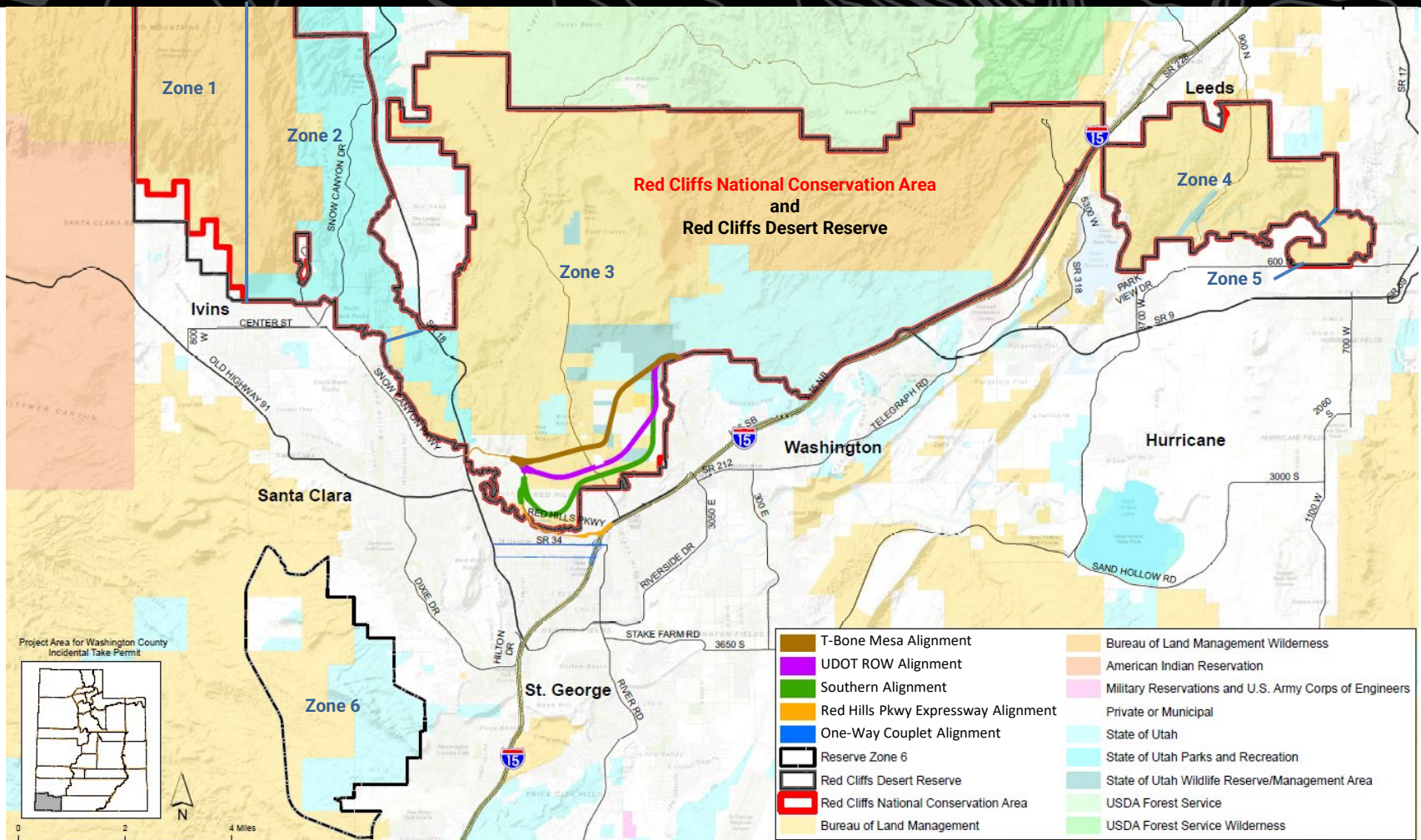
Questions?





U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Fish and Wildlife Service

Supplemental EIS to Reconsider a Highway Right-of-Way and Associated Amendment of an Incidental Take Permit, Washington County, UT





Project History

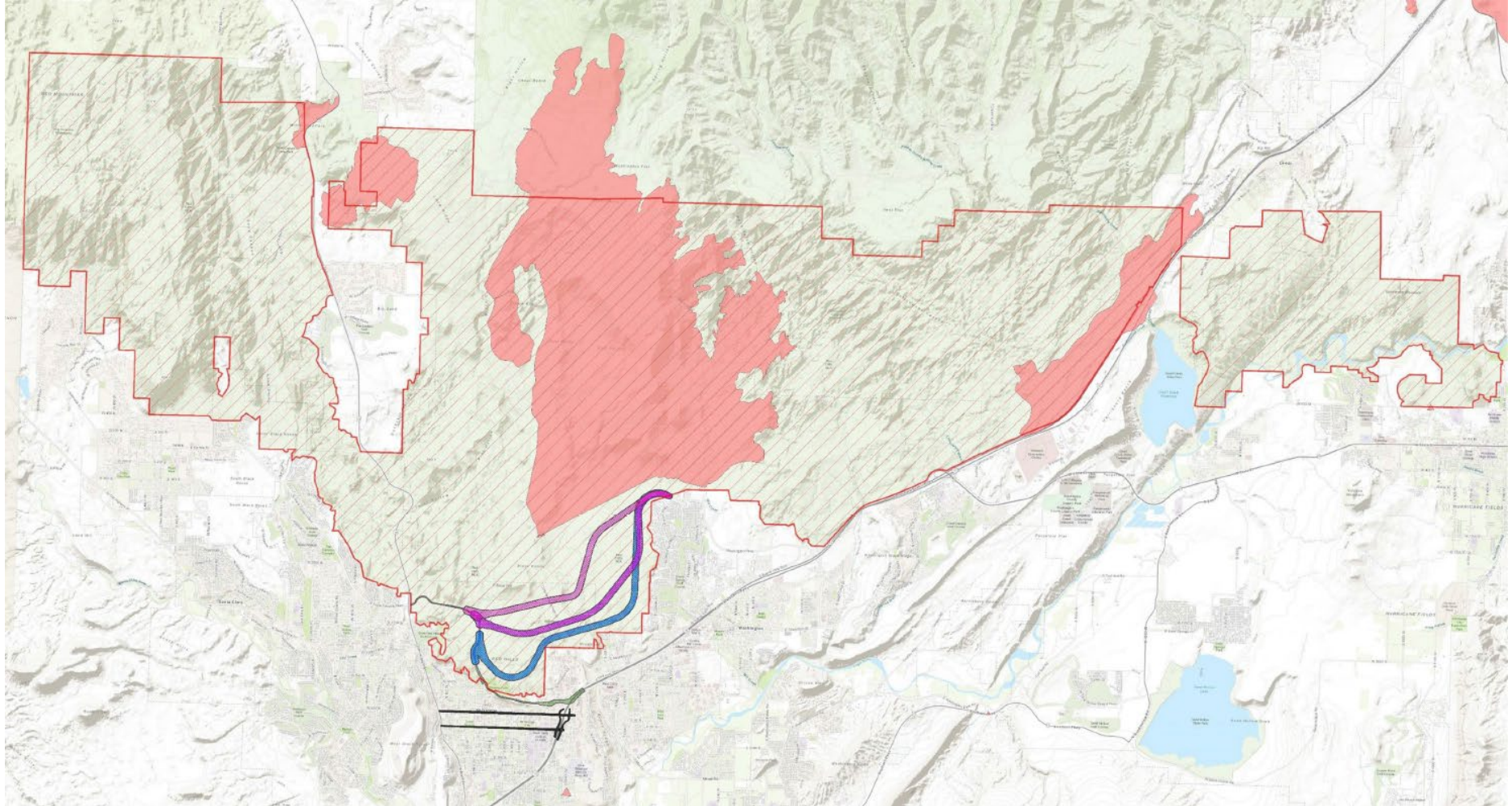
- **1995:** Washington County Habitat Conservation Plan adopted, 20-year Incidental Take Permit issued, and Red Cliffs Desert Reserve established
- **2009:** Omnibus Public Land Management Act
 - Sec. 1974 established the Red Cliffs NCA
 - Sec. 1977 mandated development of a Travel and Transportation Plan for Washington County that would “identify 1 or more alternatives for a northern transportation route in the County”
- **2018:** Utah Department of Transportation applied for a right-of-way (ROW)
- **December 5, 2019:** Notice of Intent published to prepare a joint EIS considering
 - Northern Corridor ROW application (BLM)
 - Renewal of the Washington County Incidental Take Permit (FWS)
 - Amendments to the Red Cliffs NCA Resource Management Plan (RMP) (BLM)
 - Amendments to the St. George Field Office RMP (BLM)





U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Fish and Wildlife Service

2020 Wildfires





Project History, cont.

- **January 13, 2021:** Records of Decision signed by FWS Regional Director approving the Incidental Take Permit and Secretary Bernhardt approving issuance of a ROW grant to UDOT and the two associated Resource Management Plan amendments
- **June 3, 2021:** Plaintiffs filed complaint
- **August 30, 2023:** Settlement agreement signed
 - Prepare Supplemental EIS by November 2024
- **November 16, 2023:** Court order approving remand of all decisions and denying vacatur of the Northern Corridor ROW
- **November 16 – December 28, 2023:** Public scoping period for Supplemental EIS





Purpose and Need

- **BLM:** Reconsider an application from the Utah Dept. of Transportation for a road right-of-way (ROW) through the Red Cliffs NCA and Red Cliffs Desert Reserve based on remand and vacatur
- **FWS:** Consider amendments to Washington County's Incidental Take Permit associated with the BLM's reconsideration of the ROW application based on remand

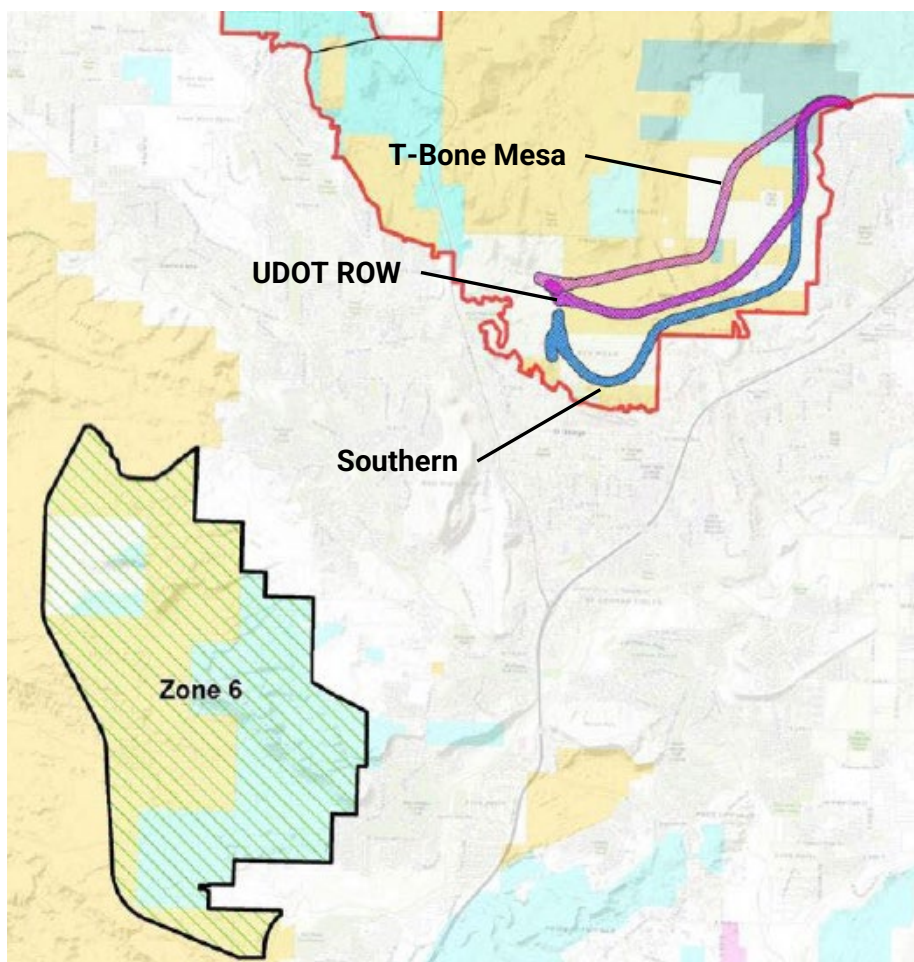


City Creek Trail looking northeast at UDOT ROW project location

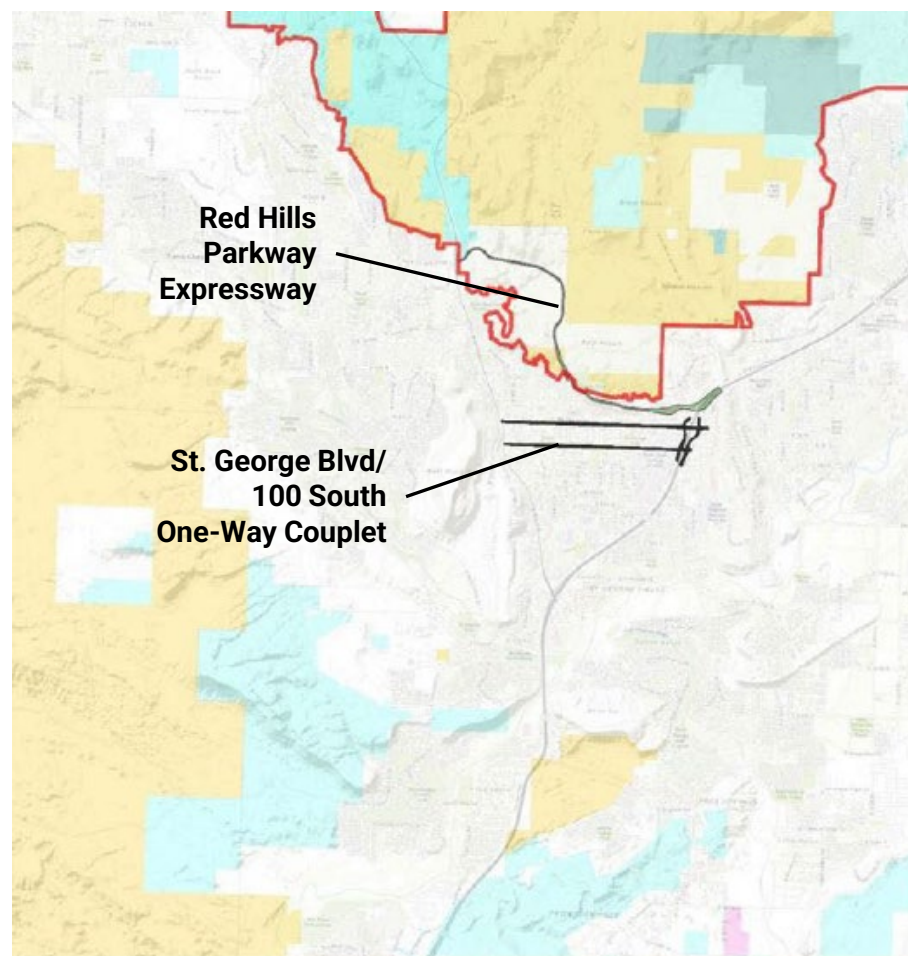


ROW Alternatives

Alternatives fully within Red Cliffs
NCA: Reserve Zone 6 would remain



Alternatives fully/partially outside
Red Cliffs NCA: Reserve Zone 6
would be eliminated

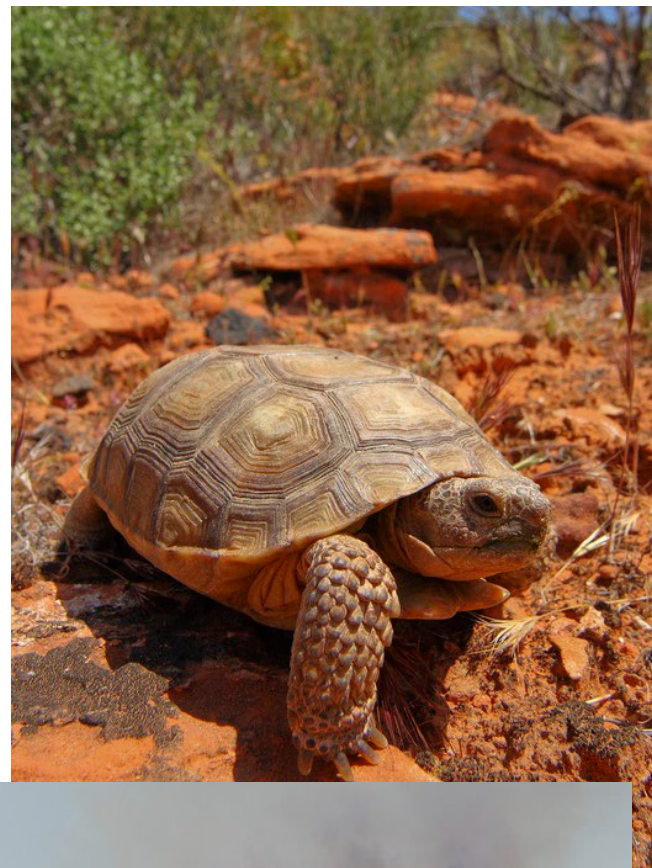




Key Issues for SEIS

Focus only on updating and supplementing analysis in 2020 Final EIS with new information

- Fire and fuels management
- Vegetation and wildlife species
- Socioeconomics, including environmental justice
- National Conservation Area Compatibility
- Acquired public lands
- National Historic Preservation Act compliance





Tentative Schedule

Milestone	Target Date
Notice of Intent	November 16, 2023
Public Scoping Period	November 16 – December 28, 2023
Draft SEIS Notice of Availability	April 2024
Public Comment Period	April – June 2024
Final SEIS Notice of Availability	Fall 2024
FWS Record of Decision	By November 2024
BLM Record of Decision	By November 2024



Questions?



Cottontail Trail looking west UDOT ROW project location