

Utah Resource Advisory Council

August 14, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Utah State University Logan, Utah West Desert District

Meeting Attendees:

- Utah Resource Advisory Council members: Gregory Sheehan (DFO), Tyler Thompson (Chair), Clif
 Koontz (Vice Chair), Joan Hayes, Jay Tanner, Simeon Weston, Karen Goodfellow, Dean Draper, William
 Cox, Patrick Hearty; Virtually: Mary Lane Poe, Neal Clark, Ryan Benally, Brandon Yardley
- BLM employees: Mike Gates, Dave Jacobson, Jessica Wade, Marcia deChadenedes, Cindy Gallo, Ashley Snipes, Nathan Thomas; Virtually: Jake Palma, Ade Nelson
- Public: Larry Ellertson, Clay Crozier; Virtually: Janelle Ghiorso, Theresa Barbour

Welcome & Introductions

• Tyler Thompson, Utah RAC Chair: opened meeting and introduced board and everyone in the room.

BLM Projects Overview

Greg Sheehan, BLM Utah State Director_& Tyler Thompson, Utah RAC Chair

- Announced he is leaving position with BLM in October to become CEO of Mule Deer Foundation.
- Fourth year of any administration usually means it's busy with getting projects across the finish line.
- Green River District has a new District Manager, Elijah Waters.
- Fire Season
 - o Silver King fire (Forest Service) was 18,000 acres. Issue is rain/flooding in area near homes.
 - Deer Springs fire (BLM) burned 12,000 acres, mostly in pinyon/juniper, no risk to homes.
 - Recently had Dry Fork fire in Rich County. Sim Weston chimes in to say the community acted quickly to move about 300 head of cattle that had just been released to graze. Only lost a few. Lots of fuel to burn on that fire because area is in a 20-year water low.
 - o Balance of resources to fires out west versus in Utah.
 - Not fully staffed for fire. Hard time hiring people due to issues with pay. Many employees sleep in their cars. Got some money from Congress with bipartisan legislation.

- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)/Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) money helps with fuels management. Two primary areas for this funding includes Rich County (\$10M) and Washington County (\$10M).
- Dingell Land Exchange nearing completion.
- Multiple projects coming to completion this year, including Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument RMP, Cross-Tie EIS, multiple TMPs.
- Recreation is booming, putting pressure on resources. Limited funds for needed development, improvements, and hiring.

Wild Horse & Burro

- Two gathers soon. Swasey happened a couple weeks ago, gathered approx. 175 horses. Sulfur gather started yesterday, plan to gather 420 horses.
- Tyler Thompson asks if protestors have been out on gathers. Mike Gates responds it's mostly horse advocates who watch, don't protest. Utah does a good job of inviting the public and providing access.
- Challenges with Muddy Creek HMA situation where mare and foal were euthanized. Indicated people reaching out to BLM to haul water, but not good for horses to keep water where it shouldn't be.
- Read out RAC/MAC/RAAC membership updates. Utah RAC will have nine vacancies in March 2025.
 Greg asked RAC to think about replacement nominees. Call for nominations coming shortly.

West Desert District Updates

Mike Gates, BLM West Desert District Manager

- West Desert is the largest district in Utah, covering 13 counties.
- Has two of the largest populations of sage grouse.
- Don't have any more BLM land in Cache County—last of it was in Hyde Park and part of the Dingell Act land exchange.
- District hosts the most populated counties interspersed with isolated tracts of state and private land.
- Most recent RMP was in 1990, the Pony Express RMP. That's because in 2000, the National Defense Appropriation Act prohibited plan update. Randolph MFP not part of that prohibition. Older plans are more general, which can offer more flexibility.
- 189 employees—mostly fire staff.

Priorities:

- Cross-Tie Transmission Line
 - number of things to address on the draft EIS, including WSAs, lighting, Nevada sage grouse. Spring Valley proposed National Monument caused alternatives to have large loops around.
 - Simeon Weston asks if there are plans to tie energy production from northern Utah into the transmission line. Mike explains the Mona substation is where the tie-in lies, already has sub-lines for future wind/solar/other power in Wyoming.
 - Simeon expresses many private individuals have wind power but can't distribute due to lack of transmission lines. Mike explains that once the transmission line is planned, the energy supporting it is already sold.
- o Bonneville Salt Flat
 - Diverse uses include racing and mineral extraction.

- Minerals started in 1900s in wartime when need for domestic mining of potash and halite. Six companies have mined since then, most currently Intrepid Potash. Requires water and they use the shallow brine aquifer under the salt flats. Company has valid, existing rights. BLM can tweak requirements when lease comes up for review.
- Concerns about thickness of the salt since 1960s. Racers can go faster on thicker salt.
 Study back then found the salt had been reduced, cause unknown. Focus has been to drag salt to prep for Speed Week and races.
- Simeon Weston asks how deep the salt is. Mike responds less than a foot in some places.
- Intrepid up for renewal. They flood the Salt Flats in off season to help bring salt back. When races canceled for rain, there's an economic loss. Speed Week is canceled about every five years due to weather. Last time was 2021.
- Problems = burning pallets, spinouts. Joan Hayes asked who monitors, Mike responds BLM does.
- Jay Tanner describes how the water on the salt flats will migrate along the area in strong winds.

West Desert District Recreation

Jessica Wade, BLM West Desert District Salt Lake Field Office Manager

- Urban interface problems: OHV, target shooting, sign vandals, very large group camping/parties.
- Recreation visits near the Wasatch Front have increased, nationwide funding per visit has not.
- Homelessness is a daily focus of the law enforcement officers. Tyler Thompson asks where it's worst. Jessica says around Delle and Lake Mountain. BLM pays for the cleanup on squatter sites.
- Little Sahara Recreation Area seeks 100,000 visitors per year. Easter Weekend doubles the population of Juab County. New visitor center built with GAOA funds opened October 2023. \$18 daily fee, \$120 annual pass.
- Salt Flats has one dedicated employee. Tyler Thompson asks why public cannot access from the rest
 area any longer. UDOT put up barriers about a year ago. Joan Hayes suggests volunteer group help for
 cleanup. Karen Goodfellow concurs, suggests Adopt-A-Salt Flats.
- Permits to the Salt Flats include weddings. There have been ads for raves, but LEOs work hard to shut them down before they happen.
- 5 Mile Pass: lots of effort to put that recreation area together. Not many campgrounds. 50,000 visitors annually, primarily OHV.
- West Mountain: history of bullets into homes and structures because recreational shooters not using a good backstop and bullets are entering the town on the other side of the mountain. CMP had plan to install gun range but revoked after residents' concerns about high-power alley. Temporary closures will go into place until the NEPA is done for permanent target shooting closure. Bill Cox asks what alternative we are offering dispersed target shooters. Jessica responds it will move to the north end of West Mountain.
- Partnering with local governments to apply for ROWs and build/maintain trails. Butterfield Canyon in Herriman was completed in 2023 as part of this EA.

RMP Update

Ade Nelson, BLM Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Manager Jake Palma, BLM Monticello Field Office Manager

- Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument RMP
 - o Schedule got extended, plan to have the Proposed RMP/Final EIS in coming weeks.
 - Creates management areas for the monument to emphasize protection of objects while allowing for discretionary use: Front Country, Passage, Outback, and Primitive areas.
 - Explained the focal point of each area, acreage, and restrictions.
 - Clif Koontz asks with Primitive area designated as OHV closed, will the final EIS discuss the boundaries? Concerns this is a blanket acreage closure rather than an inventoried route decision. Ade says a number of comments came in about that concern. FEIS acknowledges routes under R.S. 2477 litigation not currently in the BLM plan with mileage and designation criteria when applying areas within federal regulation. Language is a general overview. If R.S. 2477 litigation is settled, language allows to be elastic for designations. Clif expresses concern in the deficiency in analysis by an area closure that could result in the density and travel management similar to Canyonlands National Park, with very few driveable routes to access.
- Bears Ears National Monument RMP
 - BLM hosted paid internships for local high schoolers to get real field experience with various ologists. 19 students worked up to five days each, funded by Canyonlands Natural History Association.
 - o Received 18,975 public comments, 16,674 were form letters. 1,873 unique comments.
 - o Common content themes were access, positives & negatives of grazing, and supporting use of Traditional Indigenous Knowledge.
 - Target for proposed RMP/final EIS is October 2024.
 - Record of Decision anticipated for January 2025.

TMP Update

Dave Jacobson, BLM Utah Outdoor Recreation Planner

- San Rafael Swell TMP
 - Misunderstanding about alternatives and mileage open/closed/limited. Alternative A is the existing landscape. Alternatives either close additional miles of routes or open previously closed routes. Also includes non-inventoried/non-decision miles from the prior plan, which are labeled as de facto closed because they are not designated. About 500 miles recently inventoried.
- Working on San Rafael Swell, Dolores, and Henry Mountains TMPs. Trail Canyon coming next.
- Henry Mountains also had 140 miles of undesignated routes they're designating this time.

Public Comment Period

- Clay Crozier, PLPCO: Appreciates reports, disagrees respectfully with some of what BLM is doing, but that's OK because we can still be friends.
- Larry Ellertson, Rep. Jon Curtis' office: Questions BLM on fertility control of wild horses with gelding stallions. Greg responds we can, but female birth control works better. BLM has done some gelding, but it doesn't dramatically reduce the population. Discussion about fertility control methods. Simeon Weston asks about spaying; Greg says BLM used to do so but got sued. Not enough science for spaying to show it's effective. Research was proposed three years ago but didn't go well. Other states do not have data on spaying/gelding effectiveness.
- Janelle Ghiorso for Theresa Barbour, Oregon Wild Horse Organization: reads a statement. Organization
 often finds conflict with very little resolution. Water hauling permit was denied because wild animals
 need to depend on natural water sources and fend for themselves. They've been involved since 2017

when same problem happened at Muddy Creek HMA, again in 2020 and this year. McKay pond is a death trap. Horses have died sometimes several days after BLM was notified. Horses cannot defend themselves because ranchers siphon water. Cattle deplete water for half the year, which leaves diminished water levels and acclimates horses to water provided during a heavy water year. BLM blames weather for lack of water in hot parts of the year. Herd in Muddy Creek HMA do not migrate. Could be from OHV harassment, memories of prior gathers, or elder horses with knowledge having been removed. Once horses are weakened, they cannot make the trip to Muddy Creek and they need water improvement. Stop water removal for livestock, decrease livestock in the HMA, provide water resources or allow volunteers to do so. This has been a conflict for seven years with no acceptable solutions. Ends with death or removal of horses. Wants RAC to collaborate with their organization and get emergency water to the HMA ASAP so no more horses die. Full statement attached to minutes.

Fire Year update and Fuels Management

Chris Delaney, BLM Utah State Fire Manager Officer

- Human-caused fires trending up this year compared to five-year average. Tyler Thompson asks why?
 More people recreating. While BLM doesn't have great fuels data, last year was a wet year. June and July were hot and dry.
- 46,000 acres burned statewide as of Aug. 12; BLM lands account for 15K.
- In 2020, the biggest fires were in October because it was dry fall.
- Fuels treatment
 - o Mastication = reduce stem counts of juniper. Drag a chain and then reseed with native brush.
 - Joan Hayes asks how BLM picks an area. Usually done in conjunction with other programs so we're getting more bang for our buck. Fire frequency in an area can make it eligible.
 - o In 2024, five biggest fires hit fuels treatment areas and were slowed or stopped.
 - Some of underbrush is still allowed to grow. We live in a disturbance-dependent ecosystem and fire is considered unacceptable where it used to be natural balancer. Treatment takes place of fire.
 - o Methods: lop & scatter; pile burning; herbicide for cheatgrass; prescribed fire.
 - Hydrophobic soils created without treatment. Natural plants will outcompete cheatgrass with treatment. Ponderosa pines can withstand some fire.
 - Helps sage grouse because they don't like trees (predatory birds). Research shows birds will
 quickly go back to a treated area where juniper/pinyon is leveled. They want area with 2-4%
 trees or they won't live there. BLM chains skeleton trees to eliminate raptor perches that would
 predate sage grouse.
 - Karen Goodfellow asks what's effective for cheatgrass. Herbicides, hand planting, seeding.
 - o Concerns about pinyon jay, how to feather edges of treatment area to help.
- Jay Tanner expresses appreciation for firefighting and coordinating with local volunteers. Asks about using drones to fly water. BLM had substantial setback with ban on Chinese drones for government. Haven't found USA brand that is costs effective and reliable.
- Rural Fire Readiness gives back to local firefighters with BLM equipment.
- Several planes have been lost nationwide, including fatalities. BLM Utah firefighter injured during water drop.
- Crews not used to an average fire year.
- BLM has dropped four times as much retardant than last year.

Getting to yes—conflict resolution

Marcia deChadenedes, BLM Decision Support

- RAC led through exercise on what is important for meetings, group agreement to operate.
- Following exercise, RAC discovers a Courtesy Code was already created for the group years ago and aligns with everything listed.
- Talks about steps of "Getting to Yes" book: separate the people from the problem; position is desired action; don't wear others' emotions; thank you isn't enough; solutions for positive messages; don't have to fix everything, sometimes acknowledgement is enough.

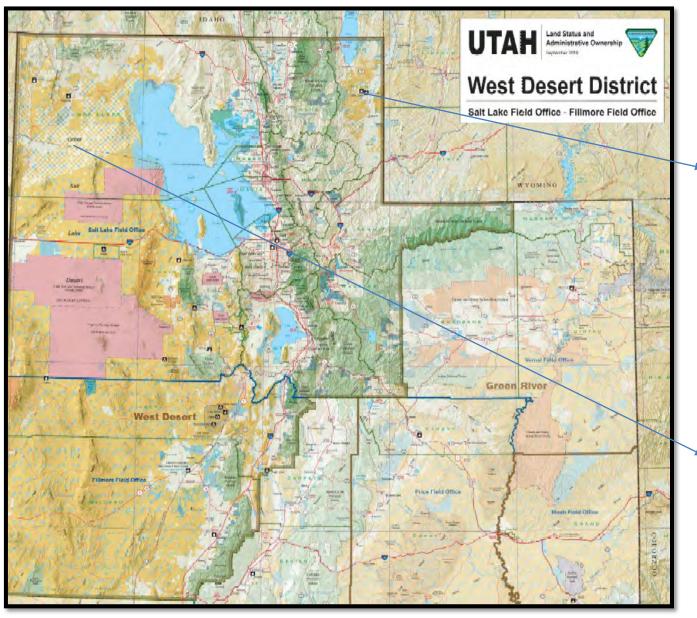
Council Discussion:

- No action items.
- Would like to visit Jurassic National Monument and a wild horse HMA for next meeting's field tour.
- RAC would like the notification when Call for Nominations goes out.
- Tyler Thompson adjourns meeting.

West Desert District













West Desert District Counties

Salt Lake Field Office Counties:

Box Elder

Rich

Tooele

Utah

Cache

Morgan

Weber

Davis

Salt Lake

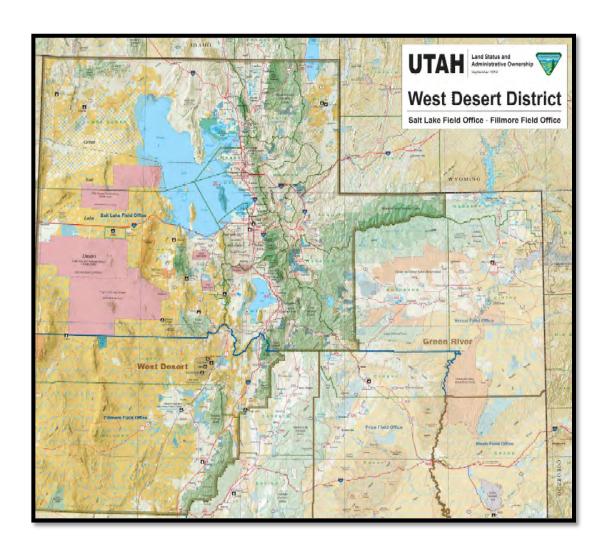
Summit

Wasatch

Fillmore Field Office Counties:

Juab

Millard



West Desert District Planning

Salt Lake Field Office Land Use Plans:

Box Elder RMP (1986) Pony Express RMP (1990) Randolph MFP (1980) ISO Tracts MFP (1985) Park City MFP (1985)

Fillmore Field Office Counties:

House Range RMP (1987) Warm Springs RMP (1987)



Utah Planning Areas July 2020 District Office - Field Office (FO) RMF = Resource Management Plan MFP = Management Framework Plan West Desert Green River Salt Lake FO Vernal FO Fillmore FO Price FO Moab FO Cedar City FO Canyon Country Color Country Richfield FO Paria River

West Desert District Stats

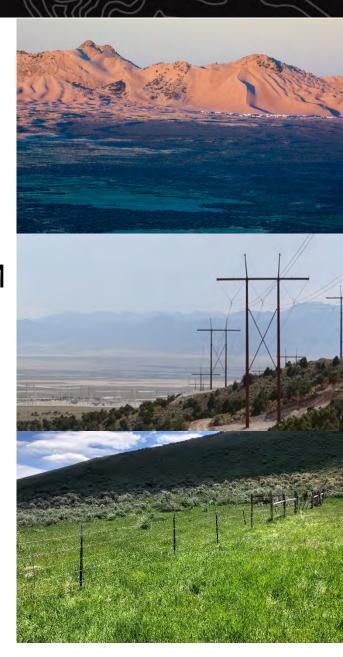
- 189 employees
- 7.73 million acres
 - 873,000 subsurface acres
 - 3.26 million acres in the Salt Lake Field Office
 - 4.47 million acres in the Fillmore Field Office
- One Wilderness Area, 11 WSAs, two National Historic Trails
- Six Wild Horse Herd Management Areas
- Manage 50% of BLM Utah's grazing at ~500,000 AUMs
- Recorded cultural sites that span 12,000 years of prehistory
- 582 miles of OHV trails and three backcountry byways
- Average 300 wildfires a year





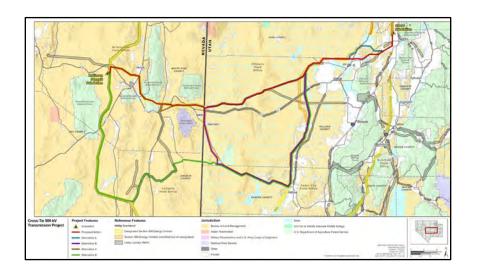
West Desert District – Priority Work

- Meeting the Recreation Demand Along the Wasatch Front
 - Population growth and wildland urban interface challenge the BLM with complex management situations
 - Home to over 2.6 million Utahns, nearly 86% of the state's population
- Energy Transmission and Renewable Energy
- Watershed Restoration
- Fire and Fuel Reduction



Large Transmission Lines – Cross Tie Project Overview

- TransCanyon, LLC, proposes the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of a transmission line and associated facilities
- Single-circuit, 1,500-MW, 500-kilovolt (kV) high voltage alternating current (HVAC)
- From Clover Substation in Juab County, Utah (UT)
- To Robinson Summit Substation in White Pine County, Nevada (NV).
- 218-mile (APA)
 - BLM Utah
 - BLM Nevada
 - Forest Service Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
- Final EIS Planned for August 2024
- Record of Decision December 2024

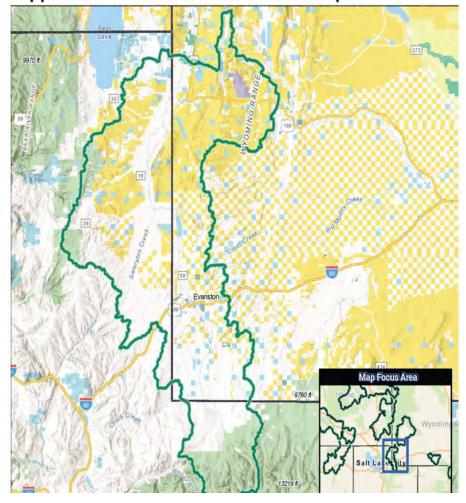


Upper Bear River Watershed Restoration Project

Focus of Funding

- Waters of the Bear River and Bear Lake – Primary input for the Great Salt Lake
- Uplands key for big game, this area represents the largest and most contiguous intact sagebrush/sage-grouse habitat in Utah
- Riparian key for fisheries, sage-grouse, big game, and migratory birds
- Three Creeks Innovative and collaborative grazing system

Upper Bear River Restoration Landscape



Fire Program

- Complex fire program with two fire zones
 - Central Utah Fire Zone
 - Northern Utah Fire Zone
- Wildland-urban interface
 - 55% of wildfires in FY20 are humancaused
- Fuels program treats ~25,000 acres annually
- Robust initial attack
- Two airbases Tooele and Fillmore
- Outstanding trespass program







Bonneville Salt Flats – Recreation/Mining Issue

- 12-15 permits a year
- Activities include land speed racing, foot races, rocket launches, long-range archery trials
- Other activities include annual Fourth of July festivities, nature photography, etc.
- 30,203 acres of BLM land
- Pony Express Resource Management Plan, January 1990
- Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA)
- Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)
- National Register of Historic Places



Background



Salt mill during course of construction. Bob MacDonald, Bonneville Ltd. Utah Dept. of Heritage and Arts



Close-up of salt, Sept. 1935. Clifford Bray Photo Collection. Utah Dept. of Heritage and Arts



Gardner run on the Bonneville Salt Flats. August 20, 1951. Shipler Commercial Photographers, Utah Dept. of Heritage and Arts

Salt Crust Thickness Study

- Requirement of the 2012 Intrepid Potash Mine and Reclamation Plan
- The 2012 Plan ready to expire New Mine Plan is being evaluated



Results

- Results show loss of salt crust volume since the 1960s when measurements began.
- Greater loss of salt volume in topographic lows located in racetrack area



Aerial photo of BSF during Speed Week 2016. Photo by Dr. Brenda Bowen.

Salt Laydown Project

• From 1998-2017, the project has delivered over 12.6 million tons of salt to the Bonneville Salt Flats





Bonneville Salt Flats

- During certain years, Bonneville Salt Flats receives monsoonal moisture during July/August Months
- Wet thin surface salt left poor and unsafe conditions for highspeed racing – 2015 over 2 inches moisture received in May/June





Bonneville Salt Flats – National Science Committee



Options For Restoration

With any approach - ongoing public outreach and engagement

With no new funding - get interested parties to collaborate and fund efforts externally

With some level of governmental funding (Federal/State)

Current Management Actions with existing allocated funding

- Increased Signage at entrance – reduce pallet burning and spin-outs on salt flats
- Looking at periodic seasonal closures on the salt flats to limit impacts





Bonneville Salt Flats - 2024 Racing Update



 "2024 Speed Week was very successful this year...several dozen records broken, and no major incidents reported. The racers were happy with the condition of the salt, and I observed no notable damages throughout the event."

-SLFO Recreation Planner, Tyler Jutte -

Questions?





West Desert District Recreation FM - Jessica Wade



West Desert District Recreation Goals:



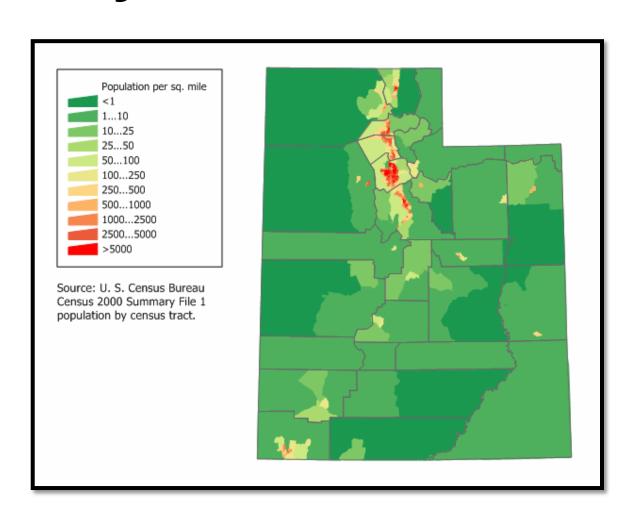
- Protect the Public Lands while the experiences of the users is positive.
- Manage recreation to benefit:
 - People
 - Economies
 - Communities
 - Environments

We anticipate more uses and more people into the future.

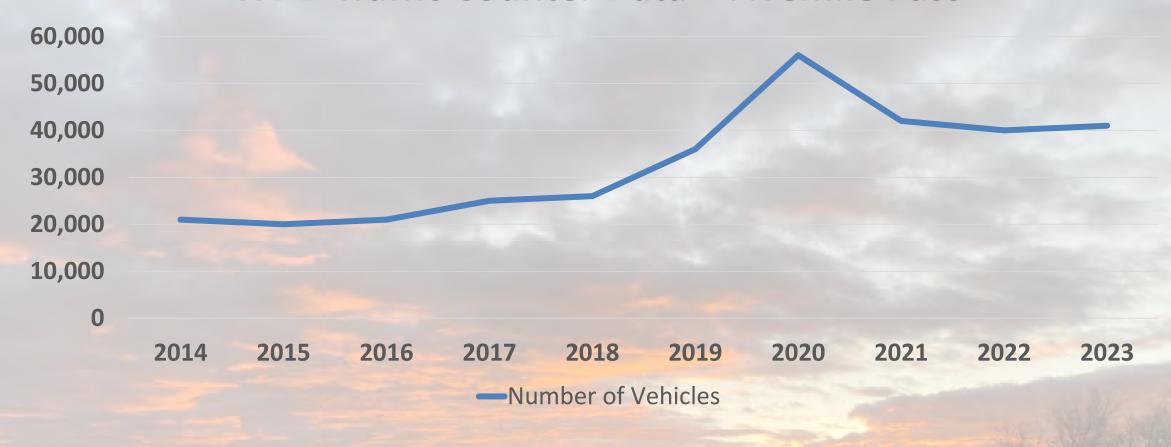
WDD - Urban District/Major Metro Area

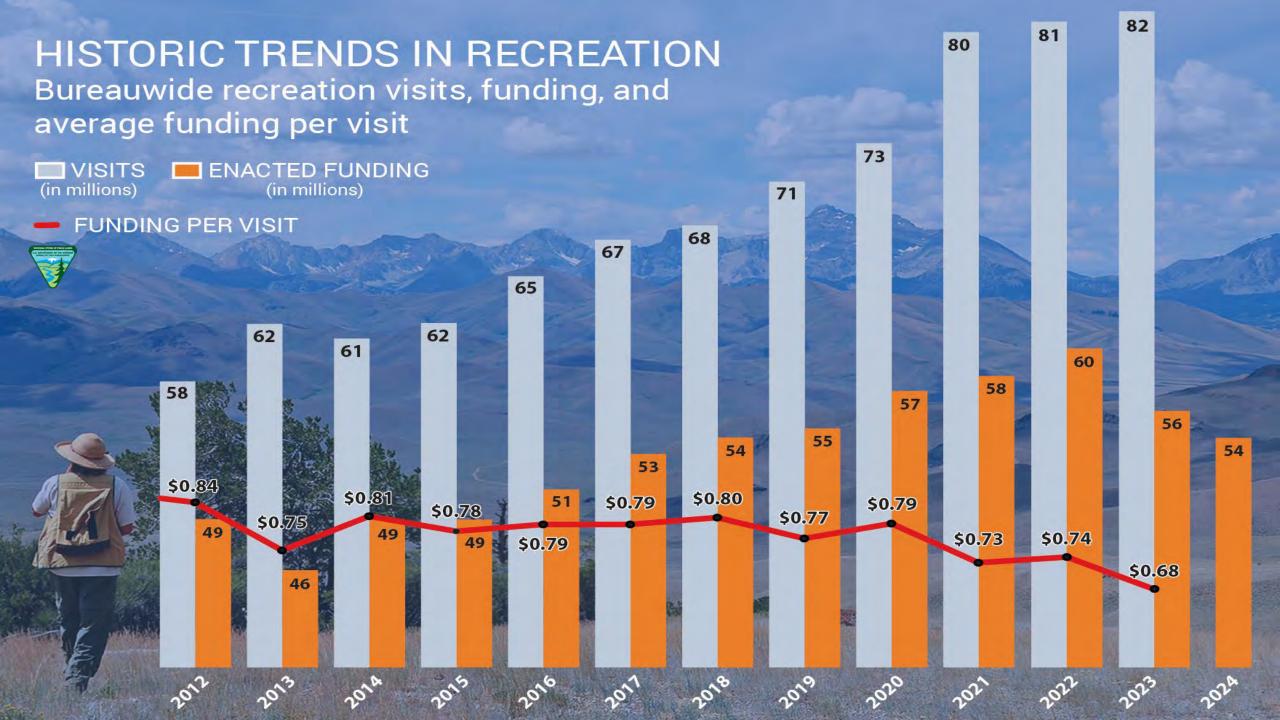
Adjacent to major metropolitan area: Wasatch Front 3 Million people

- Salt Lake Field Office Adjacent to 2.5 Million People
- 85% of the Utah population lives in the Wasatch Front
- Recreation users in the WDD have increased exponentially
 - Recreation type
 - Motorized and non-motorized
 - Law Enforcement needs
 - Human Caused Fire Problem









WDD Challenges in Recreation Management

- Dispersed use of off highway vehicles
 - User created trails and tracks
 - Signage and planned trails needed
 - Significant increase in popularity for all ages
- Dispersed target shooting
 - BLM lands in and around towns is a safety hazard
 - Cause of wildfires
 - Significant increase in popularity
 - Signs vandalized
- Concentrated areas of dispersed camping
 - Not so dispersed
 - Homelessness on public lands
- Significant increase of visitors to our Public Lands in 10 years



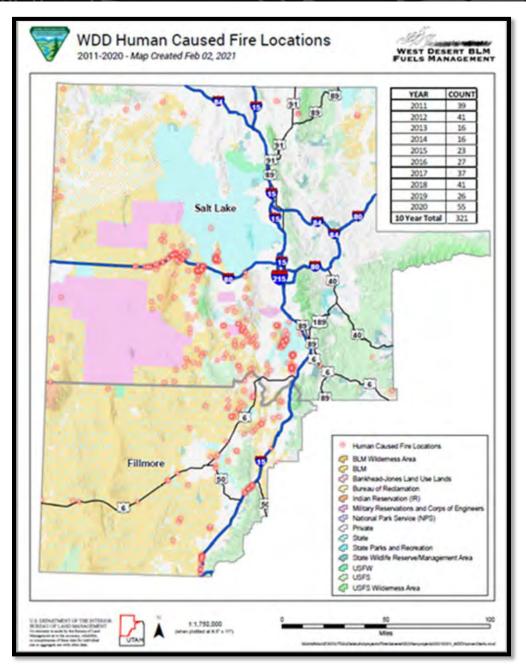




Human Caused Fires are Increasing

- 50% increase in last 10 years
- Most human caused fires are from recreational target shooting or driving offroad.





Managed Recreation is Important



Fivemile Pass – user created trails

- More day use facilities and trails needed
 - OHV Trails
 - Non-Motorized Trails
 - Restrooms
 - Parking
 - Signage
- Wildland Urban Interface safety
 - Managed target shooting
- Weed and Vegetation Management
- Wildfire prevention

West Desert District Recreation Site Locations



Fillmore Field Office Little Sahara Recreation Area

What we're doing:

- New visitor center, completed May 2023.
- White Sands Campground
 Replacement Project 2024
 - Great American Outdoors Act
 - Six new vault toilets
 - Two new flush toilets
 - Three paved loop roads
 - RV back-in and pull through parking pads
 - ADA accessibility







Salt Lake Field Office Bonneville Salt Flats

What we're doing:

 Working with interagency researchers to understand and incorporate new science into management.

 Continuing the collaboration with the BSF Working Group.





Salt Lake Field Office Fivemile Pass Recreation Area

What we're doing:

- Constructed North staging area/parking lot
- Constructed South Staging Area/Parking Lot
- Need supplementary rules to charge fees.







Salt Lake Field Office Simpson Springs / Pony Express

What we're doing:

- Simpson Springs
 Campground upgrades
 - New picnic tables
 - Two new vault toilets
 - New parking pads
 - ADA site and restroom
 - New group site 2025
- National Historic Trail route cultural inventory next year.







Salt Lake Field Office - West Mountain



- Close to urban areas in Utah County
 - Popular target shooting area
 - User created OHV routes
 - Cultural sites
 - Hiking/equestrian
- What we're doing:
 - Installed jersey barriers and signage to deter target shooting hazard to Genola
 - Working on a target shooting closure for south end of Mountain.
 - Working with Payson City for designated OHV track and trails



Salt Lake Field Office Transcontinental Railroad

What we are doing:

- Travel stories app for route stops
- RR grade/road fixes
- New education and information kiosks
- Pursuing funding to preserve historic culverts and trestles
- Partnership with Golden
 Spike NHP



Salt Lake Field Office Non-Motorized Trails - Oquirh Mountains



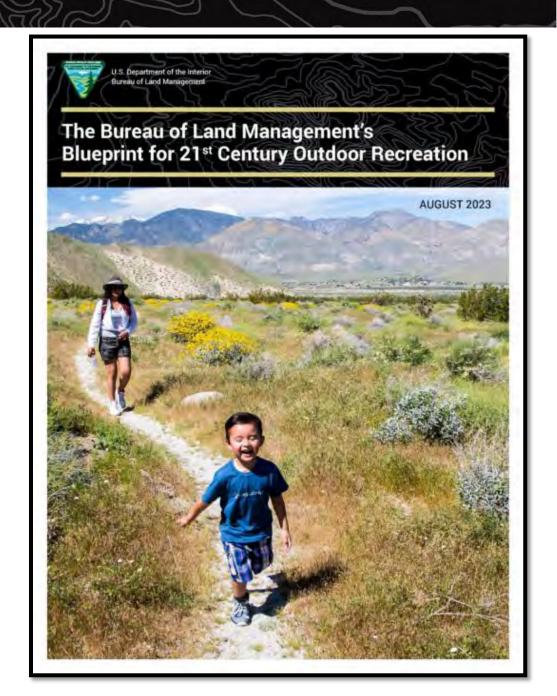
Butterfield Canyon Trail System

What we're doing:

- Mountain biking and hiking in the Oquirh Mountains
- Right-of-ways to local governments for trail building and maintenance.
- Working with SL County, Tooele County, Eagle Mountain City for construction of several trails, trailheads/parking lots
- Participated in Butterfield Trail grand opening with SL County
- Popular event location for trail running and mountain biking.

UT Recreation Blueprint

- BLM Recreation Blueprint 2025
- Meeting with partners Bryce Canyon, UT in September.
- Seeking engagement and feedback from partners and stakeholders.



Conclusion

- Population increases around Public Lands.
- Outdoor sports increasing popularity
 - Target shooting
 - Off Highway Vehicles
 - Mountain biking
 - Day use during shoulder seasons
 - RV camping
 - New campgrounds needed
- BLM will continue to pursue funding and staff to best manage our WDD Public Lands





QUESTIONS

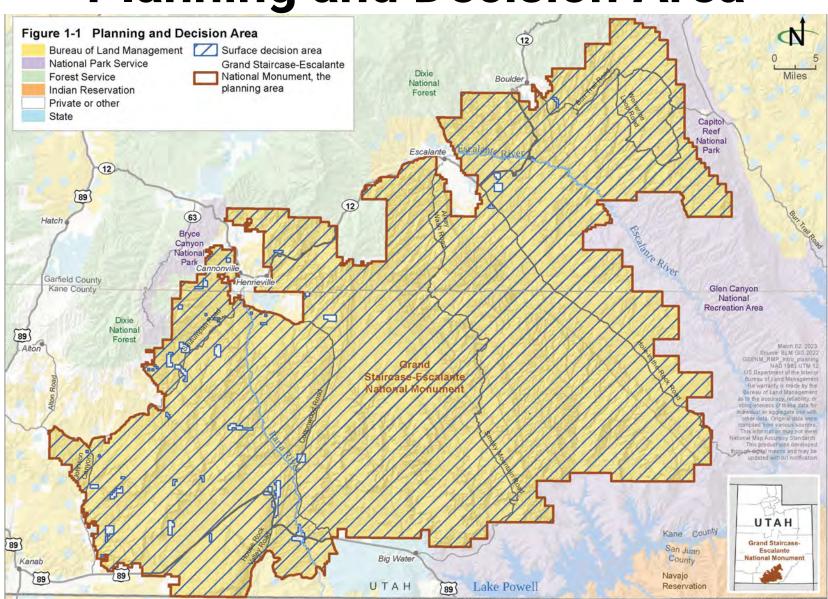


Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement Updates



Planning and Decision Area



Project Schedule

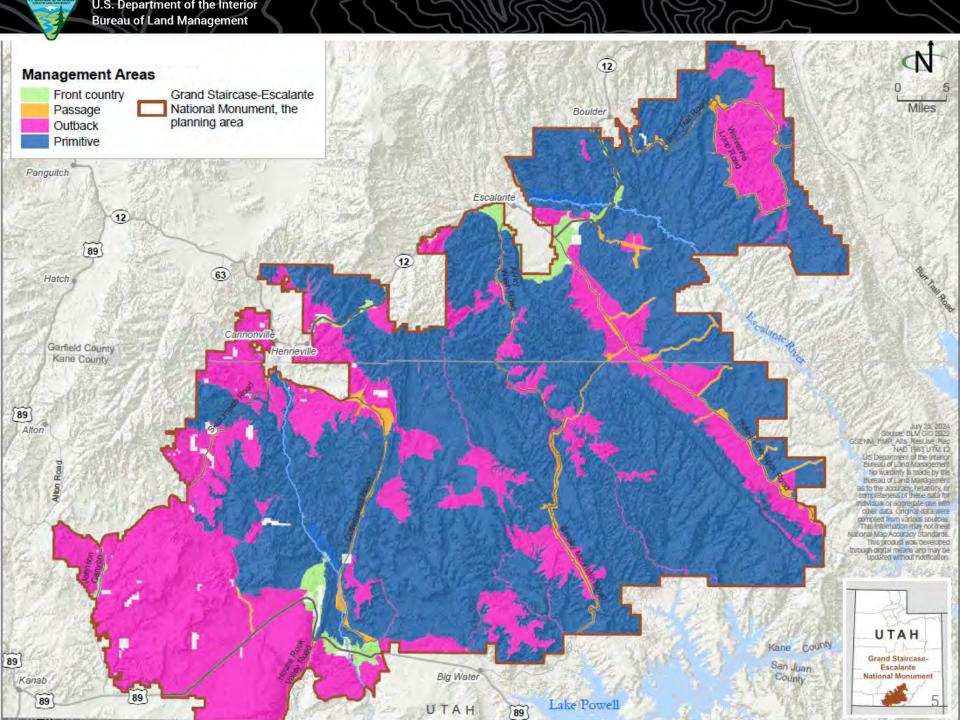
Milestone	Dates	Updated Dates	Status
Notice of Intent	July 29, 2022	-	Complete
Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement	August 11, 2023	-	Complete
90-day Public Comment Period	August 11 – November 9, 2023	-	Complete
Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement	May 31, 2024	August 23, 2024	Upcoming
30-day Protest Period	May 31 – June 30, 202 4	August 23 – September 22, 2024	
60-day Governor's Consistency Review (runs concurrent with 30-day protest)	May 31 – July 30, 2024	August 23 – October 22, 2024	
Approved Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision	September 19, 2024	December 12, 2024	

Management areas were developed to emphasize the protection and maintenance of intact and resilient landscapes while allowing for discretionary uses in appropriate settings that are consistent with the protection of GSENM objects provided in Proclamation 10286.

Four management areas

- Front Country Area
- Passage Area
- Outback Area
- Primitive Area

*This management approach is very similar to the management framework included in the 2000 GSENM Monument Management Plan.



Front Country Area- 36,600 acres

Focal point for visitation, this area provides recreation facilities that could accommodate large groups.

- Developed Recreational Infrastructure
 - Primary day-use sites (e.g., visitor centers and contact stations)
 - Developed trailheads and educational interpretation sites
 - Developed campgrounds
 - Mix of paved and unpaved roads and trails to accommodate motorized and mechanized travel on designated routes.
- Group size limits- 75 people
- OHV Area designation- OHV Limited, limited to designated routes.

Passage Area- 53,000 acres

Secondary area for visitation, less developed than the front country area, the passage area provides access to recreation destinations.

- Basic Recreational Infrastructure
 - Additional trailheads and educational interpretation sites
 - Day-use picnic sites
 - Small campgrounds and designated camping areas
 - Mix of paved and unpaved routes and trails to accommodate motorized and mechanized travel on designated routes.
- Group size limit- 25
- OHV Area designation- OHV limited, limited to designated routes

Outback Area- 558,700 acres

Provides a self-directed visitor experience while accommodating motorized and mechanized use.

- Recreational facilities would be rare and provided only when essential for resource protection.
- Unpaved routes and trails to accommodate motorized and mechanized access on designated routes.
- Dispersed camping
- Group size limit: 25
- OHV Area Designation- OHV limited, limited to designated routes.

Primitive Area- 1,217,100 acres

Undeveloped experience, primitive, and self-directed visitor experience (Includes all Wilderness Study Areas, protected lands with wilderness characteristics, and research natural areas).

- Recreation facilities nearly nonexistent
- Non-motorized and non-mechanized access (e.g., hiking and equestrian use)
- Dispersed camping
- Group size limit: 12
- OHV Area Designation- OHV Closed, closed to public motorized use.

Project Milestone Schedule

Milestone	Dates	Status
Notice of Intent	July 29, 2022	Complete
Draft RMP/EIS	August 11, 2023	Complete
Proposed RMP/Final EIS	August 23, 2024	Upcoming
Approved RMP/ROD	December 12, 2024	

For more information and access to planning resources (e.g., project updates, NEPA documents, maps, and supporting GIS data, etc.), visit the BLM's ePlanning website.

Project webpage: https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2020343/510





Bears Ears National Monument August 2024 Resource Advisory Committee Meeting Update





BLM 2024 Summer Internships

- BLM hosted paid internships with San Juan County high schools
- Real field work experience:
 - Wildlife biology
 - Archaeology
 - Range Management
 - Recreation
 - Wildfire Management
 - Law enforcement
- 19 students worked up to 5 days each
- Canyonlands Natural History Association provided funding









Public Comments

Public comment period:

March 8, 2024 - June 11, 2024

Comments received:

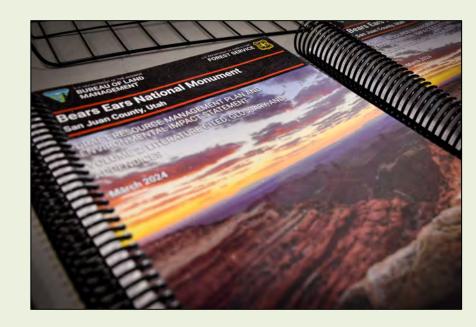
• <u>Total</u>: 18,975

Form Letters: 16,674

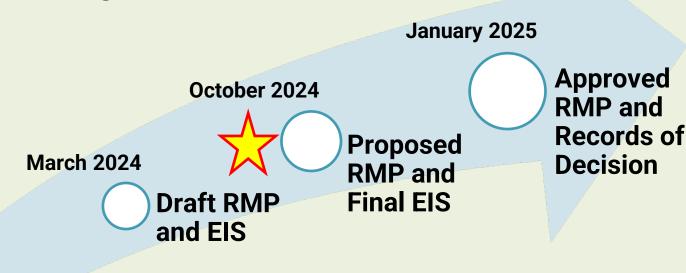
• <u>Unique</u>: 1,873

Common Comment Themes:

- Access
- Positives/negatives of grazing
- Supporting use of Traditional Indigenous Knowledge



Project Timeline



August-October 2022

Public Scoping Period

August 2022

NOI Issued



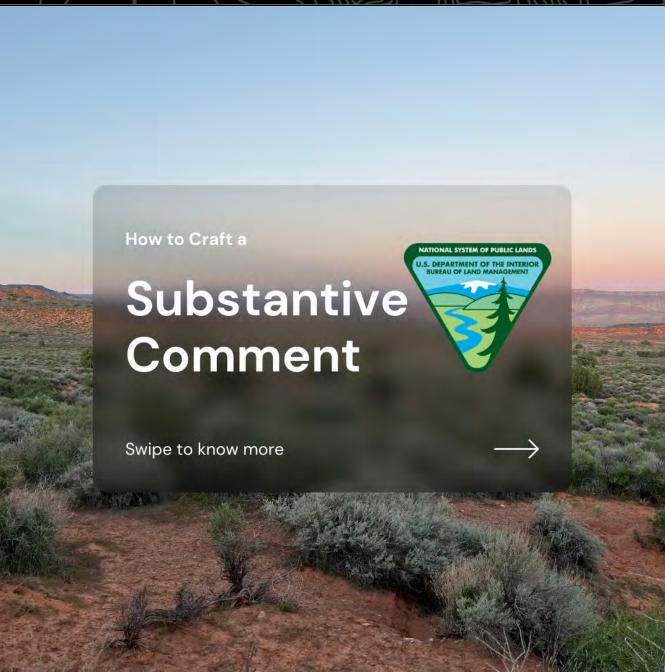
Next Steps

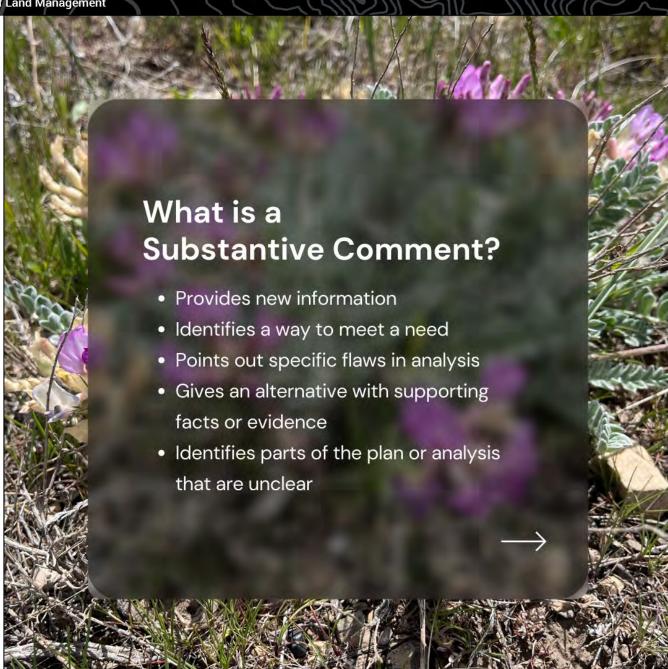
- Review and respond to public comments
- Develop a proposed plan in consideration of public comments
- Release proposed plan to public anticipated in October 2024
 - 30-day protest period
 - 60-day Governor's consistency review
- Record of Decision anticipated January 2025

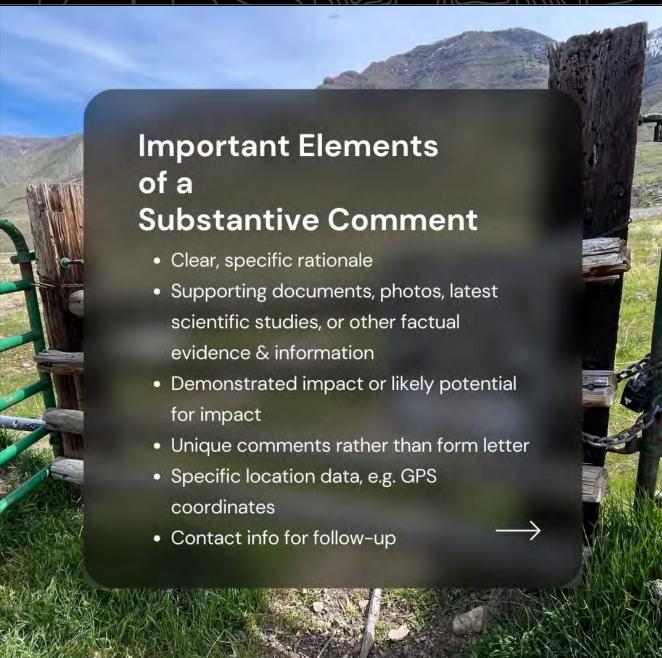
Questions?











Example of a **Substantive Comment**

"The reasoning for closing Route XYZ in this TMP is flawed. As evidenced by the attached photos, dated October 2023, this road is very well maintained and accessible. While it is labeled redundant in the plan, this track avoids a nearby cultural site in a more practical way than other social trails."

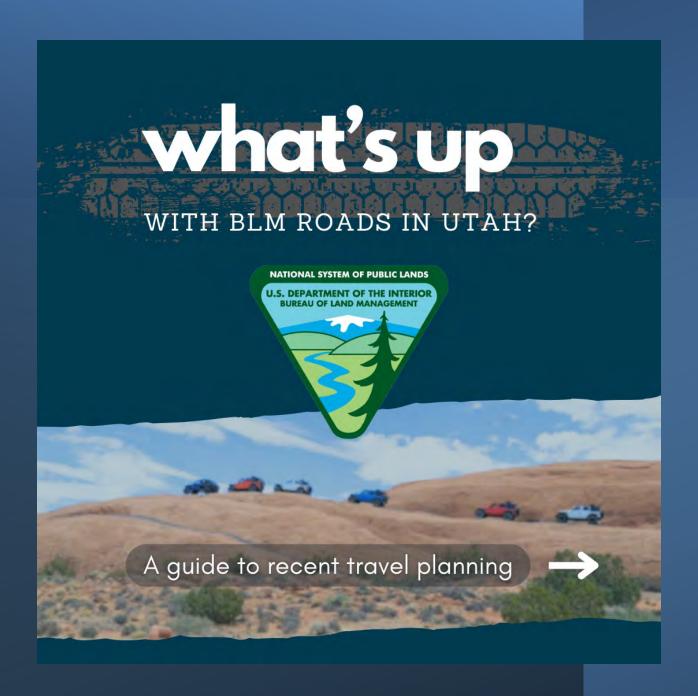
Avoid: Unrelated topics or projects Only voicing opinions • Simply "voting" for a proposed action or alternative • Emotional stories without facts • Form letters, which are treated as one comment

Example of a Non-Substantive Comment

"We should not be closing any roads. This is public land. I don't like any of the closures in the action alternatives. You should choose Alternative A."



Making Your Comment Visit the project's ePlanning page Click "Participate Now" to provide electronic comment or to find other options available Submit your comment within the public comment period time frame Visit www.blm.gov/utah for more information NATIONAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC LANDS .S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIO



Overview Of TMP

- Utah BLM is focused on the 11 TMPs identified in the 2017 settlement agreement.
- Three TMPs have been completed. The next 8 TMPs will be worked on over the next four years
- Current TMPs are only focused on OHV designations
- An OHV is any public motorized vehicle that can travel over natural terrain
- OHV designations include Open, Limited or Closed.
- TMP decisions are based on protecting resources, promoting visitor safety and minimizing conflicts between user groups.

in focus

Labyrinth Canyon/Gemini Bridges TMP

- Completed in fall of 2023
- Closed 300 miles of routes
- Decision appealed by multiple parties/No stay was granted
- Moab Field Office is currently implementing route closures.
- Multiple parties have filed lawsuits against the final decision.

in focus

San Rafael Swell TMP

- Completed scoping period, preliminary route evaluations, studies, presented draft alternatives and maps, and public comment period
- Next steps review comments and stakeholder input and develop final travel network.
- Final TMP to be signed in winter of 2024

San Rafael Swell TMP

Draft Alternatives:

A is the status quo. Alternatives are +/- existing route mileage.

	OPEN	LIMITED	CLOSED
A	1,330	99	732
B	-218	-17	+235
C	+192	+81	-274
D	+594	+84	-679

Henry Mountains and Fremont Gorge TMP

- Completed preliminary route network and evaluations released to the public, cultural and wildlife studies completed, reviewed all public input provided during public input period
- Next steps draft environmental assessment and route network alternatives open for public comment in September 2024
- Final TMP to be signed in winter of 2024

Henry Mountains and Fremont Gorge TMP -Preliminary Data

Draft Alternatives:

A is the status quo. Alternatives are +/- existing route mileage.

	OPEN	LIMITED	CLOSED
A	1,783	66	440
B	-338	-44	+383
C	-19	-49	+69
D	+112	-52	-60

Trail Canyon TMP

- Completed scoping period, preliminary route evaluations, and studies
- Next steps draft environmental assessment and route network alternatives, open for public comment in November 2024
- Final TMP to be signed in Spring of 2025

Delores River TMP

- Completed scoping period
- Preliminary alternatives and route evaluations released to the public in September 2024
- Next steps draft environmental assessment and route network alternatives, open for public comment in Spring 2025
- Final TMP to be signed in Spring/Summer of 2025



questions?

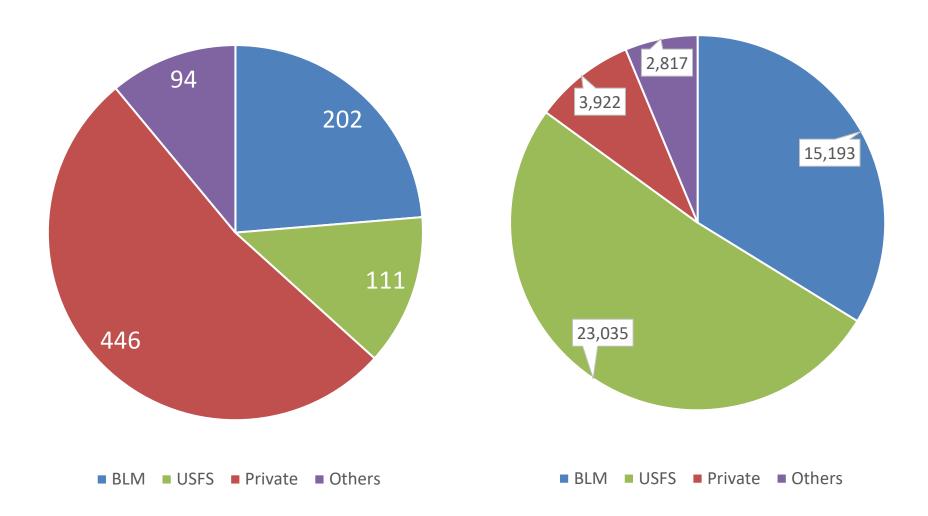
Dave Jacobson
Travel and Transportation
Lead – Utah State Office

BLM Utah Fire & Aviation



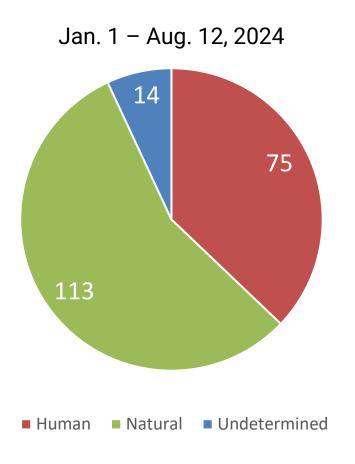
Wildfire Starts & Acres Burned

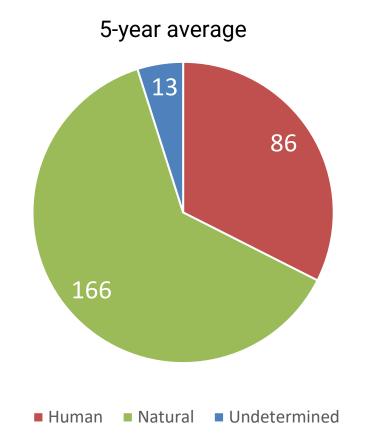
By agency, January 1 - Aug 12, 2024



Wildfire Starts, by cause

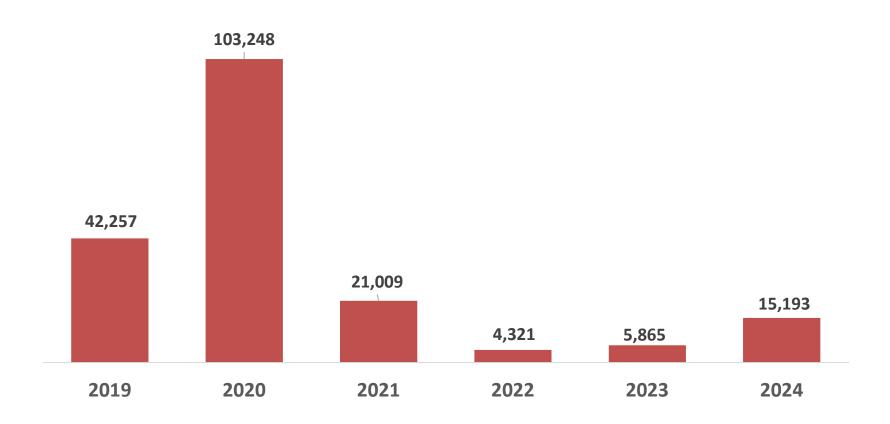
BLM Utah managed lands only





Acres Burned

BLM Utah managed lands only 2024 Data is for January 1 – August 12



Aviation



705,124

GALLONS OF RETARDANT USED IN FIGHTING WILDFIRES

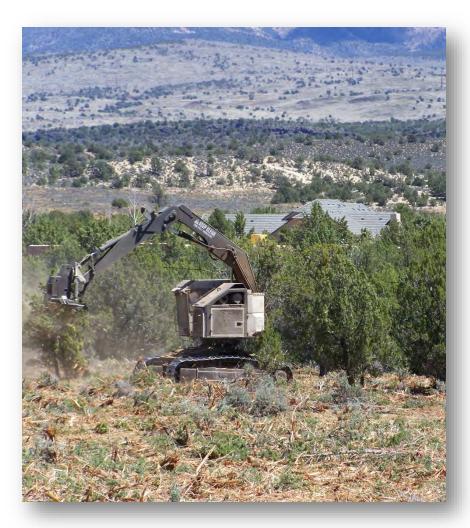


Data provided for January 1 – July 26, 2024

Fuels Management

118,600 TARGETED ACRES, FY 24
53,500 ACRES COMPLETED

UTILIZING \$18.0 MILLION
WITH \$12.3 MILLION
BEING PROVIDED BY THE
BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW





Fuels Targeted Treatment Acres FY24



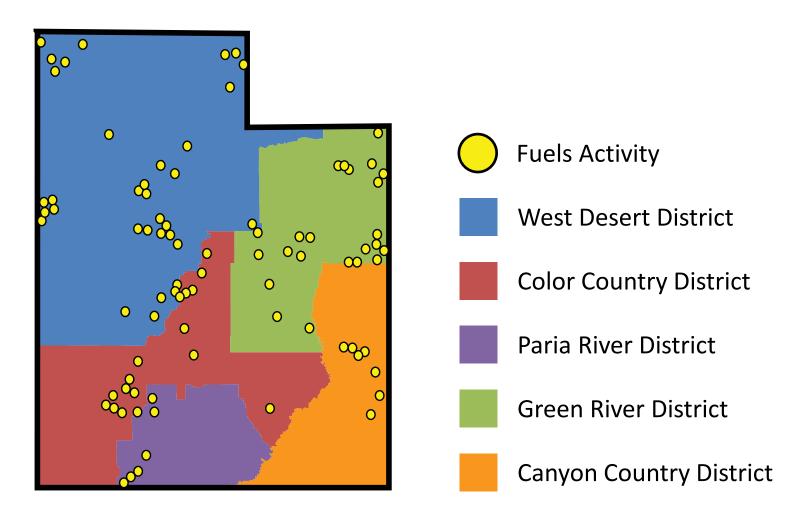




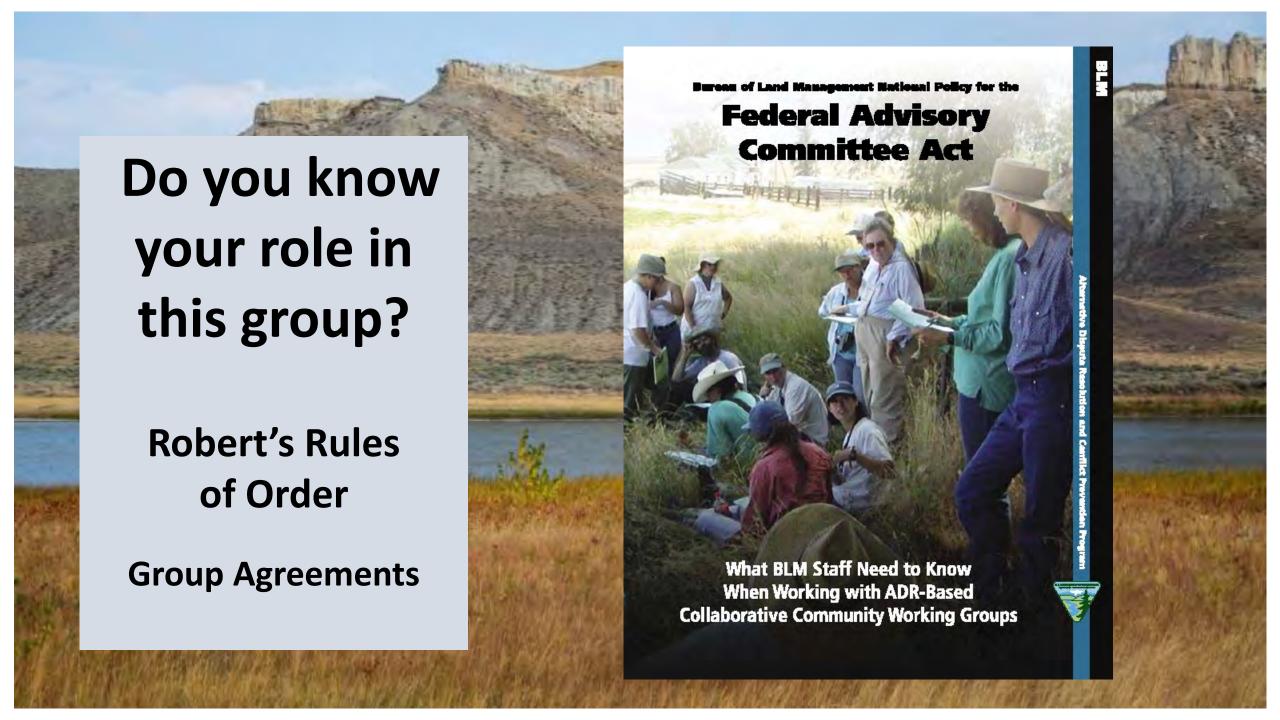




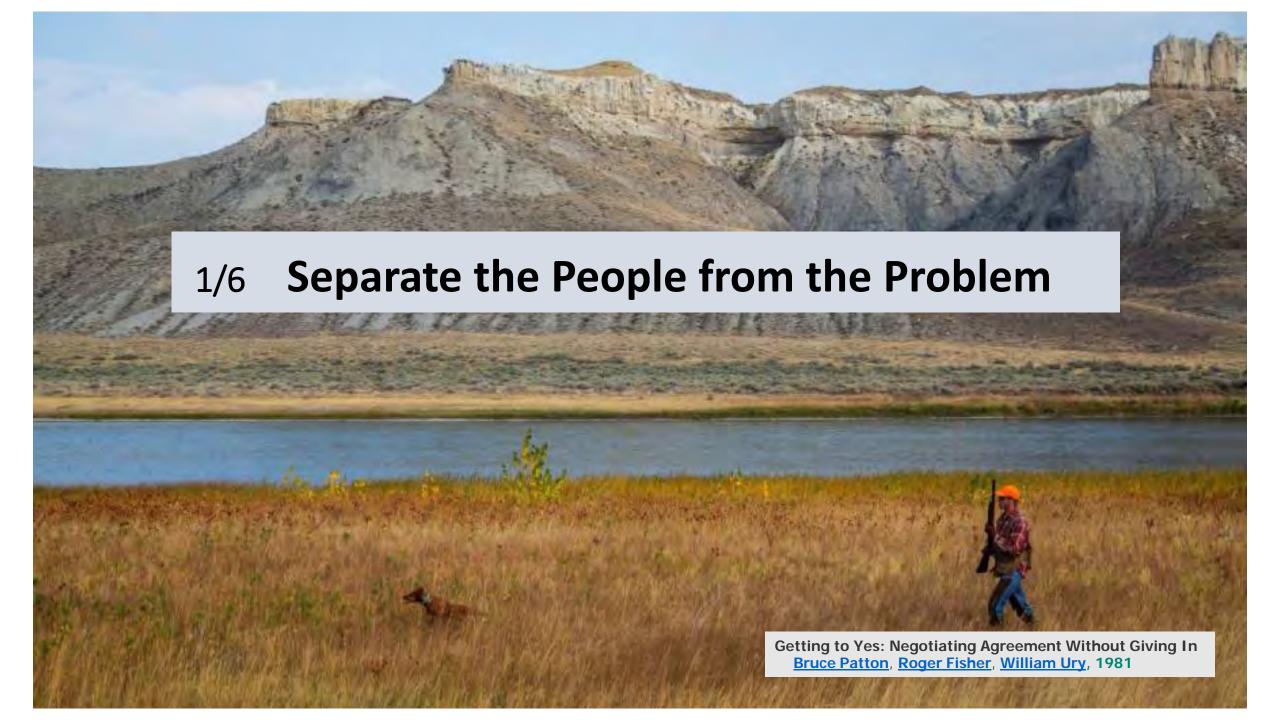
Fuels Targeted Treatments FY24







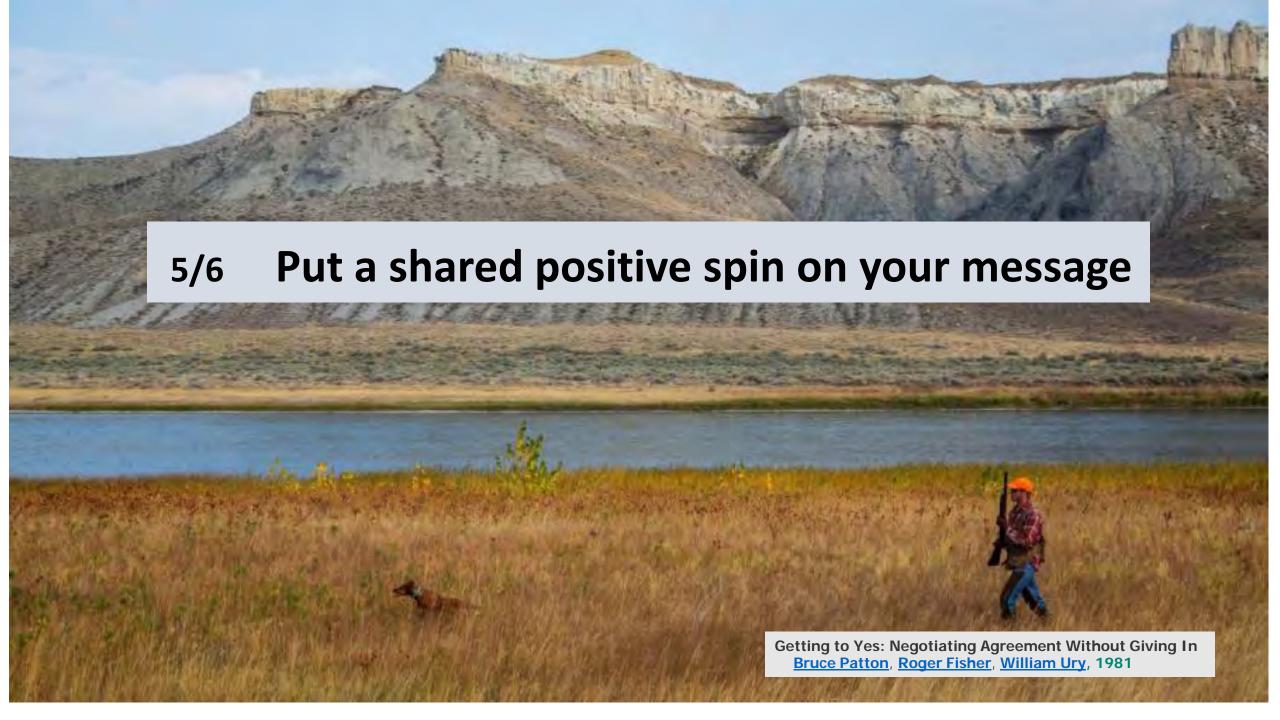


















Full Public Comment to the Utah Resource Advisory Council

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment today. I am Theresa Barbour, Executive Director of Oregon Wild Horse Organization. We are a national nonprofit organization with members in all 50 states and field volunteers in all western states currently managing wild horses/burros by the BLM.

According to your agenda, later today, you will be discussing conflict resolution. We often find conflict with very little resolution. Recently, we applied for a water hauling permit for the Muddy Creek HMA horses. It was denied with claims that it stops these horses from migrating away from the Mackie Pond on McKay Flat and that wild animals need to depend on natural water sources or fend for themselves.

I have been involved in this situation since 2017 when the same problem occurred. Then, in 2020 and again in 2024, the Mackie Pond became a death trap for the wild horses as it dried, and some horses got stuck in the mud. They have died or been euthanized, sometimes several days after BLM personnel are notified.





The above heartbreaking pictures are the mare and foal that BLM euthanized days after being alerted of the situation.

These horses cannot "fend" for themselves when BLM allows ranchers to siphon water from natural water sources and allow more cattle on the land than wild horses. Those cattle deplete the natural water sources for about half of the year (depending on the allotments' use dates). This leaves seriously diminished water levels. It also acclimates the horses to livestock water

provided during months from late summer to late spring. The cows are off during the driest months, so BLM blames the weather for the lack of water.





Above are pictures of a rancher's water truck and tracks from numerous trips in and out of a pond on the Muddy Creek HMA.



Water being diverted 90 miles from the HMA, leaving a trickle in the creek leading to the HMA.

The part of the herd that lives on McKay Flat does not migrate. Some bands may, but many do not, and we do not know why that is. It could be the routine harassment by OHV riders, or memories of prior gathers where traps were placed, or simply elder horses with knowledge of where alternate water sources are. Once the horses are weakened from lack of water, they cannot make the trip from McKay Flat to Muddy Creek, so they need water improvement.



The BLM claimed that the horses have left the dry pond, however this picture was taken after that claim was made and after they euthanized the mare and foal pictured above. The same day another weak mare and foal were seen there.

That improvement can be achieved by stopping the removal of any natural water for livestock, decreasing the number of livestock permitted on the HMA, doing water improvement projects to provide better water sources year round, or water hauling either by BLM themselves or volunteer advocate groups such as ours.

This problem has been a conflict for at least 7 years, and again we see no acceptable solutions. This ends with dying horses and BLM doing gather and removal operations. We urge this Council to collaborate with us and consider recommendations to BLM to improve the habitat for the wild horses of the Muddy Creek HMA, and an emergency recommendation to replace the stolen water now so that no more horses die this year.

Thank you for your time.
Theresa Barbour, CEO
Oregon Wild Horse Organization