



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

Utah Resource Advisory Council

March 19, 2025
Meeting Minutes
Virtual

Council Members Present:

- Matt Preston (Designated Federal Officer), Tyler Thompson (Chair), Bill Cox, Sim Weston, Cameron Cuch, Patrick Harty, Neal Clark, Brandon Yardley, Clif Koontz (Vice Chair), Rick Draney, Joan Hayes, Mary Lane Poe, Karen Goodfellow, Jay Tanner

Public & BLM Staff Present:

- David Hercher, Michael Ahlering, Jeremy Dyer, Chelsea Kimball, Harry Barber, Mike Innes, Cindy Gallo, Troy Henrie, Annika Krilov, Dolly Sanchez, Douglas Rowles, Evan Glenn, Janelle Ghorso, Janice Hayden, Kathryn Key, Larry Ellertson (Sen. Curtis), Melanie McCabe, Michael Fossenkemper, Mike Popejoy, MJ Jewkes, Andy Farrell, Ade Nelson, Gina Palma, Chris Delaney, Theresa Barbour, Tim Shoemaker, Tina Banks.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Designated Federal Officer, Matt Preston

Council Chair, Tyler Thompson

Welcomed everyone for coming to the virtual meeting. Went through and had the council members introduce themselves that were in attendance.

Topic 1: New Administration changes, executive orders administrative priorities, and energy projects

Presenter: Matt Preston, BLM Utah State Director, acting

- Secretary Burgum been in office for a month.
- Nominees in place in DOI that have yet to be voted on and confirmed in the Senate.
- BLM Director nominee is Kathleen Sgamma. In the meantime, Jon Raby is our acting director
- Utah State Director position still vacant with Matt Preston serving as acting.
- Personnel Management: Direction from the President looking to make government smaller, in diverse ways, DRP (Deferred Resignation Program), voluntary resignations or voluntary separations just this week, management in terms of probationary employees. President asked for reorganization plans and potential for the RIF (Reduction in Force)

- Land management has some clear direction from the President and Secretary, particularly in energy and critical minerals. The Secretary has issued orders for energy. New executive order on timber.
- Dingell Land Exchange finished, Upcoming oil and gas lease sales, Lease sale in the Vernal area. Preparing for 3rd and 4th quarter lease sales. Skyline Coal mine expansion in Price, Coppermine expansion in Moab.

Questions:

- Tyler asked, can you give us numbers of what your reduction of force statewide, of what you guys have had to do? Matt indicated those numbers are for internal use only for now.
- Tyler asked, do you guys know who accepted the deferred resignation? Do you know those numbers at least? Matt affirmed knowledge.
- Rick – Are you seeing a trend or an area that's going to be a greater need to fill whether it's administration, district level or services? What the shortest time frame that appointments have ever been through the process of nomination and selection? And what the longest period? Matt responded Senate confirmations can vary in timeline. As far as Utah personnel, there's a lot of unknowns on broader reorganization plans. Having conversations about centralization of services, looking at the organization as a whole and how to do things from a leaner approach.
- Bill – On projects that you're in the middle of with funding being appropriated and projects being identified and some projects are going forward of those funds been paused on for some of these projects? Matt responded that some of this depends on the project and "the color of money." Some have stopped payment but not contracts to give leadership an opportunity to review. There is an additional layer of review of all contracts. Anything over \$50,000 is going to the Department for review. Financial assistance agreements are getting a little scrutiny. We are communicating what we're doing in those projects.
- Tyler - Have you seen an organization around that review? Curious if you're seeing contracts and agreements move through a process? Matt responded there is a process now and it is working. We meet with our procurement team, it goes up to headquarters, then it moves up to Department of Government Efficiency Staff (DOGE) in Department of Interior (DOI).
- Mary Lane – Have there been any regions that have seen a higher concentration of a loss of staff that you are a little worried might be affected by the lack of support services? Matt responded the biggest hit has been to the state office support services but every district, every division in the state has had a downsizing.
- Karen – How is the best ways for us to support you and the mission, while also preserving our land and resources? Is there any timeline for replacing the people that our leaving our RAC? Matt emphasized the importance of providing feedback to him and the BLM.
- Tyler - What about the return to the office directive? Matt indicated the President asked for folks to be back in the office full time. Folks are adjusting. It has impacted lots of folks with commute time, work-life balance. We do still have some opportunity for telework situationally.

- Rick – Is there any updates on any other ongoing projects that the BLM is engaged in in Utah? Matt touted success in geothermal. We approved the Cape Fervo in Cedar City Field office. Newcastle geothermal project approved in Iron County. Cross Tie transmission project we have been working of for a few years in Central Utah over into Central Nevada. New proposal for power line in Spanish Fork. Red Cliffs Warner Valley Land Exchange in Washington County.
- Dean – What the status of the Trans West Express? Matt indicated the company is building, they are meeting with the field office which is the first stage in the construction. The Gateway south is built and believed it was energized now.
- Rick – Updates on travel management plans (TMP) or resource management plans (RMP)? Matt said we finished three TMPs during the Biden administration: San Rafael Swell, Labyrinth/Gemini Bridges in Moab, Henry Mountains/Fremont Gorge. Finished RMP Bears Ears and Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument (GSENM).
- Tyler – Any changes on NEPA process? Matt said NEPA is undertaking vast changes the last couple of months. He mentioned CQ had NEPA regulations for decades, and no authority to implement those regulations. There are also department NEPA regulations that we follow, so we still have a regulatory set that we are following. President came in and issued an executive order that directed CQ to largely rescind those regulations. For each department to update their own consistent with some of the CQ. The Department approved a bunch of new categorical exclusions for the BLM at the end of the Biden administration and we adopted a bunch of other agencies categorical exclusions.

Topic 2: Utah RAC & MAC membership update

Presenter: Matt Preston

- There are 4 RACs in the state: Utah RAC, Bear's Ears MAC, GSENM MAC, San Rafael Swell RAAC.
- Utah RAC: no vacancies, there are 9 members whose terms expire after this meeting.
 - 24 applicants for the vacancies for the RAC.
 - The nominations go through Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office (PLPCO) to the governor, then to DOI headquarters for approval.
- Bears Ears: 6 vacancies, it is a 15 member RAC, there is 5 additional upcoming vacancies, 13 applications the governor's office has concurred on those applicants, so they have moved up to headquarters.
- GSENM MAC: 9 vacancies, 7 applicants for those vacancies
- San Rafael Swell: 1 vacancy, 3 applicants for the vacancy

Questions:

- Tyler – Until those nominees are approved or not the Utah RAC is nonfunctioning correct? Matt confirmed. Cindy Gallo indicated the RAC loses quorum as of March 23, but the RAC can still meet and discuss. Remaining members cannot make recommendations until there is a quorum again.
- Karen - Do we get sent notification when the other RACs meet? Cindy affirms we can begin to send notice when other Utah RACs are meeting. So far there are none scheduled for 2025. Karen, Mary Lane, and Rick agree they would like to meet as a council without a quorum.

Topic 3: Paria River District Updates

Presenter: Harry Barber

- Video was shown of the Tilted Mesa Trail
- GSENM boundaries and KFO boundaries
- 3 Partners & employees highlighted: Katja Knolls, Lisa Church, Madi (SUU intern)
- Across the Paria River District (PRD) landscape, slot canyons, arches, Calf Creek, & Cosmic Navel
- Resources – list of 31 resources highlighted cultural resources, paleontology, recreation: trail maintenance & development, wildlife.
- Resources: Fire and Fuel – List of acres of seed areas prescribed burns, talked about Deer Springs Fire
- Resources: Minerals – minimal program for this area
- Resources: Range – went over grazing allotments available grazing permittees.
- Resources: Recreation - campground and day use fees FY 2024 & FY 2025 for GSENM and KFO
- Resources: Forest – numbers of how much have been sold for FY 2024 & FY 2025 fuelwood, post, seeds, wildlings, Christmas trees for GSENM and KFO
- Travel Management Plan – Trail Canyon, Paunsaugunt
- Successes - Tilted Mesa MTB Trail System, Panguitch MTB Course NICA approved course, Calf Creek Phase 1 completed Phase 2 planned to be completed 2025 & 2026
- Future Projects & Challenges – List of programs that have future projects
- GSENM - completion of RMP, have a science plan

Questions:

- Bill – What is the difference between the Tilted Mesa Course, and Panguitch MTB Course, why is one an approved course and one is not? Harry – NICA has requirements such as a camping area, a parking area. Tilted did not have as much room for some of NICA requirements.
- Patrick – sent by message asking about Historic Trails? Harry – There are historic trails around here Bunting trail, Greenhalgh, Old Spanish trail that we have started to mark.
- Joan – What are the water resources for the area. Harry – Snow melt and rain are important for us. Most of the water we rely on comes in the summer in terms of the monsoons. The water we get here in Kanab is from springs, so we rely on spring recharge.
- Joan – Is there a fee for the Buckskin Gulch? Harry - There is a day use fee you can pay that right at the trailhead.
- Rick – How the fee election process is working? Are more people adopting the online/digital and are we seeing improvement of people actually paying? Harry – For us it seems like it is a positive move according to our people. It is also safer for our rangers because they are not having to deal with cash and collecting the iron rangers.

Topic 4: Fire Outlook

Presenter: Chris Delaney & Gina Palma

- Gina presented a slide show Seasonal Outlook for Utah
- Precipitation - below normal precipitation
- Snowpack – below 25% normal in the south, up in the north we are closer to normal
- Drought Monitor & Outlook – not expecting any improvements, drought will persist or even intensify, north moderate drought
- Drought Change Last 12 months – seen severe to extreme drought developing over the south

- Model Precipitation “Forecast” thru April 2nd – talked about some storms coming through for the north, not expecting much precipitation over the south.
- Predictive Services Outlook March – June 2025 – cooler wet pattern continuing into the end of April. April showing a warmer drier trend. Look at a normal timing for moisture for the south in June. For the north we will see the snowpack start to melt.
- June 2025 – If things stay dry and warm in May, we are looking at above normal fire potential.
- Organization of Program - 383 permit and seasonal employees, list of people involved in the fire program.
- BLM Utah Fire Units – Map of the districts, 3 programs: West Desert, Color Country, and Desert River, covers 5 districts
- Wildfire Response – 2 Helitack crews, 4 water tenders, 1 interagency hotshot crew, 31 out of 42 engines, and 3 dozer.
- Fuels Management Explained – showed some pictures of before and after of treated areas. Also talked about different treatment that are used.
- Planned Fuels Work by District FY2025 – Wanting to have 85,000 acres treated

Questions:

- Bill – How is the hiring freeze and early retirement going to affect our fire personnel in number, being able to respond, and resources? Chris – There was a cap for seasonal employees for all the bureaus, Utah was capped at 83. The freeze did slow us down we are 60 to 90 days behind. Trying to staff as many suppression resources as possible. Staffing 31 out of 43 fire engines statewide.
- Dean – Are the charts (shown on the slide show) available to the general public on a website? Gina – Yes, Great Basin Coordination Center website. <https://gacc.nifc.gov/gbcc/outlooks.php>
- Brandon – What is the process of getting a project in our area or what is a good area for a project? Tyler – Contact the person in wildlife resources for your area.
- Bill – How many full time employee where you able to hire in the last couple of years for fire to keep year round? Chris – I don’t have the exact number, we convert our engine captains for career season to full time in 2020. 38 of the 43 chose to go full time. Over the last four years we have added 40 to 42 positions, most of those are in the preparedness program. That is your firefighters, boots on the ground.
- Tyler – Has the pay bump been made permanent? Chris – For firefighter in 2021 we had BIL funding. It was either 50% of your base pay or \$20,000, whichever was less. That was a temporary fix. As of Friday, March 14th, the permanent wild land fire pay reform was passed as part of the continuing resolution.
- Tyler – How is the base fuels funding coming along? Chris – BLM side is stagnant on the base funding. We have been able to move more of our projects dollars over to some other funding sources such as BIL dollars and will be able to do future projects if that funding goes away.
- Melanie - How many ADs does Utah hire for 2025? Chris – We don’t have any ADs out of the Utah State Office, they are hired at our local districts. BLM has not been given a cap on the number of ADs that we can or cannot hire.
- Joan – How do you determine what projects you are going to do? Chris – There are two ways: one is in house and then there is the Watershed Restoration Initiative process. WRI gets together and brings areas of concern and ranks the projects that is a regional group, then they pass those ideas to statewide, those projects are elevated between five regional areas they rank them and then send them to WRI for funding. If the project is done in house, we try to work with others and may have multiple

phases. They are put into a national database, we work with the state office for the funding and then that funding is passed down to the districts.

- Joan – How do we find out what projects are going to be happening in our region? Chris – The best way is to talk to the district managers. On the WRI website there is an interactive map.
<https://wri.utah.gov/wri/>

Topic 5: E-Bikes

Presenter: Mike Innes

- Showed a video about Cedar City trail system
- Understanding E-Bikes Classes – Class 1, Class 2, Class 3.
- Draft Proposed Action & Design Features - Cedar City Field Office would like to change 6 trail systems to be class 1 e-bikes. Public education, patrolling, signage, and more directional trails.
- Trail Systems to Authorize – Iron Hills National Recreation, Three Peaks, Evil Water, Beaver Bench, Enoch Bench, Thunderbird Canyon's Trail system
- Industry & Recreation Use Trends – 63% of total growth in sales for e-bikes this is all e-bikes sales. There is an adaptive mountain bike that people with disabilities can use on these trails.
- Common Misconceptions – Speed – The majority of the riders is rarely and some if ever, actually riding at those top speeds.
- Common Misconceptions – Access – People think that trails will be closed
- Common Misconceptions – Trail Damage – Did not see much different between an e-bike and a traditional bike. Was only seen on the trails with turns and grade changes.
- Public Scoping – just end Monday, March 17th, 61 comments received 52 were in support of the project, 8 were opposed, 1 was neither, and 6 were substantive.

Questions:

- Rick – During the comment period was there a consistent approval of the approach of class 1 e-bikes being utilized? Or are they at odds with one another? Mike – Most people are on the same page. We haven't seen any conflict yet with hikers and e-bike users.
- Neal – Have you considered taking a more cautious approach on how you open your trail system to e-bikes? Mike – We are going to start going through all of our comments and taking suggestions and looking at other alternatives.
- Clif - Hoping that the bike industry is working with the BLM to easily identify what is not a Class 1. Consider planning trail opportunities for the other classes and non-classified.

Public Comment Period

- Larry Ellertson (Sen. Curtis) – I perceive and believe is the original mandate of BLM is to manage the lands for multiple use. That is my encouragement and comment for the day.

Topic 6: EXPLORE Act

Presenter: Evan Glenn

- Introduction to the EXPLORE Act – Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Act Outdoor Recreation Experiences Act signed in on January 4th. Combines multiple bills, is 83 pages long and has 35 sections. No allocated funding. Move towards modernized technology, streamlining, permit processes, identify less used locations, supporting gateways, communities and addressing accessibility issues. This is a broad overview and not all encompassing.

- Modernize technology
- Streamline
- Reduce Park Over Crowding
- BLM & Other agencies are currently assessing the Act & development
- (FICOR) Federal Interagency Council on Outdoor Recreation – List of agencies
- Highlight
- Shooting Range
- Filming Permits – If it is 6 people or less, we do not need an additional film permit, and small-scale events do not need to have a permit
- Single Visitation Reporting System for all Agencies – We currently use Recreation Management Information System (RMIS) and other agencies use a different system; it will be a big lift to move these into one system.
- Internet & Cellular Expansion in National Parks & Forest Service Development – this has the power to impact BLM landscapes as there has already been some requests to potential put network towers on BLM land.
- Assessment of accessible outdoor Recreation, Facilities, & Trails
- Opportunities for Military & Veterans – Expanding employment opportunities and helping military and veterans access lesser or free recreation sites
- Changes to SRP Program - Loss of some manager discretion on permits, organized groups of over 75 automatically requires a permit. May see a rework of our BLM fee percentages. Additional reporting requirements, multijurisdictional permits, minimum monitoring requirements and changes some definitions, change to insurance requirements, highly encourages the NEPA approach that streamlines the permitting process, offer digital America the Beautiful passes.

General Recreation

- ORI Funding & Regional Councils – New funding opportunity for recreational landscapes, will help with large-scale projects
- Temporary Restrictions Rule – Closing areas to the public for a short time, for events has become easier.
- Dispersed Camping & Management & Supplementary Rules – When implement a closure of landscapes around camping for dispersed camping or some sometimes at specific sites it requires a publication in the federal register.
- 14 days Stay Limit & 48-hour Unattended Property – the 14-day rule helps us avoid people using public land as a permanent home.

Questions:

- Clif – Appreciates planning efforts where limiting camping to designated dispersed sites is warranted so long as the public is invited to comment on the BLM's site inventory and proposal of which sites to designate. Is there a new process for the management and supplementary rules or are you just reminding us of the old process? Evan – There is no new process, it is just a process we continue to work through, especially in landscape surrounding our new campgrounds.
- Joan – Who is the law enforcement going out and doing the 14 days and 48-hour? Who paying for that law enforcement? Matt – It is our law enforcement that have the authority to give tickets and tell them to move. The rangers will work with law enforcement and report anything that needs pass along.

- Tyler – Just want to add there was a bill passed that takes some funding that comes from the transit tax that can be used for rural counties to help with things like increasing law enforcement, mitigate recreation issues, search & rescue, roads, and trails. Matt – We have great partnerships with our county sheriffs.
- Karen- With the Warner Valley Land Exchange and the Washington County Water Conservancy District how is that going to be managed? What are they going to do with that land until the reservoir is developed in 15 to 20 years? Matt – Not sure but we can certainly be asking those questions.

Council Discussion:

- Future agenda items:
 - Updates from a federal perspective and changes the BLM office is experiencing.
 - Westwater River program in Moab Field Office that may be ready by the fall
 - Update on energy development in the state and what that looks like in terms of renewables and transitioning into some of the other initiatives being put forth by the new administration.
 - The new geothermal project in Color Country
 - Wildlife programs
 - SITLA projects/exchanges
 - Zone 6 in Washington County
 - Water resources
- Future meetings:
 - Continuing members would like to meet in person.
 - Possible locations: Kanab, Cedar City, Moab, Richfield
 - Would like three meetings, middle of the month works well.
 - Want a field tour for each meeting.
 - Avoid Sept. 21-22.
 - Make sure dates don't conflict with elected official schedules/conferences/meetings.
- Tyler and RAC thanked outgoing members for their service, encouraged everyone to stay in touch.

Links Shared in chat:

Information on recently established/approved energy projects as of Dec. 2024

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/d1d09400b5de48cca2d10ab32364cec0>

Video about the San Rafael Swell TMP

<https://youtu.be/0bWto5VjgYs>

Updates on TMPs

<https://www.blm.gov/programs/recreation-and-visitor-services/recreation-programs/travel-and-transportation/travel-management-plans-explained/utah>

GSENM ROD and Approved RMP

https://eplanning.blm.gov/public_projects/2020343/200528424/20125986/251025966/GSENM-ROD-ARMP_20250106_508%20sf%20signed.pdf

GSENM RMP website

<https://www.blm.gov/programs/planning-and-nepa/plans-in-development/utah/gsenm-rmp>

GSENM Science Plan Updates

<https://www.blm.gov/programs/national-conservation-lands/utah/grand-staircase-escalante-national-monument/science-research>

Madison Watkins Story

Storymap

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/3c35a86220d34d39b9b2cfc1e12c00cd/>

Podcast episode

<https://www.colorcountrypodcast.com/12-unearthing-the-past-how-this-southern-utah-student-is-making-her-mark-in-paleontology/>

Paria River District installed a new electronic payment system

<https://www.blm.gov/announcement/paria-river-district-now-offers-contactless-payment-key-recreation-sites>

Great Basin Coordination Center

<https://gacc.nifc.gov/gbcc/outlooks.php>

WRI website

<https://wri.utah.gov/wri/>



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Paria River District

Utah RAC Meeting – March 19, 2025

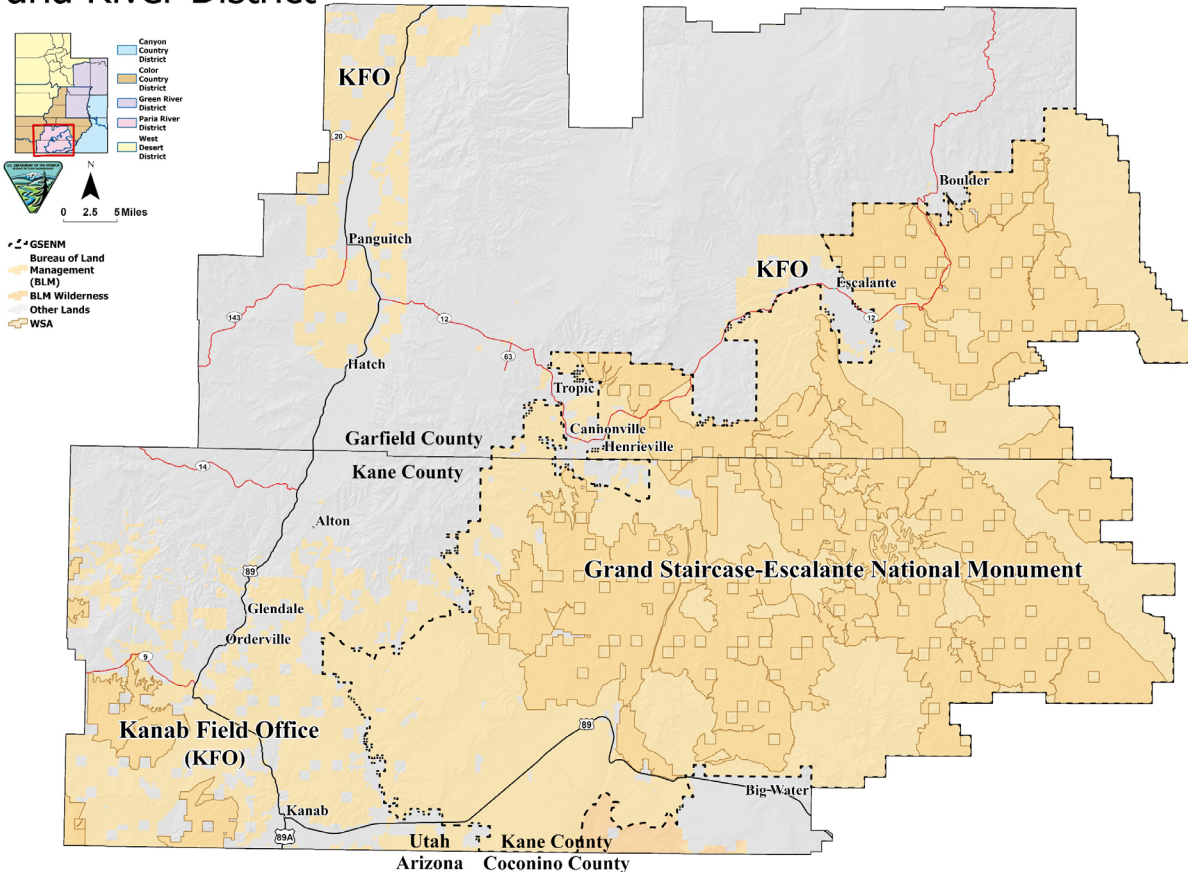




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Paria River District At A Glance

Paria River District



- Includes both the Kanab Field Office and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument
- Approximately 2.3 million acres of Federal land located in Kane and Garfield Counties
- Approximately 52 employees
- Provides multiple-use opportunities for both commercial and personal recreation, livestock grazing and mining to support both local and regional economies



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Employees & Partners

"Many employees at Paria River District have strong ties to their community. They take pride in their work and are committed to building/maintaining strong working relationships with the public and particularly our gateway communities."



#1. Meet Madi, a young paleontologist with a cool story to tell 🦾🌍 Did you know she discovered her first dinosaur at age 14? 🦖🏔️ Learn more about Madi's inspiring story [here](#). 🧑🔬🔍



#2. As part of the interdisciplinary team Lisa monitors and documents the potential impacts of proposed projects on wildlife and its habitat.



Get to know a Monument 'ologist

Lisa Church
Wildlife Biologist

#3. During the summer of 2014, Katja moved to Kanab, Utah, and began working as a paleontology intern. Shortly after, she was hired full-time as the paleontology lab manager for the Monument and graduated with a Master of Science in Geology. Today, she helps manage the paleontology volunteer program.

Get to know a Monument 'ologist



Katja Knoll,
Paleontologist &
Lab Manager



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Across the PRD Landscape





Resources

Multiple Uses managed at the Paria River District

1. Air Quality
2. Natural Areas
3. Cultural Resources
4. Fire & Fuels Management
5. Forage (both wildlife and livestock)
6. Lands and Realty Management
7. Rangeland Management
8. Minerals: Leasable Oil & Gas
9. Minerals: Leasable Other (Coal)
10. Minerals: Locatable (Alabaster, Cobalt)
11. Minerals: Saleable (Sand & Gravel, Riprap)
12. Paleontology
13. Recreation: Special Recreation Management Areas
14. Recreation: Trail Maintenance & Development
18. Riparian Resources
19. Soil & Water Resources
20. Special Designations: Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
21. Special Designations: Wild & Scenic Rivers
22. Special Designations: Wilderness Study Areas
23. Special Designations: Wilderness Areas
24. Historic Trails
25. National Scenic Byway
26. Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument
27. Travel & Transportation
28. Vegetation (including invasive & noxious weeds)
29. Visual Resources
30. Wildlife
31. Woodland & Forest Products



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Resources: Fire & Fuels

2024 Projects	Acres Completed	2025 Projects	Acres Planned
South Canyon Ponderosa RX	108 acres	South Canyon Ponderosa RX	213 acres
Monument Knoll Seeding	1,384 acres	Color Country/ Paria River District Piles	100 acres
Monument Knoll Harrow	345 acres	Sandstone Butte Seeding	1,200 acres
Monument Knoll Lop and Scatter	2,365 acres	Sandstone Butte Bullhog	1,200 acres
Harris Flat Harrow	1,384 acres	Yellowjacket Rabbit Brush Mowing	100 acres
Harris Flat Harrow	160 acres	Oak Flat Plateau Treatment	312 acres
Harris Flat Bullhog	1,384 acres	Table Mountain Seeding	1,000 acres
		Table Mountain Bullhog	1,000 acres
Total	7,130 acres completed		5,125 acres planned



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Resources: Fire & Fuels

Deer Springs Emergency Stabilization and Burned Area Rehabilitation

Restoration Method	Acres treated
Seeded	11,766 acres
Chained	6,961 acres
Bullhog	1,064 acres





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Resources: Minerals

Minerals	Revenue
Leasable (Solid Minerals)	\$304,000
Locatable (Alabaster, Cobalt)	Locatable minerals are not revenue generating products for the BLM
Saleable (Sand, gravel, riprap)	\$140,181
Leasable (Fluid Minerals)	\$629,896.23 Grand average total for 11/2022 thru 10/2023 production

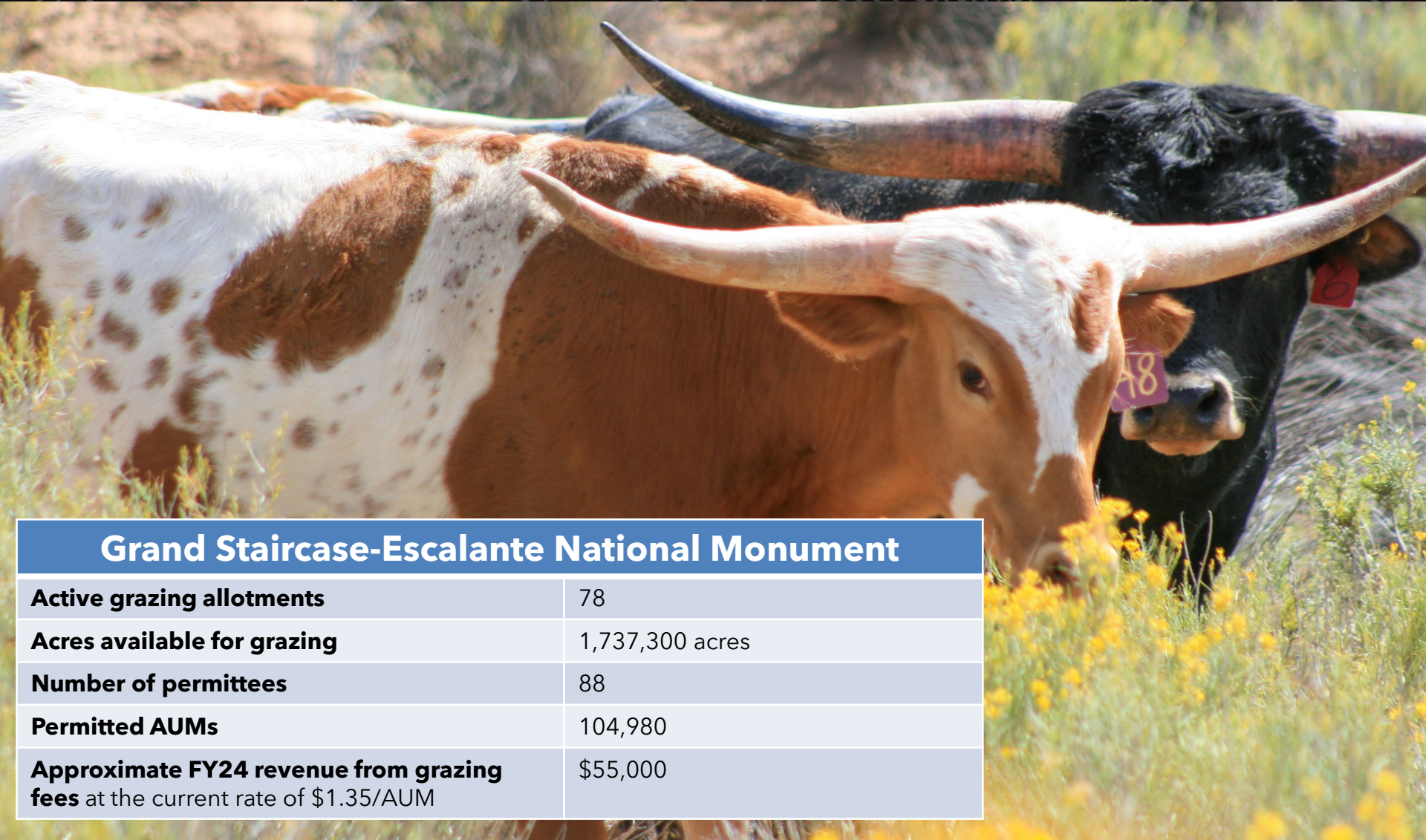
Paria River District provides saleable minerals (riprap, sand & gravel) to state & local government free of charge. These materials are often used for state, county, and city roads, construction projects, etc.





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Resources: Range



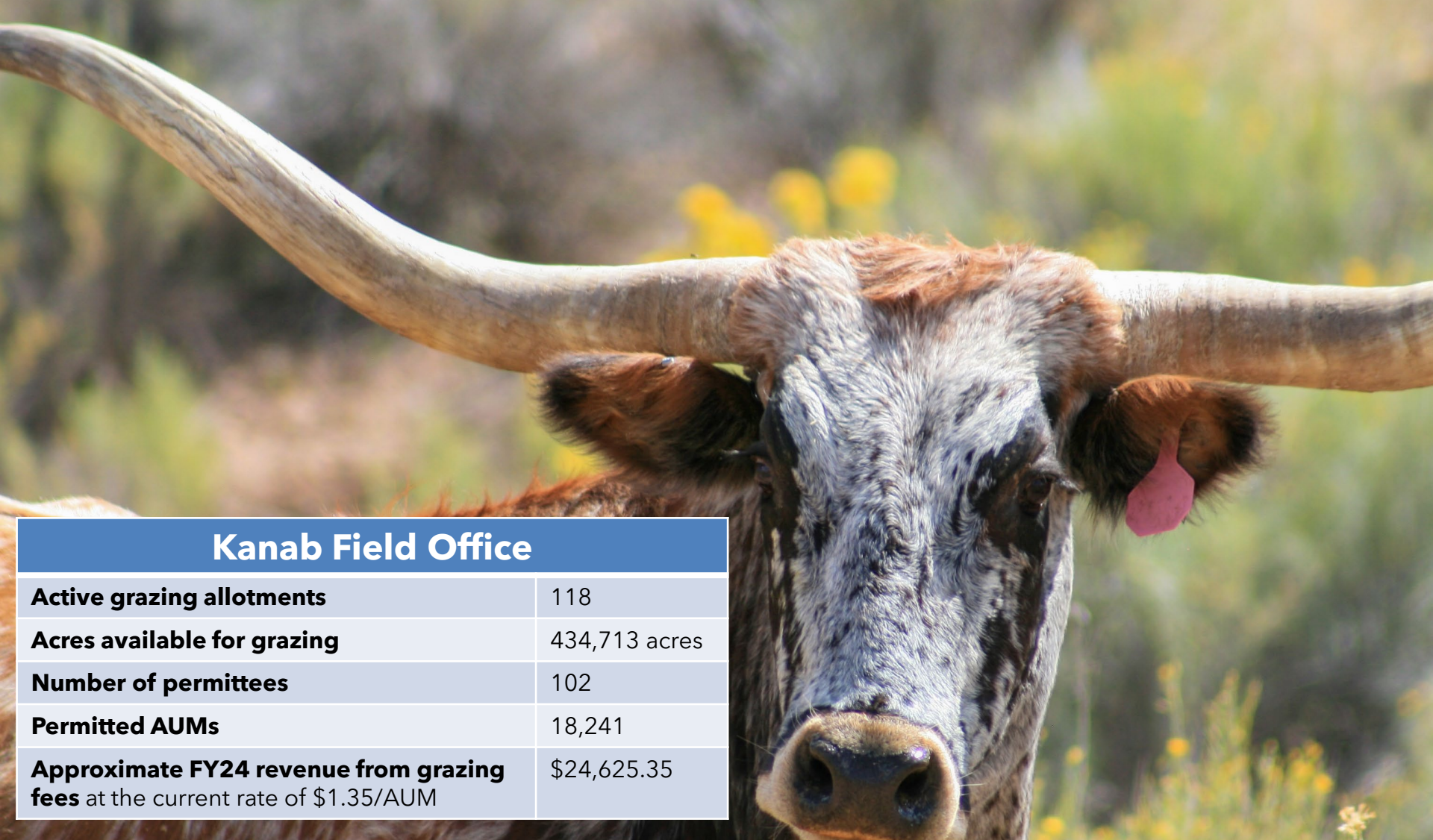
Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Active grazing allotments	78
Acres available for grazing	1,737,300 acres
Number of permittees	88
Permitted AUMs	104,980
Approximate FY24 revenue from grazing fees at the current rate of \$1.35/AUM	\$55,000



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Resources: Range



Kanab Field Office

Active grazing allotments	118
Acres available for grazing	434,713 acres
Number of permittees	102
Permitted AUMs	18,241
Approximate FY24 revenue from grazing fees at the current rate of \$1.35/AUM	\$24,625.35



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Resources: Recreation

Kanab Field Office FY24

	Number of permits	Fees Collected
Campgrounds	2,387	\$20,527.10
Day-Use Fees	33,734	\$202,644.20
Total	36,111	\$223,171.30

Kanab Field Office FY25 (to date)

	Number of permits	Fees Collected
Campgrounds	118	\$1,420.86
Day-Use Fees	12,597	\$76,995.05
Total	12,715	\$78,415.91





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Resources: Recreation

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument FY24

	Number of permits	Fees Collected
Campgrounds	5,426	\$34,303.20
Day-Use Fees	21,555	\$40,856.17
Total	26,981	\$75,159.37





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Resources: Forest Products

May include permits for fuelwood, posts, seeds, wildlings and Christmas trees

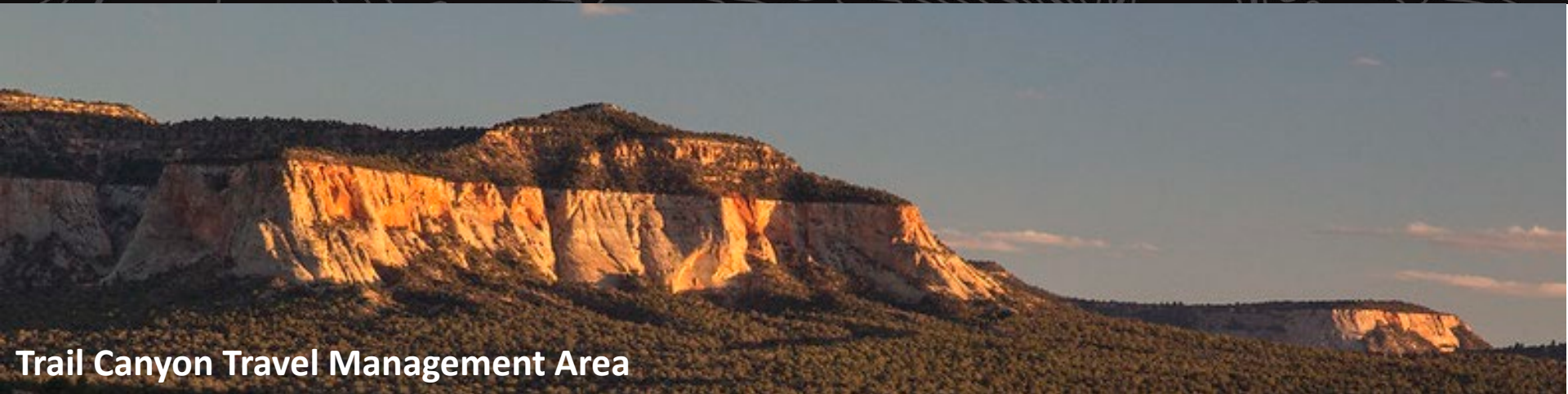
Kanab Field Office Forest Products

	Fuelwood (cords)	Posts (ea)	Seeds (lbs)	Wildlings (ea)	Christmas Tree (ea)
FY24	330	3,230	5,150	22	22
Total	\$1,650.00	\$1,292.00	Varies \$0.17- \$1.00	\$220.00	\$220.00
FY25	112	835	6,000	—	22
Total	\$560.00	\$334.00	Varies \$0.17- \$1.00	—	\$220.00



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Travel Management Update



Trail Canyon Travel Management Area

Trail Canyon TMP

Working with cooperating agencies to finalize the route alternative for the draft EA. Anticipate a 30-day public comment period starting in future months.

Paunsaugunt TMP

BLM has decided to prioritize the completion of the Trail Canyon TMP. Upon completion of the Trail Canyon TMP, the BLM will resume work on the Paunsaugunt TMP, including coordination with cooperating agencies and preparation of the preliminary alternatives and preliminary EA.



Paunsaugunt Travel Management Area



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Successes: Tilted Mesa MTB Trail System



Project Partners

- Utah Office of Outdoor Recreation
- Kane County Office of Tourism
- Kane County Recreation, Transportation Special Service District
- Trail Alliance of Southern Utah
- BLM Kanab Field Office Volunteers -
- Kanab Cycling Club National Interscholastic Cycling Association
- Kanab Community Trails Committee
- American Conservation Experience (ACE)
- Utah State University/UCC
- Bonneville Hotshots
- Jake's Bike Shop (Kanab, UT)

Funding Sources

- \$65,000 - Utah Office of Outdoor Recreation
- \$42,000 - Kane County
- \$25,000 - Kane County Recreation, Transportation Special Service District
- \$3,500 - Trail Alliance of Southern Utah
- \$35,678 - BLM Kanab Field Office Cash Match (professional services, materials/supplies)
- \$56,910 - BLM Kanab Field Office In-kind Match (professional services)

Project Labor Cost

Community Volunteers	523 hours
BLM Kanab Field Office	714 hours
USU Agreement	1,235 hours
ACE	675 hours
Bonneville Hotshots	200 hours
Total	3,347 hours



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Successes: Panguitch MTB Course



About

6-mile MTB racecourse, pit zone, spectator area, camping areas. The first race was held in August 2024. In total there were approximately 3,000 participants and spectators (included approximately 900 racers).

Objective

- To increase opportunities for recreation within Garfield County and the Kanab Field Office
- Partner with local communities to foster appreciation and stewardship of public lands
- Increase the potential for economic benefit in rural Utah communities

In partnership with

- Garfield County
- National Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA)
- Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
- Local Ranchers

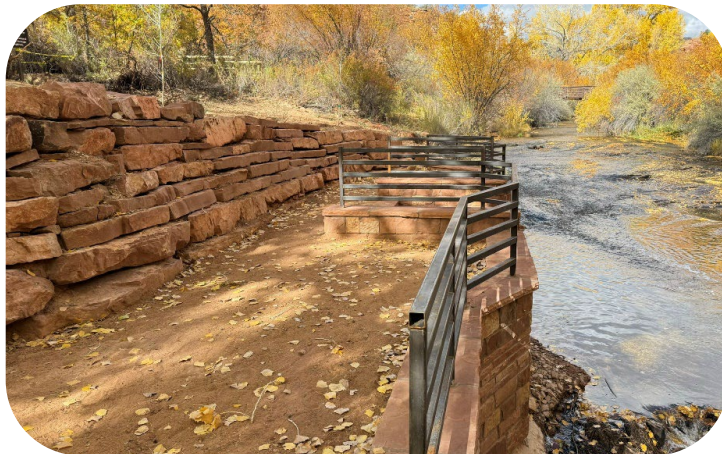
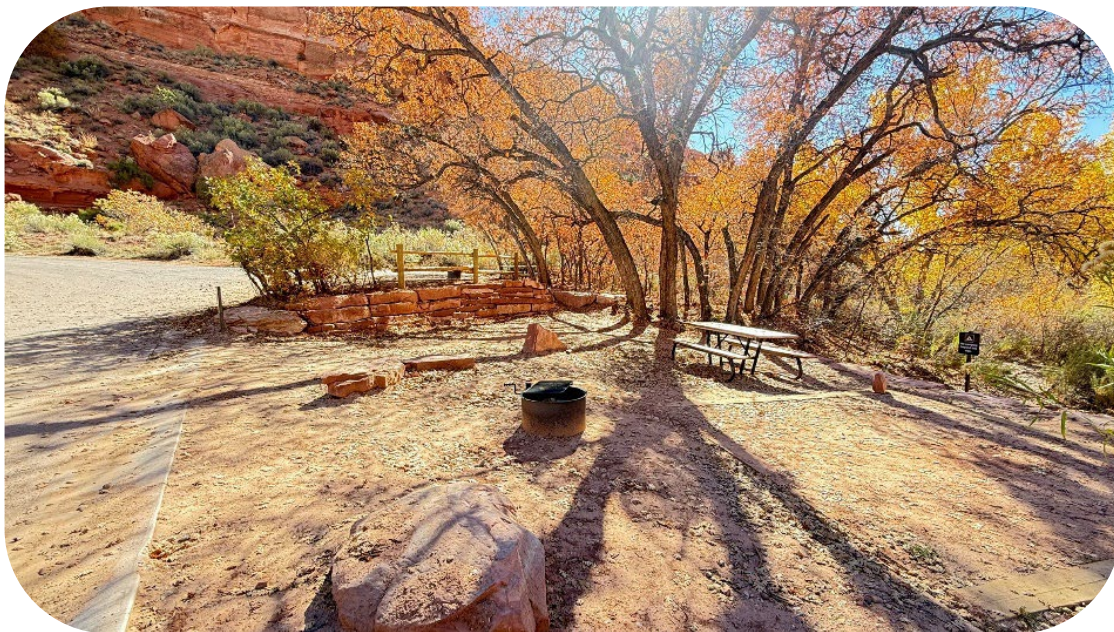
Economic benefit

Approximately \$43,000 to local economy



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Bureau of Land Management

Successes: Calf Creek



Phase 1 included (completed in 2024)

- Rough-in of overflow parking area
- Reconstruction of campsites - plus four additional sites
- Replacement of all wooden components of pedestrian bridge
- Construction of new/replacement shade shelters: three in campground - four in day use area including one large group shelter
- Reconstruction of retaining walls, stairs, and landing at water play area
- Installation of new signs
- Revegetation of disturbed areas

Phases planned for 2025 & 2026

- Construction of new metal bridge to replace large culvert on entrance road
- Reconfiguration/expansion of main parking area
- Paving all parking areas and site roads
- Installation of communication fiber line
- Replacement of main restroom building with vault facility
- Replacement of low water crossing in campground
- Construction of bypass trail segment above campground



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Future Projects & Challenges

Planned projects in the following programs:

- Land Health Assessments
- Rangeland Management
- Paleontology
- Recreation
- Vegetation
- Fuels
- Realty
- Mining



ONGOING Challenges



- Increased Visitor Use
- Increased pressure on permittees
- Potential for increased user conflicts
- Increased need for resource protection
- Increased potential for damage to cultural sites
- Increased need for waste management, parking & road maintenance





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Bureau of Land Management

Grand Staircase-Escalante

National Monument Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan

- Signed January 6, 2025.
- The Approved Resource Management Plan identifies various implementation plans and actions.
- Prioritizes the completion of rangeland health assessments for livestock grazing allotments, which will inform permit renewals.
- Other implementation-level actions and plans will be developed as funding and resources allow.





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

Grand Staircase-Escalante

National Monument Science Plan

- GSENM has recently produced a Science Plan.
- Completed in accordance with the recent (January 2025) Resource Management Plan
- A living document that can be updated as needs and objectives change in coming years

This document provides:

- Summaries and links to past research;
- Ideas and needs for future research;
- Steps to obtain approval to do scientific research in GSENM; and
- Strategies for sharing and utilizing scientific findings in support of GSENM objectives.





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Paria River District

Utah RAC Meeting – March 19, 2025

The word "Questions" is written in a large, black, rounded font with a blue outline. It is set against a background of overlapping geometric shapes in yellow, blue, and grey. Below the word are three small circles in yellow, blue, and grey. The entire graphic is set against a black background with white speckles, resembling a night sky.

Questions



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Bureau of Land Management

UT-914 Fire & Aviation

Presented by:





Organization of Program

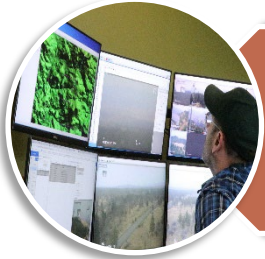


Wildfire Response



Fire Preparedness

- Training, fitness, drills, & equipment



Dispatch



Fire Planning & Analysis



Aviation



Support Functions

- HR, business, budget, cache, radios, logistics, IMT, etc.



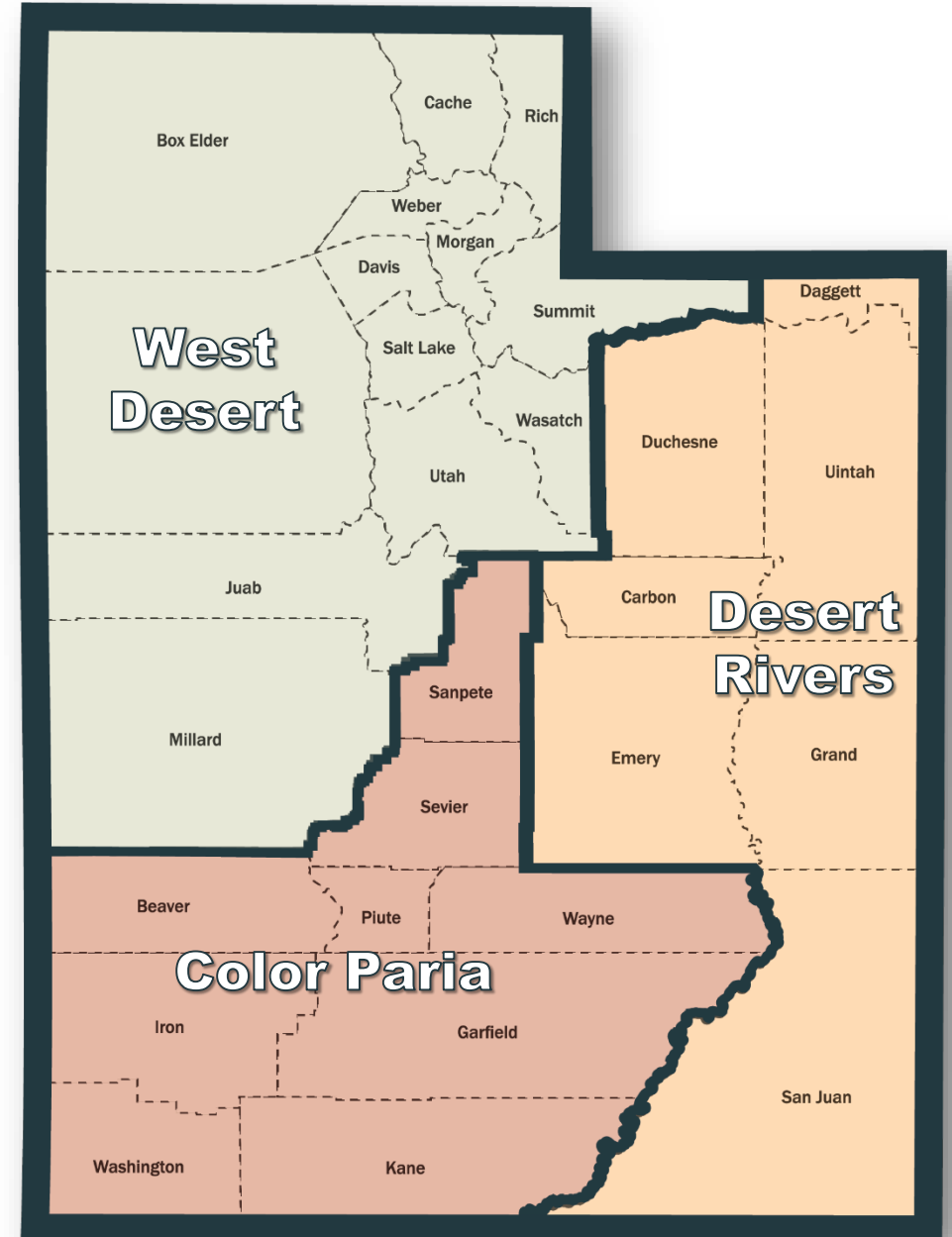
Hazardous Fuels Management

- Vegetation treatments, prescribed burns, prevention & education



BLM Utah Fire Units

- Fire operations have their own boundaries.
- Color Country and Paria River Districts share resources and make up the Color Paria Fire Management Unit.
- Canyon Country and Green River Districts share resources and make up the Desert Rivers Fire Management Unit.





Wildfire Response: 2024 Staffing





Fuels Management Explained

- Vegetative treatments in the form of:
 - Mechanical treatments such as mastication





Fuels Management Explained

- Vegetative treatments in the form of:
 - Mechanical treatments such as mastication
 - Prescribed fire





Fuels Management Explained

- Vegetative treatments in the form of:
 - Mechanical treatments such as mastication
 - Prescribed fire
 - Chemical spraying





Fuels Management Explained

- Vegetative treatments in the form of:
 - Mechanical treatments such as mastication
 - Prescribed fire
 - Chemical spraying
 - Biological





Blacktail Before/After





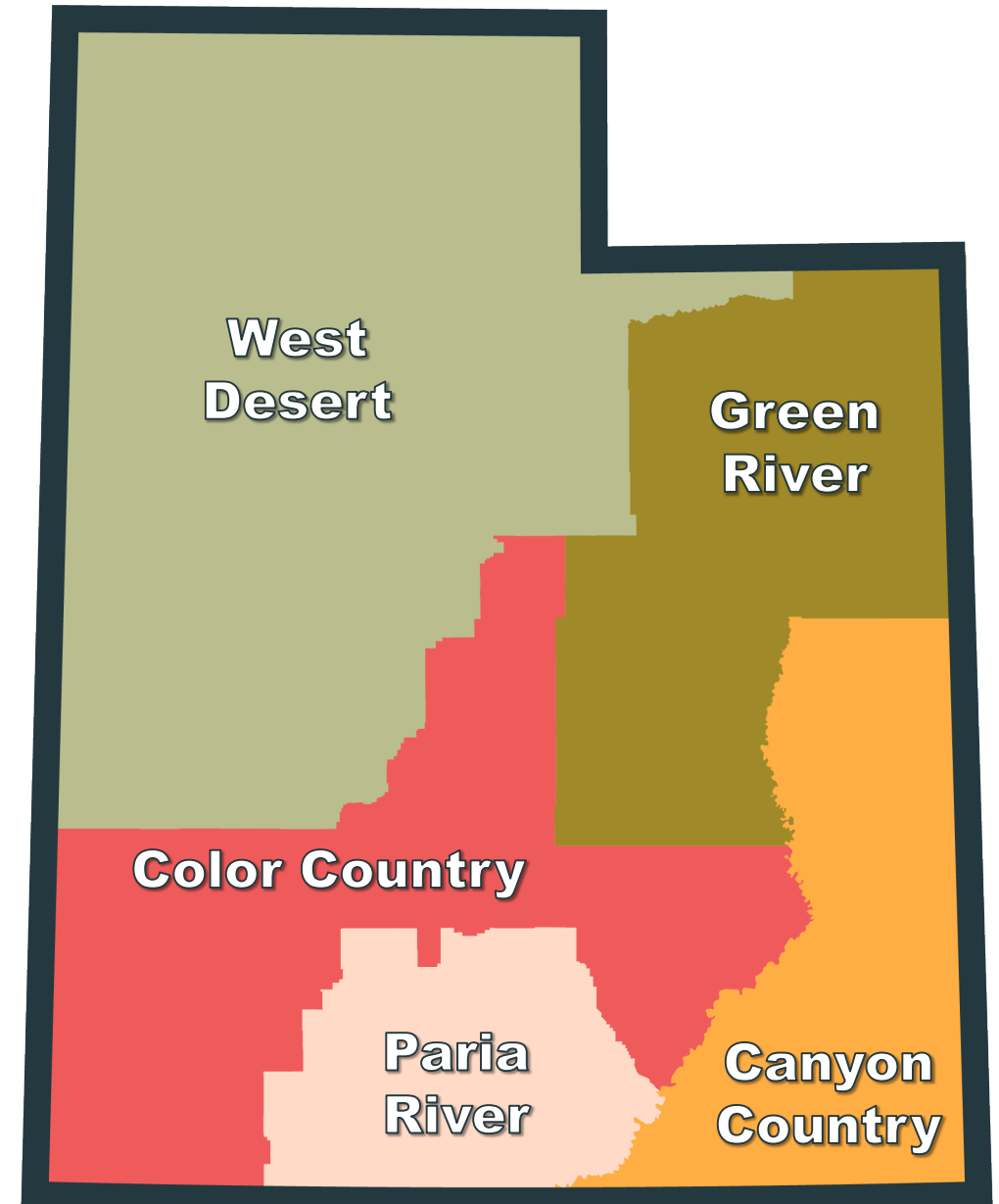
South Canyon Before/After





Planned Fuels Work By District FY25

District	Target Acres
Canyon Country	25,395
Color Country	16,676
Green River	13,854
Paria River	8,105
West Desert	24,213
TOTAL	85,243



FY2024 OPERATIONS SNAPSHOT

Firefighting involves many programs working year-round to ensure safe and effective operations. These programs aim to reduce the likelihood and severity of wildfires, maintain staff readiness, and assist communities in safeguarding their homes and landscapes against wildfire threats.

AVIATION

792 FLIGHT HOURS
up 83% from 2023

CURRENT FLEET

2 helicopters 4 Single Engine Air Tankers 2 air attack planes

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

BLM collaborates with communities to prevent and minimize the harmful effects of wildfires.

This year, BLM Utah awarded a \$150,000 Community Assistance agreement to Tooele County to perform fire mitigation activities such as roadside mowing, tree limbing, and prescribed burns on private lands. The agreement will also fund an education component to help community residents better understand wildfire mitigation.

86 EDUCATION EVENTS

60 COMMUNITIES ASSISTED

85 TRAINING COURSES SUPPORTED BY BLM

These courses were coordinated and attended by BLM and interagency fire operations partners.

\$105,834 RECOVERED FROM HUMAN-CAUSED FIRES

Those causing wildfires risk significant fines. Fire Trespass Coordinators investigate fires to reclaim taxpayer dollars used for suppression efforts.

FUELS

87,289 ACRES TREATED reducing hazardous fuels

UTILIZING **\$15.4M** WITH **\$6.2M** PROVIDED BY THE BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW

PARTNERSHIPS & INITIATIVES

Numerous agencies in Utah are involved in firefighting, which also includes a focus on prevention and mitigation efforts. Working together is critical for the safe and effective management of wildfires throughout the state.

SPECIAL FUNDING SOURCES

BLM Utah uses funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act to enhance wildfire resilience and restore ecosystems. Together, these programs focus on removing invasive species, reducing fuel loads, and stream restoration. Methods include targeted herbicide application, reseeding native grasses, mastication, and mechanical thinning pinyon-juniper woodlands to reduce fuel loads and improve ecological balance.

\$6.2 million from BIL supported 17 projects across nearly 46,000 acres of BLM-managed lands. Additionally, the law provided over \$2 million to increase firefighter salaries in Utah.

\$9.7 million in IRA funding supported 19 projects across Southern Utah, while \$9.6 million targeted restoration efforts along the Upper Bear River.

WATERSHED RESTORATION INITIATIVE

BLM Utah also uses BIL and IRA funds to contribute to Utah's Watershed Restoration Initiative through its partnership with the Utah Department of Natural Resources. BLM Utah collaborates with over 80 organizations through WRI to fund and implement restoration projects. In FY24, WRI was able to complete 148 projects, treating over 168,000 acres of habitat and completing nearly 120 miles of stream restoration. This is due in large part to continued contributions from BLM Utah. Since the inception of the initiative in 2006, BLM Utah has invested more than \$100 million into various projects around the state.

TOOELE AIR CENTER

For over 20 years, the Salt Lake Helitack crew and Single Engine Air Tanker base operated out of subpar facilities. Crews worked in small trailers without running water or restrooms, and loading operations fell short of new environmental standards. After nearly a decade of planning, BLM Utah opened a modern facility in Tooele this year. It features offices, restrooms, showers, a gym, equipment storage, and improved loading pads. The upgrades ensure safer, more efficient operations with better environmental safeguards.

RURAL FIRE READINESS PROGRAM

The Rural Fire Readiness Program allows the BLM to provide surplus equipment to our partnering local fire departments at no cost so we can continue to safely and efficiently suppress wildland fires together.

This year, we donated one water tender, a Type 6 engine, and 52 digital radios.

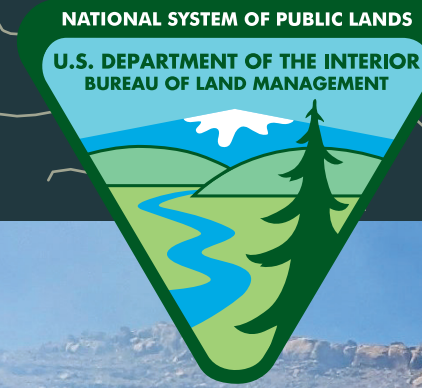
LOCAL COOPERATOR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Allows BLM staff to train local, often volunteer, first responders in wildland firefighting. Training covers basic skills, refreshers, and advanced tactics for experienced firefighters. The program fosters a broader understanding of fire management, promotes coordination, and integrates BLM's protective strategies.

\$40,033 INVESTED INTO THE PROGRAM

19 BLM LED COURSES

496 STUDENTS TAUGHT



BLM UTAH FIRE & AVIATION

Annual Report

2024

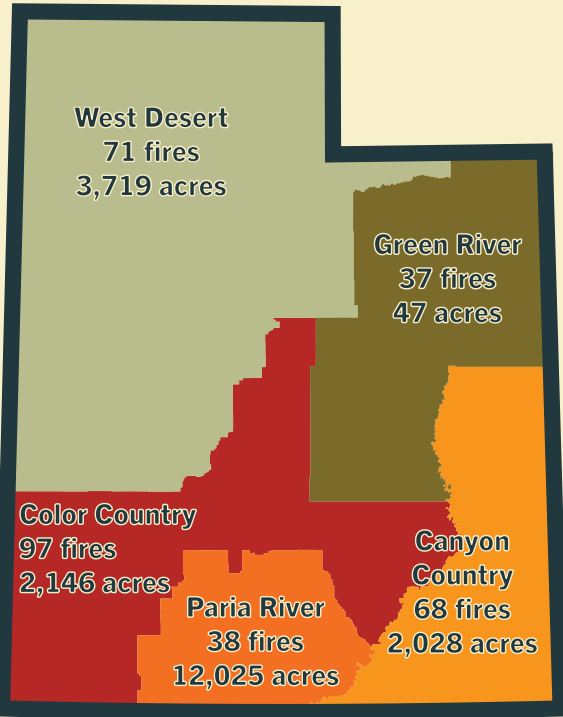
Photo by Dakota Sumpter of BLM Utah's Moab Helitack.

BLM UTAH

FIRE YEAR 2024

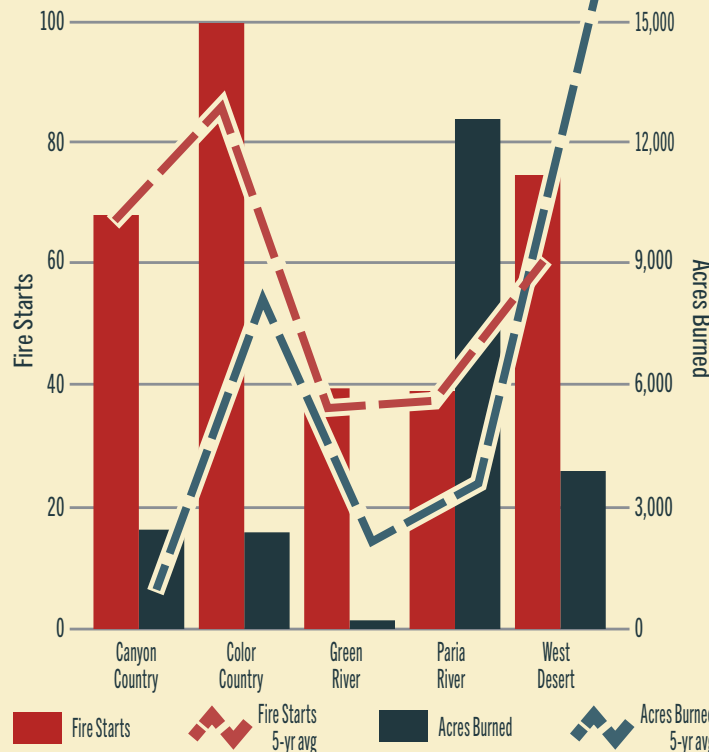


Fire starts and acres burned by District 2024

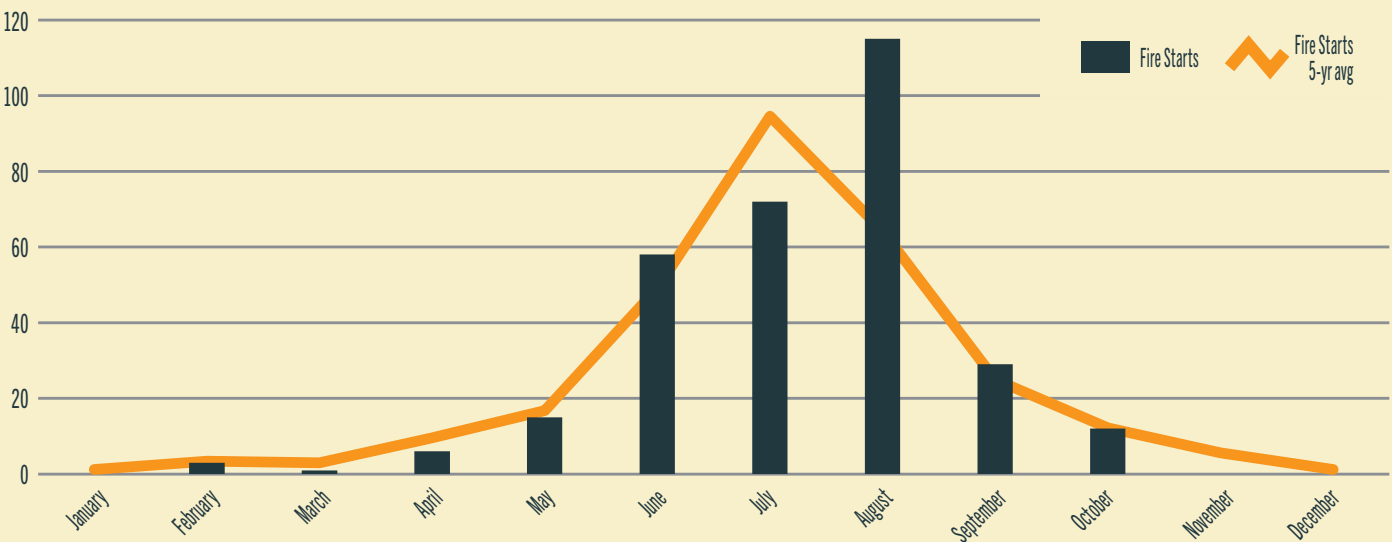


Statewide: 311 fires, 19,965 acres

Fire starts and acres burned by District 2024 & 5-year average



Fire starts by month 2024 & 5-year average



HUMAN-CAUSED FIRES ON THE RISE?

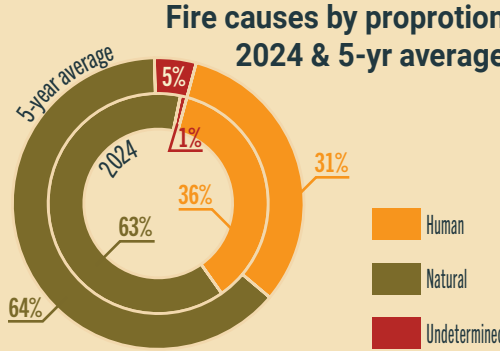
Over the past five years, BLM Utah-managed lands averaged 91 human-caused fires annually. In 2024, we recorded 112. Does this mean human-caused fires are increasing? Possibly, but the situation isn't as alarming as it might seem.

Another trend stands out—undetermined fires are well below the five-year average. Typically, about 5% of fires are listed as undetermined, but in 2024, only three fires remain without a determined cause.

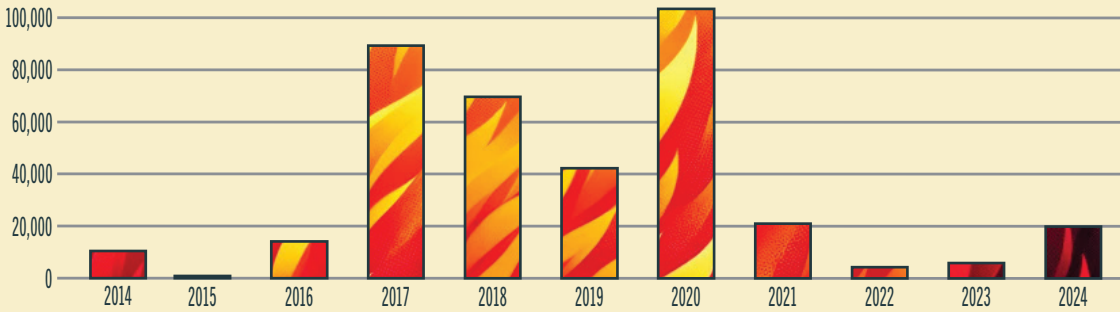
Most undetermined fires are ultimately human-caused, though investigations may take time to confirm details. Fire investigation is a complex process with legal implications, requiring thoroughness and precision.

Improved investigative processes help explain the apparent rise in human-caused fires. When combining human-caused and undetermined fires, the five-year average is 36% of our yearly fires, compared to 37% in 2024. This consistency suggests our investigation methods are improving rather than a dramatic increase in human-caused fires.

Fire Causes 2024 & 5-year average		
Fire Cause	2024	5-yr avg
Human	112	91
Natural	196	181
Undetermined	3	13
TOTAL	311	286



Acres burned on BLM Utah-managed lands, 2014 - 2024



SEASON SUMMARY

Utah saw higher-than-average precipitation in early 2024, primarily between January and March. While this wet winter may have suggested a quieter fire season, below-average rainfall in the following months, coupled with hot and dry conditions in June and July, set the stage for elevated fire danger. The increased growth of fine fuels from the wet winter further contributed to heightened fire risk across much of the state. This became especially evident in August, which saw a sharp rise in fire starts. Despite experiencing more fires than our 5-year average, acres burned remained well below the 5-year average—thanks in part to our quick and effective firefighting response.



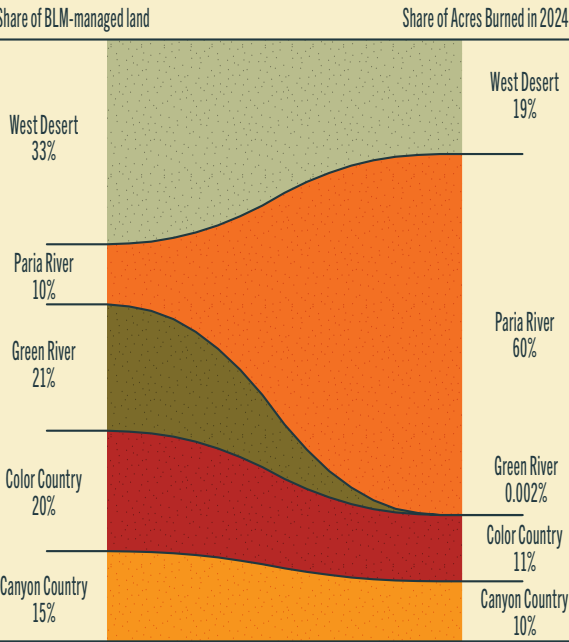
FIRE RESOURCES

The BLM manages nearly 23 million acres of public lands in Utah, representing 42% of the state. Working in a variety of firefighting and support positions, in 2024 we employed 225 fire preparedness personnel and 62 fuels management personnel. Throughout the state, BLM Utah staffs 31 engines, two helicopters, four Single Engine Airtankers, two air attack platforms, three dozers, five water tenders, and one Hotshot crew.

BLM Utah FY24 Fire Budget	
Program	Budget
Fire Preparedness	\$17,521,000
Fuels Management	\$10,186,000
Provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law	\$14,398,561
Deferred Maintenance	\$ 455,159
Reimbursed	\$ 4,616,808
TOTAL	\$47,175,528

ALIGNED FOR FIRE

Land Share vs. Acres Burned by District



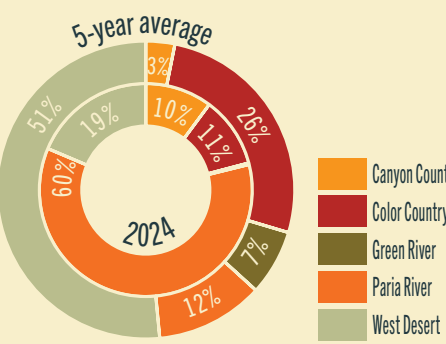
While the Paria River District accounts for just 10% of BLM Utah-managed lands, it experienced 60% of the total acres burned in 2024. This is not a reflection of poor fuels management or fire suppression efforts within the district. Instead, it highlights how wildfire activity is heavily influenced by what is referred to as alignment—the combination of environmental factors, such as weather, fuel availability, moisture levels, and topography, that determine when and where a wildfire may ignite and spread.

These factors are continuously measured and analyzed to calculate fire danger ratings, which help predict wildfire potential by assessing fuel moisture, temperature, humidity, and wind patterns.

In the Paria River District, conditions aligned this year to produce the Deer Springs Fire, which burned 11,766 acres—making up 59% of the total 19,966 acres burned statewide. It was BLM Utah's largest wildfire since 2020 and larger than all 310 other fires on BLM Utah-managed lands combined this year.

This year's fire activity demonstrates how quickly large fires can develop when weather, fuel availability, and topography align, underscoring the importance of continued proactive fuels management, public awareness, and rapid response capabilities.

Share of Acres Burned by District



Utah

Seasonal Outlook

March – June 2025

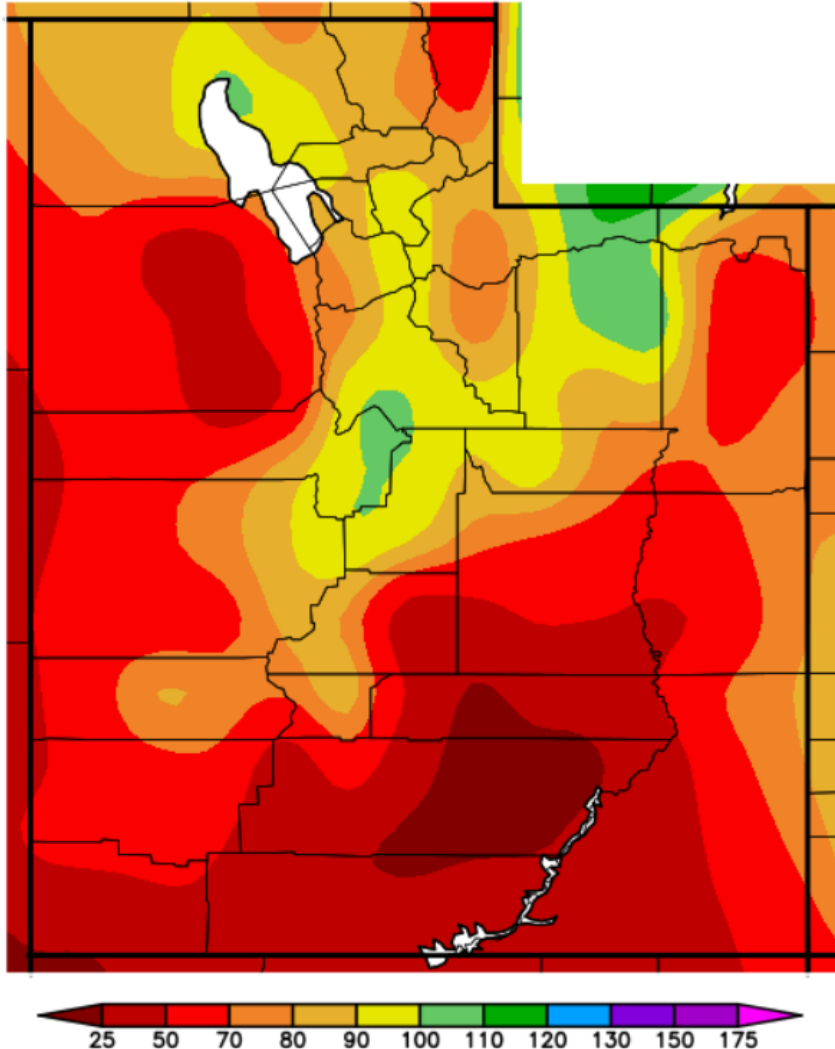


Gina Palma
Great Basin Coordination Center
Predictive Services Meteorologist



Precipitation: Since Oct 1, 2024

Percent of Average Precipitation (%)
10/1/2024 – 3/17/2025

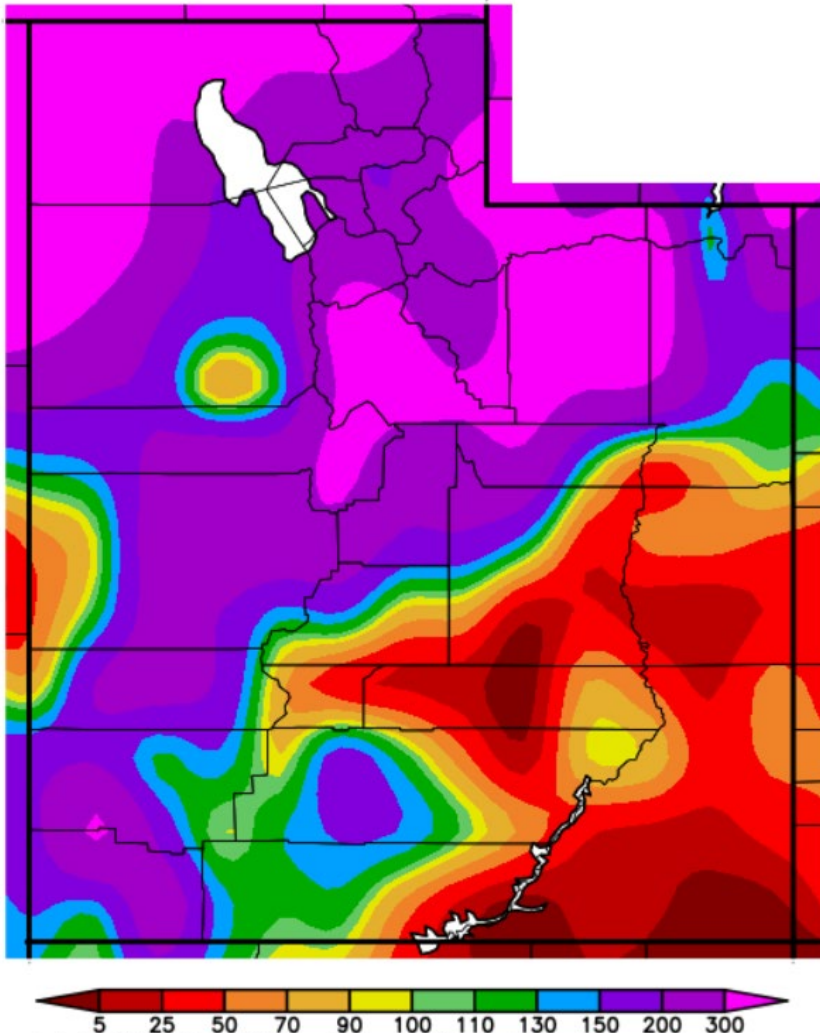


Generated 3/18/2025 at WRCC using provisional data.
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

- Less than 50% of normal over the southern half of Utah (prior to active storms in March).
- Closer to normal precipitation in the north.
- Storms will bring above normal precipitation from mid-late March.

Precipitation: Some Changes Last 2 Weeks

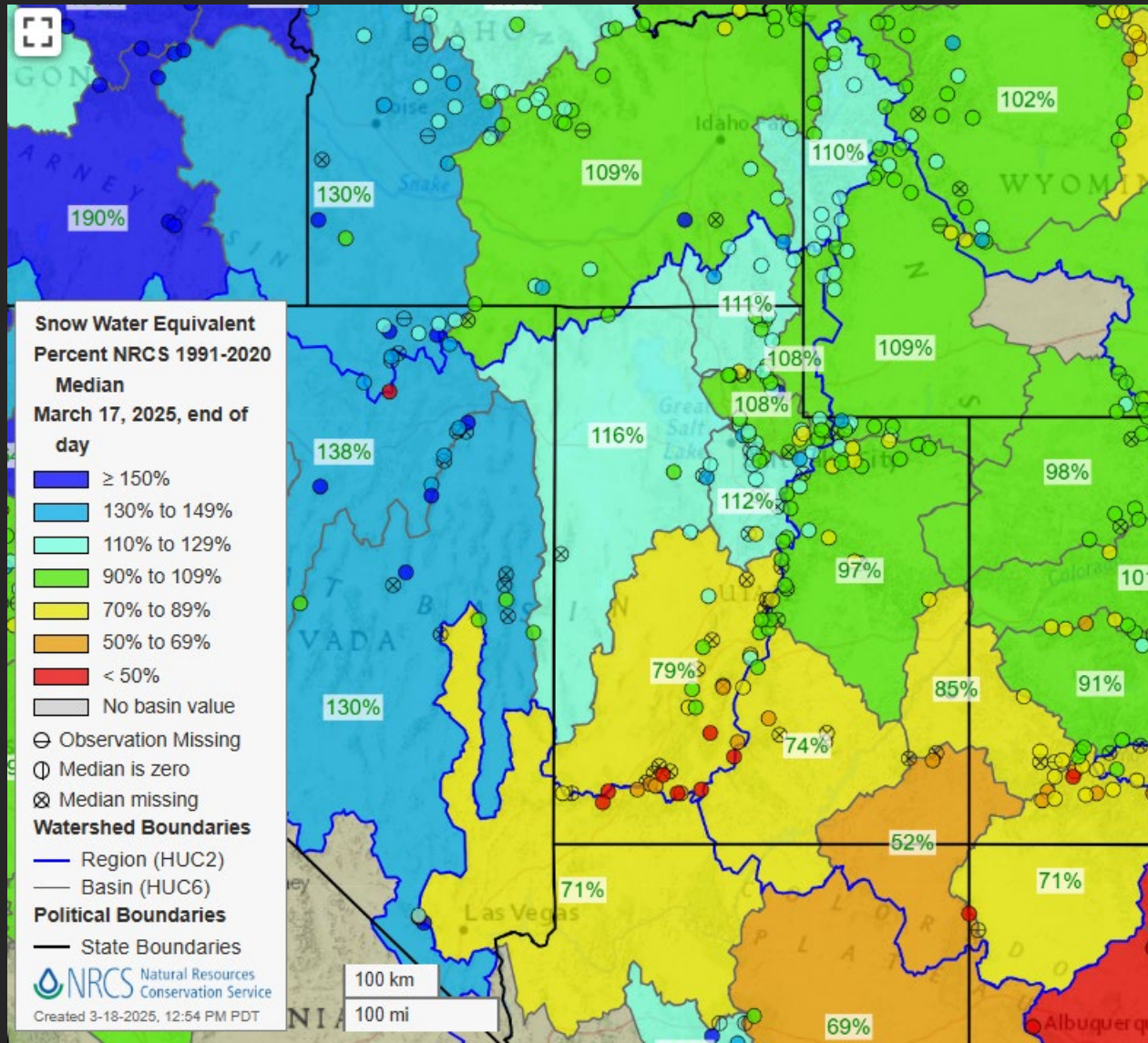
Percent of Average Precipitation (%)
3/5/2025 – 3/18/2025



Generated 3/19/2025 at WRCC using provisional data.
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

- Well above normal precipitation over the northern half of Utah and southwest Utah.
- Much drier still over parts of eastern and southeast Utah.
- A few storms the next week, then more storms end of the month into April.

Mid-March Snowpack

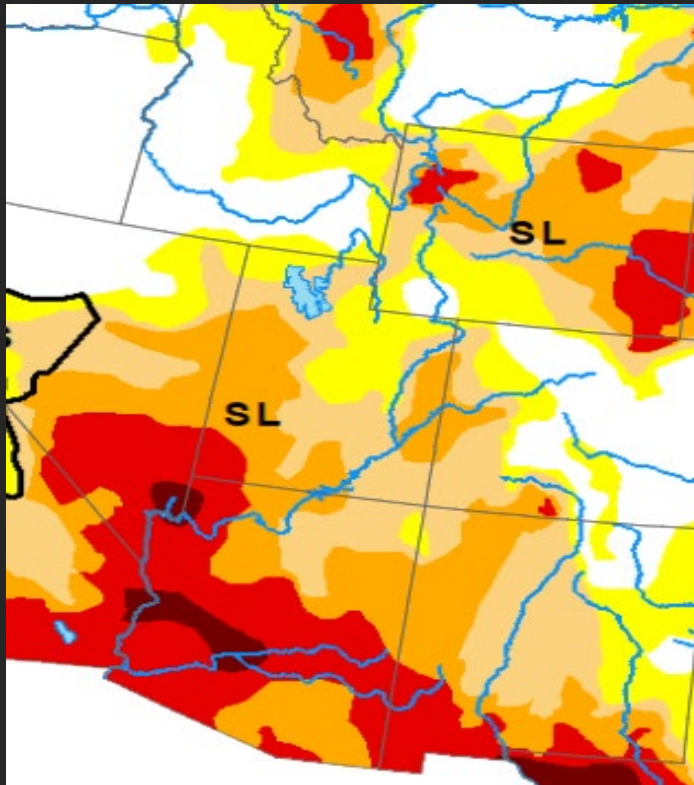


- Snowpack up to 50-70% in south from recent storms.
- Near Normal snowpack in the north.
- Snow will melt off quickly in April in the south, even with active March storms.

Drought Monitor and Outlook

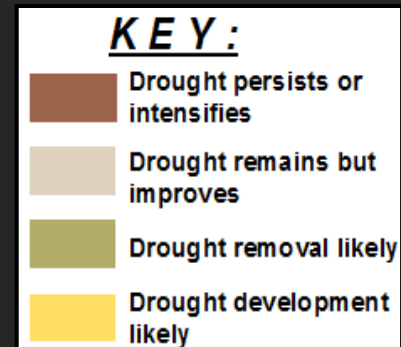
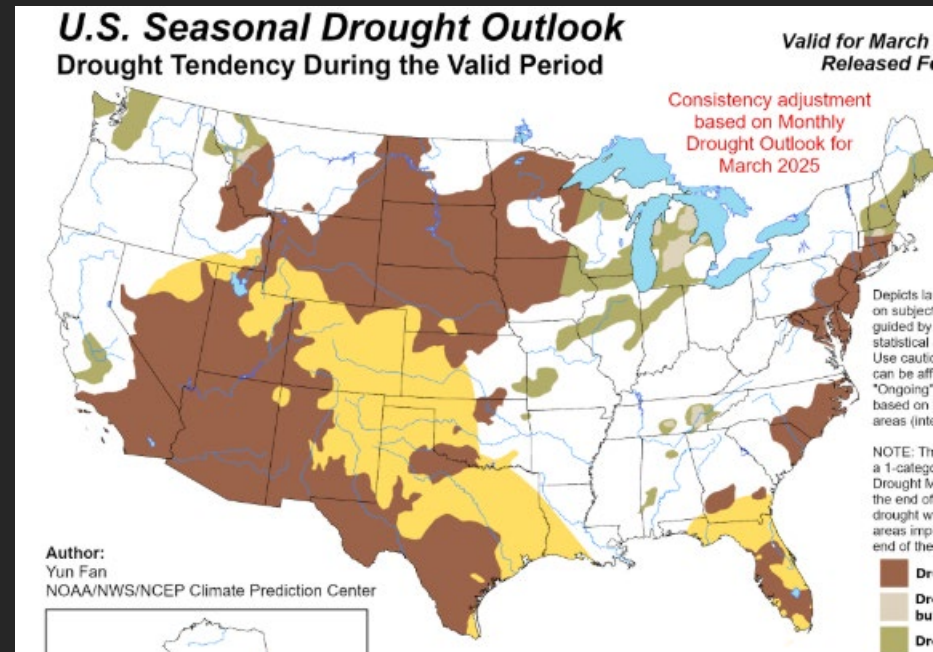
Drought Monitor

March 4th, 2025

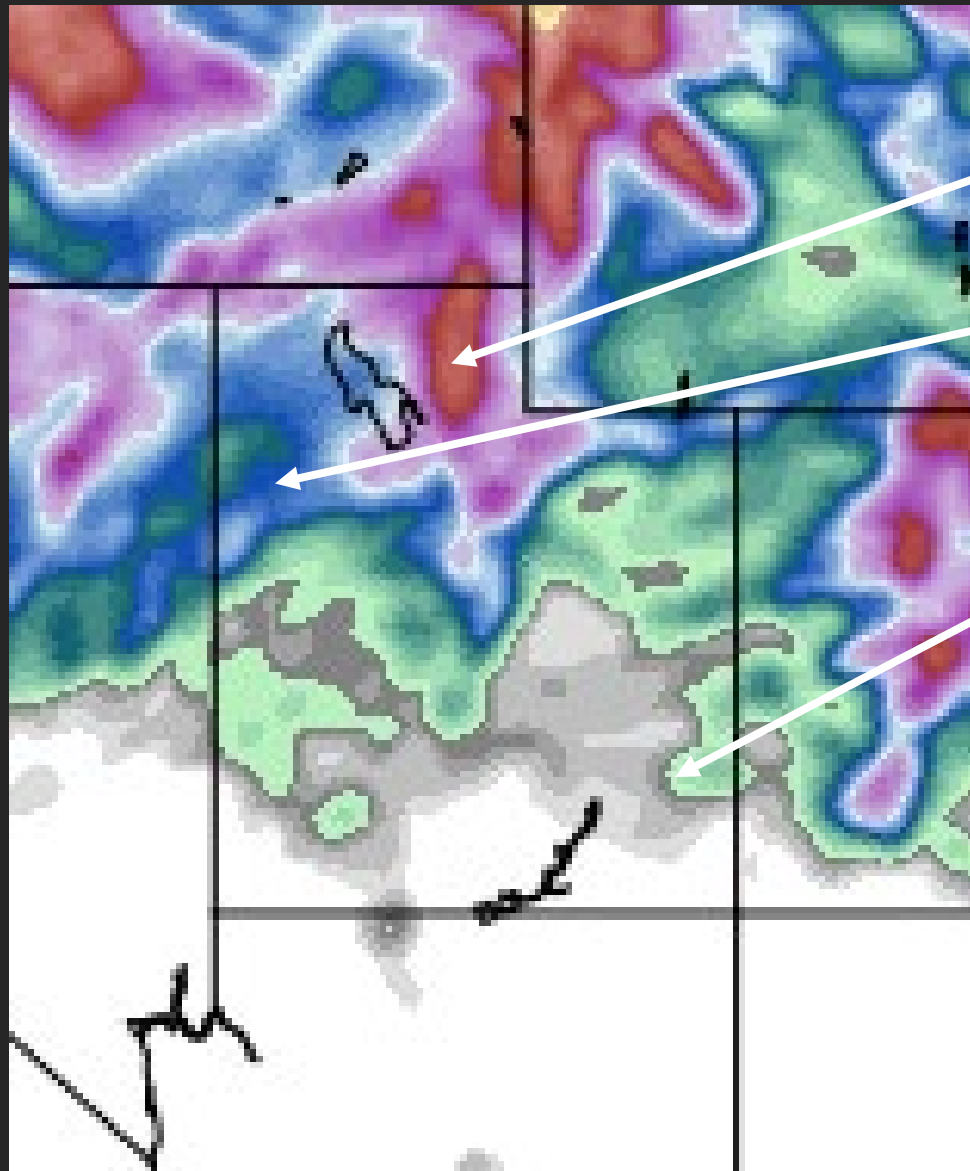


Drought Outlook

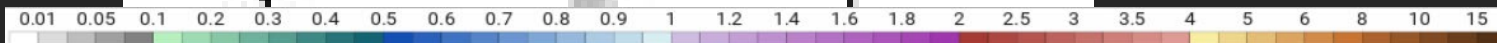
March 1st – May 31st, 2025



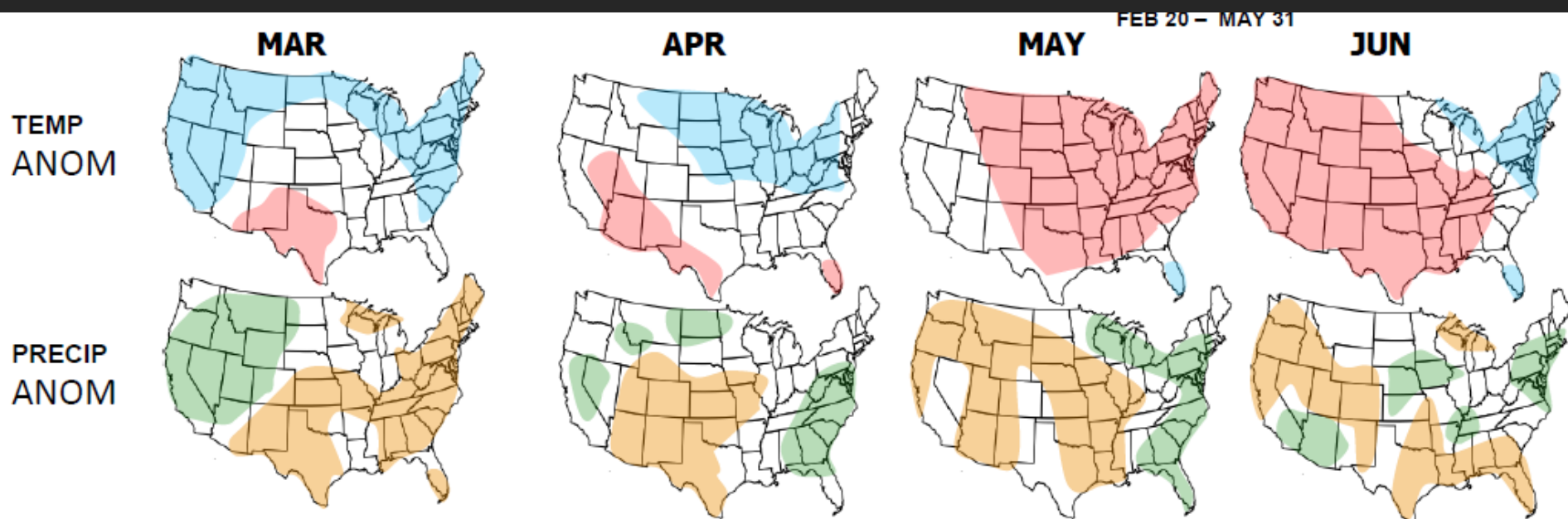
Model Precipitation “Forecast” thru April 2nd



- Drier weather on tap later in March with active pattern returning end of month into April.
- Southern and eastern Utah to see much less precipitation than the west and north.



Predictive Services Outlook: March – June 2025

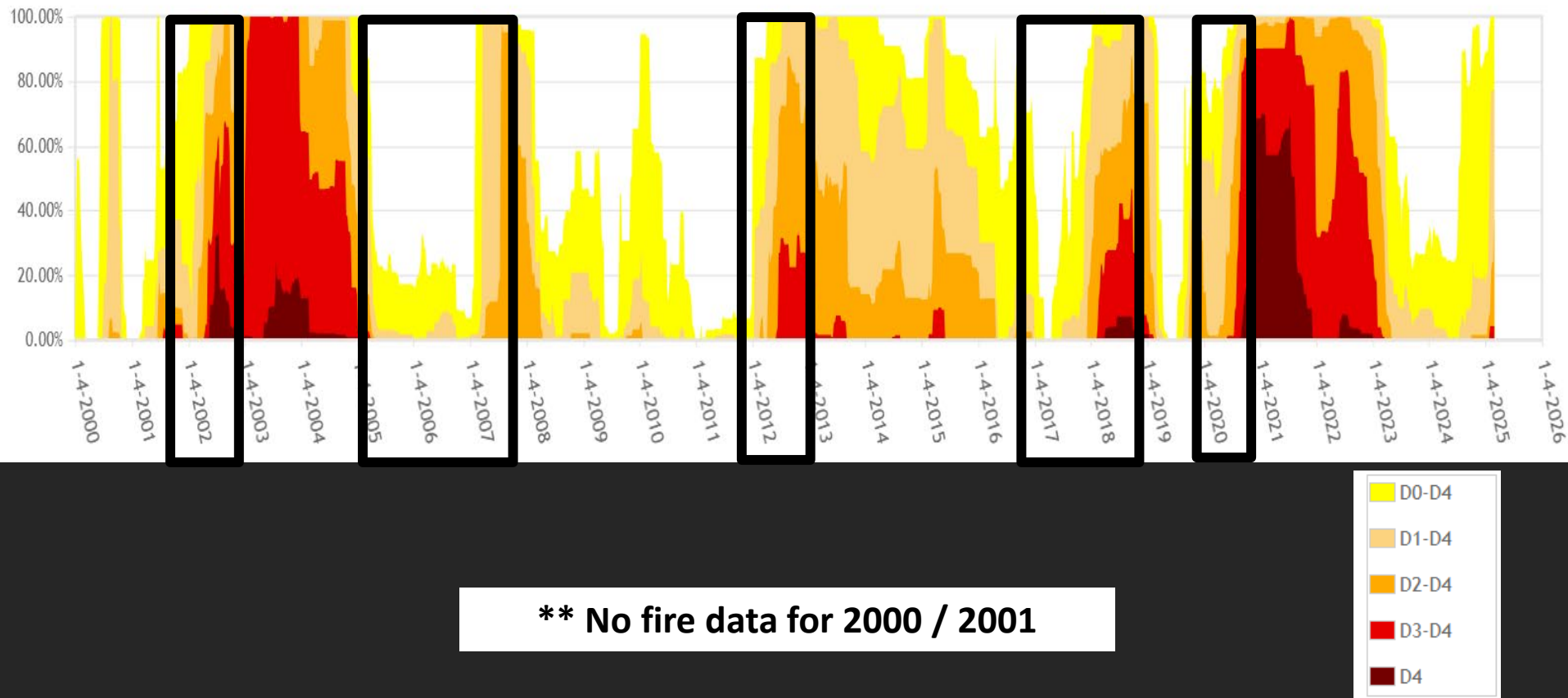


- Cooler and wetter weather expected through early April, with some drying at times later in March.
- Drier and warmer conditions expected as early as April and may continue into May and June. Snow will gradually melt off in April/May with fuel drying/curing in the south in May/early June.
- Deeper monsoon moisture to the south in June may increase drier lightning for parts of Utah.

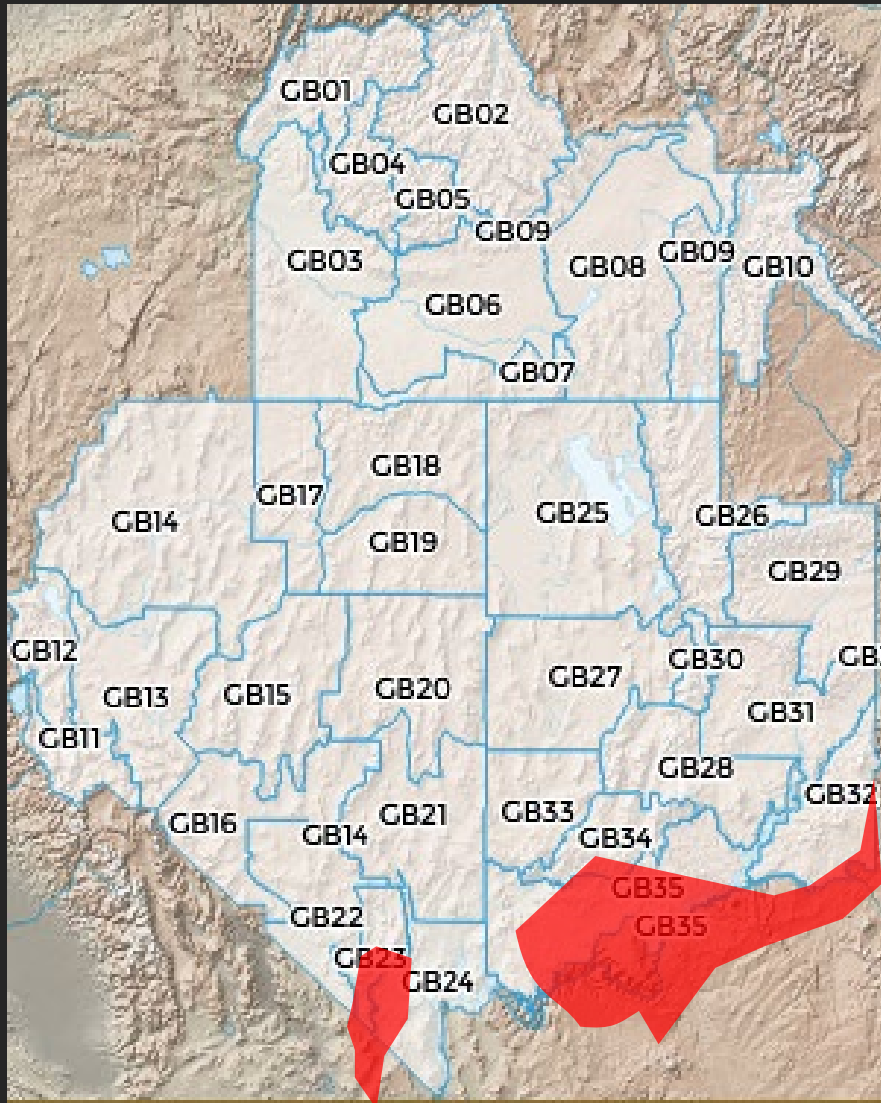
Utah – Updated 2025

**Black Box – Well above ‘normal’ acres burned.
Green Box – Well below ‘normal’ acres burned.**

Utah Percent Area in U.S. Drought Monitor Categories



June 2025



- Normal (low) Fire Potential through May.
- Wet March should keep the season from starting too early.
- Above Normal Fire Potential in the south by June, especially mid-upper elevations.
- Increased potential for dry lightning on fringe of monsoon moisture in June after drying trend April/May.



Normal

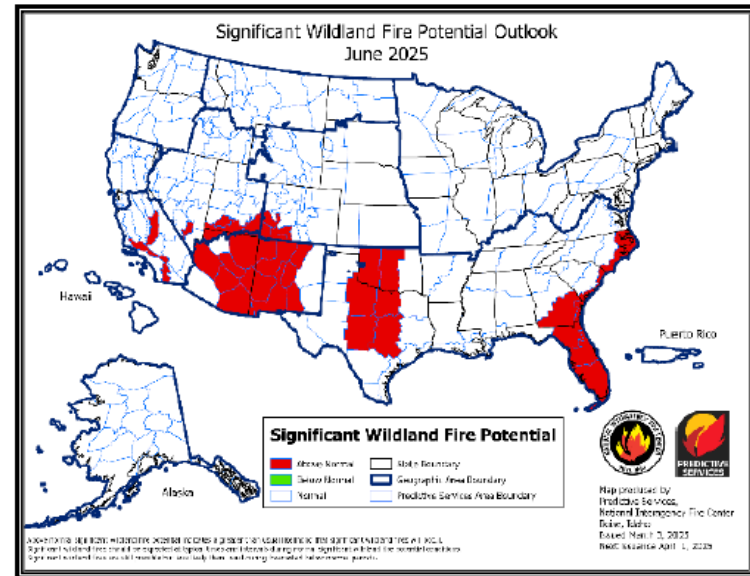
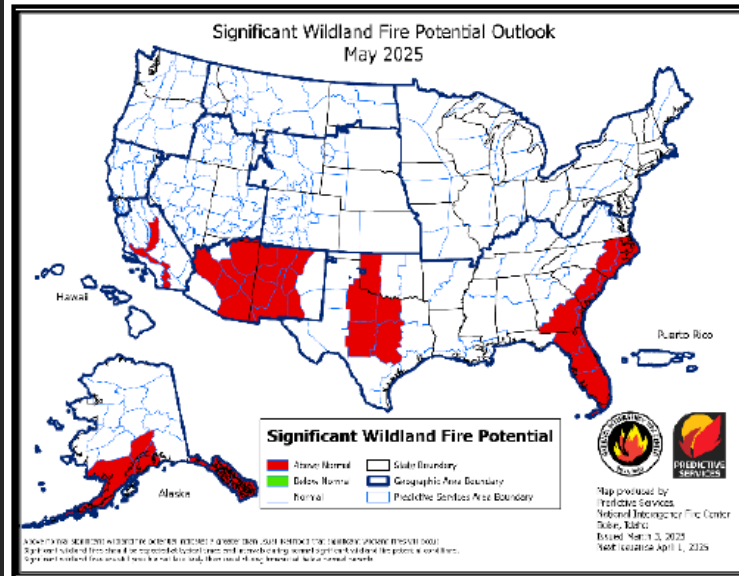
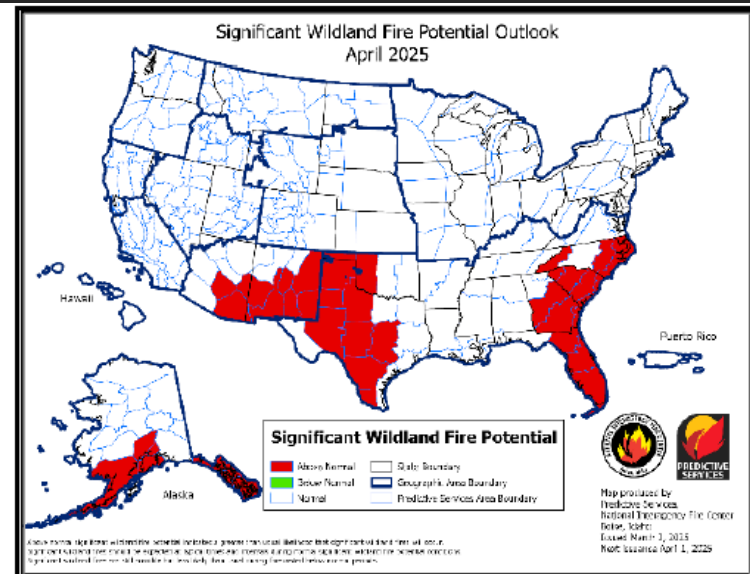
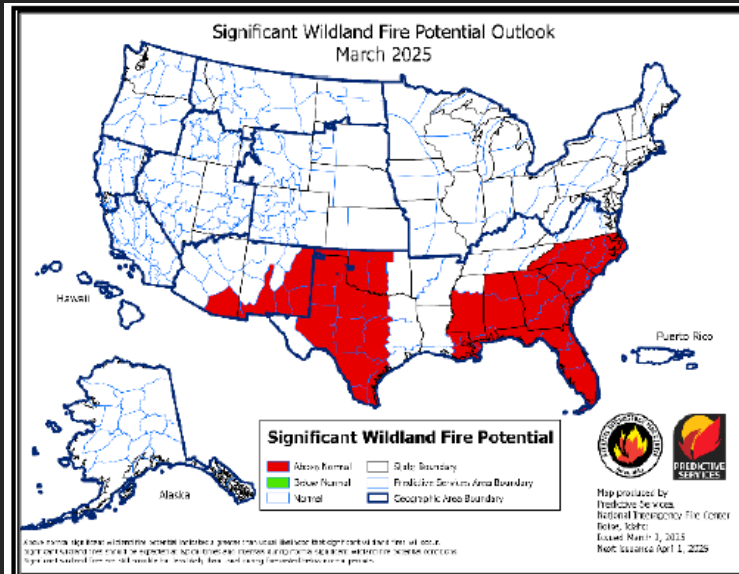


Below Normal



Above Normal

National PS Outlook March - June





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Introduction to the EXPLORE Act

Special Recreation Permit Application Fee Update

Utah draft proposal presented to the RAC November 2024
\$195 Application Fee for applications, renewals and transfers of
all permit types

Clif -Concerned that standard for needing an SRP is creeping up
-Application fee should apply to final fee for organized groups

Joan -Concerned about fees stacking up
-Liked the idea of application fee offset for organized groups
-Organized groups ability to get insurance

Proposal paused for now due to EXPLORE Act



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Introduction to the EXPLORE Act

The Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences Act

Bipartisan bill signed into law on January 4, 2025





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Introduction to the EXPLORE Act

The EXPLORE Act is a bipartisan legislation package aimed at improving and expanding outdoor recreation opportunities across the United States.

10+ year long effort that combines multiple bills:

Outdoors For All Act
Military and Veterans in Parks Act
Every Kid Outdoors
Simplifying Outdoor Access for Recreation Act
And more

83 pages 355 sections

Did not come with allocated funds



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Introduction to the EXPLORE Act

- Modernize technology to improve visitor experiences, such as increasing broadband connectivity at recreation sites, creating digital recreation passes, and creating new pilot programs to monitor visitation.
- Streamline the permitting process and reduces burdensome fees for small businesses that depend on reliable access to public lands.
- Reduce park overcrowding by creating new and innovative models to encourage public recreation in less-traveled areas.
- Support gateway communities by addressing housing shortages, parking and infrastructure issues, and challenges due to overcrowding.
- Transform accessibility for individuals with disabilities by creating new accessible trails and recreation opportunities across our public lands.



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Introduction to the EXPLORE Act



BLM and other agencies are currently assessing the Act and developing strategies and timelines.

I am not an expert on the Act but will share my interpretations and some key takeaways. Not all inclusive and not ordered by rank.



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Introduction to the EXPLORE Act

Federal Interagency Council on Outdoor Recreation (FICOR)

- [Bureau of Indian Affairs](#)
- [Bureau of Land Management](#)
- [Bureau of Reclamation](#)
- [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#)
- [National Park Service](#)
- [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#)
- [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#)
- [U.S. Forest Service](#)



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Introduction to the EXPLORE Act

List Forest Service and BLM units with and without a developed shooting range. Identify location for at least 1 suitable shooting range location in each FS and BLM district. **Within 5 years have at least 1 shooting range in each FS and BLM district.**





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Introduction to the EXPLORE Act

No permit or fee if
photography/filming involves
6 people or less or documents
allowed or authorized activity.

No additional fees for
photography/filming at small
scale authorized events.





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Introduction to the EXPLORE Act

Requires a single visitation reporting system for all agencies and increased modeling of visitation and use patterns



Rmis 4.0



RECREATION MANAGEMENT
INFORMATION SYSTEM

Welcome to the RMIS Intranet



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Introduction to the EXPLORE Act



Requires internet and/or cellular network expansion in National Parks and at Forest Service developed recreation sites.



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Requires increased assessment, information sharing and development of accessible of outdoor recreation facilities and trails.





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Introduction to the EXPLORE Act



Expand recreation and employment opportunities and information for members of the military and veterans.

Add RAC category-2 member interest group “Veterans”

Quorum reduced from 8 to 6



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Introduction to the EXPLORE Act

Changes to SRP program:



Utah Special Recreation Permits Program

- Removes some manager discretion
- May require rework of BLM fee percentages
- Reporting requirements
- Requires some multijurisdictional permits
- Sets minimum monitoring requirements
- Adjusts insurance requirements
- NEPA approach to streamline process
- Digital ATB passes
- Much more



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Introduction to the EXPLORE Act

Discussion

A photograph of a white tent pitched in a dark forest at night, with a starry sky and a bright star visible. The text "EXPLORE Act" is overlaid in large white letters.

EXPLORE Act



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Introduction to the EXPLORE Act

Other Topics

- RAC recreation questions?
- ORI Funding and regional councils
- Temporary restrictions rule
- Dispersed camping management and supplementary rules
- 14-day stay limit and 48-hour unattended property rule





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Cedar City Field Office E-bikes on Trails

Bureau of Land Management Cedar City Field Office



#TrailChampions

Cedar City, Utah





UNDERSTANDING E-BIKE CLASSES



CLASS 1

Pedal-assist only (motor activates only when pedaling)

Top Speed:

Up to 20 mph

Typical Allowed Locations:

Bike paths, trails, roads (where bicycles are allowed)



CLASS 2

Throttle-assist (motor can propel bike without pedaling)

Top Speed:

Up to 20 mph

Typical Allowed Locations:

Bike paths, trails, roads (where bicycles are allowed) - check local regulations



CLASS 3

Pedal-assist with higher speed limit (motor provides assistance up to a higher speed, usually 28 mph)

Top Speed:

Up to 28 mph

Typical Allowed Locations:

Roads (check local regulations), some bike paths and trails (depending on local laws)

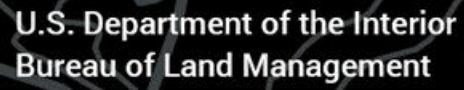


Draft Proposed Action & Design Features

Proposed Action: The BLM CCFO would change the allowable uses in six trail systems to allow for the use of class 1 e-bikes.

Design Features & Adaptive Management:

- Public Education
- Changes in frequency of Law Enforcement patrols
- Signage – suggested routes
- Implementation of more directional trails
- Construction of new trails
- Expansion of existing trailheads or construction of new trailheads if increases in use are observed
- Modification of trail segments (rerouting, widening, etc.)



E-Bike EA
North Fork Trail System

SURFACE MANAGEMENT AGENCY
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado Country District
City of Fort Collins

Trail Head
North Fork Trail System

Scale 1:32,000

Legend:
Hiking
Mountain Biking
Horseback Riding
Bicycle
ATV/UTV
Snowmobile
Climbing
Swimming
Fishing
Hunting
Wildlife Viewing
Camping
Picnicking
Day Use
Interpretive
Historic
Recreation
Other

Scale 1:32,000

North Arrow

Map Title: E-Bike EA (North Fork Trail System)

Map Scale: 1:32,000

Map Legend:

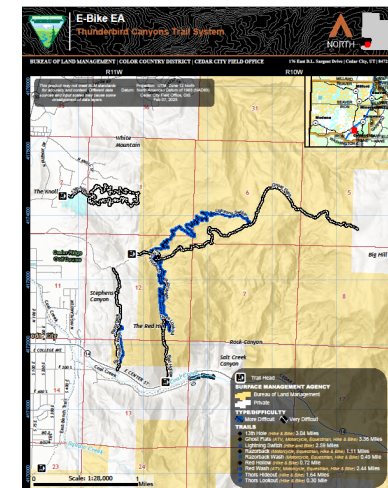
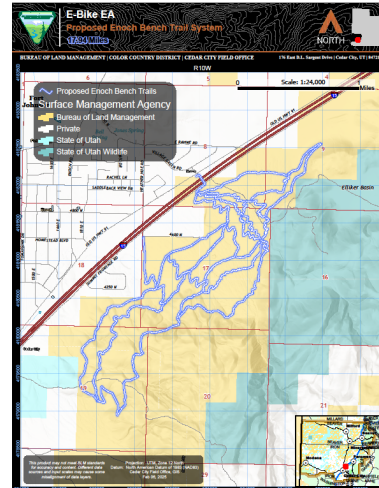
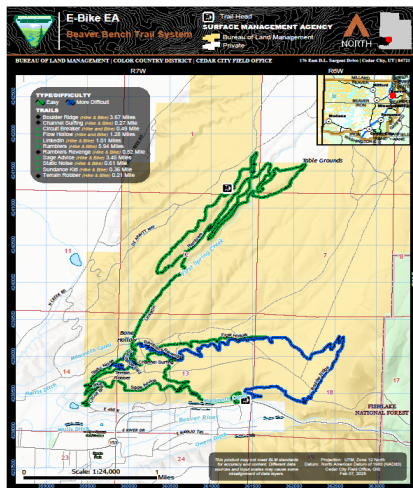
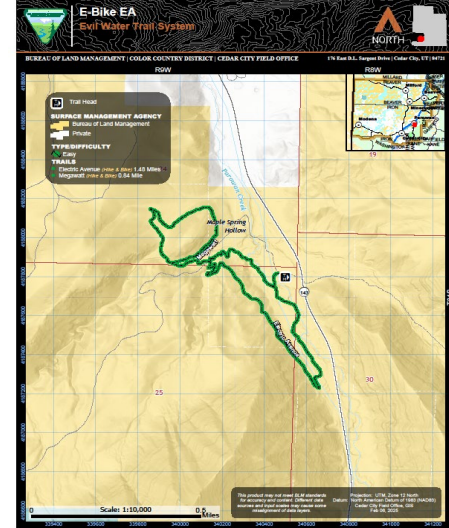
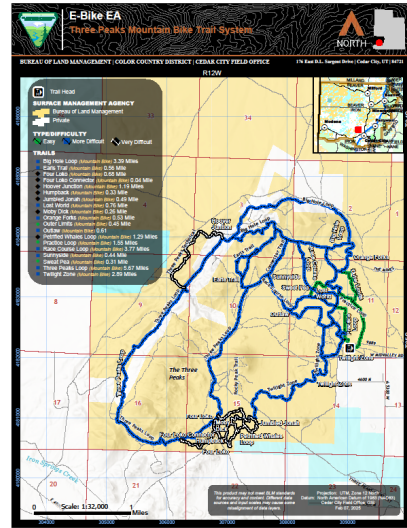
- Hiking
- Mountain Biking
- Horseback Riding
- Bicycle
- ATV/UTV
- Snowmobile
- Climbing
- Swimming
- Fishing
- Hunting
- Wildlife Viewing
- Camping
- Picnicking
- Day Use
- Interpretive
- Historic
- Recreation
- Other

Map Features:

- Trail Head
- North Fork Trail System
- Scale 1:32,000
- North Arrow

Map Description:

The map shows the E-Bike EA (North Fork Trail System) in the Cedar Highlands area. The trail route is highlighted in green and blue. The map includes a legend for trail types, a scale bar, and a north arrow. The map is titled 'E-Bike EA' and 'North Fork Trail System'. It shows the trail route in green and blue, with various landmarks and roads labeled. The map is part of a larger project by the Bureau of Land Management, Colorado Country District, and the City of Fort Collins.





Industry & Recreation Use Trends

- 22.9% increase in cycling in 2022.
- 1.1 million e-bikes imported to the US in 2021 (2x the amount imported in 2020).
- E-bikes were responsible for 63% of the growth in dollar sales of all bicycles between 2019 and 2023.
- E-bike sales in the US accounted for \$878 million in sales in 2022.
- Local bike shops have reported that up to 70% of total sales were e-bikes.
- Accessibility – Increases in Reasonable Accommodation requests and adaptive MTB use.
- Consistent calls from visitors asking if they can use their e-bikes on CCFO trails.
- Trail monitoring and game camera data shows a significant amount of e-bike use on trails already – BLM staff have made observations of some days showing 50% of trail users riding e-bikes.



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Common Misconceptions - Speed





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Common Misconceptions - Access





Common Misconceptions – Trail Damage

Home / Knowledge hub / A Comparison of Environmental Impacts from Mountain Bicycles, Class 1 Electric Mountain Bicycles, and Motorcycles

A COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS FROM MOUNTAIN BICYCLES, CLASS 1 ELECTRIC MOUNTAIN BICYCLES, AND MOTORCYCLES

AUTHOR: IMBA US

Year: 2015

Publisher: Trail solutions, IMBA US

Categories: Erosion, soil displacement, solutions, eMTBS, impacts

ABSTRACT

In the fall of 2015, under contract with the Bicycle Product Suppliers Association (BPSA), with counsel from a field of recreation management experts, and through a review of existing studies of erosional impacts from trail users, the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) conducted a scientifically controlled field study designed to measure relative levels of soil displacement and erosion resulting from traditional mountain bicycles, electric mountain bicycles (eMTBs), and traditional off-road motorcycles (i.e. dirt bikes). The observations were compiled in controlled environmental conditions, with each type of bike making multiple passes on separated sections of the same trail within a single test site.

IMBA developed these hypotheses for this small initial study:

- Soil displacement and erosion caused by mountain biking will be consistent with existing studies showing relatively low impact as with other types of non-motorized travel on this

And a trail for the protection of trail also considered a protective to trail and this not reflect



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Public Scoping

Total Comments: 52

Comments in Support: 45

Comments Opposed: 7

Substantive: 5



Public Scoping

Most common theme of comments in support: Many comments in support highlighted that class 1 e-bikes were the only way they were able to ride on trails due to age, mobility issues, or injury.

Most common type of comment in opposition: Most mentioned speeds of e-bikes and getting “buzzed” by e-bikes on trails.

*Some “opposed” comments were related to not completely understanding the proposed action or e-bike class system.



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Questions or Comments