

BLM Price Field Office



Recreation Insider

Upcoming Meeting

September 17, 2014

Recreation planning meeting will be held at 5:00 p.m., at the BLM Price Field Office 125 S 600 W, Price, UT

During this meeting, we will discuss current and future recreation projects. Anyone interested in outdoor recreation on BLM managed lands in Carbon and Emery Counties is welcome to attend.

Volunteer Projects

August 30, 2014

Wedge Overlook Project. We will be installing signs along the designated route.

Anyone interested in participating in volunteer projects or with any questions or concerns, please contact Jaydon Mead through the BLM at 435-636-3646.



Josh Winkler on the Waterfall Trail during Easter Patrol.

If you would like to be added to a email list, please contact Jaydon Mead at the BLM Price Field

1st Annual Joe's Valley, Utah Adopt a Crag

On April 5, 2014, a crew of thirty rock climbers armed with smiles, work gloves and coffee cups gathered in Joe's Valley ready to give back to this popular rock climbing destination. They met at an area known as Man Size Camp. Food Ranch, a local grocery store in Orangeville Utah, kicked off the work day with free donuts and hot coffee.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Forest Service (FS) worked alongside climbers, accumulating 200 hours. Volunteers eliminated redundant fire rings and removed over a thousand pounds of ash from fire pits. In an attempt to curb camp site creep, parking areas and campsites were delineated. Informational kiosks were installed educating on how to use Joe's Valley responsibly while protecting the watershed.

A BBQ of brats was served,

provided by backcountry.com and Detour and Shades of Pale Brewing Company. Leave No Trace (LNT) was also on hand to discuss LNT principles to help climbers enjoy Joe's Valley responsibly.

The Joe's Valley climbing resources lie within BLM and FS lands and inside an important municipal watershed of Emery County. The Access Fund and Salt Lake Climbers Alliance have brought land managers to the table along with Utah Tourism Partners. The goal of this partnership is to enhance and protect access to rock climbing resources and provide increased resource stewardship.

The 1st Annual Joe's Valley Adopt a Crag was a great success. The "Man Size Camp Project" is just the beginning. Additional investments and stewardship efforts are needed from the climb-

ing community to continue safeguarding this opportunity for the future.

In a demonstration of commitment to stewardship, the Access Fund and the American Alpine Club have additionally partnered with the Salt Lake Climbers Alliance providing grants to conduct a Joes Valley bouldering Recreation Site Assessment". Land management will use this assessment to aid in stewardship efforts and provide valuable resource information for use in future planning. This assessment provides an influential tool in future resource use and protection efforts and reflects the climbing community's commitment to stewardship of this amazing resource.

Thanks to all who came out providing time and muscles to 2014's "Adopt a Crag."

-Julia Geisler



Above: Group picture from Adopt a Crag. Right: Kiosk that was installed during project.



Holiday Weekends

Over the busy Easter and Memorial Day weekends, volunteers helped the BLM Recreation Staff monitor motorized trails. Volunteers also participated in public outreach and presenting a positive message to the public.

The volunteers helped us hand out free motorized route maps and talked with the many different users in the field.

I would like to thank the volunteers for their time, and giving us some extra eyes and ears, and helping us contact a

wide range of users.

This is a great way to reach the public, ensure that they have maps of the area and remind them to recreate responsibly.

-Jaydon Mead



Volunteers Work to Complete Trail Improvements

On Saturday June 7 2014, 13 volunteers met with OHV coordinator, Jaydon Mead to help improve trail 636.

In the week before the project, Emery County worked in collaboration with the BLM and Forest Service to remove a large lime stone deposit that was acting as a lip at the top of a steep section of the trail, helped reduce potential hazards on the trail.

Volunteers met just off the Moore Cut Off Road, unloaded their ATVs and enjoyed an eight mile ride through windy rough hills, to the project site. Once on-site a safety briefing was held.

Volunteers worked in the heat and dust to build a fence along the hillside as a visual warning of possible danger. Posts and rocks were placed on the opposite side of the hill to also warn and delineate the trail.

After the project was complete volunteers enjoyed a sack lunch and told stories of riding in the area.

The group dispersed and some headed home while others enjoyed the rest of the day riding Devils Race Track and

looping back to the staging area through Eagles Canyon.

This project was a great success.

The BLM would like to thank those who participated in this project.

-AnnDee Mead



Above: Volunteers work together to built a barrier fence and improve trail 636.
Below: Before and After pictures of trail 636.

-Pictures by AnnDee Mead and Amber Koski



Before



After

Humbug Loop Improvements and Trail Cat Projects



Above: Trail cat at work .
Below: Volunteers install trail marker.



The BLM Price Field Office Recreation staff has spent many days and covered hundreds of miles of trails in the Chimney Rock Motorized Trail System

this spring. We have marked the designated routes with carsonites, familiarized ourselves with the hundreds of single track trails, and organized a few volunteer projects to help sign and maintain some of the trails.

One of the large projects to highlight took place on what is known as the Humbug Loop. This loop was unmarked, and was beginning to receive a lot of water damage. When we first saw this over a year ago, we knew that we would have to take action. We documented the condition of the trail and took it back to the office where we could get approval for the trail maintenance project and proceed by completing the proper National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents. When the project was approved, we started by organizing volunteer projects with local OHV clubs and we also scheduled the Utah State Off-Highway Vehicle Program's trail-cat.

We were able to take the trail-cat around the entire loop during late April. It took about three days to finish the loop. We were able to fix many washed out areas and build water bars, hopefully avoiding future problems. The trail is now in fantastic condition and makes for

a great family day ride and provides some scenic opportunities. We had the trail-cat for about two weeks and were also able to maintain the Elliot Mountain Road to the Price River, and the TV Tower Trail. I also learned how hard it is to start the trail-cat once it had run out of fuel (that will never happen again).

On May, 10th, we had six volunteers participate in a volunteer project to make sure the entire loop was properly signed, and that any touch up maintenance was completed. During the project we rode the entire loop trail moving large rocks from the trail and smoothing out some high spots that were left from the trail-cat. We were able to sign the trail, and many adjacent trails. We completed the loop in about five hours, and had time to take a bonus detour with the volunteers into Stove Gulch to check the trail signs and show them the scenic and historic canyon.

For more information about these trail projects, or if you would like a map of this area please contact Jaydon Mead at the BLM Price Field Office.

-Jaydon Mead



User Articles

If you have a favorite trail, or had a good recreation experience in the BLM Price Field Office Area, then share it with us and other enthusiasts like yourself

Articles about recreation experiences from the users eyes are great articles for the newsletter, but I need help from you, the users, to keep putting them in.

You may ask, where do I start, or what makes a good article?

If you can answer some of the following questions, then we can make a great article.

- What is one of your favorite trails on BLM-managed land in Carbon or Emery Counties?
- What makes that trail one of your favorites?
- How did you learn about the trail?
- What is a good memory about that trail?
- Do you have any pictures of the trail?
- Tell me about yourself and how you recreate. Are you a part of any groups?

We are looking for motorized and non-motorized experiences on favorite trails.

If you would like to author an "Ask A User" article, contact Jaydon Mead at the BLM Price Field

Return From Desolation

I reach for another chip and salsa as I try to gather my thoughts and tried to recapture feelings about my recent trip on the Green River through Desolation Gray Canyons and the Desolation Wilderness Study Area (WSA).

Conceived by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and organized by the River Management Society (RMS), the seven-day raft trip's purpose was to gather video footage of Desolation Gray Canyons and personal interviews of individuals who enjoy conservation areas specifically in this case the Desolation Canyon WSA.

2014 is the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act, signed into law on September 3, 1964, by President Lyndon B. Johnson.

It was raining on June 17, at Sand Wash, the put-in point for Desolation, 40 miles south of Myton, Utah. I came prepared for mosquitos but was discouraged by the rain. However, it didn't seem to bother others of our group. They came from Idaho, Nevada, New Hampshire, Denver, Grand Junction, and Colorado. The BLM staff came from Price and Salt Lake City, Utah.

They came from a diverse background of educators, rangers, archeologists, fire fighters, videographers, public information specialists, city administrators, recreations specialists, fund raisers, EMTs, retired governmental managers, and national staff of Trout Unlimited. The group totaled 18 in all.

Attention soon focused on the river and it was then BLM river ranger Mick Krussow's responsibility to make sure we all got to the take-out, near Green River Utah, ninety-seven miles and seven days down the river.

We launched on Wednesday morning, the rain had stopped and the dirt was quickly drying. Putting seven boats and two "duckies" together took some time but by midday we shoved off and floated quietly downstream, happy that we could finally relax.

The following are highlights rather than a day-by-day account of our activities.

Mosquitos at first night's island camp, but great dinner of spaghetti and meatballs by rangers Mick, and Ryan Hygon, and Price BLM outdoor recreation planner, Matt Blocker.

We enjoyed short hikes to petroglyphs with BLM archeologist Amber Koski, and observed Fremont granaries and remnants of pit houses. In addition to the "wow factor" of these places, Amber cautioned for the need to protect and preserve.

We enjoyed rapids like Steer Ridge, Cow Swim, Coal Creek, and Three Fords with instructions from Mick to be careful. Each rapid concluded with high fives and grins from ear to ear. Personal success. One of the reasons we came...

We hiked at Rock Creek, one the more beautiful watered spots in the desert West.

More fabulous meals on the trip included stroganoff, Indian curry, Dutch oven carrot cake, enchiladas, and short cakes! All accompanied by music from two guitars and a cadre of impromptu singers.

At "Artist Beach" or "Surprise" camp--a sow bear and her cub were working the opposite beach from camp in search of food. The bear slowly turned over

rocks while the cub ran and jumped around. She ignored us. Another bear was observed below Three Fords Rapid the next day.

Throughout the trip, the BLM interviewed members of RMS about their views on the subject of wilderness and their personal experiences. The BLM filmed examples of river use stipulations, including the use of fire pans, wearing approved life jackets, and of course, not removing or destroying archeological, historical, or ecological resources.

The BLM is planning to edit the footage and produce a video that river runners can watch, on line, before undertaking their trip.

All good things come to an end and a river trip is no exception. There was beautiful weather, good food, good company, and plenty of experiences to enjoy.

The opportunity for the RMS to match up with managers of Desolation Canyon is a rare experience. It allowed RMS members and the BLM to interact and to understand management issues at the working level. I was impressed by the professionalism and the dedication of the ranger staff and others in their efforts to insure that these special places remain for the use of future generations.

-Article by: Greg Trainor



Desolation WSA. Picture by BLM Ranger.

