

# Guacamole Mesa

NEPA and Trailhead Infrastructure

*Presented by:* Emily Friedman, ZRC Coordinator



# Background

- **Zion Regional Collaborative**

- Established in 2015 as an informal planning organization centered around Zion National Park
- Funding partners include: City of Hurricane, City of La Verkin, Town of Virgin, Town of Rockville, Town of Springdale, Zion Forever Project, Iron County, and Washington County

# Background

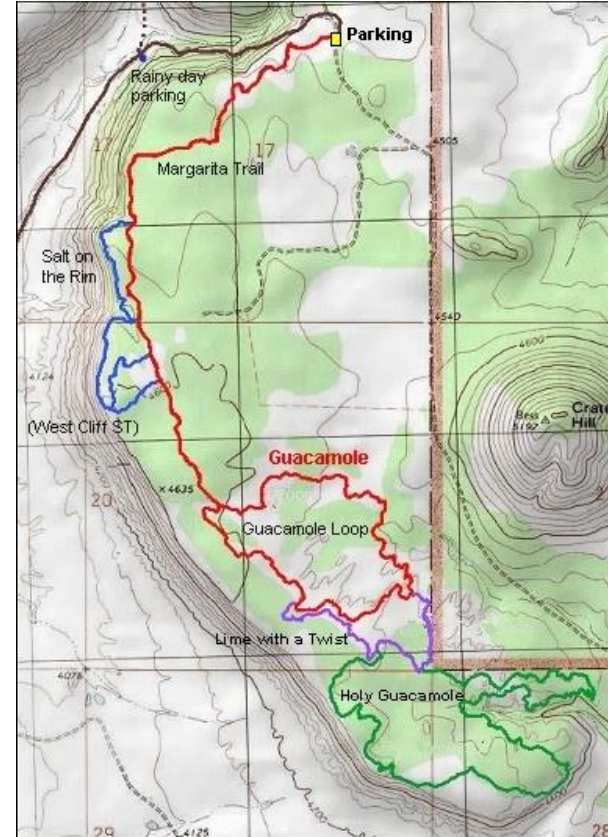
- **Trails Committee**

- In 2022, the ZRC inaugurated a Trail Committee, tasked with using *“its resources and knowledge to support trails of all kinds and uses, ensuring the long-term viability of our region’s extensive trail network”*
- This spring, the Committee generated a list of over 2 dozen projects, spanning planning, construction, user education, maintenance, access preservation, and more
- Guacamole Mesa NEPA and Trailhead Infrastructure was identified as the top priority, amongst all projects listed



# Guacamole Mesa

- Popular singletrack mountain bike trail network located on BLM property between the Towns of Virgin and Rockville, abutting Zion National Park
- Network consists of 5 trails, totaling approximately 8 miles, which can be combined into a variety of loops
- Trail network receives over 20,000 annual visitors according to recent BLM data
- Trails were constructed illegally; any further work necessitates NEPA

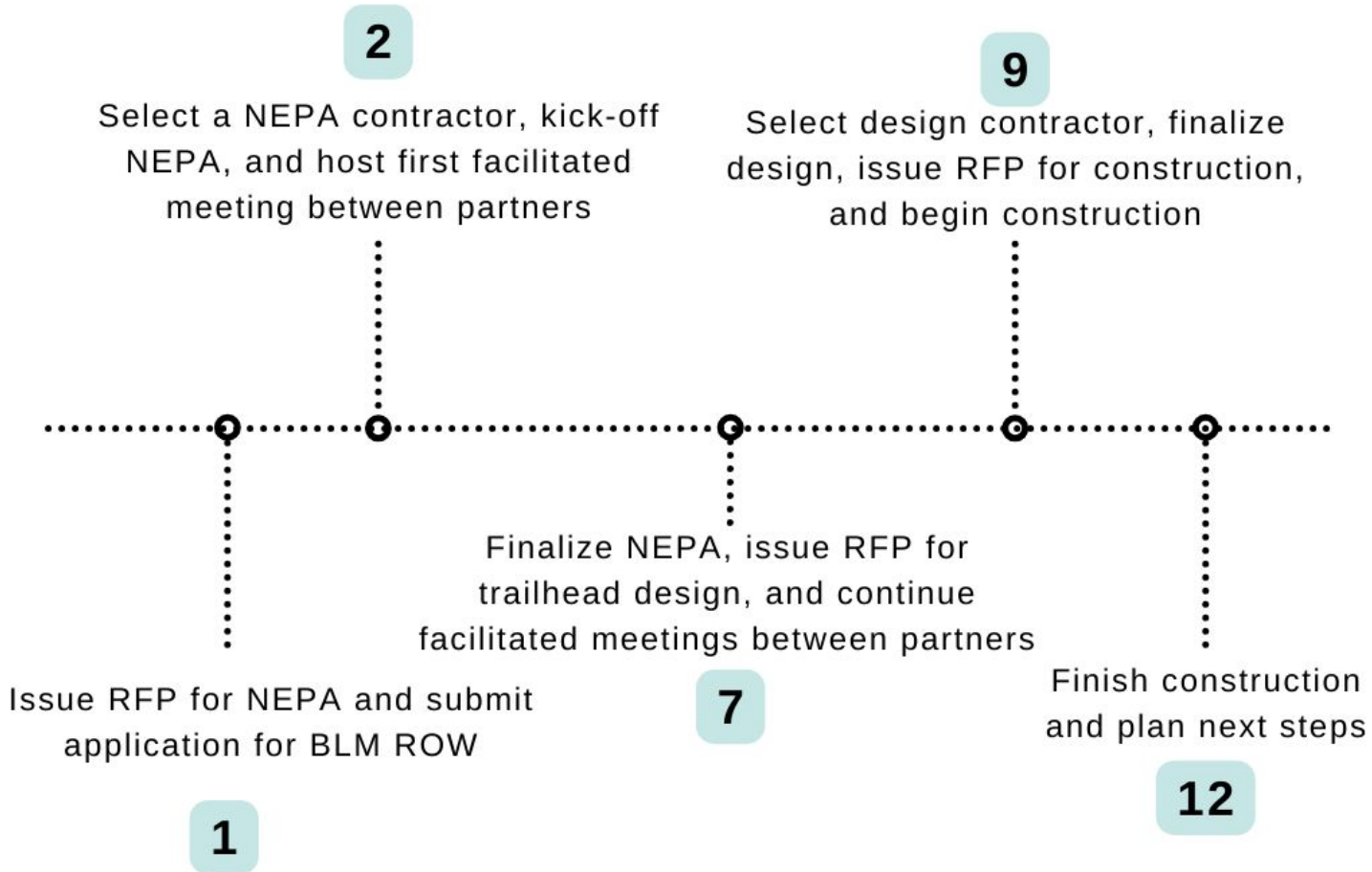


# Guacamole Mesa

- **Proposal:**

- Initiate a retroactive NEPA process for the illegally constructed trail network and, simultaneously, conduct NEPA for proposed trailhead infrastructure
- Pending NEPA, add restrooms, informational kiosk, and signage to Guacamole Mesa trailhead
- Engage local stakeholders in proactive discussions around the impacts of enhancing infrastructure (eg: increased camping near the Wilderness Boundary of Zion National Park)

# Within (x) Months of Funding:



# Community Input and Partners

- This proposal was generated by a collaborative group consisting of private and public sector stakeholders (including BLM, local bike shops, municipal governments, County representatives, and others)
- NEPA necessitates community and stakeholder engagement; we look forward to the continued involvement of our partners
- We would appreciate the state's support in:
  - Convening partners for further discussions
  - Applying for grants
  - Managing certain elements of this project (especially given ZRC is a non-legal entity)







# Guacamole Mesa Trail Network

## NEPA and Trailhead Infrastructure Cost Estimate

### *Trailhead Infrastructure*

Task	Cost Estimate	
<i>Project Administration</i>	\$9,000	
<i>Trailhead Kiosk and Signage</i>	\$22,000	
- Design and Interpretive Planning		
- Manufacturing		
- Installation		
<i>Parking Lot and Pit Toilet</i>	\$65,000	
- Design		
- Construction		<i>Total:</i> \$96,000

# Funding Request

- **Total Cost Estimate: \$203,000**
- **Anticipated Share of the Cost by the Applicant: 10-20%**
- **Anticipated Share of Cost by the State of Utah: 80-90%**



Photo by John Fenger

# Prioritization Checklist

- Significant Scope
- Benefit to Local Utah Communities
- Addresses Overcrowding
- Addresses the Underserved
- Cross-Jurisdictional
- Shovel-Ready
- Addresses Backlogged Maintenance

# OAC Strategic Plan Alignment

- Build and support collaborative processes.
- Increase the economic and health benefits generated by outdoor recreation.
- Improve awareness and education about safe and responsible recreation.
- Increase access to outdoor recreation while protecting natural and scenic landscapes.

# Thank You!

Questions or Comments?



Photo by John Fenger

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Zion Regional  
COLLABORATIVE