

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

BLM Utah Partnership Opportunities

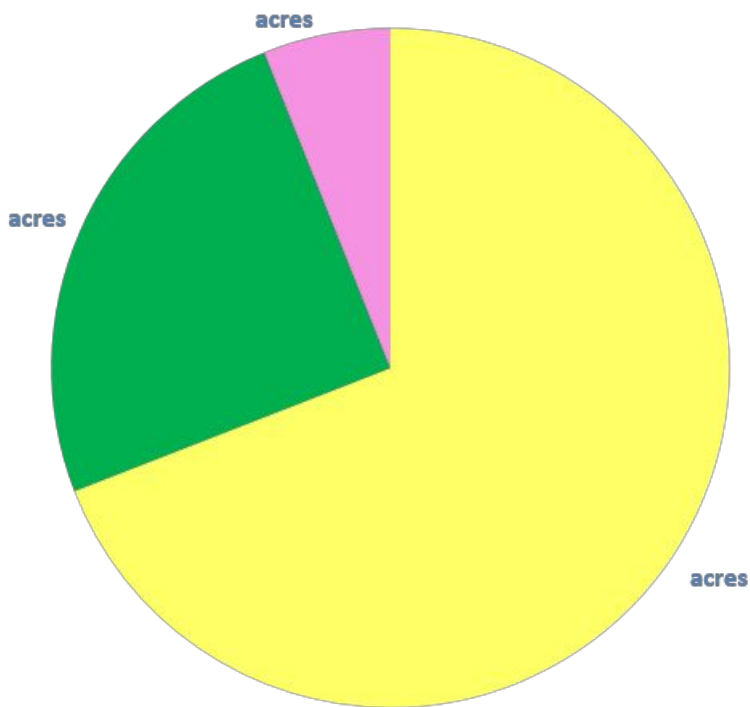
December 2023 - Utah's Outdoor Adventure Commission Meeting - Evan Glenn





BLM Utah - 22.8 million acres, 5 districts, 11 offices, 3 National Monuments

Utah Federal LAND ACRES



Funding per Visitor

10-Year Average - 2012-2021



Funding Data: GAO, July 2021
Report to Congressional Committees, GAO-21-592 BLM's 21st Century Recreation Strategy



45 potential project initially, \$44 million in unfunded opportunities

- 5 priority projects for 2024
 - No land acquisition funding requests
 - All funding request could be adjusted/phased to meet OAC needs.
- Completing the Colorado River Pathway – Moab
- House on Fire Access Improvements – Bears Ears National Monument
- McCoy Flats New Campground – Vernal
- Calf Creek Recreation Site Improvements – Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument
- Iron County Mountain Bike Trails – Cedar City



Completing the Colorado River Pathway

Moab





Completing the Colorado River Pathway Project Overview

- Final .6 miles of paved pathway along SR-128 in Moab
 - Safe, scenic, off-of-highway active transportation route
 - 2.6 miles already in place
 - Connect Lions Park to Porcupine Rim Trail, including campgrounds
 - **Connects sections of pathway already constructed**
- NEPA – NEPA and design work complete (2004 EA)
- Timeline – Construction or funds obligation could begin in 2024, complete in 2025
- Partners - Grand County, UDOT, FFSL, UHP
- State Role – Direct funding assistance



Completing the Colorado River Pathway

Budget Overview

- Total Project Cost – \$15 million
 - \$5 million for this phase, most expensive phase per mile due to complex construction requirement (cantilever).
- Requesting \$5 million in assistance to be applied directly to construction contracts.
- UDOT is also pursuing funding options, including Utah Trail Network program and others.
- Grand County is also pursuing funding to support this project.



Completing the Colorado River Pathway Prioritization Checklist

- ✓ Scope – Local, regional, national, international
- ✓ Local community benefit – Improved safety and travelways, supporting community growth and accessible recreational opportunities
- ✓ Addresses overcrowding – Optional travel path reduces overcrowding on SR-128 and separates different speed uses
- ✓ Addresses the underserved – Free recreation opportunity, provides opportunity to reach recreation destinations without requiring a car.
- ✓ Cross-jurisdictional – BLM, FFSL, UDOT, Grand County
- ✓ Shovel ready - Ready
- Addresses backlogged maintenance – new construction



Completing the Colorado River Pathway

OAC Strategic Plan Alignment

- ✓ Build and support collaborative processes – Continuation of collaborative process with BLM, UDOT, Grand County, FSSL
- ✓ Increase economic and health benefits generated by outdoor recreation – Pathway will help promote tourism and will provide health benefit opportunities to people of all abilities and ages
- ✓ Improve awareness and education about safe and responsible recreation – Part of Moab's paved pathways system promoting safe and responsible recreation through action and interpretation.
- ✓ Increase access to outdoor recreation while protecting natural and scenic landscapes – Increases safety and recreation opportunities.



House on Fire Access Improvements

Bears Ears National Monument





House on Fire Access Improvements Project Overview

- Iconic heavily visited cultural site in Bears Ears National Monument and San Juan County
- This project will construct a new parking area, trailhead, restroom, kiosk with information about how to visit responsibly, a fee tube, five picnic sites, and pedestrian access to the existing trail
- New location will address Wilderness Study Area boundary and address roadside parking safety issues and provide partial new access trail
- NEPA - Expected to be complete in late December 2023
- Timeline – Could begin construction in 2024, complete in 2025
- Partners – Local government in San Juan County and Bears Ears Commission
- State Role – Direct funding assistance



House on Fire Access Improvements Budget Overview

- Total Project Cost - \$330,000
- Requesting \$230,000 in assistance to purchase materials (gravel, parking infrastructure, toilet and other supplies) and for any needed contract work.
- Most of the labor will be provided by BLM operations staff. Engineering work has been completed internally.



House on Fire Access Improvements Project Checklist

- ✓ Scope – Site receives local, national, and international visitation
- ✓ Local community benefit – Improved trail and parking safety, improved site promotability and economic impact
- ✓ Addresses overcrowding – Move busy roadside parking (EMS issue) into planned parking facility
- ✓ Addresses the underserved – Improved access for all, including tribal communities with a unique connection to and interest in the site
- ✓ Cross-jurisdictional – BLM and San Juan County
- ✓ Shovel ready – NEPA near completion and in facilities team is ready to take the project on once funding is secured
- Addresses backlogged maintenance – No, but site improvements have been a long-standing need and under consideration since 2016



House on Fire Access Improvements OAC Strategic Plan Alignment

- ✓ Build and support collaborative processes – Supported by BLM, county and Tribal representatives
- ✓ Increase economic and health benefits generated by outdoor recreation – Improved access to trails
- ✓ Improve awareness and education about safe and responsible recreation – Increased opportunity for interpretation about cultural resource protection and responsible recreation
- ✓ Increase access to outdoor recreation while protecting natural and scenic landscapes – Direct use to hardened site vs roadside use and user created trails



McCoy Flats New Campground Vernal





McCoy Flats New Campground Project Overview

- McCoy Flats Trail System and Recreation Area east of Vernal. 35 miles of trail that received congressional designation in 2019 via the Dingell Act. Is becoming a national recreation destination and economic boon.
- 15 individual sites, 9 long vehicle sites, and 2 group sites. Shade structures and campfire rings at each site, restrooms, multiple interpretive kiosks with maps and other information, and a fee tube. A fence would be constructed around the campground to keep range animals out of the sites and parking barricades would be placed to delineate site parking boundaries and prevent unauthorized site expansion. Future plans for additional campgrounds/sites.
- NEPA– NEPA underway, expected to be complete in January 2024
- Timeline – Construction could begin in 2024
- Partners – Uintah County, SITLA, Northeastern Utah Mountain Bikers
- State Role – Direct funding assistance



McCoy Flats New Campground Budget Overview

- Total Project Cost - \$1.5 million
- Requesting \$1 million in assistance to purchase materials and support contract work.
- Most of the labor will be provided by BLM operations staff.



McCoy Flats New Campground Project Checklist

- ✓ Scope – Local, regional, national. Only congressionally designated trail system in the country.
- ✓ Local community benefit – Economic benefit and improved site management improving local experience.
- ✓ Addresses overcrowding – Directs use to hardened and planned sites with restroom facilities. Current use occurs in dispersed sites.
- ✓ Addresses the underserved – 1 group site and at least 2 sites would be built to highly accessible standards.
- ✓ Cross-jurisdictional – Improved camping management in the area could reduce impacts to SITLA lands.
- ✓ Shovel ready – NEPA near complete, work could begin in 2024
- Addresses backlogged maintenance – New facility



McCoy Flats New Campground OAC Strategic Plan Alignment

- ✓ Build and support collaborative processes – Area access and management based on collaboration with Uintah County and SITLA.
- ✓ Increase economic and health benefits generated by outdoor recreation – Improve tourism base and outdoor recreation opportunities for locals and visitors.
- ✓ Improve awareness and education about safe and responsible recreation – Site interpretation will provide responsible recreation and safety information.
- ✓ Increase access to outdoor recreation while protecting natural and scenic landscapes – Concentrate dispersed use in hardened sites with restroom facilities.



Calf Creek Site Improvements

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument







Calf Creek Site Improvements

Project Overview

- Calf Creek Recreation Site is one of the most visited sites in GSENM and is located along All-American Road-Scenic Byway 12.
- The visitor demand at Calf Creek far exceeds the capacity of the existing infrastructure, much of which was originally constructed in the 1960s. Parking issues on Highway 12.
- Major deferred maintenance project beginning in 2024 includes campground, day use area and trailhead improvements. (Phase 2 unfunded needs shown on next slide)
- NEPA – NEPA complete, some detailed design work needs finalized
- Timeline – Phase 2 planning, contracting, and funds obligated in 2024, construction in 2025 and 2026.
- Partners – State of Utah (grant!), UDOT, Garfield County, GSE Partners, Grand Canyon Trust
- State Role – Direct funding assistance



Calf Creek Site Improvements Project Overview

- Phase 2 unfunded improvements include:
 - Reconfiguring/enlarging the main parking area
 - Removing/replacing the existing restroom building
 - Paving site road and all parking areas
 - Removing/replacing the low water crossing in the campground
 - Installing a fiber communication line
 - Replacing retaining walls
 - Relocating the camp host site
 - Constructing a small amphitheater
 - Relocating the trailhead
 - Constructing a bypass trail around the campground



Calf Creek Site Improvements Budget Overview

- Total project cost - \$5.5 million
- Requesting \$3,300,000 in assistance to support Phase 2 needs
 - Funds would be used to purchase materials and support construction contracts.



Calf Creek Site Improvements Project Checklist

- ✓ Scope – Local, regional, national, international.
- ✓ Local community benefit – Communities of Escalante and Boulder receive economic benefit due to visitation and locals can also enjoy this world class destination.
- ✓ Addresses Overcrowding – Increase parking, improve traffic flow, reduce parking hazard along highway.
- ✓ Addresses the underserved – Improvements will be made to high-level accessibility standards.
- ✓ Cross-jurisdictional – BLM/Garfield County/UDOT
- ✓ Shovel ready – NEPA complete Phase 1 construction begins in 2024
- ✓ Addresses backlogged maintenance – Directly addressed deferred maintenance issues.



Calf Creek Site Improvements

OAC Strategic Plan Alignment

- ✓ Build and support collaborative processes – State and local partners participated in the planning process. Working with partners to fund and accomplish common goals.
- ✓ Increase economic and health benefits generated by outdoor recreation – Economic boon due to visitation health benefits via outdoor recreation and world class scenery opportunities.
- ✓ Improve awareness and education about safe and responsible recreation – Kiosks at Calf Creek will provide messaging on how to safely and responsibly visit the area and other areas within the monument and beyond.
- ✓ Increase access to outdoor recreation while protecting natural and scenic landscapes – One of the projects primary goals. Accommodate increasing visitation while protecting natural resources.



Iron County Mountain Bike Trails

Cedar City





Iron County Mountain Bike Trails Project Overview

- Expand on the community based, partner driven trails that have made Cedar City a new mountain biking destination. BLMs Iron Hill trails recognized as a National Recreation Trail in 2023.
- Add 10-15 miles of high-value trail to the BLMs current 32 miles of trail in the area.
- NEPA – NEPA complete and part of 100-mile master trails plan developed with the International Mountain Bicycling Association.
- Timeline – Construction could begin in 2024
- Partners – County, City, NICA, local trails groups, IMBA, Utah DOR, ACE
- State Role – Direct funding support



Iron County Mountain Bike Trails Budget Overview

- Total project cost - \$730,000 for the 10-15 additional miles
- Requesting \$500,000 in assistance to support additional trail miles via assistance agreement with IMBA.
- BLM has already invested \$270,000 into the current assistance agreement with IMBA, today's request would expand upon that and increase the miles of trail we could provide the community and visitors.
- Roughly \$1.5 million invested in local BLM trails in recent years.



Iron County Mountain Bike Trails Project Checklist

- ✓ Scope – Local, national, regional, international. Cedar City has become a true mountain biking destination.
- ✓ Local community benefit – Economic boom. Make more trails available via paved access trails. Hikers, runners, dog walkers, etc. also benefit.
- ✓ Addresses Overcrowding – Specifically planned trail locations to reduce crowding in other areas and be accessible by paved pathways.
- ✓ Addresses the underserved – Trails open and free to the public and accessible without required use of a car.
- ✓ Cross-jurisdictional – Working with Cedar City and their Active Transportation and Trails Committee.
- ✓ Shovel ready – NEPA complete and on the ground trail layout is done, ready to be built.
- Addresses Backlogged maintenance – New trail construction.



Iron County Mountain Bike Trails OAC Strategic Plan Alignment

- ✓ Build and support collaborative processes – Trails funded and built via collaborative process. Cedar City’s BLM trails are recognized as true “Community” trails and seen as a national model for partnerships and community impact.
- ✓ Increase economic and health benefits generated by outdoor recreation – Economic boon. Increased community quality of life.
- ✓ Improve awareness and education about safe and responsible recreation – Signage designed to expand knowledge about safe and responsible recreation. Site is one of two potential sites for pilot project focused on expanding opportunities and information for adaptive riders.
- ✓ Increase access to outdoor recreation while protecting natural and scenic landscapes – Purpose built trails reduce off-route or user created trail development and use.