



Emery County
Trail's Committee
November 7, 2023 8:00 AM
Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Les Wilberg, Terri Bennett, Don Bennett, Les Thompson, Ken McAurthur, Jaydon Mead, Myron Jeffs, Brad Walkers, Ed Gerry, Rod Player, Ray Peterson, Kent Wilson, Kurt Price, Robin Nelson, Drew Sparfke, Larry Johansen, Kathryn Miller, Jim Jennings, AnnDee Mead, Camie Bell, Wayne Ludington, Bryan Curtia, Keven Jensen.

Welcome Chairman: Les Wilberg

1. Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Les Thompson to approve minutes from October 2023. Second by Don. **Approved.**

2. Discuss Reports of the Following:

a. BLM- Jaydon reported finishing the removal of the bison fence in partnership with the DWR. The fence was temporary due to its location in a wilderness area, and had served its time. Jurassic National Monument contracted trail work is complete. Many trails have been widened and improved. The quarry has been closed for the season. Hoping for some new panels and bones to be on display when the quarry opens back up in the spring. Had a great month, looking forward to a trail committee work project November 13-14 to do some maintenance on the Lone Man Trail area. Discussion regarding positive adjustment of plans thanks to some feedback from the public and looking toward making a better system to foster those interactions. Seasonal employees finishing their season till next year. Positive report that there seems to have not been any ATV activity near Cane Wash recently which should help the condition of the area. Equestrian trail gate signage is still in the works. Discussion about possibly locking some of the gates during certain times. Signs will also help with the flow of visitors. New detachable cables are in place to adjust according to river depths and continue to keep cows out of campgrounds. EA on Little Cedar Mountain is still being worked on. Working on finalizing the draft and hopefully releasing the EA for public comment around February. Working hard on getting SITLA/BLM land exchanges completed. San Rafael Swell Travel Management Plan is another priority that will be worked on this winter, finalizing alternatives, working with cooperating agencies, and hoping to release for public comment early spring. Report of hot air balloon sightings in the Swell. Intern who was working on the equestrian trails map was able to complete the map, the state office is finalizing it and the map should be finished this winter. Swasey's Beach campground has had some repeated theft issues with the fee tube. Cameras have been used but have also been stolen. This is costing a lot of money and help in listening and watching out is requested to try to mitigate and put an end to the issue.

b. Forest Service- Myron reported a new recreation lead, Zack Gardener, hired that will be working on the mountain, positions are filled in Ferron and Ephraim and will open up opportunities for the Forest Service. Discussion about the development of non-motorized trails on each side of the mountain. Please encourage locals to apply for seasonal jobs. Extended good weather this fall has allowed continued work on projects, Spring Creek and Toe Head Trails have been made more useful for mountain bikes. Crew currently working on Dairy Trail, permittees have been packing gear and equipment in. Avalanche beacon training area has been moved up to the Fairview parking lot. Season is winding down, going to a grant workshop with the state. Forest Plan Revision is wrapping up public comment, public comments are due by November 16th.

c. State Parks- Parks are being "put to bed". Lots of dead trees are being removed, down to just three rangers now. Installing new heaters and a ceiling fan in the shed for the snow cat. Crews and Rangers learning about grooming trails for snowmobiles.

New RRI grants have become available to the BLM and Forest Service. Grants team was in Price Monday, will be in Bicknell on the 8th and Richfield on the 9th of November. New grant opportunities will open up next year, please use the grants to keep improving trail systems. Looking for seasonal help

and equipment to fit the needs of the individuals.

d. Committee Member- Report from the travel bureau that the recent rock festival was successful, had good numbers, and visitors enjoyed the “sheep parade” of sheep coming down off the mountain.

Ferron Box had a crew making a new log fence and relocated the old fence to guide visitors. More work will be done in conjunction with the nearby property owner to improve lines and visitor traffic.

Work was done during this last month on the San Rafael Knob and Copperglobe area on some motorized trails.

e. Commission- Discussion about the private property access to public land at the end of Long Street in Green River. Access is not always being allowed by the land owner, commissioner asking the committee about their views, whether or not access is truly needed, and what other options might be available. Losing the current right-of-way would cut off a lot of valuable public lands from the public. It was suggested that a resolution is reached but that the county takes a stand to avoid the precedence that private land owners can do similar things in the future.

f. Travel Bureau and Public Lands-

3. Adjourn Next meeting will be held in January.

Next Trails Meeting January 2, 2024