

**Sand Flats Recreation Area (SFRA)
Stewardship Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 14th, 2023
3:00 pm**

In attendance

Sand Flats: Andrea Brand (AB) Director, Matt Olding (MO), staff via zoom
Stewardship Committee members: Molly Taylor (MT), Tom Dillon (TD), Mike Kelso (MK),
Dale Parriott (DP) arrives 4:08 pm
Bureau of Land Management: Katie Stevens (KS) via zoom
GCATT - Tyson Swasey, enters at 3:30 pm for presentation

Call to Order 3:05 pm

Approval of Minutes

MT makes a motion, MK seconded. All vote in favor.

Agency Reports

Budget 2023

AB- shows total remits to date and compares with different years. Spreadsheet- Revenue 2023 to 2022, up 4% with fee increase implemented this fall. At September meeting revenue was down 4%. For last few years, each year was compared to 2019 due to effects of Covid. AB shows Caselle generated budget sheet- 2023 year to date, \$616,000 fund balance carried over into 2023, not used because didn't build things out of Capital Improvements budget in 2023. However, \$50,000 was moved out of this and put it into Capital Equipment for motorcycle and UTV purchases. \$42,000 for Accounting and Bookkeeping for 2022- not pulled out until May of 2023 and Caselle was not updated until October 2023; this item will be the same amount in 2024. Anything over in line items is minimal. Over in Inventory office equipment due to computers purchase, Printing; and Contract Professional Services- paid for Jones and DeMille engineer to help with RAISE grant in 2023 and videos to be on channel 6 before TRT monies kicked in.

Budget 2024

AB- Reviewed changed items since last meeting. Discussed projected salaries from HR. 2024 Utilities will go down some because GCATT will split utilities. Toilet Contract \$72,000 because Zunich Bros wants more for cleaning concrete toilet buildings vs. wooden structures. \$15,000 for Search and Rescue \$1,000 in Scholarships not shown, AB will need to speak to Clerk. \$250,000 for RAISE grant now to show commitment at advice of Bill Jackson, GC Rd dept. \$125,000 added if we do RTP multimodal trail grant match. \$2,000 shown for new equipment for conference room. County will pass whole budget on December 19th.

Citizens to be Heard

No citizens

Presentation

Tyson Swasey, GCATT

Proposed trails lower Sand Flats campground areas and above Falcon Flow parking lot

TS- Shows map. Kestrel Run completed to Hawk campground. From Hawk to Slickrock multimodal path connecting campgrounds closer to Slickrock was proposed a couple of years ago.

AB- This idea was received well by committee in the past.

TS- Through scouting here are some new trail options, shown in multiple colors. Looking at one route, northern blue line is single track option instead of this one. Pink and purple lines represent multimodal surface hardened dirt, not paving pathway. Like Lion's Back development 6 to 8 feet wide. Allow people to have a recreation opportunity between campgrounds that is not the road.

Many options but campground D path is not a great idea because you have to go through the campground. Have to connect campsites to trail or fencing. Proposed pathway near road and campground E would compromise the mountain view shed. Another path here is set back and out of view shed and follows an old road bed. There may be some archeology sites here and there is also a USGS site. Could hide it from the road and provide more of a trail experience. North side of road is a pink lined trail that would use quite a bit of sandstone and tie into campground C and then could connect to bike lanes on the SF road. RAISE grant- wait and see what comes of this. Trading off this recreation opportunity but then would not get dusted out so path could go closer to the road.

AB- Draft survey suggests bike lanes along road or separated path.

TS- These are all proposed options to get folks from Hawk to Slickrock.

AB- Or no trails could be built if road gets paved with bike lanes.

TS- Also community is requesting a single track that travels 3 miles up from Falcon Flow parking lot to upper Falcon Flow on north side of the road; (Falcon Climb) would utilize old roads and slickrock sections. And then they could climb up from Kestrel. Makes Falcon Flow into a loop trail and would all be bidirectional, would cross Juniper hiking trail.

Survey-Group reviews draft survey

AB- Plan is for paving to Porcupine Rim again, like the last three times the grant went in. This is part of the County/ City United Master Travel Plan. GC Commission wanted more outreach. The survey will ask if one wants it paved through Days Crack or Falcon Flow or Porcupine Rim or up to the Loop Road. Not sure what Commission will decide once survey is completed. County came so close last time to getting it, 7 out of 8 rated highly recommended. In debriefing it appeared that Day's Crack was one of the major safety issues they were concerned about.

TD- Survey should ask if they are citizens of Grand County and how often do you use SFRA?

AB- We are only surveying locals. How do we reach more visitors? This is federal land, belongs to everyone. Katie?

KS- Right, survey is not considering thousands of visitors. BLM is not doing a separate survey. Have heard people concerned that with pavement people will go faster. Is that being addressed in the survey?

AB- This is a draft survey so it could be. A group met this week and came up with this draft- Elissa Martin from County planning dept., TS, Bill Jackson, Rd. Dept., Vista volunteer from planning dept, Jennibeth, County engineer Dan Stenta. It will be available on grandcountyconnects.com.

MO- What about people walking? It should be equally represented in survey to get more people involved.

KS- From campgrounds parents can tell their kids to go on the bike path and come back.

AB- Would open up things for families. Also should be a section that educates on why pave the SFRA road. Bill Jackson, GC Rd dept. was saying that when there are a certain number of cars it is time to pave based on federal guidelines. I need to go through Sand Flats BLM counter data for dirt section from a few years ago.

MT- Document accidents from Sheriff's dept. in application.

AB- Included this in the application. I will have Elissa Martin include you all in the survey so that you can put in your comments.

KS- Suggestion of a charging station seems out of place.

TS- Dan Stenta thought this would help boost the grant application Innovation section.

KS- This is about whether the road should be paved. Safe, family friendly activities.

MT- Another idea why it is important to pave is campground access; campground important.

KS- Like a little town. Bar M OK Corral, families love it. I can see the families walking out of campgrounds and enjoying the separated path.

AB- MT thought about Search and Rescue being mentioned in the grant. Last meeting Jennifer Jones mentioned all the community entities that use SFRA so that will be in there this time.

MT and TS discussion about Rotarians suggested path from Mill Creek, but that is not part of this survey.

TS- Kestrel trail got built quickly, in just a few weeks. There were a few problematic spots, had to come back and work on those. Added signs for safety at this one section because it is a more advanced. Trail is packing in well.

BLM work-

AB- TS made up drawing for Kestrel parking, 6 to 8 parking spots. Lee Palfreyman, BLM heavy equip. operator thinks he can get to this. There is also parallel parking along road as you are going into Hawk campground. Lee will be building toilet at Falcon Flow parking with metal surround like one across from Moonflower canyon. SFRA paid for steel and vault. Lee will pour pad for bike tool that BLM bought to go here too. SFRA's Joe and Brenden will help with forms.

TS- You can hook your seat in and then use tools. Has a bike pump. Robust set.

AB- Toilet will go in the island.

TD- Have you seen vandalism with these bike tools?

TS- No, the bike tool at Bar M has been there for over 10 years, replaced tools once.

AB- TS drew up parking space plan for Eagle Eye/ Hawks Glide parking area. Lee said this looks good. Search and Rescue asked if some work could be done on the Lazy Man road, tippy places. Not sure if Lee will get to that.

TS- "Falcon climb" has not been presented to the BLM, wanted to bring to Stewardship first.

AB- We should do a field trip at some point. Are you putting in for a grant?

TS- Maybe in 2025. Proposed trail will go before SFRA Stewardship Committee, then Trail Mix, then to BLM.

MT- Would not hurt making a move on it soon.

TS- Lower pathways bigger project.

AB- Upper proposed trail is something that GCATT can maybe do with a RTP grant. Waiting to see what happens with the RAISE grant.

KS- Keep me in the loop if there is a field trip for "Falcon climb".

Acknowledge service of Dale Parriott, Andrea Brand and committee members

KS- Wanted to acknowledge DP, thank him for his service, “you have added a lot all over town but especially at SFRA.”

AB- “Dale, Thank you so much for your willingness to donate your time and talents to Sand Flats over the years. Your efforts during the 50-year celebration contributed greatly to the success of the film and to the event. Your knowledge, concern and love of Sand Flats is greatly appreciated by me, the committee, the community and our visitors. You will always have a lifetime pass to Sand Flats.” Presented plaque to Dale. Dale has been on the Stewardship committee for a decade.

DP- “Wish I could do more.”

Consent Agenda**General Business- Action Items****Discussion Items**

Follow up from previous meeting:

Hell’s Revenge nomination as a National Recreation Trail update

KS- It went in and feedback was that all was complete. It will take awhile, NPS takes care of it. First motorized recreation trail in UT.

KS- Like an Oscar. Does not come with funding but helps secure other sources of funding.

AB- We have a sign they sent us is up at Slickrock saying that this is a National Recreation Trail; but it is small.

October GPRA Survey complete

AB- Shipped completed surveys back. Over 130 on site completed and another 50 postcards handed out. AB was going to see if they wanted us to continue in the spring but it paperwork said ending date November 4, 2023.

KS- BLM is required by law to do these visitor surveys. UT BLM statewide does two per year. Mill Canyon, Big Bend campground, Bar M, Paleo site has been done in the past. Thank you for helping out and gathering data.

AB- We had a table set up, walked around the parking lot and talked to visitors. GCATT joined us two days. One part of survey asks if they talked to a BLM person. We let folks know of the partnership and that we are County employees.

Youth grant update

Assistance grant is further along in the process; \$75,000 in 5 years.

Night time trail closure scoping process update and counter data

AB- Nighttime counter data given to the BLM, will share to end of the year with everyone.

KS- Send the Stewardship letter again to BLM.

Raptor route update- Kestrel Run trail work complete (discussed during Presentation).

RAISE grant 2024 application and survey (discussed during Presentation).

OHV purchase complete

Purchased the 2024 model and it will be delivered in January. Was \$27,000 through state contract and was the same model that the Motorized Trail Ambassadors purchased.

No applicants for Stewardship committee membership yet

Sand Flats Introductory video

AB- Members watched updated video beforehand. Any comments?

TD- Maybe mention that it is expensive to have vehicle towed out. Make sure vehicle is in top working condition before heading out on the trail.

MT- Where will this be shown?

AB and MO- On Travel Council website, our webpage, SFRA and Mark Finley's YouTube channels, maybe on Emery Telecom channel 6 TV.

Responsible Recreation updates, SFRA participated in filming

AB- Crux Academy is doing some new filming for Responsible Rec. and will use a lot of Mark Finley's footage. MO and AB were interviewed for this video along with another 20 people.

Don't know timeline on this.

New Topics

Gold Star Leave No Trace application

AB- SFRA plans to do this Gold Star application. Trail Ambassadors got Gold Star award, first site in Utah. Anna Sprout, GCATT is encouraging NPS, BLM, USFS, state parks and SFRA to apply so that County can have a Gold Star rating.

BLM work at Falcon, Hawks Glide/ Eagle Eye and Hawk campground parking areas (discussed during Presentation).

Painting inside booth and fixing counters 1/2024

AB- Will be having contractor painting the booth and fix the counters and remove Covid bank drawer.

Artistic "Save our Trees" signs for toilets in process

Sketches from artist Pete Apicella. Do one piece of artwork and then have printer make signs for each toilet. Trying to reach people about trees. We have messaging to not collect wood and damage trees on the camping permit, on signs at campground entrances, on kiosks on picnic tables, on our website but destruction continues to happen.

MT- Like the idea. Keep it simple.

MK- Educating on the age of the trees is important

KS- These trees live a hard life, don't make it worse.

DP- Not fond of the artwork style. Messaging should be about the fact that you are tearing up the beauty you came to see.

MT- You must have your own firewood. Huge signs at the booth.

DP- Handout at the booth about not cutting wood. People are much better and knowledgeable about minimum impact than they were 20 years ago. Education is a real process, takes time. But new campers that need to be educated too. By virtue, the amount of people that are coming here now virgin places are being impacted.

MT- Did you think of having him paint in each toilet?

AB- Yes, but then decided that copies could be made and put them in each toilet, including open air ones. Nick Hougen sign by booth is similar idea. This is to be continued.

MT likes the idea simple (Ghostbuster's style)

DP- Don't cut down a tree in your front yard messaging. Metal signs last a long time.

BLM updates

No further updates. Keep up the good work. Winter is time we tidy up and get ready for March.

Grand County Commission updates

None as EC absent

Adjourn