

Grand County Motorized Trails Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 12, 2024

APPROVED January 16, 2024

The meeting was held at the Grand Center and called to order by Clif Koontz at 12:35 pm.

Members in attendance:

Clif Koontz, Chair

Andrea Brand, Sand Flats Recreation Area

Dave Cozzens

Madeline Logowitz, GCATT (arrived 1:08)

Keri Nelson, BLM (left at 1:37)

Jeff Stevens, Vice Chair

Zane Taylor, Motorcycle Rep

Kathy Tustanowski, Secretary

Guests in attendance:

Anthony Ash, Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation, SE Region Trail Crew Supervisor

A. Approval of Minutes

Kathy Tustanowski made a motion to approve the November 21, 2024 minutes, Dave Cozzens seconded, motion passed unanimously.

B. Citizens to be Heard

None

C. Identifying Major Trail Projects Needed in the Greater Moab Area

A review of the Major Trail Project List that was generated in 2022 was done to identify problem areas, discuss potential solutions and determine resources needed. Clif hopes to provide an updated list at the next meeting based on today's review.

A bit of discussion took place regarding Cliffhanger specific to the ledge before the creek crossing. It has gotten worse the last few years. It was suggested a scouting trip be done to identify a fix. Jeff Stevens recommended getting Red Rock 4 Wheelers involved since it is a Jeep Safari route. There are other issues associated with Cliffhanger route including the bypass in the wash, the Z turn halfway up, and near the top just past the Pothole Arch intersection.

Andrea Brand shared that the migrating berms due to high banking on Fins and Things that were remedied in some locations did not last long. The MTC will help with identifying solutions. Andrea also mentioned vegetation damage is occurring between

Diving Board and Radio Tower due to four braids. Scouting to be done in January in regard to possibly closing two braids.

On Pritchett at Down and Dirty tread work is still needed to remove ledges from the original alignment while leaving the current one untouched. Jackhammers will be needed. A new Pritchett issue is Axle Hill, it is getting harder. Suggestion was made to make the illegal bypass a legal alternative since it appears to be sustainable.

At the NW end of Steelbender, perhaps a diversion drain could be established before the first creek crossing. A mile further SE, immediately as the 4WD route climbs steeply out of a wash, tread work could be done to prevent off-trail travel. This needs to be scouted. The Dragon Tail obstacle can be removed from the list of major trail projects.

Kane Creek 4WD route just E of Hatch Wash has braiding due to hill climbing which may be resolved with possible blocking by range fencing.

Jeff Stevens recommended adding Metalmasher, north side leading to Widowmaker from Gemini Bridges Road to deal with erosion control. There are old T-posts sticking out from a previous project. An excavator or dozer could be used to fix the designated route or the existing bypass.

Keri Nelson mentioned that BLM will be presenting Travel Plan amendments next week and asked if there should be any of the major trail projects included. Clif thanked Keri for the offer, and said some of the major trail projects might require a travel-plan amendment, but we probably won't know until later this winter.

D. Scheduling Trail Projects

Nothing is scheduled for January. Assistance can be provided to GCATT with putting together spill kits and WAG bag kits.

E. Updates from MTC Stakeholder Representatives and Executive Subcommittee members

Andrea Brand shared that BLM is doing work in Hawk Campground with the addition of two new toilets, a shade structure, picnic area and more parking. Additional campsites are being incorporated into other campgrounds also. She also shared that Hell's Revenge has been designated a National Recreation Trail, the Slickrock Trail already has the designation. In a recent survey Hell's Revenge received a 98% visitor satisfaction rating.

Anthony Ash stated that if anyone needs promotion of a trail project the DNR will gladly post it on their social media sites.

Madeline Logowitz stated the cattle guard project on Cliffhanger went well due to good coordination amongst all involved. Clif agreed it was a win-win. The Non-motorized

Trails Master Plan is being updated, funding is from a UDOT grant and it will be a 12 month process. Private landowners will be included in the process. Clif commented on the overlap with motorized routes and the MTC can assist with coordination. The plan has not been updated since 2011.

Maddie also stated that an Outdoor Recreation Grant was received in excess of one million dollars. Funding will go towards Mud Springs (open to Class 1 eBikes) with Phase 1 being done primarily by contractors costing from \$40,000 to \$80,000 per mile to include a downhill course and jumps. Construction time will be limited due to migrating animals and birds. Clif made a few suggestions for when Phase 3 is developed to include some new motorized access (for motorcycles to reach the Upper Twomile singletracks and for four-wheeled vehicles to loop with Strike Ravine as two examples). In addition, he commented on the cost estimates and consideration to use volunteers in combination with contractors. Maddie clarified that GCATT staff and volunteers will be utilized. There are sections that will require advanced hand-built trail skills, some of which is associated with locations near endangered plant species. Clif offered the support of MTC volunteers and Ride with Respect's equipment. A new employee named Joy will be handling social media and volunteer outreach for GCATT.

Clif shared that March 8 is the local Guide Summit and help will be needed to staff the MTC booth to share pertinent information. The MTC Officer Elections will be held at the January meeting.

F. Adjournment

Clif thanked everyone for participating and adjourned the meeting at 2:20 pm.