



**Emery County
Trail's Committee
July 1, 2025 8:00 AM**



Attendance: Les Wilberg, Terri Bennett, Rod Player, Don Bennett, Robin Hunt, Steven Jeffery, Kasey Morris, Brett White, Les Thompson, Jim Jennings, AnnDee Mead, Camie Bell, Jeff Thomas, Josh Clark, Jaydon Mead, Ken McArthur, Wayne Luddington, Ed Geary, Nicole Nelson, Jordan Leonard

Welcome Chairman: Les Wilberg

1. Approval of Minutes: June 2025 Motion to approve made by Terri, seconded by Don. **Motion passed.**

2. Committee Members

● **Discussion of projects/events/concerns-**

Introduction and welcome of new trail crew members, Don Bennett and Jeff Thomas.

Don shared a few trails and spots that need some attention from the Backcountry Horsemen perspective. Discussion on the location and state of Dead Horse.

Terri from MECCA reported things slowing down a bit, but they do still have some moonlight rides coming up, as well as a fall gathering in September with the BLM for Public Lands Day.

Steven also reported summer being a slow time for climbers, but the locals who have formed the coalition continue to meet and coordinate projects. They are meeting with the BLM and archeologists to discuss the new parking area projects up Straight Canyon. They are excited to use these projects to keep parking off the main road, aid in directing climbers to designated areas, and improve safety for all in the canyon.

Discussion on a staging area for the BLM in Straight Canyon.

Brett shared the forming of an airport board to help manage airport development. They are setting some dates for work days and starting to make specific plans for improvement. He also reported riding North Reeder last minute and said that it was in good shape after some FS work, South Reeder still needs a lot of work once the logging is finished.

Kasey went on a ride up Black Dragon, up to Skyline, and down Ferron. He came across one snowdrift but mostly encountered a lot of dust.

Jaydon and AnnDee went a ways up Hunters Highway and moved a couple trees off the trail but didn't encounter any major problems.

Les reported working on the road between Spoon Creek to Miller's Flat. Discussion on logging roads and NEPA. Les also brought up the beaver dams up by Pete's Hole and how those can be managed. Discussion on rocks around the Muddy.

3. Discuss Reports of the Following:

a. BLM- Jaydon reported work on the Price River Crossing. The crossing is open and fixed up, Carbon County BLM also went up to fix the Gordon Creek Trail to clean it up till the lower falls. A fence at the

Buckhorn panel got upgraded in response to more vandalism to secure the area. The WCC has been focusing on some of the southern wilderness areas. They did go back and check on the prickly pear sight and saw that their work is holding up well. This crew is really good at following up and checking back on previous work sites to make sure their work lasts. Coming up, The Salt Wash has some vehicle intrusions that need to be addressed. The proposal for the project includes a drift fence that will run a little over a mile (with openings where appropriate) over that road to keep people out of the wilderness. The NEPA process for this has been initiated and they hope to carry it out this fall. Construction at Jurassic National Monument has been pushed back till September. Scoping for the Wedge project was just completed with a lot of helpful letters and feedback, they are going over the comments and EA now to prepare for the public comment period. Green River daily camping regulations are being formalized with the NEPA process and Moab BLM. Also working on the RMP amendments, they've mostly finalized the draft alternatives and are now getting into the analysis work-hoping to send out for public comment in September. Dates need to be set for Fall projects this year, they have a lot of ideas and plan to do one a month with the trails committee as well as some weekend volunteer projects with local OHV clubs. The airstrip work at Sage Brush and Copper Globe is projected for sometime in September/October, discussion on availability dates for that. Discussion on aspects of that work and what the project will entail. Coordinating with Wade and the Utah Trail Crews to implement some TMP changes, dates and plans haven't been set.

b. Forest Service- Josh expressed gratitude for help at Spoon Creek. He reported working on 12 Mile, fixing pinch points and mudholes. Still planning on working with the trails crew next week on the mountain, and McEwan on Monday. Discussion on the carrying out of those work projects. Forrest Service is currently in Stage 1 fire restriction. Discussion on some long term campers near Lowry Water. Discussion on the Little's Creek Bridge and working on obtaining supplies. Discussion on culverts and pinch points up the Black Dragon trail. Discussion on the Snow College crew and their work locations. Discussion on Mill Fork Canyon.

c. State Agencies- Wade expressed gratitude to the backcountry horsemen for helping with some chainsaw certification for another group. There is going to be a project with the Sage Riders up Dairy Trail this coming Saturday. Grants for OHVR are open. The State Trail Crew on the non motorized side out of Richfield, were up on Towhead working last week. The state is forming a heavy equipment trail crew out of Richfield that will service all over southeastern Utah. They will be available for coordinating bigger projects once up and running.

d. Commission- Jordan expressed thanks to the committee for their cooperation and hard work.

e. Travel Bureau and Public Lands- Don't forget to check out the numerous upcoming events. Approval from the travel board and commission has been granted to apply for an UHVR grant to work on updated maps, with grant reception those should be completed in the fall. A TRT increase at the county level has recently taken place which will allow for applications to new state grants to aid EMS and Search & Rescue. Also working on grants and events and marketing projects.

4. Adjourn.

Council - Les Wilberg, Terri Bennett, Rod Player, Don Bennett, Robin Hunt, Steven Jeffery, Kasey Morris, Brett White, Les Thompson

Staff – Keven Jensen, Jim Jennings, AnnDee Mead, Camie Bell

Next Trails Meeting: August 5, 2024

