

Grand County Motorized Trails Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 13, 2025

DRAFT

The meeting was held at the Grand Center and called to order by Clif Koontz at 12:34 pm and started with introductions.

Members in attendance:

Payton Blasco, BLM
Clif Koontz, Chair
Madeline Logowitz, GCATT (left at 1:30 pm)
Keri Nelson, BLM
Keltain Reece-Sullivan, GCATT
Scott Solle, Grand County Search and Rescue
Jeff Stevens, Vice Chair
Zane Taylor, Motorcycle Rep
Carson Trader, Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation, SE Region Trail Crew Supervisor
Kathy Tustanowski, Secretary

Guests in attendance:

Rika Ballard, Portal Offroad Tours
Jason James, Portal Offroad Tours
Mark Pope, Red Rock 4-Wheelers

A. Approval of Minutes

Not everyone received the electronic posting of the October 16, 2025 notes so Zane Taylor made a motion to postpone approval of the minutes, Jeff Stevens seconded, motion passed unanimously.

B. Citizens to be Heard

None

C. Planning Trail Maintenance of Goldbar Rim 'Waterfall,' Pritchett Canyon 'Down and Dirty,' Kane Creek near middle, and Steel Bender near NW end

Gold Bar Rim 'Waterfall' - Clif provided an overview and Keltain gave a presentation using drone images he had taken to explain the issue. In 2020 the MTC experimented with a ramp on the right which didn't hold long. Options to be considered are: change trail rating, cut top of one line down some, build up the bottom of one line with nearby rocks. For motorcycles, either ramp the line on the left or approve the line that the MTC mapped with BLM in 2019. Clif asked if we needed to establish an easier line for 4-wheeled vehicles. Discussion took place including need for more signage, leaving it as

is, possibly clearing a bit of a path to make it easier. Keri suggested getting the BLM archeologist and paleontologist on site to take a look. Ramping a line for motorcycling now could then later be widened for 4-wheeled use if the other lines become too difficult for the public or SAR. A motion was made by Jeff Stevens for Clif to prepare a proposal to BLM to ramp a motorcycle line that is easier on the southeast side of the 'Waterfall,' Zane Taylor seconded, approved unanimously.

Pritchett 'Down and Dirty' - Clif gave an overview with Keltain providing drone images of the location. The old more-contoured line is part of an old road that has worn down to bedrock and lost its bench. The new fall-line that has been developed is not sustainable and motorcyclists have gone further down the wash. Discussion took place about feasibility of cutting a bench on the old line wide enough for 4-wheeled vehicles which would include drilling and jackhammering several cubic yards of rock. There was concern expressed about making it too easy from the perspective of hardcore users. However Pritchett still has filters at both ends, and 'Down and Dirty' becomes an uphill choke point for users who are only able to do Pritchett downward (northbound). A motion was made by Jeff Stevens for Clif to prepare a proposal to BLM to create more of a bench on the northeast side of the 'Down and Dirty' drop, Zane Taylor seconded, approved unanimously. It was noted that Rocker Knocker and Axle Hill will be addressed in the future. Keltain mentioned he is not able to ride his personal motorcycle while conducting county duties. He will continue to pursue the matter with Clif offering to have the MTC address it with the county.

Kane Creek near the middle - an overview of aerial images was shared to gain a better understanding of the issue. Keltain will be gathering additional information (including the approaches from both ends) and presenting more details at a future meeting.

Steel Bender near NW end - an overview was provided using an aerial map. It appears water from the pipeline for the farm constantly leaks on the road causing degradation. There are six areas of concern, most of which are redundant braids that could be blocked off. Before the swing fence that's on the left, the short spur that approaches the creek should probably remain open for shade. Immediately past the swing fence that's on the left, there is an obstacle that has a hard and easy line. Recommendation is to cut back near the top on the easy line and install a sign to mark as "closed" the low spot on the right. A motion was made by Zane Taylor for Clif to prepare a proposal for the six problem areas to submit to BLM, seconded by Jeff Stevens, unanimously approved.

Two other routes were discussed:

- 1) Poison Spider - Keltain provided images of a 4'-deep puddle that exists when enough rain comes down. Designating an existing bypass was suggested to avoid the puddle or create a new line staying entirely on slickrock. Keltain will gather additional information and present at a future meeting.
- 2) Top of the World - the main obstacle that's two-thirds of the way up was discussed. New signage indicating the harder and easier options is needed so people will

notice the easier option. Keri will follow up with NEPA review. It was also mentioned that, further up the trail, marking the loop options as to the harder or easier routes with a 'You Are Here Sign' would be helpful. A rating change may also be needed as the route is getting wider as users are avoiding obstacles. Red Rock 4-Wheelers has removed the Badge of Honor listing.

D. Scheduling Trail Projects

Clif, Carson, and Dave Cozzens will be meeting next week to ramp three ledges on upper Porcupine 4x4 Trail, with SFRA contracting Dave to operate the excavator that Ride with Respect (RwR) acquired through a Utah OHVR matching grant.

November 26 - Steel Bender NW side Rake and Ride to block braids at the six problem spots except for the first two since they're on private property. Meet at 9 am at the Shell station

December 6 - Poison Spider Rake and Ride to go at least as far as Barney's Overlook to address excessive braiding including the puddle area. Meet at 10 am at the trailhead.

With Payton gone until January 25 it was suggested that Matt could possibly participate from BLM.

E. Updates from MTC Stakeholder Representatives and Executive Committee

Maddie Logowitz reported that Fred Wilkinson passed away recently. He was an avid mountain biker and long-time trails volunteer and employee of GCATT, previously of RwR. A Volunteer Appreciation event will be hosted by GCATT this Friday. Mud Springs had a soft opening for the new trail system, a grand opening will be held in April. The Non-Motorized Mast Plan draft is still in the works, public comment period now closed and a consultant is working on analysis, next step is to present findings to the city and county. Clif asked if it will address E-bike use and Maddie indicated not specifically but it will reference incorporating new user groups. The Trail Ambassador program will be established under a non-profit operation in 2026 with a presentation being made the Grand County Commissioners soon. The education component for motorized trails will remain with the non-profit but Keltain's position as the Motorized Trail Work Coordinator will stay with the county. Jason James is interested in his business making a donation to support the educational component. (Maddie gave her update earlier in the meeting due to having to leave early.)

Keri Nelson reported that BLM staff are now back to work although Payton will be joining on furlough thru January 25. She is working on getting the MTC's minor Travel Management Plan changes done. Jeff Stevens shared that when he recently received a Coyote Canyon trail-use permit there was no gate code provided. Keri indicated it should have been provided with the permit and will follow up.

Scott Solle shared that the SAR members that participated in the last Rake and Ride spoke highly of the opportunity. So far this year's SAR activities have surpassed last year's at this time. He asked about messaging to the public on trail ratings, how do they know what the ratings are? Comments were shared and it was suggested that the Moab Tourism Advisory Board work with Red Rock 4-Wheelers on getting the information more readily available.

Carson Trader is working with Clif on maintaining motorized trails all month since most of the Utah DOR crew's work has been on non-motorized trails thus far.

Mark Pope provided additional information to Scott on trail ratings and shared it is available in the annual magazine done for Jeep Safari. He will also have the Red Rock 4-Wheeler PR person contact Scott.

Jeff Stevens suggested another trail project to facilitate motorcycle use of a 4WD route called Two Tortoise Rock, which is on the way to Bull Canyon. There is a three-foot step up that needs some jackhammer work to smooth it out.

Kathy Tustanowski wanted to express appreciation to the BLM staff, Keri and Payton, for their professionalism and commitment during the recent government shutdown. In addition, she commended Clif for his dedication and tireless efforts in support of the motorized trails community.

Keltain shared he will be off for several weeks enjoying a rafting trip in the Grand Canyon but he did mention he would like to figure out a way to compensate companies that provide support by contributing time and/or equipment for trail project days. Clif has provided gift cards thru RWR. Positive feedback was given to Keltain for the visuals he provided for today's presentation on needed project work. He will continue to improve on and develop similar presentations for future meetings.

Clif Koontz wanted to express appreciation to Dave Hellman and his crew for their recent work on Cliffhanger.

F. Adjournment

Clif adjourned the meeting at 3:30 pm and thanked everyone for participating.