Grand County Motorized Trails Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 16, 2025
DRAFT

The meeting was held at the Grand Center and called to order by Clif Koontz at 12:36 pm

Members in attendance:

Reid Bakken, E-bike Rep
Ben Carswell, Utahraptor State Park
Dave Cozzens
Clif Koontz, Chair
Mike McCurdy sitting in for Brian Martinez, Grand County Commission Liaison
Keri Nelson, BLM
Keltain Reece-Sullivan, GCATT
Scott Solle, Grand County Search and Rescue
Jeff Stevens, Vice Chair
Zane Taylor, Motorcycle Rep
Kathy Tustanowski, Secretary

Guests in attendance:

Cody McKinney, Grand County Roads Supervisor
Blake Torgersen, Bronco Off-Roadeo

A. Approval of Minutes

Reid Bakken made a motion to approve the September 11, 2025 minutes, Zane Taylor seconded, motion passed unanimously.

B. Citizens to be Heard

None

C. Commenting on the BLM's Labyrinth Rims/Gemini Bridges Travel Management Area

Clif deferred to Keri Nelson to provide an overview of the BLM's recent reassessment of the 317 miles of routes closed by the 2023 Labyrinth Rims TMP. Comments are due on the e-planning site by October 24th at 11:59 pm. What Clif would like to accomplish today is get approval to proceed with finalizing the draft letter and map of priority routes to the Grand County Commission to include a listing of the priority routes with specific comments per route to be considered. The draft letter and map were reviewed and specific routes were discussed as well as route-width requirements. Clif explained that,

during the process of drafting the list of route-specific comments and inviting feedback from MTC members, the draft map could be revised before submitting it to the Commission. A motion was made by Zane Taylor to approve the draft letter and map, and for Clif to prepare a list of route-specific comments and invite MTC-member input before he submits everything to the Commission. Motion was seconded by Jeff Stevens and passed unanimously.

D. Scheduling Trail Projects

Clif shared that the state trail crew, consisting of 3 members, working Monday through Thursday, want to work on motorized trails in November. Some options to consider would be paint on Dubinky motorized singletrack, Gold Bar Waterfall, and Down and Dirty among others. Keltain said he could scout locations with Jeff Stevens offering to assist. Keri Nelson asked for descriptions of what needs to be done. Clif will send photos that he has and requests that any scouting include a BLM representative if feasible.

Cliffhanger needs to have the boulder obstruction at the ledge removed. Keri will follow up on getting permission.

Porcupine Rim will need scouting to be done on 3 spots that will require an excavator. Andrea Brand has indicated Sand Flats will take care of contracting the work out with assistance from the state crew.

There will be no project days in October.

November 6, scout Gold Bar Waterfall, 9 am, meet at lower Gemini Bridges lot. Work to include painting slickrock blazes at Rusty Nail. Scott Solle would like to send a couple members of the Search and Rescue team to become familiar with the obstacle.

Keltain shared that there are an excessive amount of alternate routes on the creek crossings in Kane Creek Canyon, before Hamburger Hill. In some places it is 5 to 6 lanes wide. Recommendation is to install fiberglass posts and fencing with a BLM representative being present.

Keri shared that the friends of Mel Crider in Grand Junction want to provide funding for improvements to the Mel's Loop trailhead and signage. She is open to any ideas or suggestions for an alternate trailhead in the long-term. Currently most people use Exit 227 but Exit 221 would be preferred. A trip needs to be planned to evaluate.

E. Updates from MTC Stakeholder Representatives and Executive Committee

Zane Taylor shared that he did a final lap on Trust Lands Singletrack at Upper Twomile (aka South Block) and did some removal of fallen logs. He attended the Trail Mix meeting this week and encourages others to attend. The next meeting is November 12 at 11 am.

Keri Nelson shared the E-bike Environmental Assessment is finalized, and the decision to permit Class 1 e-bikes on most mountain bike trails will be effective March 1, 2026. Baseline information will be gathered this winter to assist with monitoring impacts. There will be a Student Conservation Association intern collecting trail data for adaptive purposes. As for the shutdown, the Recreation Division has been able to continue working but will have reduced hours in the future with a two-day work week.

Cody McKinney appreciates being able to participate in the MTC meeting and is open to input and notification of issues. (Note: Cody is the new Roads Supervisor for Grand County taking the place of Bill Jackson who recently retired.) For informational purposes the Book Cliffs area has been wiped out from the recent storms. Reid mentioned the Porcupine Rim parking lot needs gravel and Cody clarified the Roads Department is generally responsible for roads, not parking lots.

Keltain Reece-Sullivan shared that Mud Springs Phase 1 is on schedule. As for the status of the Trail Ambassador program it appears it will become and independent nonprofit. Some assets from the Off-Highway Recreation grant to Grand County likely will go to the nonprofit while others will stay with the county. Use of trails as been erratically busy. The Draft Non-Motorized Trails Master Plan is out for review. Keltain will be gone mid-November to December.

Reid Bakken shared he has been busy responding to phone calls about E-bike access and dates associated with BLM’s recent decision.

Scott Solle shared that the Search and Rescue Team activity is on track with last year although the last week has been busy. He mentioned the media coverage about a jeep that was stuck in a wash with flooding waters near Floy, he saw this one coming. He suggests a depth gauge and signage about flood warnings, although this wouldn't be possible at every wash crossing. He also shared a recent incident involving a rollover involving a vehicle of a local commercial operator. The beacon responder provided wrong location which delayed the response. Scott will follow up with Polaris regarding the Ride Command function and inform them of the inaccurate reporting of the beacon system.

Ben Carswell shared that Utahraptor State Park recently completed the 5 month walk-through with Hogan Construction. There are 51 items to address. The road to the water treatment plant is completed. Grading near the housing units has been corrected to improve drainage. The recent storms resulted in Courthouse Wash running heavily which impacted campers' access to Dalton Wells area. The Willow Springs dinosaur tracks area also got washed out. The entrance fee for two-wheeled vehicles is now $7. Utah State Parks will be looking at creating an annual pass for volunteers although not sure if it will be statewide or park-by-park.

Blake Torgersen shared there are a handful of opportunities for a couple MTC members to participate in a full-day driving event at Bronco Off-Roadeo. Vehicles and lunch will be provided. He will share with Clif the dates available between now and December 13.

Jeff Stevens shared he has been out on the trails a lot lately and hasn't seen any issues that haven't already been addressed. White Knuckle will be needing work and the recent work on Cliffhanger has been washed away by the storms.

Clif stated today was a productive meeting, he will be posting information about outings on Facebook and coordinate with state trail crew.

F. Adjournment

Clif adjourned the meeting at 3:03 pm and thanked everyone for their participation.