

## Grand County Trail Mix Committee

Tuesday, December 9, 2025 at 11 a.m. Sunny and cold.

Outside pavilion (with tinsel all over the ground), Grand Center, 182 N. 500 W., Moab

Samantha brought almond brittle treats. The county budget meeting delayed some participants.

1. **Meeting was called to order at 11:04** by Brendon Cameron.

**Special presentation by Katie Stevens to Stephen Schultz (he was on Zoom):** Stephen Schultz (Trail Mix Equestrian rep and President of the Canyonlands Chapter of Back Country Horsemen) won the national stewardship award from Public Lands Foundation, a friend group for BLM. Thank you for all you've done, you're always ready to jump in and help out, like with the Old Spanish Trail, reflects well on Trail Mix. Stephen responded: it was all a team effort. Katie: that's such a Stephen thing to say! A bronze plaque will be presented to him in person. He's healing as fast as he can and hopes to receive it soon.

2. **Attendance: 23 people.** (Additionally a spreadsheet is provided by Samantha Derbyshire.)

Anna Sprout (GCATT), Brad Walker (State Parks), Brendon Cameron (Chair), Colin Topper (City Council), Dave Wilson (At Large), Emily Lessner (Active Transportation), Faith Dickey (Roped Activities), Jacques Hadler (Grand County), Kathy Grossman (Secretary), Katie Stevens (BLM), Kya Marienfeld + baby Arthur (Hiking), Maddie Logowitz (GCATT), Matthew Holding (Trail Running), Sam Hodges (NPS), Samantha Derbyshire (Vice Chair), Scott Solle (SAR), Stephen Schultz (Equestrian), Tim Rau (At Large), Tim Schall (brand new At Large), Tyson Swasey (GCATT), Zane Taylor.

3. **Guest.** Monte Risenhover, Moab Police Department. In court, arrived at meeting 11:39 a.m.

4. **Approval of Minutes.** Motion to approve, seconded. Minutes approved.

5. **Citizens to be Heard.** None.

6. **Action Items. Tim Schall for At Large Member position.** Former At Large member Brett Sutteer said he could no longer attend meetings. Tim sent in bio, and wants to become more involved. Brendon makes motion, Kya seconded, Tim was voted in. Glad to be part of the team, now a voting member.

7. **Discussion Items.**

- **November Volunteer Appreciation Dinner Success.** Good food, lots of fun, well attended. Quite a turnaround as Joy Dannelly had moved on to a new job, surprised that so many came out. Should we do it at Dewey's again? Dave thinks we've outgrown it, try it at the Grand Center? Dewey's not very dietary-restriction friendly, but it's cozy, not complicated, plus they let us meet for free, and donated some meals. Thank you to Anna for stepping in, saving the day! Gift cards given away. Anna would do again if we were to go back to Dewey's, a lot more work if it's at the Grand Center. Maybe Dewey's would be able to offer gluten-free choices, even just some gluten-free bread would help. Space was good, an important season wrap-up, good to do in November, boosts a local restaurant. We should plan it for 2026.
- **Falcon Climb Trailbuild Dates.** Crews were on this for a month, the hardest section was built quickly. More volunteer days, like tomorrow: meeting at overflow parking lot, easy walk-in. Then next Tuesday and Wednesday. After that, trail crew's done, taking a break through the holidays. A big push Jan-Feb, easy building, not a crazy amount of rock work, rake and ride, one way up. Falcon Flow is one-way downhill, staying on one side of the road. Gotta get it done by Feb 28. Brendon: We didn't do a ton of marketing, but at least seven were there, Evan might like more people. In winter, locals really show up, spread the word. Two Trail Work Wednesdays in February, maybe weekly days, people have more time. Depends on weather, what we're doing.
- **Yearly Trail Mix appointments happening in January.** Each year revote-in each position. If you are done with where you're at, done it long enough, ready for a change, want to take another spot, or if you know of somebody who's interested, notify us, especially if your seat will be vacant.
- **Utah Open Meetings Training & Discussion (send email).** Easy to do this, voting members need to complete this.
- **Grand County Trails Master Plan.** Katie Murphy was hoping to be here. Colin, Maddie, Brendon, and Katie met. County Commission fully approved it. Goes in front of City Council tonight, can email City Council or show up, even if you don't want to comment. Shows so much to use show up, optics are huge: if County sees a lot of people, it's a good show of support. Maddie: City Council Chamber at 6 p.m., first item on their general business, so get there early. Also going to the County side, because it's a collaborative project. Colin: it's a pretty amazing plan, touches all of our lives, safety, recreational opportunities, City is no problem, but County is a whole other story, issues with certain parts of this plan. Contract is over with Alta, any need to go back into the plan to make changes, so that will be more difficult. Biggest issue is "amorphous blobs" designating private property, also was an issue with 2011 plan,

landowners were ready for a fight. A lot has been changed since then. Land acquisition issues were a lot of those carried over from the last plan. Maddie: no new proposals on private property, questions about whether they were notified, some weren't aware they were in the existing plan. Primary changes are removing some lines impacting private property that aren't as crucial anymore, change from original plan causing confusion, update addressing those concerns. Letter was sent out to property owners, notifying them they were in the existing plan. Katie did a great job, worked really hard on this.

- **Mud Springs Closure Dates.** Last day of November, it closed. Is BLM monitoring it? Evan went up to put up cable to close areas, no drama there. Trail hard-packed really well, helped with the water shedding, spots in the shade, held the mud, good that it's closed all winter. From soft to shiny concrete ribbon. Person on horseback went in to check it out. Mud Springs is open to horses. Stephen: Most people would not take a horse up there, it's too slippery.
  - **Proactive E-Bike Messaging.** Monte Ribenhover answered many questions about safety, e-motorcycles on trails. Monte: initially told to stop them all, Class 1s only allowed in town. Electric motorcycles have to have insurance, licenses. Major safety issue. One kid said Monte was the only one stopping them, he calls their parents when motorcycles have been where they're not supposed to be. People sometimes outrun him, couldn't even catch them with his car, been some citations, a major issue. Dave Wilson called in an adult with a license plate, Red Bull helmet going about 40 near Bark Park. Can you pull a license? What can be done? Chief Lex Bell said should do informational video. So many of them now doing what they want. On website, companies should tell riders what can, can't do. Electric motorcycles can be on roads if licensed and insured with a licensed driver. A Seuron is a "motor vehicle." Class 2 not allowed on the path, allowed in the bike lane. Bike path to change to all three classes? Katie: BLM had Class 1 on riverway, Classes 2 or 3 on bike path might be a tough sell. Monte: OHV education class might be spot for electric vehicle education. E-scooters pretty dangerous too, a fuzzy area. Technically class 2. His challenge it's that this is evolving so fast, always a new e-something. In Utah, if you're under 8, prohibited from driving any bike in public, 8-14 can only ride with a parent or guardian, older, must have license to drive on public roads. How can we keep up with the e-changes? Matthew: Locally, you could approach the local schools. Tyson: a lot of bike illegality. Crimes on the paved trail, what are you doing to control this? Cops on e-bikes great, typically catch people drinking, causing problems in the park. Feeling safe on our trails a big priority. Larger issue of enforcing appropriateness in our parks. Utah's Clean Air Act said you can't smoke in parks. Warns drinkers, tells them don't come back. Colin didn't fully appreciate the great police department we have, now is more aware, hears compliments from community. Monte/police department got a round of applause.

## 8. Member Reports

**GCATT** (Maddie Logowitz). Master Plan has to be pulled back in, become concise, something they can start using. Grants: trail crew scheduled through 2026 with current grant projects. Looking at 2027 for grant projects, mid-Jan to mid-Feb taking vacation to New Zealand, this is during her usual time to write grants, but will work on them a bit before she goes. Ideas for 2027 grant projects, shoot her an email. Mud Springs: Phase 1 complete, Phase 2 work on next fall. UDOT's Utah Trail Network (<https://utahtrailnetwork.udot.utah.gov/home>) a big state initiative, long-distance paved routes that connect cities (such as Moab to Castle Valley), state excited about this. Will be transitioning long-term projects to Evan.

**BLM** (Katie Stevens). No bike-specific projects on tap, we did a lot this year, ready to go for the next project. Scott: Jen Jones waiting for email about DoPro on trails, for e-bike implementation and trail conditions now, part of Lily's project. Keri's baby arrived. Kya: Need to bring her into the mother group. Long Canyon closures for sheep limits climbs. Parriott Mesa can't be used for certain dates. Put up some signs, don't climb/BASE jump on certain dates. Lost six weeks of work with shutdown, closed April 15-June 15 for lambing. Emily: someone asked when closures were, couldn't find info easily. Stephen: [rec.gov](https://rec.gov) suggestions. Katie: Backcountry Horsemen have been replacing wooden gates on Lone Mesa with much sturdier steel gates. Overlooks getting repaved to match our strolling trails. Corona Arch gets a lot of people, sightlines in parking areas better now, won't worry so much about hitting little kids.

**Forest Service** (Brian Murdock). Grooming equipment in place. Luna/Kirstin Dec 20 doing a grooming workshop. Dec 13, ski waxing workshop. Happy holidays.

**NPS** (Sam Hodges). Removed radio tower on top of Needle Mesa, a big win, pretty stoked. Focusing on remnant infrastructure that wasn't in compliance with wilderness rules. Signage needed for directing visitors, need to get them to stop and read. Locked gates problematic. Debris on road into Arches from flooding. Expanding the bookstore next year. Timed Entry program in development, need guidance, don't have a real update. During shutdown: graffiti incidents: Devil's Garden graffiti cleaned up, Natural Bridges handprint graffiti not cleaned yet,

only three specialists in the nation can remove them. Visitors created a new road off Salt Valley road in the park during the shutdown, trying to fix it, reseeding it. SE Utah secured ACTA talking about bike access into Arches, talking to different stakeholders, funding for that now, Colin, Jacques, and Brendon are on that committee having discussions. Normal Visitor Center hours, Needles VC closed. Slightly shorter hours during winter. Brendon: Good to have Sam back, kind of like the wild west out in Arches during the shutdown,

**State Parks** (Brad Walker) Working on flood damage: "When I moved to the high desert [from Indiana], I never thought I'd be working on flood damage!" Working with Ride with Respect ([ridewithrespect.com](http://ridewithrespect.com)) folks. Thanksgiving was beautiful camping weather, busier than anticipated. Losing all of park's seasonals, Visitor Center still 9 to 5, spare time going to training and classes, a whole side career. For 2026: still trying to make it through a full calendar year, starting on employee handbook, maps, boundaries, wastewater treatment plant, all got handed to us. My hobby is reading about having safe drinking water, getting those kind of ducks in a row. Finishing up on Dark Sky application, everyone around us already has it, send it in for review. Attendance at Utahraptor *not* taking away from Dead Horse visitation, trying to share.

**County** (Jacques Hadler, arrived around noon from 2-1/2 hour budget meeting) We're getting close to GC budget. GC has given Steward Moab it wings, money to start out, infrastructure (tents, signage, vehicles) to get it off the ground as a supporting non-profit. Lot of work, really proud, Anna did lots of hard work. Moab will host a couple of NICA races at Mud Springs or possibly at the Brands, looking positive, huge thing for Moab and for mountain biking in general. Motorized trail crew: County will pair with/help fund motorized-specific trail crew, budgeted an amount to start that effort out, starting July 1, 2026. A 4-5 person crew to do a backlog of motorized trails in GC, run by the state, coordinated with the country, contingent on state of Utah. Ride with Respect doesn't quite fit in with that now. Motorized trail people will come up with a prioritized list. OHV Trail Coordinator new next year, like a Tyson/Evan position, will need background work to happen, identify projects, identifying damaged areas. OHV trail program will continue with Steward Moab. Sam: motorized crew fixing obstacles, using road grader, Cliff Coons charged with projects, like Porcupine Rim's sketchy areas, finishing it up, Sand Flats, people getting up and over certain obstacles, maintenance issues.

**City** (Patrick Trim sent message). Awarded a contract for city way-finding plan. Soliciting public comments: Dec 18, 10 am at the MARC.

**SAR** (Scott Solle). Surpassed last year's numbers, proud of it, doing more all the time. Right after the meeting, had just done a mock rescue, then a real rescue. Big sexy rescues with helicopters and ropes give people impression that their tax dollars go to extreme sports, when actually a very low percent are for extreme sports. Hikers are the biggest demographics. One fatality on the river with parachute activity. Recent hiker rescue in quicksand in Courthouse Wash area, Arches. Quicksand is a real thing, fine silt saturated with water, at the beginning of the Hayduke Trail. Two calls on Sunday, up to 143 now. Scott sent out 360 envelopes asking for money. Feel free to remind people that most of what we do is for OHVs, hikers, and mountain bikers, though extreme sports make the news; a carryout of a hiker doesn't make the news. Stephen: recently a horse got stuck in quicksand, woman got off, lost the horse, then found it. Different agencies work together to do rescues, not just one entity. Tyson: at Monitor and Merrimac, a woman broke her leg, SAR came to us, was very impressed with the quick response time. This year's parade was great, no one yelled at Scott. Podcast: we want more episodes, on agenda to move intellectual property out of the county to a nonprofit, has a list of people who'd love to tell their stories.

**Health Department** (Jonathan Duthrow). Link to Report a Poop survey, Brendon will send out. Anna: not a frequent user of it, but Mariah (Ward?) is. What is the type of poop, human or dog, signage needs, clean-up needs, along Mill Creek. Like to Jeep Arch, notice select poop spots or toilet paper, add a photo, great for presentations. How many WAG bags getting collected, how many sold, an additional metric, helpful to keep funding these initiatives.

**Sand Flats** (Matthew Olding) Old growth pinyon pines 500 to 1,000 years old, video out in January. Slickrock Trail pinyon tree to have solar-powered Xmas lights. Are they visible from the parking lot? Part of county initiative, solar-powered lights, it's cute. Thursday is end of year stewardship, fee discussions, trying to figure it out. Night Sky program will continue for next year. Next big project: On Hell's Revenge, redo whole area with new fencing, signing, easier to park rigs to check out Dinosaur Tracks, walking path from Slickrock trail also. Twice this year people have driven up first fin on Hell's Revenge, following Google Maps, looking for dino tracks, made it up certain amount, then got stuck, becoming a big issue.

**Chair** (Brendon Cameron). Be outside, be happier.

**Vice Chair** (Samantha Derbyshire). April 11 is planned date for 2026 Spring Spruce Up. Start e-bike messaging when they start coming in March. Steward Moab positioned, but they don't have the funding. Start process of developing projects, back down from not so many projects, make it a one-day thing, pare down the logistics. Is the MARC reserved? Partners need time, reach out now. Reps think about their projects. Anna: filed Steward Moab with the IRS, etc. We're going to be okay.

**Secretary** (Kathy Grossman). Hiked the Colorado Riverway and saw newly installed Larry the Collared Lizard sculpture. Expressed concern about Larry being target of graffiti, other "shenanigans."

**Roped Activities** (Faith Dickey). Joe Stern's cragging (climbing at a "crag," a steep cliff, or rock face, often single-pitch) book coming out. *Little Book of Moab Area Rock Climbs*. Survey had 23 responses (several attendees thought this was a pretty good amount), but they were thorough: high-liners, canyoneers, slack liners. Day Canyon trail horrible, hard to follow, mini flash flood in the wash, might be a good project target in the future. Will bombard internet with survey.

**Equestrian** (Stephen Schultz/Marti Bauer). Been enjoying stories from backcountry newsletter, advice is to act normal with horses. Workday scheduled for Onion Creek horse corrals. Working with SITLA for facility in La Sals.

**Hiking** (Kya Marienfeld and Arthur, her 4-month-old hiking consultant). What trails could use some eyes and some work?

Maddie: Dellenbaugh Tunnel may need help. Matthew: Hunter Canyon Rim, trying to link it, haven't pulled it off. Direction confusing. Mary Jane Canyon has had more traffic. What do certain trails look like after a season?

**Trail Running** (Matthew Holding). Race finisher numbers are down, but not much, about 52 less. Three of the pavement races grew (Turkey Trot, etc.). Next year: 20 races, new one Vacation Races ([vacationraces.com](https://www.vacationraces.com)), sponsors races around the world: Sept 16–20, Moab Trailfest, a three-day event (<https://www.vacationraces.com/trailfest/moab-2026/>), all trail: Pritchett Arch, Gemini Bridges, Porcupine Rim with accommodations, camping, food, drink all included. Not working with a local outfitter.

**Skiing** (Kirstin Peterson). Will start grooming after Dec 15, when road closes.

**Active Transportation** (Emily Lessner). Not much more beyond Master Plan stuff, crosswalks have been painted near Milt's and HooDoo. Keep an eye on those areas, does that change how people use them? Repaved Spanish Valley Drive south of the Shell station, no bike lane, but wider. now Brendon: really nice to have a shoulder now.

#### **At Large**

- **Dave Wilson.** Amasa Back for motos to bypass section, has involved winching, moving large rocks, spray-painted "Stay Off" on rock. Maddie: that's a BLM question. Dave: Looks much easier to drive.
- **Tim Schall.** Thank you for voting me in.
- **Colin Topper.** New trash cans in front of City Hall, no stickers on them. Yet.

**Fred Williamson Celebration planned for Saturday, March 28, at Horsethief Group Sites.**

**9. Adjournment.** Meeting adjourned at 1:13 p.m.

Next meeting is **Tuesday, January 13, 2025**, at 11 a.m.