



Emery County
Trail's Committee
January 6, 2026 8:00 AM



Attendance: Les Wilberg, Terri Bennett, Rod Player, Don Bennett, Robin Hunt, Steven Jeffery, Brett White, Keven Jensen, Jim Jennings, AnnDee Mead, Camie Bell, Josh White, Jaydon Mead, Josh Clark, Kristie Talbot, Wayne Ludington, Ed Geary, Nicole Nelson, Jeff Thomas, Mike Cologie, Jordan Leonard, Dennis Worwood, Brett Stewart, Andy Gordon

Welcome Chairman: Les Wilberg

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

2. Approval of 2026 Meeting Schedule. Discussion to keep the meeting on the first Tuesday morning of each month. The December meeting will be canceled as usual.

3. Selection of Chair and Vice-Chair. Rod nominated Terri for chair position, discussion of chair responsibilities. **Motion passed.** Brett nominated Les, Terri nominated Brett, committee voted in favor of Brett for Vice-Chair. All other positions remain the same. New committee members will be updated in upcoming meetings.

Introduction and welcome to visitors from Wayne county that came to the meeting to observe. Discussion on the structure of the committee and some of the different representatives.

4. Committee Members

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

AnnDee provided an update on the Swell Retreat's work to complete a NICA bike course. NICA recently visited and was impressed with the progress and potential. They recently held a work day and were able to get a lot done. They are hoping to be able to hold a race in 2027. Terri reported on their new public access gate that is to the west of the main gate. Anyone who wants to access it needs to contact them via phone or their website to sign a waiver.

Les brought up the Whiskey Wash project which was worked on by the BLM and state crew. They initially opened up some narrow spots, and then they went back out in December and finished the work. It's still a narrow trail but can now fit the 66" its designated for. The Colorado Trails Preservation Alliance is a trails crew hired by Ride with Respect to do some trail work around Moab, up on the forest, and around Temple Mountain. They got caught in bad weather but were able to refresh signs and reclamation work on off-trail problem areas. The Temple Mountain sign project will be picked back up this spring. Discussion on the Culvert Trail that will need to be scheduled for the spring. Discussion on Wild Horse Bench and what will be needed for that project. Discussion on the Link Flat area and options to fix the problem area. Discussion on a system for the public to be able to report trail conditions.

Steven Jeffery reported that this weekend, the Utah State Historical Preservation will be working on some climbing and history footage up Joe's Valley as well as around other parts of the county. Because of the government shut down they were not able to move forward with their parking lot project. They had a prolonged climbing season but they didn't see a dramatic increase in visitation. The climbing coalition

used this time to do some clean up work . They could use help from the county in the Grimes Wash/New Joes area. The dirt road there needs a little work but they want to keep it somewhat rugged so that they don't get too much traffic. Discussion on the parking area and what will be needed, and using coalition money to install signage. They haven't been building any new trails but have been focusing on clean up and maintenance.

Brett asked about a culvert at the entrance of a parking lot that will be involved in the Dirt Bike Rally. Discussion of pilot reporting on landings. They are anticipating more air traffic in April and May. Discussion on the BLM using their grader to help with some airstrip areas. Discussion on the BLM and Backcountry Pilots working on signage. Discussion on readiness of trails for the Dirt Bike Rally and a new potential trail.

Discussion on grants and purchasing new equipment for this year. AnnDee and Jim will start working on that soon.

Rod mentioned how much more activity than normal there has been this winter due to the warm weather. He also mentioned a lot of water going down Salt Wash a week ago. Rod also brought up a RAC meeting being canceled with the shutdown that will need to be rescheduled in the spring and will include implementing new members.

Terri reported helping at the Swell Retreat but hasn't been up to Little's Creek. Winter is a slower season for biking.

Robin has been preparing for the Dirt Bike Rally. She'll have everything ready ahead of time and will be on maternity leave during the rally. Discussion with Jaydon on a new SRP contact for the BLM for this year.

5. Discuss Reports of the Following:

a. BLM- Jaydon reported that the RMP amendments are moving forward and changing and should be released for review around May. Jaydon introduced Kristie Talbot, a year-round park ranger. She is also working in a OHV coordinator position. She helped guide the CCOHV group on the Devil's Racetrack project as well as another cleanup project with that group at the Buckhorn. She'll be a contact for planning OHV volunteer projects. Another recently completed project is the Salt Wash fence. This was done with the WCC crew and some volunteers. This is a long fence just over a mile along where some trail heads were being driven around. There is a walk through gate that will need some adjusting this spring. Discussion on trails in that area. Discussion on beaver sign and livestock traffic in the area. Jaydon announced the awarding of the BLM 2025 Community Engagement Award for Outstanding Volunteer Group to the Back Country Horsemen. This is a national award and was likely awarded because of their hard work, grant work, and willingness to help on non-equestrian projects. Jaydon will present Don with a plaque in Public Lands meeting next month. Jaydon shared a recap video highlighting last year's work. Discussion on the Mountain Dew trail. Discussion on Ware Spring road near Cedar Mountain Road and it goes into private land. Its a route that was opened in the TMP and accesses a spring. Jaydon has been assigned to monitor it but was unable to get there except by motorcycle. Since it's been opened, there is an opportunity to fix it, but that could be opening up a new issue of trespassing on private lands as well as creating issues between the land owners and the public. Discussion on the area, the trail, and reaching out to the land owner. The Wedge project to develop some campgrounds and trail systems are moving forward and the plan should be

released in the late Spring. There will not be a RAC meeting before the plan is released, but they will be made aware and the plan has been discussed in previous meetings. The funding for this project comes from a power company's reclamation grant. Jaydon also reported on the WCC work that's gone on this last year. They've been prioritizing routes that lead into wilderness. Last year they did 4460 hours of work, spent 93 days in the Swell, implemented 136 new sights, and re-visiting work on 170 sights. They've got one more year of funding and work ahead of them and are very valuable to the area.

b. Forest Service- Josh reported that ice fishing is available at Cleveland and Huntington reservoirs. He is working on winter equipment maintenance.

c. State Agencies-

d. Commission- Appreciation expressed by Commissioners for the work done by everyone at the meeting.

e. Travel Bureau and Public Lands- Millsite On Ice has been moved to March 20-21 as an Ice Off. There is also the Energized Expedition going on right now throughout the county. The Travel Office is hosting a workshop event next week for all event coordinators. This will explain sponsorship funding, marketing, event coordination, and available support. This workshop is mandatory for all event coordinators and planners.

Brett Stewart gave an update from a state level on the upcoming opening of this year's grant cycle (Jan 15- March 2). He encouraged putting in and using grants, and explained that new changes make grants more available for rural counties. There is a legislative audit on OHV funds currently, law enforcement is asking \$3.8 million dollars to fund their rangers. He is encouraging a shift for these funds, that come from OHV registration fees, to be used toward Sheriff's departments serving in their counties and eliminating the ranger program. He encouraged committee members to reach out to their representatives and share their opinion on the matter.

Les asked about how to get law enforcement more involved and how that ties into grant applications.

6. Adjourn.

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

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

Next Trails Meeting: February 3, 2026

