



Emery County  
Trail's Committee  
February 3, 2026 8:00 AM



**Attendance: Terri Bennett, Brett White, Andy Gordon, Josh White, Les Wilberg, Rod Player, Don Bennett, Steven Jeffery, Keven Jensen, Jim Jennings, AnnDee Mead, Camie Bell, Jaydon Mead, Tifnie Hansen, Wade Allinson, Julie Janus, Ed Geary, Jordan Leonard, Kristi Talbot, Drew Sprafke, Ray Peterson**

**Welcome Chairman: Terri Bennett**

**1. Approval of Minutes: January 6, 2026** Motion to approve made by Brett, seconded by Les. **Motion passed.**

**2. Introduction of new members.** New members include: Josh White representing dirt bikes and The Dirt Bike Rally, Andy Gordon representing OHV and is a board member of Castle Country OHV, and Mike Cologie who isn't present but represents OHV/motorized. AnnDee also explained the relationship between TRT, tourism, grant money for the trails crew, and the trails committee.

**3. Committee Members:**

- **Brett White-Back Country Pilots** Brett reported preparations underway for the dirt bike rally. They'll also have a lot of backcountry flying coming up in the spring. Josh also reported on preparations for the Dirt Bike Rally, they're expecting around 250 riders plus about 50 guides/helpers, and will offer about 18 routes. They usually fill all the hotels in Green River. The event will be held on April 23-25. They also mentioned the ability they've had to use this event as an educational opportunity. They were also able to turn in a lot of information and comments for single track trails for the BLM. Discussion on the educational, community, and stewardship aspects of the rally as well as some of the marketing and sponsorship tactics that are working well.
- **Andy Gordon- OHV** Andy shared the next event for the Castle Country OHV club will be the Swell Cure for Cabin Fever Poker Ride on April 18th. That will be down near the point of Cedar Mountain and Chimney Rock. They usually have more visitors that participate than locals.
- **Josh White-Motorized**
- **Mike Cologie- OHV/Motorized**
- **Les Wilberg- OHV/UTV** Les reported on meeting with Don, Jaydon, and Jim to establish some scheduling for some motorized trails in the spring. They'll be working on the 23rd up Cottonwood working on the parking area for the rock climbers. On the 24th they'll be down to the Lone Tree area to work on the Muddy Creek Overlook/Culvert Trail, and Les would like to set a day to go down beforehand to scope out the project. After discussion, they decided to go do a pre-ride on the 18th and will be able to decide on access. Discussion on access and being able to get out to the work area. In March they've scheduled the 23-25 to work near Humbug, Chimney Rock, and Stove Gulch. There are a lot of washouts from water coming down from Cedar Mountain and a lot of cleanup needs to be

done. Les also mentioned that he will reach out to Emery Telcom for that project and is willing to be a communicator with them for future projects as well. Discussion on previous work done and current needs. Discussion with Jaydon on communicating and notifying state crews when applicable. In April, they've scheduled the 13th-14th for work at Temple Mountain including signage work, a trail that needs maintenance, and a wash that needs attention. The BLM is working on an OHV interpretive trail around Temple Mountain. This will be an easy trail to be accessible to all, and will need some work to get to that point. Jaydon hopes that panels will be ready for that day. Discussion on single track trails like Lone Man and 5 Miles of Hell with Brett, Josh, and Wade. May will be left open for now to see how weather and usage shakes out.

- **Rod Player- Non-motorized** Rod reported that tomorrow Sen Lee's committee will be working on a bill called the Historic Road Rage Protection Act which would prohibit the BLM from obligating or expending funds on any travel management plan, including that for our area. Jaydon responded that the State Director will have some input in that committee.

Rod also shared that when the administration put together their budget for trails for the year it was \$8 million (last year was \$20 million). A group of organizations have been petitioning and have come up with \$22 million which has been approved and will be reflected in the final budget.

- **Don Bennett- Equestrian** Don reported a ride coming up at the end of the month at Chute Canyon. No work projects are planned at this time.
- **Terri Bennett- Mountain Biking** Terri announced the MECCA festival scheduled for May 1-3, they will plan a trail work on Friday the 1st with the FS to work on Little's Creek. Many of the people who participated in the work day last year found it very rewarding. They will be working on building the new bridge and installing a bench with funds from their grant. Terri was able to visit the Swell Retreat and ride their track. She found it to be challenging and they have a few things to wrap up, but they are progressing well. NICA has agreed to do a race in Emery County at the Swell Retreat in 2027 which will be huge for the area. Terri raised a question about who to contact for the BLM SRP, Jaydon responded accordingly.
- **Steven Jeffery- Rock Climbing** Steven shared the work they've been doing on Grimes Wash. They're working on maintaining the spots that the FS and BLM have worked on before. With their last festival, they worked on the trail up Cottonwood where the new parking area will go. This summer they plan to repair and maintain trails in that area. Discussion with Josh regarding signage printing. Discussion on online presence and the nature of the trail work that they do. Their dates for this year include the Pump-A-Thon May 2-3 and the Fest will be Oct 1-4. Steven shared the different

aspects of these events including service and trail work, as well as the importance of educating climbers on how to care for the land and where to stay, eat, etc. Last year at the pumpathon they had 30 of the 40 participants stayed to work on the trail work day. Steven also shared that he'd recently been able to work on a project with Sen Hinkins with the Historical Preservation Society highlighting and providing signage in some of the areas of Emery County that have climbing visitors and also hold historical significance. Steven expressed interest in the potential of signage for Coal Haul road and the history of it.

#### **4. Discuss Reports of the Following:**

**a. BLM** Jaydon added that he'd like to line up some weekend volunteer projects with user groups. Andy responded that they would be interested. Jaydon also mentioned that Kristi will be helping run volunteer projects, especially those that take place on weekends. Discussion on bringing volunteer projects to the trails committee meetings so that others can help and collaborate, also to keep track of volunteer hours to help with grant applications. Jaydon provided some planning updates on the San Rafael Swell RMP amendments; they met with cooperating agencies yesterday again to present updated alternatives. There are a couple more changes they need to make but are hoping to release the alternatives in May. The Wedge Campground project is moving forward. They are working on completing the EA and hoping to sign early summer/late spring. They've had some conversations with Emery County and will be meeting to see what kind of help they can provide, possibly hauling gravel to establish loop roads. Implementation will focus first on the bigger campground that gets approved. An OHV grant to replace both of their side by sides is being worked on now. Discussion with Wade on which site to apply through. Jaydon shared that the Recreation Aviation Foundation and Backcountry Pilots have been wanting to get Keg Knoll Airstrip open for a while. It's right inside the wilderness boundary. The BLM has said it will be addressed in the wilderness plans but those plans have not been started as of yet, opening the airstrip would probably require congressional action. Wendy took it to congress and made positive progress. The BLM will be creating a plan to open that airstrip. They are preparing EA for it now. Brett also asked about dates for the Cliffdweller project; it probably won't be happening this spring as the OPs crew from Vernal is tied up building a campground in Vernal. If it doesn't happen in the spring they will aim for the fall. McKay Flat will be graded with the county grader next time they are in that area. Discussion on whether or not grading the Temple Mountain airstrip would be appropriate. Drew responded that they are working on an agreement to allow the airstrip to exist. They are looking to lease it for maintenance to the Backcountry Pilots. Then it would be

determined within that, what level of maintenance would be appropriate. Jaydon also shared that Moab did a reassessment of some of their routes, opening some that were closed. This will also be happening for our area and will be an opportunity to make some needed adjustments from the TMPs. Jim brought up the Mountain Dew trail and the possibility of composing a letter to open up the trail to full size. The BLM recommends one letter describing the request, and GPS tracks to ensure we are looking at the right route. Jim is willing to put the letter together but is asking for input from others. Jaydon clarified that the part they worked on is already designated, there is designated route going up the dugway, and from the north end there is a short designated route, the middle section that connects the two is not designated and is outside the TMP area. It's an existing route that doesn't need to be constructed, it just needs to be examined to make sure everything is done right. AnnDee will include the letter on next month's agenda.

Les mentioned the road crew having done a great job recently on some culverts down at the draw, and Jaydon talked about working with them to fix a couple day use parking areas as well.

**b. Forest Service** Josh reported that the FS on our side and Ephraim will be able to hire 4 seasonals each. He went up and moved a rock up Wildcat recently and has been maintaining equipment and getting ready for trail work. Discussion on work on Horse Canyon. Discussion with Terri on planning a work day at Little's Creek as well as a repair station that was put in. Discussion on inviting the FS to a Backcountry Horsemen meeting in March.

**c. State Agencies** Wade reported that the state trail crews are now hiring. The Richfield and Cedar City area both need 5-6 kids. Some legislation updates include taking OHV out of a recent change to registering some vehicles for 4 years and then having free registration from then on. The representative didn't realize where the OHV fees went, trail crews, mitigation equipment, law enforcement, etc. Interestingly, OHV fees in Utah are decreasing in registrations. There is also a law starting in July 2025 that says you can choose to register OHV as a "street-legal OHV". Discussion on the balance between funds for trails themselves vs law enforcement.

Tifnie shared an event coming up, Millsite Off Ice on March 20-21. There's no ice so it will be an on-shore fishing tournament. They will be adding some more campsites at Millsite, as well as updating some of the campsites at Huntington. Tifnie hosted an ice rescue instructor training at Scofield last month. Our area was able to certify a group of people including state parks employees and county deputies. The seasonal hiring period for the state parks is opening up.

Drew reported finishing up work on their permanent camping area. They're doing a lot of work to

mitigate illegal off-roading and are working with the BLM on that. There has been an informal OHV trail in the Behind the Butte area. They are looking to formalize that and have received approval, and now need to fence and sign, so they are looking into grants to help with that. This will be a sort of skills track. They are also hiring seasonals for Goblin Valley.

**d. Commission** Keven and Jordan expressed agreement and gratitude for the work being done and ideas being developed. They are both on board to help with the letter for the Mountain Dew Trail.

**e. Travel Bureau and Public Lands**

**AnnDee Mead:** AnnDee gave an update to a google form trail reporting system. She shared the draft for the committee to review. It will have a shareable QR code and link, it is kept short but thorough and includes options for location input, clarifying questions, photo upload, and optional personal information for feedback. This is for motorized and non motorized trails, and is intended to gather information on work that needs to be done. Rod mentioned adding something to disclose that projects are prioritized based on need and fixes may not be immediate. A possible solution may be an automatic email that is sent to the person that submits a report. Brett brought up Carbon County also needing a similar system and how to forward reports along to the BLM and someone in Carbon. Andy shared a connection with a Carbon Trail Committee member and will send AnnDee contact information for that person. Discussion on how to get the link out on trails and implemented into events. Jaydon and others provided some fine-tuning feedback for the questions on the google form.

AnnDee also shared efforts to include more trails content on social media and is open to ideas from the committee. We are also going to be prioritizing responsible recreation through social media. This could include “tips from an expert”, or trails updates, pack it in pack it out type messaging, etc. Next week the Travel Board will be approving the funding for the trails grant that we administer. AnnDee has been working with Wade and some partners to create seasonal jobs specifically for updating signage for the Arapeen Trail system.

**Jim Jennings:**

**5. Adjourn.**

**Next Trails Meeting: March 3, 2026**

**Council** - Terri Bennett, Brett White, Andy Gordon, Josh White, Mike Cologie,

Les Wilberg, Rod Player, Don Bennett, Steven Jeffery

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

