



**OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE ADVISORY COUNCIL  
DIVISION OF OUTDOOR RECREATION  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
Meeting Minutes**

*Minutes Of The Meeting Held on March 26, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.  
Virtual*

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**HOST:** *Utah Department of Natural Resources*  
1594 West North Temple  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116  
(Virtual meeting)

**AGENDA**

**HOST:** *Division of Outdoor Recreation*  
Sevier County Administration Building  
250 North Main Street  
Richfield, Utah 84701  
**Google Meet Info**  
<https://meet.google.com/bch-nbtb-yjo>  
Or dial: (US) +1 920-393-9186  
PIN: 379 870 910#

**ATTENDEES:** *Division of Outdoor Recreation Employees:*  
Evan Beitsch, India Nielsen Barfuss, Jason Curry, Jorge Vazquez, Rachel Toker,  
Wade Allinson, Redge Johnson  
*Division of Law Enforcement Employees:*  
Jacob Hinton  
*Attorney General's Office Representative:*  
Nicole Hanna  
*OHV Advisory Council Members:*  
Jason Blankenagel (Chair), Eric Nelson (Vice-Chair), Cheryl Butler, Russ Cazier,  
Kirk Chester, Mike Cook, Sheriff Curtis, Brett Davis, Dave Jacobson, Brody  
Johnson, Nicole Nielson, Scott Wheeler  
*Public:*  
Kelly Chappell, Sam Steve, Jordan Brown, Clif Koontz, Kathy Maxwell, Kevin  
Mickelsen, Brent Beach, Landon Mickelson, Brock Jackson, Amy Myers, Cody  
Draper, Randy Rhodes, Chad Taylor, Anna Sprout, Jenny Bird, Jana Fulks,  
Kaydn Ence, Paul Hill, Steven Hawkins, Brett Stewart

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## THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2026

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10:00 a.m.	<b>1. WELCOME</b>	Sevier County Administration Building
<b>INFORMATION</b>	<b>1.1. Call to Order</b>	Jason Blankenagel, Chair
	<b>1.2. Attendance and Introductions</b>	Chair
10:10 a.m.	<b>2. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 minutes each)</b>	Chair
<b>INFORMATION</b>	<b>3. APPLICANT PRESENTATIONS</b>	Chair & Rachel Toker, OHVR Grant Administrator
10:40 a.m.	<b>3.1. APP-005282, Public Lands Access Protection (#21)</b>	Public Land Policy Coordination Office
10:50 a.m.	<b>3.2. APP-005229, Buckskin Hills Enduro Training Course (#9)</b>	Uintah County
11:05 a.m.	<b>3.3. APP-005266, Salina Motocross/Mountain Bike Park - Phase 1 (#18)</b>	Salina City
11:20 a.m.	<b>3.4. APP-005204, OHV Trail Ambassador Revitalization &amp; Long-Term Sustainability (#24)</b>	Steward Moab
11:30 a.m.	<b>3.5. APP-005335, Washington County 4-H ATV Club (#25)</b>	Utah State University Extension
11:40 a.m.	<b>3.6. APP-005369 (#35), APP-005482 (#37), APP-005373 (#38), APP-005365 (#39), APP-005460 (#40)</b>	Soren
11:50 a.m.	<b>3.7. APP-005413 (#14), APP-005477 (#17) - Foundation for America's Public Lands</b>	Dave Jacobson, BLM Representative
12:00 p.m.	<b>4. LUNCH</b>	TBD

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12:30 p.m.	<b>5. OHV RECREATION (OHVR) GRANT REVIEW FOR SPRING FY26 Q2</b>	Chair & OHV Recreation Grant Administrator
3:30 p.m.	<b>6. MOTION TO APPROVE RECOMMENDED OHVR GRANTS FOR SPRING FY26 Q2</b>	Chair
3:45 p.m.	<b>7. BREAK</b>	
4:00 p.m.	<b>8. OTHER ITEMS</b>	Wade Allinson, OHV Program Manager
	<b>8.1. OHV Survey</b>	India Nielsen, Deputy Director
<b>ACTION</b>	<b>8.2. Future Meeting Dates &amp; Potential Site Visit</b>	OHV Program Manager
4:30 p.m.	<b>9. ADJOURNMENT</b>	Chair

#### MEETING MINUTES:

**(0:00) Call to Order & Introductions:** Chairman Jason Blankle called the meeting to order. Attendance was taken for both in-person and online participants.

#### **(4:19) Public Comment Period**

**Piute County Commissioner:** Discussed a grant for a NEPA study and easements to connect the Fremont/Cassidy Boyhood Home. Plans include a 5-mile trail and an 80-foot railroad car bridge donated by Garfield County.

**Clif Koontz (Ride with Respect):** Spoke in support of the PLPCO Access Protection grant, emphasizing the legal necessity of keeping trails open.

**Amy Myers (Sevier County Tourism):** Presented two applications: one for marketing trail systems and another for expanding facilities at the "Sand Ledges" trailhead, including restrooms.

**Brett Stewart (Utah OHV Advocates):** Thanked the committee and inquired about the advisory-only (non-voting) status of BLM and Forest Service reps, which was clarified as a legal/policy-based stance.

**(17:33) Applicant Presentations-** Applicants will have five minutes to present and five minutes for questions. Mike Cook's applicants will have 15 minutes.

## **A. (18:16) Public Lands Access Protection (PLPCO)**

**Presenter:** Redge Johnson

- **Request:** \$350,000
- **Summary:** Funding to represent state interests in federal land management. Focuses on RS2477 rights-of-way and fighting road closures in Travel Management Plans (TMPs).
- **Discussion:** Highlighted the "Access Map 360" and the online comment generator for TMPs.

## **B. (30:50) Buckskin Hills Enduro Training Course**

**Presenter:** Mike Cook (Uintah County)

- **Request:** Funding for a three-tier (Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced) enduro practice facility.
- **Summary:** Addresses the lack of single-track infrastructure in Uintah County. The course would be ~0.5 miles on 2 acres of county land.
- **Discussion:** Questions regarding NEPA requirements for toilets/awnings on county vs. federal land.

## **C. (49:03) Salina Motocross Track**

**Presenter:** Salina City Representatives

- **Request:** \$350,000 (plus \$200,000 RTP)
- **Summary:** Development of a motocross track adjacent to the Blackhawk Arena. Includes future plans for NICA mountain bike trails and drag strips.
- **Discussion:** A neighboring landowner raised concerns about noise, dust, and privacy. The city agreed to formalize a legal agreement regarding fencing, watering for dust control, and operating hours.

## **D. (1:09:46) OHV Trail Ambassador Program**

**Presenter:** Anna Sprout (Steward Moab)

- **Request:** \$324,000
- **Summary:** Transitioning the award-winning program from a county-run entity to a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Focuses on education, "Learn to Earn" stickers, and spill/waste kits.
- **Discussion:** Committee members expressed concern over the high dollar amount and encouraged seeking more diverse funding sources (e.g., City of Moab).

**(1:27:41)** Brief pause in presentations due to technical difficulties. Topic Switch: Regional OHV Marketing Results (Uintah, Sevier, and Wayne Counties)

The presenter updated the board on the economic impact of previous OHV marketing. Addressing prior concerns about tangible results, they shared data collected via "geofencing" and tracking software. This technology pings mobile devices at trailheads, classifying users living outside a 50–100 mile radius as traveling visitors.

**(1:29:32)** Campaigns generated 2.2 million video views, driving significant increases in digital and physical traffic:

- **Uintah County:** 20% increase in Butch Cassidy trailhead use; 7% rise in Transient Room Tax (TRT).
- **Sevier County:** 433% jump in daily web traffic; 23% increase in TRT and \$3M in new visitor spending.
- **Wayne County:** 35% increase in Swing Arm City visitation; trail page views rose from 2k to 40k.

**(1:35:16)** The committee requested more consistent data sharing. Presenters committed to providing monthly or quarterly reports moving forward.

**(1:36:20)** Amy Meyers (Sevier Tourism) noted that as infrastructure grows and traditional grants cap out, OHV-specific marketing is essential to convert trail investments into local economic development.

#### **E. (1:38:45) Washington County 4-H OHV Club**

**Presenter:** Paul Hill & Kaydn Ence

- **Summary:** A youth development program teaching safety, maintenance, and ethics with a focus on farm/ranch ATV use.
- **Discussion:** Clarified that the program builds upon existing state safety courses and uses side-by-sides (UTVs) to teach youth (ages 13–18) safe operation habits.

#### **F. (1:55:30) Foundation for America's Public Lands**

**Presenter:** Dave Jacobson

- **Summary:** A Congressionally chartered nonprofit that assists the BLM by bypassing federal procurement hurdles (Moab & Fillmore). Polaris has provided \$800,000 in matching funds for their projects.
- **Discussion:** Questions arose regarding the Foundation's overhead, legal eligibility in Utah, and how to track funds routed through a DC-based entity. Support for non-profits brings a lot to the federal government.

**(2:12:09) Adjournment for Lunch–** The committee adjourned for lunch, with plans to reconvene for further deliberation on the presented grants.

**(2:42:24) Return from Lunch–** OHV Recreation Grant Review Chairman Blankle opened the review session, noting that grant requests exceed available funding. He emphasized that

lower rankings do not necessarily imply a "bad" grant but reflect the necessity of difficult decisions.

**(2:44:58) Budget Overview** – Rachel Toker reported approximately \$2,450,000 is available for this cycle. She announced a significant funding increase effective July 1st, with the annual budget rising to \$6,000,000 (\$3,000,000 per cycle).

**(2:44:10) Steward Moab: OHV Trail Ambassadors Initial Discussion-** The committee expressed concern over the \$324,000 request for a two-year cycle, citing high administrative and Engagement Coordinator costs.

**(2:47:47) Motion to reduce funding to one year, encourage them to push forward with other funding sources (Brody Johnson). Substitute motion from Scott Wheeler cut to 1/3 of the total request (\$107,988.44).**

Discussion shifted to set this aside until the final budget was calculated.

**(3:05:51) Buckskin Hills Enduro Course:** The committee discussed the high cost of supporting infrastructure relative to the trail itself.

**Scott Wheeler moved to remove the vault toilet and awning from the initial award, funding the core trail construction at \$307,564. Seconded by Brody Johnson. Motion passed.**

This was intended to preserve funds for other projects while allowing the primary course to proceed.

**(3:12:48) Block Approval- High-Scoring Trail Work (motion):** To expedite the meeting, the committee looked at projects with broad consensus.

**Nicole Nielson moved to block-approve all trail work applications scoring 90% and above (excluding Uintah County). Seconded by Sheriff Curtis. Motion passed.**

This covered applications 1 through 8 on the prioritized list.

**(3:18:55) Piute Trail Data Collection:** Cheryl Butler raised concerns regarding the use of trail cameras. Scott Walker clarified that these cameras are essential for distinguishing between 50-inch ATVs and wider UTVs to justify trail designations.

**Eric Nelson moved to approve the grant with a strict contract provision that cameras are used for data collection only and never for law enforcement. Seconded by Brody Johnson. Motion passed.**

**(3:20:48) Fish Lake Trail Maintenance:** The committee noted a \$5,000 request for mapping and GIS work. Cheryl Butler pointed out that federal agencies already provide these layers for free.

**Brody Johnson moved to reduce the grant by \$5,000, removing the mapping line item. Seconded by Eric Nelson. Motion passed.**

**(3:23:44) Fremont and Piute Trail Connector:** The committee discussed the low financial match from the applicant. However, after hearing that Piute County is a high-poverty area and that the "Morgan boys" had finally granted the necessary private land easements, the committee felt the project was too critical to delay.

**Approved at full funding via roll call.**

**(3:25:31) Sand Ledges Trailhead Restroom & Parking Lot Expansion:** Focused on the \$50,000 price tag for a restroom. Amy Meyers explained that the Forest Service suggested the specific vault toilet and that the price included the heavy costs of delivery and installation in a remote area.

**Approved via roll call.**

**(3:28:55) San Juan County- White Canyon Trail System:** Cheryl Butler noted that the application lacked formal letters of support. Dave Jacobson clarified that while formal letters weren't attached, the local BLM office provided email documentation of support and that the lack of a formal letter was a clerical misunderstanding by the agency.

**Approved via roll call.**

**(3:33:06) Warner and Long Valley OHV Trail Cleanup Project:** The committee questioned a \$9,900 request for a trailer. The applicant (a volunteer club) clarified that the trailer is not for hauling trash—which dumpsters handle—but for storing and transporting the club's tools and gear for ongoing volunteer events.

**Approved via roll call.**

**(3:37:17) Improving Safety & Wayfinding Signage at Cricket Mountains OHV Trail System:** A debate occurred regarding whether the grant was funding county "B Roads," which are generally ineligible. Nicole Hannah (Attorney General's Office) clarified that the grant is strictly for wayfinding and safety signage, not road maintenance, making it an eligible expense.

**Approved via roll call.**

**(3:43:13) Jordan River OHV State Park Lighting:** Members expressed frustration that this project returned for more funding due to state engineering oversights.

**Scott Walker moved to fund the necessary electrical/lighting engineering but removed a line item for a motorcycle and riding gear. Seconded by Brody Johnson. Motion passed.**

**(4:04:07) Fillmore Forest Repair & Enhancement 2:** A significant conflict of interest was identified: the nonprofit applicant planned to hire the president's private company to do

the work. The committee also found the \$85,000 request for only 25 miles of work to be vague.

**The motion to fund failed unanimously.**

The applicant was encouraged to get competitive bids and reapply.

**(4:10:20) Moab OHV Destinations- Tusher Tunnel, Uranium Arch, Bartlett Alcove:** The committee reviewed the project's \$5,000 admin fee and its focus on protecting rock art from graffiti. It was noted that while some "hiking" is involved, it is the only way for motorized users to reach the destination from the parking area.

**Approved via roll call.**

**(4:20:28) Salina Motocross/Mountain Bike Park:** Extensive discussion regarding a neighboring homeowner's concerns about noise and dust. Despite the city's verbal assurances, the committee felt a formal, legally binding agreement was missing.

**The request was denied. The committee invited them to reapply in July once a legal easement and maintenance plan are signed.**

**(4:32:31) Kane County Trail Maintenance Project:** The committee debated if a John Deere tractor was a proper tool for OHV trails or if it was actually intended for fairground maintenance. Despite some "No" votes from Jason Blankle and Eric Nelson, the consensus was that it had been proven effective on sandy trail sections.

**Approved via roll call.**

**(4:37:22) Garfield County Road Grader:** The committee felt that a full-sized road grader was inappropriate for maintaining "two-track" OHV roads and would destroy the primitive riding experience that users enjoy.

**The request was denied unanimously.**

**(4:40:41) Public Lands Access Protection (PLPCO):** This \$350,000 grant supports the state's legal fight against federal road closures. Cliff Cows spoke in favor, noting that PLPCO provides high-value legal work for the state. Jason Blankle declared a conflict and did not vote.

**Approved via roll call.**

**(4:43:32) Utah Mini Moto League:** Scott Walker praised this program for providing mentorship to youth who may struggle in traditional school environments but find focus through riding and maintenance.

**Approved via roll call.**

**(4:56:52) The Big Ride / Utah ATV Association:** The committee discussed the ethics of funding an event they attend.

**Action Item: Director Jason Curry decided the Division will fund council members' attendance separately from the grant to ensure no conflict of interest for the voting body.**

**The grant was then approved for other stakeholders.**

**(5:16:26) Washington County 4-H OHV Club:** The committee liked the 4-H model but balked at the \$38,000 request for a high-end "Defender" UTV.

**Sheriff Curtis moved to fund the pilot program but capped the equipment budget at \$20,000 for a simpler machine and trailer. Seconded by Eric Nelson. Motion passed.**

**(5:19:18) Utah 4-H "Beyond the Trail" ATV Safety and Stewardship Program:** The committee rejected a \$50,000 request for an OHV video game. The consensus was that funds should be spent on "real" hands-on training rather than virtual simulations.

**Denied unanimously.**

**(5:21:07) Garfield County SAR ATV/UTV Trailers & 1 Medbed:** Discussion centered on the extreme volume of snowmobile rescues in Cache and Logan. Members noted that many SAR volunteers use their own equipment at a loss.

**Applications 27, 28, and 30 were approved via roll call.**

**(5:27:20) SAR Medical Transport UTV's:** The applicant requested two medical UTVs. Given the funding shortfall, the committee asked if they could manage with one.

**Brody Johnson moved to fund one machine (\$25,000). Seconded by Sheriff Curtis. Motion passed.**

**(5:33:17) Iron County Search and Rescue:** The committee reviewed the call logs and determined many "rescues" were for street vehicles stuck in snow rather than OHV users. They decided the current 2021 machine was still sufficient.

**Denied via roll call.**

**(5:35:44) Utah County Search and Rescue:** A request for a high-capability Ranger 1500 was discussed. The committee felt the county's high "skin in the game" (matching funds) justified the award for a more powerful rescue unit.

**Approved via roll call.**

**(5:41:25) Utah Avalanche Center:** The center requested funds for weather stations in the Uintas and Logan. Cheryl Butler clarified that these stations specifically serve snowmobile-heavy areas, not just skiers.

**Approved via roll call (Kirk Chester abstained).**

**(5:45:11) Friends of Central Utah Winter Recreation:** Cheryl Butler noted the group lacked formal operating agreements with the Forest Service for several items.

**Action Item: Funding is approved contingent upon providing a signed agreement.**

**Rachel Toker will withhold the contract until verified.**

**(5:48:33) OHV Tourism Block Approval:** Reviewing the hard data provided by the presenters (2.2M video views), the committee felt these marketing grants provided a high return on investment.

**Nicole Nilson moved to approve all tourism grants for Uintah, Sevier, and Wayne. Seconded by Brody Johnson. Approved.**

**(5:52:06) Steward Moab (Final Motion):** Returning to the tabled item, the committee acknowledged the program's value in the Moab area but remained firm on reducing costs.

**Eric Nelson moved to fund the program at 50% (\$161,992) for one year, specifically for education and ambassadors, excluding the engagement position. Seconded by Brody Johnson. Motion passed.**

**(5:54:30) Buckskin Hills Enduro Restroom/Awning (Final Motion):** With leftover funds identified at the end of the meeting, the committee revisited Uintah County's earlier reduction.

**Eric Nelson moved to restore the \$74,500 for the bathroom and awning. Seconded by Brody Johnson. Motion passed.**

**(5:55:47) FY2026 Grant Cycle Final Approval (Motion):** Scott Walker moved to finalize all grant recommendations as modified. Seconded by Brett Davis. Motion passed via roll call.

**(6:09:56) Action Item: Club Support Letters** Wade Allison addressed the issue of "blanket approvals" from clubs. He directed staff to update the club contact list and reminded the committee to call clubs directly to ensure they understand the project's totality before the next cycle.

**(6:11:26) Informational:** OHV Community Survey India Nielsen shared that 687 Utahns completed the OHV survey (a high 14% response rate). The data showed that 48% of users are satisfied with how registration fees are spent, while 41% are neutral.

**(6:19:50) Informational:** Compliance Auditing Jason Curry proposed hiring a dedicated compliance officer. This individual would conduct "IRS-style" audits on grant-funded equipment (dozers, UTVs) to ensure they haven't been sold, moved out of county, or repurposed for non-OHV use.

**(6:31:07) Action Item: Salesforce Portal Updates** The committee requested technical fixes for the Salesforce portal. Rachel Toker will update the app to allow budget viewing without downloading and add a "notes" section to track an applicant's history of completing past projects.

**(6:35:18) Action Item: Future Application Questions** A mandatory disclosure for AI-assisted writing will be added. Additionally, applicants must now state if they are concurrently applying for RTP funds for the same project.

**(6:43:42) Brody Johnson** made the motion for adjournment. **Mike Cook** seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned.