



**Emery County
Trail's Committee
April 7, 2026 8:00 AM**



Attendance: Terri Bennett, Brett White, Andy Gordon, Josh White, Les Wilberg, Rod Player, Don Bennett, Jim Jennings, AnnDee Mead, Josh Clark, Jaydon Mead, Nicole Neilsen, Wayne Ludington, Wade Allinson, Ed Geary, Kasey Healy, Coco Vandenberg, Brad ____, Dennis Worwood, Jordan Leonard

Welcome Chairman: Terri Bennett

1. Approval of Minutes: March 2026. Motion to approve made by Les, seconded by Don. **Motion passed.**

2. Committee Members:

- **Josh White-Motorized** Josh shared the GR Dirt Bike Rally giving away a dirt bike this year in honor of Dick Brass. He is known for getting single track trails in the area authorized with the BLM. His estate is donating a bike to the rally to give away. They are almost to their limit of 400 people. Discussion on ride limits and how many rides they offer. They try to keep riders-per-guide low. They have about 14 routes all over the Swell and have a couple routes that go into Grand County.
- **Andy Gordon- OHV** Andy reported the Swell Cabin Fever Poker Ride coming up on the 18th near Chimney Rock as well as the Watermelon Crawl coming up at the first of May. They've been able to go out and pre-ride a bunch of trails and will go do some preparation cleanup. They used the google trails report form and it went through but he expressed concerns with having to sign up and create an account to leave a report. Discussion on the ease and procedure of the report form. Discussion on the route that he used the form to report. They have about 70 sign-ups for their upcoming event. Robin is still working with them but they've pretty much got everything under control. Their sign ups have slowed down a little bit after the initial rush but are trickling in. Discussion on other similar events around the same time and how their online marketing efforts are going.
- **Brett White-Back Country Pilots** Brett shared that April and May are big months for Backcountry Pilots. They estimate about 12 groups camping at Mexican Mountain in March. Brett went and rode the Mountain Dew trail and sent a GPS track to Jaydon and Jim to report back. He and his boy made it through. This is a full size trail that includes an undesignated section that is being worked on by the county and BLM. Discussion on the nature of the trail/route. Discussion on Sage Brush Bench, Terri has seen a couple airplanes in the area, but a new report (post-rehab) needs to be made. In regards to airstrips, Jaydon shared that a crew will be working on Cliff Dweller's Flat this week if all goes to plan. Discussion on grading and the work that will be done.
- **Mike Cologie- OHV/Motorized**
- **Les Wilberg- OHV/UTV** Les reported going out on the Humbug Loop, the only issue being all the sand and how hard that is to work with when it rains. They had a few equipment issues but were able to get the work done. This trail is near Cedar Mountain. He asked about Temple Mountain and what has been decided. Jaydon responded that they are not well prepared to start the project. He said they can go out Friday and look at the options and then decide between going out and working on the Butterfly Trail one day and George's Draw another day, or go check out Temple Mountain and see if they could get enough done. Discussion on each need and what equipment/work each option will take. Discussion on a sign near Copper Globe that needs repair. Decision was made to make the Butterfly Trail and George's Draw the first priority on Monday and Tuesday and then later move on to Temple Mountain when signage is prepared. A date for Temple Mountain will be set at another time.

- **Rod Player- Non-motorized**
- **Don Bennett- Equestrian** Don reported some trail cleaning on the forest. They have a project scheduled for April 23 at Moore Canyon. Jaydon responded that the project is on his schedule as well as is working on getting additional help for the project. They will be utilizing the Backcountry Horsemen to haul equipment in and hiking in. Don also reported being involved (with a couple other people) in a SHPO stewardship project where they will go check on certain historical sites. 4 people including Terri and Don took a training course and will spend a couple days checking on sites. Don brought up the question of OHV access to Sid and Charley, the existing road is extremely washed out and new routes have been created that need to be mitigated. Jaydon mentioned some of the problems with the area and possible mitigation options but they are open to ideas.
- **Terri Bennett- Mountain Biking** Terri shared that the MECCA festival is coming up at the first of May. They are teaming up with Altitude Bicycles and the Carbon Composite Mountain Bike Team to do strider bike races for the little kids. They will have prizes including a big kid bike. There will also be a bake sale and fundraiser for the composite team. They hope to be able to draw some community members out to the event as well. They have about 7 people signed up to work on the Little's Creek Trail Friday morning but expect to have more as it gets closer. They still have a few sign-ups trickling in.
- **Steven Jeffery- Rock Climbing**

3. Discuss Reports of the Following:

a. BLM Jaydon shared a couple other projects that have happened this last month including a new gate at 9 Mile Wash thanks to Wade and the State Crew, they've also been working on a motorcycle dugway near Jesse's Twist which will be finished next week. The Wedge Campground plan is still moving forward and should be published in May as well as the Resource Management Plan Amendments. Jaydon shared some business cards created to help share map updates. This is a busy season on the desert. The OPs crew is down and has been working on a couple I70 underpasses to even out some uneven areas. They'll be working out on the Buckhorn this week to put in a cattle guard. He's also asked them to clean up some campsites down there while they're in the area. They've initiated NEPA to work on some formal parking areas in the Buckhorn as well as fencing off an area at the top of the Buckhorn that is seeing some offroading and creating a parking lot. Discussion on a parking area by Calf Canyon. Discussion on sending a BLM representative down to the Dirt Bike Rally on Thursday. Jaydon provided an update on the Dinosaur Quarry, they've been open and having good visitation for the season. Construction will begin at the end of May and the building should be in this Summer. They will also be doing a signature BLM event for the America 250 events.

b. Forest Service Josh reported being open at Bald Mountain, Indian Creek, and Willow Lake at Ferron, as well as the South Side gate. We're opening about a month and a half early. They are planning to have wildlife gates open Saturday. Josh, Kasey, and Dillon did some work at Reeder and opened up a big rock at the bottom of the trail. The rest of Reeder canyon is still on the long term plan. They're also working on a Categorical Exclusion which will include a few different segments that they will be working to improve. Discussion on the locations and desired results.

c. State Agencies Wade reported finalizing grants during the last month, sharing that the FS and the county were awarded the grants they applied for. He reported a competitive grant session and is

happy to see a good portion of the funds coming to Emery County. The next grant cycle will open July 15 till mid August and review will take place in September for the OHVR grants. Much of the funds for these grants come from OHV registration fees. He also shared that the RTP grant closed a couple days ago which also brought in some good applications. The Richfield Trail Crew will soon be putting out a notice for hire and will hopefully be up and running the first week of July. If we get a heavy winter this year there is a chance of them staying on and doing snow cat work. Discussion on trail crews around the state and when they begin work. They are preparing an in-person side-by-side certification training course. They recently held this training in Carbon County and Wade shared the highlights of that event. He also shared some insights into OHV laws locally and legislation. Soon, anyone without a driver's license will be required to take an online course in order to operate any class of E Bike.

d. Commission- Commissioner Worwood reported spending a couple days with Commissioner Leonard in Lincoln County Wyoming looking at power plants and other things as they share a lot in common with our county. They shared information about the Trails Committee and Public Lands Council, and Commissioner Worwood expressed interest in sharing videos with them of the work being done. Discussion on a bike trail being created outside of Orangeville.

e. Travel Bureau and Public Lands

AnnDee Mead: AnnDee reported a busy event season coming especially on public lands, and including some cool events going on in Goblin Valley and other state parks. AnnDee sent out copies of the community impact report for events last year and shared a few interesting numbers. She also shared that we were awarded the grant for the signage crew and the job application is now open. The maps have been sent to print after a few fixes. We hope to have them done in time for the upcoming OHV events. Looking forward to the possibility of user-specific maps. She shared a few trail report responses and initiated a discussion on the best way to share and discuss these responses, as well as a response to those who submit a report.

The Trails Grant is open and will be open till the 15th.

Jim Jennings: Jim reported some cleaning that needs to be done on the road from Stewart Guard Station. There are a few logs that need to be cleared.

5. Adjourn.

Next Trails Meeting: May 5, 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

