

Grand County Motorized Trails Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 13, 2026

DRAFT

The meeting was held at the Grand Center and called to order by Clif Koontz at 12:38 pm and started with introductions.

Members in attendance:

Reid Bakken, E-bike Rep
Payton Blasco, BLM
Ben Carswell, Utahrapator State Park
Dave Hellman, ATV Rep
Clif Koontz, Chair
Madeline Logowitz, GCATT
Alex Mudler, Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation, SE Region Trail Crew Supervisor
Mark Pope, 4x4 Rep
Scott Solle, GCSAR
Anna Sprout, Steward Moab
Jeff Stevens, Vice Chair
Zane Taylor, Motorcycle Rep
Kathy Tustanowski, Secretary

Guests in attendance:

Joe Nemeth, Four Corners Trail Alliance and Moab Hard Enduro
Mesa Lange Nemeth, Four Corners Trail Alliance and Moab Hard Enduro
Bernie Kuprionas, Four Corners Trail Alliance and Moab Hard Enduro

A. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the May 14, 2026 and July 9, 2026 minutes by Maddie Logowitz, Zane Taylor seconded, motion passed unanimously.

B. Citizens to be Heard

None

C. Updates from MTC Stakeholder Representatives and Executive Committee

Anna Sprout shared that they are hiring for a new Program Manager and Trail Ambassadors. Sponsorship packets for the Back from Beyond podcasts are being developed and in final draft. Preparations have started for the Volunteer Appreciation celebration. Assistance is being provided to Grand County Search and Rescue in the development of educational materials regarding flooding and vehicle rescues. A draft pamphlet was passed around for review.

Scott Solle stated that a few vehicles have ended up in flash flooded creeks recently: Castle Creek and Fisher Towers area. He thanked Anna for her assistance with the pamphlet. This year's number of calls has exceeded last year which was record setting. Anna stated a larger flash flood warning system is being considered.

Payton Blasco shared that the TMP updates are still ongoing. BLM has been busy replacing motorized trail kiosks with new ones.

Alex Mudler shared they have been working on the back side of the La Sals including single track on South Block. They have been using heavy equipment for work needed on Trail 16 and Forest Service Road 749.

Tyler Welch thanked Alex for the work they have been doing.

Ben Carswell shared that the state park has ordered signs.

Mark Pope shared that he visited Utahraptor State Park recently and complimented on the work that has been done on the trails. He also mentioned that a year ago the Red Rock 4-Wheelers sent discrepancies to BLM regarding the routes shown on the map and where the routes actually are, this would be a good time to remedy the discrepancies. For National Public Lands day, Sept 26, the Red Rock 4-Wheelers Trail of the Month will be in the Hell Roaring area. He requested a meeting with Payton to do a site visit beforehand.

Maddie had big news to share, the new OHV Trail Coordinator position has been filled by Joseph Nielson. He has a background in planning and is a motorcycle enthusiast. The Mud Springs ribbon cutting will be Sept 11. The work on Part 2 of Phase 1 will begin this fall with 3.5 more miles to be built. The Utah Conservation Corp will be providing assistance for six weeks. Phase 2 is currently going thru the NEPA process. The city and county are in discussions regarding the town boat ramp improvements and looking to include access from Lions Park. The GCATT trail crew will be working on the Burro trail washout. Grants have been approved for the Motorized and Non-Motorized RTP for materials. She is now working on the OHVR Grant for funding the coordinator position. Clif will draft a letter of support.

D. Proposing Motorized Singletrack across Grand County

Clif started the discussion stating an all-encompassing master plan like Trail Mix produced would be great but it doesn't seem practical for the MTC to undertake at this time. We can be more targeted to motorized singletrack including non-Class 1 E-Bikes and focus on projects that can be more readily accepted and less controversial, focus on connectivity to what we already have. Public outreach and participation will be needed. The process could begin this year and individual route proposals to land managers could be analyzed and implemented in years to come. The product would probably be more of a list than a map. Clif asked the group for their thoughts on goals

and process. Reid stated that we are 20 years behind Trail Mix. We need to lay out the need to address a growing segment of recreational users and get the county on board to support a vision to improve motorized trails. Tyler shared that he has had returning customers for years and he is running out of options on trails he can take them on, more connections would be great. Joe Nemeth shared that he has noticed a slip in interest of singletrack motorcyclists coming to Moab in the last 5 years. They are now going to St. George area and Arizona instead because they have more technical routes. Mesa shared that people are not staying as long thus losing out on revenue to the community. It was suggested a list of miles of each kind of trail would be helpful. Clif indicated we are also losing riders to the Grand Junction area. Anna asked for clarification on what we are asking for. Clif responded that the big picture would be to provide a conceptual, county-wide list of proposed trails we are pursuing to get the support of the County Commission, then we would submit particular routes over time to BLM and USFS to analyze and approve, which we could ultimately help implement. Maddie stated we need to ask what are the public's priorities, what do people want and suggested a baseline survey for information gathering. Reid stated he does not agree and thinks there is enough baseline information already and that a motorized singletrack focus area needs to be added. Maddie shared that the non-motorized plan was complex and costly. She encourages public outreach to confirm what we already know and to get buy-in. Clif stated he is interested in local buy-in and asks today's participants to solicit feedback from their contacts. He will think about how best to do outreach locally. Reid stated that we can't have moto discussions without including Green River and suggested the Sage Riders should be contacted, the same for San Juan County Trails Alliance. Also to be considered is the new interest in long distance trails, hard enduro and shared use with pedal bikes. This topic and discussion will continue as an agenda item at next month's meeting. In closing, Joe stated the importance of how a trail is built, not so much the difficulty, it's the kind of trail that matters. If it is put in a good area and put in well there is a formula that transcends all trails. Mesa referenced Raptor Route as an example of a route that's not difficult and yet fun for a wide range of abilities. Clif agreed that the quality of design is important.

E. Commenting on Worksites for Division of Outdoor Recreation Trail Crew

Trails in the burned area of the Babylon Fire are open but in many cases no longer in usable condition, Red Ledges is basically gone in places. Work is allowed to be done in the burned area. Clif suggested a Rake and Ride in the area. Alex has talked with Brian Murdock of the USFS and shared the BAER Team (Burned Area Emergency Response) is working in the area now. Alex also noted the current MOU for the state trail crew does not include the Abajo Mountains in the 'greater Moab area.' Reid suggested including the Moab Field Office for BLM and the Monticello Office for the USFS. After some discussion Clif said he will follow up with the Grand County Commission. Maddie recommended a MOU with San Juan County is needed. It was agreed the Abajo's are a priority for the trail crew. Alex went over their schedule for the next 3 weeks with a return to the desert on September 13 to work on Chicken Corners, Dome Plateau, and Top of the World areas. Reid also shared that the Trails Preservation Alliance will be working next March or April on motorized singletrack.

F. Scheduling Trail Projects

Clif noted he will be out of town September 8 thru 19. After some discussion the following was agreed to:

September 5 - Abajo Mountains, location/time to be determined

October 3 - Dragon's Tail, south half of Steel Bender, fencing work needed. Meet at 9 am on Flat Pass Road, near Ken's Lake campground.

G. Adjournment

Clif adjourned the meeting at 2:24 pm and thanked everyone for participating.