



## San Rafael Swell Recreation Area Advisory Council

### Zoom Meeting Minutes

February 16 & 17, 2022

#### February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Meeting –

##### Meeting attendees

- San Rafael Swell Recreation Area Advisory Council (RAAC) members: Kent Wilson, Leslie (Les) K. Wilberg, Rodney (Rod) Player, Sue Bellagamba, and Elven (Leon) McElprang, and Wade Allinson (joined part way through the meeting)
- BLM employees: Lance Porter, Lisa Everett-Stringer, Greg Sheehan, Angela Hawkins, Kyle Beagley, Amber Koski, Stephanie Howard, Dana Truman, Jaydon Mead, Myron Jeffs, Blake Baker, and Molly Hocanson
- Members of the public:  
Jim Jennings, Kent Price, Roy Evans II, Wendy Lessig, Dusty Monks, Leo Hardy, Blaine Nay, Ray Petersen, Wayne Bennett, Traci Bishop, Scott Conner, Joel Brown, Eric Wilkinson, Ray Bloxham, Lance Weekley, Matt Simon. Patrick McKay, Josh Kelson, Rich Holloman, Scott Whittier, Tyler Gleave, Reid Persing, Gary Hilley, Judi Brawer, and Matthew Podolinsky

##### Welcome and Introductions

- Lance Porter, Green River District Manager, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Greg Sheehan, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Utah State Director introduced himself and welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. The time was turned over to the RAAC chairman Les Wilberg.
- Les welcomed the members of the public to the meeting and thanked them for their interest in the San Rafael Swell Recreation Area. He introduced himself and the other Council members did the same.

##### Agenda Review and Meeting Logistics (see Attachment C)

- The agenda was reviewed.

##### San Rafael Swell Recreation Area Updates (see Attachment D)

Presenter: Blake Baker, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Price Field Office

- As a response to a request from the last meeting, BLM provided updates of projects being accomplished in the recreation area.
- Buckhorn Draw Improvements:
  - Last fall, BLM partnered with Emery County to install over 3,000 feet of fencing to delineate camping areas in Buckhorn Wash.
  - Three fee tubes were recently installed at strategic locations. BLM is also working on implementing a scan and pay system that would allow visitors to scan a QR code and pay their fee through the Rec.gov application on their smart phone. This system does not require cell phone service or Wi-Fi at the time of payment.



- Signs have been ordered related to site identification and regulations.
  - Emery County Roads Department is currently working to improve the shoulder of the road to make it safer for vehicles entering and exiting the camping areas.
  - This spring there are plans to begin installing the site number and regulatory signs and complete road improvements.
- Swinging Bridge Completed Improvements:
  - With the help of the Green River District's Operations Crew, Price Field Office installed one – 16' x 16' and five – 12' x 12' shade structures at Swinging Bridge South. The shade structures have windscreens on two sides, which do an excellent job of blocking the sun.
  - Additional gravel was laid down at the sites to level the surface and allow for proper drainage.
  - Near the Swinging Bridge, repairs were completed to the damaged post and pole fence.
  - A fence was installed spanning the wash near the equestrian campground. The fence was designed in such a way as to hold up to debris flows and precipitation events.
- Temple Mountain Site and South Temple Wash Improvements:
  - 22 concrete picnic tables were placed, fee tubes installed, and 700 feet of rotting fence was replaced with steel post and cable, and two- 16' x 16' shade structures were installed.
  - Some of the developments have not been finished including completing campsite delineation at Temple Mountain Wash, improving the campground access road to Temple Mountain Townsite, and installing new kiosks with fee payment information at both sites, and importing gravel to level the surface and aid in proper drainage.
- Justensen Flat Trailhead Development:
  - The Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Justensen Flat Trailhead was signed in November 2021. BLM has been awarded a \$35,000 State of Utah OHV Fiscal Incentive Grant to help cover the costs of the developments.
  - Improvements will include delineating and improving the parking area, providing restroom facilities to address human waste issues, and providing visitor information signage.
  - BLM is currently working on awarding a contract for the gravel work.
- Solutions for Cane Wash:
  - It has been proposed to place barriers at the end of the designated route, at the Wilderness Boundary, and place a hardened barrier continued from an existing range fence to span the width of the wash.
  - It may be necessary to re-route the Cane Wash Trail, so it follows a more natural path of travel out of the wash. When traveling down Cane Wash, it's an extremely tight turn for Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs) to enter or exit the wash and remain on the designated route. If visitors miss the turn, they will continue north and potentially enter the wilderness boundary.



- The re-route would eliminate the need for a small portion of the trail that would be actively reclaimed.
- Wedge Campground Proposed Developments:
  - BLM is currently in the early planning phase for developments. Some general polygons have been identified, but the necessary biological and cultural surveys have not been completed, and site development designs have not been started.
  - The future desired condition at the Wedge is one that provides a high-quality recreation setting while limiting and mitigating impacts to the environment.
  - To accommodate current and future use BLM proposes to develop four campgrounds, seven group sites, and two day-use parking areas
  - Visitation to the area is around 45,000 annually and likely to exceed 50,000 soon. 2020 visitation on the Good Water Rim Trail was approximately 4,800.
  - Heavy recreation use in the area has placed pressure on sensitive ecosystems. The designation, development, and management of campgrounds would also assist in protecting natural resources.
  - The proposed project would address resource concerns that dispersed recreation has caused on the ground. Designating, delineating, and concentrating sites away from the canyon rim would reduce anticipated future impacts to sensitive wildlife species.
  - In the spring of 2020, there were at a minimum 277 recorded campsites in the area.
  - In the fall of 2020, BLM reclaimed over 50 campsites along the rim to the main overlook and closed the area to overnight use.
  - Camping and day use activities are currently taking place in the same areas. In heavily used areas, mixing these activities can degrade the experience of both user groups and lead to conflicts.
  - There is currently a lack of campground organization and formal delineation. In most areas, users are somewhat limited by topography, but there are currently no hard barriers providing limits to expansion.
  - During peak visitation months when existing dispersed sites are full, visitors overflow to areas where vegetation and soils are vulnerable to degradation and compaction and create new dispersed campsites.
  - Proposed developments include:
    - Seven Group sites - six on the state parcel and one on BLM. This state parcel has been identified for transfer to the BLM.
    - Two day-use parking areas – one on the east side and one on the west side
    - An Equestrian campground on the east side
    - Three larger campgrounds labeled A, B, and C. Each campground may provide a different experience and appeal to different user groups. Campground (A) would appeal to larger vehicles. Campground (B) would appeal to smaller vehicles or those seeking direct access to the trail. Campground (C) would appeal to those seeking the experience of camping near the canyon rim.



- BLM is considering closing or limiting use of a primitive route. This route is difficult to monitor and is often a source of off route travel violations. This area is where both motorcycles and ATVs have accessed the Good Water Rim trail multiple times requiring extensive rehabilitation.
- To limit new ground disturbing activities in Campground C, no additional roads or campsites would be created. Existing user created sites would be designated and developed and we would take advantage of the existing toilet and day use parking area. Campground delineation will limit additional ground disturbance and the campsite creep occurring north of the campground. Camping near the rim would be limited to Campground C to decrease interactions with sensitive species.
- The equestrian campground would accommodate large trucks and trailers and provide amenities such as corrals and hitching posts. This area was chosen because the area is located between trails frequented by equestrian groups, and equestrian users currently frequent the site.
- Group sites would utilize previously disturbed areas and access routes when reasonable to minimize new ground disturbance.
- Sites would be delineated to eliminate campsite creep.
- The dispersed camping area west of the main bathroom would be redesigned to accommodate day use parking.
- On the east side, a day-use parking lot would be constructed at the end of the County B Road. This parking lot would serve as a trailhead for non-motorized users.
- Planned developments should be able to accommodate the anticipated future use.
- Increased use would be less impactful in developed sites designed and constructed for an intended purpose
- Day use parking signage would include educational information informing visitors of the sensitive resources found within the area.
- Facilities should be intended to have a 20-plus year lifespan and resist theft and vandalism. The concrete tables and fire pits BLM have been purchasing are good examples of robust amenities.
- ADA compliance would be considered when implementing new infrastructure.
- Public participation is desired to identify issues that have been overlooked and produce better outcomes.

**RAAC Member Discussion:**

- Fencing updates at Buckhorn Draw and Temple Mountain are both good solutions to problems.
- Please keep in mind at Justensen Flat that there are drainage issues. You will need to divert water to a natural drainage.
- The proposed actions at Cane Wash are supported. The boundaries need to be hardened up which will help with motorized use going into the Wilderness Area.
- Proposals at the Wedge Area, Campground A, B, and C are within the recreation area.
  - Proposed campgrounds need to address the needs now and in the future. Loops can be added to accommodate more people as well as providing enough amenities and facilities in a way that supports good public behavior.





- The proposed closure of the primitive road at the Wedge is concerning. This route has helped with emergencies and is used as a nice spot to bail out from the trail. There is a lot of trailing between there and the non-motorized trail. BLM has tried to block it, but it is difficult to monitor, and the use is persistent. A gate may be a viable solution.
- The dispersed camping site numbers are conservative. Dispersed camping, as it is currently, is causing different problems, including; disturbance to sensitive species habitat, user created routes/trails, and destruction. There is a concern that closing dispersed campsites may create a bottleneck and could lead to more campsite creep.
- An equestrian campground is a supported idea. Several equestrian groups already use the area. It is to be noted that there is no available water at that campground.
- There is a zone for no dispersed camping within a certain distance of a developed campground. This zone distance has not been determined yet.
- Campground A at the Wedge is a short walk from the rim, approximately ¼ mile, could include a potential trail. Keeping some camping available on the canyon rim at the Wedge is good. It is very enjoyable to camp in that area.
- Campground B at the Wedge is about 200 feet from the Good Water Rim Trail and is a good, designated bail out point.
- It was suggested to consider 3-5 years of free use to acclimate visitors to the concept, then impose the fees.
- There are special status plant surveys scheduled for April at the Wedge. The desire is to provide both recreation and protection. The dispersed camping is occurring in the same areas as where the sensitive species are located.

**Backcountry Airstrips within the San Rafael Swell Recreation Area** (see Attachment E)

Presenter: Jaydon Mead, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Price Field Office

- Backcountry Airstrips were addressed in the 2008 BLM Price Field Office Resource Management Plan (RMP) Decisions:
  - TRV-6: Continue to use the following existing and currently used backcountry airstrips for noncommercial and limited commercial use. Extended commercial use will require an ROW authorization. Any closure of an existing airstrip will be accomplished through consultation with the FAA, the Utah Division of Aeronautics, and affected user groups and authorization holders on a case-by-case basis.
  - TRV-7: Allow aircraft to use existing backcountry airstrips and allow minimal maintenance of the airstrips to ensure pilot and passenger safety.
- Airstrips inside the Recreation Area include Hidden Splendor Airstrip, Cliff Dweller Flat Airstrip, McKay Flat Airstrip and Sage Brush Bench Airstrip
- Airstrips near the Recreation Area are Cedar Mountain Airstrip, Mexican Mountain Airstrip, and Temple Mountain Airstrip
- The presentation focused on those airstrips within the Recreation Area.
- Hidden Splendor Airstrip
  - BLM Travel Plan Status: Open
  - Status listed by State of Utah: Open
  - Apparent Use Level: Often (signs of continuous use)
  - Apparent Maintenance Description: Recent



- BLM Right-of-Way (ROW) or Lease: ROW held by Arrow West Aviation
  - Landing strip is cherry stemmed out of the Muddy Creek Wilderness and within the Recreation Area.
- Cliff Dweller Flat Airstrip
  - BLM Travel Plan Status: Open
  - Status listed by State of Utah: Open
  - Apparent Use Level: Occasional
  - Apparent Maintenance Description: Recent (on the road)
  - BLM ROW or Lease: None
  - Primarily used as a designated route for OHVs but does occasionally get used by aircraft. It is within the Recreation Area
- McKay Flat Airstrip
  - BLM Travel Plan Status: Not Addressed
  - Status listed by State of Utah: Open
  - Apparent Use Level: Occasional
  - Apparent Maintenance Description: Historic
  - BLM ROW or Lease: None
  - Old airstrip is reclaiming, but it runs parallel to a County B maintained road, which is where aircraft are occasionally landing. It is within the Recreation Area.
- Sage Brush Bench Airstrip
  - BLM Travel Plan Status: Not Addressed
  - Status listed by State of Utah: Unverified
  - Apparent Use Level: Rarely/Never
  - Apparent Maintenance Description: Historic
  - BLM ROW or Lease: None
  - It is located near the boundary of the Devils Canyon Wilderness, and within the Recreation Area. This airstrip will be addressed in the San Rafael Swell Travel Management Plan (TMP).
- All four of the airstrips located in the Recreation Area will be evaluated and addressed during the future San Rafael Swell Travel management planning effort.
- The Travel Management Plan will not address airstrips within Wilderness Areas, those will need to be addressed during Wilderness Planning.

#### **RAAC Member Discussion:**

- Sage Brush Bench Airstrip has no access and is not maintained. There is a concern that this airstrip is not feasible for landing and will not be able to be maintained.
- At McKay Flat most pilots use the County Road. There is windsock in place. A sign and kiosk could be placed here describing historical significance.
- At Cliff Dweller Flat planes land where people are driving. It has not been an issue yet, but it could become one.
- There may be verbiage in Dingell Act as to the intent of congress on management of these airstrips.



**Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) within the San Rafael Swell Recreation Area** (see Attachment F)

Presenter: Jaydon Mead, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Price Field Office

- There are 14 ACECs that overlap with the San Rafael Swell Recreation Area
  - Hidden Splendor Uranium ACEC
  - Lucky Strike Uranium ACEC
  - Copper Globe Heritage ACEC
  - Shepherds End Heritage ACEC
  - Swasey's Cabin Heritage ACEC
  - Temple Mountain Heritage ACEC
  - Black Dragon Rock Art ACEC
  - Head of Sinbad Rock Art ACEC
  - Lone Warrior Rock Art ACEC
  - Wild Horse Rock Art ACEC
  - I-70 Scenic ACEC
  - Muddy Creek ACEC
  - San Rafael Canyon ACEC
  - San Rafael Reef ACEC
- “A potential ACEC may be contained within or overlap a congressional designation, provided that the ACEC designation is necessary to protect a resource or value. However, if the management attention provided under the Congressional designation is adequate to protect a resource or value, it is not necessary or appropriate to designate it as an ACEC.”
- Protective Measure for ACECs VS Dingell Act Designations
  - ACEC Designations were made in the 2008 Price Field Office RMP.
  - The RMP directed BLM to manage ACECs to protect the relevant and important values for which each was established.
  - Each ACEC is slightly different, but many include restrictions such as:
    - Oil and gas leasing is open but subject to major constraints like No Surface Occupancy (NSO) or closed
    - Closed to disposal of mineral materials
    - Open to mineral entry with notice/plan
    - ROW avoided or excluded
    - Excluded from land treatments
    - VRM Class I & II
    - Excluded or limited wood collection
    - Closed to grazing and range improvements
    - Motorized vehicles limited to designated routes
  - Wilderness is the most restrictive management
  - Dingell Act designated the San Rafael Swell Recreation Area
    - Only allow uses that conserve, protect, and enhances the recreational, cultural, natural, scenic, wildlife, ecological, historical, and educational resources.



- Recreation area is withdrawn from most Land Laws, Mining Laws, and Mineral Laws.
- Manage in a way that educates the public about cold war and historic uranium mine sites.
- No new roads can be constructed.
- Grazing allowed to continue, if established before designation.
- Motorized vehicles limited to designated routes.

There was an overview of the ACECs in the Recreation Area and their possible overlapping protection as provided by designations as part of Dingell Act.

The following ACECs were discussed:

- Hidden Splendor is a Uranium Mining District, and the historic resources are the relevant and important values identified.
- Lucky Strike Mine is a Uranium Mining District, and the historic resources are the relevant and important values.
- Copper Globe Mine is a heritage site, and the historic resources are the relevant and important values.
- Shepherd's End is a heritage site, and the historic resources are the relevant and important values.
- Swasey's Cabin is a heritage site, and the historic resources are the relevant and important values.
- Temple Mountain is a heritage site, and the historic resources are the relevant and important values.
- Black Dragon is a Rock Art site, and cultural resources are the relevant and important values.
- Head of Sinbad is a Rock Art site, and cultural resources are the relevant and important values.
- The Lone Warrior is a Rock Art site, and cultural resources are the relevant and important values.
- Wild Horse Canyon is a Rock Art site, and cultural resources are the relevant and important values.
- I-70 is an interstate that passes through the center of the San Rafael Swell. The scenic resources are the relevant and important values.
- Muddy Creek is a unique area and its relevant and important values are cultural, historic, and scenic resources.
- San Rafael Canyon ACEC: This includes the Wedge, Buckhorn, and Swinging Bridge areas, and the scenic quality of these areas is the relevant and important values.
- The San Rafael Reef is a unique feature. Its relevant and important values are scenic qualities and relict vegetation communities.
- Questions to consider: Is there truly a need to keep any of these ACECs that overlap with the Wilderness and Recreation Areas?



- Can we plan to address these areas in the San Rafael Swell Recreation and Wilderness plans and commit to matching or improving the restrictions that were identified for these ACECs in 2008?
- What does that mean for the small areas that didn't overlap?
- If we do determine a need to keep some of these overlapping ACEC, then the next question we should be asking ourselves during the RMP amendment process, is how can we improve them?
- Are boundary adjustments needed or can we improve the management prescriptions to help protect the relevant and important values?

#### **RAAC Member Discussion:**

- BLM's ACEC manual 1613 defines that to be designated an ACEC you must consider an areas relevance and importance. Those terms play a key role in how ACECs are identified.
- If an area is designated an ACEC is there is not more funding available for interpretation of sites but there may be site specific funding available to be used for that.
- Grazing:
  - Wilderness designation is the most restrictive, but grazing is allowed.
  - Dingell Act allowed grazing to continue if established before the passing of the Act. If closed prior to the Dingell Act, then it stays closed. Grazing records help BLM keep track of if there were prior established grazing authorizations.
  - Hidden Splendor and Lucky Strike, according to the presentation are closed to livestock grazing, however, those areas have allotments. There are cattle there possibly now, and it has been happening for 30 years. Maybe consider that it has been allowed and is possibly not impactful.
  - The comments about grazing being allowed or not being allowed in a ACEC are red flag. Who takes precedence when areas are designated as closed? I think BLM has some homework to do. These are land use plan decisions that are in place, the RMP Amendments will let us look at these issues.
- It was mentioned that there can be no disturbance in an ACEC until oral histories are done. Both the ACEC and Recreation Area designations require managing as historic sites and protecting those values.
- The acreages of the ACECs are not always in the proximity to what needs protection. The current boundaries were created in the 2008 RMP. The RMP Amendments can change the boundaries, improve protection, expand, or shrink the ACECs as needed.
- The I-70 ACEC seems redundant. No are no convenience stores, or people leaving their vehicles. The stretch of I-70 in the ACEC is very scenic. BLM needs to protect those values. The question is do the designation of Wilderness Areas and the Recreation Area protect this value enough?
- For an ACEC, can you be spot specific? For rock art sites, could you pinpoint an area and make sure it is protected? Or is it covered in the Recreation Area designation? For instance, areas like Black Dragon potentially have cultural sites in addition to the rock art panel. It needs to be considered and the boundaries closely looked at.
- The 2008 RMP designated the ACECs. Scoping has just been completed for the RMP Amendments. This gives BLM an opportunity to look at terms, boundaries, and if some protection is no longer needed because it is provided in another way. All Plan Amendments





are a public process. Scoping is over but more public involvement will come with a draft RMP.

### **Public Comment Period**

- Ray Petersen: The proposed improvements at the Wedge are encouraging and I agree with most. I think that proposing to close the primitive route is unfortunate and that BLM will never hear the end of it. It will be harder to enforce this closure. BLM should allow a lot of dispersed camping to remain. There is a lot of interest in the Wedge and BLM needs to accommodate that. As far as backcountry airstrips, that should be worked out in the Travel Management process. A couple of those airstrips are viable, and a couple are not. I think the ACECs were on paper only. Nothing has been done with those since 2008. A line was drawn on a map. I agree that BLM needs to minimize some, adjust boundaries, and could enlarge some. Muddy Creek, San Rafael Canyon, San Rafael Reef values are wilderness and scenic. The scenic value will be protected with wilderness designation. Some wilderness areas are massive and the ACEC could be removed.
- Wendy Lessig: As an avid backcountry pilot you need to preserve and protect and maintain and include backcountry aviation as an allowable use in the Travel Management Plans. Don't be too quick to close airstrips. Pilot skills and aircraft capabilities can allow them to be used. Their appearance can be misleading. Backcountry pilots practice leave no trace, there are fewer users, and backcountry aviation leaves a smaller footprint than other types of recreation. As far as the one airstrip being "unverified" by the State of Utah, it could mean that Utah Backcountry Pilots database has not received a report on the condition, not that the airstrip itself is unverified. As far as co-use of airstrips and even roads several states allow this without difficulty, like Montana and Alaska. At McKay Flat and Cliff Dweller Flat it's a matter of courtesy.
- Roy Evans II: Utah Backcountry Pilots take charge physically and financially of the maintenance of the airstrips. There has been some back and forth with other BLM offices about permits and providing maintenance. Some of these airstrips are like hiking trails and have a certain difficulty, some are easy and can range to hard. The McKay Flat Road is not an issue. If traffic increases, I urge the committee to work with us to keep all these areas open and keep them safe. We receive no support from taxpayers, federal entities, etc. This type of recreation is growing, and we are hoping to develop our rightful place.
- Patrick McKay: The Swell is special and is a favorite of mine. I have enjoyed exploring the Southern half. As far as the Wedge and the proposed road closure, these are critical connecting routes and would disrupt connectivity with its closure. What has BLM done to try to contain traffic? Fencing lining the road is effective to contain motorized use. BLM should try that before closing the route. Think of the scenic value and the dispersed camping. I am very concerned for the route closure. People seek out these areas for a specific experience, like freedom in a scenic area, like the rim of a canyon. There is room for both uses, designated, and dispersed, depending on the experience you want.
- Judi Brawer: SUWA has submitted extensive comments for the RMP Amendments. As far as what was said about the rock art ACECs I find the discussion to be culturally insensitive and this is exactly why you need a Tribal member on this Council, particularly pertaining to rock art and cultural issues.
- Matt Simon: Concerning co-use of roads, there were helicopters in Buckhorn Draw in December in the main roadway, dropping off, and picking up hunters of pronghorn,





operating out of the Swinging Bridge area. There are major conflicts here with hiking and climbing, please consider helicopter use as part of this.

- Leo Hardy: I spend considerable time on the Swell. For the western area in the Wedge is BLM considering limiting motorized traffic on the primitive route, or will eBikes be allowed? When I was out on that route it did not seem to be a two-track road but was a single track. The public input and comment would be more effective in these meetings if the chat function were open. We could ask individual council members questions and give more input. What is the objective at Buckhorn Wash and Furniture Draw? There are many ATV and jeep tracks, but I prefer those to steel posts and cable. What are we trying to achieve?
- Scott Conner: Hidden Splendor and McKay Flat areas include special terrain. I camp in and hike these areas during the fall, winter, and spring. Please allow and plan for aviation uses by those from surrounding states. Recreational aviation has the least impact, the participants are educated in leaving no trace and other principles. Planes cannot leave the travel surface. Recreational pilots perform maintenance, work with agencies, raise money, and provide volunteers. McKay Flat in its current condition is too rough for my plane and I am reluctant to use the County Road. We need to figure out how to coexist. There are good sightlines, and it is not busy. Please allow access to backcountry pilots. Their environmental and resource impacts are small, and they are willing to upgrade and maintain these airstrips.
- Wayne Bennett: I appreciate the professionalism and local input in this meeting. I go to the San Rafael Swell to recreate. I like the remoteness and feeling of exploring on your own. No campgrounds with lots of people. At the Wedge, please maintain the dispersed camping, and keep roads open. It is sad that people don't respect it but just moving them to other areas there will still be problems.
- Matthew Podolinsky: I encourage continued protection of historic sites, prehistoric sites, rock art and cabins. I support signage and buck and rail fencing to protect these sites whether it is from OHVs or grazing.
- Lance Weekley: The backcountry pilots are sensitive to garbage and bring their own bags. Utah has a jewel, and we are conscientious stewards of the land.
- Mark Boshell: The name of the area is a Recreation Area, and its designation was intended to maximize recreation and recreation opportunities. The council does a good job of recognizing that fact. I like to see respectful recreation.

#### **RAAC Member Discussion:**

- Cane Wash: The BLM proposal in Cane Wash seems like a good way to keep OHVs out of the Wilderness Area. Emery County wants to help BLM with this and be part of the solution. It is the best solution. We would like to see fencing ideas to stop OHVs.
  - It is a good proposal. BLM should carry this forth through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. It is the best solution to re-route the traffic. The old fence that is there is worthless and that is the best pinch point.
  - Cattleman knew where they could stop cows in that narrow area.
  - Is it possible to take motorized machinery into the Wilderness Area? It will be difficult. There are many things to consider.



- A council member motioned to accept BLM recommendations for Cane Wash and carry them through the NEPA process. It was seconded and all council members were in favor.
- Justensen Flat: There are concerns about proper drainage.
  - There needs to be tie rails installed to accommodate horseback riding. Make the trail large enough to separate horse and OHV traffic.
  - A council member recommended that BLM carry it through with NEPA with horses/drainage in mind. It was seconded and all council members were in favor.
- The Wedge: Good with most of the proposed improvements at the Wedge except for Campground B and the closure of the primitive roadway.
  - What can we expect on a busy weekend like Easter weekend when we get the most damage and new campsites are created? Will the improvements take care of 25% or 100% of the people? That's when problems occur. That is why these early discussions are occurring. Right off the bat, no, there will not be immediate improvements. There will be phased limitations and developments to support desire. BLM hopes to provide over 180 campsites and address the impacts occurring from dispersed recreation. The intent is to accommodate present and future use.
  - BLM should not get rid of all dispersed camping. They need to maintain a variety of experiences and provide opportunities for all.
  - Is BLM considering not charging fees. How would "pay as you feel" work? It would encourage use. How do you avoid impact?
  - There has been a minimum amount of discussion about the feed. Certain "pay for your experience" programs in the State have been successful.
  - What is the timeframe of implementation? BLM is not far enough into the process to know what the timeline is. BLM is not trying to just cut down on surface disturbance, there are also human waste issues. The end goal is to contain users and contain waste. The timeline will also depend on the surveys that need to be performed. There will need to be consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on listed species. Hope to begin in a couple of years. The whole project could take up to 6 to 8 years.
- Buckhorn Draw: BLM has made progress on this. The signs have arrived, and BLM is just waiting for seasonal employees to come on board to install them. The ability to implement the fees will start with a Federal Register Notice. BLM is hopeful this can be implemented by Fall of 2022.
- ACECs: With the designations as part of Dingell Act maybe there are too many rules.
- A council member motioned that BLM should continue working on proposed improvements at the Wedge, with keeping council member concerns in mind. The council would like progress reports, for BLM to keep dispersed camping as long as they can, and consider other options, uses for the primitive trail. It was seconded and all council members were in favor.



### **Advisory Council Recommendations (Day 1)**

- The council recommendation is to accept BLM's proposal and recommendations for controlling motorized encroachments into the wilderness area in Cane Wash.
- The council recommendation is to continue with the improvements to Justensen Flat keeping in mind equestrian use and drainage issues.
- The council recommends that BLM move forward on the Wedge Campground NEPA process. They request regular status updates. BLM should consider keeping dispersed camping experiences and evaluate the trail/road for its recreational and search and rescue values before closure.

\*All recommendations were proposed, seconded, and unanimously voted in favor of by all members of the Council.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Resume February 17<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am.

### **February 17th, 2022, Meeting –**

#### **Meeting attendees**

- San Rafael Swell Recreation Area Advisory Council (RAAC) members: Kent Wilson, Leslie (Les) K. Wilberg, Rodney (Rod) Player, Sue Bellagamba, Elven (Leon) McElprang, and Wade Allinson
- BLM employees: Lance Porter, Lisa Everett-Stringer, Greg Sheehan, Angela Hawkins, Kyle Beagley, Amber Koski, Stephanie Howard, Dana Truman, Jaydon Mead, Myron Jeffs, Blake Baker, and Molly Hocanson
- Members of the public:  
Jim Jennings, Kent Price, Roy Evans II, Wendy Lessig, Dusty Monks, Ray Petersen, Wayne Bennett, Matt Simon, Patrick McKay, Bill McGlynn, Robert Nelson, Fox 13 News, Mark Boshell, Ben Burr

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

- Lance Porter, Green River District Manager, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Kyle Beagley, acting Field Manager for the Price Field Office introduced himself, along with other BLM members.
- Les welcomed the members of the public to the meeting and thanked them for their interest in the San Rafael Swell Recreation Area. He introduced himself and the other Council members did the same.

### **Dingell Act Resource Management Plan (RMP) Amendments (as related to the San Rafael Swell Recreation Area only) Scoping Themes** (see attachment G)

Presenter: Amber Koski, Planning & Environmental Coordinator, Green River District

- The BLM Green River District is currently working on six, concurrent land use plan amendments. This presentation focused on scoping comments received for the San Rafael Swell Recreation Area.
- Public Scoping = Information Gathering



- The formal public scoping process for the Land Use plan amendments for the San Rafael Swell Recreation Area began October 28th, 2021, with the publication of the Notice of Intent (NOI) in the *Federal Register*.
- Public meetings were held on November 17, and 18, 2021, and the public scoping period was extended until January 7, 2022, for a total scoping period of 71 days.
- The public, cooperators and Tribes were encouraged to submit their comments via the BLM's eplanning website, during the public scoping meetings, through email, mail or by visiting with BLM staff. BLM also received several phone calls from various agencies, interested parties and the general public.
- All comments are given equal consideration regardless of how they were received.
- Resource issues to be considered may include data to be used, data gaps to be addressed, Proposed Action and Alternatives, existing management to be changed or removed, existing management to be carried forward unchanged, special designation, creation, modification, or removal, and consultation/coordination needs.
- Summary of comment submissions: The BLM received approximately 10,400 comment letters during the public scoping period. Of those submissions, 1,720 were received through the eplanning portal site, 1 was hand delivered, with the remainder of those submissions being emailed.
- Topics of comments received included: ACECs, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources and Native American Concerns, Decisions Process/Compliance with Laws and Regulations, Fire and Fuels Management, Health and Human Safety, Lands and Realty, Lands with Wilderness Characteristics, Livestock Grazing, Public and Stakeholder Involvement, Purpose and Need, Recreation, Socioeconomics, Special Designations, Trails and Travel Management, Visual Resources.
- The comments in this presentation were specific to the Recreation Area and were summarized. Some topics were merged because of repetitive comments.
- Comments received during the public scoping process for the San Rafael Swell Recreation Area were reviewed and categorized by issue. If a comment letter brought up four different issues; the text was treated as four separate comments resulting in approximately 485 individual comments received for the recreation area RMP amendment.
- The categories that received the most comments are Recreation, Decision and planning process, Trails and Travel Management and Special designations.
- Several submissions included comments that are outside of the decision space for these RMP Amendments. Examples of topics that were raised that will not be addressed as part of this planning process included:
  - Comments regarding actions located on private, state, or Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) lands.
  - Comments regarding the completion of land exchanges with SITLA or other entities.
  - Comments suggesting the designation of additional wilderness areas.
  - Comments suggesting modifications to the boundaries of the wilderness areas or other specially designated areas identified in the Dingell Act.



- These issues will not be addressed in the RMP Amendments environmental assessments because they are outside of the BLM's jurisdiction; are guided by laws, presidential, congressional decisions that are beyond the scope of this planning effort; or because they will be addressed through separate administrative procedures.
- ACECs:
  - The BLM received a wide array of comments, including comments that are in contradiction of one another.
  - Some commenters requested:
    - Existing ACECs remain in place
    - BLM reevaluate proposed ACECs from the 2008 RMP
    - BLM should remove ACEC designations all together or change ACEC boundaries because of overlapping management or to accommodate other resources
  - In situations where a wide array of comments are received it's an indication that there may be a need to develop a wide range of alternatives for that issue.
- Biological Resources:
  - It was recommended that BLM incorporate additional conservation measures for vegetation, soils, and wildlife habitat that will enhance the natural environment in general.
  - For wildlife, commenters requested that:
    - BLM analyze threats to wildlife and incorporate habitat and species conservation measures into planning initiatives; including but not limited to reducing or closing areas to uses that are found to adversely affect habitat. Commentors also point out that the State is responsible for the management of wildlife and the BLM should allow State access for wildlife management.
    - BLM share monitoring data and discuss the effectiveness of allowable uses and mitigation measure as outlined by the 2008, PFO RMP.
- Cultural Resources and Native American concerns:
  - Commenters pointed to BLMs responsibility to consult with Tribes that may have religious and/or cultural interests within the area.
  - A request was also made for BLM to analyze potential risks and impacts to cultural resources and prescribe stronger protection measures if needed.
- Decision Process and Compliance with Laws and Regulations:
  - Commentors suggested that the BLM comprehensively consider the long-term management needs of recreation on areas adjacent to and accessed by the recreation area.
  - Some comments state that the Dingell Act's designation of the San Rafael Swell Recreation Area heightens the level of protective conservation management beyond the principles of multiple use and sustained yield because it was designated to conserve, protect, and enhance the purposes for which [it] was established.
  - Some comments requested clarity on the planning area boundary.





- Comments urged the BLM to keep existing wood harvesting areas open along with associated off-road travel, that personal and commercial permits for these and other similar uses need to be available to the public, and that BLM prohibit the gathering, collecting, cutting, use or burning of vegetation, including all standing or down trees.
- Fire & Fuels Management:
  - As for fire and fuels management, some comments encouraged vegetation treatments and others requested that vegetation treatments be prohibited.
- Health and Human Safety:
  - There was a request that a framework be developed by the BLM to coordinate law enforcement and emergency services between Federal, State, and Local Agencies. Comments state this will be essential to manage increased visitation, looting of cultural resources, traffic law enforcement, and response to medical emergencies.
- Lands and Realty:
  - Some comments encourage the Price Field Office to work with State Parks to reserve utility corridors for recreational infrastructure. Other comments suggest that the Recreation Area should be a ROW exclusion area.
  - A third set of comments requested that ROWs be allowed in the recreation area for future cell towers to accommodate emergency services.
  - Additionally, State, and private landowners have inholdings within the planning area and a request was made to ensure access. Commentors suggest the BLM put in place an “official process” to access State and private land if a future need arises.
- Livestock Grazing:
  - Many comments were supportive of grazing but emphasized that rangeland health standards should be met and suggested that BLM work with livestock owners to mitigate impacts to public watersheds.
  - Commentors also stated that active management can be beneficial to both livestock producers and range resources if allowed flexibility.
  - Commenter’s requested:
    - Increased water infrastructure for big game and non-game species, riparian health, distribution of grazing pressures, and overall water quality.
    - That economic and social considerations be analyzed as they relate to grazing.
    - That BLM restore rangelands and increase capacity by reinstating suspended Animal Unit Months (AUM)s.
- Public and Stakeholder Involvement:
  - Commentors request that as additional BLM documents become available, they are distributed to the public. A comment emphasized that additional planning criteria be identified or revised as necessary after the scoping phase.
- Purpose and Need:
  - The BLM will review current RMP outcomes and modify goals and objectives to meet outcomes described in the Dingell Act. The BLM will develop legal descriptions and refinements as needed to boundaries established by the Dingell





Act and modify or remove any unnecessary land use designations established under the current RMPs. The BLM will modify, add, or remove current RMP allowable uses to meet the outcomes described in the Dingell Act and reduce resource conflicts. The BLM will modify or remove current RMP management actions and develop new actions to meet the outcomes described in the Dingell Act.

- Some comments suggest that the stated purpose should be expanded and include updating the goals, objectives, management actions and resource allocations to protect any “ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value”.
- Recreation:
  - It was requested that recreation planning be cohesive, comprehensive, and forward looking across the entire planning area considering forecast recreation increases, and across-boundary access matching, such access into wilderness from the San Rafael Swell Recreation Area.
  - Also, it was suggested that the BLM adopt a zoned approach to managing recreation including updating or retaining recreation opportunity spectrum designations. Management zones and ROS divide the Recreation Area into areas, such as front country and back country, which would then define which activities would be allowed in each zone.
  - It was suggested that the BLM retain, modify, or remove the Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA).
  - It was suggested that the BLM consider social and economic impacts of recreation decisions.
  - Many recreation activities were identified in the comments. These include:
    - Providing base jumping and rock-climbing opportunities and regulating it considering public safety, protection of wildlife, and protection of and respect for Native American rock art and other artifacts. Also designating new trails for climbing, hiking and canyoneering including needs such as anchors for climbing.
    - Identification of areas where bicycles and eBikes should or should not be allowed. Also, development of trails in the recreation area for mountain bikes and/or e-bikes away from existing motorized routes.
    - There is an interest in keeping backcountry airstrips open for recreation, and search and rescue operations. On the contrary, some requested that airstrips be closed all together while others suggested limiting airstrip use.
  - Regarding OHV use, it was suggested that BLM close routes that may impact identified “impaired waterbodies”. In addition, commentors suggest limiting mechanized and motorized use to designated routes and trails and reclaiming off-route, off-trail surface disturbances. Providing OHV Open areas and developing new OHV trails.



- BLM received a comment requesting solar powered charging facilities to encourage the conversion to electric OHVs, in part to reduce emissions, and to the accommodate the growth of this activity.
- Inventorying existing camping opportunities and planning to provide a variety of camping experiences such as individual sites vs. group sites, dispersed camping vs designated campsites and Campgrounds. Also Identifying impacts from camping, including motorized dispersed camping, and measures to manage them such as more facilities like toilets, rules for dispersed human waste management, wood gathering restrictions, fire pan requirements, and fire ring restrictions.
- Making new camping fees be commensurate with similar campgrounds in the area and providing free and undeveloped camping experiences at more remote, dispersed sites in the area. Also, creating or increasing and enforcing fees for day and multi-day use to fund maintenance.
- Allowing or prohibiting operation of personal or commercial drones and other Unmanned Aerial Vehicles
- Maintaining access for pack goats. Developing additional trails heads, trailer parking, and campgrounds for equestrian use in Fullers Bottom, Wedge Overlook, Indian Spring and Old Woman Wash.
- Identifying criteria for Special Recreation Permits including location, type of activity, type of transportation, length of stay, resource impacts, user conflicts, and management zone compatibility. Also allowing or prohibiting competitive events, both non-motorized and motorized. Not arbitrarily limiting group size.

#### **RAAC Member Discussion:**

- There are issues with parking and the climbers. There needs to be more adequate parking for them.
- Drones can be annoying but there is a place for them in the Recreation Area.
- This information needs to be broken into segments and the Council needs to spend time on it. Not sure it can be done right now.
- The Dingell Act may address permanent anchors.
- It is interesting that these comments are on both sides of the spectrum.
- Recreation in the Swell has been ongoing for 100 years. The direction we are heading is heavy and concentrated traffic for organized camping. We need to account for all recreation in all areas of the Recreation Area. I don't like "zones". The Recreation Area is in its infancy we need to keep an eye toward the future and manage for today with expansion plans.
- What is the progress on getting a Tribal member on the Council? There is progress being made and that is at Headquarters level.
- Backcountry airstrips will be addressed in the Travel Management Plans. Alternatives are being developed in the San Rafael Swell Travel Management Plan. The RMP Amendments will not include any site-specific decisions.



## **Dingell Act RMP Amendments (as Related to the San Rafael Swell Recreation Area only)**

### **Planning Process** (see Attachment H)

Presenter: Stephanie Howard, Branch Chief NEPA/GIS, Green River District

- Next steps in the Resource Management Plan Amendment process include:
  - Finalizing the scoping report and ACEC evaluation report
  - Developing alternatives
  - Preparing the Environmental Assessment
  - Soliciting and responding to public comment
  - Consulting with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Tribes, and Utah State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
  - Issuing a proposed RMP amendment and resolving protests
  - Completing the Governor's consistency review
  - Issuing a Decision Record
- Cooperating agencies are treated as BLM team members in the preparation of the Amendments and will be actively involved in the steps including:
  - Reviewing internal documents
  - Attending internal meetings
  - Helping to determine paths forward like developing alternatives.
  - Federal, State, and local agencies and Tribes are eligible for cooperating agency status. Cooperating agency status is established through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the cooperator and the BLM. The MOU defines the roles and communication channels of the BLM and the cooperating agency during the planning process.
  - For the San Rafael Swell Recreation Area, 33 cooperating agency invitations were sent.
  - The following agencies have accepted and signed their offered MOU:
    - Utah State and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA), Utah Public Lands and Policy Coordinating Office (PLPCO), Huntington City, Green River City, Utah State Parks, and Emery County.
  - The following agencies declined their offered MOU:
    - Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (UDOGM), who intends to participate through the PLPCO MOU, and USFWS who will participate through the Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 Consultation process.
  - The BLM is working on finalizing the MOU with the Hopi Tribe.
  - The following agencies have not responded to the BLM's invitation:
    - Cleveland Town, Elmo Town, Castle Dale City, and 21 other Tribes. We can list the tribes that received the offer if the Advisory Council is interested.
  - There are 21 tribes that were sent an MOU and have not responded yet.
  - The MOUs can be completed or modified at any time before the final decision in the Amendment process.
- Scoping Report:
  - Identify issues that will not be addressed in the RMP Amendments.



- Summarize public concerns, issues, and alternatives.
  - The public scoping period for the Recreation Area Amendment ended on January 7. The BLM reviews all the letters submitted by the public during the scoping period and has prepared a draft formal summary of the comments in the Scoping Report.
  - Issues are not addressed if they are already addressed or are outside the scope or the BLM's jurisdiction.
  - Once completed, the Scoping Report will be posted to the Recreation Area's eplanning website. The Scoping Report is not subject to a public review period.
- ACEC Evaluation Report:
  - Documents the Recreation Areas protections for ACEC values
  - Analyze and document the need for potential changes to ACECs
  - The BLM *and our contractor have* been preparing an ACEC Evaluation Report to document if each ACECs values are protected by the Dingell Act Recreation Area's management requirements.
  - Once completed, the ACEC Evaluation Report will be posted to the Recreation Area's eplanning website. The ACEC Evaluation Report is not subject to a public review period.
- Range of Alternatives Development: Explore different ways to manage the Recreation Area.
  - The next step is to develop a range of alternatives. A range of alternatives explores different ways to address the planning issues and different scenarios for managing resources and uses.
  - There are sideboards for developing alternatives:
    - It must be effective (in this case meaning in that it incorporates the Dingell Act's requirements for the Recreation Area).
    - It must be practical (meaning that implementation is not impossible).
    - It must be within the BLM's jurisdiction (meaning the BLM has the authority to implement it).
    - In an RMP Amendment, the alternatives will consist of:
      - Management Goals (unquantified desired outcomes).
      - Management Objectives (quantified outcomes with specific timeframes);
      - Allowable Uses (allowances, limitations, or prohibitions by area, activity, or resource); and
      - Management Actions (measures to maintain, restore, or improve desired conditions).
  - To develop the range of alternatives for the Recreation Area Amendment, the BLM and their contractor will host a workshop with BLM specialists and cooperating agency representatives. They will work as a team and consider the issues to be analyzed from the Scoping Report, etc.



- BLM is anticipating that the Recreation Area Amendment will have one “no action” alternative and three “action” alternatives, though more or fewer alternatives may be included as needed.
- EA Development: Analyze the alternatives effectiveness.
  - After the range of alternatives has been developed, the BLM will write the draft EA. The purpose of an EA is to describe:
    - What goals the BLM hopes to accomplish;
    - What actions (or alternatives) the BLM proposes to take to accomplish the goals; and
    - How effective each action will be at accomplishing the goals?
  - An EA documents the BLM’s goals in a section called the “Purpose and Need”.
  - An EA documents the BLM’s potential actions in a section called “Alternatives Considered”.
  - To judge the effectiveness of a planned action you:
    - First need to know your starting point or baseline. NEPA calls the baseline the “Affected Environment”. It describes the current condition of resources and resource uses affected by each issue.
    - Next need to know the pros and cons of that action. NEPA calls the pros and cons analysis the “Environmental Impacts”. It describes the positive and negative effects each alternative would have on every resource and resource use affected by the issues.
- Public Comment: Ask the public for - Corrected data or assumptions, relevant new information, reasonable alternatives.
  - Once the EA has been developed, internally reviewed, and updated to incorporate the results, it will be released to the public for review and comment.
  - During this public comment period, the BLM is seeking substantive comments, which are comments that contain: 1) data, information, or assumption corrections, 2) relevant new information, and 3) new reasonable alternatives.
  - BLM planning policy specifies different public comment period timelines and announcement methods depending on whether any ACEC changes may occur.
  - If no changes to the Price RMP ACECs are proposed in the Amendment, then the public comment period will be a minimum of 30-days long.
  - If changes to the Price RMP ACECs are proposed in the Amendment, or if new ACECs are considered, then the public comment period will be a minimum of 60-days long.
- ESA consult – Ensure conservation of listed species and habitats.
  - Once the BLM’s proposed RMP Amendment is reasonably complete, the BLM will initiate Endangered Species Act Consultation. By law, the BLM must conserve threatened, endangered, and listing-candidate species and by policy the BLM must conserve all special status species.
  - To meet these requirements, the Amendment’s alternatives will contain range of goals, objectives, allowable uses, and management actions for species and habitat



- preservation or enhancement consistent with the species' recovery plan or other conservation agreements.
- There are 14 listed or candidate species which may require some level of consultation.
  - In coordination with the USFWS, the BLM will either use the EA as a Biological Assessment or will use the information in the EA to create a Biological Assessment.
    - A Biological Assessment discloses the effects to the 14 species and their habitats and helps the agency determine what level of Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultation will be necessary for the Amendment.
  - The USFWS will review the Biological Assessment and prepare their Biological Opinion. If USFWS agrees with the findings of the BLM, then the project may proceed subject to any Conservation Recommendations identified in the Opinion. If there are disagreements, the BLM and FWS would meet, and the BLM would revise the EA and/or the Biological Assessment as necessary.
- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) consultation - consider an action's impacts to historic resources.
    - The NHPA Section 106 process requires federal agencies to consider the impact their actions have on historic resources. It does not mandate preservation. NHPA Consultation is a process that involves soliciting the views of Tribes, local governments, and the public.
    - The BLM has already initiated the NHPA Section 106 Consultation process. During the Section 106 process, the BLM, the Utah SHPO, and other cultural site experts, may identify the area of potential effect, appropriate cultural resource identification efforts, the determination of effects to historic properties, and any adverse effects resolutions.
    - The BLM is coordinating Section 106 Consultation with the NEPA process. The coordinated process means BLM will be requesting comments on impacts to cultural resources during the comment periods for the EA.
    - The Section 106 process will be ongoing through the Amendment process and completed before the BLM signs the Decision Record.
  - Government to Government consultation – ensure regular and meaningful coordination with Tribes.
    - The BLM has already initiated collaboration by inviting 22 Tribes to be cooperating agencies for the Amendment. Letters to the Tribes are being prepared explaining that we are coordinating the NEPA and NHPA process. This contact and consultation will be ongoing throughout the process.
  - Proposed RMP Amendment/EA = public comment responses, 30-day protest period, 60-day gov's consistency review
    - Once all the previously described steps are done, the BLM will issue the Proposed RMP.
    - The *30-day* protest period allows 30 days for individuals or entities to submit a protest of the Amendment before the BLM issues a Decision.





- The 60-day Governor's consistency review allows Utah's Governor to review the Amendment for consistency with state and local plans, policies, and programs.
- Amendment Decision Record – BLMs final decision.
  - After the protests and Governor's consistency concerns are resolved, the BLM can issue their RMP Amendment and Decision Record.
    - The Decision Record is a concise statement of the BLM's selected alternative and includes rationale for the decision and any required mitigation measures.
- The Approved RMP Amendment and Decision Record is the last step in the planning process, and it contains the BLM's final decision for the area. All future implementation actions taken in the planning area must comply with the Price RMP as Amended and the Dingell Act.
- Future steps include finalization of the scoping and ACEC evaluation report, development of the alternatives, preparation of the EA, a public comment period, consultations, proposed RMP protest and Governor's Consistency review periods, and issuance of the RMP Amendment and Decision Record.
- There are no planning decisions made or implied until the very last step when the Decision Record and Resource Management Plan Amendment is issued.

#### **RAAC Member Discussion:**

- The consultation process includes Native American Tribes with any ties to the Recreation Area, or other areas surrounding, and those also affiliated with Vernal Field Office and Moab Field Office.

#### **Public Comment Period**

- Bill McGlynn: Thank you all for participating in this long and arduous process. Please try to preserve airstrips in the Travel Management Plan. I am concerned that overarching decisions may be made in the Land Use Plan Amendments about airstrips. How do we deal with that? Is that a legitimate issue and could we be setting up a catch 22?
- Ray Petersen: I commend the presenters. The issues you are facing are a big critter and it is hard to eat all at once, you need to take one bite at a time. Regarding the ACECs, this is the chance to minimize these. It is a good opportunity to make changes that make more sense.
- Patrick McKay: BLM needs to be cautious with trying to regulate drone usage. They are regulated through the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) already. The where and how should be a simple system. National Park Service (NPS) banned drones, the Forest Service and BLM have not. They cannot be used in Wilderness and that is okay and easy to understand. You should not count on the public reading your RMP or knowing where the boundaries on a map are on the ground to know where they can be used. I hope the Recreation Area stays open to this use. I have questions about the Wilderness Area cherry stems. These that are threaded through the Wilderness Area like Devils Racetrack and Behind the Reef. We submitted motorized use comments in the Scoping process. Congress did not intend to manage these cherry-stemmed routes as wilderness. Boundary errors need to be handled administratively; correction should be allowed. Will the cherry stemmed routes be handles through the RMP process or the TMP process? What happens with the



SITLA land exchanges to BLM? The road would then be in wilderness, like at Devils Racetrack. This could sever the loop and make two out and back routes. I hope that this is addressed.

- Matt Simon: I enjoyed hearing the public comment summaries from Scoping. As far as the comments regarding technical climbing and the request for permanent anchors, the vast majority of routes do have permanent anchors. The local climbing community evaluate the anchors and replaces them as necessary. They bear the cost of this. Climbing access has expanded with new trails and new climbs are in the process. Since technical rock climbing has arrived the process is more organic and hopefully will earn respect by local communities. The climbing community does not make routes and climbs public until they are safe and there are trails to minimize impacts. Climbers work on policy throughout the western U.S. for rock climbing on public lands. Policy made without stakeholder involvement is a lose/lose situation. Please engage the climbing community when forming policies and taking actions.
- Wendy Lessig: I encourage you to keep backcountry airstrips in the RMP as an allowed use. There are only a few airstrips as compared to the amount of OHV routes. The airstrips need to be listed in the RMP, and designated in the TMP, it will be more straightforward.
- Ben Burr: Areas of land analyzed in the San Rafael Desert TMP were appealed. The Price Field Office issued a Categorical Exclusion (CX) on 35 miles of routes that were temporarily closed. The settlement agreement could lead to many miles more. The agreement to settle undermines the public and is in bad faith. State, coordinating agencies, and local were all involved in this process. The field office is getting directions from Washington Office that ties hands. There is no transparency. The guidance received should be made available to the public. Blue Ribbon Coalition is asking to be interested parties on projects. We were defendant intervenors on the TMP but were given no notice on the CX. What is the process to get on the list to be notified?

### **Discussion/Consideration of Public Comments**

- The primitive road at the Wedge that BLM proposes to close needs to be looked at closely.
- There was a discussion about some comments being construed as being culturally insensitive at the previous meeting. A council member was asking for more information about if an ACEC had to be a certain size and shape to provide protection. A council member said that Native American rock art is very important to local residents, and they want to preserve it, and protect it from humans, cattle, vandalism, etc.
- ACECs protect important rock art and our ancestral heritage. We need to be respectful of the past. Each ACEC needs to be evaluated, each has merit, but BLM needs to expand or decrease as appropriate.
- The ACEC report has not been finalized. It will not contain the decision on whether to retain or review. The RMP Amendments process will contain a range of alternatives. There will be time for the council to review the alternatives and take care of concerns. Their concerns would help refine the Proposed RMP Amendments.
- If there is ACEC overlap with Wilderness Area or Recreation Area, is it double jeopardy? These need to be looked at. Is there a need to expand or create new ones? Would it be dots of protection here and there or would it be massive? You can suggest that an ACEC may be needed. It is important to remember that if boundaries are shrunk down to just include a certain rock art panel that it may draw the public into that sensitive resource.



- The people are coming in anyway and the need is for cameras and fencing, not to lock them out. How do we approach this to protect things but have them still be seen?
- The size of the designation does not matter. The public can google places and find them. We are possibly trying to manage the area in a 1980's style in a 2020 world.
- ACECs are just another tool in the toolbox. We need to determine what is threatening the resource. If it can be protected in another way, then maybe the ACEC is not needed. What type of management is needed? What extra tools are needed? Whatever is used it should be the smallest footprint for protection of the resource.
- Impacts to rock art sites from grazing could be alleviated by putting up a fence but maintenance and repair should not be the cattleman's responsibility. The conflict between cattle and rock art sites is small. This needs to be addressed on an individual basis. Maybe we could have the Price Field Office Archaeologist explain these issues in another meeting.
- The Antiquities Act provides this protection. Another level of protection may not be needed.
- Grazers have no problem with fencing. There is room for all.
- A council member made a motion that BLM protect the relevant and important values in a manner that does not create duplicate designations, in the least intrusive way.

#### **Advisory Council Recommendations**

- The council recommends that the BLM protect the ACEC relevant and important values in a manner that does not create duplicate designations, uses the smallest footprint necessary, and use this recommendation when finalizing the ACEC review report.

#### **Advisory Council Discussion**

The council discussed next meeting, agenda items, and a time to hold the meetings. The council chose May 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> for an in-person meeting, if possible, and including a field trip, if possible. The timing of this meeting is tentative and will depend on getting the Federal Register Notice published.

Possible Agenda items for next meeting:

- Horse & Burro management and BLM goals and conflict management between them and recreation
- ACEC report update
- Special Recreation Permits
- Discussion of the Field Trip and Recommendations
- BLM added agenda item:
  - TMP (activity level) vs planning

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.

Approved:

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program will include Gulf Breeze Zoo, Gulf Breeze, Florida, as a member of CB042.

#### IV. Next Steps

After the comment period closes, we will make decisions regarding permit issuance. If we issue permits to any of the applicants listed in this notice, we will publish a notice in the **Federal Register**. You may locate the notice announcing the permit issuance by searching <https://www.regulations.gov> for the permit number listed above in this document. For example, to find information about the potential issuance of Permit No. 12345A, you would go to [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) and search for "12345A".

#### V. Authority

We issue this notice under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), and its implementing regulations, and section 112(4) of the Wild Bird Conservation Act of 1992 and the regulations at 50 CFR 15.26(c).

**Brenda Tapia,**

*Supervisor Program Analyst/Data Administrator, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.*

[FR Doc. 2021–26704 Filed 12–9–21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4333–15–P**

### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

#### Bureau of Land Management

[223 LLUTG02000 L12200000.PM0000]

#### Notice of Public Meeting, San Rafael Swell Recreation Area Advisory Council, Utah

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the Federal Advisory Committee Act, and the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) San Rafael Swell Recreation Area Advisory Council (Council) will meet as follows.

**DATES:** The Council is scheduled to meet virtually on February 16, 2022, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and on February 17, 2022, from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meetings will be held online through the Zoom meeting application. Participation information will be available 30 days in advance of the meeting on the RAC's web page at

<https://www.blm.gov/get-involved/resource-advisory-council/near-you/utah/San-Rafael-Swell-RAC>. Written comments to address the Council may be sent to Lance Porter, Green River District Manager, 170 South 500 West, Vernal, Utah 84078; or via email with the subject line "San Rafael Swell Advisory Council meeting" to [utprmail@blm.gov](mailto:utprmail@blm.gov).

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Lance Porter, BLM Green River District Manager, 170 South 500 West, Vernal, Utah 84078; telephone (435) 781–4400; or email [150porte@blm.gov](mailto:150porte@blm.gov). Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1–800–877–8339 to leave a message or question for Lance Porter. The FRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Replies are provided during normal business hours.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (Pub. L. 116–9) established the Council to provide advice and information for the BLM in planning and managing the San Rafael Swell Recreation Area. The seven-member council represents a wide range of interests including local government, recreational users, grazing allotment permittees, conservation organizations, expertise in historical uses of the recreation area, and Tribes. More information can be found on the Council's web page at: <https://www.blm.gov/get-involved/resource-advisory-council/near-you/utah/San-Rafael-Swell-RAC>. Agenda topics for the meeting will include San Rafael Swell Recreation Area updates; backcountry airstrips and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern within the San Rafael Swell Recreation Area; and the scoping themes and planning process for the Dingell Act RMP Amendments (as related to the San Rafael Swell Recreation Area only). The final agenda and meeting information will be posted on the Council's web page 30 days before the meeting.

The meeting is open to the public. A public-comment period will be offered each day of the scheduled meeting. Depending on the number of people wishing to comment and the time available, the time for individual comments may be limited. Written comments may also be sent to the Green River District Manager at the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice. All comments received will be provided to the Council.

**Public Disclosure of Comments:** Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your

comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee we will be able to do so.

Detailed Council meeting minutes will be maintained in the Green River District Office and will be available for public inspection and reproduction during regular business hours within 90 days following the meeting. Minutes will also be posted to the Council web page.

(Authority: 43 CFR 1784.4–2)

**Gregory Sheehan,**

*Bureau of Land Management, State Director, Utah.*

[FR Doc. 2021–26766 Filed 12–9–21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310–DQ–P**

### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

#### Bureau of Land Management

[LLORW00000.223L1109AF.L17110000.  
AL0000.241A.HAG22–0005]

#### Call for Nominations to the San Juan Islands National Monument Advisory Committee, Washington

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of call for nominations.

**SUMMARY:** The purpose of this notice is to request public nominations to the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) San Juan Islands National Monument Advisory Committee (MAC). This citizen-based committee advises the Secretary of the Interior with respect to the preparation and implementation of the San Juan Islands National Monument Management Plan.

**DATES:** All nominations must be received no later than January 10, 2022.

**ADDRESSES:** Nominations and completed applications should be sent to the BLM, Spokane District Office, 1103 N Fancher Road, Spokane, WA 99212.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jeff Clark, Spokane District Public Affairs Officer, telephone: (509) 536–1297, or email: [jeffclark@blm.gov](mailto:jeffclark@blm.gov). Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at (800) 877–8339 to contact Mr. Clark during normal business hours. The FRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.





U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

**BUREAU OF LAND  
MANAGEMENT**

## SAN RAFAEL SWELL RECREATION AREA ADVISORY COUNCIL TO MEET VIRTUALLY

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**PRICE, Utah** — The Bureau of Land Management will hold a virtual meeting of the San Rafael Swell Recreation Area Advisory Council on Feb. 16, 2022, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and on Feb. 17, 2022, from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. on the Zoom for Government platform.

“We continue to examine the vast amount of recreational experiences the San Rafael Swell Recreation Area offers,” said **Lance Porter, Green River District Manager**. “And we ask for public input on how we can best manage this incredible resource.”

Agenda topics for the meeting will include: San Rafael Swell Recreation Area updates, backcountry airstrips, and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern within the San Rafael Swell Recreation Area. The Dingell Act Resource Management Plan Amendments planning process and scoping themes, as related to the San Rafael Swell Recreation Area, will also be discussed. The final agenda and meeting registration information will be posted on the Council’s webpage at least 30 days before the meeting at <https://www.blm.gov/get-involved/resource-advisory-council/near-you/utah/San-Rafael-Swell-RAC>.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting and will be given an opportunity to address the Council each day. The scheduled times for the public to address the Council are Feb. 16, 2022, from 4 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Feb. 17, 2022, from 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Depending on the number of people wishing to comment, the amount of time given to each individual for oral comments may be limited. Written comments for the Council may be sent to the BLM Green River District, Attn: Lance Porter, 170 South 500 West, Vernal, Utah 84078, or via email with the subject line “San Rafael Swell Advisory Council meeting” to [utprmail@blm.gov](mailto:utprmail@blm.gov).

More information about the area can be found at <https://www.blm.gov/visit/san-rafael-swell-recreation-area>.

For additional information about the upcoming meeting, please contact Lance Porter at (435) 781-4400 or [l50porte@blm.gov](mailto:l50porte@blm.gov). Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to leave a message or question for the above individual. The FRS is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Replies are provided during normal business hours.

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*The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land located primarily in 12 western states, including Alaska, on behalf of the American people. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. Our mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America’s public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.*

### MORE PRESS RELEASES

#### RELEASE DATE

Thursday, January 13, 2022

#### ORGANIZATION

Bureau of Land Management

#### OFFICE

Green River District

#### CONTACTS

**Name:** Angela Hawkins

**Email:** [ahawkins@blm.gov](mailto:ahawkins@blm.gov)

**Phone:** [\(435\) 781-2774](tel:(435)781-2774)

**San Rafael Swell Recreation Area Advisory Council Virtual Meeting Agenda  
February 16-17, 2022**

**February 16**

<b>TIME</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>PRESENTER</b>
1 p.m.	Welcome and Introductions	Les Wilberg, Advisory Council Chair and Lance Porter, Green River District Manager
1:15 p.m.	Agenda review and meeting logistics  Purpose: Review agenda recommendations from August meeting, review current agenda, and adjust if necessary	Les Wilberg, Advisory Council Chair
1:30 p.m.	San Rafael Swell Recreation Area Updates  Purpose: Inform the Advisory Council and public on work that has been completed since the last meeting-including updates on Cane Wash and Justensen Flat	Price Field Office Recreation Staff
2 p.m.	Backcountry airstrips within the San Rafael Swell Recreation Area  Purpose: Understand current known airstrips, terms, and conditions	Price Field Office Recreation Staff
2:30 p.m.	Break	
3 p.m.	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern within the San Rafael Swell Recreation Area  Purpose: Review in detail a few ACECs to dispense information and understanding of agency process	Price Field Office Recreation Staff
4 p.m.	Public comment period	
4:30 p.m.	Advisory Council review, discuss, and consider recommendations  Purpose: For Advisory Council to formalize recommendations to the BLM	Advisory Council
5 p.m.	Adjourn	

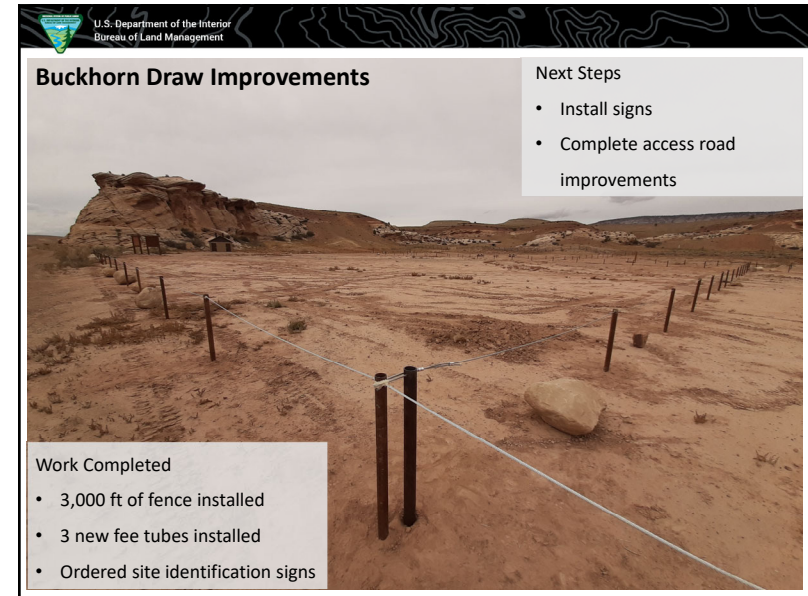


**February 17**

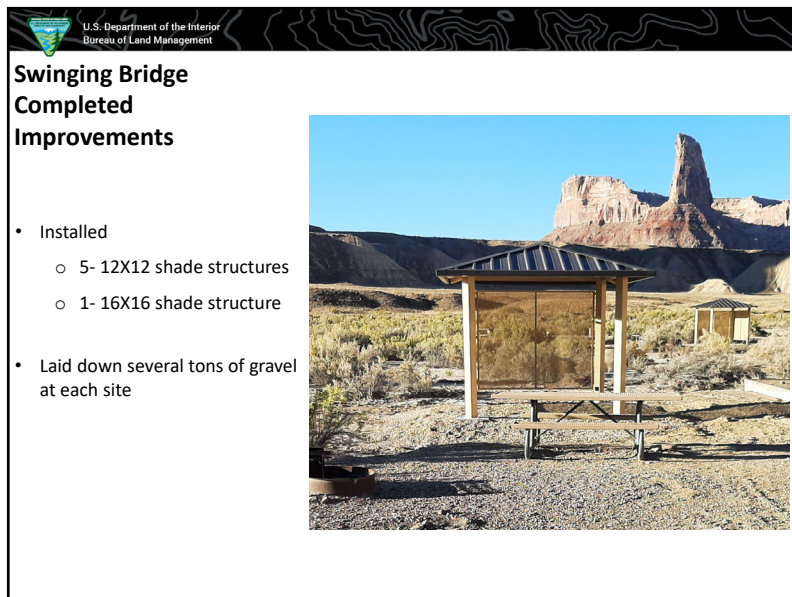
<b>TIME</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>PRESENTER</b>
8:30 a.m.	Welcome	Les Wilberg, Advisory Council Chair and Lance Porter, Green River District Manager
8:35 a.m.	Agenda review and meeting room logistics  Purpose: Review agenda and adjust if necessary	Les Wilberg, Advisory Council Chair
8:45 a.m.	Dingell Act Resource Management Plan (RMP) Amendments (as Related to the San Rafael Swell Recreation Area only) Scoping Themes  Purpose: Summarize for the Advisory Council public comment received during the Dingell Act RMP amendments scoping period and their implications	Amber Koski, Planning and Environmental Coordinator
9:45 a.m.	Break	
10:05 a.m.	Dingell Act RMP Amendments (as Related to the San Rafael Swell Recreation Area only) Planning Process  Purpose: Describe next steps including alternatives development, draft EA development, and public comment	Stephanie Howard, Branch Chief for Planning and GIS
11 a.m.	Public comment period	
11:30 a.m.	Advisory Council review, discuss, and consider recommendations  Purpose: For Advisory Council to formalize recommendations to the BLM	Advisory Council
11:45 a.m.	Wrap-up Discussions and Discuss Next Meeting Date and Agenda Items	Advisory Council
12 p.m.	Adjourn	



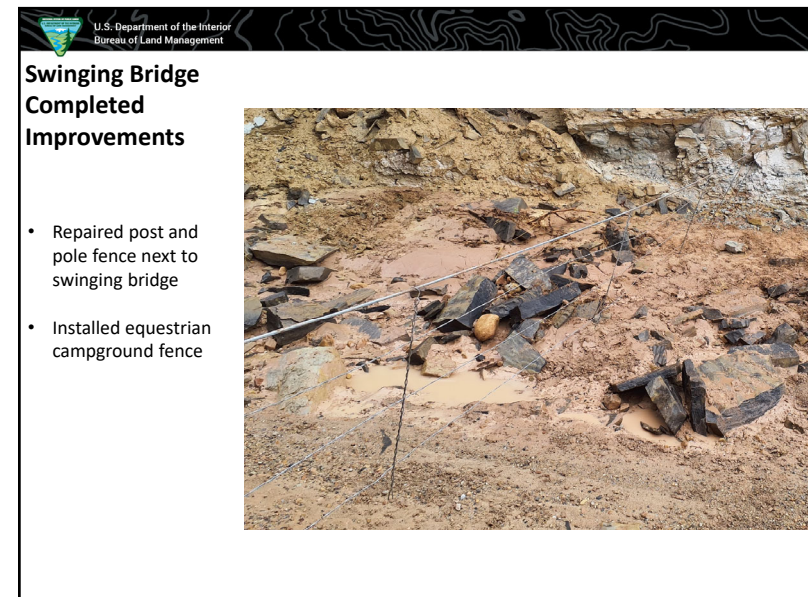
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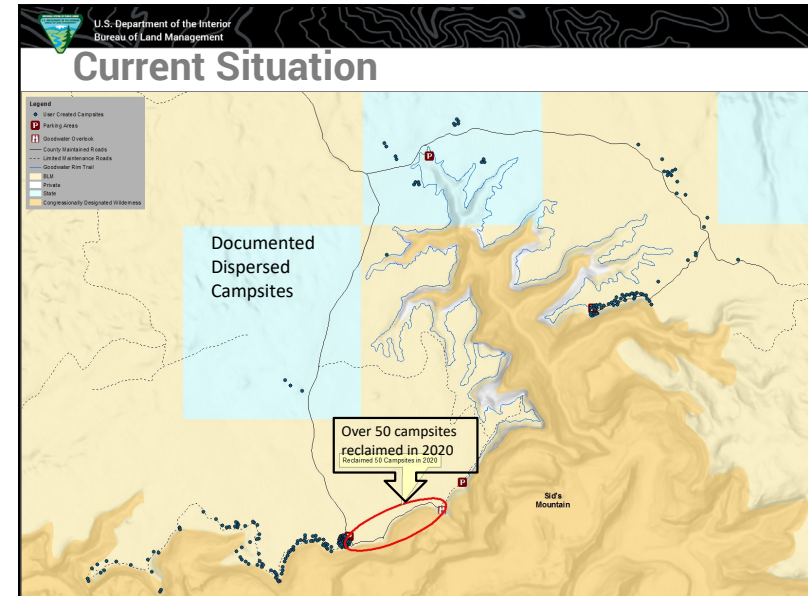
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## Why?

- Increased visitation 45,000+ annually.
- Address impacts caused by dispersed camping
- Provide appropriate recreation experiences while protecting natural resources



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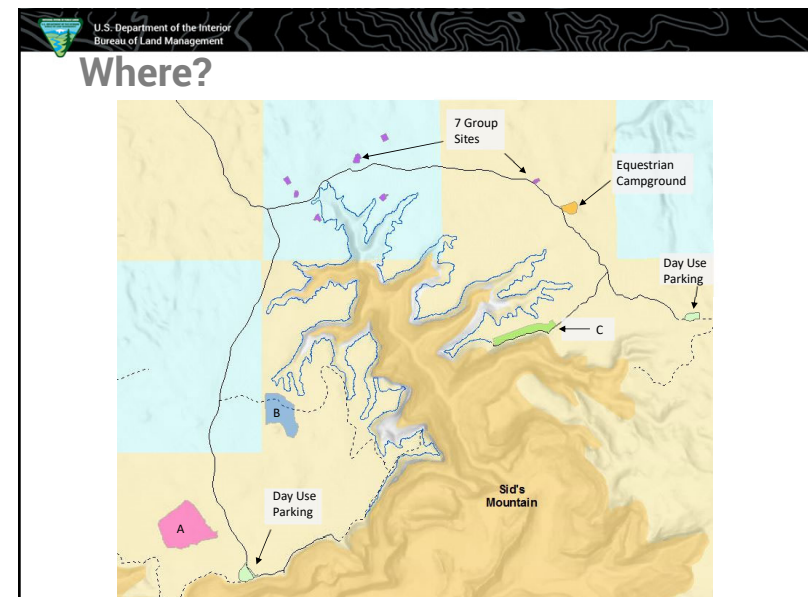
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## Current Situation

- Mixed day use and camping in high traffic areas
- Lack of organization

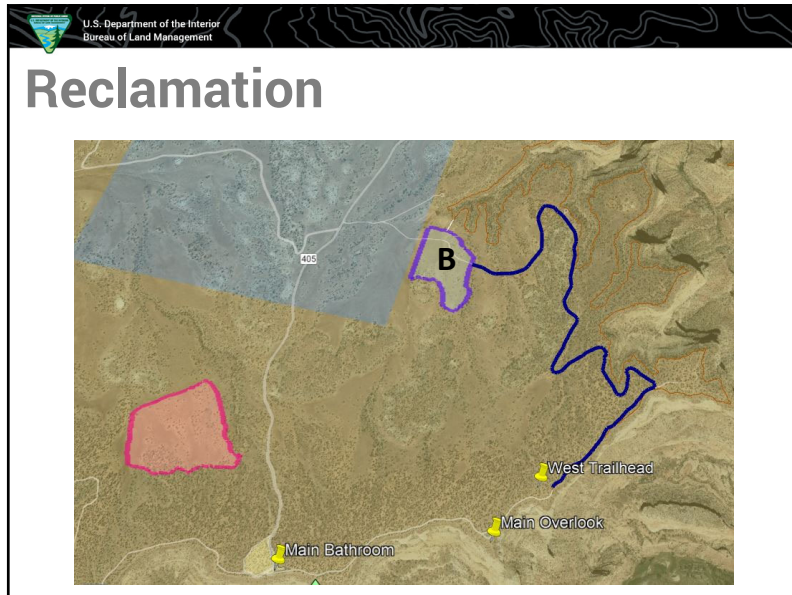


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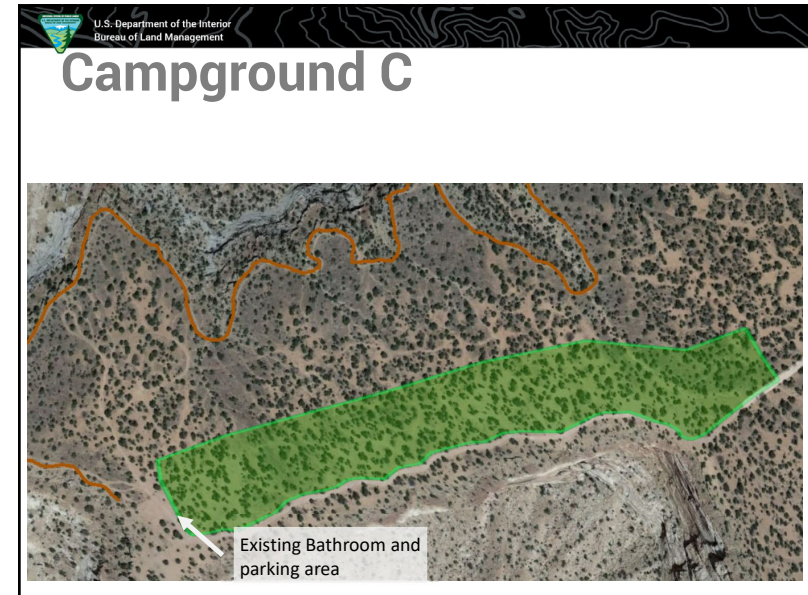


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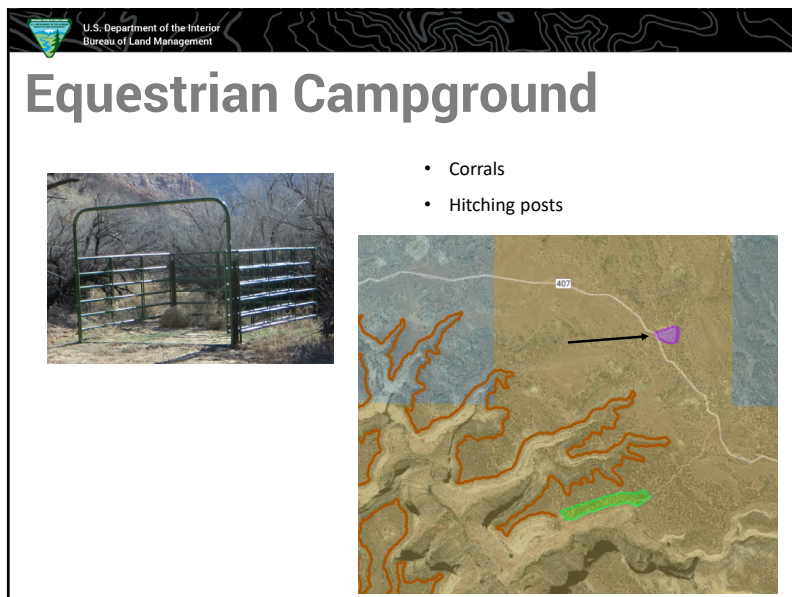




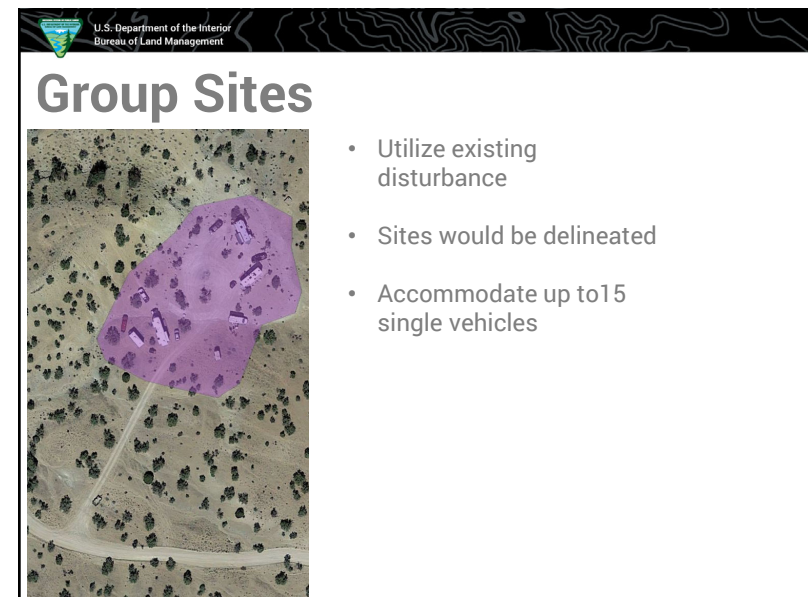
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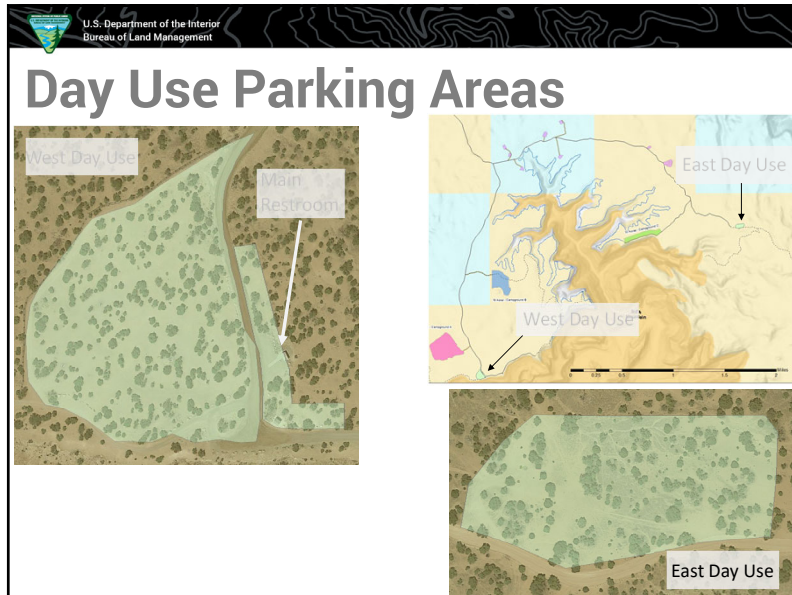


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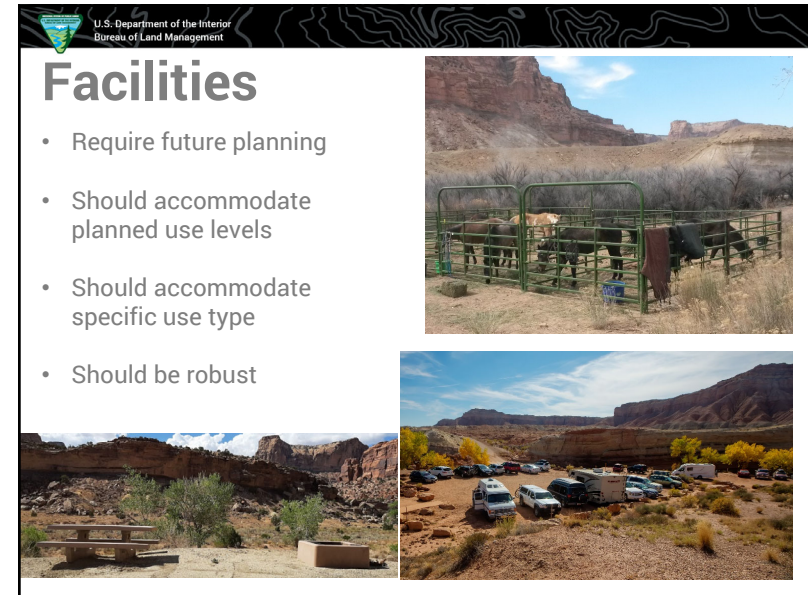


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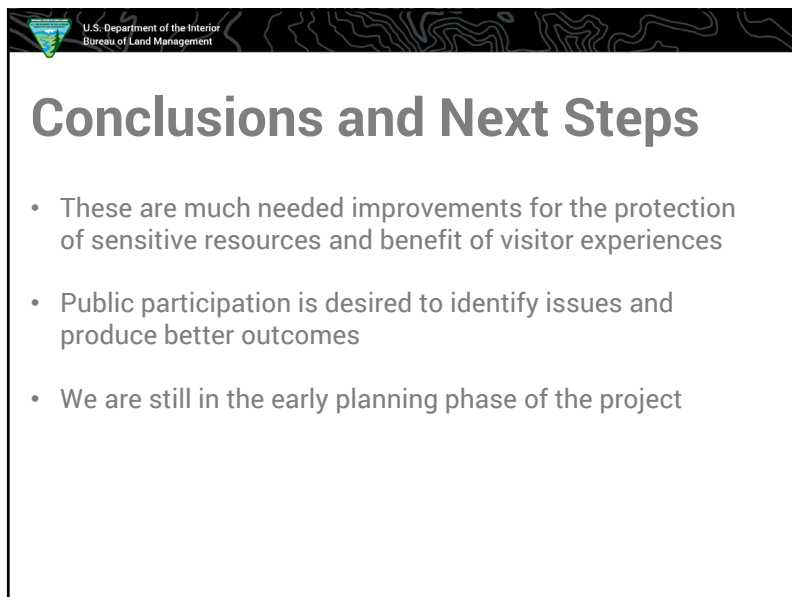




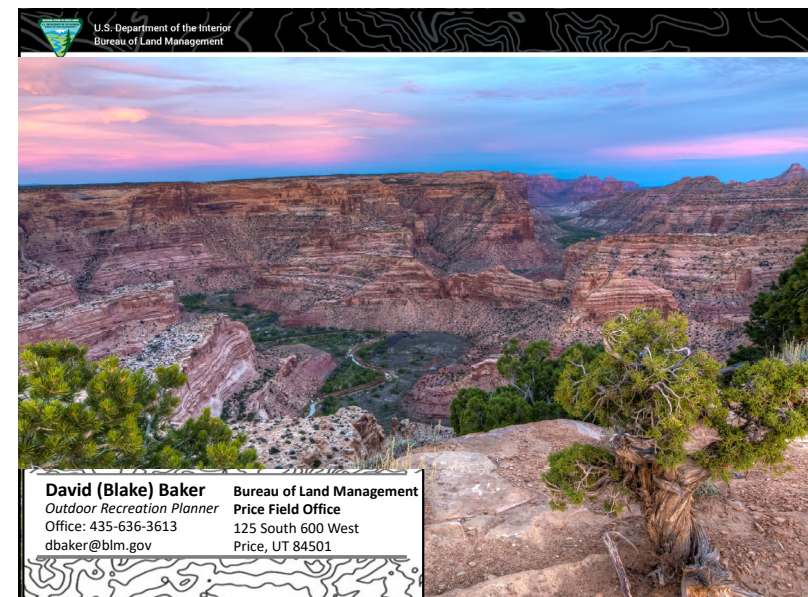
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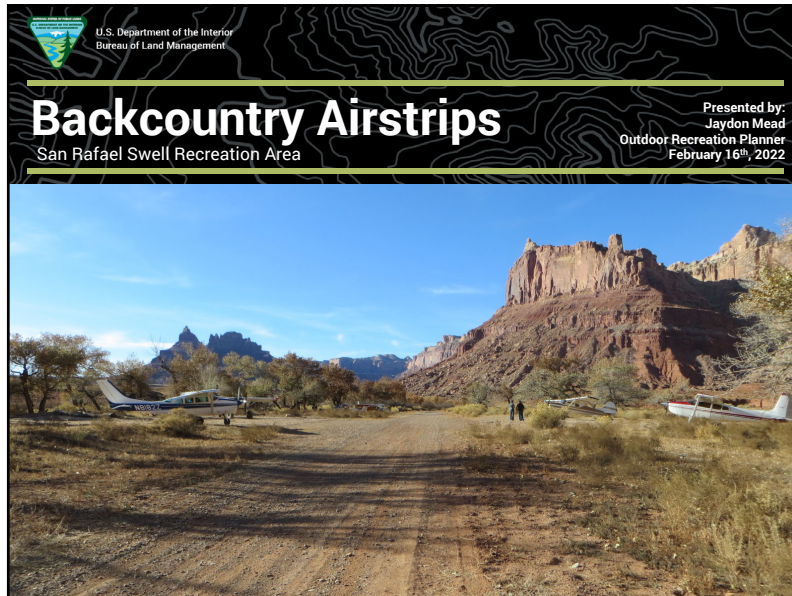


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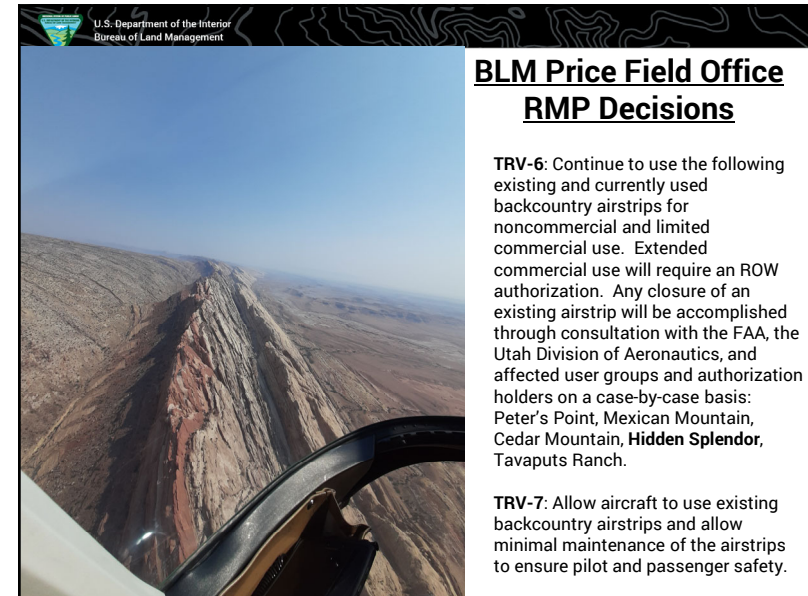


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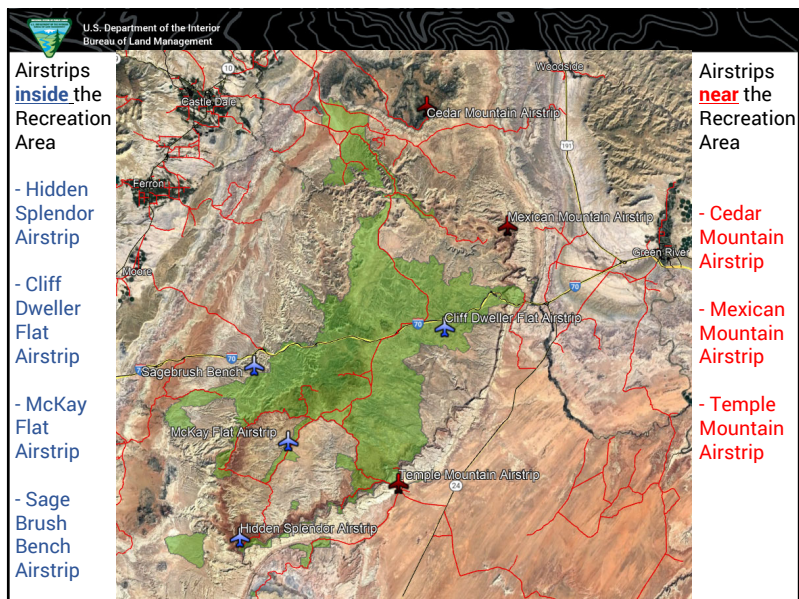




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## Cliff Dweller Flat Airstrip

**BLM Travel Plan Status:**  
Open


**Status listed by State of Utah:**  
Open

**Apparent Use Level:**  
Occasional

**Apparent Maintenance Description:**  
Recent (on the road)

**BLM ROW or Lease:**  
None

**NOTES:**  
Primarily used as a designated route for OHVs but does occasionally get used by aircraft. It is within the Recreation Area.



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## McKay Flat Airstrip

**BLM Travel Plan Status:**  
Not Addressed


**Status listed by State of Utah:**  
Open

**Apparent Use Level:**  
Occasional

**Apparent Maintenance Description:**  
Historic

**BLM ROW or Lease:**  
None

**NOTES:**  
Old airstrip is reclaiming, but it runs parallel to a County B maintained road, which is where aircraft are occasionally landing. It is within the Recreation Area.



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## Sage Brush Bench Airstrip

**BLM Travel Plan Status:**  
Not Addressed


**Status listed by State of Utah:**  
Unverified

**Apparent Use Level:**  
Rarely/Never

**Apparent Maintenance Description:**  
Historic

**BLM ROW or Lease:**  
None


**NOTES:**  
It is located near the boundary of the Devils Canyon Wilderness, and within the Recreation Area. This airstrip will be addressed in the SRS TMP.



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## San Rafael Swell Travel Management Planning



All four of the airstrips located in the Recreation Area will be evaluated and addressed during our future San Rafael Swell travel management planning effort.

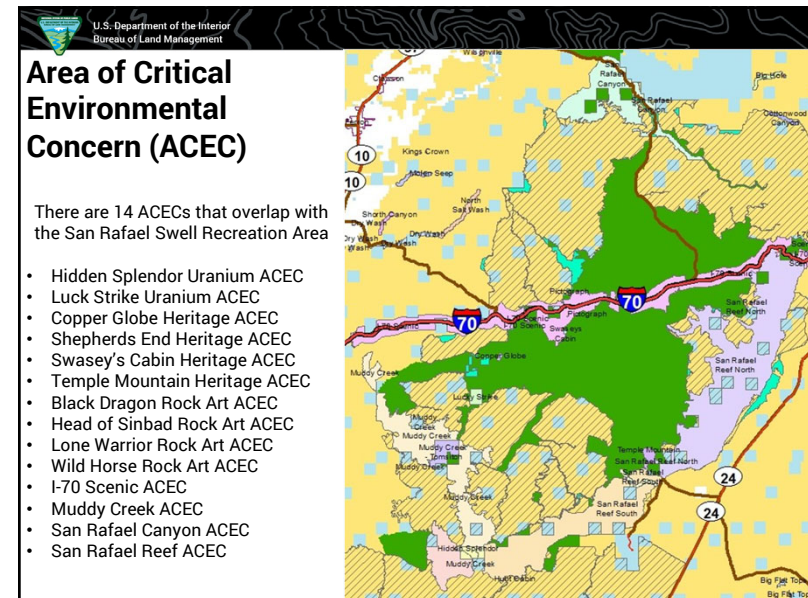
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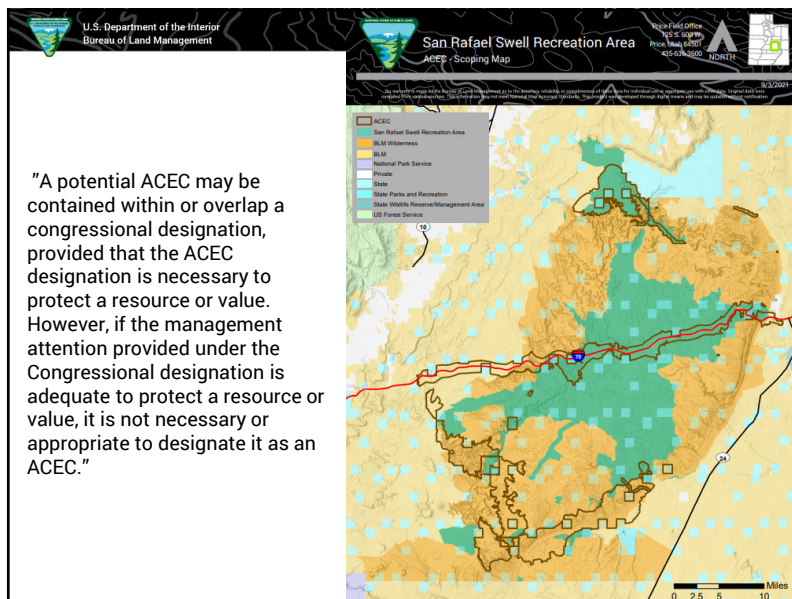




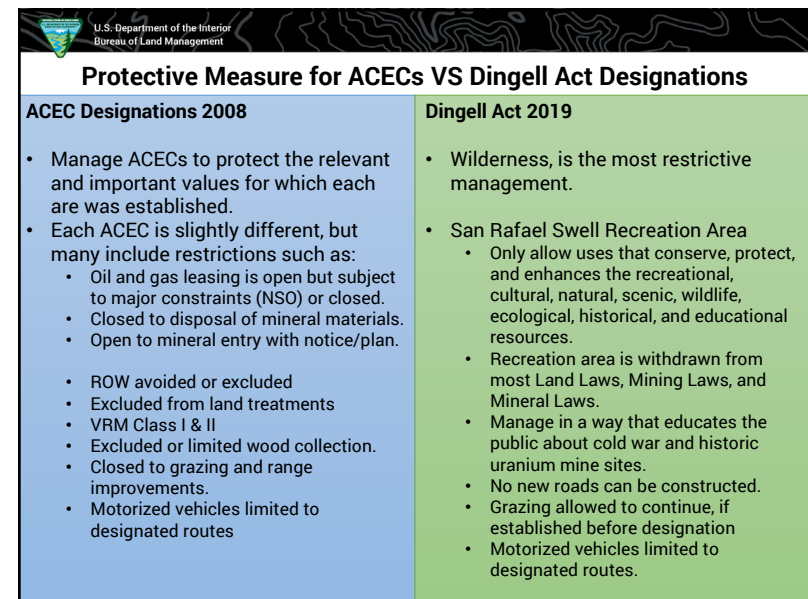
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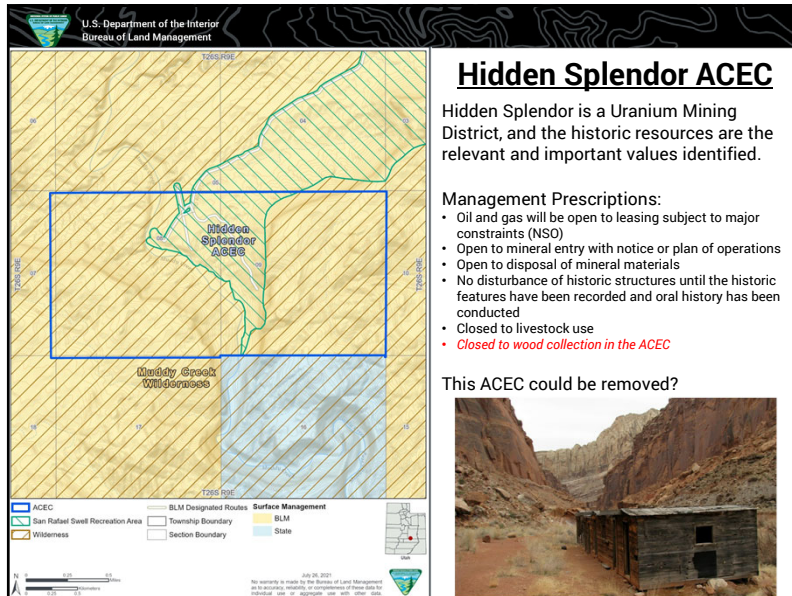


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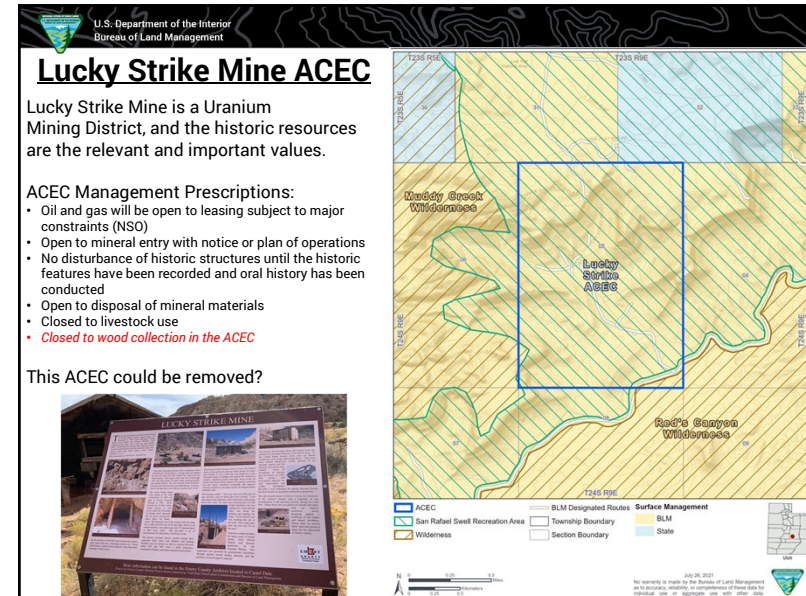


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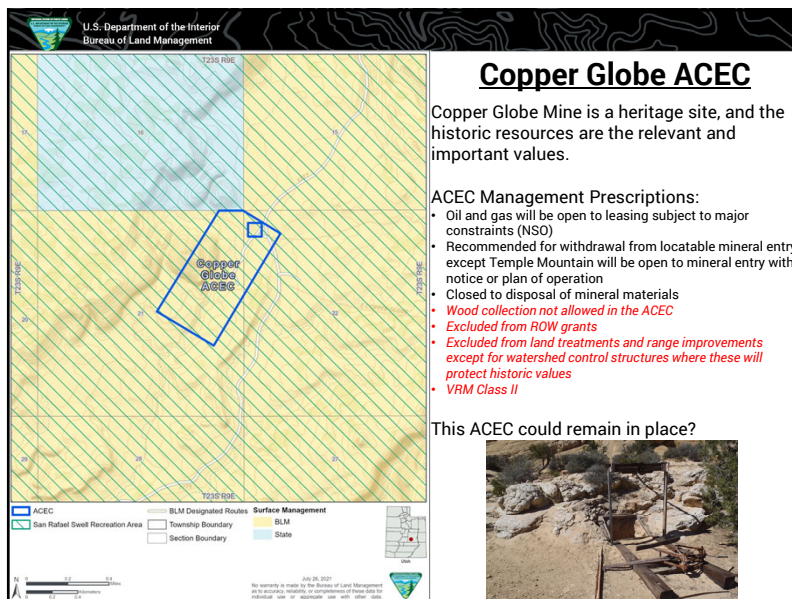




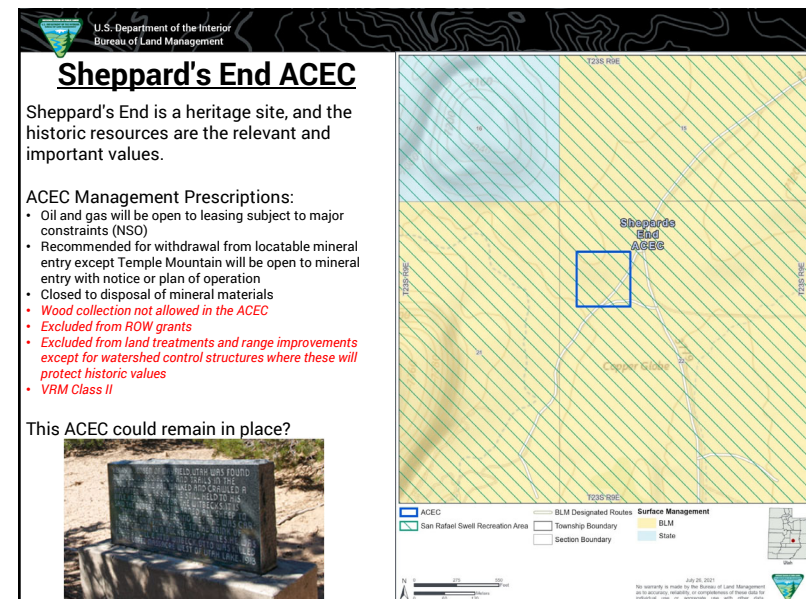
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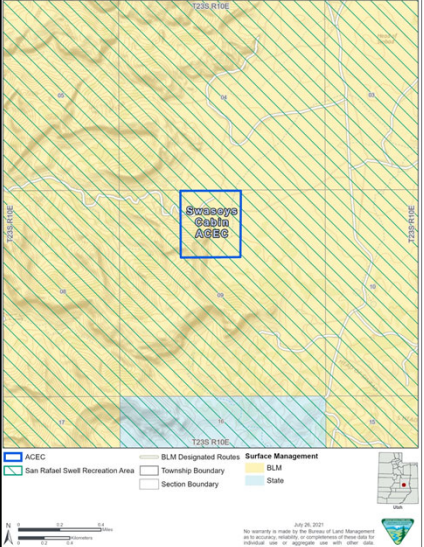
### Swasey's Cabin ACEC

Swasey Cabin is a heritage site, and the historic resources are the relevant and important values.

**ACEC Management Prescriptions:**

- Oil and gas will be open to leasing subject to major constraints (NSO)
- Recommended for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry except Temple Mountain will be open to mineral entry with notice or plan of operation
- Closed to disposal of mineral materials
- Wood collection not allowed in the ACEC
- Excluded from ROW grants
- Excluded from land treatments and range improvements except for watershed control structures where these will protect historic values
- VRM Class II

This ACEC could remain in place?

Map scale: 0 to 0.5 miles. Date: July 26, 2021. No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data.

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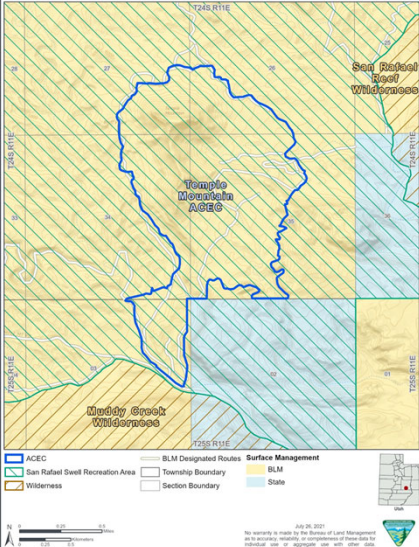
### Temple Mountain ACEC

Temple Mountain is a heritage site, and the historic resources are the relevant and important values.

**ACEC Management Prescriptions:**

- Oil and gas will be open to leasing subject to major constraints (NSO)
- Recommended for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry except Temple Mountain will be open to mineral entry with notice or plan of operation
- Closed to disposal of mineral materials
- Wood collection not allowed in the ACEC
- Excluded from ROW grants
- Excluded from land treatments and range improvements except for watershed control structures where these will protect historic values
- VRM Class II

This ACEC could remain in place?

Map scale: 0 to 0.5 miles. Date: July 26, 2021. No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data.

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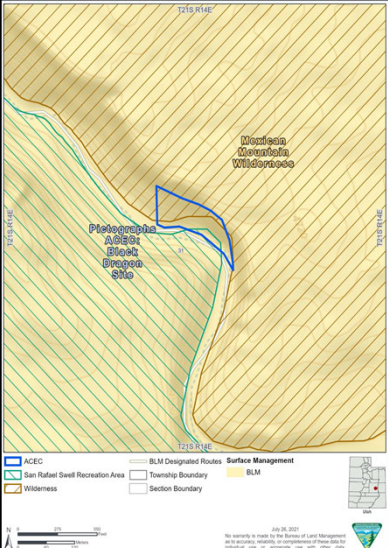
### Black Dragon ACEC

Black Dragon is a Rock Art site, and cultural resources are the relevant and important values.

**ACEC Management Prescriptions:**

- Oil and gas will be open to leasing subject to major constraints (NSO)
- Closed to disposal of mineral materials
- Recommended for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry
- Immediate areas around panels closed to livestock use
- Excluded from wood collection, except downed dead wood for campfires
- Archaeological inventories and test excavations will be required before site improvements
- Excluded for ROW grants
- Excluded from range improvements and land treatments except for watershed control structures where these will protect cultural resource values

This ACEC could remain in place?

Map scale: 0 to 0.5 miles. Date: July 26, 2021. No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data.

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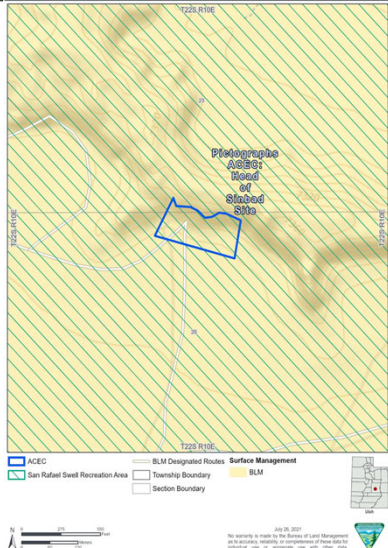
### Head of Sinbad ACEC

Head of Sinbad is a Rock Art site, and cultural resources are the relevant and important values.

**ACEC Management Prescriptions:**

- Oil and gas will be open to leasing subject to major constraints (NSO)
- Closed to disposal of mineral materials
- Recommended for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry
- Immediate areas around panels closed to livestock use
- Excluded from wood collection, except downed dead wood for campfires
- Archaeological inventories and test excavations will be required before site improvements
- Excluded for ROW grants
- Excluded from range improvements and land treatments except for watershed control structures where these will protect cultural resource values

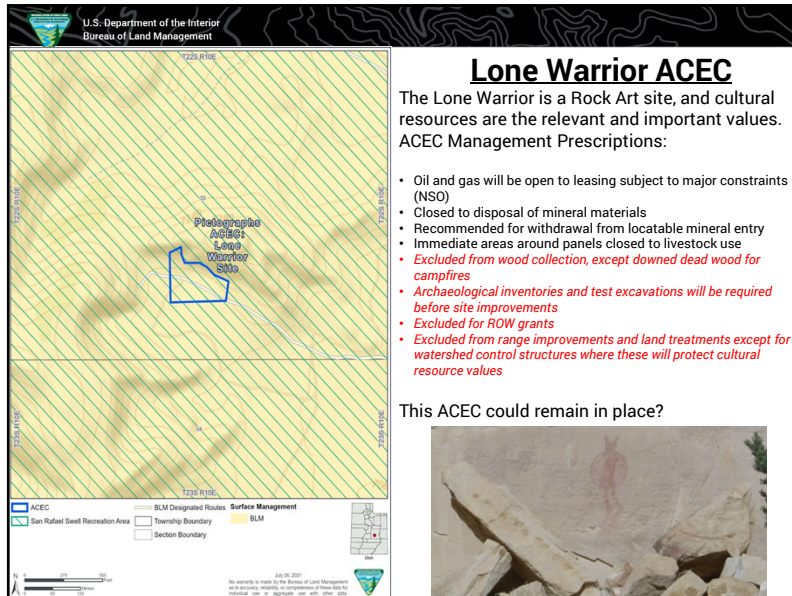
This ACEC could remain in place?

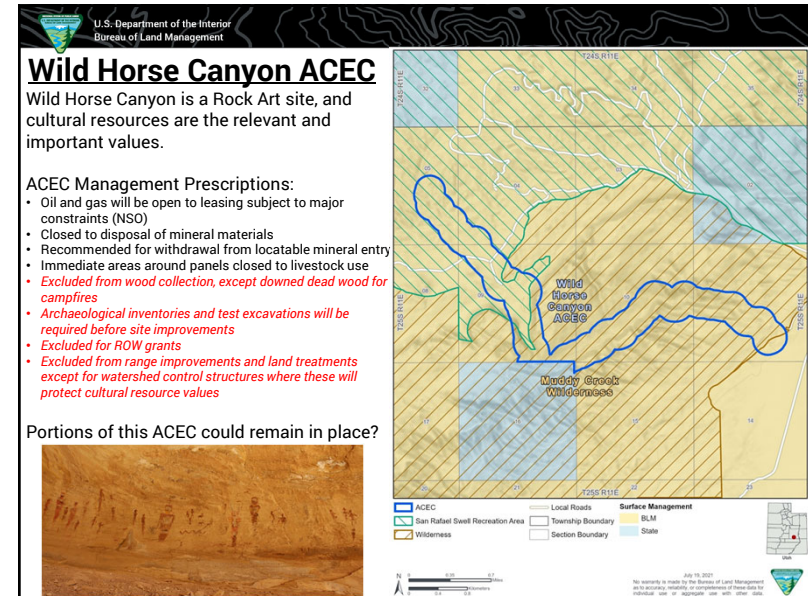
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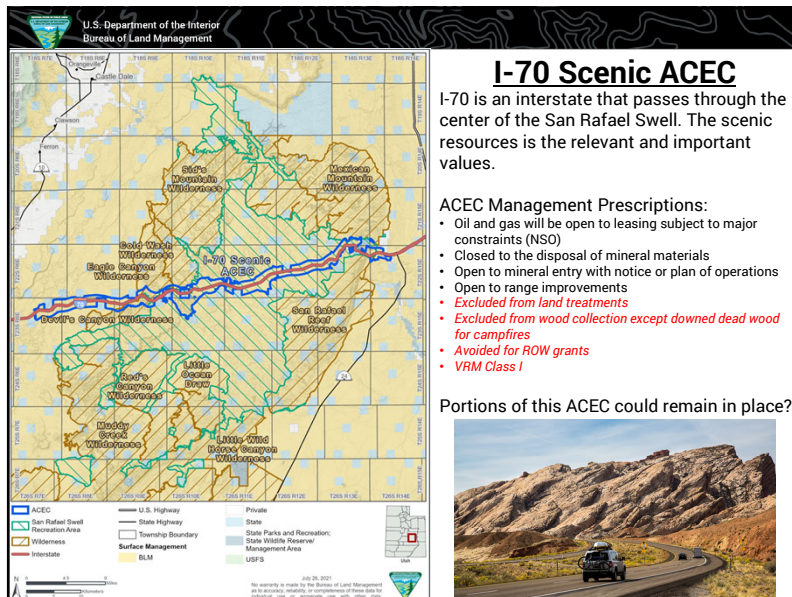




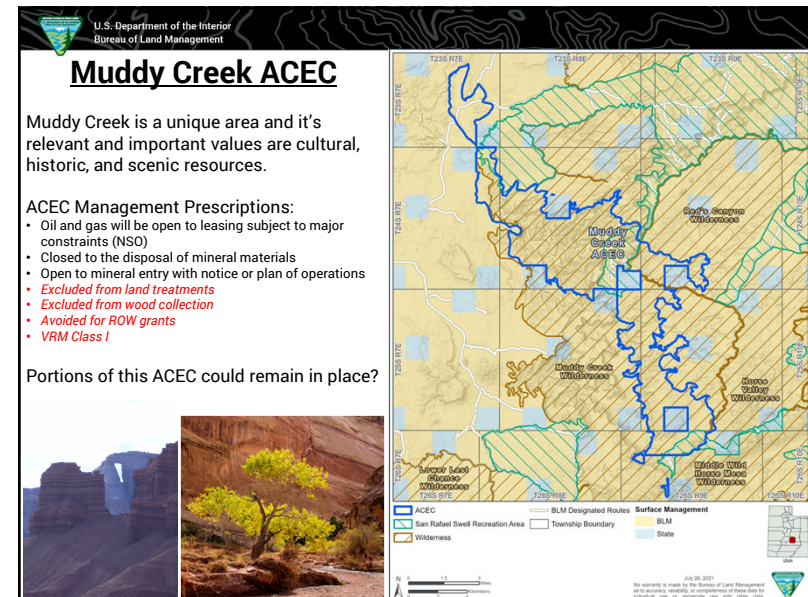
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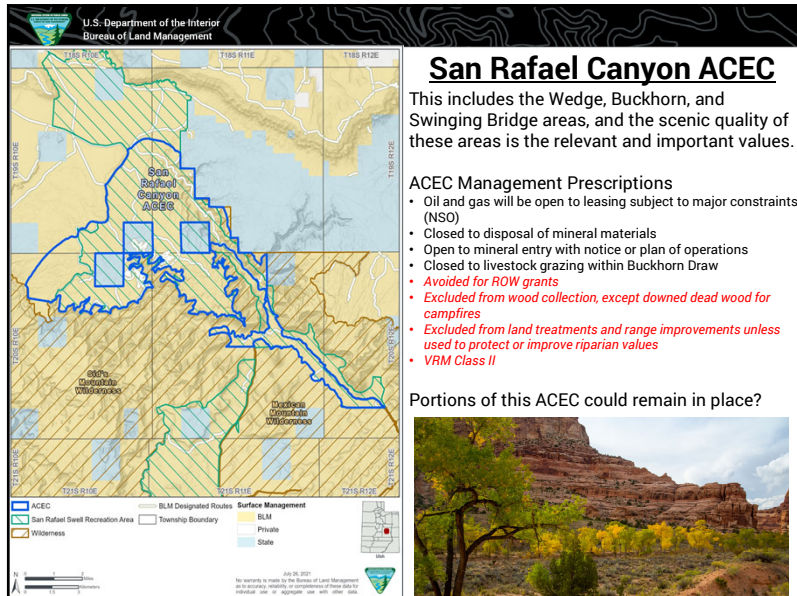


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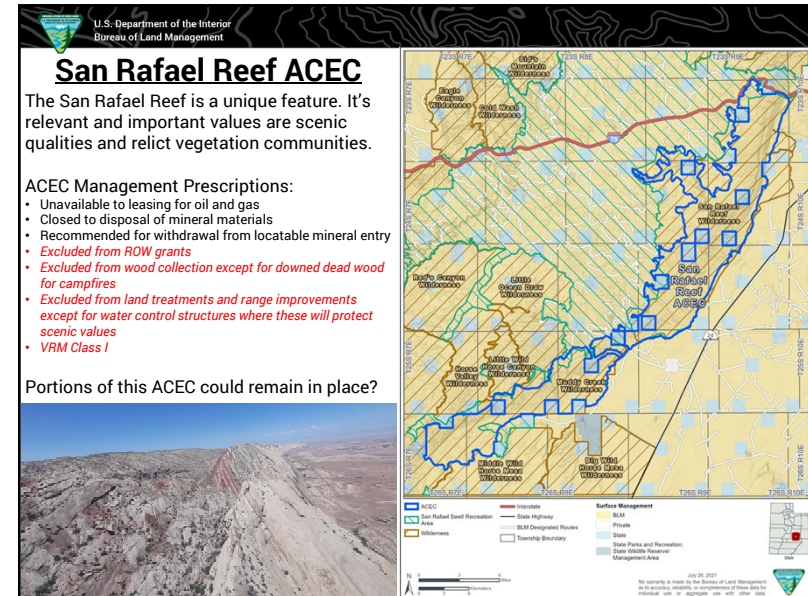


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### Questions to ask ourselves as we continue to move forward

Is there truly a need to keep any of these ACEC's that overlap with the Wilderness and Recreation Areas?

Can we plan to address these areas in the San Rafael Swell Recreation and Wilderness plans and commit to matching or improving the restrictions that were identified for these ACECs in 2008? What does that mean for the small areas that didn't overlap?

If we do determine a need to keep some of these overlapping ACEC, then the next question we should be asking ourselves during the RMP amendment process, is how can we improve them? Are boundary adjustments needed or can we improve the management prescriptions to help protect the relevant and important values?

A photograph of a rocky, desert landscape with sparse vegetation and a small structure in the distance.

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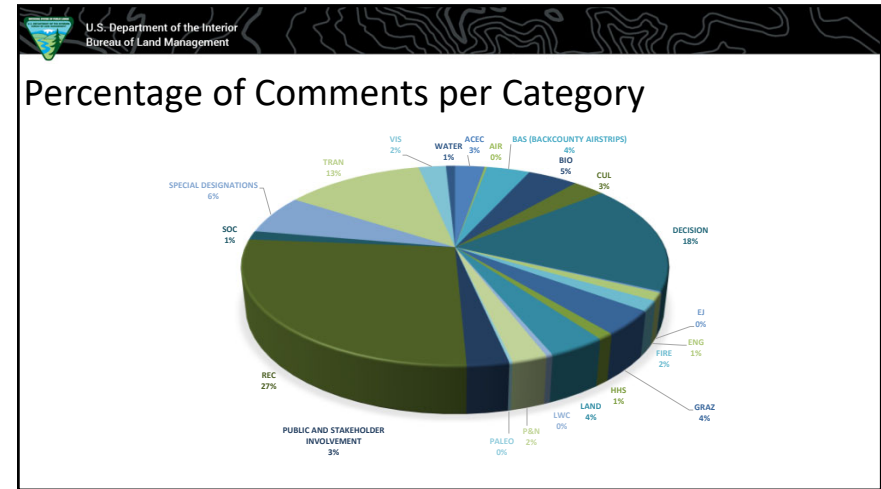
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## San Rafael Swell Recreation Area

- Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources and Native American Concerns
- Decisions Process/Compliance with Laws and Regulations
- Fire and Fuels Management
- Health and Human Safety
- Lands and Realty
- Lands with Wilderness Characteristics
- Livestock Grazing
- Public and Stakeholder Involvement
- Purpose and Need
- Recreation
- Socioeconomics
- Special Designations
- Trails and Travel Management
- Visual Resources



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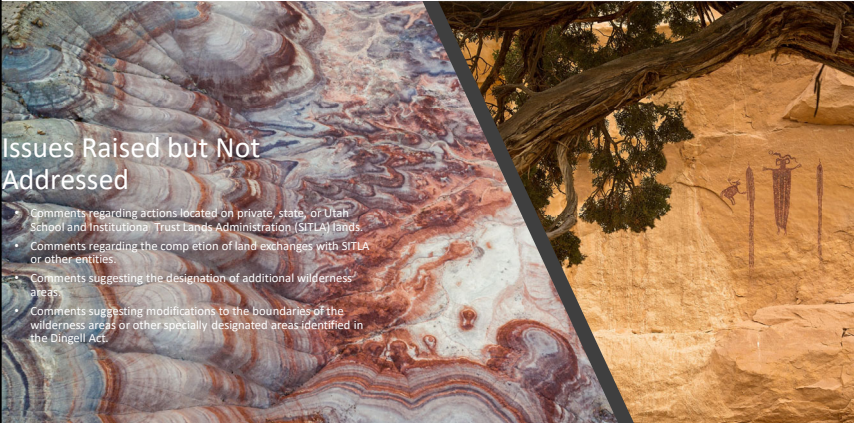


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## Issues Raised but Not Addressed

- Comments regarding actions located on private, state, or Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) lands
- Comments regarding the completion of land exchanges with SITLA or other entities
- Comments suggesting the designation of additional wilderness areas
- Comments suggesting modifications to the boundaries of the wilderness areas or other specially designated areas identified in the Dingell Act



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## Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

- Hidden Splendor
- Lucky Strike
- Copper Globe Heritage
- Shepherd's End
- Swasey's Cabin
- Temple Mountain
- Pictographs Back Dragon Canyon Rock Art
- Pictographs Head of Sinbad Rock Art
- Pictographs Lone Warrior Rock Art
- Wild Horse Rock Art
- I 70 Scenic
- Muddy Creek
- San Rafael Canyon, and
- San Rafael Reef



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## Purpose and Need

The BLM will review current RMP outcomes and modify goals and objectives to meet outcomes described in the Dingell Act. The BLM will develop legal descriptions and refinements as needed to boundaries established by the Dingell Act and modify or remove any unnecessary land use designations established under the current RMPs. The BLM will modify, add, or remove current RMP allowable uses to meet the outcomes described in the Dingell Act and reduce resource conflicts. The BLM will modify or remove current RMP management actions and develop new actions to meet the outcomes described in the Dingell Act.

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## Recreation

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## Visual Resources

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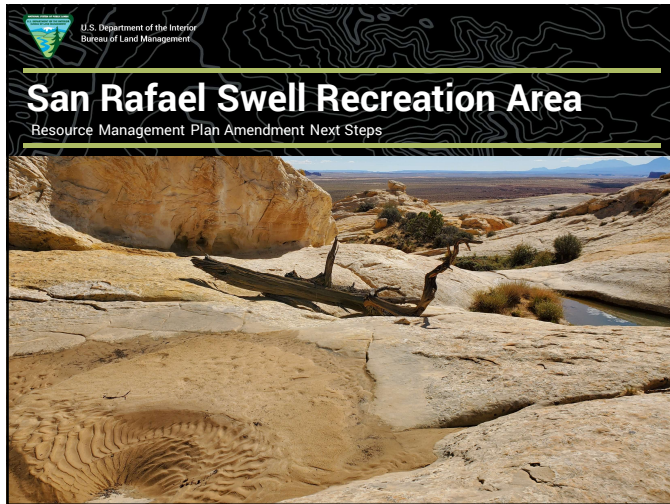
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### San Rafael Swell Special Recreation Area

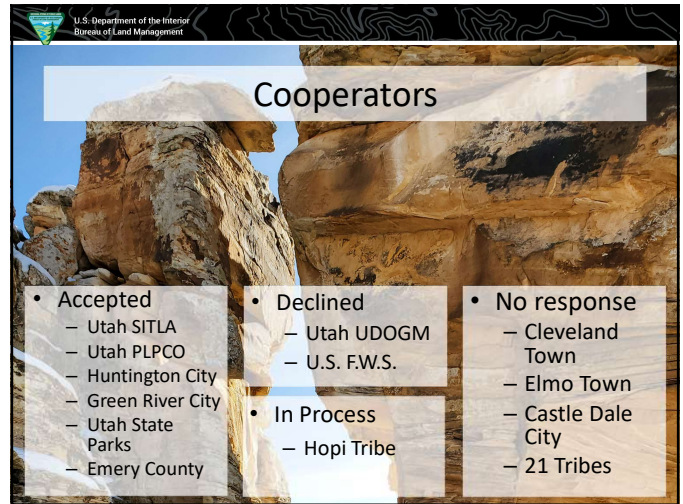
Scoping Period Information

## Recommendations?

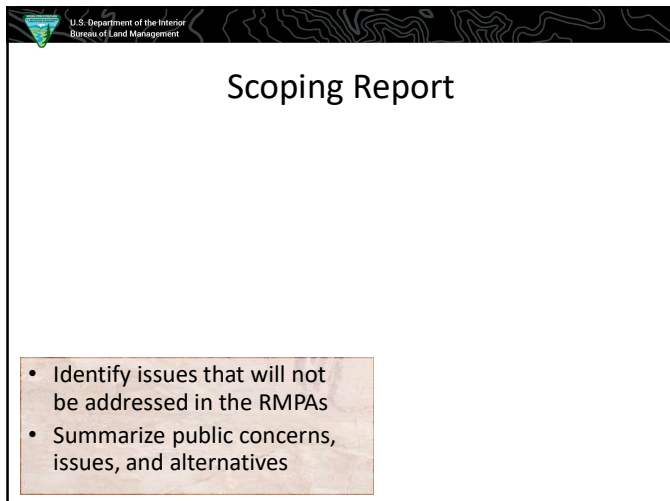
20



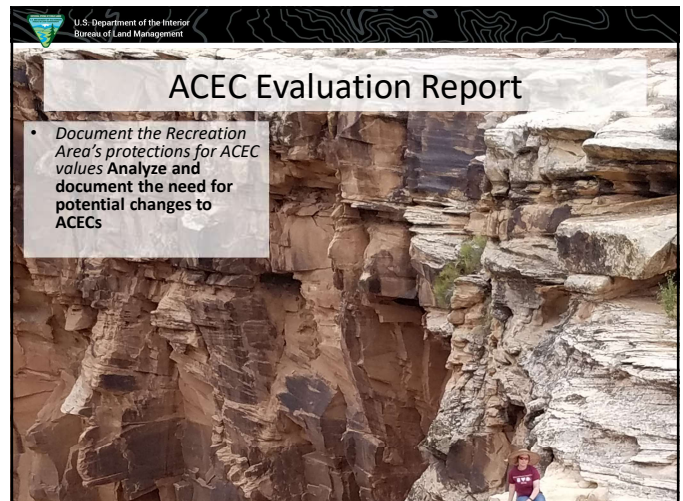
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## Range of Alternatives Development

- Explore different ways to manage the Recreation Area

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## Environmental Assessment Development

- Analyze the alternatives effectiveness

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## Public Comment

- Ask the public for
  - Corrected data, or assumptions
  - Relevant new information
  - Reasonable alternatives

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## Endangered Species Act Consultation

- Ensure conservation of listed species and their habitats

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## National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Consultation

- Consider an action's impacts to historic resources

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## Government to Government Consultation

- Ensure regular, meaningful coordination with Tribes

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## Proposed RMP Amendment/EA

- Public comment responses
- 30-day protest period
- 60-day Governor's consistency review


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## Amendment Decision Record

- BLM's Final Decision

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## Summary

- Scoping Report
- ACEC Evaluation Report
- Develop Alternatives
- Environmental Assessment Development
- Public Comment
- Consultation Completion
- Proposed RMP Protest and Governor's Consistency Review
- Decision Record and Resource Management Plan Amendment

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## Questions?

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