

Grand County Trail Mix Meeting Minutes
Tuesday June 8, 2021
Held via conference call only
PRELIMINARY

Meeting called to order at 11:05 am.

Present: Paul Spencer, Katie Stevens, Brett Sutteer, Tyson Swasey, Jacques Hadler, Colin Topper, Maddie Logowitz, Randall Fox, Brian Murdock

Absent: Kirsten Peterson, Marc Thomas, Kim Schappert, Justin Ricks, Kya Marienfeld, Steve Schultz, Cory Schurtleff

Guests: Laura Harris

Approval Of Minutes: Katie Stevens moved to approve the minutes from May 11, 2021. Jacques Hadler seconded. Approved unanimously.

Citizens to be Heard: No comments were received.

BLM Report: The EA for designated use changes on the BLM portion of the paved paths has been posted and is open for comments.

The reroute of the middle portion of the Raptor Route is in progress. A new cultural clearance, as a minimum, will be required. The small route on Amasa Back is also being worked on.

New camping controls are being considered in several areas, including the west side of US313. Signage indicating camping rules and regulations at all kiosks along the highway were recommended.

Forest Service Report: Several complaints have been received this Spring concerning high-speed downhill mountain bikers not yielding to hikers. Potential solutions to the issue were discussed, including signage at both ends of each trail (at the top reminding riders that they are required to yield to all uphill travel and be alert for hikers, and at the bottom warning hikers that there will be mountain bikes on the trail). This has helped on the Portal trail. Outreach to shuttles and shops was also recommended.

The trail work agreement with Grand County has been finalized. Work will start in August.

There is still significant snow up on Burro Pass, and it will be unrideable for a while. There is also logging in progress on many trails in the LaSals.

Exact details of summer/fall closures of Geyser Pass Road are still unknown.

GCATT Report: GCATT has moved into summer mode. Work is proceeding with the BLM on a signage update for the Brands, including new recommended routes.

An informational flyer for the Whole Enchilada trails is nearing completion.

A problematic section of the Rocky Tops trail is being investigated for either more maintenance or a potential reroute. The main concern is to make the trail more maintainable.

County Report: The County Commission approved allowing e-bikes on the County portion of the paved paths north of Moab. They did not implement the trial period as recommended, but they did promise to revisit the issue next year and consider action if there are any problems. The issue is up for discussion at the City Council meeting to be held later in the day.

Jacques met with Megan Blackwelder, local State Parks director, about the new Utahraptor State Park. They plan to work with Grand County, GCATT, and Trail Mix to integrate any new trails with those in the surrounding area such as Klono and the Brands.

Jacques is on a subcommittee that has been formed to study a Grand County Lands bill with Congressman Curtis. This will be a relatively long process, but will hopefully include input from Trail Mix and the GCATT.

County Commission has no plans to resume in-person Commission meetings at this point.

City Report: not present

Chair Report: nothing to report.

Biking Report: Colin brought up the idea of a climbing-specific trail in the LaSal Mountains. This would provide a different user experience, and potentially remove some uphill traffic from both Geysers Pass Road and the Whole Enchilada trails and remove some user group conflicts. Brian noted that, although the Forest Plan was more about zoning, comments advocating such a trail would be useful. Tyson added that a less-steep trail could require less maintenance in the future, especially if machine built.

Climbing/Canyoneering Report: Brett is still working with the BLM about issues created by high use. There are four canyons now that have commercial use group size limits right now; unfortunately there is not full compliance with those rules. The possibility of extending group size limits to private parties is also being discussed, although that would be difficult to implement. Some new areas for roped activities (within existing canyons) are being investigated.

Equestrian Report: not present. An issue of trail damage from a horse on the Red Onion trail (due to it being too soft and too technical) was noted; signage indicating "not recommended for horses" was suggested.

Hiking Report: not present

Trail Running Report: not present

Skiing Report: not present

Action Items: none

Discussion Items: progress from City and County on e-bike regulations was noted. Jacques agreed to get County to coordinate with Arches National Park on their portion of the pathway, and to follow up with Chris Baird on notifying the private landowner along the pathway of the change. Jacques indicated that other involved parties (US DOE, UDOT, State of Utah) were considered and should not be an issue.

Katie indicated that the BLM EA decision should take five or six weeks.

Katie moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:18 PM. Brett seconded.