

September 29, 2022

Jacques Hadler
Grand County Commission Chair
125 E. Center St.
Moab, UT 84532

Chair Hadler,

We write today regarding the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Moab Field Office's public review and comment period for Labyrinth Rims/Gemini Bridges Travel Management Area (TMA). Because amendments to this Travel Management Plan (TMP) inherently have effects on non-motorized recreation, we would like to recognize the support that the Grand County Commission has specifically given to non-motorized user groups during this process, including advocating for plan alternatives that consider non-motorized recreational user groups, including those that we represent such as cyclists, hikers, climbers & canyoneers, equestrians, and trail runners.

As you wrote in your December 7, 2021 letter to the BLM, user conflicts in this area are increasing proportionally to its visitation. Pragmatic, visionary planning is necessary to ensure multiple uses are viable and balanced in the years to come. What may have worked decades ago may no longer work today when accounting for increased overall use and a wider array of recreational pursuits. User conflicts have been reported between motorized and non-motorized users across this TMA, such as where singletrack mountain bike trails intersect with motorized routes. A reduction of motorized use to some of these areas can help to rebalance the parity of various user groups.

For the aforementioned reasons, the TrailMix Committee support the Commission's willingness to recognize and advocate for appropriate, multi-use planning in this area. We agree that it is Grand County's responsibility to ensure that a variety of recreational activities—motorized and non-motorized, quiet or not—have a place in this important area. Thank you for your efforts to address these issues.

Sincerely, 

Colin Topper
TrailMix Committee Chair