

Grand County Trail Mix Meeting Minutes
Tuesday October 12 2021
Held via conference call only
PRELIMINARY

Meeting called to order at 11:03 AM.

Present: Paul Spencer, Katie Stevens, Steve Schultz, Jacques Hadler, Colin Topper, Randall Fox, Laura Harris, Maddie Logowitz, Kya Marienfeld, Zach Lowe (USFS)

Absent: Kim Schappert, Marc Thomas, Brett Sutteer, Justin Ricks, Kirsten Peterson, Brian Murdock, Cory Schurtleff, Tyson Swasey

Guests: none

Approval Of Minutes: Jacques Hadler moved to approve the September minutes as published. Kya Marienfeld seconded. Passed unanimously.

Citizens to be Heard: No comments were received.

BLM Report: The second set of Old Spanish Trail silhouettes from the Utah BLM will be installed at Courthouse Rock on October 22nd; details on what equipment will be used will be worked out by the Back Country Horsemen, who will be leading the installation work. Steve will forward bills for any materials needed to GCATT.

Katie noted that the nearby dinosaur track site trail will be rebuilt this fall/winter, in steel instead of wood.

The Trans-Rockies bike stage race will be run on several local trails October 16/17/18. There will also be a running race in the Behind the Rocks area on October 30, and the Moab Trail Marathon on November 7.

Feedback after the dual events at the Brand Trails (NICA and Outerbike) was positive, with no major issues noted. The NICA race had fewer issues than last time, even though there were significantly more participants; most issues were with spectators, and not racers. For the next race, this would be a good opportunity for the Trail Ambassador program.

Forest Service Report: Zach reported that Geyser Pass Road is still closed above Gold Basin for construction; the last storm brought about 4" of snow at Gold Basin, and more higher up, so the road will likely be closed for the season. In the spring, the road will most likely be opened on the normal schedule, although with traffic delays due to ongoing construction.

The Moab 240 running race is going on currently; the route was changed to lower elevations due to the weather.

GCATT Report: Maddie noted that the past month has been focused mainly on maintenance, including a lot of work at the Klonoza area.

National Public Lands Day was a huge success; with the help of volunteers, the entire Amasa Back Access trail was rebuilt, the bridge put back in place, and the trail is now back open. (The flood level that wiped out the trail was larger than anything seen since the 1930's).

Another major rain storm went through the area a few days later, and took out the bridge again - which was replaced within two days by a work crew from the BLM.

An educational booth at Outerbike was staffed by a combination of GCATT personnel and people from the Trail Ambassador program.

County Report: Jacques reported that all of the various land owners and land managers have approved allowing Class 1 e-bikes on the paved path system north of town, and so that is now legal (for Class 1 bikes only).

The County is soliciting comments on a Public Lands bill; they may be submitted through the County web page.

City Report: not present

Chair Report: Nothing to report.

Biking Report: Colin asked about revising and reprinting the e-bike brochure, including adding some information on e-bike classes. Maddie said that this would be a winter project.

Colin noted that the Motorized Trail Committee was preparing a survey on e-bike use to distribute to the local biking community. Concerns were raised that there are multiple users of trails in Grand County, and surveying bikers only - and not including hikers, equestrians, and trail runners, would not be a fair representation of local viewpoints.

Climbing/Canyoneering Report: not present

Equestrian Report: Steve reported a bit of background information on the second set of Old Spanish Trail figures, which are being graciously donated by the State BLM.

The installation of the first set of figures is still pending a decision from UMTRA.

Steve and the Back Country Horsemen provided input to the County on the Travel Management plan, particularly connectivity from the equestrian arena to and along Spanish Valley Drive.

Hiking Report: not present

Trail Running Report: not present

Skiing Report: not present

Action Items: The Trail Ambassador program, organized and funded by Grand County, started on September 18th. There are six people working on the program so far, mainly on weekends, at major hiking and biking trailheads. So far the program has logged interactions with over 1,600 trail users. There was a proposal to write a letter of support for continuing and expanding the non-motorized Trail Ambassador program; moved by Steve Schultz, seconded by Colin Topper. Motion passed with 9 yea, 0 nay, and one abstention.

Discussion Items: none.

Jacques Hadler moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:15 PM. Maddie Logowitz seconded.