

**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management**

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**Finding of No Significant Impact and Decision Record  
DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2016-0034-EA  
May 10, 2016**

**MINERSVILLE RESERVOIR OHV TRAILS**

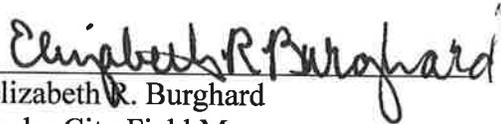
**Location: Beaver County, Utah**

**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Cedar City Field Office  
Phone: (435) 865-3000  
Fax: (435) 865-3058**



**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**  
**DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2016-0034-EA**  
***Minersville Reservoir OHV Trails***

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached Environmental Assessment (EA), and considering the significance criteria in 40 CFR 1508.27, I have determined that the Minersville Reservoir OHV Trails will not have a significant effect on the human environment. An environmental impact statement is therefore not required.

  
Elizabeth R. Burghard  
Cedar City Field Manager

5/10/16  
Date

**DECISION RECORD**  
**Environmental Assessment**  
***DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2016-0034-EA***  
***Minersville Reservoir OHV Trails***

**Authorities**

The authorities for this decision are contained in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of October 21, 1976 as amended and implementing regulations (90 Stat. 2743; 43 U.S.C. 1701, et seq.; 43 CFR 2800).

**Compliance and Monitoring**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will monitor the Minersville Reservoir OHV Trails to ensure compliance with the terms, conditions, and stipulations found in the attached environmental assessment (EA).

**Terms / Conditions / Stipulations**

The proposed action as described in the attached EA contains numerous design features to reduce impacts. These design features will be adhered to as part of this decision.

**Plan Conformance and Consistency**

The proposed action is subject to the Cedar Beaver Garfield Antimony Resource Management Plan, approved in 1986, as amended (CBGA RMP). The RMP states in Decisions B.1 and B.4, (pages 63 and 64): B.1, "Manage the CBGA planning area as an Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA), utilizing extensive, unstructured and custodial management principles"; and B.4, "Provide for interpretation of the recreational opportunities within the planning area emphasizing ORV use, rock hounding, hiking, and sightseeing opportunities and values." It has been determined that the proposed action and alternative would not conflict with other decisions throughout the plan. It is also in conformance by Lands Decision 3.1 (p.9) which provides that applications for use authorizations such as rights-of-way, leases, and permits be processed on a case-by-case basis. It also conforms to the greater sage-grouse Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments, approved in September, 2015, as documented in Appendix 5 of the attached EA.

**Alternatives Considered**

The only other alternative considered was the no action alternative, which was used as a baseline for comparison with the proposed action. No other alternatives were considered as there were no resource conflicts which could not be resolved in the proposed action.

**Public Involvement**

During preparation of the EA, the public was notified of the proposed action by posting on the Utah Internet Homepage on January 16, 2013. It was reposted on the BLM's eplanning website in April 2015. A public comment period was held in April and May 2016. Comments were received from the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA) during both the scoping and public comment period. Comments were received from

Beaver County during the public comment period. These comments and the BLM response are included in Appendix 6 of the attached EA.

### **Decision**

It is my decision to allow a temporary (not to exceed 3 months) right-of-way (ROW) grant to improve and maintain sections of existing routes open to motorized vehicle use, as described in environmental assessment DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2016-0034-EA. This decision was made after careful consideration of the proposal, specialist input and the project record. A designation of a route system is not being made at this time.

### **Rationale for Decision**

The routes identified in the proposed action are existing, currently utilized by OHVs, and are open to motorized vehicle use in the CBGA RMP. The upgrading and maintenance along portions of these routes will meet the purpose and need of the project by providing recreational users safer OHV trails when traveling to the Minersville Reservoir Park from Beaver and Minersville while also increasing visitation by locals and visitors to support the Beaver County Minersville Park economically. The leveling of the trail and installation of erosion control measures will protect the surrounding area from trail use.

### **Protest/Appeal**

All BLM decisions under 43 CFR 2800 remain in effect pending appeal unless the Secretary of the Interior rules otherwise, or as noted in this part. You may petition for a stay of a BLM decision under this part with the Office of Hearings and Appeals, Department of the Interior. Unless otherwise noted in this part, BLM will take no action on your application while your appeal is pending.

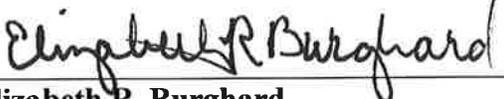
Any appeal of this decision must follow the procedures set forth in 43 CFR Part 4. Within 30 days of the decision, a notice of appeal must be filed in the office of the Authorized Officer at the Cedar City Field Office, 176 East D.L. Sargent Drive Cedar City, UT 84721. If a statement of reasons for the appeal is not included with the notice, it must be filed with the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, U.S. Department of the Interior, 801 North Quincy St., Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22203 within 30 days after the notice of appeal is filed with the Authorized Officer.

If you wish to file a petition for stay pursuant to 43 CFR Part 4.21(b), the petition for stay should accompany your notice of appeal and shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

1. The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied;
2. The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits;
3. The likelihood of irreparable harm to the appellant or resources if the stay is not granted; and
4. Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

If a petition for stay is submitted with the notice of appeal, a copy of the notice of appeal and petition for stay must be served on each party named in the decision from which the appeal is taken, and with the IBLA at the same time it is filed with the Authorized Officer.

A copy of the notice of appeal, any statement of reasons and all pertinent documents must be served on each adversely effected party named in the decision from which the appeal is taken and on the Office of the Regional Solicitor, U.S. Department of the Interior, 6201 Federal Building, 125 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84138-1180, not later than 15 days after filing the document with the Authorized Officer and/or IBLA.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Elizabeth R. Burghard  
Cedar City Field Office Manager

5/10/16  
Date

**Attachments: DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2016-0034-EA**



**United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management**

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**Environmental Assessment  
DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2016-0034-EA**

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**May 9, 2016**

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**MINERSVILLE RESERVOIR OHV TRAILS**

**Location: Beaver County, Utah**

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Cedar City Field Office  
176 East DL Sargent Drive  
Cedar City, Utah 84721  
435-865-3000



# **MINERSVILLE RESERVIOR OHV TRAILS**

## **DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2016-0034-EA**

### **CHAPTER 1**

## **INTRODUCTION AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This Environmental Assessment (EA) will address the identification of two Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) trails. The Tushar Mountain ATV Club and Beaver County have requested that the BLM identify two OHV trail routes for better access to the Minersville Reservoir Park. Most of the trails are in areas which are open to motorized cross-country travel. Travel in greater sage grouse priority habitat management areas (PHMA) is limited to existing routes unless otherwise authorized. No authorization is necessary to utilize these trails in their current state.

### **PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION**

The purpose and need of identifying the Beaver to Minersville Reservoir Park Trail and the Minersville Reservoir Park to Minersville Loop would be to improve safety for recreational users traveling to the Minersville Reservoir Park from Beaver and Minersville and increasing visitation by locals and visitors to support the Beaver County Minersville Park economically. Currently, the most used OHV access to Minersville State Park includes a pioneered track within the ROW for Highway 21. This proposal would increase safety for motorized travel by identifying an alternative to the highway for OHVs.

### **CONFORMANCE WITH BLM LAND USE PLAN(S)**

The proposed action described below is in conformance with the Cedar Beaver Garfield Antimony Resource Management Plan (CBGA RMP), approved June 10, 1986. Decisions B.1 and B.4, (pages 63 and 64) state: B.1, "Manage the CBGA planning area as an Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA), utilizing extensive, unstructured and custodial management principles"; and B.4, "Provide for interpretation of the recreational opportunities within the planning area emphasizing ORV use, rock hounding, hiking, and sightseeing opportunities and values." It has been determined that the proposed action would not conflict with other decisions throughout the plan.

### **RELATIONSHIPS TO STATUTES, REGULATIONS AND OTHER PLANS**

The proposed action is consistent with federal, state and local laws, regulations, and plans to the maximum extent possible, including the following:

- Title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of October 21, 1976 (90 Stat. 2776, 43 U.S.C. 1761) and the regulations issued there under at 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), part 2800.
- Utah Standards and Guidelines for Rangeland Health

- Title 54 U.S.C. § 306108 (commonly known as Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act)
- Memorandum of Understanding Between the BLM CCFO and Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah
- BLM Manual 6840- Special Status Species Management
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act

### **IDENTIFICATION OF ISSUES**

The Interdisciplinary Team Checklist is a checklist of all resources and issues considered by BLM staff (see checklist, Appendix 1). Resources which are expected to be affected by the proposed action are identified in the checklist. Livestock and wildlife could be affected by increased use along the routes, keeping them away from water sources, causing them to move out of the area and increasing the chance of collisions. Recreation could be affected by greater access to known recreation sites and improved facilities.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

This environmental assessment focuses on the proposed action and no action alternatives. Other alternatives were not considered because the issues identified during scoping did not indicate a need for additional alternatives or mitigation beyond those contained in the proposed action. The no action alternative is considered and analyzed to provide a baseline for comparison of the impacts of the proposed action.

#### **PROPOSED ACTION**

##### **General Description**

The proposed action is to identify two OHV trails: the Beaver to Minersville Reservoir Park Trail and the Minersville Reservoir Park to Minersville Loop (see appendices 2-4). The routes were determined using the four minimization criteria set forth by 43 CFR 8342.1(a-d) and would identify a route system consistent with land use allocations and resource concerns.

Both of the trails are in areas open to cross-country travel except in greater sage-grouse PHMA, where motorized travel is limited to existing routes unless otherwise authorized. No authorization is necessary to utilize these trails in their current state.

Both trails would follow existing routes and the majority would be left as is and signed. There are routes that would need minor repairs with the exception of a few identified segments on each trail that would need minor upgrades. Minor repairs would include fixing washed out sections, smoothing out center humps, installing drainage features such as waterbars, and limbing vegetation along the route. Minor upgrades may include the use of motorized equipment to improve the route by removing vegetation that has grown into the route, bench cutting, installing water drainage features such as berms or water bars, installing OHV cattle guards in fences, and making routes passable by 60-inch wide vehicles. All trail segments would be subject to trail maintenance with motorized equipment such as a trail dozer/road grader when needed due to rain events or when damaged by the passage of vehicles in wet periods of the year.

Trail maintenance would include smoothing out rutted routes, repairing washouts, limbing vegetation and replacing drainage features when needed. Trail maintenance may be completed with the use of mechanized equipment to remove trees and fix washed-out sections. All trails would be signed with fiberglass posts and wooden signs at major intersection as needed to direct riders and keep them on the trail. Interpretive, regulatory and trail information would be posted at the trailheads and major access points.

##### **Beaver to Minersville Reservoir Park OHV Trail**

The Beaver to Minersville Reservoir Park OHV Trail would identify a safer route for riders to access the Minersville Reservoir Park on OHVs. This OHV trail would follow existing routes varying in width from 8-foot wide two track routes to 12-foot wide paved and bladed and maintained roads. The route would be open to all types of motorized travel and would consist of the following route types:

Route Type	BLM Miles	State , County or Private Miles	Total Miles
Paved	0	0.44	0.44
Bladed and Maintained	2.2	5.7	7.9
60-inch OHV	0	0.27	0.27
Two-track (as is)	4.5	0	4.5
Two-track (Needing Upgrade)	.58 (1 acre new disturbance)	0	0.58

Total 13.69 Miles

### Minersville Reservoir Park to Minersville OHV Loop

The Minersville Reservoir Park to Minersville OHV Loop would identify OHV access to the Minersville Reservoir Park from Minersville and provide a loop to ride out of the park. This OHV trail would follow existing routes that vary in width from 60-inch OHV routes to 12-foot wide maintained and paved roads. The route would consist of the following.

Route Type	BLM Miles	State, County or Private Miles	Total Miles
Paved	0.30	1.4	1.7
Bladed and Maintained	7.4	2.4	9.8
60-inch OHV	1.7 (1-2 acres new disturbance)	0.8	2.5
Two-track (as is)	7.2	1.9	9.1

Total 23.1 Miles

The route would be open to all types of motorized travel except the 2.5 miles of OHV trail which would be restricted to 60 inch wide or less vehicles. The trail would be open year round for access to the Minersville Reservoir Park from Minersville or to be ridden as a loop out of the Minersville Reservoir Park. The Minersville Reservoir Park would be the trailhead for this segment of trail. All signs and kiosks with educational information would be placed within the park or outside of greater sage-grouse Priority Habitat Management Areas (PHMA).

### Special Recreation Permits (SRPs)

Both trails would be open for motorized and non-motorized commercial, competitive and organized events. All events would be subject to additional stipulations and adhere to the design features identified below.

### **Design Features to Reduce Impacts**

- Avoid construction / maintenance between December 1 and April 30 to protect crucial winter mule deer range.
- Complete wildlife surveys prior to any new ground disturbance.
- Complete surveys for nesting raptors prior to any SRP event and major construction or repairs of the routes, according to Best Management Practices for Raptors and Their Associated Habitats in Utah (BLM 2006).
- Complete a noxious weed inventory of the routes and trail head during signing activities. Weeds would be controlled along the routes by the BLM and Beaver County.
- Identify educational opportunities pertaining to noxious weeds at the kiosk/trailheads.
- Treat a minimum of 8 acres in the Greenville Bench rehabilitation project area to provide a net conservation gain of greater sage-grouse habitat.
- A Class III cultural survey would be completed before any new surface disturbing activity. Adverse effects to historic properties would be avoided or mitigated in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office.

### **No Action Alternative**

None of the trail changes identified in the proposed action would be implemented. Current management and recreational activities would continue in the vicinity of the trails.

### **Alternatives Considered but Not Analyzed in Detail**

Numerous routes were considered during creation of the proposed action. Most of these routes were not carried forward into the proposed action as they did not meet the four minimization criteria set forth by 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 8342.1(a-d) as completely as the proposed action.

## CHAPTER 3 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

### INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL SETTING

The affected environment was considered and analyzed by an interdisciplinary team as documented in the Interdisciplinary Team Checklist (Appendix 1). The checklist indicates which resources of concern are either not present in the project area or would not be impacted to a degree that requires detailed analysis. Resources which could be impacted to a level requiring further analysis are described in this chapter and impacts on these resources are analyzed in Chapter 4.

#### Livestock Grazing

The trails occur within four separate livestock grazing allotments (Greenville Bench, Minersville #1, Minersville #2 and Stewart). There are range improvement projects, such as fences, springs, water pipelines, and troughs to manage livestock grazing on the allotments.

Allotment	Active AUMs		Season of Use	Total Acres	BLM Acres
	Cattle	Sheep			
Greenville Bench	396	512	10/16-4/30	14,172	12,518
Minersville #1	3,020	0	4/16-10/15	46,779	36,911
Minersville #2	781	0	5/1-10/15	26,660	21,559
Stewart	194	0	04/16 -10/15	10,395	9,167

Livestock preference as reflected in existing permits for these allotments has remained essentially the same from 1983 to present. A 10-year term grazing permit has been full processed for the Greenville Bench Allotment, which resulted in adjustments to improve or maintain the vegetative condition within the allotment. Detailed information about the authorized livestock use within this allotment is provided in Term Grazing Permit Renewal EA EA-UT-040-06-41. The livestock grazing permits for the Minersville #1, Minersville #2 and Stewart allotments are still being processed. As these livestock grazing permits are evaluated, adjustments to the total number of AUMs of specified livestock grazing on each allotment, seasons-of-use and kind-of-livestock may be made.

Livestock in these allotments depend on springs, wells, pipelines, troughs and water hauling during the periods that livestock are present on the allotment. Several of these springs, wells, pipelines, troughs and water hauling locations occur along the proposed trails.

The trails also cross several fences that are necessary for livestock management. Gates and/or cattle guards along these fences allow for vehicles to cross the fences, but in some instances have become problematic as they are damaged or left open by those who use them.

#### Recreation

Recreation in the Minersville Reservoir Park area is mostly focused on motorized travel along with fishing on the Beaver River and at Minersville Reservoir. Beaver County is currently seeking to

attract more visitors to the park by providing more recreational opportunities such as a developed OHV trail system. The east side of Beaver County has the Paiute Trail system which benefits the county economically. This area is also heavily used during big game hunting seasons.

## **WILDLIFE**

### **Special Status Species**

No threatened, endangered or candidate species occur within the project area.

### **BLM Sensitive Species**

#### Greater Sage-Grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*)

Part of the project area is within the Bald Hills greater sage-grouse Priority Habitat Management Area (PHMA), occupied and brood-rearing habitat. There are no occupied leks within 3.1 miles of the proposed trail improvements. Approximately 2 acres of new disturbance would occur within the PHMA from the project.

#### Mule Deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*)

The Beaver to Minersville project area is within mapped crucial mule deer winter range. In fall and winter, mule deer shift their diet to shrubs including big sagebrush, black sagebrush, bitterbrush, Gambel oak and curleaf mountain mahogany.

#### Migratory Bird and Raptors

A variety of avian species have the potential to occur in the project area during the spring, summer, and fall months. A full list of the species that may be affected by the project can be found on the Information, Planning and Conservation System (IPAC).

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

#### **PROPOSED ACTION**

This section analyzes the impacts of the proposed action to those potentially impacting resources described in the Chapter 3.

#### **Livestock Grazing**

Use of the trails disturbs and displaces livestock from water resources and forage that occur along the routes. With the likely higher use from OHVs, the increased human presence would cause livestock to move away from key watering locations. Livestock have been shown to become accustomed to human presence after some time, so this displacement should be short term.

The trails cross several fences that are necessary for livestock management. The potential for gates being left open along the routes, allowing livestock to move to areas where they are not supposed to be, would increase along the trails if they were improved. Opened or damaged gates or cattle guards would allow livestock into pastures and allotments outside where they are authorized, which could result in the trespass of the livestock. Installation of additional cattle guards along the routes would minimize this impact.

#### **Recreation**

Identifying a route system would improve the sustainability of the travel network in a comprehensive manner, maintain motorist safety and prevent unauthorized cross country travel while meeting access needs. This would be accomplished by improving portions of the existing routes, thereby reducing the potential for pioneering unauthorized routes and providing a clear travel route to the park. The proposed action would improve the recreation opportunities for motorized users.

The east side of Beaver County has the Paiute Trail system which benefits the county economically and identifying and improving these trails would continue to add to this type of economic revenue in the county. Minersville Loop Trail would increase visitation to the Town of Minersville which has the potential to increase the sale of goods to those traveling through in the form of food and gas. The Minersville Reservoir Park also has the potential to increase visitation and revenue as more recreation opportunities become available immediately adjacent to the park.

#### **Wildlife**

OHVs can potentially have multiple impacts on wildlife. As well as the magnitude of the OHV recreation in an area, the timing, intermittency, seasonality and duration of impact can have major effects on wildlife lifecycles and behavior, impacting reproduction and species populations (Knight 1995). Use of the routes would disturb individual wildlife that occur in the vicinity of the project area. Although an increase in noise and human presence would occur from both OHV routes, impacts to wildlife would likely only increase slightly as the proposed OHV trails occur on existing routes. The project has the potential to remove 2 acres of wildlife habitat. Adhering to design features and completion of wildlife surveys identified in the proposed action would minimize impacts to wildlife.

An identified trail system has the potential to reduce impacts to sage-grouse habitat by providing a signed route for travel and focusing travel onto a single route. Additionally, an identified route would improve the sustainability of the travel network in a comprehensive manner to minimize impacts on greater sage-grouse, maintain motorist safety, and prevent unauthorized cross country travel while meeting access needs. Kiosks to educate the public about greater sage-grouse and potential conflicts with OHV use would benefit the species. Mitigation of the habitat loss and a detailed analysis of potential impacts to sage-grouse habitat can be found in Appendix 5.

## **NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE**

### **Livestock Grazing**

Most of the trails would likely continue to be used by OHVs; however, the use would likely be less concentrated under this alternative, reducing impacts to livestock using the area. Cattleguards might not be placed at road crossings and gates would likely continue to be left open.

### **Recreation**

Under the no action alternative neither trail segment would be signed or upgraded. Motorized travel to the Minersville Reservoir Park from Beaver and travel to Minersville from the Reservoir would continue to occur because travel is currently allowed along the proposed trails. Motorized travel would continue to occur in a dispersed fashion since riders would be determining their own route to the reservoir and over to Minersville from the reservoir. This dispersed type of travel may have a greater impact to resources rather than concentrating travel on to the proposed trail segments.

### **Wildlife**

Under the no action alternative it is expected that use by OHV recreationists would continue to use multiple routes, potentially fragmenting wildlife habitat. Without a focus on staying on these routes, there would be a greater likelihood of collisions with and disturbance to big game, migratory birds and raptors. Increases in use would be slower; however OHV travel in this area would continue.

## **CUMULATIVE IMPACTS**

### **Livestock Grazing**

Livestock grazing in the area has been affected by the increase in outdoor recreational activities including the use of OHVs for hunting, fishing, sightseeing and general access to the area. This increased use has made livestock management more difficult. Many livestock permittees use OHVs to move livestock from pasture to pasture. The increase of recreational use of OHVs has caused livestock to be displaced from water and forage sources or move through opened gates as the livestock reacted to the presence of people and the noise of vehicles and OHVs. The proposed action would help to alleviate these impacts by focusing OHV use on a single trail network, decreasing cross-country OHV use and installing additional cattle guards.

### **Recreation**

The two OHV trails would supplement the OHV trails available on the east side of Beaver County. The need for identified OHV trails is increasing in Beaver and Iron counties. Iron County has

recently submitted a proposed OHV trail plan for the northeast side of Iron County which would connect to these trails and plans to submit a proposed trail system for the whole county over the next few years.

### **Wildlife**

Recreation continues to increase in the Cedar City Field Office. The increase in outdoor recreation activities including OHV use have caused displacement and disturbance to wildlife, fragmentation of wildlife habitat and a reduction in foraging and resting areas especially during important fawning areas or during harsh conditions (extreme winter). Impacts to wildlife include a physical alteration of habitat; removal of vegetation or replacement of beneficial native species by disturbance-tolerant non-native species and noxious weeds; increased noise and other disturbance from the sight and sound of people. The proposed action would help to alleviate these impacts by focusing OHV use on a single trail network and decreasing cross-country OHV use.

## CHAPTER 5 PERSONS, GROUPS, AND AGENCIES CONSULTED

During preparation of the EA, the public was notified of the proposed action by posting on the Utah Internet Homepage on January 16, 2013. It was reposted on the BLM's eplanning website in April 2015. Comments were received from the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA) on April 8, 2016. Their comments are addressed in Appendix 6. A 15 day public comment period was offered beginning April 8, 2016. Comments were received Beaver County and on May 5 and 6, 2016, respectively. These comments and the BLM response are also contained in Appendix 6.

### List of Persons, Agencies and Organizations Consulted

Name	Purpose & Authorities for Consultation or Coordination	Findings & Conclusions
Utah State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)	Consultation for undertakings, as required by Title 54 U.S.C. § 300101 et seq. National Park Service and Related Programs (formerly known as the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966)	Consultation with SHPO has been initiated and is on-going regarding identification of historic properties and how they might be affected. No historic properties have been identified in areas of anticipated disturbance.
Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah	Consultation as required by the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 (42 USC 1531) and Title 54 U.S.C. § 300101 et seq. National Park Service and Related Programs (formerly known as the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966)	A meeting was held in January 22, 2015 to describe and discuss the concerns of the Tribe concerning the proposed action. The Tribe stated that they have no concerns with the project going forward, but would like to be kept informed of any changes or updates to the project.
Utah Div. of Wildlife Resources	Consult with UDWR as the agency with expertise on impacts on game species.	Data and analysis regarding big game species incorporated into Chapters 3 and 4.

### List of Preparers

BLM staff specialists who determined the affected resources for this document are listed in Appendix 1. Those who contributed further analysis in the body of this EA are listed in the table below.

#### List of BLM Preparers

Name	Title	Responsible for the Following Section(s) of this Document
Dave Jacobson	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation
Sheri Whitfield	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife, Special Status Species, Migratory Birds
Chad Hunter	Wild Horse Specialist/Range Management Specialist	Livestock
Gina Ginouves	NEPA and Planning	NEPA Review

## REFERENCES

Knick, St.T., and J.W. Connelly. 2011. Greater Sage-Grouse: ecology and conservation of a landscape species and its habitats. Studies in Avian Biology Series (Volume 38), University of California Press, Berkley, CA.

Knight, R., and D. Cole. 1995. Factors that influence wildlife responses to recreationists. Wildlife and Recreationists. Washington DC: Island Press.

## Appendix 1. Interdisciplinary Team Checklist

**Project Title:** BEAVER TO MINERSVILLE ATV TRAIL

**NEPA Log Number:** DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2015-0010-EA

**File/Serial Number:**

**Project Leader:** Jamie Palmer & Dave Jacobson

**DETERMINATION OF STAFF:** *(Choose one of the following abbreviated options for the left column)*

NP = not present in the area impacted by the proposed or alternative actions

NI = present, but not affected to a degree that detailed analysis is required

PI = present with potential for relevant impact that need to be analyzed in detail in the EA

NC = (DNAs only) actions and impacts not changed from those disclosed in the existing NEPA documents cited in Section D of the DNA form. The Rationale column may include NI and NP discussions.

**RESOURCES AND ISSUES CONSIDERED:**

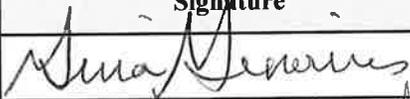
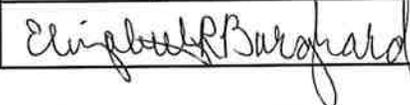
Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
NI	Air Quality	Impacts of the alternatives would essentially be the same as the current No Action. Essentially, there would be minor amounts of dust created from recreational users of the roads / trails. Under the action alternatives, there would be an unsubstantial amount of fugitive dust and exhaust emissions created from dozing.	C. Egerton	12/15/14
NI	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	None within Field Office boundaries..	D. Jacobson	12-8-2014
NI	Cultural Resources	No historic properties were found along the route during a Class III inventory.	Jamie Palmer	3/14/2016
NI	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	GHG levels would remain consistent with current levels. That is, insignificant compared to local and regional releases (eg State Road 21 and I-15).	C. Egerton	12/15/14
NI	Environmental Justice	The project will support the local tourism economy in the area.	D. Jacobson	12-8-2014
NP	Farmlands (Prime or Unique)	There may be farmlands capable soils in the area, but only if irrigation water was supplied. Where no irrigation water is supplied, no farmlands exist.	C. Egerton	12/15/14
PI	Fish and Wildlife	<b>Beaver to Minersville Res Trail:</b> (See Special Status Species section)  <b>Minersville Loop</b> Avoid construction / maintenance between December 1 and April 30 to protect crucial winter mule deer range.	S. Whitfield	01/16/15
NI	Floodplains	Maps of floodplains in Beaver County are not readily available. The Beaver River may be the only 100 year floodplain the trail crosses, but it does that over existing dams or bridges, therefore an NI determination.	C. Egerton	12/15/14
NI	Fuels/Fire Management	Historically, this area has been frequented by high intensity, fast moving, human and lightning caused fires. Kiosks designed as part of this project will help provide known contact points during such events. Despite the potential increase in recreational use in this area, the likelihood of	V. Tyler	2/17/14

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
		human caused fires should remain the same or decrease with the use of designated, maintained routes, especially in relation to potential cross-country travel which may occur without these user-requested routes.		
NI	Geology / Mineral Resources/Energy Production	There are no active or pending minerals authorizations coincident with the project areas. Federal oil and gas leases and unpatented mining claims cover portions of both areas but the proposed trails, which utilize existing trails, should not substantially interfere or impact any exploration activity that might be proposed.	E. Ginouves	12/15/14
NI	Hydrologic Conditions	Hydrologic conditions will remain relatively unchanged. Review of the maps reveals existing roads and trails and relatively mild slopes. If there are fall-line portions of the trail, consider installing properly designed water bars to minimize water erosion.	C. Egerton	12/15/14
PI/NI	Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds	The proposed action would potentially cause spreading of noxious weeds if along any portion of the route. With any disturbance and if there is a source to spread it, noxious weeds can invade. If motorist stay along existing roads and trails and avoid driving through patches of noxious weeds. This PI would change to an NI if it is stipulated that the proponent (tusher mountain atv club and Beaver County) monitor for noxious weeds and notify the BLM if any weeds occur along the route. The Cedar City Field Office currently has an aggressive noxious weed control program and annually removes large quantities of noxious weeds throughout BLM administered lands in Beaver County. The BLM coordinates with County, State and Federal agencies in order to locate, treat and monitor noxious weed infestations throughout the country.	J. Bulloch	12/15/14
NI	Lands/Access	Any pending or authorized lands and realty actions in the project area would not be substantially affected by the proposed action as long as measures are taken to assure all rights by grant, permit or lease holders are upheld. Prior to any surface disturbing activities in the vicinity of potential lands projects, the lands and realty staff should be notified to assist in locating existing or pending lands actions that may be impacted.  To prevent unwanted ATV usage at the Rocky Ford Communication Site it is recommended that these trails are adequately signage to prevent users from going to these sites, since the trails are adjacent to them.	M. Campeau	02/23/15
PI	Livestock Grazing	The proposed actions would disturb and displace livestock from water and vegetation. When the routes are in high use by OHVs livestock would be moved away from water and forage that occur next to the routes.  The potential for gates being left open along the routes, allowing livestock to move to area where they are not supposed to be would increase.	C. Hunter	12/11/14
PI	Migratory Birds	A variety of birds and raptors have been known to occur in the area. Complete surveys for nesting raptors prior to any SRP event and major construction or repairs of the routes, according to Best Management Practices for Raptors and Their Associated Habitats in Utah (BLM 2006).	S. Whitfield	01/16/15

<b>Determination</b>	<b>Resource</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>
NI	Native American Religious Concerns	Consultation with the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah took place on 1/22/2015. The Tribe did not have any concerns.	Jamie Palmer	1/26/2016
NI	Paleontology	The proposed trails cover a variety of surficial geologic formations, all of which fall into Class 1 (no potential) or Class 2 (low Potential) for fossil resources using the Bureau PFYC System. Given the superficial nature of the proposed activities and the low potential for fossil resources, no fossil resource impacts would be expected and no fossil-specific mitigation measures are recommended.	E. Ginouves	12/15/14
NI	Rangeland Health Standards	The projects are not expected to impact the Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines due to them being on existing roads and within existing areas of disturbance.	C. Hunter	12/11/14
PI	Recreation	The proposed trails will improve motorized recreation opportunities in Beaver County and support the local economy.	D. Jacobson	12-8-2014
NI	Socio-Economics	The project will support the local tourism economy in the area.	D. Jacobson	12-8-2014
NI	Soils	No substantial impacts to soils are expected because trails would be designated on previously disturbed (existing) roads and trails.	C. Egerton	12/15/14
NI	Special Status Plant Species	No Special Status Species occur within the project area.	S. Whitfield	02/23/16
PI	Special Status Animal Species	The project area is within brood-rearing and occupied greater sage-grouse habitat. The area is also within the Bald Hills Priority Habitat Management Area and the PHMA.	S. Whitfield	01/16/15
NI	Wastes (hazardous or solid)	There currently are no waste issues in the proposed area. The construction of a designated riding area will increase traffic, but not change any practices for wastes. Federal and State regulation will continue to govern the use, storage, disposal and/or mitigation of any waste streams or accidental release.	R. Peterson	12/12/14
NI	Water Resources/Quality (drinking/surface/ground)	The existing roads and trails are not known to impact water quality and it is anticipated that conditions would not change substantially with designation and minor maintenance of the roads and trails. No effect to groundwater.	C. Egerton	12/12/14
NI	Wetlands/Riparian Zones	The existing roads and trails are not known to impact riparian areas, and these conditions are not expected to change through the proposed trail loop and maintenance therein.	A. Stephens	02/15/15
NP	Wild and Scenic Rivers	None within Field Office boundaries.	D. Jacobson	12-8-2014
NP	Wilderness/WSA	The proposed action is not within or near Wilderness or a Wilderness Study Area	D. Jacobson	12-8-2014
NI	Woodland / Forestry	Impact to woodland resources would be minimal	J. Sathe	2-17-15
NI	Vegetation	Due to the trails being on existing roads and the rocky nature of the area the disturbance and loss of vegetation would be minimal.	C. Hunter	12/11/14
NI	Visual Resources	All of the Beaver to Minersville Reservoir and Loop trails are within VRM Class IV. The trails will meet the objectives of VRM Call IV.	D. Jacobson	12-8-2014
NI	Wild Horses	There are not any wild horse Herd Areas (HA) or Herd Management Areas (HMA) in or adjacent to the Minersville Reservoir project area.	C. Hunter	12/11/14

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
NP	Lands with Wilderness Characteristics	The proposed action is not within an area that has been identified as having wilderness characteristics. The Beaver to Minersville Loop cuts through Inventory Units UT-C010-035 & UT-C010-168 and follows the boundary road of UT-C010-169. Each of these units was not found to have wilderness characteristics in 1979, 2011 and the updated 2014 wilderness characteristics inventory.	D. Jacobson	12-8-2014

**FINAL REVIEW:**

Reviewer Title	Signature	Date	Comments
Environmental Coordinator		5/9/16	
Authorized Officer		5/9/16	

Special Status Wildlife Species are recognized by management under BLM's 6840 Manual and Instruction Memorandum No. UT-2007-078. These species are known to occur or to have a high probability of occurrence within the Great Basin Region based on habitat types within the proposed project area and Utah Natural Heritage Program Records of Occurrence. The table below provides a list of Threatened, Endangered and Candidate species that have the potential to occur in Beaver and Iron Counties.

FWS List provided by the Information, Planning and Conservation System (IPAC) February 21, 2015.

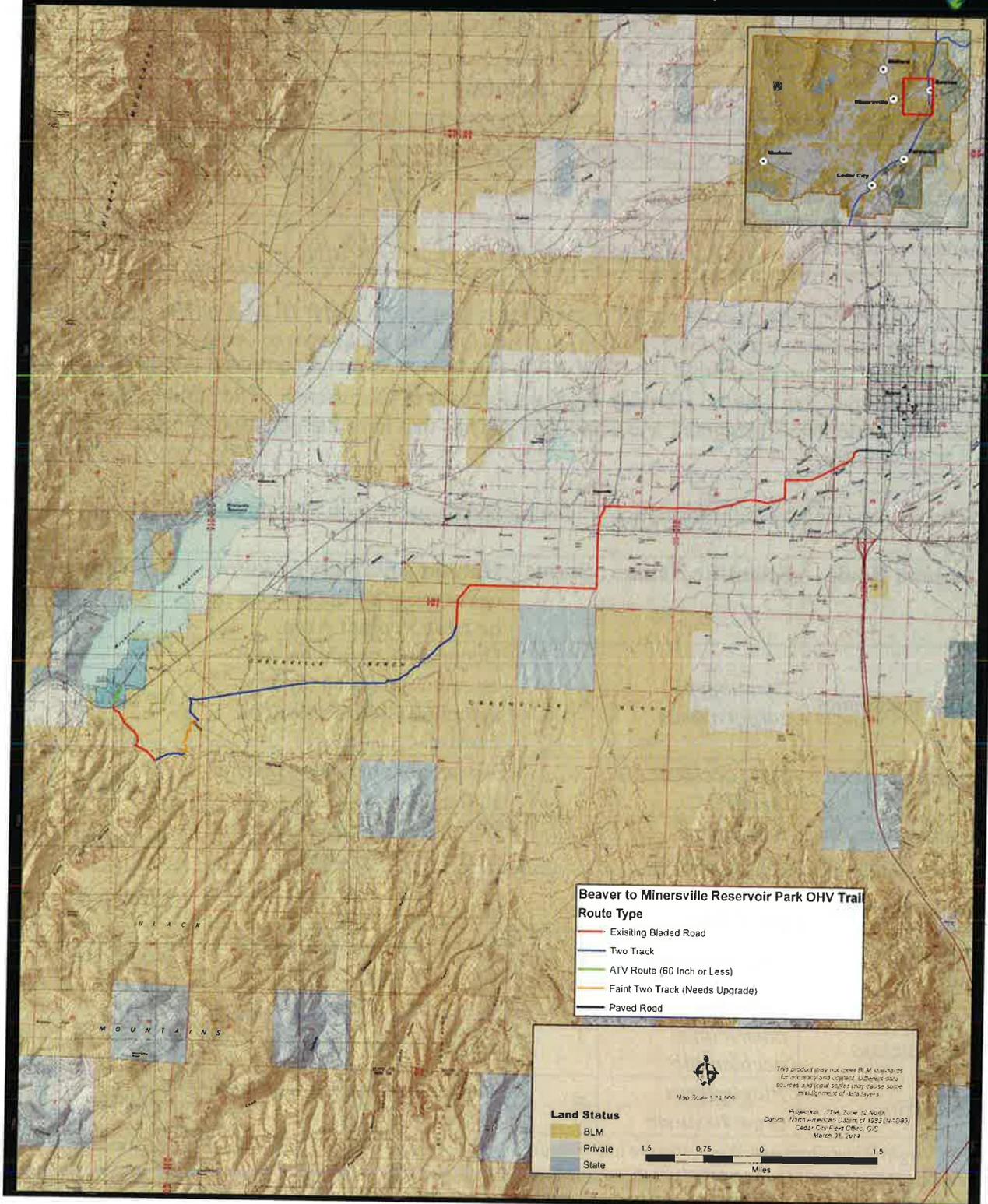
Common Name	Scientific Name	Status	Habitat suitability or know occurrence of the species in or near Project Area.	Determination
California condor	<i>Gymnogyps californianus</i>	E	Occurrence would be very rare and would be closely associated with feeding on carrion.	No Affect
Mexican spotted owl	<i>Strix occidentalis lucida</i>	T	No suitable habitat is present in the Project Areas.	No Affect
Southwestern willow flycatcher	<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>	E	No suitable habitat is present in the Project Areas.	No Affect
Utah prairie dog	<i>Cynomys parvidens</i>	T	No mapped habitat occurs in the Project Areas.	No Affect
Virgin River chub	<i>Gila seminude</i>	E	No suitable habitat is present in the Project Areas.	No Affect <sup>1</sup>
Western Yellow-billed cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i>	T	No suitable habitat is present in the Project Areas.	No Affect
Woundfin	<i>Plagopterus argentissimum</i>	E	No suitable habitat is present in the Project Areas.	No Affect <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The Virgin River chub and Woundfin are not present in Iron or Beaver counties. There would be no water depletion from a hydrologic unit (8-digit HUC) in these counties that is occupied by the species in an adjacent county. No further coordination with FWS is required.

# Appendix 2. Beaver to Minersville Reservoir Park OHV Trail

BLM Cedar City Field Office  
 Beaver to Minersville Reservoir Park OHV Trail

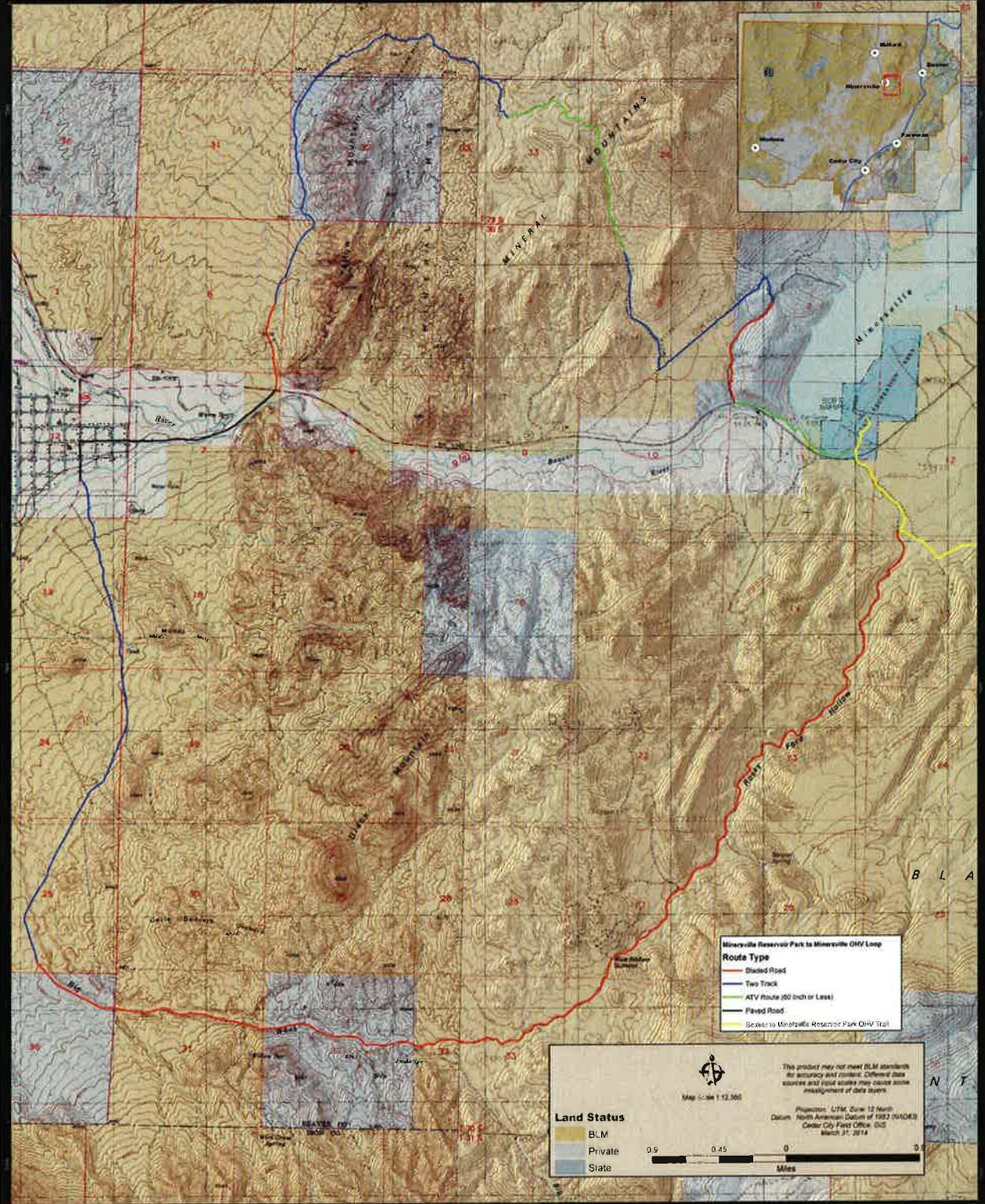
Bureau of Land Management  
 U.S. Department of the Interior



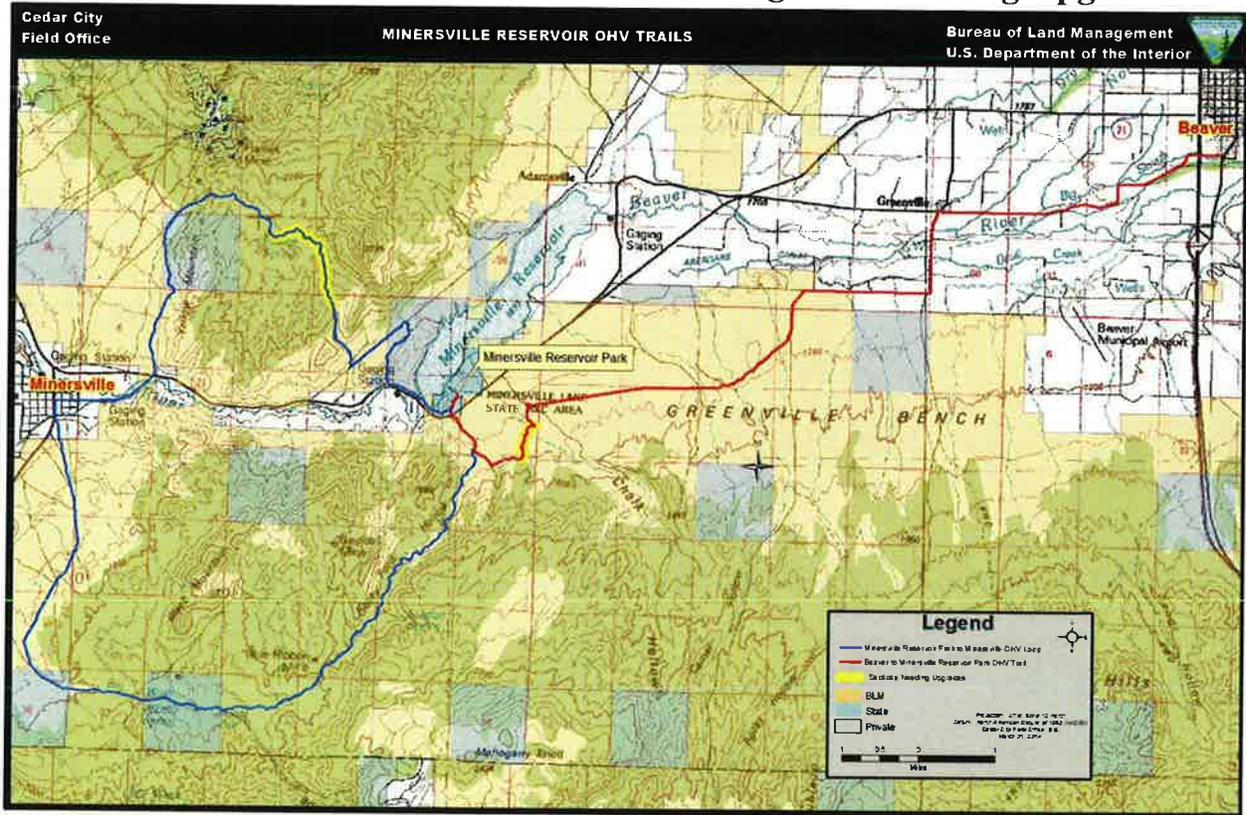
# Appendix 3. Minersville Reservoir Park to Minersville OHV Loop

BLM Cedar City Field Office  
Minersville Reservoir Park to Minersville OHV Loop

Bureau of Land Management  
U.S. Department of the Interior



# Appendix 4. Minersville Reservoir Trail Segments Needing Upgrades



## **Appendix 5. Greater Sage-grouse Analysis**

### **Project: Minersville Reservoir OHV Trails**

This appendix documents the conformance of the proposed action with the Greater Sage Grouse Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision (ROD) and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments (ARMPA) for Utah, approved in September 2015.

### **Project Overview**

The proposed action is to identify and improve two OHV trails: The Beaver to Minersville Reservoir Park Trail and the Minersville Reservoir Park to Minersville Loop.

Both trails would follow existing routes and the majority would be left as is and signed. There are routes that would need minor repairs with the exception of a few identified segments on each trail that would need minor upgrades. Minor repairs would include fixing washed out sections, smoothing out center humps, installing drainage features such as waterbars, and limbing vegetation along the route. Minor upgrades may include the use of motorized equipment to improve the route by removing vegetation that has grown into the route, bench cutting, installing water drainage features such as berms or water bars, installing OHV cattle guards in fences, and making routes passable by 60-inch wide vehicles. All trail segments would be subject to trail maintenance with motorized equipment such as a trail dozer/road grader when needed due to rain events or when damaged by the passage of vehicles in wet periods of the year.

Trail maintenance would include smoothing out rutted routes, repairing washouts, limbing vegetation and replacing drainage features when needed. Trail maintenance may be completed with the use of mechanized equipment to remove trees and fix washed out sections. All trails would be signed with fiberglass posts and wooden signs at major intersection as needed to direct riders and keep them on the trail. Interpretive, regulatory and trail information would be posted at the trailheads and major access points.

### **A. SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES DECISIONS**

#### **Net Conservation Gain**

An identified trail system has the potential to reduce impacts to sage-grouse habitat by providing a signed route for travel and focusing travel onto a single route. Additionally, an identified route would improve the sustainability of the travel network in a comprehensive manner to minimize impacts on greater sage-grouse, maintain motorist safety, and prevent unauthorized cross country travel while meeting access needs. Consequently, the project would have a neutral to positive impact to sage grouse habitat. Additionally, vegetation treatments are on-going in the PHMA (Greenville Bench projects), resulting in a net conservation gain to greater sage-grouse habitat.

#### **Disturbance Cap**

The project area contains one of the 18 threats listed in Table E.1 of the ARMPA. Approximately 2 acres of habitat loss would occur in the PHMA from an upgrade to an existing route. However, with this additional disturbance, the total would still be no more than 1.3% of the BSU, which contains 326,400 acres. For the project area of the proposed new surface disturbance, which

contains 22,187, approximately 158 acres would be disturbed, including the proposed action. This would be less than 1% of the project area.

**Habitat Degradation Factors (GRSG EIS Appendix E)**

<b>Disturbance Threat</b>	<b>Acres in BSU</b>	<b>Acreage in Project Area</b>
Energy (oil and gas wells and development facilities)	0	0
Energy (coal mines)	0	0
Energy (wind towers)	0	0
Energy (solar fields)	0	0
Energy (geothermal)	0	0
Mining (active locatable, leasable, and saleable developments)	Locatable: 0 Leasable: Saleable: 36	0
<b>Infrastructure (roads)</b>	<b>3228</b>	<b>153</b>
Infrastructure (railroads)	0	0
Infrastructure (power lines)	955	5
Infrastructure (communication towers)	19	0
Infrastructure (other vertical structures)	0	0
Other developed rights-of-way	MinMat Site: 22	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>4238 (1.3%)</b>	<b>158 (0.7%)</b>

**Density of Energy/Mining Facilities**

The project is not energy or mining related and as such is not one of the six types of project for which this MA applies; therefore density of energy and mining facilities [MA-SSS-3 (C)] does not apply to this site specific project proposal.

**Predation**

The project does not propose any new structures or facilities such as dumps or waste transfer stations that would propagate predation on grouse; therefore, predation [MA-SSS-3 (D)] does not apply to this site specific project proposal.

**Noise Restrictions**

N/A – No greater sage-grouse leks are within 3.1 miles of the proposed route identified in the proposed action.

**Tall Structure Restrictions**

The project does not propose any new tall structures; therefore, the tall structure restriction [MA-SSS-3 (F)] does not apply to this site specific project proposal.

**Seasonal Restrictions**

N/A – No greater sage grouse leks are within 3.1 miles of the proposed route identified in the proposed action.

### **Buffers**

N/A – No greater sage-grouse leks are within 3.1 miles of the proposed route identified in the proposed action.

### **Required Design Features**

There are no required design features applicable to this site specific project proposal as identified in Appendix C of the ARMPA.

### **Travel Management Actions**

The following are management actions related to travel management from the ARMPA which need to be considered in project implementation.

<b>ARMPA Management Action</b>	<b>Project Implementation</b>
MA-TTM-1: Lists acres open/closed and limited	The trail network is located in areas limited to existing routes.
MA-TTM-2: PHMA and GHMA that do not have designated routes in a Travel Management Plan will be managed as limited to existing routes until a Travel Management Plan (TMP) designates routes.	There is not a TMP in the area. The trail network would be limited to existing routes, with some minor upgrades.
MA-TTM-3: Implementation level travel planning efforts will be guided by the goals, objectives and guidelines outlined in the GRSG section, relevant national and Utah specific guidance	A TMP has not been initiated in the area. This action would have no bearing on future travel management planning in the area.
MA-TTM-4: In PHMA, complete transportation plans in accordance with National BLM Travel Management guidance	A TMP has not been initiated in the area. This action would have no bearing on future travel management planning in the area.
MA-TTM-5: In PHMA, travel systems will be managed with an emphasis on improving the sustainability of the travel network in a comprehensive manner to minimize impacts on GRSG, maintain motorist safety, and prevent unauthorized cross country travel while meeting access needs. To do so, it may be necessary to improve portions of existing routes, close existing routes or create new routes that meet user group needs, thereby reducing the potential for pioneering unauthorized routes. The emphasis of the comprehensive travel and transportation planning will be placed on having a neutral or positive effect on GRSG habitat.	The proposed action would improve existing travel routes in a manner to minimize impacts to GRSG by keeping all routes away from occupied leks. Improving and designating the route network should decrease cross-country travel in the PHMA. Consequently, the proposed action should have a positive effect on GRSG habitat.
MA-TTM-6: In PHMA, when considering upgrade of existing routes that will change route category or capacity, consider the larger transportation network while providing for protection of GRSG habitat.	The upgrades on existing routes would benefit GRSG habitat by focusing use on the network and reducing cross-country use elsewhere in the PHMA.

<p>MA-TTM-7: In PHMA, use existing roads, or realignments as described above to access valid existing rights that are not yet developed.</p>	<p>None of the existing routes are required to access a valid existing right.</p>
<p>MA-TTM-8: In PHMA, when reseeding roads, primitive roads and trails, use appropriate seed mixes and consider the use of transplanted sagebrush.</p>	<p>No reseeding is expected, as routes will be used into the future.</p>
<p>MA-TTM-9: Develop an educational process to advise OHV users of the potential for conflict with GRSG.</p>	<p>Kiosks developed for the project will be designed to educate the public about GRSG and potential conflicts with OHV use.</p>
<p>MA-TTM-10: In PHMA and GHMA, temporary closures will be considered....</p>	<p>No temporary closures would be required due to the distance from occupied leks.</p>

## Appendix 6. Public Comments

### Scoping Comments

Submitter	Comment	BLM Response
SUWA	<p>Here, a decision to designate new OHV trails or trail systems under any one of the proposed projects listed above would prejudice BLM's analysis of a range of management alternatives available to it in the CFFO RMP planning process. For example, approving new OHV routes or designating OHV route systems (including new and existing OHV trails) prior to completion of the RMP revision would limit BLM's ability to manage and protect lands with wilderness characteristics. In addition, designating routes or route systems could limit BLM's discretion to establish "closed" areas to OHV use and/or could limit its ability to designate new areas of critical environmental concern and protect those areas. Thus, BLM must finalize the revised RMP prior to analyzing the proposed OHV trails and trail systems.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The proposed trail system is not proposed in any areas found to have wilderness characteristics in the most current inventory.</li> <li>2. Identifying an OHV system now would not preclude the option of closing the area to OHV use or designating it as an ACEC in the future. Since the network would be a BLM-initiated project, it would not be considered a valid existing right. The range of alternatives in the RMP revision would not be limited by the identification of the route system.</li> </ol>
SUWA	<p>There is no question that the establishment of new OHV trails and trail systems, as well as the designation of so-called "existing" routes as part of an OHV route system, constitute undertakings that may have an adverse effect on historic properties and thus full compliance with the NHPA is required before any such designations may be approved. A Class III, on-the-ground inventory is required to achieve such compliance.</p>	<p>Consultation with SHPO has been initiated and is on-going regarding identification of historic properties and how they might be affected. No historic properties have been identified in areas of anticipated disturbance.</p>
SUWA	<p>Here, BLM must clearly document how it applied the minimization criteria on a route-by-route basis in determining which routes will be open to off-road vehicle use, and must make that information publicly available and subject to a public comment period.</p>	<p>As stated in the EA, the proposed routes were evaluated using the minimization criteria, and the proposed action contains routes which meet these criteria. By using existing routes, impacts to soil, watershed, vegetation, air and other resources would be minimized. The routes were chosen to minimize impacts to wildlife; especially TES species. The routes were specifically chosen to reduce conflicts with other recreational users and populated areas.</p>

**RESPONSE TO EA PUBLIC COMMENTS**

<b>Submitter</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>BLM Response</b>
SUWA	A decision to designate new OHV trails or trail systems, such as the Minersville Trails, would prejudice BLM’s analysis of a range of management alternatives available to it in the CFFO RMP planning process. For example, approving new OHV routes or designating OHV route systems (including new and existing OHV trails) prior to completion of the RMP revision would limit BLM’s ability to easily close the area to OHV use, once the “status quo” has shifted to an area where trails are designated and OHV use is advocated. Thus, BLM must finalize the revised RMP prior to analyzing the proposed Minersville Trails.	The proposed action does not designate an OHV route. It identifies a series of existing trails currently open to motorized vehicle use under the existing land use plan. The status quo would not be changed as no designation is being made and the routes are currently in use.
SUWA	Given the gravity of ongoing impacts to wildlife and other resources that BLM has identified if the area remains open to cross-country travel, which is included in the EA as a “no action” alternative, BLM should consider another alternative that closes the area to OHV use, which would have the most beneficial outcome in protecting sensitive species and cultural resources.	The area is open to motorized vehicle use under the existing land use plan. A decision to close existing OHV trails or trail systems, such as the Minersville Trails, would prejudice BLM’s analysis of a range of management alternatives available to it in the CFFO RMP planning process. Closing the routes would change the “status quo” from an area where OHV use is allowed to an area where OHV use is not allowed.
SUWA	The EA must include sufficient evidence to show the public how the minimization criteria were specifically applied to the Minersville Trails. BLM cannot merely state that “the proposed	The EA states how resources may be impacted and how these impacts are to be mitigated. If additional information is required, it can be requested from the field office.

	<p>routes were evaluated using the minimization criteria” without providing the public with a detailed discussion of how the criteria were applied in the decision-making process and how they affected the BLM’s final determination.</p>	
SUWA	<p>In April of this year, SUWA expressed its concerns regarding improper segmentation of several similar ATV trails projects appearing on BLM’s ePlanning website. The proposed Minersville Trail and staging areas connect directly to these other forthcoming ATV trail proposals within Iron County. See Attachment A and ePlanning notices and maps for Parowan Gap OHV Trails (DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2016-0036-EA), Markagunt OHV Trails (DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2016-0035-EA), and Frisco Kilns Restoration and ATV Access Trail (DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2016-0010-EA). NEPA requires that BLM analyze the entire interconnected trail system in one EA or EIS, rather than segment these trails into separate projects, as it has currently done. Failure to disclose and analyze the potential adverse impacts of the trail system as one project results in a direct violation of NEPA.</p>	<p>This concern is understandable. The BLM Cedar City Field Office has received several requests from various agencies recently to designate OHV trail networks. We are trying to balance the need to response to these publics without making decisions which could affect the range of alternatives in the on-going RMP effort. This is why we are offering to identify existing trail routes without making official OHV route designations. Upgrades or maintenance of the existing routes would be authorized under temporary rights-of-way, which would not establish a valid existing right by the time the RMP effort is completed.</p>
SUWA	<p>The proposed Minersville Trails constitute only a small portion of the BLM’s overall plans to designate a network of a new interconnected OHV trails. As discussed supra, BLM has improperly segmented the proposed trails into separate projects despite their interconnectedness. Considering all proposed trails as one project requires the preparation of an EIS</p>	<p>Existing routes open to motorized vehicle use are being identified but not designated. No authorization is needed to allow continued use of these existing routes. The only decision being made which is subject to NEPA is the upgrading or maintenance of portions of the existing routes. This does not constitute designating an extended route network.</p>

	<p>as the cumulative impacts of this trail network may be significant. Additionally, the overall project area contains known cultural resource sites, contains several routes are located in a priority habitat management area for greater sage-grouse, and has the potential to increase and consolidate motorized vehicle use that can disturb sensitive species. Finally, the designation of this new and extensive network of trails is also occurring while the CCFO is in the process of revising its RMP, and before it has developed a comprehensive travel plan, a decision to designate these trails could establish a precedent for future actions by BLM. Pursuant to NEPA and applicable regulations, BLM must prepare an EIS for the overall network of new trails, including the Minersville Trails portion.</p>	<p>If, after completion of the new RMP, an extended OHV network is designated, it will be subject to NEPA and the new RMP travel management decisions.</p>
Beaver County	<p>Beaver County stated support for the proposed action as it would improve recreation in the area and assist the county economically.</p>	<p>These benefits to the county are identified in the EA.</p>