



# United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Salt Lake Field Office  
2370 S Decker Lake Blvd.  
West Valley City, UT 84119-2022  
<http://www.blm.gov/utah>

In Reply Refer To:

8130/2800 (UTW010)

Dear Reader:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) to analyze the development of non-motorized trails to facilitate outdoor recreation opportunities on BLM-managed lands within three areas (an overview map is enclosed) including:

- 1) Lake Mountains, Utah County. Approximately 17,250 acres in Township 5 South, Range 1 West; Township 6 South, Range 1 West; Township 7 South, Range 1 West; Township 7 South, Range 1 East; Salt Lake Meridian.
- 2) North Oquirrh Management Area, Tooele County. Approximately 5,285 acres in Township 1 South, Range 4 West; Township 2 South, Range 4 West; Township 2 South, Range 3 West; Township 3 South, Range 4 West; Township 3 South, Range 3 West Salt Lake Meridian; west of the ridgeline and at elevations lower than approximately 6,200 feet.
- 3) Rose and Yellow Fork Canyons, Salt Lake County. Approximately 1,520 acres in Township 4 South, Range 2 West; Salt Lake Meridian.

The BLM recognizes the importance of providing quality recreation experiences on public lands that are adjacent to growing population centers. The BLM is coordinating with partner organizations in Tooele, Utah, and Salt Lake counties, including, but not limited to, the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program; Tooele County Trails Committee; Tooele County Health Department; Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation; Bike Utah; Eagle Mountain City; Utah Rock Art Research Association; local mountain biking organizations; other entities and the general public in identifying areas and stipulations for the appropriate construction of new, single-track, non-motorized trails. Interested parties are encouraged to self-identify during this scoping process by submitting comments.

The project would not change the availability of any existing motorized access but would facilitate the expansion of a non-motorized trail system that support hiking, biking, horseback riding, or other human-powered recreational uses. The trails would most likely be authorized under a right-of-way to a municipal government or other partner organization, and/or may be built with BLM and volunteer labor.

The EA is being prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, 43 CFR 2800, and other implementing regulations. The EA would analyze the anticipated environmental impacts from the development of non-motorized trails that could be situated to avoid or minimize impacts to identified sensitive resources within the overall project area. Trail development would follow industry standards such as Guidelines for a Quality

Trail Experience (BLM, IMBA 2017)<sup>1</sup> and comply with the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas<sup>2</sup>, as appropriate. Trail tread width would generally be between 12-36" wide; trails could be sited to avoid mature vegetation such as tall trees or bushes, but vegetation would be cleared for approximately 2-4 feet on either side of the trail. The BLM is also considering how to best comply with Secretarial Order 3376 – Increasing Recreational Opportunities through the Use of Electric Bikes<sup>3</sup>; the current proposed action would consider the use of Class 1 electric bicycles on appropriate trails.

The BLM anticipates that up to 25 miles of new, single-track, non-motorized trails would be constructed within the Lake Mountains, up to 15 miles would be constructed within the NOMA, and up to 10 miles would be constructed within Rose and Yellow Fork Canyons. The BLM will also consider associated needs for access easements from willing adjacent landowners, parking, signage and interpretive or area information, and for the sanitary disposal of human waste, which may necessitate the development of restroom facilities.

The BLM will identify appropriate stipulations to protect cultural resources, wildlife habitat, water quality, soils and vegetation, and other resources, and disclose impacts to resources that are present with a potential for relevant impact that need to be analyzed in detail in the EA.

In order to protect human safety, the BLM may also analyze an alternative that considers the removal of the historic and defunct tram building within the NOMA, pending consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and any identified consulting parties. The tram was constructed in the 1950s when KSL-TV installed a transmitter on top of Farnsworth Peak to transport technicians working on the transmitter site. The base building has been damaged by fire and vandalism in the years since the tram ceased operation. Under this alternative, only the dilapidated building at the bottom of the historic tramway would be removed, but structurally sound metal towers would be left in situ, and available for interpretative opportunities.

We invite you to submit comments on the proposed project through July 16, 2020. This process is being utilized to help refine the proposed action, clarify issues, and identify any new issues or alternatives. Comments on the project should be submitted through [BLM's ePlanning website](#)<sup>4</sup>. Only comments received within this timeframe will be considered in advance of the preparation of the EA. Please make your comments as specific as possible. An additional comment period is planned following the release of a draft EA, dependent on the level of public interest determined in the scoping period.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised 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 that we will be able to do so.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/Guidelines-for-a-Quality-Trail-Experience-2017.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/recreation-facilities/outdoor-developed-areas/final-guidelines-for-outdoor-developed-areas>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/elips/documents/so\\_3376\\_-\\_increasing\\_recreational\\_opportunities\\_through\\_the\\_use\\_of\\_electric\\_bikes\\_-508\\_0.pdf](https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/elips/documents/so_3376_-_increasing_recreational_opportunities_through_the_use_of_electric_bikes_-508_0.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Visit [www.eplanning.blm.gov](http://www.eplanning.blm.gov), then search Utah – Salt Lake Field Office – Environmental Assessment – Recreation and Visitor Services – 2020. A "Dear Reader" letter and additional maps are available on this site.

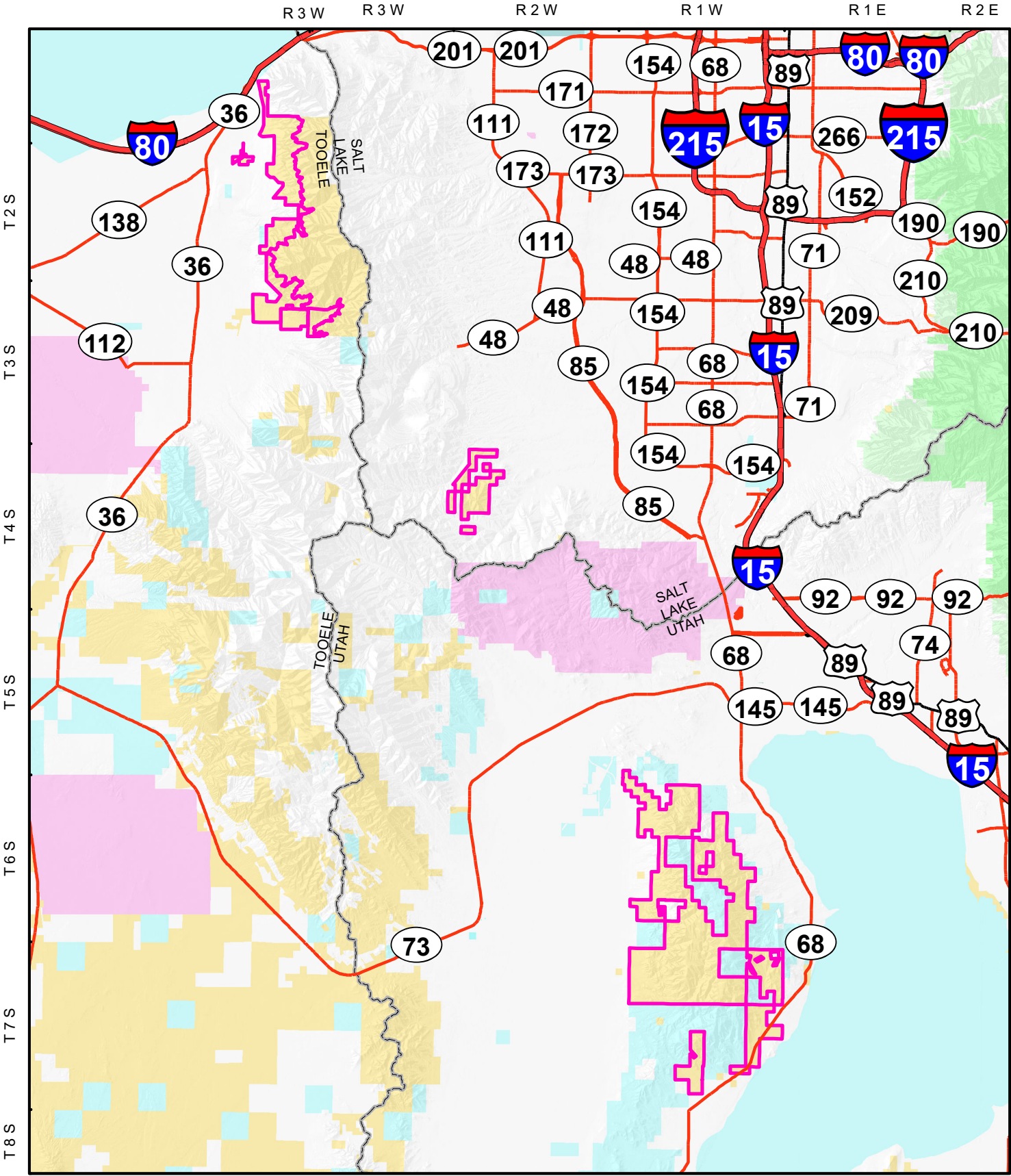
For further information about the Project or EA, please contact Roxanne Tea, Outdoor Recreation Planner, at (801) 977-4300 or rtea@blm.gov. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact these individuals during normal business hours. The FRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with one of these individuals. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

Sincerely,

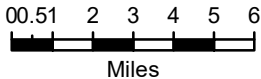
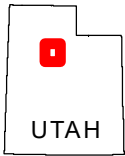
Allison Ginn  
Acting Field Manager

Enclosure: Map

Non-Motorized Trail Development Project Areas



- Project Area
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- Military Reservations and Corps of Engineers
- Private
- State
- State Parks and Recreation
- State Wildlife Reserve/Management Area
- US Forest Service (USFS)
- USFS Wilderness Area



June 21, 2020

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