News Release

BLM Utah Moab Field Office

Media Contact: Lisa Wilkolak (435) 259-2122 lwilkolak@blm.gov

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BLM seeks input on motorized routes in the Labyrinth Rims/Gemini Bridges area

MOAB, Utah – Travel and transportation are integral to the use and enjoyment of public lands. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is initiating an Environmental Assessment (EA) analyzing motorized access of public lands in the Labyrinth Rims/Gemini Bridges Travel Management Area (TMA), which covers approximately 303,993 acres in Grand County and has 1,232 miles of inventoried routes on BLM-managed lands. The EA will help BLM to provide a motorized transportation network to serve visitors and local communities, while protecting and sustaining natural resources. The BLM is scoping for additional information, issues, or resource concerns in the Labyrinth Rims/Gemini Bridges area March 24, 2021 through April 26, 2021.

The BLM posted an interactive map of the TMA to seek public input regarding knowledge and use of roads in the Labyrinth Rims/Gemini Bridges area. Using this information, the BLM worked with state and county government representatives to complete route evaluations. The EA will address topics related to motorized travel, including recreation, cultural resources, wildlife and fisheries habitat, soils and water quality, and wilderness characteristics. The BLM is now seeking additional public input, which may be used in formulating issues and alternatives in the environmental review.

Information about the project, as well as an interactive map are available on the BLM's ePlanning website: https://go.usa.gov/xs57Y. Feedback including new information or issues to be considered regarding specific routes is most helpful. Input may be mailed, emailed, or submitted through ePlanning:

<u>ePlanning:</u> Electronically through the ePlanning website at https://go.usa.gov/xs57Y.

<u>Mail:</u> Bureau of Land Management, attn: Labyrinth Rims, 82 East Dogwood, Moab, UT 84532

<u>Email:</u> blm.gov with the subject line "Labyrinth Rims"

For more information, please visit BLM Utah's travel management webpage at www.blm.gov/travel-and-transportation/utah or contact Todd Murdock at (435) 259-2100. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to leave a message or question. The FRS is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Replies are provided during normal business hours.

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land located primarily in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The agency's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. Diverse activities authorized on these lands generated \$111 billion in economic output across the country in fiscal year 2019—more than any other agency in the Department of the Interior. These activities supported more than 498,000 jobs.