

Facilitator(s): Cam Gale

Initial Evaluation Date: 1/4/2022

Evaluators: **Katie Stevens**, Outdoor Recreation Planner
Lori Hunsaker, Archaeologist
Todd Murdock, Outdoor Recreation Planner (Permits)
Jill Stephenson, Planning and Environmental Specialist
Nicolle Gaddis-Wyatt, New User

Bill Stevens, ORP - Wilderness/WSA/LWC
Gabe Bissonette, Aquatic Ecologist
Pam Riddle, Wildlife Biologist
Beth Lament, GIS Specialist

TMA:	Labyrinth Canyon/Gemini Bridges		
Length: 2.61 mi.	Width: Dual Track	Class: Primitive Roads	Use Level: Medium
Route Type(s):	Spur		
Surface:	None identified by IDT	Maintained:	None identified by IDT
Origin:	None identified by IDT	Constructed:	None identified by IDT
Jurisdictions:	BLM		

Additional Information: None.

General Evaluation Questions

Does this route:	
• either wholly or in part, have a right-of-way grant or is it simply an officially-recognized route maintained by a county or another government agency?	NO
• provide commercial, private property, or administrative access, e.g., via permit, ingress/egress rights or other jurisdictional responsibility?	YES
• provide a principal means of connectivity within a Travel Management Area or Management Zone?	NO
• exist as a result of a previous agency land use or implementation-level planning document decision and is managed as a transportation facility asset?	NO
• provide an important linkage between Travel Management Areas or Management Zones?	NO
Does this route provide network connectivity that contributes to recreational opportunities, access to specific recreation sites, public safety, or other public multi-use access opportunities enumerated in agency Organic laws?	
YES	
Might the continued use of this route potentially impact:	
• State or Federal special status species or their habitat?	YES
• cultural or any other specially-protected resources or objects identified in Agency planning documents?	YES
• any special area designations, e.g., National Monuments?	YES
• any other resources of concern?	YES
Can the anticipated potential impacts to the identified resources be avoided, minimized, i.e., reduced to acceptable levels, or be mitigated?	
YES	
Can the commercial, private property, recreation or public uses of this route be adequately met by another route or routes that may minimize impacts to the resources identified as part of this evaluation or that may minimize cumulative effects on various other resources?	
NO	

Evaluation Information

Commercial, Administrative, Property and Economics

The following items help to identify the purpose and need of this route. This route provides access to the following facilities and/or jurisdictions for the purpose of carrying out administrative and/or authorized operations or for jurisdictional access.

Primary Access *(leads directly to the listed jurisdiction or facility, and IS the main route used for access)*

Type	Description
Lease Facilities	R.S. 2477 claim
Range Facilities	Active Allotment

Alternate Access *(leads directly to the listed jurisdiction or facility, but IS NOT the main route used for access)*

Type	Description
None identified by IDT	

Link Access *(does not lead directly to the listed jurisdiction or facility, but is required to access a primary access route)*

Type	Description
None identified by IDT	

Recreational Uses

The following items help to identify the purpose and need of this route. This route:

- provides public travel access to the listed recreation sites using the listed travel modes, and/or
- provides for recreational activity and experience opportunities in the area, and/or
- provides important route network connectivity for recreational access between two or more other routes.

Primary Access/Uses *(main route used to access the destinations or use activities listed)*

Type	Description
Activities	Scenic Driving Photography
Modes of Transportation	Stock 4 Wheel Drive Modified 4 Wheel Drive UTV/ATV Motorcycle

Alternate Access / Secondary Uses *(used to access the destinations or use activities listed, but not considered the main route)*

Type	Description
None identified by IDT	

Link Access / Infrequent Uses *(rarely used to access the destinations or use activities listed)*

Type	Description
None identified by IDT	

Resource and Use Issues

The following items help to identify potential natural and cultural resource issues associated with the location and use of this route. This route is located in, leads to, crosses, or is within a set distance of the following resources or issues.

Resource Type	Description
Biomes	Crosses Pinyon-Juniper Crosses Grasslands Crosses Salt Desert Shrub Crosses Blackbrush
Managed Species	In Desert bighorn sheep yearlong habitat Within 1/4 mile of Desert bighorn sheep lambing area
Special Status Plants	Crosses Navajo sedge potential geology
Cultural Resources	Crosses Ineligible Site Crosses Historic Road
VRM/RSC	In VRM Class II - Retain existing character
Special Management Areas	In SRMA - Special Recreation Management Area
Water Resources	Crosses Ephemeral stream Within 150 yards of Spring/Seep
Misc. Resources	Crosses Erosive Soil - Moderate Potential (Wind) Within Boundary of Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Crosses High-Use Filming Location Crosses Erosive Soil - High Potential (Wind)

Note: Specific sensitive resources, such as cultural resources, paleontological resources, or threatened or endangered species are not listed in this report for their protection, but were considered during the evaluation of this route.

Potential Alternative Route Designations

Alternative A (Current Management, No Action Alternative)

Area Designation:

Limited to Designated Routes

Route Designation:

Open

Specific designations by user type:

OHV Public: **Designation per 43 CFR § 8342.1: Open** - The public may use this route by all motorized modes of transportation, year-round.

Non-motorized Public: The public may use this route by all non-motorized modes of transportation, year-round.

Authorized/Permitted Users: Authorized users may use this route by all modes of transportation, year-round.
Additional users may be authorized by the BLM through future authorizations.

Administrative/Official Users: All Federal, State and Local agencies may use this route by all modes of transportation, year-round.

Alternative B

Comprehensive Designation:

CLOSED

This route will be decommissioned and not managed as a BLM transportation asset. Unless otherwise signed, cross-country foot and animal use is allowed in the area.

OHV Public: Designation per 43 CFR § 8342.1: Closed

Specific Designation Criteria Addressed and Relevant to Route Issues:

- 43 CFR § 8342.1 (a) Areas and trails shall be located to minimize damage to soil, watershed, vegetation, air, or other resources of the public lands, and to prevent impairment of wilderness suitability.
- 43 CFR § 8342.1 (b) Areas and trails shall be located to minimize harassment of wildlife or significant disruption of wildlife habitats. Special attention will be given to protect endangered or threatened species and their habitats.
- 43 CFR § 8342.1 (c) Areas and trails shall be located to minimize conflicts between off-road vehicle use and other existing or proposed recreational uses of the same or neighboring public lands, and to ensure the compatibility of such uses with existing conditions in populated areas, taking into account noise and other factors.

How Designation Addresses Criteria Above: Closing the route would minimize the potential for conflicts between off-road vehicle users and dispersed, non-motorized/non-mechanized forms of recreation. Closing this route would minimize impacts to wildlife habitat by eliminating motorized uses (reducing the potential for harassment of wildlife) and removing the route footprint (reducing habitat fragmentation.) Closing this route would contribute to retaining or restoring vegetation and soil cover by eliminating motorized use and reducing the route footprint, thereby minimizing the potential for future soil erosion and vegetation damage. This route is a boundary to LWC. By closing this route, the potential for route-related impacts to LWC values of the segment would be minimized. This route is in close proximity to a spring. By closing the route and allowing it to reclaim, the potential for impacts to the spring from the route footprint would be minimized.

Designation Criteria Addressed but Not Relevant to Route Issues:

(no known conflicts among users or no known resource concerns to minimize for)

- 43 CFR § 8342.1 (d)

Closure Method: Natural Rehab

Alternative C

Comprehensive Designation:

OPEN

Specific designations by user type:

OHV Public: Designation per 43 CFR § 8342.1: Open - The public may use this route by all motorized modes of transportation, year-round.

Non-motorized Public: The public may use this route by all non-motorized modes of transportation, year-round.

Authorized/Permitted Users: Authorized users may use this route by all modes of transportation, year-round.
Additional users may be authorized by the BLM through future authorizations.

Administrative/Official Users: All Federal, State and Local agencies may use this route by all modes of transportation, year-round.

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How Designation Addresses Criteria Above: Allowing continued use of this route would minimize potential impacts to documented resources by concentrating motorized use (rather than dispersing it) on an alignment capable of accommodating the route's anticipated traffic volume. Allowing continued use of this existing route, which provides the best access to range improvements, would minimize the potential for new disturbances to documented resources from cross-country use or the need for construction of new routes to provide similar access. This route provides primary access to State and/or private property and its use may or may not minimize potential impacts to documented resources. Continued use of this route would minimize conflicts among various users of public land by providing access to other public land areas beyond the urban interface, reducing user concentrations and the potential for impacts to documented resources within the urban interface. Due to the low traffic volume and speeds expected on this route, allowing its continued use would contribute to minimizing the overall route network's potential for causing undue and unnecessary soil erosion, habitat disruption and/or vegetative damage. By providing a critical trail connection that would minimize the inclination to travel off-trail, potential impacts on T&E species and their habitats would be reduced.

Designation Criteria Addressed but Not Relevant to Route Issues:

(no known conflicts among users or no known resource concerns to minimize for)

- 43 CFR § 8342.1 (d)

Alternative D

Comprehensive Designation:

OPEN

Specific designations by user type:

OHV Public: Designation per 43 CFR § 8342.1: Open - The public may use this route by all motorized modes of transportation, year-round.

Non-motorized Public: The public may use this route by all non-motorized modes of transportation, year-round.

Authorized/Permitted Users: Authorized users may use this route by all modes of transportation, year-round.
Additional users may be authorized by the BLM through future authorizations.

Administrative/Official Users: All Federal, State and Local agencies may use this route by all modes of transportation, year-round.

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