

Facilitator(s): Cam Gale; Tom Folks

Initial Evaluation Date: 3/14/2019

Evaluators: **Bill Stevens**, ORP - Wilderness/WSA/LWC
Todd Murdock, Outdoor Recreation Planner (Permits)
Lisa Wilkolak, Realty Specialist
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Ashley Losey, Archaeologist
Katherina Diemer, NRS
Greg Halliday, County Council
Bill Jackson, County Roads

Doug Wight, GIS Specialist
David Williams, Range Conservationist
Pam Riddle, Wildlife Biologist
Adam Robison, Resource Specialist
David Pals, Geologist
Katie Stevens, Outdoor Recreation Planner
Jordan Davis, Assistant Field Manager
Shea Owens, Policy Analyst

| | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| TMA: | Labyrinth Canyon/Gemini Bridges | | |
| Length: 0.53 mi. | Width: Dual Track | Class: Primitive Roads | Use Level: Low |
| 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 |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Recreation Destination | Campsite - Undeveloped |
| Activities | Scenic Driving |
| | Photography |
| | Camping |
| 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 | In Pinyon-Juniper |
| Managed Species | In Desert bighorn sheep yearlong habitat Within 1/4 mile of Desert bighorn sheep lambing area |
| Special Status Plants | In Raptor nest In Jones cycladenia modeled potential habitat |
| VRM/RSC | In Navajo sedge potential geology |
| Special Management Areas | In VRM Class II - Retain existing character In SRMA - Special Recreation Management Area |
| Misc. Resources | In Erosive Soil - Moderate Potential (Wind) Within of Lands with Wilderness Characteristics |
| Resource Issues | In Route Proliferation |

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:

OPEN W/ MANAGEMENT

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.

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: 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. 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. 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. 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. Route provides access to unique and/or exceptional recreational opportunities without causing greater than minimal adverse effects on documented resources.

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)

Potential Management Actions:

Mitigation: Signing - Regulatory

Monitoring: Route proliferation; Unauthorized camping

Potential management actions may be incorporated with an overall monitoring strategy that would assess the status and/or integrity of the potentially impacted sensitive resource or resource issues identified as they relate to various external factors, e.g., climate cycles, exotic species introduction, visitor use levels (type, intensity, and season of use), etc. Monitoring data that indicate a decline in resource integrity or reveal methods of mitigation that proved to be unsuccessful would then trigger adaptive and appropriate responses aimed at restoring integrity or successfully mitigating undesirable conditions.

Alternative C

Comprehensive Designation:

OPEN W/ MANAGEMENT

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.

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.
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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.

Designation Criteria Addressed and Relevant to Route Issues:

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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. 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. Route provides access to unique and/or exceptional recreational opportunities without causing greater than minimal adverse effects on documented resources. 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. 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.

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