

Facilitator(s): Cam Gale; Tom Folks

Initial Evaluation Date: 4/8/2019

Evaluators: **Bill Stevens**, ORP - Wilderness/WSA/LWC

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Brian Mueller, Acting Field Manager

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TMA:	Labyrinth Canyon/Gemini Bridges		
Length: 1.6 mi.	Width: Dual Track	Class: Primitive Roads	Use Level: Medium
Route Type(s):	Connector		
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
	Jeeping/4-Wheeling
Modes of Transportation	Stock 4 Wheel Drive
	UTV/ATV

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

Type	Description
Modes of Transportation	Motorcycle

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 Crosses Blackbrush
Managed Species	In Desert bighorn sheep yearlong habitat In Desert bighorn sheep lambing area
Special Status Plants	In Navajo sedge potential geology In Jones cycladenia modeled potential habitat
VRM/RSC	In VRM Class III - Partially Retain existing char.
Special Management Areas	In SRMA - Special Recreation Management Area
Water Resources	Within 1/4 mile of Ephemeral stream
Misc. Resources	Within of Lands with Wilderness Characteristics
Resource Issues	In Erosive Soil - Moderate Potential 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:

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.

How Designation Addresses Criteria Above: Closing this route would contribute to retaining or restoring vegetation and soil cover, minimizing the potential for soil erosion. Closing the route would reduce the potential for impacts to endangered or threatened species and their habitats by eliminating motorized use and removing the route footprint. Closing this route would enhance wildlife habitat by eliminating motorized use and removing the route footprint.

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 (c)
- 43 CFR § 8342.1 (d)

Closure Method: Sign Closed; Natural rehabilitation

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.
- 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.

How Designation Addresses Criteria Above: 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. Allowing continued use of this route would minimize the potential for impacts to documented resources by providing targeted recreation activity and experience opportunities that reduce or eliminate the inclination for users to travel off-route. Continued use of this route with the added application of specific management prescriptions, would minimize potential impacts to 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 (c)
- 43 CFR § 8342.1 (d)

Potential Management Actions:

Maintenance: Signing - Directional

Mitigation: Signing - Regulatory

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 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:

- 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: 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. This route is important for network connectivity, serving commercial and recreation users in this area. Allowing continued use of this route would minimize potential impacts to documented resources by providing a common access into or across the area on a pre-existing route, reducing the potential for new disturbances from cross-country use or the need for construction of new routes to provide similar access.

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)