

Facilitator(s): Cam Gale; Tom Folks

Initial Evaluation Date: 3/13/2019

<p>Evaluators:</p> <p>Bill Stevens, ORP - Wilderness/WSA/LWC</p> <p>Todd Murdock, Outdoor Recreation Planner (Permits)</p> <p>Lisa Wilkolak, Realty Specialist</p> <p>Gabe Bissonette, Aquatic Ecologist</p> <p>Ashley Losey, Archaeologist</p> <p>David Pals, Geologist</p> <p>Katie Stevens, Outdoor Recreation Planner</p> <p>Jordan Davis, Assistant Field Manager</p>	<p>Doug Wight, GIS Specialist</p> <p>David Williams, Range Conservationist</p> <p>Pam Riddle, Wildlife Biologist</p> <p>Adam Robison, Resource Specialist</p> <p>Mark Boshell, Policy Analyst</p> <p>Katherina Diemer, NRS</p> <p>Greg Halliday, County Council</p> <p>Bill Jackson, County Roads</p>
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TMA:	Labyrinth Canyon/Gemini Bridges		
Length: 3.21 mi.	Width: Dual Track	Class: Primitive Roads	Use Level: Low
Route Type(s):	Connector; 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
Mineral Facilities	Mining Claim

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	Jeep Safari Trail System
Activities	Jeeping/4-Wheeling
	Motorcycling
	Scenic Driving
	4WD Organized Event (Easter Jeep Safari only)
Modes of Transportation	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 Crosses Blackbrush Crosses Salt Desert Shrub Within 1/4 mile of Riparian/Wetlands
Managed Species	In Desert bighorn sheep yearlong habitat In Desert bighorn sheep lambing area In Peregrine falcon nest
Special Status Plants	In Jones cycladenia modeled potential habitat In Navajo sedge potential geology
VRM/RSC	In VRM Class II - Retain existing character
Special Management Areas	In SRMA - Special Recreation Management Area In Recreation Management Zone In Habitat Management Area (Potash Confluence HMA) In BHCA - Bird Habitat Conservation Area
Water Resources	Crosses Ephemeral stream Within 1/4 mile of Riparian/Wetland
Misc. Resources	In Lands with Wilderness Characteristics In Erosive Soil - Moderate Potential (Wind) In High-Use Filming Location
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:

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, along with natural reclamation, would reduce visual contrast created by the route. Closing this route would contribute to retaining or restoring vegetation and soil cover, minimizing the potential for soil erosion. Closing this route would reduce overall impact of vehicle use and route footprint in the area. Closing the route would reduce the potential for impacts to endangered or threatened species (bighorn lambing) and their habitats by eliminating motorized use and removing the route footprint. Closing this route minimizes the potential for route proliferation on public land. By closing the route, the potential for future impacts to documented wilderness character and impairment of wilderness suitability would be minimized while wilderness characteristics of naturalness and opportunities for solitude would be enhanced.

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	
<u>Comprehensive Designation:</u> LIMITED W/ MANAGEMENT	<u>Comprehensive Designation Type:</u> This designation limits when this route can be utilized.
<u>Vehicle limits by user type:</u>	
OHV Public:	<u>Designation per 43 CFR § 8342.1: Limited</u> - The public may use this route by all motorized modes of transportation. Seasonal restrictions may apply.
Non-motorized Public:	The public may use this route by all non-motorized modes of transportation. Seasonal restrictions may apply.
Authorized/Permitted Users:	Currently authorized users may use this route by all modes of transportation. Seasonal restrictions may apply. <i>Additional users may be authorized by the BLM through future authorizations.</i>
Administrative/Official Users:	All Federal, State and Local agencies may use this route by all modes of transportation. Seasonal restrictions may apply.
<u>Seasonal restrictions:</u> This route is closed to motorized use from April 1 to June 15. This seasonal limit aims to mitigate the potential effects of this route on Bighorn sheep; Peregrine falcon; Migratory birds reproductive areas. Motorized use of this route by currently authorized users and administrative users is allowed during this seasonal closure.	
<u>Designation Criteria Addressed and Relevant to Route Issues:</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.	
<u>How Designation Addresses Criteria Above:</u> Limiting motorized access on this route would minimize potential for impacts to wildlife habitats. By limiting motorized access on this route, traffic volume in the area would be reduced, minimizing the potential for harassment of wildlife. 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.	
<u>Designation Criteria Addressed but Not Relevant to Route Issues:</u> <i>(no known conflicts among users or no known resource concerns to minimize for)</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 43 CFR § 8342.1 (c)• 43 CFR § 8342.1 (d)	
<u>Potential Management Actions:</u>	
Mitigation: Signing - Regulatory	
Monitoring: Route proliferation	
<i>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.</i>	

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.

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

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)