

**Sand Flats Recreation Area (SFRA)**  
**Stewardship Committee Meeting Minutes**  
Held virtually on Zoom  
**Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022**  
**3:00 pm**

**In Attendance:**

SFRA Staff:

- Andrea Brand (AB) Director
- Matt Olding (MO)

BLM:

- Katie Stevens (KS)

Stewardship Committee Members:

- Mike Kelso (MK)
- Tom Dillon (TD)
- Dale Parriott (DP)

**Call to Order**

3:00 pm

**Approval of Minutes**

AB- Will have ready for December meeting

**Agency Reports**

Budget 2022

AB-Revenue is compared with 2019 as recommended by Kevin Walker, GC commissioner and mathematician. Through August 2022, down 14% compared to 2021 but up 4% compared to 2019. Last year up 24% compared to 2019. Doing fine.

KS- This trend in the graph is reflected everywhere. Agree with Kevin that needs to compare with 2019. We are down 10% across the board from 2021 but up a little compared to 2019.

Deadhorse had over a million visitors in 2021 but have come down as well. They have a really good counting system.

AB- Balance sheet- \$700,000 in the combined cash fund. Some things will still come out of the Capital improvement budget which shows \$122,000 now. Parking lot will be \$10,000 more and then painting of the toilets will be \$16,000. Not \$250,000 budgeted. Salaries and benefits fine.

Vehicle maintenance up some. Road dept. doesn't do maintenance of the UTVs. Insurance is up 150% because have now been charged until June of next year as this is the way the state does it.

Inventory office, bought some chairs for the booth. Utilities costs up some, Rocky Mountain Power credit used up.

## Proposed Budget 2023

Updated budget sheet- \$808,701 total projected for end of year revenue and grant and interest. \$814,497 is projected for 2023 based on 5 year average. Chris Baird will also look at these numbers and review these projections. I think the projection is low.

DP- I think everything is going to go up.

KS- Also you will bring in more revenue with the fee increase and this should cover the increase in costs.

AB- Projected increase for wages has been calculated at 8.3 % which is expected COLA increase. Utilities to \$6,000 from \$4,000. Just got our second lease vehicle. MO said it is nice, smaller to maneuver in the campgrounds. Under \$10,000 this year in lease costs but next year \$16,000. Contract toilet services \$70,000. Zurich is waiting to hear back from sewage plant to see if rates need to go up. Accounting and Bookkeeping fees may go up according to Chris Baird. He said the state auditor is looking at that. This budget is for Treasurer's office to process our revenue. Clerk's office to process SFRA's paychecks and billing. Pays for Sand Flats employee HR needs too. Road dept., Travel Council and SFRA pay these fees. Dumping fees may go up; they are hoping 2.5 % and not 5%. Fuel left the same. Printing and Publishing budget- will print main brochures. Capital improvements- \$160,000 projected for 2022, did not make improvements to entrance station. Next year entrance may have improvements and maybe a carport at the office. GCATT would like shade. Don't know who is paying for it. AB got quotes a few years ago for \$30,000, allowed \$50,000. But \$150,000 for entrance might be low. \$175,000 booth and \$25,000 for carport. KS and MK- Looks good and reasonable projections.

## Citizens to be Heard

No citizens to be heard

## Presentation

## Consent Agenda

## General Business- Action Items

## Discussion Items

Follow up from previous meeting:

- Introduction to Sand Flats video-Film put together but the narration is not done yet. John Marshall will now be the narrator. John narrated the 4x4 video. It will be finished this winter and in time for spring. Good video on our website and maybe on the TV station and Travel Council too.
- Parking lot expansion project- Working fine. We were dealing with fixing the culverts which are now done after concrete boxes were installed and then reinstalled at the proper level for drainage. No additional cost, contractor, not engineer, messed up on the height.
- Sand Flats entrance area and Sand Flats road

AB- RAISE grant was not awarded this year either but Chris Baird wants us to apply again in spring of 2023. The FLAP, Federal Lands Access Program grant would be best match, but not open again until 2025. We are on the UDOT list as number 10. Days Crack area would require blasting. KS- Or be traffic light controlled. AB- Could just go to Falcon Flow parking lot but Road dept. had grant written to pave with road and bike lanes to Porcupine Rim. KS- Ask big or ask small. Governors' infrastructure grant a good match? AB- It didn't look like a good fit. I spoke with Ryan Holyoak of LeGrand and he said that the surface we currently have is less expensive and if we used this same type of material up to Falcon Flow it would be half the cost. KS- Maybe it's better to go with a less expensive choice and get it done. AB- Ryan said we have a good base, it is not like you are building a new road.

- Raptor route update

AB- Hawk's Glide being built now by GCATT. BLM finished NEPA. KS- They will build the Kestrel route in the spring, NEPA is not done for that section yet. They need to get Hawk's Glide finished by November 15<sup>th</sup> because of deer winter range. On Public Lands Day Grand County Mountain Bike team volunteers helped work on the trail. Bike shop employees are volunteering during the week too. AB- Not that many rescues on Whole Enchilada but the time and labor required is a lot. KS- Raptor route offers options and you are never more than 2 miles from the Sand Flats road. When GCATT builds trails they really want to build them right to limit work later.

- Sand Flats application for International Dark Sky Park

AB- Crystal White held 1 event instead of 4 because of all the cloudy nights this summer. We have all the proper light fixtures now and they will be installed after the fall season.

- Responsible Recreation program updates

AB- Travel Council purchased an account through Wander App. DiscoverMoab's information and maps will be transferred into this app. Many other apps are created without land manager input. SFRA, Travel Council, GCATT, NPS and BLM will work together to make this app, one accurate resource on trail maps and also hotels, restaurants, outfitters, etc.

- Biological soil crusts and Ephemeral pools videos

AB- I helped convince the Responsible Recreation committee to support the production of educational films on ephemeral pools and biological soil crusts. Mark Finley was in Moab in the spring and summer. He was in Arches, Canyonlands and SFRA and got some great footage of fairy and tadpole shrimp with his macro lenses. Moab Living Soils- Ready to go, Maddie is happy with it Christina Young, Science Moab and Sasha from USGS happy with it and it will be on the Travel Council site in a week or so.

- Grand County/State partnership on HB180 UTV test

AB- Test will be online January 2023. Questions are completed and videos that I worked on with Mark Finley have been edited. Everyone that comes to Utah that wants to go on the trails with their OHV will need to take the test. MO- It is a mandatory test then? AB- Yes, if you want to rent an OHV or register your OHV you have to take the test. You answer some 26 questions and watch 5 short educational videos. Nice in that if you get it wrong it has educational info to help you get the right answer. Hoping folks would have to do the test every 2-3 years like Defensive driving but it is a once in a lifetime test now. MO- Does any other state require this? AB- Not sure. MO- In Silverton Colorado you cannot ride your OHV through town but in Ouray you still can. AB- The test has good

information- Why you should trailer your OHV, not go through neighborhoods at night. We worked with the state, GCATT, Travel Council, GC commissioners and Brett Stewart, President of OHV Utah. The test uses four of our 5 Tips videos. When I had the 5 Tips video made in 2019 my goal was to get it into the rental shops. And now half a million people will view it.

- Painting contract  
AB-Contractor has painted the toilets at Slickrock and Hell's Revenge and campground B toilet are being painted inside and out this week. New trays will be installed under the sanitizer dispensers as the alcohol is dripping onto the floor and peeling the paint.
- Office pollinator garden  
AB- November or next year

## New Topics

- Monsoon damage and repair  
AB- Shows photos of wash outs from monsoon. One section on the Sand Flats road near Falcon Flow washed out twice. There was a rock fall into the road before Porcupine Rim trailhead. Road department has been making repairs as they can.
- Grand County Commission updates  
AB- No updates from County Commission
- BLM updates  
KS- In relation to SFRA, thanks to Jason Turner for leading Public Lands Day Volunteer day. Thanks to Mike Kelso for work out by Monitor Merrimac. We appreciate SFRA and how well things are run. AB- I have an awesome crew that have really stepped up this year with all the challenges I have had, so appreciate them. Discussion on Staircase route and "Haircut" section and adding post. KS- Discussion of closing all 4x4 trails and Slickrock at sunset. Recommendation to close all 4x4 trails was in the County commission letter and then the BLM added Slickrock because of its proximity to campground B and because it is a motorized trail. AB- Jason has been working with the BLM on the counters to track nighttime use on the trails. MK- It is a safety issue. KS- Amount of damage that occurs when you can't see has to be higher. Trails are not marked for night time use. MK- Campers deserve not to have vehicles going up and down the road. AB- Violates quiet hours. Vote at next meeting. MK- I am for it. KS- This is up on E-planning. Summarizes comments- Pros emphasize impact on animals and campers. People that live on Mill creek complained of the sounds and lights at night, lights also affecting people viewing the night sky. Recommendation does not apply to the Sand Flats road but there would be less traffic with these closures. Wonder when people put light bars onto OHVs, are they no longer street legal. Spot lights on vehicles are not street legal. Do outfitters limit what trails rentals can go on? MO and AB- Yes, and a few years ago Rory Paxman of Canyonlands by night, said they have GPS on all their rentals and if people go on trails they are not supposed to go on, they lose a deposit. MO- Seems like he is seeing more OHV tours, as opposed to rentals which is good. DP- Farabee only let folks go on certain trails 20 years ago. GPS on vehicles is a good thing. Taking rentals on extreme trails creates a lot of wear and tear on these vehicles. Disney world now that is why you see more tours. Different kind of tourist in Moab now. All groups agree on one thing, keep Moab exciting and clean. All have done a wonderful job trying to accomplish

that, and especially the BLM. Our RMP hasn't been challenged like others have. KS-  
Thank you!

Trail closure proposal- Sunset is a time that you can look up. If sunset were at 8:30 pm,  
you have to be off the trail by 9:30 pm. Go to [eplanning.blm](http://eplanning.blm)

DP- Motorcycle headlights are not any brighter than those of bicycles. Slickrock is away  
from houses.

KS- Trail entrances close at sunset and you have one hour to exit the trail. E-bikes will be  
restricted to.

AB will go before the RAC board in January instead of October for the Business plan.

## **Adjourn**