



MINUTES

Kane County Resource Committee
76 North Main Street
Kanab, Utah 84741
August 19, 2020

Resource Interagency Meeting

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| 9:00 AM | Call to Order | Wendy Allan |
| | Prayer | Wendy Allan |
| | Pledge of Allegiance | Pam Hill |

Attendees: Andy Gant, Kane County Commissioner; Wendy Allan, Administrative Assistant; Pam Hill, Kane County Resource Committee; Jake Garfield, Public Lands Council; Spencer Rollo, Kane County Fire Warden; Danon Hulet FFSL; Heath Hansen, Sen. Mike Lee’s Office; Chris Wehrli, DNF Powell District; Scott Albrecht, Sen. Mitt Romney’s Office; David Vincelette, North Kaibab NEPA Planner; Fred Armstrong, Pipe Springs National Monument; Rich Jaron, Dixie National Forest; Jennifer Hardin, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area; Randall Walker, Dixie National Forest; Brian Bremner, Garfield County; Rob Van Dyke, Kane County Attorney; Kelly Stowell, Kane County Resource Committee; Arlen Bradshaw, Best Friends Animal Society; Ade’ Nelson, BLM; Lou Pratt, Kane County GIS

1. Congressional Update

Heath Hansen, Senator Mike Lee’s Office: Senator Lee was in Southern Utah last week for the 5 & 6 county congressional briefing tour. They had some good conversations about PILT, SRS, forest management and NEPA reform. Senator Lee has introduced the Unshackle Act; a strategy for NEPA reform. He has broken the Unshackle Act into smaller bills. The State Assignment bill proposes to allow state agencies to assume some of the NEPA responsibilities from federal agencies. Another bill would require the Council on Environmental Quality and Office of Management and Budget within the White House to come up with a methodology to calculate the cost of the NEPA process.

Scott Albrecht, Senator Mitt Romney’s Office: Senator Romney is working with Zion NP on the shuttle system. The shuttles were running at 30% capacity in July. In August they increased their hours and occupancy. The shuttle reservation system is temporary. Washington County has partnered with Zion NP to use CARES Act money to help with increased janitorial services for camp grounds. Senator Romney’s office has been working with Glen Canyon Recreation area to increase recreation opportunities in the northern area. Delegation staff was able to meet with new BLM director, Greg Sheehan. The state of Utah is looking to pass a resolution regarding PILT and land valuation. They are working with the FS on an ATV trail system to connect Brian Head with Duck Creek.

2. Agency Updates

Shae Owens, PLPCO: The post trial briefing on the RS2477 litigation is underway. The State of Utah has filed an amicus brief on a California litigation regarding the storage and shipping of coal. SUWA has challenged the BLM's decision to allow the Bull Valley Gorge bridge replacement. (See Lou Pratt's update below.)

Jake Garfield, Public Lands Council: UAC is planning on holding their fall conference on September 23rd and 24th in Midway (also virtually) to include a public lands meeting with discussions on RS2477 and forest management. The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources released a list of new state sensitive species including the pinyon jay.

Chris Wehrli-Dixie National Forest: The DNF Powell District TMP has been officially canceled. Kane County should have received a letter regarding that decision. Chris would like to pursue a field trip to the Robinson Canyon Trail. DNF has received a request from Alex Lamb and from NRCS to put a pipeline up Water Canyon. Chris feels like the best time to do that would be while they are working on Robinson Trail. That will require NEPA. There is a boreal toad habitat aspen regeneration project on the Pansagaunt. They are trying to determine whether to do the project mechanically or with fire.

Rich Jaros, Dixie National Forest: Kevin Wright will start August 31st as the new forest supervisor. They have sent a letter to permittees about concerns of closing out on the range. Recreation use has been high, especially in the Navajo Lake and Duck Creek area. There are concerns about fire restrictions and law enforcement. There are two timber sales along the Hwy 14 corridor scheduled for this winter. There should be a decision on timber removal in the Ice Cave area soon.

Fred Armstrong, Pipe Springs National Monument: Pipe Springs has limited services available. The monument is open but the museum and visitor's center exhibits are closed, as well as the tours of the fort. Education programs will focus on rangers providing distance learning to schools in lieu of field trips. Visitation is strong given the current COVID situation.

David Vincelette, North Kaibab NEPA Planner: Dave gave updates on the Mangum Fire, the Kaibab Plateau Ecological Restoration Project, the Burnt Corral Vegetation Management Project and upcoming changes to NEPA regulation. (See attached update)

Randall Walker-North Kaibab National Forest: There are five gates going up in the Warm Springs Canyon area. They are located on roads 22, 461 & 462. They anticipate keeping these roads closed for 3-5 years during the monsoon season. That area has a high hazard for debris flow and flooding. They are working on some timber sales, some CEs, hazard tree removal along the roads and a bigger EA for more timber salvage opportunities, to include 10,000 -12,000 acres of ponderosa pine.

Spencer Rollo, KC Fire Chief: They are in the middle of a 68-acre Duck Creek fuels project off of Mammoth Creek road and Hwy 14. There are a couple of projects in East Zion. One is a PC project totaling 30-acres north of the Zion Ponderosa Ranch. The other is an ingress and egress

project, 34-acres along North Fork road. They are in the early stages of a project in Bryce Woodlands, tying in a couple of fuel breaks to provide a fuel break all the way around Bryce Woodlands. They plan to finish up the Kanab Creek project this year.

Jennifer Hardin-Glen Canyon Chief of External Affairs: Glen Canyon Recreation Area is fully open and all concessionaires are operating. Aramark has requested to suspend boat tours and float trips for the rest of this season. Lee's Ferry campground is currently closed. GCNRA is continuing to look at the Escalante back country, exploring new trail systems in the park.

Ade Nelson, BLM: They are working on the Wire Pass Pine Hollow Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation treatment plan. The fire is 100% contained and all of the closures in the Paria River district for the fire area have been lifted.

3. Local Updates

Lou Pratt, Kane County GIS: On July 23rd Kane County placed a bridge across the Bull Valley Gorge. The road had been impassable since the bridge collapse in 2018. Immediately after the concrete was poured on the deck of the bridge, SUWA filed a lawsuit filed against the BLM for allowing Kane County to put the bridge in. Lou explained that the road was adjudicated through the court system however, the width was appealed. Kane County is not named in the lawsuit. The road is open to the public.

The next interagency meeting is October 21, 2020 at 9:00am in the Commission Chambers.

Meeting dismissed at 10:04 am.