

The Collision of Recreation with Restoration

SE Utah Riparian Partnership Fall 2016 Meeting
 December 8th, 2016 from 9:45 – 3:30 pm
 BLM Conference Room



Attending:

Name	Affiliation
Natalie Conlin	UT FFSL
Russ von Koch	Retired Moab BLM
Makeda Hanson	UT DWR
Jeff Adams	Canyonlands Watershed Council
Ann Marie Aubry	BLM Moab
Taylor Hohensee	ACE / Moab BLM
Josh Relph	BLM Moab
Gabe Bissonette	BLM Moab
Jason Kirks	BLM Moab
Carly McGuire	University of Denver
Lisa Clark	University of Denver
Molly Marcello	Times - Independent
Tony Tocci	NPS SEUG
Kelli Quinn	NPS SEUG
Steve Burr	USU Moab
Gerrish Willis	SEURP
Steve Young	NPS
Jennifer Jones	BLM Moab
Jacob Suter	NPS
Reed Kennard	BLM
Dave Erley	Town of Castle Valley
Jazmine Duncan	Town of Castle Valley

Rebecca Mann	USGS
Amber Johnson	BLM - Monticello
Eli Tome	UT FFSL
Rachel Hosna	BLM / Great Basin Inst
Tim Graham	Grand County
Zacharia Levine	Grand County
Kaleigh Welch	Grand County
Elaine Gizler	Moab Area Travel Council
Ruth Dillon	Grand County
Linda Whitham	TNC
Jan Denney	BLM - Moab
Pam Riddle	BLM - Moab
Christina Price	BLM - Moab
Tim Higgs	Grand County
Jake Deslauriers	Utah Conservation Corps
Katie Stevens	BLM - Moab
Bill Stevens	BLM - Moab
Jessica Tyra	BLM - Moab
Tamsin McCormick	Plateau Restoration
Michael Smith	Plateau Restoration
Annie Adams	Moab Jett
Mary Moran	NPS SEUG
Daniel Oppenheimer	Tamarisk Coalition
Kara Dohrenwend	Rim to Rim Restoration

POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS AND HANDOUTS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Nearly 50 community members attended a meeting convened by the Southeast Utah Riparian Partnership (SURP) in Moab, UT to explore how to achieve an increasingly positive intersection between restoration and recreation. During two panel sessions and follow-up group discussions, attendees increased their learning about timely issues and identified opportunities that the SE Utah Riparian Partnership will consider for working with new and existing partners to support public education and inspiration, collaborative planning processes, and sharing of resources.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Meeting Guidelines *Kara Dohrenwend, Rim to Rim Restoration and*

Daniel Oppenheimer, Tamarisk Coalition

Meeting Focus and Goals *Kara Dohrenwend, Rim to Rim Restoration*

- SURP started in 2006; created strategic plan for tamarisk control and riparian restoration
- Today's goals are to share information and to identify collaborative opportunities towards achieving an increasingly positive intersection between restoration and recreation
- Realize we may not end up with solutions today
- How do we find funding for coordinating capacity to sustain the health of SURP?
Planning, monitoring, and coordination funding can be challenging to fund. Tamarisk Coalition's Restore our Rivers Initiative will provide funding in 2017 and 2018 to SURP and eight other partnerships to sustain partnership health. Rim to Rim Restoration (RRR), Tamarisk Coalition (TC), and the UT Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands (FFSL) are prepared to co-lead SURP moving forward.

OVERVIEW OF RECREATION IN SE UTAH

Moab Area Travel Council, Elaine Gizler

Overview of TRT and the Mighty 5 Campaign (handouts, Powerpoint)

- Goal is to move Moab from a 9 month to 12 month tourist season for economic reasons
- TRT: Transient Room Tax is a tax on rentals (hotels, inns, etc), and is 4.25%
- The County Council controls utilization of the TRT
- Up to 100% of this may be used to establish and promote recreation, tourism, film, etc.
 - There is some guidance on how this funding can be spent (see Powerpoint for details)
- Funding covers 4 employees in Moab, associated supplies, Moab Information Center, promotional supplies, contribution to Canyonlands Natural History Association, travel/trade shows, marketing/promotion, etc.
- Promotes responsible tourism; provides info on minimal impacts on the desert on the back of pamphlets and brochures
- Travel Council answers thousands of calls annually
- Worked on "Throttle Down in Town" campaign
- March 2, 2017: Moab tourism expo with outfitters, hotels, etc. aimed at informing Moab area employees so they can better assist the tourists
- Discover Moab website; new webcam at Arches entrance
- Encouraging Tour Operators to tell tourists to come in slower off-season months
- TRT non-travel council funds supports Dan O'Laurie Museum, Airport Matching Funds, Search and Rescue, Law Enforcement, Solid Waste, Affordable Housing etc.
- Tourism, Recreation, Culture and Conventon Facilities Tax: TRCC tax is 1% and combined with the sales tax (restaurants, car /motorized rentals, etc.)
- Utah State Tax Commission collects TRT for us, keeps a fee, and sends it back to our County

- TRCC helps with Star Hall operations, Grand Center Debt, Airport contribution, etc.
- Approx. 137,000 jobs in Utah due to tourism industry
- 435-259-1370 office if interested in scheduling an appointment to discuss

Moab Area BLM, Jennifer Jones
Recreation Changes in Grand and San Juan Co (handouts)

- Moab has been a recreational mecca for years
- Recent Thanksgiving weekend has been busiest ever- outdoor activities such as river rafting are still happening this later time of year; hot summer months becoming busier, too
- 13 recreation staff members at BLM in the Moab Field Office in 2003, now 22 when fully staffed
- 2.4 million visits to area in 2016
- A huge amount of work involved, including campgrounds, dumpsters, bathrooms, etc
- Collaboration with MIC and other partners is valuable
- Creative/innovative ways of finding funding sources- don't want to have to charge for everything, everywhere
 - Mill Canyon dinosaur track site and Bar M mountain bike trail for example, have donation box option for fee donation
- 19 permitted events in 2003; 52 permitted events in 2016
- Over 300 recreation permittees operating on BLM lands
 - Less than 1% of recreational use in the Moab area is permitted. Most recreational use in the area is private as opposed to commercial
 - Permittees are partners with the BLM; they can help educate visitors about the value of public lands, use of public lands, and low-impact visitation methods
- How do we communicate with people recreating as private (not through permits) users? Education, interpretative signs, website, on-the-ground presence through volunteers, etc.
- BLM has challenges like everyone else, such as affordable housing for their employees
- 63 film permits issued in the past year
- Toilets/sewage always an ongoing issue

Grand County, KaLeigh Welch & Zacharia Levine
County Perspective : Impacts of Special Events (Powerpoint handout)

- Ordinance 521 is for special events in Grand County (any event involving over 100 people outside of city limits within Grand County, even on public lands)
 - Special events is defined by Grand County on their website
 - Special Events Coordinating Committee reviews the permit applications
 - Many state and federal partners are notified of special events, too
 - A kind of "after-action" review may happen after special events
- Recreation recognized as part of community development
- Zacharia is staff liaison with Trail Mix and Moab Area Watershed Partnership
- Spreading out the visitor numbers in a year, it works out to be about 50,000 visitors a week, which is 5 times the population of Moab which can have a big impact.

- Good impacts include TRT/TRCC revenue, sales tax, bringing in culture, donations to local non-profit groups, leads to business development, etc.
- Negative impacts include quality of life impacts such as noise, traffic, user conflicts, impact on infrastructure, affordable housing and resource impacts
- Simultaneous events may happen within the area; it can spread county resources thin
 - Federal agencies do good job of not doubling up on events in the same weekend
- All events create impacts; the key is mitigation and restoration
- Help how people view themselves within the recreation industry in Moab

State of Utah (FFSL),
Upcoming Colorado River Planning

Eli Tome

- Sovereign lands are the lands that were navigable at statehood
- FFSL didn't have the administrative capability to manage these lands until recently
- 7 FFSL employees statewide
- Locally, Eli manages lands along Colorado River, Green River, and Exchange Lands
- Issues permits to outfitters using sovereign lands
 - Permit collections in SE Utah add up to \$10,000; most sovereign lands funding comes from Great Salt Lake
- Bridges the gap between restoration and recreation
- About \$80,000 spent on restoration last year; mostly veg related work, boat ramp improvements, weed spraying
- Planning: currently creating management plans to guide management actions on sovereign lands (relying on upcoming potential funding from state legislature)
- The Exchange Lands are around Dalton Wells Road, west of Arches National Park
 - Dispersed camping in this area has visible impacts, especially human waste
 - So, trying to determine how to approach solutions, and considering potentially moving towards fee based or at least regulated camping in this area
- Sovereign lands will be sending out notices to all partners for input during this management plan process
- Working towards goals between recreation and revegetation folks
- Appears that there is too much finger-pointing, where it is actually a great opportunity for partnerships and accommodating both uses in one spot

PANEL OF SPEAKERS FOR QUESTIONS

Are the Counties and agencies coordinating info on events?

- Grand County does forward event applications onto their partners; they have had to ask permittees to consider other dates due to conflict
- BLM has had to say no to applications in the past due to date conflicts; they have a Google calendar with all the events listed, and share it with many partners. BLM is trying to find a way to make this available to the public. The BLM also has a list of stipulations, such as email notifications to a list of local agencies, such as EMS, SAR, Moab Regional Hospital etc. BLM also requires that the permittee posts on-site signage on impacted trail heads one week prior to permitted events.

Did BLM analyze carrying capacity?

- BLM has identified areas that have gotten too busy, such as Morning Glory arch and Hells Revenge, and is not issuing new permits, etc.

Shouldn't operators be notified that their behavior may dictate if they are granted a permit in the future?

- The County has reviewed events, and does consider this. Although, they have yet to turn down a permit due to past behavior. The "After-event report" is currently internal with the County, but there is room for improvement: possibly have an interagency after-event performance report meeting. Trail Mix is one entity where events that happen on trails are reviewed.
- The BLM has had some issues with an event in the past, and they worked both County Sheriff Offices, UDOT, Chamber of Commerce., etc. and the event has significantly approved.

Do you see a point where all this advertising/promotion will lead to such a huge number of people that the number of events will have to be reduced or removed? What is the end goal? Unlimited number of visitors for non-event use?

- Moab Travel Council really considers time of year, other events occurring, etc. In regards to non-event use, Moab Travel Council doesn't see an issue with too many visitors.
- BLM calendar availability is close to max capacity right now, because people don't want to come in the cold winter or hot summer. Remember, less than 1% of visitors fall under permitted events. General recreationalists far outweigh permitted events.

When permitting events, do you also consider regular outfitter use at that time? For instance, closing the river road?

- BLM realizes the impact of closing roads, but this is a UDOT issue.
- County: in the permitting process, if the applicant is asking for a road closure, then this is info shared with all the partners who review the application. But, the road closure events have been going on even longer than the County special event permit process has existed. Trail Mix is a great forum for anyone to share their concerns such as these. It would be beneficial to have a Trail Mix version for the motorized users, too. Through the County ordinance, the Special Events Coordinating Committee is able to bring any concerns with permits or applications to the County Council. The Council has the option to approve or not approve an event.
- BLM's 2008 Resource Management Plan includes a Travel plan in which all motorized and mechanized (bikes) use areas are designated. It also identifies focus areas and designated campgrounds which has focused use in certain areas. In a sense, this is a way of restoration, by concentrating activities in certain areas and not others.

Participants shared their observations & concerns, re: quality-of-life and public services:

- Kane Creek Blvd is becoming dangerous, due to sharp turns and increased volume of vehicle use, trailers, recreationalists, etc. Other areas of town, such as Swanny Park, also have events which close down streets, etc.

- Another concern is the amount of sewage. Yes, a new plant is planned to be built. In the meanwhile, the smell of the current plant is overwhelming for residents living in that area of town.
- Emergency room: perhaps not enough room for current demand? Shouldn't the community leaders be focusing on improving and expanding infrastructure before encouraging more visitors?

BLM calculates visitation differently than National Parks, etc. 10 different site visits in one day by the same person= 10 visitations. Or, 1 person visiting 3 different federal or state lands in a day will add up to multiple visit numbers. Arches closing their campground for improvements in 2017 will no doubt impact other areas. Dead Horse Park has 400,000 visitors a year, similar to Island in the Sky.

OVERVIEW OF RESTORATION IN SE UTAH

Sand Flats/Riverway, Russ von Koch Challenges & Solutions in Moab's Backyard (handout)

- Challenges when Russ started with the BLM in the mid-1980s were much different due to the uranium depression
 - County hired Craig Bigler as an economist from the USDA, and identified tourism as a potential economic source of funding for the area
 - There was not a land based rec program- it was all on the river
 - No facilities available anywhere
 - 1 rec planner for all of SE Utah
 - County asked all the agencies to help promote tourism
 - Mission of accommodating visitors and reducing impacts on public lands
 - There weren't any rules for activities on public lands, no enforcement
- Having to keep up with rules, facilities, staff to deal with the amount of visitors
- BLM Moab is the most tightly regulated office for visitor use
- "Moab dislikes smell of success" article in Deseret News 1989, about human waste along river
- BLM has always partnered with County and Parks
- Grand County Blue Ribbon committee (mentioned in 1989 article) started with the management planning for this area
- People are moving further away each year from Moab to look for available camping, so the BLM has to follow this use every year

Moab BLM, Pam Riddle FWS: Endangered Species Challenges (Powerpoint, handout)

- Section 7 of Endangered Species Act (ESA)
- ESA Listed species in Moab include endangered fish, Mexican spotted owl, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Western yellow-billed cuckoo, etc.
- Entire Colorado River corridor (100 year flood plain) is critical habitat for several species

- A federal agency consults when an activity may impact an endangered species' habitat
- Process includes informal and formal consultations; both require a Biological Assessment- outcome determines what type of consultation is required
- “may affect”: not likely to adversely affect. This is the most common outcome.
- Recreation use: any development or activity within the 100 year flood plain that results in permanent habitat loss; protocol surveys typically required; may result in formal consultation
- Restoration activities: re-initiated triggers, conservation measures (see handout)
- Along riparian areas, FWS is concerned with massive removal of tamarisk. Process to prioritizing areas for reveg, guidelines for herbicide use, etc.

Grand County & partner, Tim Graham and Tim Higgs
Leaf beetle monitoring update and future needs (Powerpoint, handout)

- 2007: tamarisk leaf beetle monitoring started
- Beetle population peaked, then declined over time as their food source decreased
- This past year, live canopy of tamarisk rebounded to 50%
- Seeing more beetle-induced mortality on larger sized tamarisk trees
- Let the biocontrol do its thing- areas where tamarisk has been mechanically removed (but not chemically treated) is where it is greenest now. (Important to spray cut-stump and treat re-sprouts with herbicide.)
- 2004: beetles first introduced
- 10 years of beetle counting data completed; monitoring sites established
- Interplay of where adults, larvae, and canopy changes are throughout the year
- Adults come out in spring, decline and the population is mainly in the larvae form, then larvae pupate and turn into adults. So, a couple heavy consumptions each year. These population peaks have changed over the years, seems to be correlated to weather.
- Population crashed in 2012 due to overconsumption.
- 2013, 2014, 2015 much less funding available, so number of surveys dropped as well.
- 2016: Tamarisk Coalition provided some funding for surveys
- Also have data on recruitment and mortality

Rim to Rim Restoration, Kara Dohrenwend
Vegetation – monitoring, sourcing & planting (Powerpoint)

- Passive plant regeneration is the best method, most cost effective, but requires existing seed on the site. Otherwise, have to bring it in.
- Challenges:
 - use conflicts with reveg efforts (events, high use zones, repeated use areas)
 - visitors introduce new non-native species; firewood potentially bringing in Emerald Ash borer
- Revegetation requires plant material, which requires a seed source. If no seed, then containerized plants may be required. Using local plant materials are important.
- Climate change suggests we should start looking at sources from typically warmer climates.

- More visitors means more invasive species
- An increase from 27 to 54 State listed noxious weeds now; Class A/B/C categories. For instance, purple loosestrife is not prolific yet, so early detection- rapid response to removal.
- Need to educate people about these weeds so they don't spread them
- Lots of different ways to monitor, such as photo points, survival counts, veg cover site measurements
- Restoration essentials: plant materials, monitoring, follow up
- Important to educate people on native vs. non-native plants, want to do, etc.

PANEL OF SPEAKERS FOR QUESTIONS

Yellow-billed cuckoo critical habitat was mapped at the mouth of the Dolores. If it was mapped before the recreational facilities were put in, would these facilities have been put in?

- Pam clarified that the habitat is actually across the river from this rec site. But, yes, if that happened, there would have been a consultation process. Hard to determine if the rec site would have been approved or not. Perhaps the rec policies at Dewey Bridge has improved the riparian restoration here, as camping has been concentrated.

What is the process for collecting seed on BLM land?

- Kara said it took about 5 years to get a permit to collect seed on BLM land. But, Kara has been able to find almost all seed on private land. However, there are benefits to collecting seed from excellent sites that fall on BLM lands.

Has Tim noticed the tamarisk weevil during their beetle surveys?

- The weevil is a tiny beetle that is turquoise and purple. It was introduced somewhere unknown in N.America. It can reach moderate populations here. The damage it does is miniscule compared to the tamarisk leaf beetle. The weevil tends to be on the very tips of the branches, which will go brown, but they don't impact the rest of the plant too much. Leaf beetle larvae can defoliate a good portion of the tamarisk canopy, so then there is nothing for the weevil to eat. Most monitoring sites had weevils present, but their impact is far less than the leaf beetle.

We are concentrating recreation in riparian areas, so how does the Endangered Species Act fall into this process?

- Williams Bottom was a state parcel that was being overused by recreationalists/camping. BLM now leases this land from the state, and fenced it off from human use. There was a formal consultation process for when bike path was put in. So, removed habitat for bike path, but restored habitat at Williams Bottom as an offset. This is a method of banking acreages, effectively.

Are you looking at impacts to all wildlife, not just ESA species?

- Yes, the BLM does look at the impact to all species. *What about water sources sites, such as springs miles away from the rivers?* Yes, the BLM looks at the big picture, including impacts to all species and hydrology. *Was the closing of camping to 7 Mile and Spring Canyon due to wildlife?* These closures were due to a variety of factors.

Looking at Moab's historical context, what are we excited about or looking forward for Moab's future? When is enough, enough? When do we love it to death and must protect the resource?

Along the river, people are camping in non-designated sites in any road side pull out.

- BLM is putting up signage, but its lack of staffing that is a problem. This area is the 'birthing area' of activities, such as issuing the first permit for tandem base jumping. BLM is trying to interact with, and educate, all the various user groups.
- State Parks has a couple river rangers, and the BLM has two at Westwater Ranger Station. So, staff is spread thin. FFSL is trying to get a couple seasonal employees on the river next year to educate the public. Becomes a complex issue with finding housing for employees, etc.
- BLM says the industry has some responsibility, and they sometimes assist with building fencing, and they can educate their audience. BLM has "adopt a mountain bike trail" program, determining how to handle sponsorship and donations; Industry wanted recognition; Site stewardship program (some commercial permittees are stewards). Some companies/permittees want recognition with a sign, some do not need this.

BRIANSTORMING SOLUTIONS Facilitated Open Discussion

SUMMARY of TOPICS,

Daniel and Kara

Common themes from the morning:

- Elaine used the term 'responsible tourism'. How do we use education to yield responsible tourism? Can we define what this term means?
- Only a small amount of activities are actually permitted, most use is dispersed and does not require permits
- Lots of pros and cons to increased visitation.
- Short term and long term activities, opportunities?
- Carrying capacity- is this possible to define?
- Partnerships and collaboration between agencies, user groups, industries, and others.
- SURP- where and how to help with moving forward.

Responsible tourism:

- Canyon Country minimum impact practices brochures from 1980s – they are dated.
- Moab is the destination in marketing ads, not even the Parks specifically anymore. So, the destination is now an enormous area. When people are displaced from one area due to regulations, they go somewhere else (i.e. camp a little further from Moab). A systematic/integrated recreation impacts education approach involving all agencies is necessary.
- It was suggested that since the hotels funnel so many tourists, perhaps the education should go through hotel TV's. It has been done in the past, but this educational medium needs to be updated.
- Non-profits like the Nature Conservancy (TNC) do a lot of work in how to do social change. It's difficult, but national campaigns like Mothers Against Drunk Drivers were highly successful with social change, but that was a multi-billion dollar campaign. To be

successful, we have to hire experts/marketing experts if we expect to create social change. In the long run, this is what we all want.

- Sand Flats Recreation Area was an example of social experiment of putting in improvements, and people rejecting them at first
- What about starting with Utah schools and education?
- Is it possible for TRT/TRCC to do more to inspire responsible tourism . This tax has funded some educational work already (Throttle down in Town, for example), so is it feasible for more education marketing to move through this venue?
- Interpretive programs at BLM campgrounds? Limited by staffing and funding, so the alternative has been just signage. Again, hard to attract folks to live in Moab for entry level interpretative positions. Existing camp hosts have been doing a great job, but there are not many.
- Could responsible recreation and minimum impact practices advertising possibly fit into the advertising 2/3 portion of TRT ? Can SE Utah Partnership help with that message?
- How about changing the message? We don't want to send a message to tourists that we don't want them here or that they need to be education, but perhaps advertise that riparian areas are important, why we care, and how you can help?
- Can the BLM have staff at popular places on holidays, for instance? Although the BLM is highly supportive of this idea, the BLM just doesn't have the staff- they have to rely on partnerships with non-profits and volunteers to do this work.
- Can TRT/TRCC funding hire a public education intern as a marketing means? Personal contact is important, because you can tailor your message based on who you are talking to.
 - When Linda was in the Sand Flats booth, she spoke with every person about cryptobiotic soil crust, and she feels there was some impact. But, some people just don't care about the message. The volumes of people certain times of year make it difficult to realistically reach every person.
- TRT/TRCC: is there a forum for public input for the use of these funds? What are the collaborative opportunities with Moab Area Travel Council and the State Travel Council around educational messaging?
- Respect and Protect campaign funding (BLM) for interpretive signs, educational talks. Social media is a must for sharing information and videos- more effective than just posting on the BLM website. Other entities and non-profits are much more effective with sharing information and getting the message out.
- As locals, we can teach the tourists how to behave.
- A second tactic may be necessary for the big offenders who don't care about destroying things and paying the fines.
- People tend to follow by example.
- Working with schools/locals- Park Service's outdoor education program introduces kids to science and the outdoors. BLM & USFS are involved too.
- 'educate' and 'inform' assume people are ignorant. Perhaps we should focus on 'inspire' to care and 'empower'. Responsibility, as it's your public lands.
- For some tourists, we are just one stop on their trip. We just have one short chance to educate/inspire them.

- “Play, clean, go” is a NAISMA campaign to prevent the spread of weeds. Their website has some videos that we could perhaps incorporate into our education efforts. Posters are available.

Carrying capacity:

- Carrying capacity is difficult to define- based on what?
- Visitor perspectives vary dramatically based on where you’re from (ie. Someone from NYC may have different view than someone from a rural area)
- EMS issues based on crowding
- We’ve reached carrying capacity in regards to our sewer plant; the city has put some restrictions on new buildings
- Trying to define a social carrying capacity is impossible to define; some people are used to crowds, some people like a solitary experience.
 - We need to look at carrying capacity in an ecological aspect
- Partnerships have to figure things out collectively; perhaps we have a stronger voice together. For instance, BLM and Castle Valley working together with approaching UDOT on river-road issues
- Sovereign lands management plan- all we can control is the number of people on permits right now. How do you calculate carrying capacity and get people to agree to it? Letting people know they won’t have a ‘wilderness experience’ on the daily portion of the river, for instance.
 - What type of experience do you want to give people? Make a conscious decision in some places to limit the number of people in some areas to keep that ‘wilderness’ experience. Make sure we have a diversity of experiences for recreationists. For example, the Grand Canyon river permit system. Wilderness experiences, like Westwater canyon, may require a wait.
- We have no towns nearby for our population to go live/expand.
- How does the BLM regulate numbers on the daily? The 2008 Moab Resource Management Plan does not limit on group size on private or commercial river trips. If adverse impacts on resources are found there may be re-evaluation. We are getting to this point, and having discussions.

Partnerships and Collaboration:

- Assist tourists with identifying tamarisk along the river and use it for fire? It has an unpleasant smell, though, and no wood gathering allowed
- Informing river rafters to water plants with buckets along their trips
- Offer discounts to groups who are willing to do restoration work during their river trip
- Ammo cans with information left at campsites; Ruby-Horsethief has been doing this.
- How to make incentives to do this for local guide companies, and advertise that they participate in these activities. Local companies have shown interest in doing this. Work with local schools, educating kids.
- FFSL partners on all work, as sovereign lands borders upland landowners, such as BLM.
 - Process for upcoming management plan: asking for funding from state legislature, find out around March. Receive the funding in July, So, likely receiving feedback

from public and partners in fall 2017. Come up with management alternatives, goals, etc. Probably a 3 year process total.

- Marketing of our partnerships is important. Trying to find ways of streamlining partnerships and communication.
- Pam's vision of 'riparian banking' was interesting. Every campground and paved trail means we are losing something. So, creating a riparian/wetlands bank would be interesting. Fish and Wildlife Service started this 'banking' type of activity. It would be beneficial if FWS lets us operate this system on private and state lands, too. This would be a source of funding for riparian restoration, too.
- Catalog what has been done in riparian zones, and the current conditions of riparian zones. A good basis for moving forward. Long-term monitoring information.
- Identification of future projects within river corridor, regardless of ownership.
 - Gabe Bissonette at BLM has the GIS data for all completed projects, although it needs to be updated.
 - It would be nice/helpful if we had one accessible database for all to see what has been done, what could be done next
- Restore our Rivers campaign through the Tamarisk Coalition; identifying side waterways that have more complexity, such as in ownership
- BLM fuels program used to be more involved with riparian projects, as many of the fuels reduction projects were in campgrounds along the river. BLM fuels program interested in continuing project work in riparian areas. BLM fuels program is willing to keep track of all projects completed/current/planned in riparian zone. Resilient Landscapes project is a source of funding. Government grants want landscape level projects, so it'd be good to group together all our different little projects.
- FFSL and BLM have similar goals and should look at working together along riparian areas along the Colorado River.
- Cross Watershed Network- organization created to facilitate large watershed projects; trying to bring large efforts together (crosswatershed.net)

SURP – HOW DO WE MOVE FORWARD?

Responsible tourism/education:

- Identify collaborative opportunities with Moab Area Travel Council
- Kara will reach out to Elaine with our key questions
- Perhaps SURP could come up with concrete concepts on how to inspire visitors to the Moab area to care for riparian areas. Then, we can approach the Travel Council with our ideas and find out how to get this message out.
- Creating a way of summarizing the beetle monitoring study for all; a good way to promote for future funding, and to share info with people designing new tamarisk projects
- Cultivating responsible tourism
 - Work on a request for funding to support the message of 'responsible tourism' through more than just printed materials. Realizing there are different demographics, and the best way to share this info. The Travel Council folks are the marketing experts, so are best to spread this information. The concept of

caring for the landscape while recreating. As numbers grow, especially of first time and one time visitors, this is increasingly important.

- Should we consider an approach the Utah Office of Tourism with these issues?

Carrying capacity:

- Assist BLM with monitoring impacts to campsites- how can we help/what might this look like? Grand Canyon NP has such a program.
- We have an example of carrying capacity already within our areas: the Parks
- We have to remind ourselves of SURP's riparian-focused mission. If the BLM wants to know the impact of human activity in riparian areas, then SURP can help.

Partnerships:

- Approaching the Travel Council may involve the SURP steering committee or small subset of SURP
- Jason Kirks' BLM funding does not have to be spent on federal lands only
- TC's Restore our Rivers funding; planning money for entire watersheds, how to prioritize project areas; funding will help us think much more holistically
- Long term planning projects benefits Utah Conservation Corps and others
- Put all our projects together, funding together, and keep a full time restoration crew working in the Moab area year round; could provide an education component, too.