



COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: October 17, 2023

ITEM TITLE, PRESENTER: Labyrinth Rims-Gemini Bridges BLM Travel Plan, Nick Sandberg, Public Lands Coordinator

RECOMMENDATION: Sign letter

SUMMARY

The Moab BLM Field Office recently signed a Decision Record approving a travel management plan for the Labyrinth Rims-Gemini Bridges area. This plan designates roads as open, closed or open for administrative uses. Contrary to news releases and environmental documents, this plan includes not only roads in Grand County but some in northern San Juan County. Of the 8 roads in San Juan County, 6 are to be closed and 2 to remain open for vehicle use.

Since this plan was advertised as including only land and roads in Grand County, we were not aware until recently that a strip of land in San Juan County north of the Island in the Sky District of Canyonlands National Park was also included in the planning area. Evidently BLM overlooked this fact and San Juan County was not invited to participate in the planning effort.

The letter for your consideration notifies BLM of this error of omitting San Juan County from the planning process. We will analyze the roads being closed and determine whether it is in San Juan County's interest to have the roads open.

HISTORY/PAST ACTION

None for this particular planning effort. The County did participate a few years ago as a Cooperating Agency in BLM's planning effort for the Canyon Rims Travel Management Plan, an area southeast of the current planning area.

FISCAL IMPACT

None or unknown.