

DAGGETT COUNTY PUBLIC LANDS INITIATIVE PROPOSAL

PRINCIPLES

Background

On August 12, 2014, Daggett County submitted an initial proposal to Congressman Rob Bishop for Federal land management changes in Daggett County. The proposal is a component of Congressman Bishop's Public Lands Initiative. The county requested assistance from the Utah Congressional delegation and Governor Herbert in finalizing the proposal by "putting together a final plan that will benefit the concerns of the county as weighed against other interests."

Between August and October, staff from Congressman Bishop, Governor Herbert, the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA), and leaders from conservation organizations including the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, Grand Canyon Trust, The Wilderness Society, Natural Resources Defense Council, and the Sierra Club have worked to finalize the Daggett County proposal. These principles reflect the consensus on a revised proposal that these stakeholders support.

Principles

The parties below agree to support, as a part of the Public Lands Initiative, the following:

LEGISLATIVE COMPONENTS

AUTHORIZE AN EQUAL VALUE LAND EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND SCHOOL AND INSTITUTIONAL TRUST LANDS ADMINISTRATION (SITLA) THAT WOULD INCLUDE—

- Conveyance of approximately 4,546 acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land and 5,605 acres of National Forest land, as generally shown on the map, from the Federal government to SITLA. Federal lands to be traded to SITLA include a energy revenue producing site and the forest land southwest of the junction of highways 191 and 44, subject to value equalization.
- Conveyance of approximately 13,010 acres of SITLA land to the Federal government. SITLA lands to be traded include inholdings within the proposed wilderness and conservation area, and lands adjacent to Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area.

PUBLIC PURPOSE CONVEYANCE OF FEDERAL LAND—Conveyance of approximately 800 acres of Federal land, as generally shown on the map, from the Forest Service to Daggett County for a shooting range, landfill site, power substation, or other authorized public purposes as defined under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act.

OTHER LAND EXCHANGE— Authorize an equal value exchange of approximately 130 acres of National Forest land to the Deer Lodge Homeowners Association in exchange for approximately 78 acres of land owned by the Association, subject to value equalization. The lands to be traded are generally shown on the map.

COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT—Authorize a cooperative agreement between Daggett County and the Federal land management agencies in accordance with existing law and standard cooperative management procedures for the cooperative management of the historic Swett and Jarvie ranches in a manner that maintains public access and the historic values of the properties.

EXCHANGE OR SALE OF CABIN SITES—Authorization for the Forest Service to convey the property beneath the currently existing cabins near Browne Lake by exchange or direct sale in accordance with standard land sale procedures. Revenues from any sale will be used to acquire National Forest inholdings in Utah from willing sellers.

_____ CONSERVATION AREA DESIGNATION—Establishment of a Conservation Area (CA) in the northeast portion of the county that includes approximately 31,083 acres of BLM land, as generally shown on the map. The CA will be managed to preserve its natural resource values in a manner consistent with other conservation areas. The entire CA will be withdrawn from development, but a specified portion, as generally shown on the map, will permit subsurface oil and gas production with no surface occupancy. The CA will be withdrawn from easements and rights-of-way. Motorized vehicles will be limited to designated routes, as generally shown on the map. Vegetation management will be permitted only as necessary to address fire, insects or disease. Grazing will be permitted. All management activities will be consistent with the CA purposes, which will include recreation, including hunting and fishing. CA will become part of BLM’s National Landscape Conservation System.

WILDERNESS DESIGNATION—Wilderness designation for approximately 33,254 acres of Bureau of Land Management land and 49,154 acres of National Forest land in the county, in accordance with the Wilderness Act, as generally shown on the map. Management will be consistent with the Wilderness Act.

WILD AND SCENIC RIVER DESIGNATION—Designation of approximately 14 miles of the Green River from 0.5 miles downstream of Flaming Gorge Dam to the Indian Crossing boat ramp, as generally shown on the map, as a scenic river in accordance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, with assurances that the operation of Flaming Gorge Dam, existing rights-of-way, state jurisdiction over fish and wildlife management may continue. Management will be consistent with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

RELEASE OF RECOMMENDED WILD AND SCENIC RIVER— The approximately 14 miles of the Green River, from the Indian Crossing boat ramp to the State line, as generally shown on the map, will no longer be subject to section 5(d)(1) of the Wild and Scenic River Act.

RELEASE OF WILDERNESS STUDY AREA— Release of the approximately 3,000-acre Utah portion of the Cold Springs Wilderness Study Area from 603(c) of the Federal Land Management and Policy Act.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENTS

CAMPGROUNDS—An agreement to work together to ensure that the Forest Service would maintain specified campgrounds in Daggett County.

Upon passage of Federal legislation implementing these principles with the support of the parties, the parties agree to support:

REOPENING THE SEARS CANYON ROUTE—Support BLM in reopening the route up Sears Canyon to recreational ATV use, in accordance with existing law.

ESTABLISHING AN ATV CONNECTOR DOWN DUTCH JOHN CANYON—Support the BLM and Forest Service in establishing a recreational ATV route down Dutch John Canyon in accordance with existing law.

OTHER COMPONENTS

Upon passage of Federal legislation implementing these principles with the support of the parties, the parties agree to support:

R.S. 2477/TRAVEL MANAGEMENT—The State, Daggett County, the United States, and a number of the other parties to this agreement are involved in adversarial litigation regarding the validity of R.S. 2477 claims in Daggett County. An equitable settlement of those claims is an important element of this Agreement, and the parties recognize the various parties' important interests in providing the public with continued rights to travel across public lands in Daggett County and in providing for Wilderness and other roadless areas that are free of motorized routes and vehicles. The parties agree to work in good faith to resolve the R.S. 2477 claims and related interests in Daggett County through legislation, settlement of the pending litigation, administrative processes, a combination thereof, or other means. The parties agree to the following interrelated principles at the outset of that process:

- **CERTAIN ROUTES CURRENTLY OPEN TO MOTORIZED TRAVEL**—The claimed class B and class D routes as generally shown on the map that are—(1) outside of the boundaries of the proposed Wilderness Areas and the Conservation Area, (2) open to public motor vehicle travel in the BLM's current Resource Management Plan, and (3) located on BLM land—should remain available for public motor vehicle travel and the County and/or State should hold rights-of-way for public motor vehicle travel on such routes. The rights-of-way for class D routes will be “as is, where is”.
- **ROUTES WITHIN WILDERNESS AREAS AND CONSERVATION AREA**—The claimed routes as generally shown on the map that are within the boundaries of the proposed Wilderness Areas and the Conservation Area should remain closed to motor vehicle travel, and the County and the State should dismiss their corresponding R.S. 2477 claims from the pending litigation or otherwise abandon such claims.
- **OTHER ROUTES CURRENTLY CLOSED TO MOTORIZED USE**—Other claimed routes that are—(1) outside of the areas proposed for Wilderness or as a Conservation Area, (2) closed to public motor vehicle travel in the BLM's current Resource Management Plan, and (3) located on BLM land—may be administratively reconsidered for opening to public motor vehicle travel. The parties agree that resolving these routes is important and will work for an appropriate administrative process for doing so.

AMERICA'S RED ROCK WILDERNESS ACT—The environmental parties agree to ask congressional sponsors to remove Daggett County from America's Red Rock Wilderness Act.