

RE: **BLM seeks input on motorized routes in the Labyrinth Rims/Gemini Bridges area**

MOAB, Utah – Travel and transportation are integral to the use and enjoyment of public lands. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is initiating an Environmental Assessment (EA) analyzing motorized access of public lands in the Labyrinth Rims/Gemini Bridges Travel Management Area (TMA), which covers approximately 303,993 acres in Grand County and has 1,232 miles of inventoried routes on BLM-managed lands. The EA will help BLM to provide a motorized transportation network to serve visitors and local communities, while protecting and sustaining natural resources. The BLM is scoping for additional information, issues, or resource concerns in the Labyrinth Rims/Gemini Bridges area March 24, 2021 through April 26, 2021.

The BLM posted an interactive map of the TMA to seek public input regarding knowledge and use of roads in the Labyrinth Rims/Gemini Bridges area. Using this information, the BLM worked with state and county government representatives to complete route evaluations. The EA will address topics related to motorized travel, including recreation, cultural resources, wildlife and fisheries habitat, soils and water quality, and wilderness characteristics. The BLM is now seeking additional public input, which may be used in formulating issues and alternatives in the environmental review.

CMTRA Comments:

Our organization, *Colorado Motorcycle Trail Riders Association (CMTRA)*, consists of over 100 active members as well as hundreds of inactive members and friends of the association. Our members and friends actively ride off-road trail systems throughout Colorado and Utah. Many have ridden the designated trails in the **Labyrinth Rims/Gemini Bridges** area for 20-30 years or longer. The trails/roads there are not new, and have been well established for many years. Many of the roads were established in the area for mining purposes, a very long time ago. Thus, it seems redundant to evaluate these roads and trails for any reason involving opposing their motorized use, since they have been used for that purpose for such a long time.

In case the BLM is not familiar with the road/trail system in this area, might we suggest obtaining a copy of this book, **Guide to Moab, UT Backroads & 4-Wheel-Drive Trails 3rd Edition**. This book has, several times now, been the number one best seller on Amazon in the category of mountain west travel guides. Review the roads/trails listed in this book and begin there. There should be no future motorized restrictions on **any** of those roads/trails. They have all become a tradition and mainstay of OHV activity in the area.

Furthermore, there are a number of motorcycle only trails designated in what is commonly referred to as the **White Wash** area. These trails are also historically significant and admired by the motorcycling community. There should be no future motorized restrictions on those roads/trails as well.

The entire area in question has become a mecca for motorized off-highway vehicle use. People do not come to these areas to hike. They come here to enjoy the off-highway vehicle experience this unique landscape offers. A very large portion of the Moab and Green River economies come from these visitors. Any future motorized restrictions can only have a significant negative impact on both towns.

CMTRA opposes ANY additional restrictions to motorized travel in the **Labyrinth Rims/Gemini Bridges** area. We believe all the existing motorized routes should be left as is.

Sincerely,

Mark Reimler
President, CMTRA

Bret Williamson
Vice President, CMTRA