



Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office

Appropriations Subcommittee 2025



Utah Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office

publiclands.utah.gov

Mission: *To coordinate, promote, and implement Utah's public land priorities.*

Vision: *To empower all to enjoy and flourish from Utah's public lands, providing Utahns with unique and lasting opportunities for access, economic prosperity, and stewardship.*

Key Objectives:

- Protect Access to Utah's Public Lands
- Defend Multiple-Use and Sustained Yield on Public Lands
- Promote the Stewardship of Utah's Natural Resources
- Strengthen Relationships with Key Stakeholders

Key Objectives are Implemented Through:

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| ★ Coordination | ★ Policy |
| ★ Cooperation | ★ Negotiation |
| ★ Consultation | ★ Litigation |
| ★ Consistency | |



Coordination



UTAH DEPARTMENT of
**ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY**



**Governor's Office of
Economic Opportunity**



Utah Department of
Heritage & Arts



Plus, congressional offices, Utah's 29 counties, and many others



STATE RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT PLAN
MAY 7TH 2025



Utah Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office

publiclands.utah.gov

Appropriations Request

- \$850,000 (one-time) request for **Public Lands Legal Counsel**
 - Request is included in the *Rural Success* section of the Governor's proposed budget for FY26

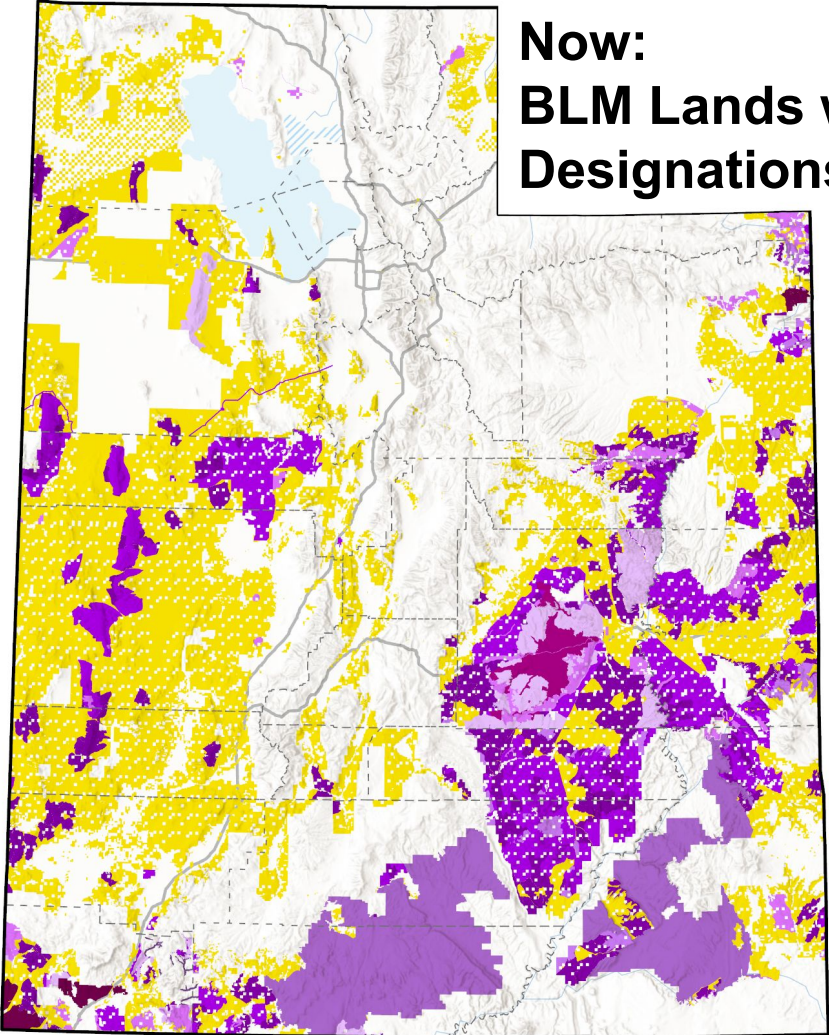
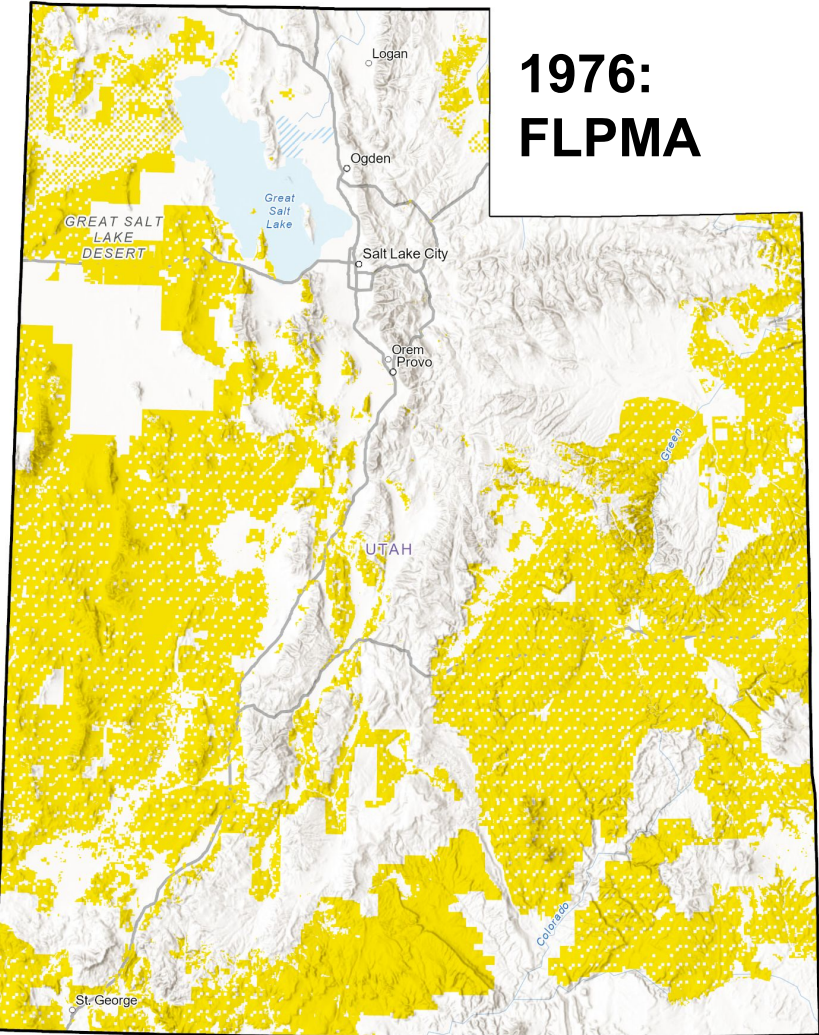


FY25 Appropriations

- With the \$500,000 in one-time funding for legal counsel, PLPCO hired a former Idaho District Court judge
- PLPCO, following the recommendation from the LFA, also hired a financial analyst who is working with the DNR finance team



Restrictive Rules and Designations



- BLM Without Special Designations
- National Monuments
- Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
- Designated Wilderness
- San Rafael Swell Recreation Area
- Natural (Primitive) Areas
- Lands with Wilderness Characteristics
- National Conservation Areas
- Special Recreation Management Areas
- Wild and Scenic Rivers

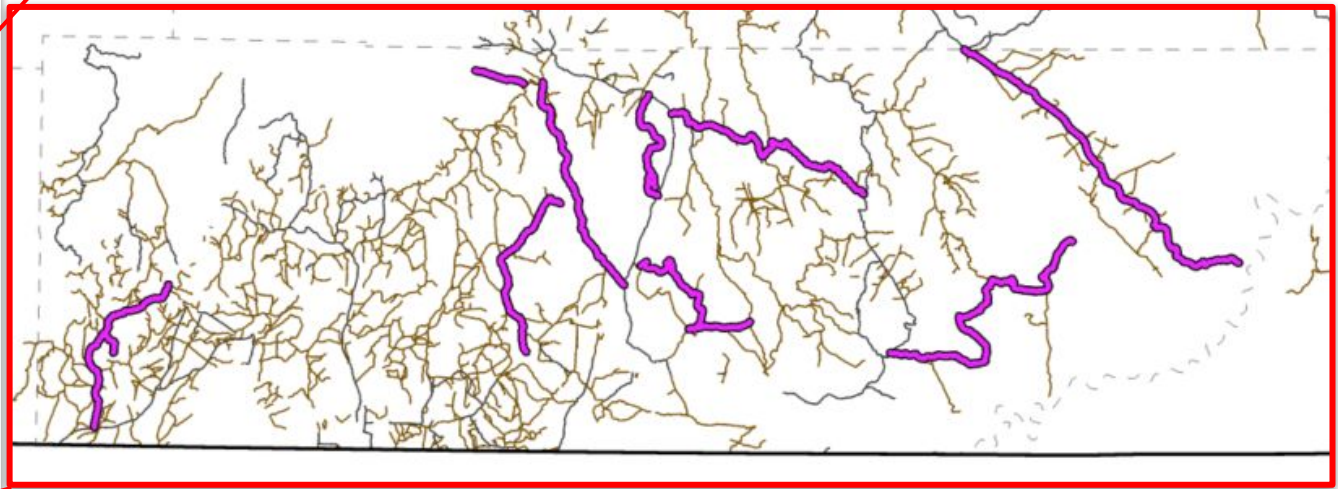
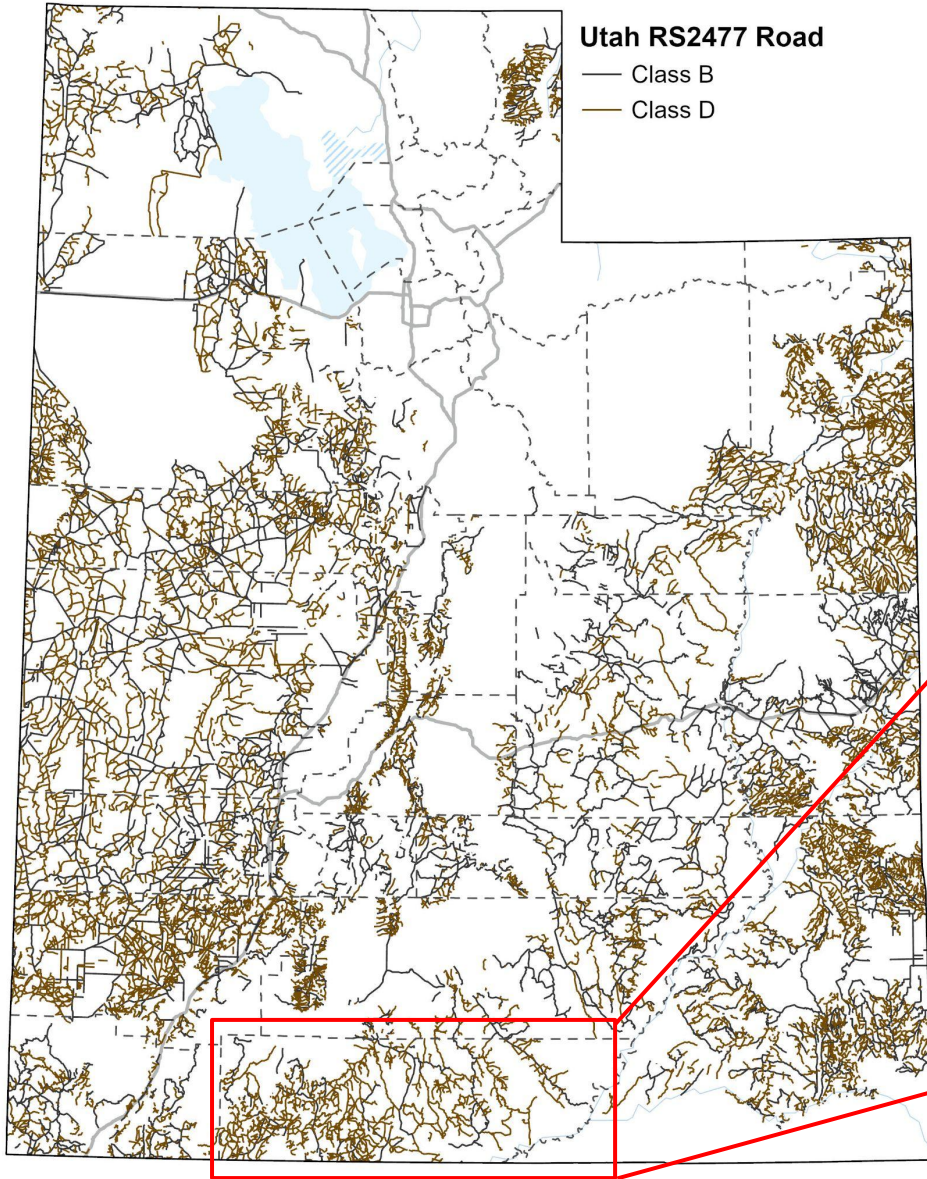


Public Lands Rule

- Museum management – “Look, don’t touch” approach
- Allows for restoration and mitigation leases – land use authorizations that the BLM can utilize to limit congressionally approved uses and activities that are mandated on public lands
- Circumvents/violates existing law and processes required by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA, 1976)



R.S. 2477 litigation protects access statewide



Bellwether Roads (Kane County)



Continuing R.S 2477 Work

Win:

- Judge Waddoups ruled that the state and counties are “holders of vested title” of certain R.S. 2477 rights-of-way

R.S. 2477 Statistics:

- Sworn deposition testimony on 8,500+ roads
- 72% of all R.S.2477 roads have been filmed
- Filmed over 1,100 roads/3,000 miles in 2024

Recent Action:

- House Rock Valley Road culvert installation providing access The Wave and other tourist destinations in Kane County

Future Concerns:

- BLM continues to close R.S. 2477 roads during Travel Management Planning (TMPs)



New culvert installation on House Rock Valley Road, Kane County



BLM Travel Management Planning

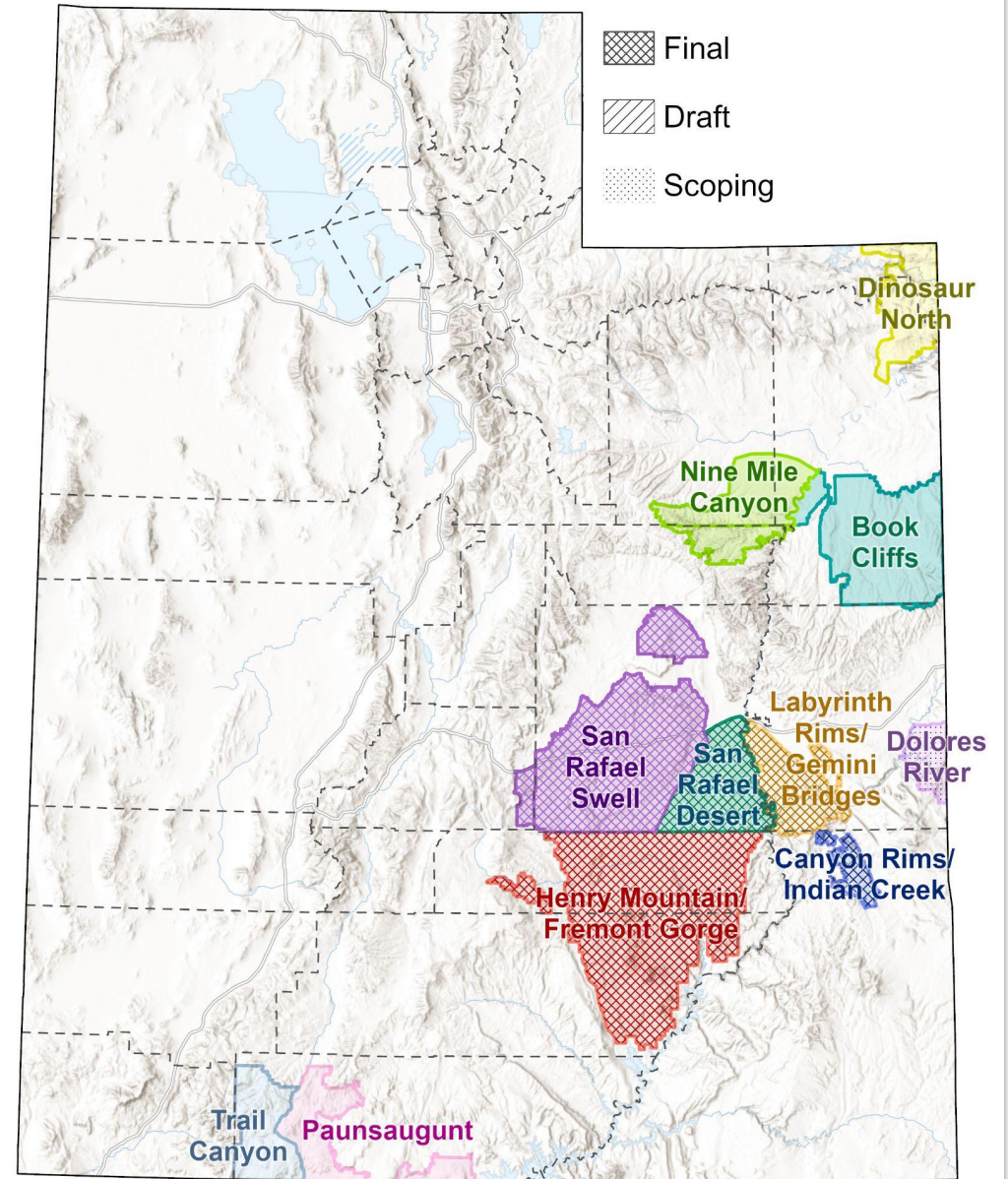
Finalized BLM Road Closures: 2,174 miles

- San Rafael Swell: **665 miles**
- Labyrinth Rims/Gemini Bridges: **317 miles**
- Henry Mountain/Fremont Gorge: **612 miles**
- San Rafael Desert: **534 miles**
- Canyon Rims/Indian Creek: **46 miles**

Pending TMPs:

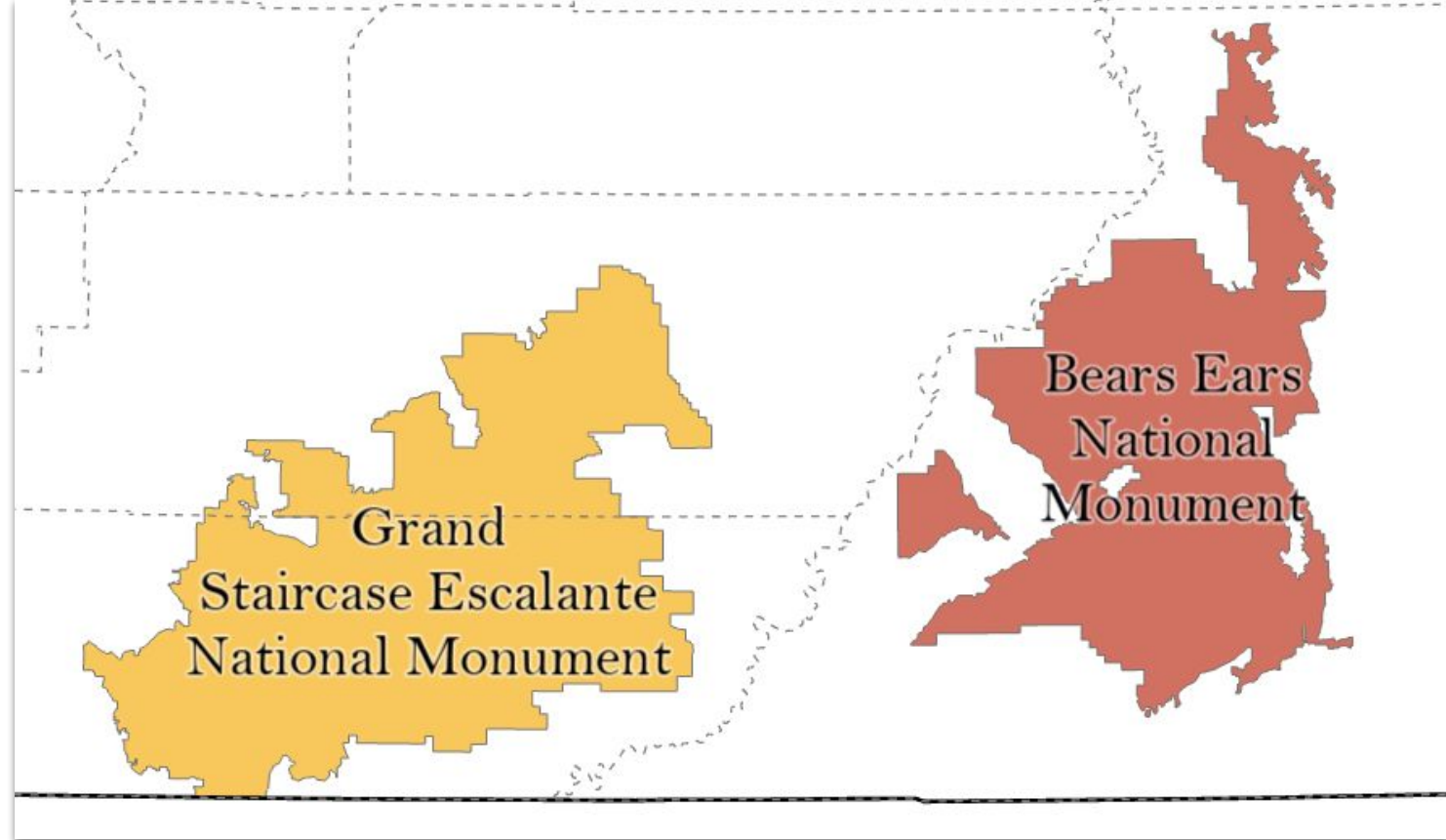
- Book Cliffs
- Dinosaur North
- Dolores River
- Nine Mile Canyon
- Paunsaugunt
- Trail Canyon

BLM Travel Management Areas



National Monuments

- The Antiquities Act of 1906 states that national monuments must be, “**the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected**”
- The Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments combined are:
 - **4x** the size of Utah’s 5 National Parks combined
 - **50x** the size of Utah’s 7 other National Monuments combined



Other Noteworthy Projects

- Northern Corridor Highway
 - Greater Sage-Grouse Planning
 - Mature & Old Growth Forest
 - Gray Wolves
 - Western Solar Plan
 - Ashley National Forest Plan
 - Wild Horses & Burros
 - National Glen Canyon Recreation Area
-

Resource Development Coordinating Council (RDCC) processed **691** projects and PLCPO submitted **280** comment letters in 2024



Stand For Our Land Education Campaign Statistics

- TV, Billboards, Radio, and Online media:
 - **144 million** impressions
- Creative platforms (e.g. Meta & print media):
 - **19.6 million** impressions
 - 137,000 clicks to StandForOurLand.utah.gov
- The earned media coverage generated from this effort was extensive, with a total reach of over **1.2 billion nationally** from **August 20 to August 30**.

Note: Included in the lawsuit, TMPs, Public Lands Rule, etc.



Summary:

- New Presidential Administration priorities
- Gov. Cox and Utah Legislature priorities
- Support Congressional solutions
- Continue litigation efforts
- Coordinate and complete Travel Management Plans
- Resolve monument issues
- R.S. 2477
- NEPA
- Energy and Transmission
- Help craft policies and projects that align with Utah's interests



Appropriations Request

- \$850,000 (one-time) request for **Public Lands Legal Counsel**
 - Request is included in the *Rural Success* section of the Governor's proposed budget for FY26



Thank You



Redge Johnson | Director
redgejohnson@utah.gov
801-537-9801

