

**SOUTHWEST UTAH PLANNING AUTHORITIES  
COUNCIL (SUPAC)**

**Minutes of a meeting held January 2, 2001**

1. The Southwest Utah Planning Authorities Council (SUPAC) met at the Holiday Inn in St. George, Utah, on Tuesday, January 2, 2001, at 1:00 p.m.. Those in attendance at the business meeting are listed on the rosters attached as Appendix A to these minutes.
2. Vice Chairman Scott Truman called the meeting to order and welcomed those present.
3. Scott Truman asked those present to introduce themselves. It was announced that Val Hawks is the new regional director for UDOT replacing Dale Peterson who has retired. He may attend the next SUPAC meeting at which time he could be introduced.
4. There was a short report on the OHV topical advisory meeting held this morning. There was a short presentation on NRCC's OHV agenda. Jim Crisp reported on the Washington County Trails. An inventory of the Southwest portion of Utah has been done and the process now will be to evaluate this through a NEPA process and a public involvement plan to designate these trails. They are also inventorying trails in the Sand Mountain- Sand Hollow area. Dale Grange and Jerry Smith from the High Desert Trail Association addressed the group. Their mission is to protect existing and motorized travel routes and privileges for motorized users. They want to work with land managers on defining proper land uses on public land. Jim Crisp gave a report on the National OHV strategy. Denny Davies discussed the volunteer group at Cedar Breaks National Monument that is dealing with snowmobiling use there. The next meeting will be February 27 at 9:00 a.m. at the St. George Federal Building, 196 E. Tabernacle.
3. The minutes of the meeting of November 7, 2000, were moved for approval as written by John Williams. Ron Thompson seconded the motion and all voted aye.
4. The next item on the agenda was a NRCC Committee Update by Bill Lamb. He was unable to attend today's meeting and asked Scott to report for him. Scott indicated that the NRCC Committee feels that they have come to the point where they need to engage groups such as SUPAC across the state to become more effective. They will be at the next meeting to give a full report.
5. Jim Crisp reported on the draft BLM National Off-Highway Management Strategy. BLM's Washington headquarters has issued a draft management strategy for off-highway vehicles. This is out for public review at this time. It was issued on December 4 for a 30 day comment period which ends tomorrow. The strategy was put together based on applicable laws, regulations, Executive Orders and input from Resource Advisory Councils and 49 listening meetings held across the country. Two were held in Utah - one in Salt Lake City and one in St. George. BLM received approximately 5000 comments. The comments are summarized in the draft summary which is about 70 pages

long. Jim said he has a few copies available with him today.

Some of the objectives of the strategy are: to bring some consistency to off-road vehicle management throughout the agency; reduce conflict between user groups; highlight the need for additional staffing and funding to manage critical elements of the program; updating of existing OHV regulations and policies to reflect current issues and use levels; clarify for land managers BLM's legal authorities for managing OHV use on public lands and to provide for public involvement.

There are 18 issues addressed in the draft strategy. The strategy establishes management goals and actions for each category. They are:

- Internal and external coordination
- Easements and acquisitions
- Internal and external education
- Environmental issues
- Fees and funding
- Inventory, planning and monitoring
- Law enforcement
- Permits, licenses & regulations
- Regulatory and Program Management
- Road & trail design, maintenance and restoration
- Signs, maps & related areas
- Wilderness Study Areas

It is proposed to apply the strategy to non-motorized vehicles such as mountain bikes, roller blades, land sailing craft, etc.

The strategy is intended to: 1) bring BLM in full compliance with Executive Order 11644 (as amended), and applicable laws, regulations and policies; 2) promote accelerated "catch-up" with the fast-changing OHV technology and use levels; 3) provide needed flexibility and allow local solutions to local problems; and 4) improve protection of special management areas.

The strategy does not replace any existing regulations and doesn't establish any national OHV designations or close any roads or trails. The implementation is dependent on funding from Congress and other sources. Copies of the strategy are available at the BLM's website which is <http://www.blm.gov>.

8. Gordon Topham passed out a list of activities for the first half of the year relating to the Iron Co. Sesquicentennial. There will be a big year of activities related to this in Iron County.
9. Gordon Topham also reported on the Sand Hollow Reservoir Recreation Planning Team. Gordon explained that a few months ago Ron Thompson at the

Washington County Water Conservancy District invited a large group of players that might have an interest in recreation use at Sand Hollow Reservoir to meet, at which time names were nominated for a team to work on a recreation plan for Sand Hollow Reservoir. There are 8 members which are meeting monthly and their goal is to try and have a recreation plan completed by the end of March, They have come up with a draft mission statement and vision statement which was distributed on a handout. The team envisions cooperative management with the Utah Division of Parks and Recreation, the Washington County Water Conservancy District and the BLM. He discussed the vision statement and its six related elements. Their mission statement is as follows:

The mission of Sand Hollow State Park is to provide visitors a wide variety of safe, accessible, educational and satisfying recreational experiences, develop facilities that meet user needs and enhance the area's aesthetic values while minimizing conflict and congestion, and secure a professional staff that will provide superior customer service.

Gordon also reviewed the strengths and weaknesses identified by the team at their last meeting on December 5.

He asked that if anyone has ideas or things they would like to see incorporated into this recreation plan or if they have concerns, please let him know. He also reviewed the membership of the committee. He said this will be an excellent opportunity for recreating for the county and the entire state.

10. Scott Truman distributed some articles about agriculture and the vanishing market to committee members. He asked committee members to review this and get back to him with any thoughts they have and if there is enough interest he will have Cary Peterson come and talk about this.
11. Denny Davies gave an update on snowmobiling in Cedar Breaks. He said they saw a tremendous need to involve the snowmobiling public in the use of snowmobiles at Cedar Breaks in a proactive educational way. They began last September to design a volunteer snowmobile trail group. They contacted federal agencies for help and input. They had a meeting and involved various agencies and five snowmobile users. They brought this group together in hopes of receiving input and finding weaknesses in the plan. There was 13 people at the meeting and they had a very good discussion. That was followed by two meetings in Cedar City and Brianhead. They signed up 17 patrol volunteers for a snowmobiling trail group after the meetings. They have highly reflective vests for these volunteers to wear that fit over their snowmobile suits and a patch that identifies volunteer patrol. They have asked the volunteers for four hours minimum per month. They will be holding another training session in January and sign up a few more volunteers. He said he learned from this process that it is a great thing to involve the stakeholders and work outside the box. It has become a good opportunity for the community to get involved. People seem to listen to other snowmobilers reminding them they could lose snowmobiling privileges if rules aren't obeyed even better than a

ranger in uniform. Also, by involving volunteers they become advocates of the concept. They are off to a good start and now they just need a little snow. A sample of the identifying patch worn by volunteers was circulated around the room.

Scott Truman asked about the future of closing snowmobiling in Cedar Breaks. Where is the decision going on closure? Denny indicated there was a serious look at snowmobiling throughout national parks about a year ago. Vic Knox told the committee that the Park Service is working on draft regulations for snowmobiling in parks nationwide. It isn't out now and they don't expect any really big changes. Cedar Breaks will hopefully get in the exception classification.

12. Scott called for any other items of business. The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, March 6 at the Holiday Inn. He also indicated that the 2001 MOU's and invoices to council members will be sent out in the next couple of weeks from his office.

13. The following agenda items were listed to be considered for the March agenda:

- Follow up from OHV TAG group.
- Report from NRCC Committee - Bill Lamb
- Sand Hollow Recreation Team report and recommendations - Gordon Topham
- Transportation system and shuttle system - Zion National Park
- Washington County Public Use Plan - Desert Tortoise Preserve - Jim Crisp
- Shivwits Indian Water Right Settlement - Ron Thompson
- Virgin River Program update - Henry Maddux, USFWS
- Financial Report - John Williams
- Congressional Delegation - (May meeting)

14. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Secretary