

Speech by Scott Escott, Moab, to Red Rock Trails Planning Public Meeting, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

GOOD EVENING. MY NAME IS SCOTT ESCOTT TRAILS COORDINATOR FOR GRAND COUNTY TRAIL MIX IN MOAB. MY WIFE SHARON IS ALSO HERE AND SHE IS THE TREASURER FOR TRAIL MIX.

THANK YOU JENNIFER BURNS FOR INVITING US TO COME DOWN TO SEDONA TO SHARE WITH YOU THE HISTORY, SETUP AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF OUR ORGANIZATION. WE'VE BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL IM MOAB, WORKING WITH OUR BLM IN CREATING WORLD CLASS MOUNTAIN BIKE SINGLETRACK. JENNIFER IS WORKING HARD TO ESTABLISH A SIMILAR WORKING ENVIRONMENT HERE, BETWEEN TRAIL USERS AND LAND MANAGERS.

BEFORE I START LET ME SAY THIS IS NOT ABOUT MOAB OR IN ANY FORM A SILLY COMPETITION ABOUT WHO HAS THE BEST TRAILS OR PIZZA. THIS IS ABOUT SHARING, AND HOPEFULLY HELPING SEDONA BUILD ON ITS ALREADY FABULOUS TRAILS. OUR GOAL IS BETTER MOUNTAIN BIKING EVERYWHERE.

TRAIL MIX HAS WORKED WITH MARY MONROE AND TRAILS 2000 IN DURANGO, TYSON SWAZEY, ONE OF OUR TRAIL BUILDERS WAS INVITED TO BE THE SITE MANAGER ON THE NEW SNAKE CHARMER TRAIL, THERE. WE HAVE WORKED WITH SEAN GREGORY AND THE KOKOPELLI BIKE CLUB IN CORTEZ COLORADO. GRAND JUNCTION AND FRUITA HAVE SENT DELEGATIONS TO MOAB TO ATTEND ONE OF OUR MONTHLY MEETING AND CHRIS MUHR FROM COPMOBA ALSO HAS ATTENDED. TRAIL MIX IS MORE THAN WILLING TO SHARE OUR KNOWLEDGE ON TRAIL APPROVAL, BUILDING, EDUCATION AND WORKING WITH THE LAND MANAGERS. AS WE ALL KNOW MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS ARE A COMPLEX ISSUE, EVEN WITHIN THE BIKING COMMUNITY.

#### THE HISTORY OF TRAIL MIX AND THE BLM RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

THESE ARE THE WORDS OF TRAIL MIX FOUNDER KIM SCHAPPERT:

“IN 2000 THE COUNTY BEGAN WORKING ON THE RS2477 ROAD OWNERSHIP, THEY DECIDED TO CONVENE A COMMITTEE OF INTERESTED CITIZENS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO EXAMINE THE SPAGHETTI SYSTEM OF ROADS ON THE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION MAP. THEIR MISSION WAS TO IDENTIFY ROADS THAT WEREN'T NECESSARY OR REDUNDANT THAT COULD BE ELIMINATED, AND THUS HAVE A MAP TO PRESENT TO THE STATE FOR THE LAWSUIT TO DEFEND THE COUNTY RIGHT OF WAYS. AS A MEMBER OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL I THOUGHT THE TIMING WAS RIGHT FOR A COMMITTEE ON NON MOTORIZED USER TO PROTECT THIER INTERESTS. SINCE THE CITY HAD CREATED THE MILL-CREEK PARKWAY I ASKED DAVID OLSEN, MOAB'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR AND AVID MOUNTAIN BIKER, IF HE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN THIS IDEA, AND OUR FIRST MEETING WAS SEPT 12 2000. WE MET MONTHLY BUT DID NOT ACTUALLY ELECT OFFICERS UNTIL FEB.02 WHEN I BECAME CHAIR AND DAVID VICE CHAIR. THE COUNTY BEGAN THE \$10,000/YR FUNDING IN 2002.

AT THAT FIRST MEETING THE COUNTY, CITY, BLM, FOREST SERVICE, SITLA (WHICH IS UTAH SCHOOL TRUST LANDS) AND UDOT ALL HAD A SEAT AT THE TABLE. THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE WOULD SOON ALSO BECOME A MEMBER.

FOR A FEW YEARS, TRAIL MIX HAD TO WAIT FOR THE BLM TO COMPLETE THEIR RMP (RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN) BEFORE PROPOSING ANY TRAILS ON BLM LAND. THE ONLY APPROVED SINGLE-TRACK THEY BUILT DURING THAT TIME WAS A COUPLE MILES CALLED BABY STEPS. ALSO DURING THIS TIME, SOME OTHER TRAILS WERE ILLEGALLY BIUILT ON FOREST SERVICE LAND AND BLM LAND. SOME OF THESE TRAILS WERE APPROVED AFTER THE RMP AND SOME WERE NOT, DUE TO LAND OWNERSHIP AND WILDLIFE ISSUES.

THE HISTORY OF THE BLM RMP HAS TO BE PART OF THIS STORY BECAUSE IT LAID THE FOUNDATION FOR OUR NEW TRAIL SYSTEMS.

IN 1992 THE FIRST OPEN TRAVEL CLOSURE WAS INITIATED IN SAND FLATS AND ALONG HIGHWAY 313 AND 128 DUE TO THE APPEARANCE OF ATVS

IN 2003 THE BLM STARTED WORK ON THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN DUE TO THE INCREASED VISITATION,RESOURCE DAMAGE AND SHARED USE CONFLICTS

IN 2008 THE RMP WAS COMPLETED AND PUT INTO PLACE COVERING 1.5 MILLION ACRES OF BLM LAND IN GRAND COUNTY AND GIVING MOUNTAIN BIKERS SIX FOCUS AREAS, AMOUNTING TO AROUND ONE HUNDRED THOUSANDS ACRES. NOW TRAIL MIX HAD THE ABILITY TO BUILD ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY MILES OF NON-MOTORIZED SINGLETRACK.

THE OPEN TRAVEL BAN NOW WAS IN PLACE COUNTY WIDE. ONLY THE BARTLETT SLICKROCK AREA STAYED OPEN TO FREE-RIDING

BY THE WAY HIKERS ARE NOT RESTRICTED UNDER THE OPEN TRAVEL BAN. THEY CAN HIKE WHEREVER THEY WANT.

WAS THE RMP WORTH THE WAIT FOR MOUNTAIN BIKERS? WITHOUT A DOUBT

TRAIL MIX -OUR MISSION IS TO PRESERVE AND DEVELOP THE INDIVIDUAL TRAILS AND PATHWAYS THAT WILL GROW INTO AN INTEGRATED NETWORK AND THERBY HELP PROVIDE SAFE, CONVENIENT AND ENJOYABLE RECREATION AND TRANSPORTATION FOR ALL TRAIL USERS THROUGHOUT GRAND COUNTY. WE WORK CLOSLEY WITH FEDERAL,STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND MOBILIZE VOLUNTEERS TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL

TRAIL MIX IS A GRAND COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD ,CONSISTING OF

A CHAIR,VICE CHAIR,TREASURER,AND A BOARD OF DIRECTORS, WHICH CONSISTS OF A BIKING, SKIING, HIKING AND EQUESTRIAN REP. ALSO A MEMBER OFMTA (MOAB TRAILS ALLIANCE) IS ON THE BOARD. MTA IS A ADVOCACY GROUP WHICH IS THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND THE PAVED PATHS AND TRANSIT HUB.

ALL THESE POSITIONS ARE VOLUNTEERS

WE HAVE THREE PAID POSITIONS, THE TRAILS COORDINATOR AND TWO TRAIL SPECIALISTS WHO WORK ON BUILDING AND TRAIL MAINTENANCE.

## THE TRAILS COORDINATOR

- WORK WITH TRAIL PROPOSALS
- WORK THRU DESIGN AND APPROVAL PROCESS
- FINAL DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
- VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR
- TRAIL OBSERVATION AND MAINTENANCE

## THE MEETINGS

- ONCE A MONTH
- SET AGENDA
- ROBERT'S RULES
- RECORDER FOR PUBIC RECORD

ANY ONE CAN JOIN TRAIL MIX, YOU HAVE TO ATTEND THREE MEETINGS TO BE A VOTING MEMBER.

COUNTY INVOLVEMENT IS CRITICAL BECAUSE LAND MANAGERS(WHOSE LAND WE DO ALL OUR WORK ON) DO NOT LIKE TO CREATE POLICY THAT WILL NOT BE ENDORSED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT. THEY LIKE TO BE SEEN AS WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITIES EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE MANAGING FEDERAL LANDS.

## FINANCIALS

- COUNTY
- 10K A YEAR
- ACCEPTS LIABILITY ON NON FEDERAL LAND
- GRANT PARTNER
- GIVES TRAIL MIX CREDITABILITY WITH LAND MGRS. AND CITIZENS
- HAS ESTABLISHED GRAND COUNTY NON MOTORIZED MASTER PLAN

## BLM

- SUPPLIES MONEY THRU COST SHARING PROGRAM WHEN AVAILABLE
- ARCH STUDY
- PALEO. STUDY
- WILDLIFE STUDY
- ALL PAPER WORK FROM TRAIL PROPOSAL ANNOUNCEMENTS TO EA
- GRANT PARTNER
- FUNNELS VOLUNTEERS THRU TRAIL MIX
- WHICH WE USE IN OUR MATCHING FUNDS IN OUR GRANTS
- GROUND SUPPORT
- MATERIALS
- LABOR

- HEAVY EQUIPMENT

#### CANYONLANDS NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

- IS A NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION ESTABLISHED TO ASSIST THE SCIENTIFIC AND EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS OF THE NPS,BIM AND FS IN SOUTHEAST UTAH
- 501-C3
- CNHA PROVIDES PAYROLL AND BANKING SERVICES

#### MOAB TTRAILS ALLIANCE

- MAPS FOR MAINTENANCE,MOAB TRAILS ALLIANCE PRODUCES MAPS OF THE TRAIL AREAS,AND SELLS THE PAPER MAPS TO THE BIKE SHOPS. THE MONEY THEN GOES INTO TRAIL MIXS MAINTENANCE FUND. WE ARE LOOKING AT ABOUT FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS THIS YEAR.
- PRIVATE DONATIONS AND RACE AND EVENT RAFFLES
- RACE AND EVENT LIASON

THIS MIGHT SOUND LIKE WE ARE ROLLING IN DOUGH,BUT WE WORK WITH ABOUT THIRTY TO FORTY THOUSAND DOLLARS A YEAR. WITHOUT OUR SUPER VOLUNTEERS THE BLM,MTA AND THE COUNTY NEW TRAILS IN MOAB WOULD NOT HAPPEN.

#### A TRAIL FROM START TO FINISH

- PROPOSAL FOR NEW TRAILS CAN ONLY BE MADE BY TRAIL MIX ON BLM LAND
- WE SEE IF IT WILL WORK
- LAND OWNERSHIP
- WILDLIFE
- ACEC. (AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN)
- WALK ROUTE WITH THREE MEMBERS OF TRAIL MIX
- DOES IT FIT INTO WHAT WE NEED
- GPS ROUTE
- TRAIL PROPOSAL-ACTION ITEM VOTE
- GOES TO BLM
- PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
- ARCH/PALEO HIKE
- REPORTS WRITTEN
- WAITING PERIOD IF COMMENTS IN FIRST COMMENT PERIOD
- BUILD SLIP
- CONSTRUCTION
- SIGNAGE
- OBSERVATION
- RAIN
- USE

- ABUSE
- ACTION

## TRUST

WITHOUT TRUST BETWEEN THE BLM AND TRAIL MIX, NEW TRAILS WOULD HAVE BEEN HARD TO COME BY. I STARTED WORKING FOR TRAIL MIX IN 2009, SOON AFTER THE RMP WENT INTO EFFECT. AT THAT POINT, THE BLM WAS RELUCTANT TO GIVE US A SECTION OF LAND WE NEEDED TO FINISH THE PIPE DREAM TRAIL, WHICH WAS MOSTLY ON STATE LAND. WE CALLED THE BLM SECTION THE 610 BECAUSE THAT'S HOW LONG IT WAS, SIX HUNDRED AND TEN FEET. AT THAT POINT THE BLM HAD LITTLE TRUST IN MOUNTAIN BIKERS BECAUSE OF A NUMBER OF UNSUSTAINABLE ILLEGAL TRAILS. WE WERE AT A TURNING POINT, AND THE SOLUTION WAS TO SHOW THEM A TRAIL LIKE THEY HAD NEVER SEEN BEFORE. ON THE STATE LAND SECTIONS, WE BUILT BRIDGES WITH BOULDERS THE SIZE OF VOLKSWAGENS ACROSS DRAINAGES. THEN WE INVITED OUR BIGGEST CRITICS, KATIE STEVENS AND JENNIFER JONES FROM THE BLM TO COME OUT AND SEE OUR WORK. KATIE CALLED IT THE APPIAN WAY, AFTER THE WORK OF THE ANCIENT ROMANS WHICH STILL EXISTS TODAY. SHE APPROVED THE 610. WE HAD ESTABLISHED THE FIRST LINE OF TRUST, SUSTAINABLE TRAILS.

THE SECOND LINE OF TRUST COMES WITH DEFERRING TO THE EXPERTS. TRAIL MIX GOES OUT IN THE FIELD WITH BLM ARCHEOLOGISTS, PALEONTOLOGISTS AND WILDLIFE EXPERTS DURING THEIR CLEARANCES ON PROPOSED TRAILS. THIS ALLOWS US TO MAKE TRAIL ALIGNMENT CHANGES WITH THEM IF THEY FIND AREAS WE NEED TO AVOID. OUR RULE IS TO NEVER QUESTION THEIR DECISION. THEY ARE THE EXPERTS, AND WE DEFER TO THEM. AND NOW WE HAVE ANOTHER LINE OF TRUST. WHAT TRAIL MIX HAS GAINED FROM THIS IS THAT THE BLM DEFERS TO US WHEN IT COMES TO THE ACTUAL TRAIL BUILDING. THEY TRUST US AND DO NOT QUESTION US ON TRAIL ALIGNMENT AND CONSTRUCTION. THIS TRUST IS THE BASIS OF OUR PARTNERSHIP.

## WHAT DO WE FEEL GOOD ABOUT

- 100 MILES NEW SINGLETRACK IN FOUR YEARS.
- WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH LAND MGRS.
- STREAM LINING APPROVAL PROCESS
- TRAIL HEADS, PARKING AREAS, KIOSKS
- WORLD CLASS MAP AND SIGN SYSTEM

WE ARE THE RACE LIASON WITH BLM, WHICH BEGINS WITH HELPING THE BLM DECIDE WHICH TRAILS ARE APPROPRIATE FOR RACES. RACES CAN BE EXTREMELY DAMAGING TO SINGLETRACK. THE BLM REQUIRES THE RACE PROMOTER POST A MAINTENANCE BOND AND TO WALK THE RACE COURSE AFTER THE EVENT WITH RAKES, FIXING ALL OFF TRAIL TRACKS. IF THE TRAIL DOESN'T LOOK BETTER AFTER THE RACE THAN BEFORE, THE BLM GIVES TRAIL MIX THE BOND MONEY TO PERFORM THE NECESSARY REPAIRS.

WE ARE NOT ONLY EDUCATING BIKERS TO STAY ON THE TRAIL, WE ARE ALSO KEEPING THE MOTORIZED USER OFF OUR TRAILS THRU TRAILHEADS AND SIGNING.

I ASKED KIM SCHAPPERT IF TRAIL MIX HAD MET THE FOUNDERS EXPECTATIONS ,HER WORDS

“HOW COULD ANYONE HAVE EVER IMAGINED THAT THIRTEEN YEARS LATER WE WOULD HAVE A SOLID NON MOTORIZED TRAILS MASTER PLAN, AN EXCELLENT WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH ALL THE LOCAL LAND MANAGERS, 100 MILES OF NEW SINGLETRACK AND A PAVED ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM WORTH OVER 20 MILLION DOLLARS HERE IN GRAND COUNTY. ALL FROM A SCRAPPY BEGINNING, A SHOESTRING BUDGET, AND A CAST OF EVOLVING CHARACTERS THAT HAS CHAPERONED EACH STEP OF TRAIL MIXS WAY”