# **Public Scoping – Wedge Recreation Area Sustainable Campgrounds and Developments (DOI-BLM-UT-G020-2025-0012-EA)**

June 11, 2025

# Introduction

The Wedge Recreation Area, commonly referred to as “the Wedge”, is located on BLM-administered lands in Emery County, Utah, 20 miles east of Castle Dale, Utah within the San Rafael Recreation Area. Currently the Wedge developments include nine designated campsites equipped with fire rings, a three-acre dispersed camping area delineated with buck and rail fencing, toilet facilities, trailheads, parking areas, overlooks, and interpretive and directional signage.

The Wedge is experiencing increased usage, leading to the expansion of designated sites, the proliferation of dispersed campsites, the creation of new vehicle and bike routes, as well as numerous pullouts that resemble designated campsites. These users created expansions are occurring in areas vulnerable to crushing and disturbance.

BLM is proposing to develop the Wedge in three phases to enhance visitor experiences and education and to reduce resource damage. Proposed developments include, constructing two new campgrounds, enhancing up to five existing group campsites, designating, enhancing or constructing up to seven miles of bike trails, improving motorized access, improving up to six existing day-use parking areas, enhancing up to four existing overlooks, installing up to 10 additional toilet facilities, and adding visitor information such as kiosks and directional signage. The proposed developments would be located near the Good Water Rim Trail, and the Little Grand Canyon Overlook.

# BLM Authority

Section 1221 of P.L. 116-9 (Dingell Act) that designated the San Rafael Swell Recreation Area to enhance, protect, and conserve, the recreational, cultural, natural, scenic, wildlife, ecological, historical, and educational resources of the Recreation Area. Section 154 of P.L. 118-234 (EXPLORE Act) directs federal agencies to increase and improve parking and restroom facilities. Section 214 of the EXPLORE Act directs federal agencies to develop accessible trails[[1]](#footnote-2).

# BLM Decision to be Made

BLM is considering whether to develop the Wedge in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) which requires the BLM to consider environmental impacts and make an informed decision. After completion of the NEPA review process, the BLM will decide whether to approve the designation and or the development of campgrounds, group campsites, bike trails, day use parking areas, formal overlooks, additional toilet facilities, and visitor information such as kiosks and directional signage.

# Potential Resource Issues

The BLM has identified the following resources for consideration of impacts:

* Recreation
* Lands with Wilderness Character
* Threatened and Endangered plants
* Visual resources
* San Rafael Swell Recreation Area
* Soils
* Vegetation
* Livestock Grazing
* Weeds

# How Can You Participate?

The BLM is seeking information from you, the public, about the project and the area, in a step called public scoping. The scoping period for the Wedge Recreation Area Sustainable Campgrounds and Developments will be active from June 11, 2025, to June 25, 2025. Additionally, an open house will be held on June 18, 2025, at 6 p.m. at the Emery County Administrative Building, located at 75 East Main Street, Castle Dale, Utah. BLM staff will present the proposed developments and be available to answer questions.

The BLM is seeking public input to identify potential resource issues, data for use in analysis, and alternatives. The most useful scoping comments would answer the following questions:

* What other alternatives should the BLM consider?
* What resources may be impacted by the proposed developments, and what are the potential impacts?
* What environmental, economic, or other data should the BLM consider?
* What cumulative activities or impacts are occurring in the area?
* Should the BLM coordinate with any other people, groups, or agencies?

Please submit your written comments on or before June 25, 2025. Please reference “Wedge Recreation Developments” when submitting your comments. You may submit comments using the BLM’s ePlanning website, e-mail, or mail.

* <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2038413/510>
* Mail: BLM Price Field Office, Attn: David Baker, 125 South 600 West, Price, UT, 84501
* E-mail**:** blm\_ut\_pr\_comments@blm.gov

# Next Steps and Timing

The BLM will use the information gathered from public scoping to create an Environmental Assessment that discloses the impacts from any alternatives analyzed in detail.

1. As defined by the EXPLORE Act, “accessible trail” means a trail that meets the requirements for a trail under the Architectural Barriers Act accessibility guidelines. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)