

# Outcomes-Focused Management Focus Group Report

## Logandale Trails

### Logandale, Nevada – 2020

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## Executive Summary

In February 2020 members of the Public Lands Recreation Research Partnership (PLRRP) conducted a series of four focus groups (21 participants) regarding recreational outcomes and experiences on Bureau of Land Management (BLM)-managed lands near Logandale, NV. The study focused on Logandale Trails, which has been an active site for outdoor recreation in the area for years. A mixed methodology focus group was employed to establish the recreational experience baseline. Participants were asked a series of open-ended questions, as well as survey-type questions recorded on handouts provided, in a 90-minute discussion that focused on their relationship to these public lands and their preferences for recreational settings, experiences, and outcomes related to these lands. The focus group script covered several of the major elements needed in planning for recreation on public lands, including preferences for outcomes and experiences; the role of Logandale Trails in the larger community; management priorities; and the services needed to support the recreation experience. Additional questions encouraged participants to express their preferences for management practices, including the BLM's engagement with the public during its planning process. This methodology captured both a complete set of responses to fixed questions from each participant via the handouts, and also a rich set of notes and audio transcripts that document the group dialog and provide both context and depth to the handout responses. The responses to individual survey-type questions are presented in a series of figures throughout the report. Written responses to open-ended questions were coded by theme, the results of which are displayed in summary figures in the latter half of the report. A copy of the handout, including all questions asked, is located in Appendix 1. A list of themes captured on flip charts during the meetings comprises Appendix 2. A complete list of all written comments (sorted by question) is found in Appendix 3.

The study is most useful to provide a more nuanced understanding of the attitudes of local residents (90% of participants live in zip codes adjacent to Logandale Trails). A separate study by PLRRP used a survey of recreation visitors to develop a complimentary understanding of recreation interests and expectations for the area. The local residents in this focus group study value the landscape for its proximity, access, and recreational opportunities, as well as the way it contributes to their quality of life in the Moapa Valley. Because the landscape is so central to their lives, they expressed a strong desire to be involved in the planning and management of the landscape through consultation by land agencies and participation in stewardship events. Motorized recreation in a variety of forms is an important characteristic of Logandale Trails. The area is valued for its scenic beauty and natural landscape as a setting for a wide variety of recreational activities regularly enjoyed in the company of family and friends.

## Full Report

### Characteristics of Bureau of Land Management Lands in the Logandale Trails System Near Logandale, Nevada

The Logandale Trails System (also referred to as Logandale Trails) is a 45,000 acre parcel of federal land north of Las Vegas, Nevada, managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) primarily for its recreational characteristics. Logandale Trails is managed by the BLM Las Vegas Field Office. It is nestled in between the Moapa Valley and Valley of Fire State Park with over 200 miles of trails used by off-highway vehicles (OHVs) as well as hikers and equestrian riders. It is a desert landscape with an abundance of washes, trails, orange rock, cliffs, and vistas popular among OHV users for the diversity of terrain, access to the site, proximity to larger population centers such as Las Vegas, miles of trails, and endless opportunities to explore and be with others enjoying the landscape. Figure 1 shows the relative location of Logandale Trails in the western United States and Figure 2 shows its location in the Moapa Valley. The circled space is the approximate boundary (for a more accurate map of the specific boundaries and recreational zones see Figure 8 on page 12 of this report).

Figure 1. Map Showing Relative Location of Logandale Trails System in Southwestern United States



Figure 2. Location of Logandale Trails System in Moapa Valley



## Methodology

A mixed methodology focus group was employed to establish a recreational experience baseline. This focus group method combined the use of audience handouts to record individual responses anonymously with engagement of participants in open dialogue. This mixed methodology attempts to capture both a complete set of responses to fixed questions from each participant via the handouts, and also a rich set of notes and audio transcripts that document the group dialog and provide both context and depth to the handout responses. Either approach used alone could leave an incomplete picture of the broad and deep relationships people have with the landscape. Thus, a mixed methodology is the preferred strategy to capture as much input as possible when establishing a baseline to understand the recreational demands and desires of the public for this area.

Figure 3. Focus Group Discussion



The design of the focus group script (for data collection purposes) entailed a structured series of discussion questions intended to engage participants in open dialogue about their preferences, interests, and expectations. This allowed the capture of responses phrased in participants’ own words. These open-ended questions were often followed by presentation of a list of discrete choices on the handouts (given to every participant and collected at the end of the focus group) that represented a spectrum of possible responses to the discussion questions. Participants could then respond anonymously via the handouts, and their responses could be recorded for use in a larger national database. During the focus groups, the open dialogue comments were documented by consortium researchers taking notes on a white board in the room, as well as with audio recording equipment.

Table 1. Focus Group Location and Participation

Focus Group Number	Date and Time	Location	Number of Participants
1	Friday, February 7, 2020 10 am	Old Logandale School Historical and Cultural Society 3011 N. Moapa Valley Blvd. Logandale, NV 89021	11
2	Friday, February 7, 2020 7 pm	Old Logandale School Historical and Cultural Society	4
3	Saturday, February 8, 2020 10 am	Old Logandale School Historical and Cultural Society	4
4	Saturday, February 7, 2020 2 pm	Old Logandale School Historical and Cultural Society	2



Figure 4. Location of Focus Groups - Old Logandale School Historical and Cultural Society



Outreach to populate the focus groups included:

- Direct outreach to partners and key stakeholders (including local activity-oriented groups, such as 4x4, hiking, and biking clubs, cooperating agencies, local government entities, local stewardship/conservation groups, etc.)
- Press releases in local newspapers
- Flyers (put up at community centers, biking, running, and outdoor gear stores, etc.)
- Outreach by Partners In Conservation, a local non-profit public lands stewardship organization

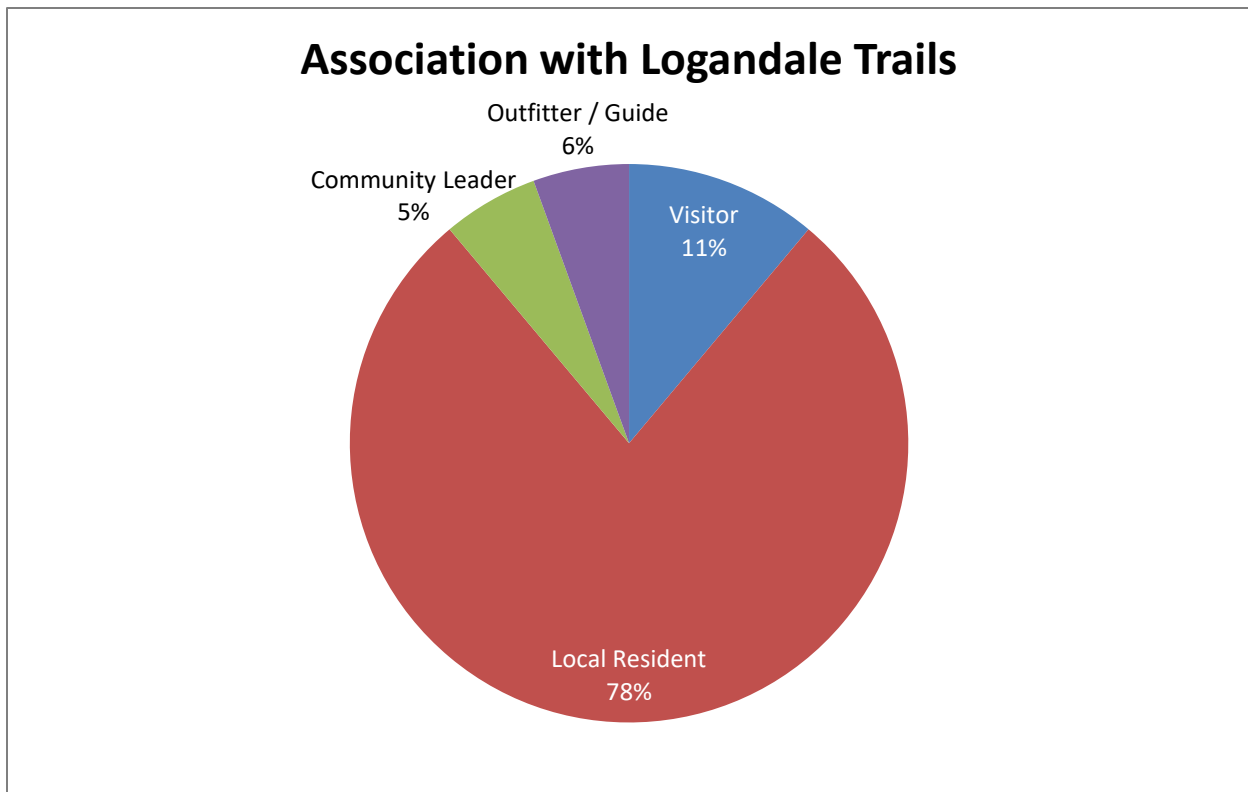
It is important to note the limitations of using this data. Because sampling of participants was not random, it would be inappropriate to suggest the results of this analysis are generalizable to the preferences and views of the entire population interested in recreating on these lands. This report of focus group findings does not attempt to do this. However, effort was made to hear from a broad sample of groups with a connection to the landscape, including both locals and visitors, who were willing to spend 90 minutes participating in the conversation.

## Demographics

A total of 21 people participated in the four focus groups. Participants may have had many possible roles within the community (e.g., a participant may be a local resident, community leader, and business owner at the same time). However, they were asked to assume only one primary role for the purpose of the focus group. Figure 2 exhibits the primary roles the

participants chose across all four focus groups. The largest group (78%) identified as “local residents,” a much smaller group of participants (11%) identified as “visitors,” and a few participants selected more specific affiliations such as “community leaders” and “outfitters/guides.” The selections of affiliation indicate that this focus group study gives a good picture of the concerns of the local community (Moapa Valley residents) regarding these lands, but that surveys are needed to capture the interests and expectations of visitors from beyond the nearby communities. A separate survey of visitors was conducted by the Public Lands Recreation Research Partnership in 2019-2020. Results can be found in a separate report<sup>3</sup>.

Figure 5. Association With Logandale Trails Landscape



n=18. Though it was an option, no participant selected “business owner” in this study.

Although 22% of the participants identified primarily as something other than local resident (though “community leaders” and “outfitter/guides” could also have been local), the vast majority of participants (78%) identified as local residents. An analysis of the zip codes provided by participants indicates that almost all of the participants live within 20 miles of the trails system.

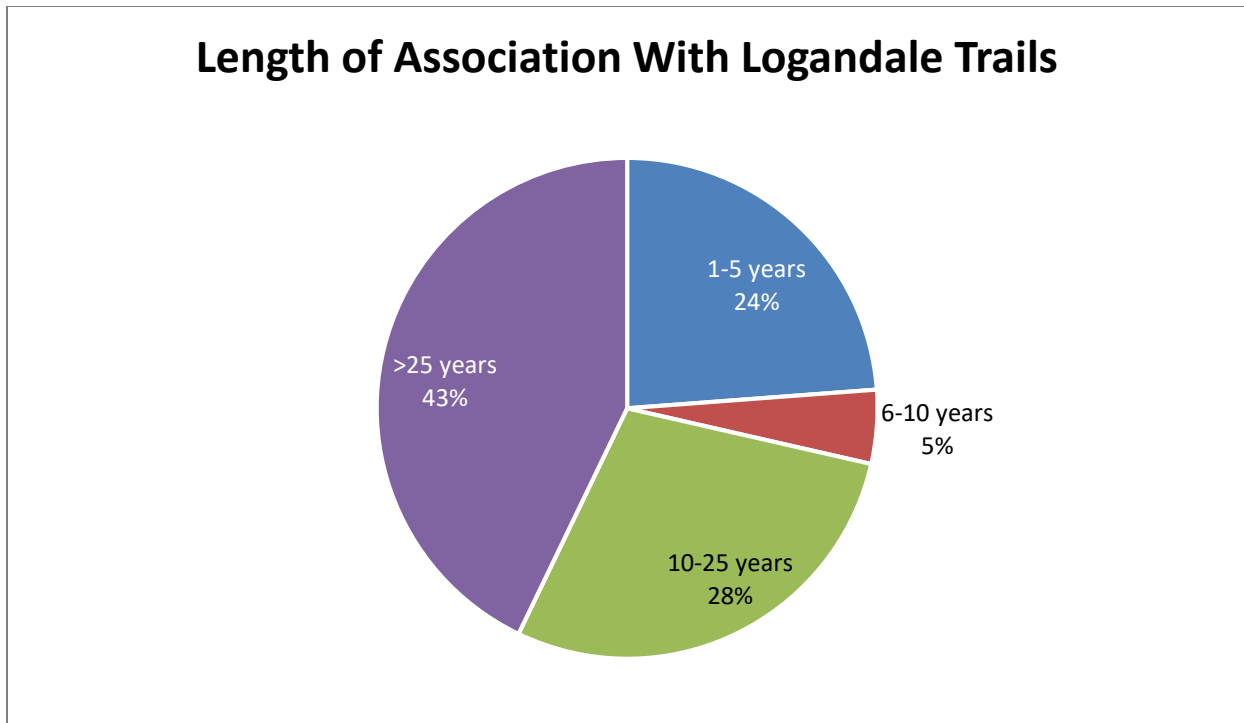
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<sup>3</sup> Logandale Trails Management Areas Outcomes-Focused Management (OFM) Recreation Study, Spring 2020 (Fix, et al.).

Table 2. Zip Codes of Participants

Zip Code	Location	Frequency
89021	Logandale, NV	15
89040	Overton, NV	3
84118	Salt Lake City, UT	2
89025	Moapa, NV	1

Figure 6. Length of Association with Logandale Trails Landscape



n=21.

Participants were also asked the length of their affiliation with the Logandale Trails landscape. Knowing how long participants have been associated with or recreating on the Logandale Trails landscape allows a better understanding of how their length of association might impact their ideas and attitudes about recreation in the area. Although nearly a quarter (24%) of participants indicated they had been associated with the landscape for less than five years, the vast majority of participants (71%) indicated their relationship with the landscape was older than 10 years, with over 40% indicating this relationship stretched longer than 25 years for them. This is a remarkable opportunity to understand how longevity of relationship to a landscape affects one’s attitude about management of that landscape. This compliments the recreational survey research, identified earlier, by offering a glimpse into the perspective of those who have a long-term relationship with the landscape with which to contrast the views of survey respondents, a sample with greater representation of recreational visitors to the region

(some of whom have a similarly long-term relationship with the landscape, but most of whom do not). The picture below (Figure 7) is of a giant wall mural located in the Logandale Community Center which celebrates the long, rich, and diverse relationship humans have had with the Moapa Valley landscape (including Logandale Trails) throughout history. The residents are proud of their relationship with the landscape and how the lands and the people have shaped each other for such a long time.

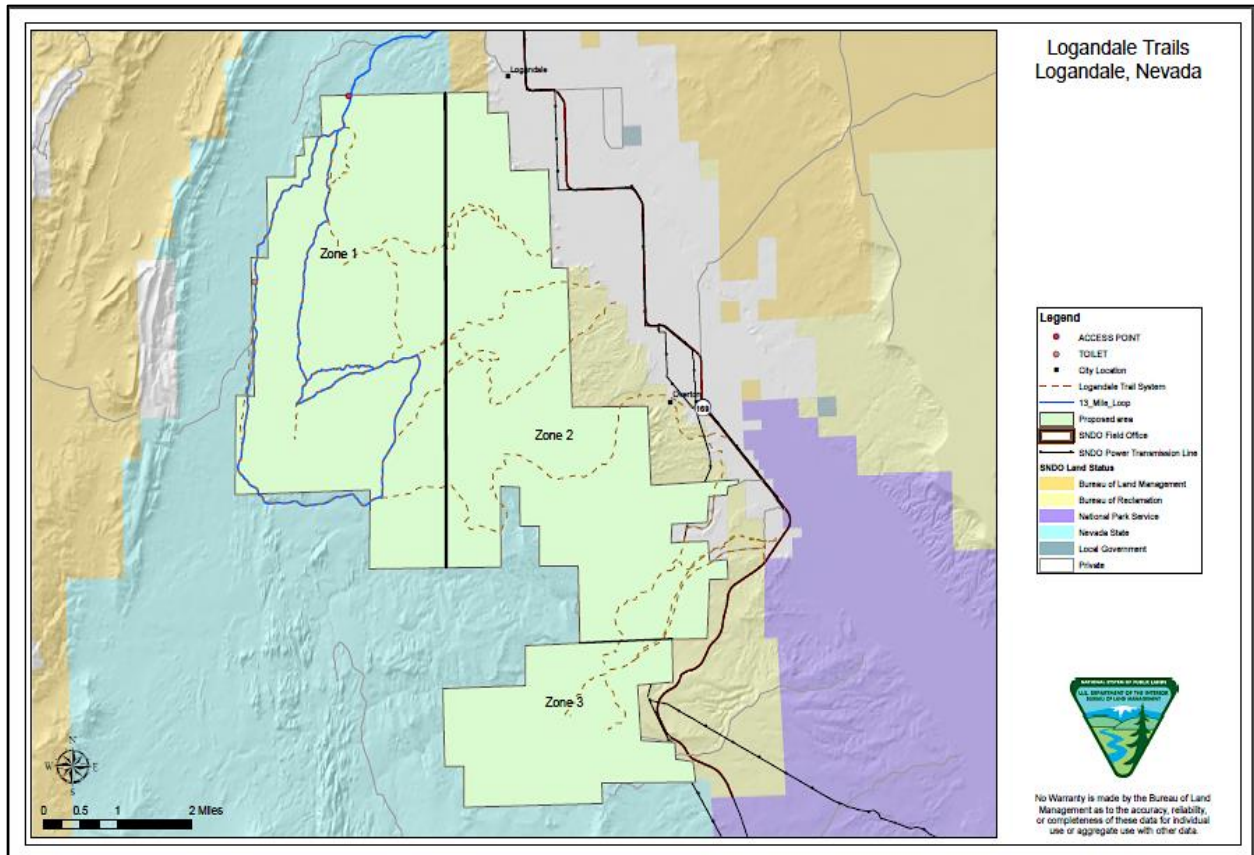
Figure 7. Logandale Community Center Mural Depicting History of People in the Moapa Valley



## Recreational Zones

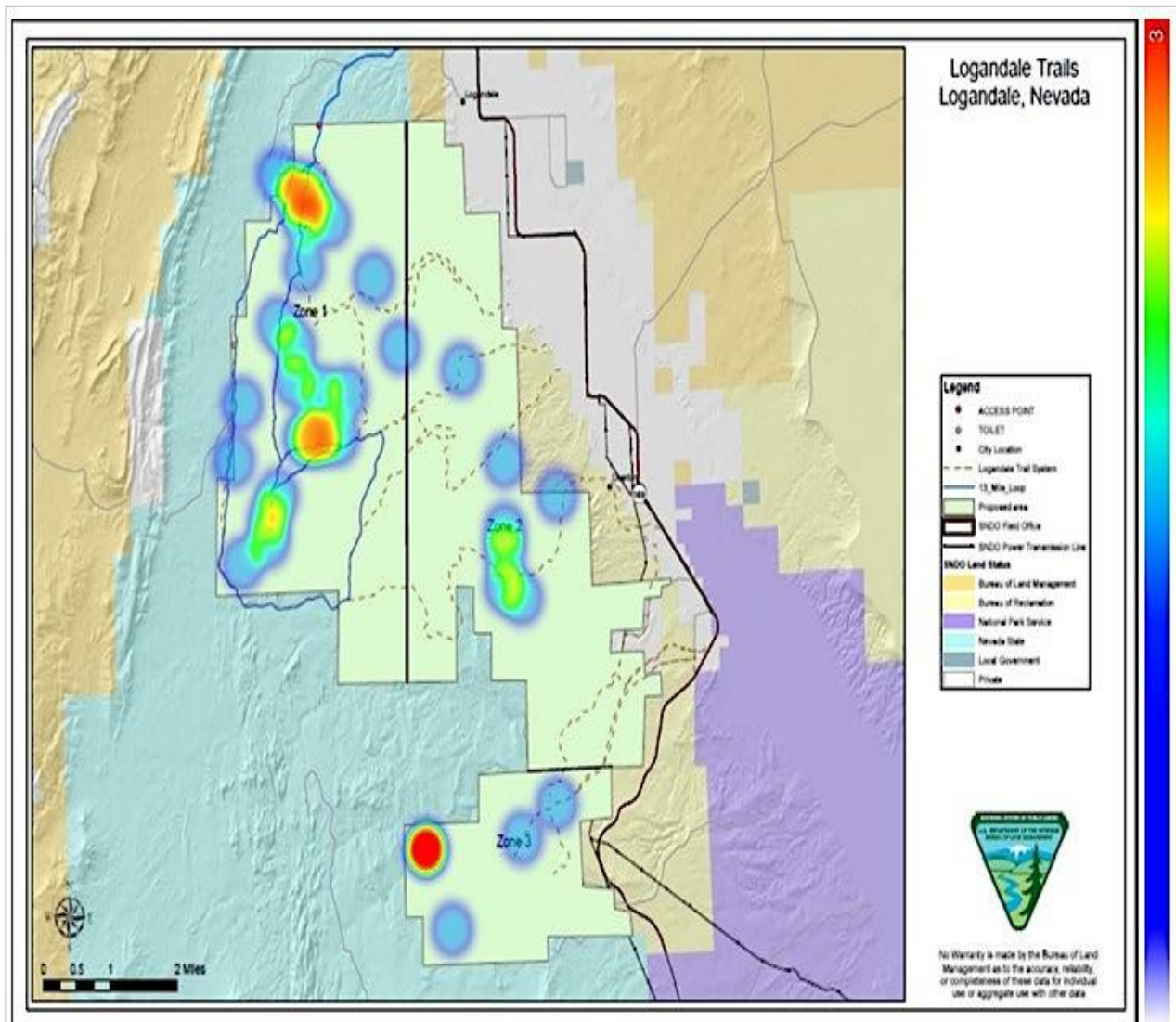
Logandale Trails was divided into three zones (shown in map below) to facilitate this conversation. Participants were asked to identify a zone in which they were particularly interested so they could target their comments to specific places on the landscape. Several participants challenged the boundaries of the zones, most often arguing to combine Zones 1 and 2 or Zones 1 and 3. Their rationale was that the zones artificially divide a networked trail system and that the demarcation does not make sense on the landscape since they perceived little difference between the two zones. Since the zones were a temporary designation to facilitate the conversation and data collection, participants who wanted to combine several zones were told to select “other” in the zone question and indicate their preferences in writing. Eleven participants chose Zone 1 only, two participants chose Zone 2 only, and no participants chose Zone 3 only. The remaining eight participants chose “other” or did not indicate a zone. Of those, three participants chose a combination of Zones 1 and 2; three participants selected all three zones; and two selected a combination of either Zone 1 or 2 with Zone 3. As a result of this scattered response, in which nearly 40% of participants combined zones and 85% of those who selected a single zone chose Zone 1, the zonal division was of limited analytical utility for this study. Given the relatively small area of Logandale Trails, it might be better to consider the data as relevant to the entire system, rather than any specific zone within the trail system.

Figure 8. Analytical Zones for Logandale Trails System Focus Group Study



Participants were also asked to identify specific places on their handout maps that were special to them, and to indicate why they were special in written comments. This question yielded more useful place-specific information than the zone question. The map below, in Figure 9, was created to reflect the specific places identified as special, and differentiates the number of times an area was selected by the color from the hotspot scale (shown on the right edge of the map). The more frequently that location was identified as “special” by participants, the further up the scale (from colors blue to red) the area is highlighted. A complete list of the names of the special places can be found in Table 3 below.

Figure 9. Special Places Map in Logandale Trails



n=16.

Although participants identified several locations across the landscape as special, the most common areas identified were: the improved areas (bathrooms and parking areas) in Zone 1 near the red rocks and sand dunes, the petroglyphs at the end of the trail in Zone 1, the shooting area in Zone 2, and a more remote area in Zone 3 near the magnesite mine. In their specific comments on why these particular areas were special, by far the most common response was because it was a recreation area they could go to and engage in the recreation activities they most enjoy. Other comments highlighted the scenic beauty of these places and their unique physical (geologic and biological) and social (archeology and contemporary uses) characteristics.

Table 3. Place Names of Identified Special Places in Logandale Trails

Place Name	Frequency
Red Rock Area	4
Petroglyphs	3
Magnesite Mine	3
Sand Dunes	3
Zone 1	2
Between Restroom 1 and 2	2
Shooting Area/Range	2
Easter Egg Hill	1
Shredder Bowl	1
Overton Wash	1
Gate Keeper	1
Flood Control	1
High School Hangout	1
Old Simplot	1
Turtle Rock	1

n=12.

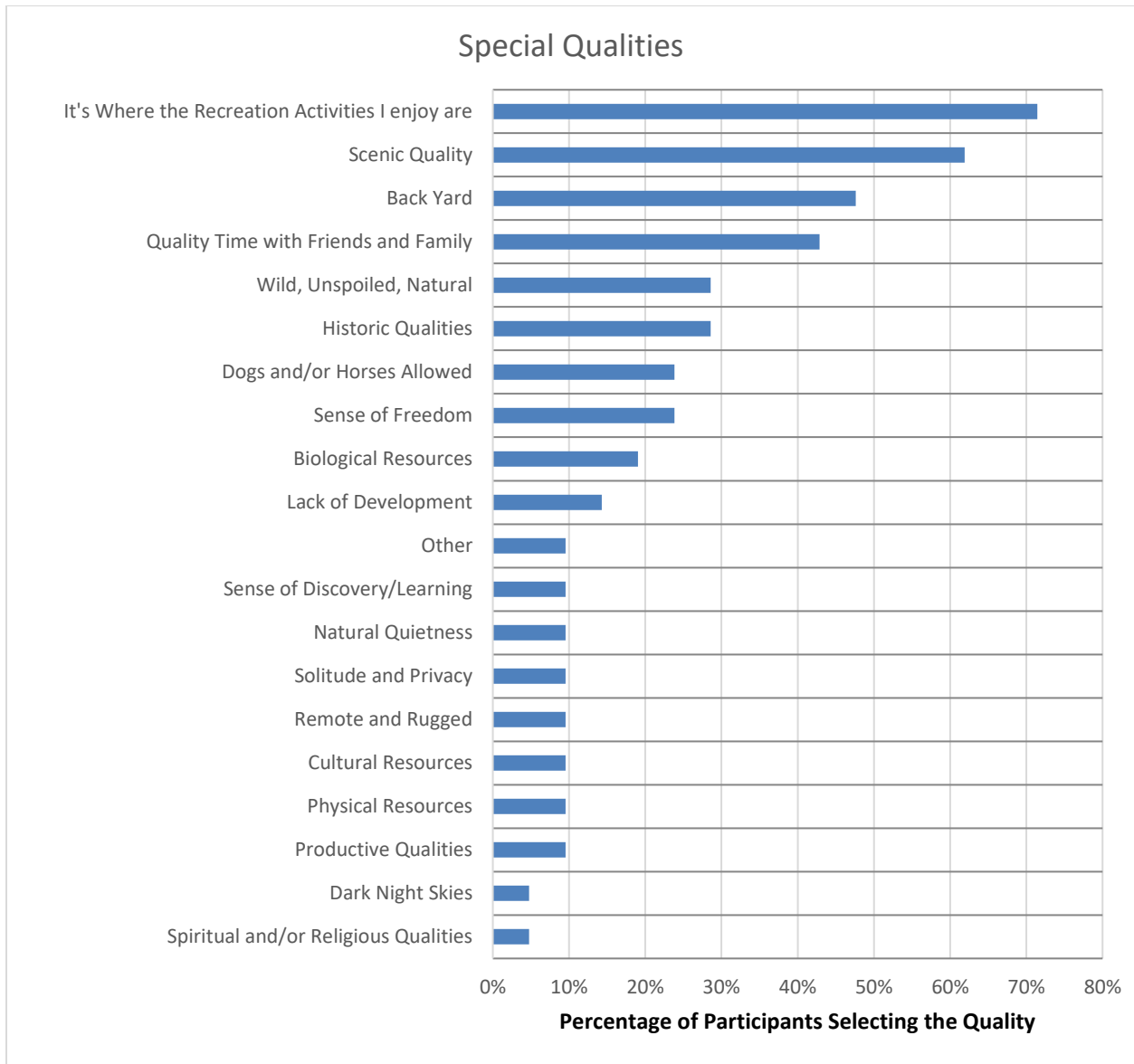
### Recreational Preferences

Once participants identified locations on the landscape they wanted to highlight, they were asked a series of questions about their recreational preferences in the landscape. The Outcomes-Focused Management (OFM) approach, adopted nationally by the BLM as its planning guide, requires land managers to take into account not only the recreational activities taking place on the land, but more importantly to consider the goals (outcomes) that visitors and community members have for recreation in the landscape. Following this OFM approach, land managers should consider first the experiences and desired outcomes from recreation before focusing on the landscape settings and services needed to achieve these desired ends.

### Special Qualities of Place

Initially, the participants of the focus groups were asked to talk about what makes the Logandale Trails lands managed by the BLM Las Vegas Field Office “special” places in their mind. Participants were given a list of 20 qualities that are often identified as special characteristics of public lands according to past research. In each of the lists found in the handouts, the final option is always “other” which allows participants to identify in writing the qualities that are important to them, which are not reflected in the lists (their written responses to “other” are recorded in Appendix 3). Figure 10 below shows the percentage of participants selecting given characteristics that make Logandale Trails special in their eyes. Participants were asked to focus their selections on the characteristics that really matter to them by limiting their choices to five or fewer.

Figure 10. What Are the Qualities That Make This a Special Place?



n=20. The one respondent who chose "other" wrote, "Memories and Memories To Come."

It seems clear from their responses that most participants place a premium on the ability to recreate in the area. They enjoy it because they are able to engage in the recreational activities they like in a scenic setting, close to home, and often with family and friends. The written comments on the handouts and the summary comments from the flip charts used in the focus groups appear to agree with these trends and preferences. While the complete list of flip chart responses for each open-ended question can be found in Appendix 2, and a complete set of written handout comments can be found in Appendix 3, the following discussion is intended to summarize the main points of these written responses. The image in Figure 11 below displays several of the characteristics of the landscape identified as important: the close



proximity to the Logandale community, improvements such as roads that facilitate access and vehicular recreation, and the wide open vistas that contribute to the scenic beauty of the landscape.

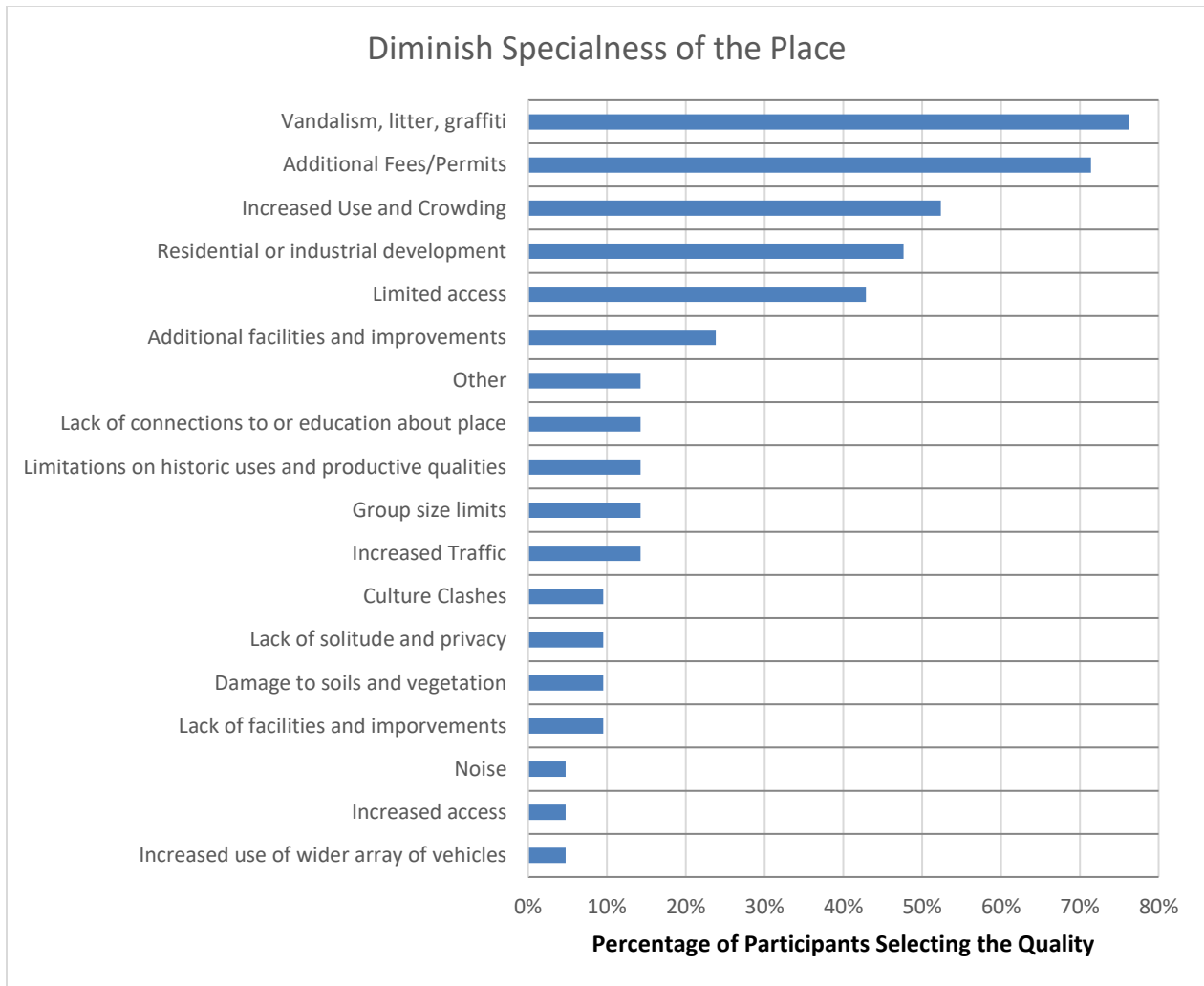
**Figure 11. Moon Rising Over Logandale Trails System**



### **Diminished Specialness**

Next, participants were asked to talk about what might diminish the specialness of places managed by the BLM in the Logandale Trails System. They were given a list of 20 qualities that often are identified as diminishing special characteristics of public lands according to past research. Figure 12 below shows the percentage of participants selecting a given response from the list. Participants were asked to focus their selections on the characteristics that really matter to them by limiting their choices to five or fewer.

Figure 12. Characteristics That Diminish the Specialness of the Place



n=20. Three respondents chose “other”. Their responses were “Taking Our Rights to use Public Lands,” “Dust much increased,” and “Air Quality.”

The greatest concerns of the majority of participants are a result of human impact on the landscape in the form of vandalism, graffiti, and human waste, as well as simply the increased use and crowding that come with human interaction with the landscape. Another set of concerns focus on the role of regulations and restrictions imposed on use of the landscape from permits and fees to limitations on access to the area. These concerns are reflected in the verbal and written comments expressed during the focus groups and captured in the meeting notes presented in Appendix 2 and in written comments reproduced in Appendix 3. Some of those comments identified specific issues such as the paved section of road just beyond the first bathroom. Participants emphatically recommended maintenance or removal of the short section of pavement (pictured below in Figure 13) because of the hazard it poses to travelers in its current state. This particular section was the most commonly cited specific place in need of

attention. Some participants recounted instances of people killed or seriously injured because of the state of disrepair of the paved section. It should be noted that this paved section is several miles from any other pavement in the area.

**Figure 13. Damaged Pavement in Zone 1**

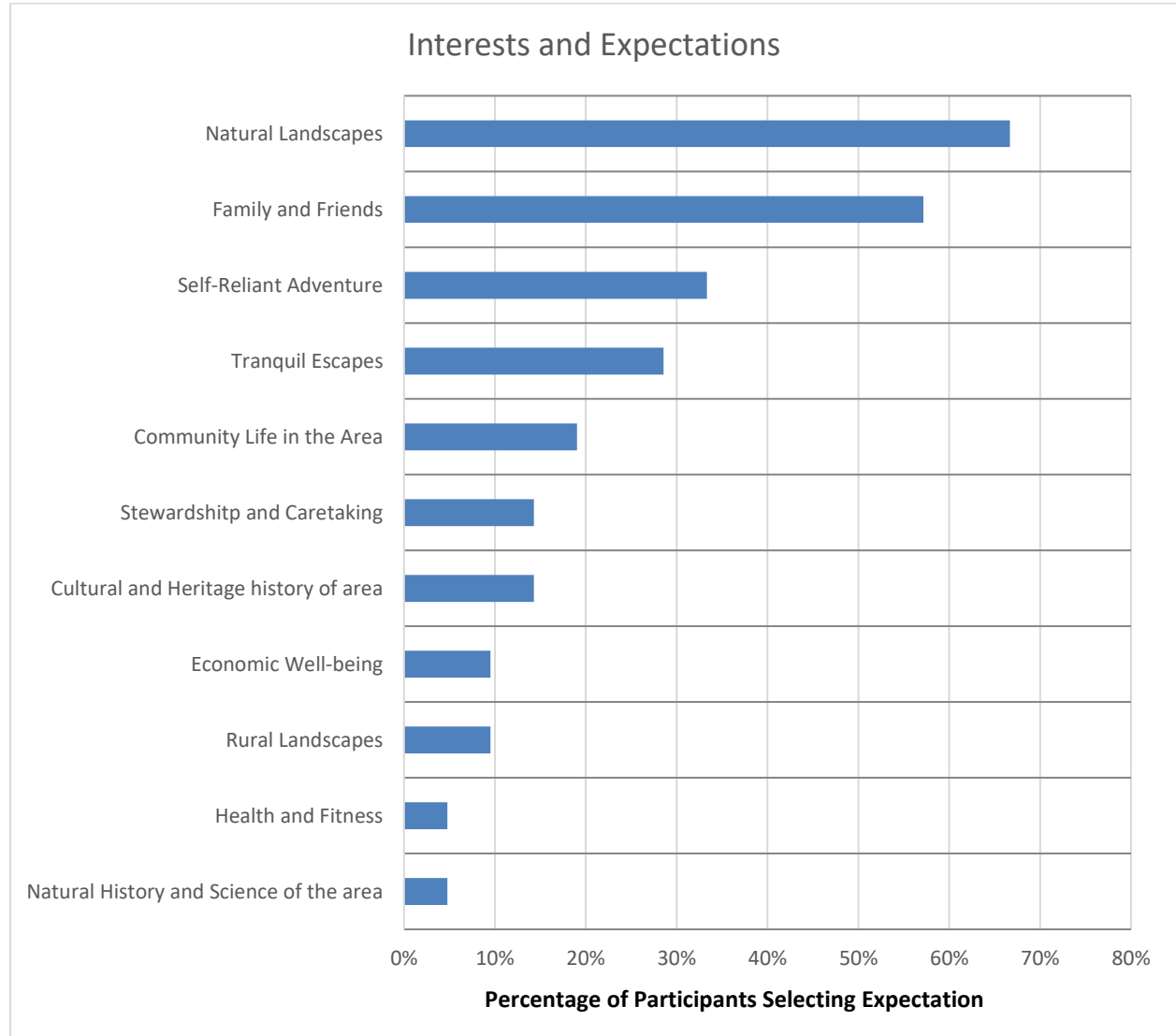


### **Interests and Expectations**

Research has indicated that people visit public lands to achieve a variety of beneficial outcomes and experiences for themselves, their communities, and the environment, while at the same time trying to avoid adverse outcomes and experiences. Because these interests and expectations can vary depending on the trip, participants were asked to identify their top three interests and expectations from a list developed over several years of research on public lands across the western United States. Participants were given a series of sentences that might be spoken by someone considering the value of recreation on the landscape and they were asked to select up to three statements that most accurately reflect their own interests and expectations for recreation in the area. Figure 14 below shows the percentage of participants selecting a particular statement of expectation. Complete wording for each statement can be found in the focus group handout in Appendix 1. The majority of participants want to be out in a natural setting enjoying time with their family and friends and this is why they visit and

recreate in Logandale Trails. They are often motivated to be self-directed in their adventures and to utilize the landscape as a way to escape the hustle and bustle of their lives.

Figure 14. Interests and Expectations for Recreation in Logandale Trails

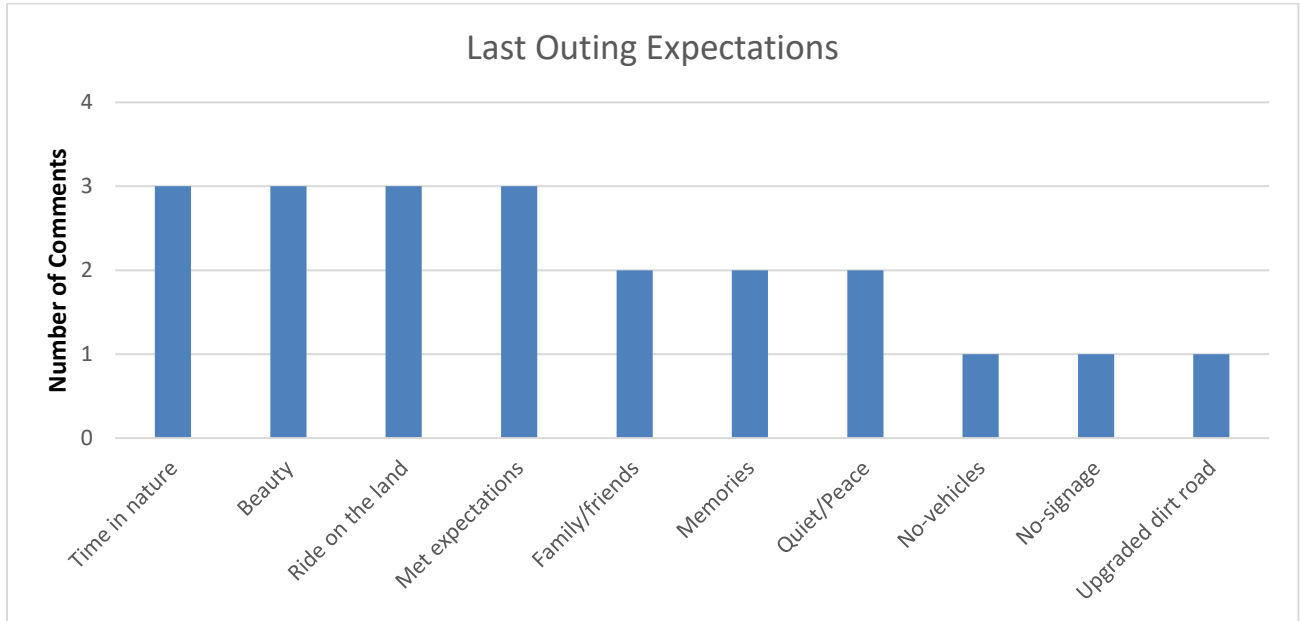


n=20.

When asked if their last visit to Logandale Trails met their expectations, or whether they were surprised by anything, most indicated they were satisfied with the landscape relative to their expectations, or that they were pleasantly surprised by some condition they found there. The question was open-ended and their replies were coded for themes that emerged. The most common comments regarding their last experience of the landscape emphasized the value of time spent in nature admiring the beauty, often with friends and family. Participants eloquently articulated how their memories are tied to the landscape through these experiences and that, for the most part, they are still able to create those memories given the current conditions of

Logandale Trails. Figure 15 below displays the most common responses to the question of whether they met their expectations on their last visit to Logandale Trails.

Figure 15. Last Outing to Logandale Trails Expectations and Surprises



n=16.

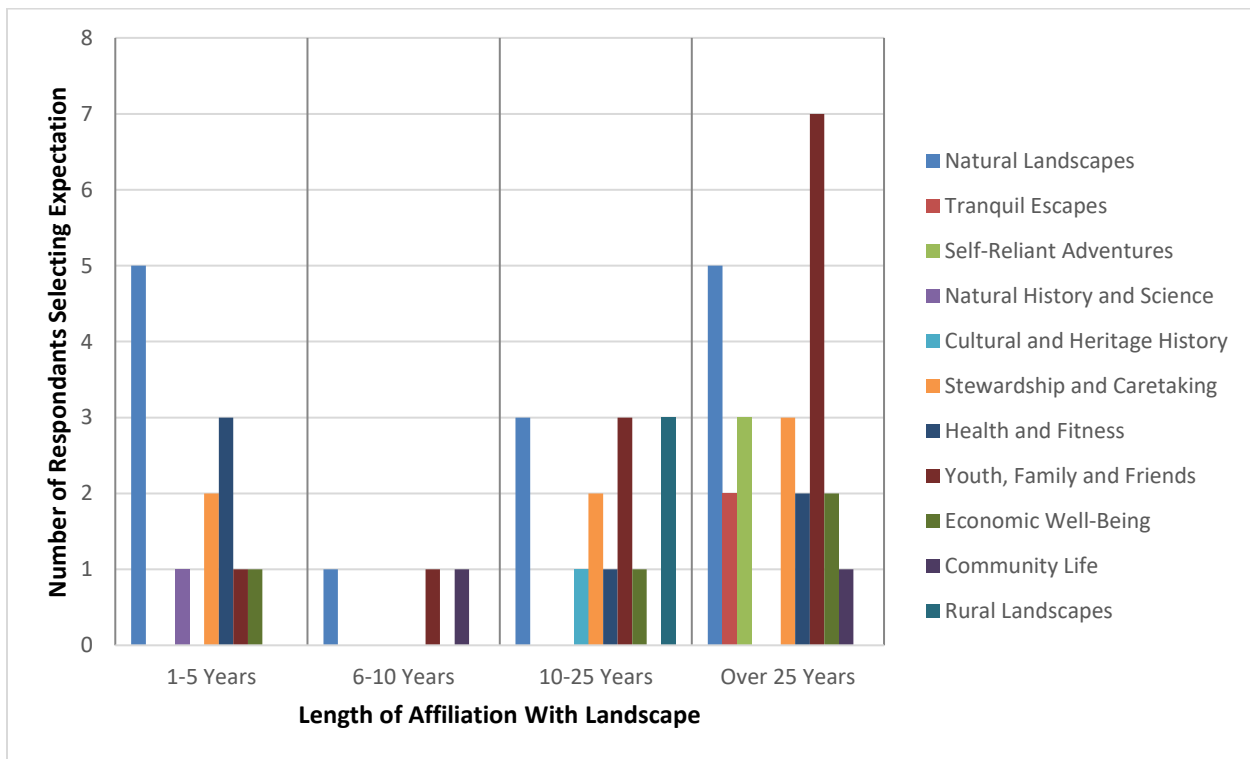
Several participants indicated they enjoyed the opportunities to spend time on the landscape with family and friends, camping and engaging in their favorite activities. The image in Figure 16 shows the popularity of trailer and RV camping at a site in Zone 1 located before the first restroom facilities and which is accessible to a wide range of vehicles and campers. Trash dumpsters at the site help to address the concerns participants raised about litter and waste diminishing the specialness of the landscape.

Figure 16. Image of a Large Campsite in Zone 1



Interestingly, the length of time a participant was affiliated with the Logandale Trails landscape seems to have an impact on the interests and expectations they chose. As Figure 17 shows, when responses to the interest and expectation question is broken down by length of affiliation, the focus on youth, family, and friends, for example, becomes far more pronounced the longer one is associated with the landscape. This might reflect the amount of memories of recreation with family and friends that build up over time in a long relationship with the landscape, or it could indicate that the longer one is associated with the landscape the more likely they are to see it as a backdrop to achieve other goals such as spending time with family and friends, rather than as a destination for adventure in its own right. Natural landscapes seem consistently valued no matter how much time one has been associated with the landscape, but socially oriented expectations (family and friends; stewardship and caretaking; and even community life) become more salient with longer affiliation. It is also interesting to note that the only group that identified “self-reliant adventures” as among their interests and expectations was that of participants who had the longest affiliation with the landscape.

Figure 17. Interests and Expectations by Length of Affiliation with Logandale Trails



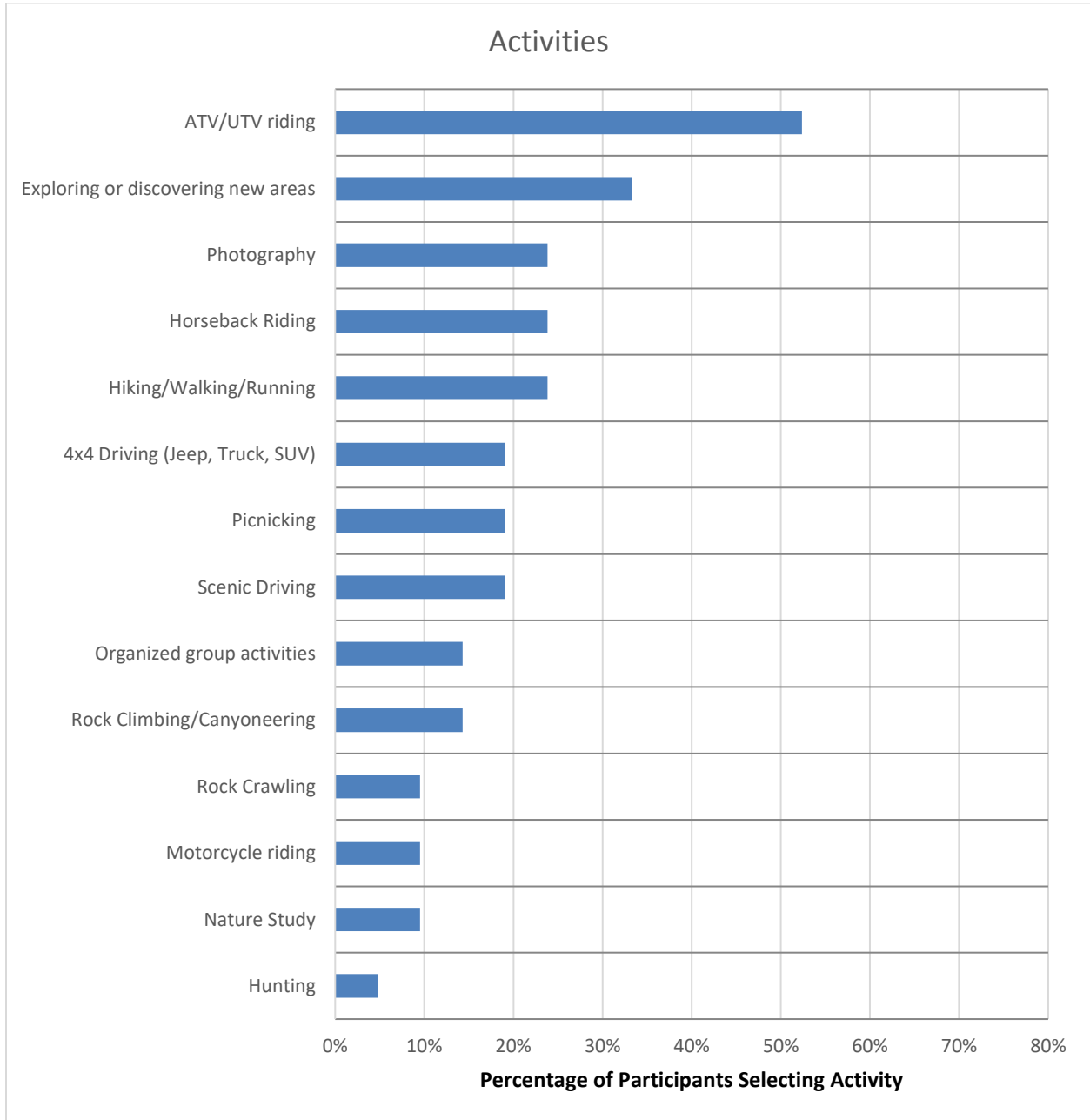
For the 1-5 years group, n=5; 6-10 years, n=1; 10-25 years, n=6; and Over 25 years, n=9.

### Activities

After considering their expectations and desired outcomes when recreating in the Logandale Trails area, participants were asked which activities they engaged in most often when visiting public lands in the area. Because many visitors to public lands combine several activities during

any particular visit, participants were allowed to select up to three activities they engage in most often in the area. The responses are recorded below in Figure 18.

Figure 18. Activities Participants Engage in Most Often in Logandale Trails



n=20.

While participants identified a wide variety of activities that they engage in on the landscape, they are very likely to engage in those activities using a vehicle (ATV/UTV riding, 4x4 driving, scenic driving, rock crawling and motorcycle riding are all activities relying on vehicles). Access and the condition of the roads throughout the trails system are a very important

consideration for the majority of participants as a consequence of this focus on vehicular activity. Beyond motorized activities, participants also identified a desire to engage in “quieter” modes of encountering the landscape (such as horseback riding, hiking/walking/running and rock climbing). Several other activities can be done in tandem with either approach to transportation activities (such as exploring and discovering new areas, photography, picnicking, organized group activities, and nature study).

**Figure 19. Group Vehicular Recreation in Zone 1**



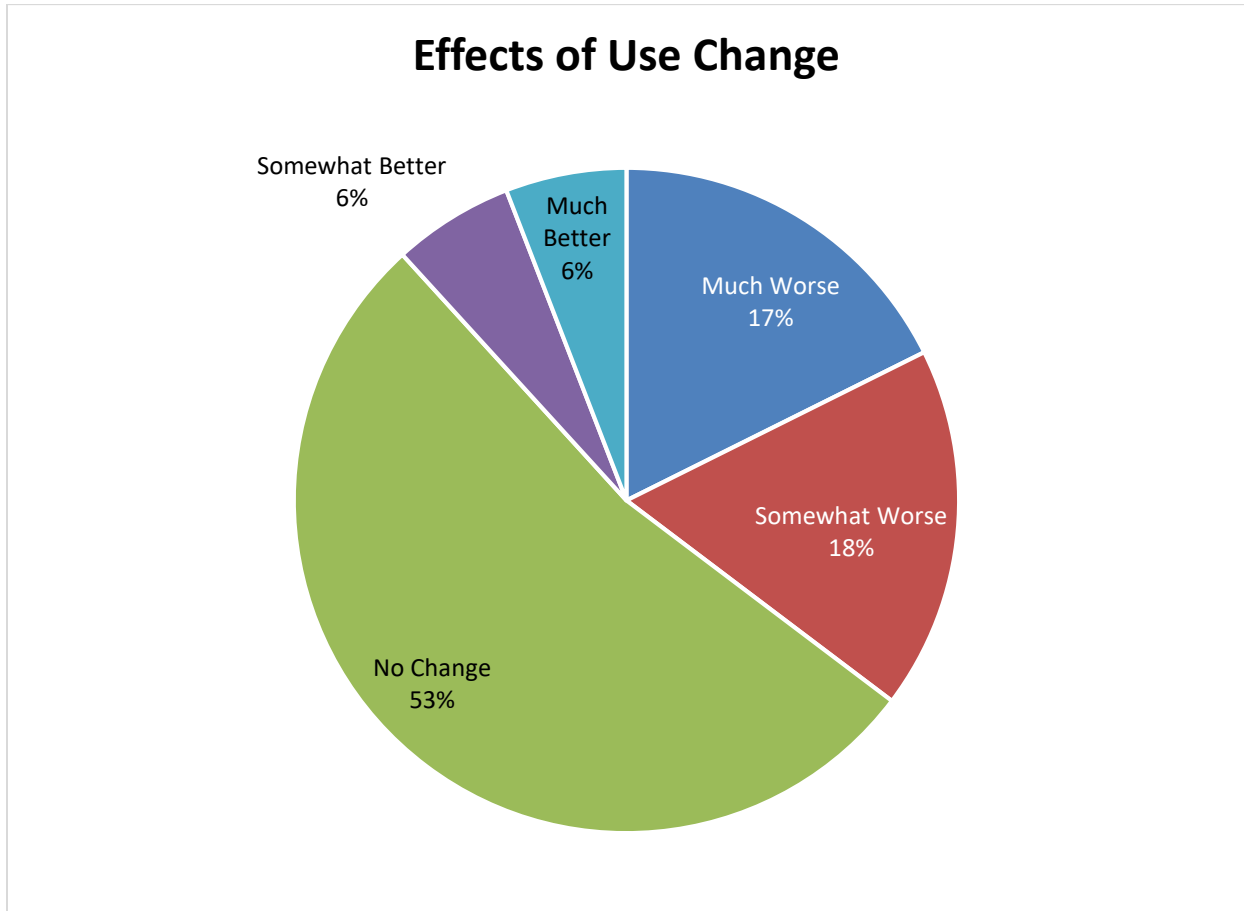
### **Change in Amount of Use in the Last Five Years**

Participants were asked about their perception of change in use in the area over the last five years, and whether those changes had made the conditions of the landscape better or worse. Over half of the seventeen respondents who answered this question on their handout indicated that either there was no change in use, or the change did not make any difference in the condition of the area. For those who did notice a difference in use of the area in the last five years, several indicated that use had increased and that the resulting changes had worsened



conditions of the area (35%), while a small number (12%) indicated the change in use improved conditions of the land and their experience of it. In comments made to explain their choices, participants indicated there was a benefit to seeing new people enjoy the landscape they love, and a benefit to greater use also bringing more stewardship efforts to help manage the space. However, more use also creates more dust that generates air quality issues for local residents, a concern raised in most focus group sessions.

Figure 20. Effects of Use Change Logandale Trails in the Last Five Years



n=17.

### Management of the Landscape

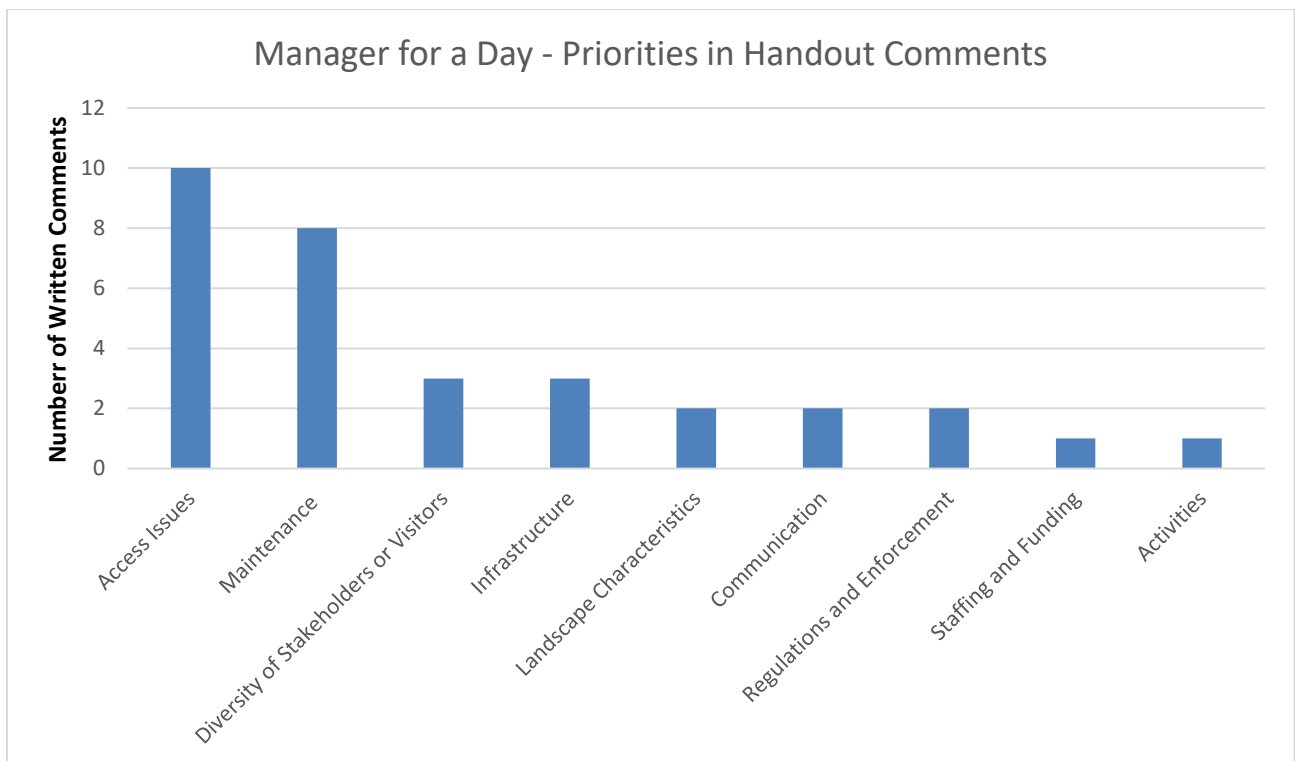
Toward the end of the focus group, participants were given a series of open-ended questions to both discuss as a whole group (see Appendix 2 for themes of spoken responses recorded on flip charts during focus groups) and respond to anonymously by writing on the handout provided to them (see Appendix 3 for complete written responses). The written responses to each of these open-ended questions were coded for themes observed within the response, which were then organized by the number of comments touching on that particular theme. Participants often

have difficulty drawing clear distinctions between management priorities and improvements needed. Although there were two questions on management (priorities and improvements), both of these questions tap the participants' desired directions for management of the landscape. Land managers can determine which of these desires expressed is an objective and which is an actionable item.

### Management Priorities

Participants were asked, in an open-ended question, to assume the role of a land manager for a day and identify priorities for the field office regarding recreation in the Logandale Trails area. Figure 21 shows the themes that emerged from their written comments given in response to this scenario. Appendix 2 identifies the priorities that were verbalized in the meetings.

Figure 21. Management Priorities for Logandale Trails From Written Comments

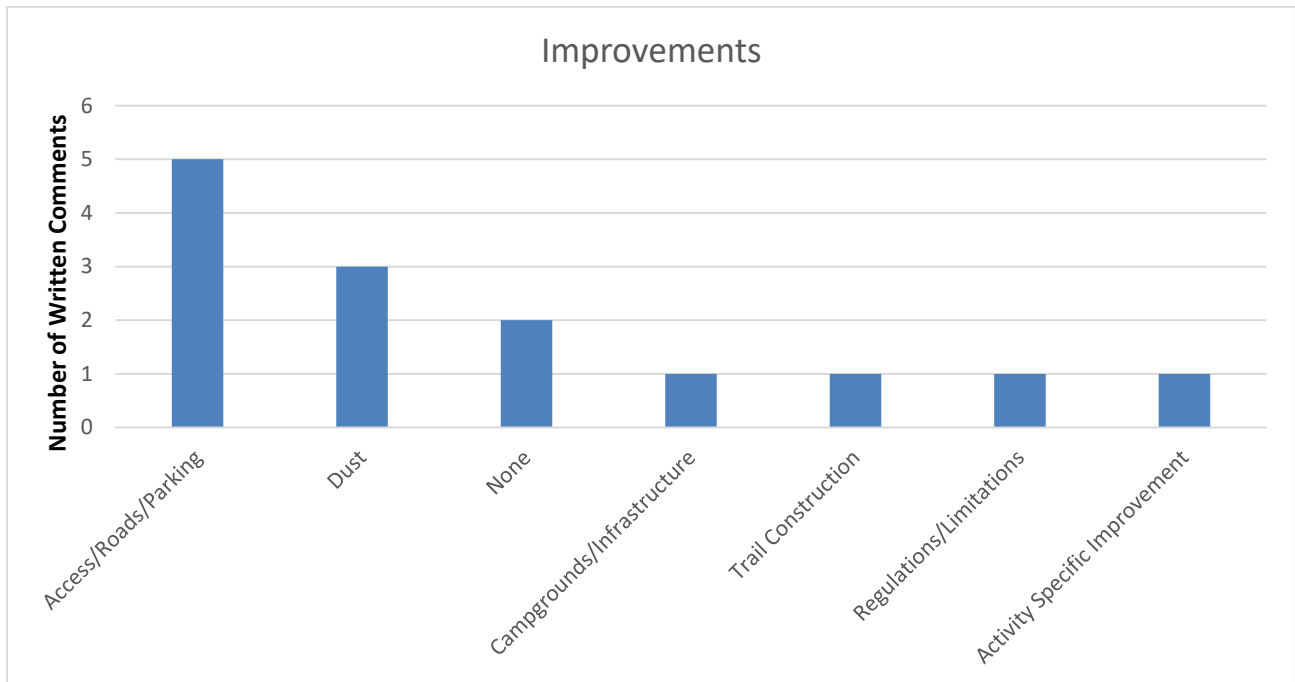


n=14.

## Improvements Needed

Participants were also asked about what improvements were needed on the landscape to enhance their recreational experience. Figure 22 shows the themes that emerged from their written comments in this section of the handout. During the focus group sessions, participants also made several suggestions out loud which are captured in the meeting notes in Appendix 2 and summarized after Figure 22.

Figure 22. Recommended Improvements to Logandale Trails From Written Comments



n=12.

During the discussion that followed from the two management questions (regarding priorities and improvements) a number of themes emerged. Several comments and suggestions indicated a need to focus on communications between the BLM and local residents, as well as on commuting expectations to recreational visitors through more signage and information at kiosks and other developed sites, such as parking areas, trailheads, and restroom sites. There seemed to be a lot of support for the BLM to prioritize educating the public about the landscape they are recreating on. Some of this education is already happening, as captured in the image in Figure 23, but there is support for more emphasis in this area. Some practical suggestions included group events, perhaps in conjunction with Partners In Conservation, to get people out on the landscape to learn about its features and how to manage it for the future. This last suggestion addresses a broader theme that emerged repeatedly throughout the study. There is a real desire to have the BLM engage with local residents and partner groups to develop stewardship and a sense of responsibility for the landscape. Locals desired to be listened to in the planning process of a landscape they consider their “backyard” and to which

they feel so connected. Access to the landscape was also seen as a priority for participants, but signage is needed to demarcate private from public land so trespass does not become a bigger issue. Finally, several comments on priorities and improvements focused on maintenance issues. There are concerns about road maintenance, repairs, and improvements. Participants again raised the issue of the paved section, just beyond the first restroom, that needs attention. Other maintenance concerns were focused on management of dispersed camping sites. While most strongly supported the continuation of dispersed camping in the area, they were concerned about the impact of litter, waste, and new trails being established (beyond existing routes) in order to access dispersed camping sites. One of the biggest concerns expressed in every focus group was the dust that is kicked up in neighborhoods and blows into the town from recreational activity in Logandale Trails. A few discussions centered on the most effective way to keep dust down (mag chloride or spraying water on the roads, for example), others considered limitations on speed or restrictions on the number of visitors during weekends. Most agreed that the dust issue was worse on weekends and holidays, when the number of out of town visitors increases.

Figure 23. Interpretive Panel in Zone 1 Parking/Restroom Area



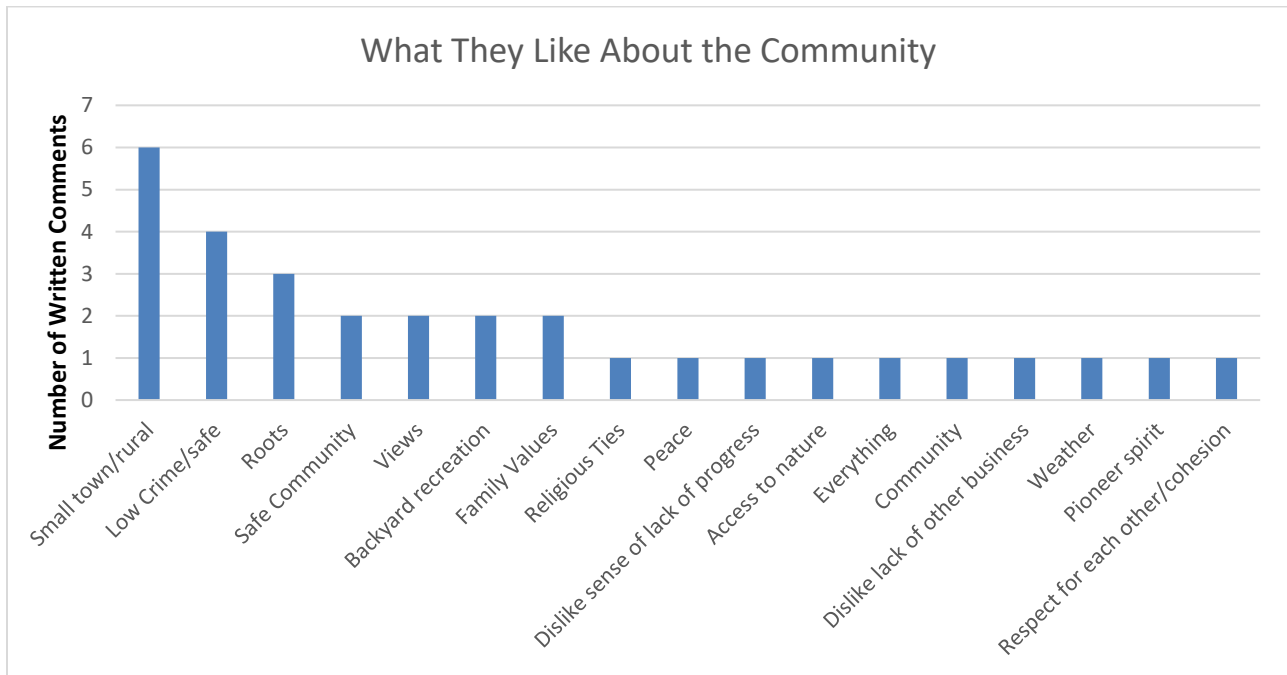
Participants were also asked what the BLM could do in the planning process to support the community and create a good relationship for management of the landscape. A variety of actions were identified, but most centered on a limitation in the active management and

regulation of the area, and the need for more input from the local community when making management decisions. Communication with and respect for the local community and its knowledge of the landscape seemed to be most important to the participants who responded to this question. Complete responses to the question about desired BLM actions during the planning process can be found in Appendix 2.

### Community Characteristics

An important part of the planning process for any public lands is trying to understand what the local community’s vision of itself is, and how public lands might fit into and enhance that vision. In order to better understand how these two fit together, participants were first asked to describe the characteristics of their community that they think contribute to the desirability of living in or visiting the Moapa Valley and Logandale Trails. Then they were asked to describe how the surrounding public lands contributed to that community vision. Written responses to this, and all other open-ended questions given throughout the focus groups, are recorded in Appendix 3. These comments written by participants in their handouts have been sorted and enumerated based on theme, the results of which are reported in Figure 24 below.

Figure 24. Valued Characteristics of Local Community in Logandale Trails Area



n=14.

Verbal comments about why participants like the community in the Moapa Valley stressed small town/rural values such as peace and quiet, low crime rates, and community members knowing and caring for each other. There is a strong element of family ties to the area from multi-generational connections to the landscape. Participants talked about how their

ancestors were some of the founding members of the area; one even offered to identify them in pictures hanging in the museum hallways where the focus groups were conducted. There is a powerful sense of community, much of which is tied to an interaction with the surrounding landscape. While this connection includes the area known as Logandale Trails, it also encompasses Lake Mead just south of the community. Before the lake receded as a result of drought, it was another strong draw of public lands (and waters) for recreational tourism, as well as an outlet to get agricultural products to other communities.

Public lands play an important role in supporting and maintaining many of the community characteristics identified in the study. When asked to comment on the relationship between the two, many participants said it was “everything” to them and embodied how they thought about living in and visiting the community of Logandale. Public lands were an integral part of the landscape that make this community special in the eyes of participants. They stressed the fluid nature of the relationship between the community (and private lands) and the broader landscape, set in public lands extending a great distance in almost any direction.

Figure 25. A Common Site in Logandale, Nevada, Mixing Residential, Agricultural, and Public Lands



Many participants indicated they liked the nature of living in a gateway community adjacent to public lands that they could access regularly. They also identified economic benefits to the local community from recreation on these lands. While some concerns were expressed about excessive dust and too many visitors to the area, most agreed that, overall, the public lands surrounding the community are essential to maintaining the characteristics of their community they value most.

## Conclusions

Several themes emerged from the comments made in these focus groups.

- **Respect** – The need for respect for the landscape, adjacent private property, and for the locals and their connection to the place was emphasized.
- **Cooperation with locals** – Locals are eager and willing to get involved in partnerships to steward the landscape. They want to be involved in planning, maintenance, and educating the public about the specialness of the landscape.
- **Social nature of recreation in the area** – The landscape is an excellent place to explore the outdoors with others, particularly family and friends.
- **Relationship to the landscape** – Most participants indicated they had a long-term relationship with the landscape, lasting more than 10 years, and that they lived in the area. They see these public lands as their “backyard,” the location of many memories with friends and family over years of recreating on the landscape, a major contributor to their quality of life in the area, and even a source of their identity. These relationships are nuanced but highly salient to the local community, which is why they expressed such an interest in being included in the planning and management of the landscape in conjunction with the BLM as the land management agency.
- **Information and communication are important** – From signage in the landscape to communication with local residents about the planning process, participants identified the need for more communication and information about the area.
- **General satisfaction with current management plan for the area** – Although the participants made several suggestions about how to improve management of the landscape, they were pleased with improvements made to access, bathroom facilities, and other changes that support their recreation in Logandale Trails.
- **Concerns about human impacts with increased use** – At some point in the study, most participants expressed concerns about increases in crowding, dust, trash, and waste that will come with increased recreational activity in the area.
- **Regulations** – Although there were concerns raised about the impacts of increased use, few were supportive of tighter or increased regulations as a management tool.
- **Motorized Recreation** – While participants engage in a wide variety of activities on the landscape, there is a general expectation that much of the recreation in Logandale Trails will involve vehicles, and agreement that Logandale Trails is an excellent location for motorized recreation.

## References Cited

Fix, P. J., McAllister, E., Garcia, R. A., Virden, R. J., Casey, T. T., & Tunnell, A. (2020). Logandale Trails Management Areas Outcomes-Focused Management (OFM) Recreation Study, Spring 2020. Project report for the BLM Las Vegas Field Office. BLM PLRRP Report #10. Fairbanks, Alaska: University of Alaska Fairbanks, School of Natural Resources and Extension, Department of Natural Resources Management.



# **BLM – Logandale Trails**

## **Recreation Focus Group Study**



**Tim Casey, PhD**  
**Colorado Mesa University and University of Alaska, Fairbanks**

**2020**

# **Focus Group Questions – General Public – Logandale Trails – NV**

## **OFM Data Collection Project**

**Spring 2020**

### **Participants:**

- ✓ **Listen, contribute, and stay focused on the subject at hand**
- ✓ **Feel free to keep or change your opinions in response to what you hear**
- ✓ **Respect others' right to share their thoughts; do not interrupt**
- ✓ **The moderator will stop anyone who attempts to block another's views**
- ✓ **Feel free to get up, obtain refreshments, or visit the restroom**
- ✓ **Do not engage in separate, private discussions**
- ✓ **Remember, participation is voluntary on all questions**
- ✓ **Must sign an informed consent form to continue with the study**

### **Topic Area 1: Demographics and Characteristics**

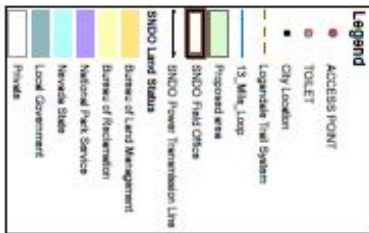
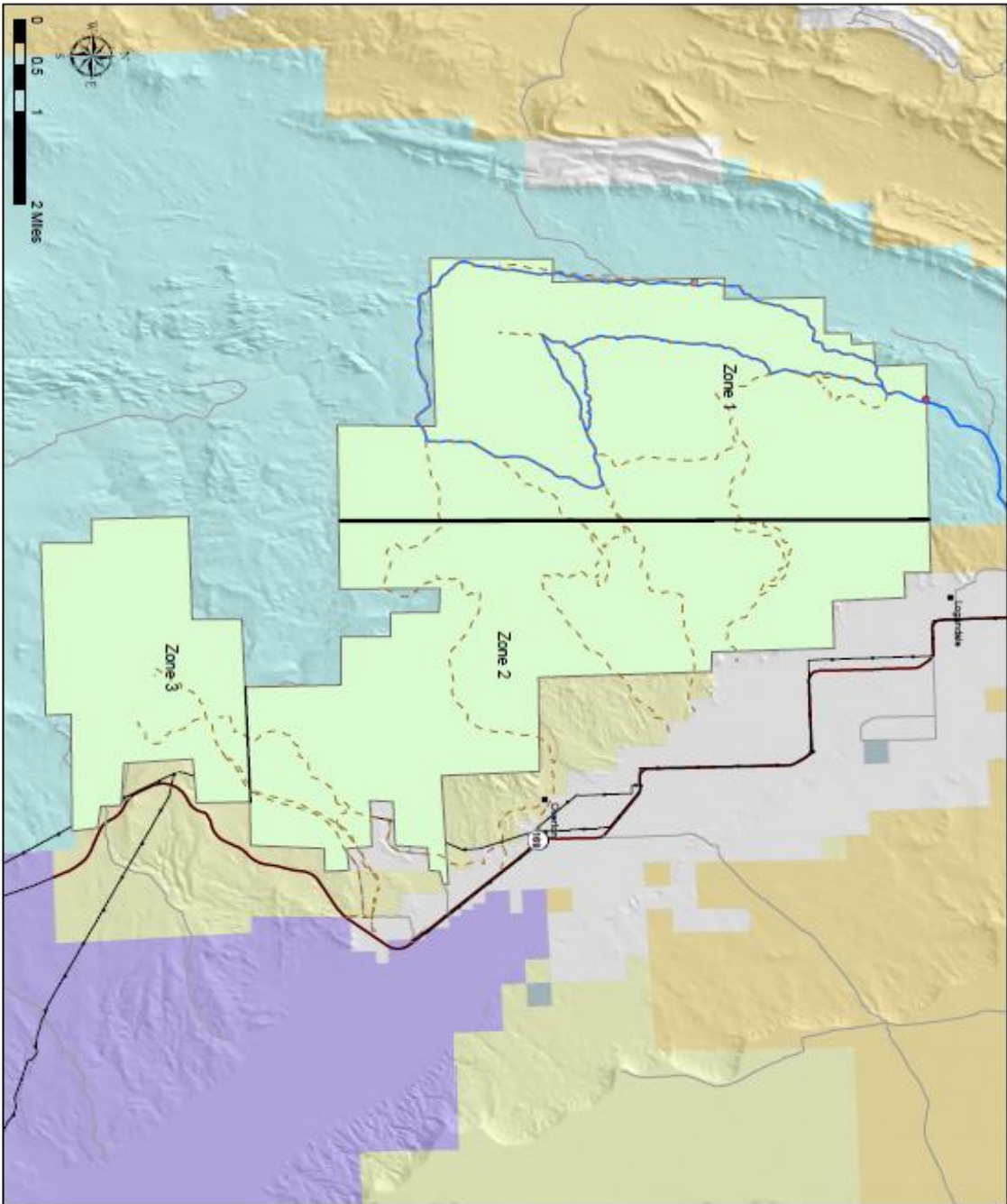
1. What is your home zip code? Or country (if you are not a US resident)?
  
2. Which of the following choices best describes your association with the Logandale Trails area?
  - a. Visitor
  - b. Local Resident
  - c. Community Leader (elected/non-elected)
  - d. Outfitter/Guide
  - e. Business Owner
  - f. Other

3. How long have you been connected to the Logandale Trails area with the affiliation you identified?
  - a. Less than a year
  - b. 1-5 years
  - c. 6-10 years
  - d. 10-25 years
  - e. Over 25 years

## Topic Area 2: Location

4. For the purposes of facilitating this discussion, the recreational managers of the area have divided the landscape into several recreation zones (labeled on map on the next page); please indicate which zone you would like to tell us more about. When choosing where to recreate in this region, where do you spend the most time?
  - a. Zone 1
  - b. Zone 2
  - c. Zone 3
5. Please take a couple moments to think about a few areas or places on BLM managed public lands in the Logandale Trails area (highlighted on the map on the back of this page or on the wall) that are an area of outstanding recreational opportunity. For each of these places please do the following:
  - a. circle it and number it on the attached map;
  - b. then in writing in the space below or around the map,
    1. name the place (also number it to correspond to the number you placed on the map);
    2. indicate the things you do when you visit there;
    3. indicate the reason that this place is an area of outstanding recreational opportunity

# Logandale Trails Logandale, Nevada



No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

### Topic Area 3: Special Places – Settings

6. What are the qualities of the Logandale Trails area that make it a special place for you? (Choose up to 5)

- a. It's my back yard
- b. It's where I spend quality time with friends and family
- c. Historic qualities - how previous generations used the area
- d. Productive qualities - grazing and hunting
- e. Biological resources - plants, animals, etc.
- f. Physical resources - geology, paleontology, etc.
- g. Cultural resources - archeology, etc.
- h. Scenic quality
- i. Spiritual and/or religious qualities
- j. Sense of freedom
- k. Wild, unspoiled, and natural
- l. Remote and rugged
- m. Sense of solitude and privacy
- n. Natural quietness
- o. Dark night skies
- p. Sense of discovery/learning opportunities
- q. Dogs and/or horses are allowed
- r. Lack of development or improvements
- s. It's where I engage in recreational activities I enjoy
- t. Other

7. What could diminish the specialness of the Logandale Trails area for you? (Choose up to 5)

- a. Additional fees, permits, or restrictions
- b. Increased use and crowding
- c. Increased traffic
- d. Increased use of wider array of vehicles
- e. Group size limits I consider to be inappropriate (too high or too low)
- f. Limitations on historic uses and productive qualities
- g. Additional facilities and improvements
- h. Lack of facilities and improvements
- i. Increased access
- j. Limited access
- k. Vandalism, litter, graffiti, and/or human waste
- l. Damage to soils and vegetation
- m. Lack of solitude and privacy
- n. Noise
- o. Artificial light
- p. Livestock or evidence of them
- q. Culture clashes – locals vs. visitors or long time locals vs. move-ins
- r. Lack of connection to or education about place
- s. Residential or industrial development (utility lines, pipelines, etc.)
- t. Other

8. If use has changed in the last five (5) years at the places you have identified on the map, has it been for the better or worse? Why?
- Much worse
  - Somewhat worse
  - No change
  - Somewhat better
  - Much better
9. When you go to your area of interest, which of these phrases best captures your interests and expectations for going there? (Choose up to 3)
- To experience and appreciate the beauty and wonders of Natural Landscapes
  - To experience Rural Landscapes where people live closely connected to the land
  - To experience and learn about/connect with Cultural & Heritage History of the area
  - To experience and learn about Natural History & Science of the area
  - To improve my Health & Fitness
  - To experience a Self-Reliant Adventure in the outdoors
  - Tranquil Escapes - to get away from the hustle and bustle of daily life
  - To have time outdoors to be with Family and Friends or share it with other generations
  - It contributes to the richness of Community Life in the area
  - It enhance the Economic well-being of myself or the local community
  - To give back to the land by engaging in Stewardship & Caretaking activities
10. Did your last recreational outing in the Logandale Trails area meet your expectations? Why or why not?

## Topic Area 4: Activities

11. When visiting the Logandale Trails area, what activities do you engage in most often? (Choose up to 3)

- a. Scenic Driving
- b. Exploring or discovering new areas
- c. Hiking/Walking/Running
- d. Backpacking
- e. Camping
- f. Picnicking
- g. Rock Climbing/Canyoneering
- h. Nature Study (Wildlife Viewing/Bird Watching/Geology/Plants)
- i. 4x4 Driving (Jeep, Truck, SUV)
- j. ATV/UTV riding
- k. Motorcycle riding
- l. Bicycling/ Mountain Biking
- m. Horseback Riding
- n. Organized group activities (i.e. civic groups, clubs, scouts, church, etc.) including historic reenactments
- o. Hunting
- p. Photography
- q. Learning activities (interpretive programs, educational outings, etc.)
- r. Art/Writing activities
- S. Spiritual renewal activities
- t. Rock Crawling
- u. Other

## Topic Area 5: Management

12. If you were the public lands manager for a day and could set management priorities for the Logandale Trails area, what would your priorities be?
13. As you think about this area, what is/are the most important improvements(s) that recreation managers could make to enhance your visits in the future?

## Topic Area 9: Community Vision

14. What are the things you like about living in or visiting the Logandale community and surrounding area?
15. How do public lands in the area affect the quality of life issues you just described?
16. What could the BLM do in planning or managing the Logandale Trails area that would positively impact those values and vision for this community you expressed earlier?

*We appreciate your involvement in this important focus group.*

*Your input is an important part of maintaining an ongoing inventory of our recreational users' preferences, expectations, and concerns.*

**Thank you very much!**

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## Appendix 2 – Focus Group Notes

As participants expressed their opinions out loud in the focus groups, their ideas were summarized and captured on a white board to facilitate the conversation. Those notes were checked with the participants to make sure they captured the ideas conveyed. After the focus groups, meeting notes were collected and are compiled here for the report.

### Focus group #1:

Q8 – Change in use - better or worse?

- BETTER – More respect for land and more grants
- BETTER – less trash
- BETTER – clubs cleanup
- BETTER – watering of off-road trails for dust
- WORSE – more dust locally
- WORSE – constant vehicles/traffic
- WORSE – more commercial use – traffic
- WORSE – open draining of waste water
- WORSE – ATVs in neighborhood
- WORSE – weekend use is worse

Q10 – Met Expectations? Surprises?

- It's clean out there/ litter – graffiti – trash
- Amazing scenery
- Pristine landscape

Q12 – Management Priorities

- Central blacktop access – limits dust – or spray
- Keep traffic and dust away from neighborhoods

Q 13 – Improvements needed

- Improve strip area in zone 1 – either pave all or blade
- Conditions of strip smoothed out
- Mag chloride

Q 14 – Community Characteristics

- better 20 years ago – air, dust, traffic
- less expensive cost of living
- quiet and peaceful
- crime free
- small rural community
- scenery
- need a little more commercial development

Q 15 – Public lands impact on the community

- ATV/vehicle traffic (negative)

Q 16 – BLM actions to positively impact planning process for landscape

- BLM needs better communication with local community
- Better announcement of BLM meetings
- Manage for holidays, major weekends, crazy times

**Focus group #2:**

Q10 – Met Expectations? Surprises?

- As use has increased we enjoy the social aspect of recreation use
- Trails are not groomed
- No signage – big need for signage

Q12 & 13 – Management Priorities and Improvements needed

- More signage – on site and at entrances

- More maps of the area – Maps in the kiosks
- Need trail maintenance of motorized trails
- Work with volunteer groups to maintain trails
- Develop and official route (Zone 1 to zone 2) into Overton business area
- Enhanced trail connectivity to west side and north side to a broader landscape and other trails
- Safety – need to develop locations for safe cell phone access
- Designate more dispersed camping areas (too concentrated now – still undeveloped)

Q 14 – Community Characteristics

- Great access to public lands
- Quiet
- Diverse public lands that we can use
- People are friendly
- Rural lifestyle
- Caring Community
- Home and family here – cultural heritage

Q 15 – Public lands impact on the community

- Public land access and use is central to our lifestyle
- Very important to the economy
- Very tied to our history (several generations here)
- Family stories tied to the land

Q 16 – BLM actions to positively impact planning process for landscape

- Realize are a part of our lifestyle
- We have been tied to the landscape for generations
- Local communities want/need to be part of the planning
- Being a visitor and being a resident are different – it's our backyard

- Need accommodations for community events
- Need access for youth and youth activities
- Process special events requests quicker (streamline the process)

### **Focus group #3:**

Q8 – Change in use - better or worse?

- BETTER – Updated Bathrooms
- WORSE – lots of dust during some times of the year
- WORSE – new (social) Trails on undisturbed private land on the North side
- WORSE – Large groups coming on private property – occasionally belligerent

Q10 – Met Expectations? Surprises?

- ATV/OHV do not always respect horse riders

Q12 – Management Priorities

- Work with volunteers and friends groups to maintain trails
- Educate the public on socially responsible behavior on the landscape
- Minimize BLM on-site management and control
- Balance BLM oversight and local input/perspectives

Q 13 – Improvements needed

- Eliminate all commercial groups – Motorized outfitters
- Signs to let people understand where to go and where not to go
- Post on Kiosks a list of Norms of behavior on the landscape
- DO NOT Close existing trails
- Group events – good even if they have to pay something for it
- Work with advisory group of locals with knowledge of the landscape

#### Q 14 – Community Characteristics

- Safe
- Schools are good
- Trust among local people
- Dark Night Skies
- Wildlife – Nature
- Family lives here
- Multi-generation connection to the landscape
- Religious ties/Heritage – Ties are still strong
- Community has strong ties to the land/public lands

#### Q 15 – Public lands impact on the community

- Visitors help local economy
  - Spend money at local businesses
  - Increased revenue to community
  - Jobs help keep kids in the area
- Over designation of “special lands”
  - Stifles economic possibilities in the area
  - Pushes development into farming areas and private land
- Prevents too much development in the area
- Can be a problem if access gets limited

#### **Focus group #4:**

##### Q8 – Change in use - better or worse?

- BETTER – Bathrooms
- BETTER – Communications about events

- BETTER – Volunteer Fire Department Search and Rescue
- WORSE – Increase use by non-locals who disrespect the land and litter

Q10 – Met Expectations? Surprises?

- Get away to relax
- Have fun with OHV riding

Q12 – Management Priorities

- Stop Vandalism of land
- Continue litter pick up – work with local groups and individuals

Q 13 – Improvements needed

- Pavement on the Down Hill in zone 1 – either improve it or remove it – dangerous as is

Q 14 – Community Characteristics

- Quiet
- Small town community
- Wildlife
- People help and care for each other – like a family
- Scenery

Q 15 – Public lands impact on the community

- It's everything to the community
- Supports the lifestyle
- Escape
- Places to be outside with family
- Scenery supports the wildlife

## Appendix 3 – Written Comments on Handouts

### Q2 – Affiliation

- Other – Concerned Local Resident
- Other – Equine Involvement

### Q6 – Why is it special?

- Other - Memories and Memories To Come

### Q7 – Diminished specialness?

- Other - Taking Our Rights to use Public Lands
- Other – Dust much increased
- Other – Air Quality

### Q8 – Why is use change making it better or worse?

- Worse – traffic wise non-local also littering
- Better – bathroom/facilities and communications
- Better - small infrastructure improvements
- Worse - Increasing use by inconsiderate visitors
- Worse - Air Quality Much Worse --"Dust"-- Poor Air Quality in Valley
- Better - With grants & 4x4 groups getting together for clean ups & youth programs it's a respected area to visit
- Worse - More people have discovered the area and use it more. More dust

### Q10 – Did your last outing meet your expectations? What surprised you?

- Best of Times of Family and Friends Memories of The Loss of Our Son.
- Yes-- Enjoyed my Time in nature
- Yes-- I was able to go where I want to go
- No, because it was hard to hike freely without worrying about getting hit by fast-moving, high-powered off road vehicles.
- No Trails Not Groomed No Signage
- Yes! Beautiful & peaceful -- we only go during the week though, not on weekends
- Yes- very quiet- we only go during the week.
- Yesterday - YES - Love the Beauty of the Landscape to ride in it
- Yes-- We seen road grater upgrading dirt road
- Yes-- 6 of us ladies rode our horses to the petroglyphs-- 10mile Rd trip. It was peaceful & a great ride. We rode during the week as so there is less excess activity
- YES, LOVED Riding thru the sand dunes horseback. Went during the week to avoid excess traffic.

- Yes it's perfect
- Yes, we played together as a family. We talked, sat around a camp fire ate good food... created memories.

#### Q12 – Manager for a day

- Trail markers for-- people and Horses
- Manage to keep area open
- Education- courtesy -clean up after camp. -Volunteer groups for maintenance -use Existing trails
- Keeping all trails and Areas Open to Multiple use.
- Eliminate commercial groups, unless small and closely supervised. \*Provide clear signage at private land boundaries.
- Establish better entrance regulations
- Enforce an off Road area away from the valley residence area.
- More trash receptacles even though it's usually clean more direct routes to trail -- keep traffic out of neighborhoods
- More trash cans. Better roads leading up to the trails- Get traffic out of the Neighborhoods
- Public- Access- Spray road down - Smaller tours
- Bring it in--pack it out excess respect horse travel
- Direct access road, dust control, traffic out of neighborhoods
- Keep it clean & undisturbed
- Decrease dust

#### Q13 – Improvements Managers can make

- Open area to large jeep clubs. Refer to board...
- No commercial business based groups
- Dust Control and traffic Access Needs Help. Different Entrance from North end to Reduce traffic on Liston.
- Traffic control
- Set an area further into the area away from the valley to cut down on the amount of dust on the valley where the off road vehicles are to be ridden. To many off road vehicles are driving on county roads shoulders creating a road hazard for traffic.
- Fix the small blacktop area
- They are doing a great job
- Do everything possible to eliminate dust from effecting local residences
- I like it has it is-- but-- their needs to be more interest in getting to the trails. The home owners on Liston St. The ones that live on the dirt road access. -- Access road needs to be shot w/ dust control.
- Better access
- It is heaven leave it alone



Q14 – What do you like about living in or visiting community?

- Family & friends, work Safe community & a sense of community Religious ties
- Rural settings. Respect for fellow man. Community cohesion, friendly community. Feeling of security not worried about crime
- Small town. We All Know Everyone. Ability to Camp Hike Ride Hunt within 5 min. of my House.
- The local people have a strong sense of attachment to the place, that is enhanced by strong family values and a pioneer spirit.
- Peace and quite.
- Its quiet, crime is low, beautiful views
- Love small town living Low crime
- Love the community, being able to ride out the Front yard, scenic beauty
- Its my Home Remoteness-- low population
- I live here, over 30 years. I'm done, but can't move. There's no progress. You can't get a tire fixed on Sunday. There's no competition to create what's here to get better. You can't buy a kid a pair of shoes here. The town board usually has business owners that vote down similar businesses coming in.
- WEATHER, VIEWS, access to nature
- Rural feel and space
- Low population, good people, quiet This is where many generations of my family lived. We have used all areas surrounding Logandale/Overton throughout our lives.

Q15 – Public Lands impact on community values?

- Brings in more money in to the community. Jobs.
- Access to the land
- Ability to access public lands (with respect.) at will.
- That's why we live here. 3+ days a week we are on trails or Playing in Surrounding Area
- Stifles economic development by over designation of wilderness areas.
- Helps protect critical environmental habitat- but often to excess by unreasonably preventing access.
- Has made my asthma much worse since the trails are in use
- Vacant land.
- just dust but that's better than snow
- it's a great getaway from the city
- Direct public notice
- Gives me a place to get away on my horse and not have to deal with small town gossip, etc.
- We use them frequently and it would have a great impact if we couldn't use it anymore.

Q16 – What could BLM do in planning process that would help?

- It allows us to have business that keep our kids here rather than leave to work.
- Limit over management. Listen to local citizens.
- Give Budget \$ to Town Board. Keep all decisions Local. At Minimum we need a Large Say. Keep it OPEN. All trails All Access.
- Don't be dictatorial and inflexibly bureaucratic.
- Support local law enforcement. & community, communication.
- Build a road to the trails that keep traffic out of the neighborhoods
- Dust, shoot the access road!! w/ Mag chloride
- Don't limit our access to these areas where we have literally raised our families