

Saddle Up and Ride

Equestrian Backcountry Patrol Initiative

A group of five equestrians are riding their horses through a shallow, rocky river in a canyon. The riders are wearing hats and casual attire. A small dog is running alongside the horses. The canyon walls are made of reddish-brown rock, and there are some green trees on the left side. The sky is clear and blue.

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Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument
National Landscape Conservation System
Bureau of Land Management
November 1, 2008**

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Project Goal:

GSENM

Our goal is to preserve and protect the frontier nature of the American western landscape particularly its natural and cultural aspects by encouraging and facilitating the historical nature of equestrian use on the Monument.



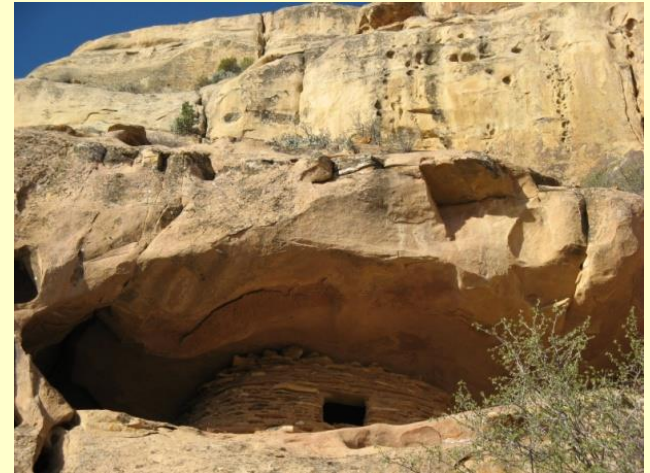
GSEP

As the non-profit we provide volunteers, education, and financial resources to support the Monument.

Saddle Up and Ride

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Objectives:



- Equestrian Backcountry Patrol volunteers will assist BLM staff in monitoring horseback, hiking, ATV, and camping use levels; maintain trails, cleanup horseback camps, remove litter, compile visitor use statistics, make visitor contact, and provide Leave No Trace education.
- Provide a safety and agency presence for visitors.
- Work with GSENM Park Rangers on rehabilitation projects.
- Develop an equestrian archaeological site stewardship program.
- Provide volunteer service in implementing the Saddle Up and Ride Grant awarded September 2008. Completion September 2010.

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Partners:



Partners with Volunteer Agreements

- High Desert Backcountry Horsemen, Kanab, UT
- Individuals

Partners With Assistance Agreements

- BLM and GSEP (GSEP has lead in implementing this initiative)

Partners Under Contract

- During implementation of grant GSEP will contract with graphic artists, sign fabricator, construction contractors

Intra/Inter Agency Partners

- GSENM
- BLM Kanab Field Office
- Kaibab National Forest
- Dixie National Forest

Informal Partnerships

- Kane County Office of Tourism & Film Commission
- Garfield County Trails Committee
- Garfield County Office of Tourism

Potential Partners

- UT/AZ ATV Club, Kanab, UT
- GSENM outfitters and guides

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Development Stages:

November 1, 2008

- *Saddle Up and Ride*, A Trail Guide leaflet to Equestrian Trails of Kane, Garfield, Iron and Coconino Counties – a collaboration between GSEP, BLM, US Forest Service, Kane County Office of Tourism and Garfield County Trails Committee.
- Two joint GSEP-GESNM Volunteer Equestrian Backcountry trail patrol orientation sessions occurred April 18-19 and October 10-11 in Kanab, UT.
- GSENM and GSEP awarded a matching grant for \$113,380 from Utah State Parks and Recreation for seven equestrian trailheads, signage and brochure/map trail guide.



July 1, 2009

- Continue to develop equestrian backcountry trail patrol by expanding patrol areas and the archaeology site stewardship program.
- Complete grant's environmental clearance work, trailhead site designs, and begin project implementation. Draft design for trailhead signage and brochure completed.

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Local Communities:



Operations

- GSENM headquarters, Kanab, Utah
- Kane and Garfield counties, Utah

Who's Involved

- Boulder, Escalante, Cannonville, Kanab, and Big Water, Utah
- Equestrian groups such as Backcountry Horsemen of America, hikers, and ATV enthusiasts

Saddle Up and Ride

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Benefits:

Present

- GSENM benefits by an increased safety and agency presence in high visitor usage areas such as the Paria River Route.
- Visitors benefit by an agency presence in case of emergencies and/or needed GSENM information.
- Equestrian Backcountry patrollers will help GSENM archaeologist monitor sensitive cultural sites, aiding site preservation.
- Experiencing the Monument by horseback offers Americans of all ages a glimpse into the past, and a way to understand and appreciate the importance of public lands.
- The *Saddle Up and Ride* grant will provide seven equestrian trailheads and signage, brochure/map route information, and safe equestrian and other trailer parking, thereby enhancing user experience.

Future

- Archaeology site stewardship program will help preserve cultural sites for future generations.
- The *Saddle Up and Ride* grant ensures that future equestrian and other user groups will have established trailheads, route orientation and information to ensure their safety and appreciation for public lands.
- By establishing an equestrian volunteer patrol we ensure an agency presence in uncertain economic times.

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Evaluation Criteria	Comments
1. <i>Leverage BLM funding</i>	Saddle Up and Ride matching grant – 50% Partners and BLM (volunteers and staff) and 50% Utah State Parks and Recreation (cash) Backcountry Patrols – limited BLM staff supplemented by volunteers
2. <i>Demonstrate big-picture thinking</i>	Model for BLM Collaboration with different user groups on the ground to implement citizen-stewardship groups.
3. <i>Management of volunteer and assistant agreements and contracts</i>	Cooperative Agreement between GSENM and GSEP resulted in GSEP providing a volunteer program coordinator for the Monument, plus extensive educational programs. GSEP oversees contracts to implement grants and projects, thereby leveraging the amount of work BLM can accomplish on public lands.
4. <i>Demonstrate effective external and internal communication</i>	GSEP continues to seek grants to support on-going operations, including two staff and interns; currently selected one of the four friends groups mentored by the National Conservation System Foundation.
5. <i>Actions promoting sustainability of the network</i>	Internally, Cindy talks to everyone, and GSEP has an office at GSENM headquarters. Externally, GSEP facilitates communication via news releases, educational programs, Walks and Talks, newsletters and Partners' website.
6. <i>Potential as a network model</i>	Currently being publicized by the BLM as a model for Best Management Practices.

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Management:



Lessons Learned

- Collaborations (internal and external) get more work done
- Partnerships are a good thing
- Focus on doing one thing well, rather than 20 things not so well

Challenges

- Cash flow needed to keep non-profit operational
 - Grants
 - Donations
 - Memberships
 - Fundraisers
- Maintaining a volunteer pool in small population communities



“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

- Margaret Mead