



National Park Service,
Southeast Utah Group,
Attn: Planning and Compliance Coordinator,
2282 S. West Resource Blvd,
Moab, Utah 84532

RE: White Rim, Elephant Hill Day Use Permit

Dear Superintendent Cannon and Planning Team,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the White Rim, Elephant Hill Day Use Permit Proposal. This letter contains the formal comments of the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA). IMBA supports the proposal to preserve the existing experiences through use of a permit system.

Founded in 1988, IMBA leads national and worldwide mountain bicycling communities through a network of 80,000 individual supporters, 750 affiliate clubs, and 600 dealer members. IMBA teaches sustainable trail building techniques and has become a leader in trail design, construction, and maintenance. IMBA encourages responsible riding, volunteer trail work, and cooperation among trail user groups and land managers. Each year, IMBA members and affiliated clubs conduct nearly one million hours of volunteer trail stewardship on America's public lands and are some of the best assistants to federal, state, and local land managers. IMBA has held a general agreement with the National Park Service since 2005, which has led to great trails for visitors of all kinds.

Frequently the demand for a particular recreation experience exceeds the ecological or social carrying capacity of a specific area or resource to sustainably provide that experience. The White Rim Trail is a prime example of one of these scenarios and without a permit system this experience is at risk. Moab boasts a broad array of outdoor recreation opportunities, many of which can be enjoyed at a moments notice. Our national parks are special places, and the public has high expectations of a park visit. Without the permit system the experience will degrade and thus fail to meet users expectations.

Some of our members do not like the appearance of extra control that a permit system might create, however, when the need is explained, they generally agree that preserving the experience is worth the extra steps necessary to obtain a permit. To mitigate against those concerns we strongly recommend that the permit system is as easy to use and transparent as possible. For example make sure that in addition to publication on the Canyonlands National Park website and other customary publications, local bike shops should be given information and know how to check availability and communicate that with customers renting bicycles or preparing to head out to the trail. This additional outreach will pay off as Park visitors adjust to the new system.

We greatly appreciate your efforts to enhance outdoor recreation opportunities and thank you for accepting our comments. We look forward to continuing a productive relationship in the future. Please feel free to call us (303) 545-9011 or email Jeremy Fancher (jeremy.fancher@imba.com) if we can be of further assistance.

Respectfully Submitted,

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