

**WASHINGTON COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING MODIFICATION OF THE WARNER VALLEY LAND
EXCHANGE PARCEL BOUNDARY**

WHEREAS, the Washington County Water Conservancy District (District) is working with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on the Red Cliffs/Warner Valley Land Exchange (Land Exchange), with Washington County acting as facilitator;

WHEREAS, the proposed exchange would provide for the acquisition of designated critical habitat for the Federally-threatened Mojave desert tortoise and consolidate Federal ownership within the Red Cliffs National Conservation Area, resulting in more efficient management of the BLM-administered lands and reducing the risks of habitat loss through development of private lands;

WHEREAS, the United States would acquire the surface estate of one Non-Federal parcel located within the Red Cliffs National Conservation Area, and in exchange would convey title to the surface and mineral estate of one Federal parcel located within Warner Valley;

WHEREAS, the District recognizes the economic and recreational value of the open off-highway vehicle (OHV) area and dispersed camping presently available on the Federal Parcel;

WHEREAS, the BLM expanded the Federal Parcel boundary overlapping the Sand Mountain Open OHV Area within the Sand Mountain Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA);

WHEREAS, the District is coordinating with interested OHV groups on the Land Exchange and associated impacts to the West Rim and other trails in the Sand Mountain SRMA;

WHEREAS, the District requested that the BLM remove a portion of the Sand Mountain Open OHV Area from the Federal Parcel to reduce impacts to recreation; and

WHEREAS, the BLM prepared alternate Federal Parcel boundary solutions, and the District notified the BLM of its preference for Warner Ridge Solution A as depicted in blue in the attached map.

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of Trustees of the Washington County Water Conservancy District hereby resolves that:

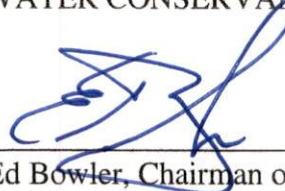
- A. Warner Ridge Solution A, as depicted in blue in the attached map, is the preferred Federal Parcel boundary for the Red Cliffs/Warner Valley Land Exchange.
- B. If the Currently Proposed Federal Parcel boundary remains part of the Land Exchange and the Land Exchange is approved, the District will request the BLM place restrictions on the eastern portion of the Federal Parcel between Warner Ridge Solution A and the

Currently Proposed Federal Parcel upon conveying the land to the District, including maintaining the area as open OHV and restricting development except for improvements related to water operations and recreation activities.

- C. If the Land Exchange is approved, the District will coordinate with OHV groups to convey an easement or other legal instrument on the eastern portion of the Federal Parcel not impacted by water infrastructure, including a reservoir high water mark, to maintain the area as open OHV and restrict development except for improvements related to water operations and recreation activities.
- D. If the Land Exchange is approved and existing access to the West Rim is impacted by the District, the District will work to develop another access point and coordinate with OHV groups on the construction of a staging area and restroom.
- E. If the Land Exchange is approved, the Federal Parcel will remain open for public recreation until the District commences construction of future water infrastructure.

DATED this 3rd day of May, 2023.

WASHINGTON COUNTY
WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT:



Ed Bowler, Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:



Mindy Mees, Secretary

VOTING:

Ed Bowler	Yea <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Adam Bowler	Yea <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Chris Hart	Yea <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Victor Iverson	Yea <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Michele Randall	Yea <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Kress Staheli	Yea <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Kevin Tervort	Yea <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>



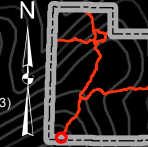
Red Cliffs/Warner Valley Land Exchange

Land Status

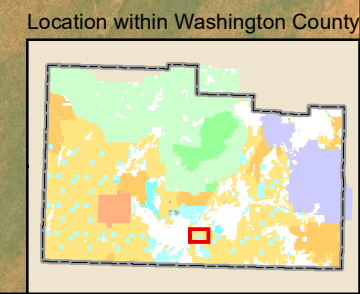
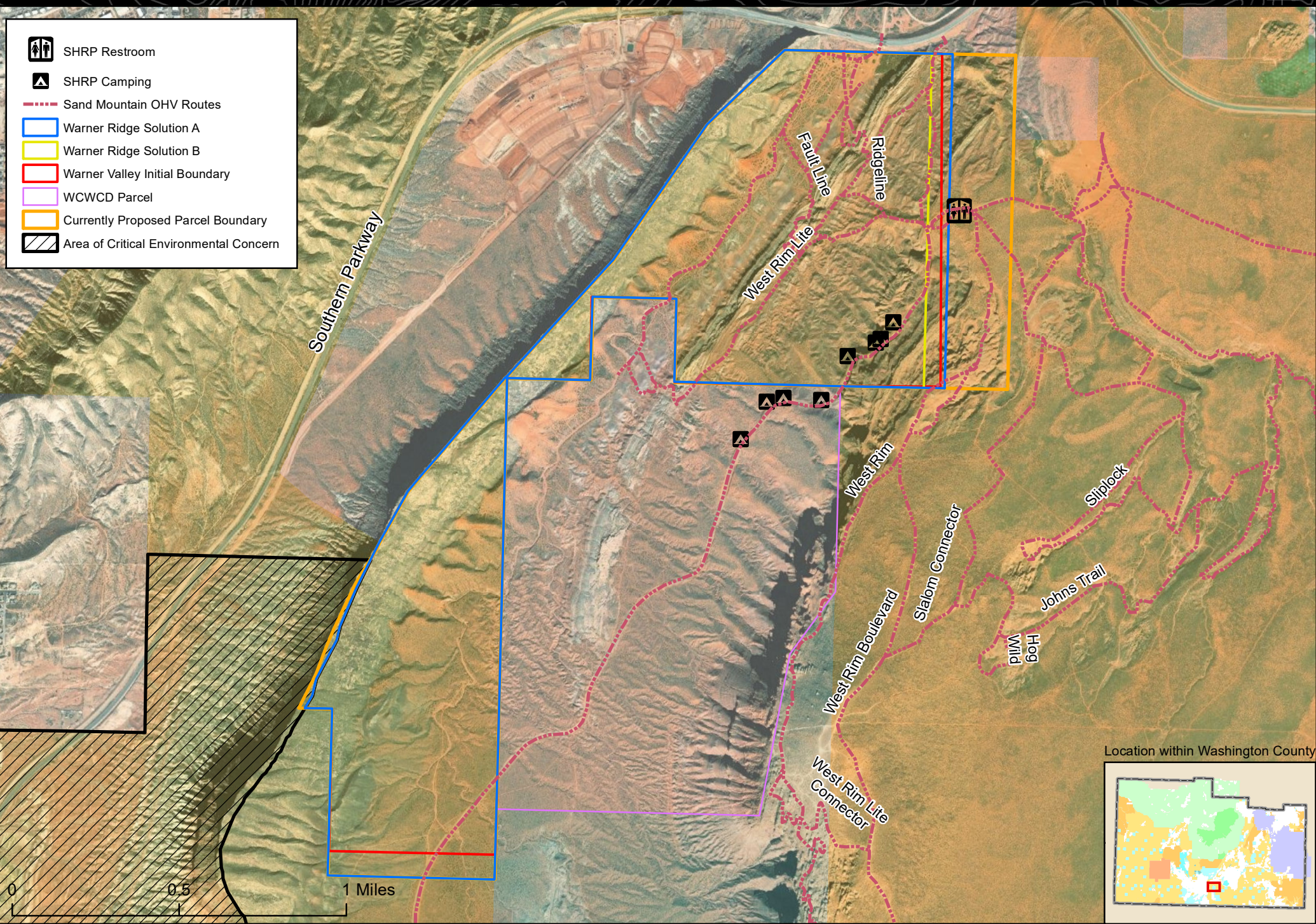
- Bureau of Land Management
- Private
- State

This product may not meet BLM standards for accuracy and content. Different data sources and input scales may cause some misalignment of data layers.

Projection: UTM, Zone 12 North
Datum: North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83)
St George Field Office, GIS
Apr 11, 2023



- SHRP Restroom
- SHRP Camping
- Sand Mountain OHV Routes
- Warner Ridge Solution A
- Warner Ridge Solution B
- Warner Valley Initial Boundary
- WCWCD Parcel
- Currently Proposed Parcel Boundary
- Area of Critical Environmental Concern





For Immediate Release
May 4, 2023

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DISTRICT BOARD PASSES RESOLUTION TO HELP PROTECT OUTDOOR RECREATION AT WARNER VALLEY

(St. George, UT) – The Washington County Water Conservancy District (district) Board of Trustees passed a resolution last night supporting the Warner Valley Land Exchange Parcel Boundary Modification, which requests the removal of a portion of the Federal Parcel boundary overlapping the Sand Mountain Open OHV Area added by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

“Sand Mountain is a popular area for off-highway vehicle recreation and we want to preserve that established use,” said Ed Bowler, chair of the Board of Trustees. “The district is committed to ongoing work with the BLM and outdoor recreation groups to minimize any potential impacts to the area’s well established trail system.”

If the proposed boundary modification isn’t accepted, the district will request the BLM place a restriction on the eastern portion of the Federal Parcel when conveying the land to the district. The restriction would preserve recreational uses and restrict development, except for improvements related to water operations and recreation activities.

The proposal also states that the district will develop access points if trails in the western rim are impacted by water operation development.

The Warner Valley Land Exchange will allow for the district to purchase private land in the Red Cliffs National Conservation Area in exchange for federal land in the Warner Valley area. The exchange will protect critical habitat for the federally threatened Mojave desert tortoise and consolidate federal ownership within the Red Cliffs National Conservation Area, resulting in more efficient management of the BLM-administered lands and reducing the risks of habitat loss through development of private lands.

Visit <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2022389/510> for more information on the proposed land exchange.

About Washington County Water Conservancy District

The Washington County Water Conservancy District is a not-for-profit public agency that oversees water resources in Washington County, UT. Visit wcwcd.org for more information.