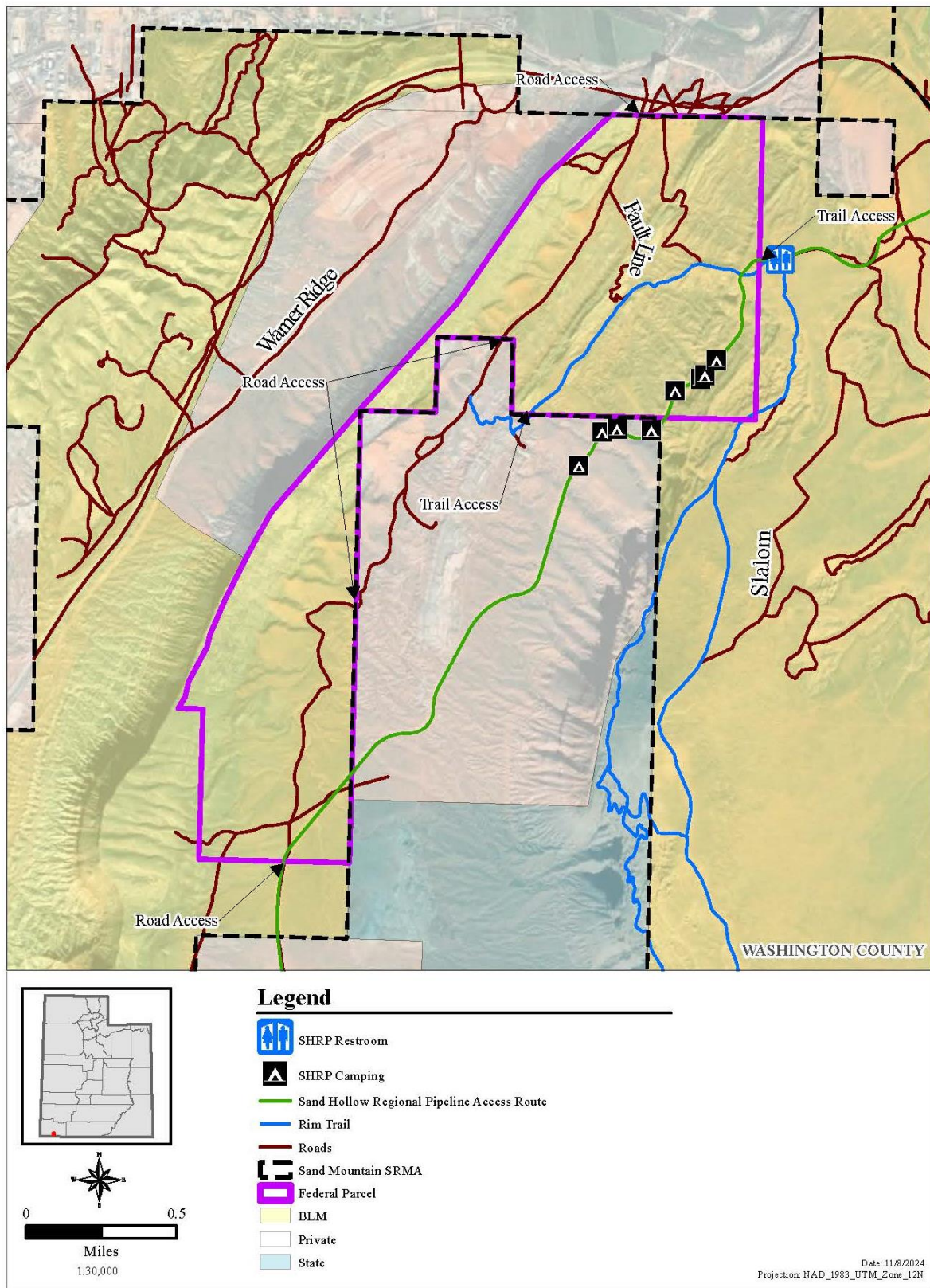


Figure 3.6. Federal Parcel Public Access



As discussed in detail in the Recreation Section (**Section 3.5.3**), the Federal Parcel includes designated OHV trails, informal staging, and dispersed camping areas. Undesignated OHV routes and use areas also occur within the Federal Parcel. The northeastern portion of the Parcel is used as a staging area for unloading and loading OHVs, and for camping. Access to the northern portion of the Federal Parcel is via the unpaved Pecan Road through the Long Valley Recreation Area. The southern portion of the Parcel is also used for camping and OHV use. Designated OHV trails, informal staging, and dispersed camping areas also exist immediately adjacent to the Federal Parcel. Not all access roads or trails on federal lands have legally established ROWs managed by land management agencies. This may result in limited public access and use, despite apparent connections on maps.

The WCWCD and the BLM have mutually agreed that a ROW will be processed for continued public access into the Parcel. Prior to the Land Exchange being finalized, the BLM will issue a perpetual ROW to itself for the portions of the West Rim Trail and the underpass access that fall within the Federal Parcel boundary to preserve access to adjacent public lands, shown in **Figure 3.6**. Four designated dispersed campsites are within the Federal Parcel and are accessed along the West Rim Trail. Currently these facilities are managed under a CMA with WCWCD and would continue to be managed under this management tool. There is currently one land use authorization for a regional water line owned by WCWCD that encumbers a portion of the Federal Parcel. No additional reservations, exceptions, covenants, restrictions, or encumbrances would be imposed on the exchange parcel lands without notifying and providing an opportunity for comment to the other party.

Non-Federal Parcel

The Non-Federal Parcel is located just east of the Middleton Bench, approximately 0.5 miles east of Cottonwood Springs Road, and adjacent to the Green Springs master planned community to the west. Access to the Non-Federal Parcel is limited to foot traffic. No motorized routes are located within the Non-Federal Parcel. The Parcel directly abuts a Washington City subdivision (Green Springs) to the east. The unpaved Cottonwood Road lies approximately 0.6 mile directly west of the Parcel and bisects the NCA and Reserve. The proposed Northern Corridor highway would abut the Parcel on its west side.

Authorized encumbrances on the Non-Federal Parcel include a 60-foot non-exclusive access road and utility easement, which has not yet been constructed, runs north-south through the southwest corner of the parcel. The Non-Federal Parcel is primarily used for tortoise habitat and falls within the Reserve (**Section 3.5.2**). No public recreation, livestock grazing, or OHV use occurs on the Parcel. No tortoise surveys have been conducted on the Non-Federal Parcel due to it being in private ownership.

3.5.6.2. Environmental Effects—Proposed Action

Federal Parcel

Secretarial Order 3373 requires the BLM to evaluate public access on BLM-administered land that could be transferred out of federal ownership.

General Access

Under the Proposed Action, the 929.14 acres of BLM-administered public lands within the Federal Parcel would become private property, thereby restricting any general public access or use. Access to the Federal Parcel from the north via the Southern Parkway, Long Valley Recreation Area, and Pecan Road as well as access from the south via the Warner Valley Road would be managed by the WCWCD with an access ROW issued to the BLM. Access to and use of the Parcel by OHVs would also be managed by the WCWCD. Construction of a reservoir would likely change access routes to meet reservoir use needs. Use on other roads, such as I-15, the Southern Parkway (Utah State Route 7), Utah State Highway 9, and the Washington Fields Road would not change. Use patterns on Warner Valley Road would likely change to access the Reservoir and also if access to OHV use areas in the Federal Parcel is restricted. Additionally, a ROW amendment would be needed for the Sand Hollow Regional Pipeline to remove the portion of the ROW authorization that is within the Federal Parcel, and any remaining portion of the ROW outside of the Federal Parcel would remain.

Recreation

Under the Proposed Action, there would be a loss of 929.14 acres of public land within the Sand Mountain SRMA, reducing the amount of land available for OHV activities (**Section 3.5.1**). This would affect local and visiting recreational users who currently use this area for motorized recreation. Camping facilities within the SRMA would also be affected, potentially limiting available camping spots. Public access for recreational purposes would be reduced. The land currently used for OHV recreation and camping would no longer be publicly accessible, forcing users to seek alternative locations for these activities (**Section 3.5.3**).

Livestock Grazing

Under the Proposed Action, there would be a reduction in land available for grazing, directly impacting the local ranchers who rely on four grazing allotments located within the Federal Parcel (**Section 3.5.5**). Existing infrastructure, such as portions of the Sand Hollow Regional Pipeline and associated access roads, would remain, but access to these may be restricted or altered depending on the new land management policies imposed by WCWCD. Grazing allotment users would lose access to these lands, impacting their operations. The BLM would be required to modify the terms and conditions of the federal grazing permits for the Fort Pearce and Warner Valley Allotments as approximately 140 AUMs would be lost (21 from Fort Pearce and 119 from Warner Valley). No loss of AUMs would occur in the Sand and Dome Allotments as the portion of those allotments within the Federal Parcel are not grazed due to steep and rocky terrain. The Land Exchange would not result in the removal of any authorized permanent range improvements that would qualify for compensation by the United States. The BLM has received two-year waivers from the Warner Valley and Fort Pearce permittees. Both permittees have released their interest in the lands that fall within the Federal Parcel (**Section 3.5.5**).