



# Proposed Recreation and Development Strategy

## Old Spanish National Historic Trail

### Northern Arizona and Southern Utah Project Area



**BLM Arizona State Office Cooperative Agreement - L16AC00320**

**Old Spanish Trail Association**  
**November 2021**







# Proposed Recreation and Development Strategy Northern Arizona and Southern Utah Project Area

## National Historic Trails

National Historic Trails have historic significance and can only be designated by an act of Congress. There are currently nineteen in the United States. The Old Spanish Trail was designated in 2002 as the nation's 15<sup>th</sup> National Historic Trail. In 1829, Antonio Armijo led the first mule caravan which opened trade between New Mexico and California. The mule caravans became an annual tradition falling out of favor after 1848.

In 1968, the National Trails System Act opened the door to federal involvement with various types of trails including historic trails. Today, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) along with the National Park Service (NPS) and the National Forest Service (NFS) are responsible for the administration and management of National Historic Trails that cross agency lands.

## Purpose

The purpose of this document is to highlight for decision makers the various opportunities for improving public awareness and increasing the recreational value of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail (OSNHT) across northern Arizona and southern Utah. This is not a decisional document but rather a guiding document to help motivate future efforts that sign, interpret and utilize trail resources. Due to a lack of BLM grant funding associated with this Cooperative Agreement, workshops were not held to gather additional public or agency input regarding this proposed recreational plan.

Prime locations along the OSNHT corridor are identified in this document for the addition of trailheads, waysides, overlooks and kiosks to make the trail more accessible and better engage the public.

There are many opportunities for improving the OSNHT recreational and educational experience between Page, Arizona and Littlefield, Arizona. The OSNHT across this region could serve as an artery to highlight other historic, cultural and recreational opportunities. This Recreation and Development Strategy includes sites that could illuminate local history and add to the overall recreational experience for the visiting public.



## Grant Participants

### Old Spanish Trail Association

Paul Ostapuk - President, OSTA  
Lynn Brittner - Executive Director, OSTA  
George Hardeen - President, OSTA Armijo Chapter  
Jeff Frey - President, OSTA Red Pueblo Chapter  
Al Matheson - Utah Director, OSTA  
John Hiscock - Past Association Manager, OSTA

### Bureau of Land Management

Liza Love – Grants Management Officer, Arizona State Office  
Jon Jasper – Recreation Specialist, Arizona Strip Field Office



*OSTA Armijo Route Research Trail Ride*





# Proposed Recreation and Development Strategy Northern Arizona and Southern Utah Project Area

## Proposed Recreation and Development Strategy

Prepared for:

- BLM - Arizona Strip District
- BLM - Dixie Field Office
- BLM - Kanab Field Office
- BLM - Beaver Dam Wash NCA
- BLM - Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument
- NPS - Glen Canyon National Recreation Area



*Rock Canyon on the Arizona Strip*

## Table of Contents

- Old Spanish National Historic Trail Overview
- Executive Summary
- Map of Project Area
- Typical Trail Elements and Alternatives
- Proposed Recreational Elements
  - Segment A - Page, AZ / Big Water, UT Area
  - Segment B - Paria River Area (East and West)
  - Segment C - Fredonia, Arizona Area
  - Segment D - Hurricane Cliffs / Arizona Strip Area
  - Segment E - St. George, Utah Area
  - Segment F - Littlefield, Arizona Area
- Proposed Interpretive Themes
- In Conclusion

Prepared By: Paul Ostapuk, Old Spanish Trail Association

Funded By: BLM AZ NLCS ASD  
OLD SPANISH TRAIL L16AC00320







# Proposed Recreation and Development Strategy Northern Arizona and Southern Utah Project Area

## Executive Summary

The traveling public can best be served by increasing awareness of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail (OSNHT) through installation of highway signs, updating existing maps at agency visitor centers that currently fail to show the OSNHT route and, in general, increasing the number of tangible public displays. OSNHT Interpretation across this region is almost non-existent except for a wayside at the Highway 89 turnout junction with the Paria town site road, a plaque installed at the St. George Crosby Family Confluence Park on the Virgin River and the newly installed waysides with mule caravan silhouettes on Highway 91 near Castle Cliff, UT. Increasing the number of certified OSNHT sites and physical trail assets will not only improve recreational experiences related to the OSNHT, it can also provide an additional portal for linking to NPS and BLM digital mobile applications.

A summary of enhanced recreational and educational trail experiences include:

### Hiking Opportunities

- Wahweap Creek
- Sand Hills / Gunsight Canyon
- Toadstools Trailhead
- Box of the Paria
- Rock Canyon / Hurricane Cliffs
- Fort Pearce
- St. George Virgin River Trail

### OHV / Mountain Bike Opportunities

- Cottonwood Canyon Road
- Honeymoon Trail to Rock Canyon
- Warner Valley
- Mojave Desert and Joshua Tree Road (Scenic Backway)
- Bulldog Pass/Apex Road (north)

### Horseback Opportunities

- Paria River
- Kimball Valley
- Great Western Trail staging area
- Arizona Strip / Honeymoon Trail
- Warner Valley
- Mojave Desert / Joshua Tree Road (Scenic Backway)

### Interpretive Signage Opportunities at Visitor Centers

- Powell Museum / Glen Canyon Conservancy
- Big Water Visitor Center
- Paria Contact station
- Kanab Visitor Center
- Red Pueblo Museum
- Pipe Spring National Monument

### Back Country Interpretive Sign Opportunities

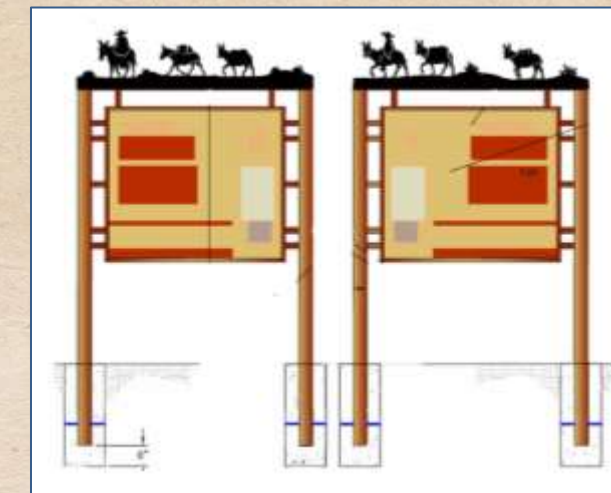
- Lone Rock Restrooms
- Toadstools Trailhead
- White House Campground
- Rock Canyon
- Mojave Desert Joshua Tree Road Scenic Backway

### Key Observation Point (KOP) Opportunities

- Cottonwood Canyon Overlooks
- Paria Townsite Trailhead
- Arizona Strip / Coyote Plain Overlook
- Rock Canyon
- Top of Hurricane Cliffs
- Fort Pearce
- Bulldog Pass/Apex Road (north)
- Mojave Desert / Joshua Tree Road (Scenic Backway)
- Big Bend of the Virgin River / Virgin River Bridge near Scenic

### Public Art – Mule Caravan Silhouettes

- Highway 89 Turnout / Paria Townsite Road
- Box of Paria - East Trailhead
- Box of Paria - West Trailhead



*BLM Custom Kiosk Design*





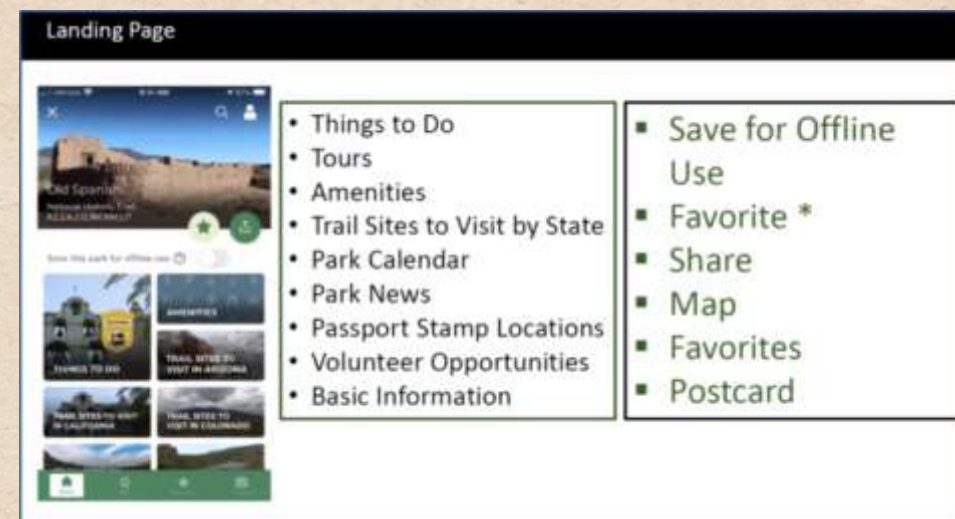


# Proposed Recreation and Development Strategy Northern Arizona and Southern Utah Project Area

## NPS and BLM Mobile Applications for National Historic Trails



Screenshots of NPS' "Find a Park" mobile application which includes the Old Spanish National Historic Trail.



Screenshot of BLM Old Spanish Trail "Explorer App"



Example of a NPS OLSP QR Code included as part of a wayside exhibit



Example of a BLM Explorer QR Code included as part of a wayside exhibit

**Integration of QR Codes into OSNHT Wayside Exhibits and Interpretive Panels can provide an additional portal for linking to NPS and BLM digital mobile applications**







# Proposed Recreation and Development Strategy Northern Arizona and Southern Utah Project Area

## Project Historical Context

Today, the Old Spanish Nation Historic Trail (OSNHT) is widely known as the "longest, most arduous, and crookedest pack mule route in America."

From 1829 to 1848, the 1,200-mile trail was considered the most feasible path between Los Angeles and Santa Fe for traveling Mexican caravans.

The trail provided a trade route for quality woolen goods produced in New Mexico, exchanged for a surplus supply of horses and mules raised on California's ranchos. Trade with American Indians was also prominent, including an extensive slave trade of American Indian women and children who were forced to become domestic servants for ranchers in New Mexico and California.

The route was established along a loose network of American Indian footpaths which crossed the wide expanse of the Colorado Plateau and the Mojave Desert.

Photo: Montage of historic and modern day uses of the trail







# Proposed Recreation and Development Strategy Northern Arizona and Southern Utah Project Area

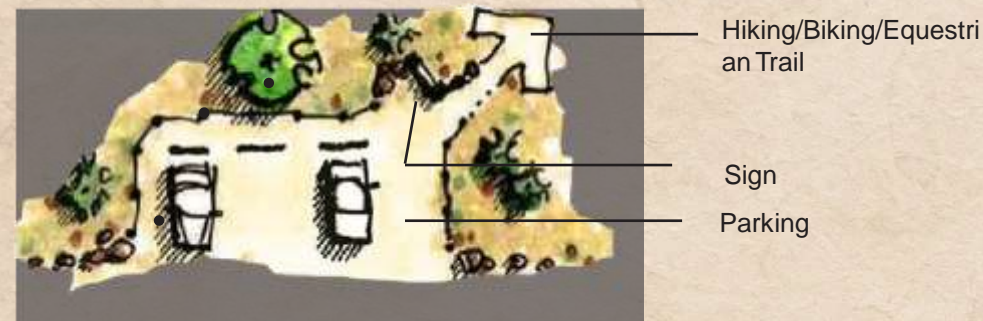
## Typical Trail Elements and Alternatives

The following typical trail elements can help bring the trail to life. There are five categories that the elements fall under: trailheads, waysides/overlooks, campgrounds, kiosks/interpretive structures and visitor centers / museums. All of these elements help make the trail and its history accessible, enabling people to explore the Old Spanish NHT and the surrounding landscape. The graphics represent what a typical facility may look like when labeled on a map, not what would be built at each location specifically.

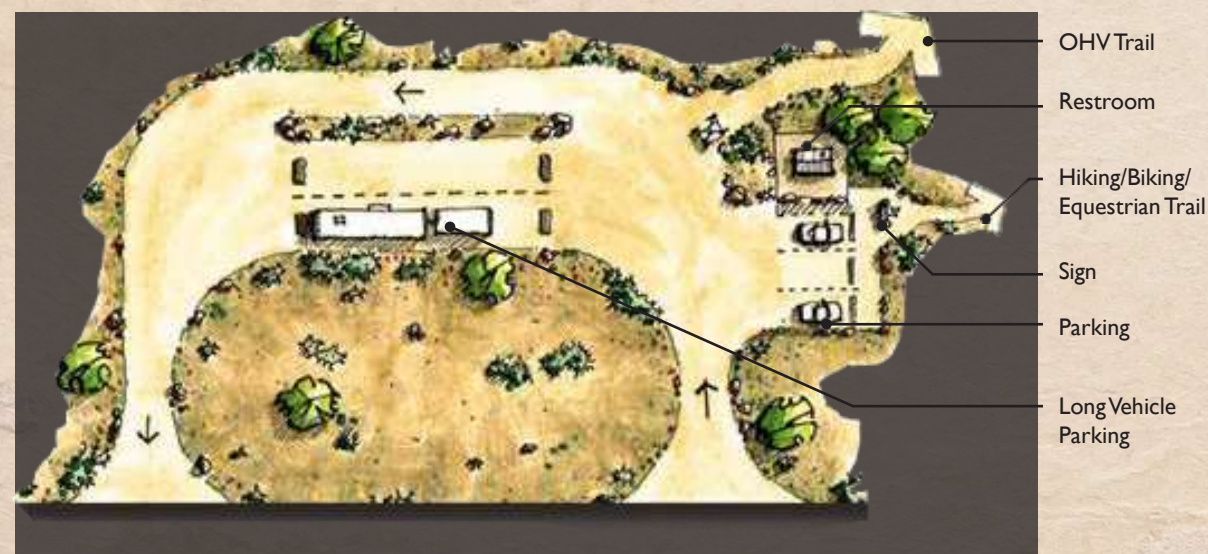
### Trailheads

Trailheads are placed at the beginning of a trail. They typically include parking, restrooms, and directional signage. They may also include staging areas, interpretive structures, shade structures and benches.

Trailheads should be placed at points along the trail where some one could park their vehicle and then experience the trail by hiking, biking, OHV riding, on horseback, etc.



Simple Trailhead concept appropriate for non-motorized trails



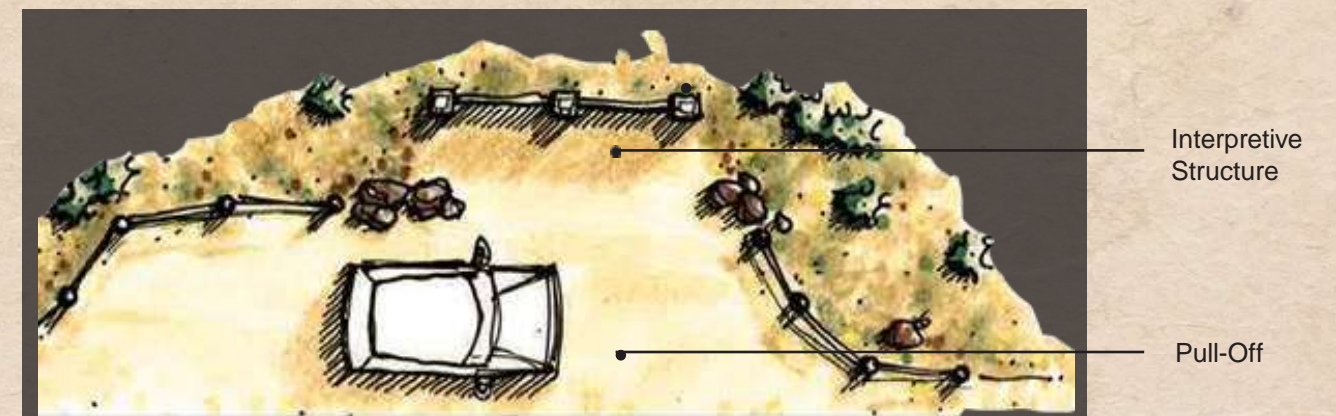
Multi-Use Trailhead concept appropriate for OHV, Hiking, Biking, Equestrian, etc., trails.

### Waysides and Overlooks

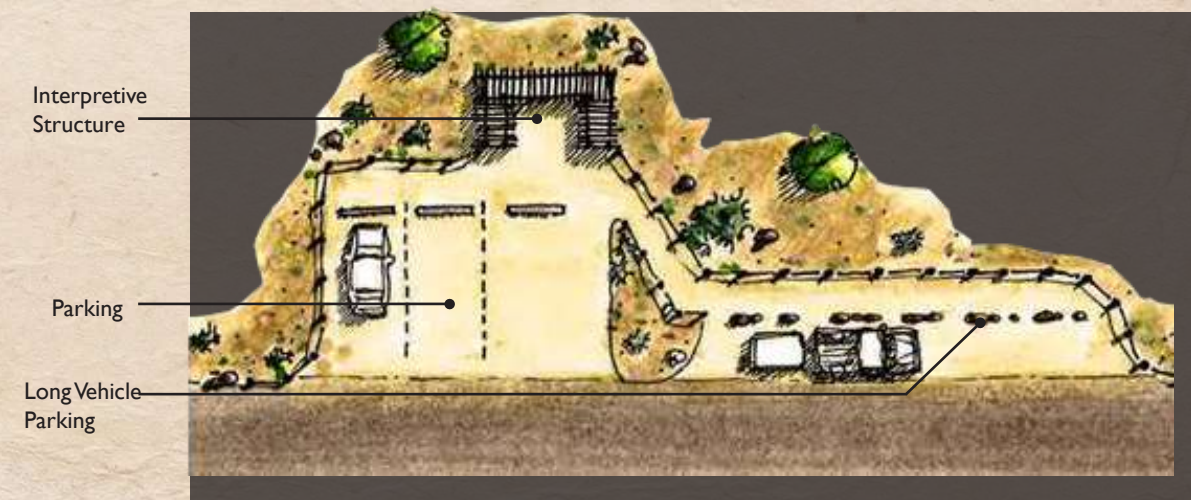
Waysides and overlooks are places along the trail where people can stop and learn about trail history or get information that will help them find and follow the trail.

The Old Spanish NHT has a unique and interesting history. Waysides and overlooks provide an opportunity to share this history with the public in the setting where the events took place.

Waysides / overlooks should be placed at locations that are easy to access from the main route of travel. Ideally, they should be placed at locations where the vantage point relates to the story included on the exhibits. They can be as simple as a parking spot and a sign, or may be more of a day-use area and include other elements such as restrooms, picnic tables, shade structures, etc.



Small wayside concept



Large wayside concept





## Proposed Recreation and Development Strategy Northern Arizona and Southern Utah Project Area

### Campgrounds and Day Use Areas

Campgrounds provide the opportunity to stay at a location overnight. They may be very simple--a designated area without amenities, or more established--with benches, fire-pits, tent pads, water, restrooms, picnic tables, etc.

There are locations where day use areas along the Old Spanish NHT in northern Arizona and southern Utah could be improved to tie into proposed recreational routes of the trail.



Campground and Day-Use area concept plan

One-way loop road

Back-in campsite

Restroom

Long Vehicle Parking

General Parking

Day-use Area

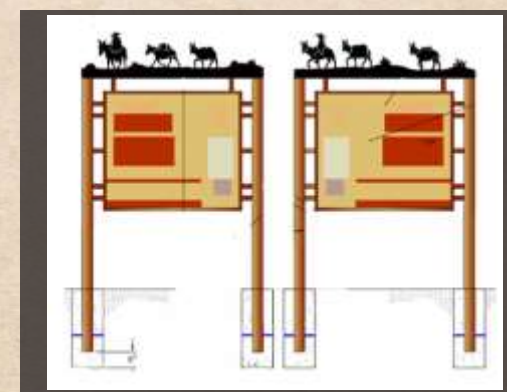
Pull-through campsite

### Kiosks and Interpretive Structures

Kiosks and interpretive structures provide the opportunity to educate people about history and the landscape that they are experiencing.

The Old Spanish NHT has a unique history that creates many opportunities to bring the trail to life through interpretation structures and kiosks.

These may be placed anywhere along the trail individually, or as features of trailheads, waysides, overlooks and campgrounds. Ideally, they interpret a visible resource.



Simple sign example



Wayside sign example



Kiosk example



Interpretive Exhibit example



Sandstone Interpretive Structure





## Proposed Recreation and Development Strategy Northern Arizona and Southern Utah Project Area

### Visitor Centers and Museums

Existing Visitor Centers and Museums along the Old Spanish NHT in Kane County, Coconino County, Washington County and Mojave County can provide travelers access to historic collections and detailed trail information. These locations serve as important information sources and travel hubs.



*Big Water Visitor Center, Utah*



*Kanab Visitor Center, Kanab, Utah*



*Powell Museum, Page, Arizona*



*Pipe Spring National Monument, Arizona*

### Trail Element Alternatives

If development of a trail element is planned, each of the typical trail elements could have three levels of development: primitive, rustic, or developed. The following graphics show possible concepts for this range of development. Factors that could drive the level of development include the usage and location of the trail elements.

#### Trailhead Alternatives



Primitive



Rustic



Developed



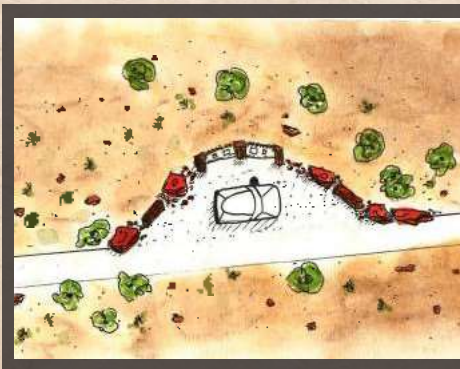


## Trail Element Alternatives (continued)

### Wayside Alternatives



Primitive



Rustic



Developed

### Kiosks and Interpretive Structures Alternatives



Primitive

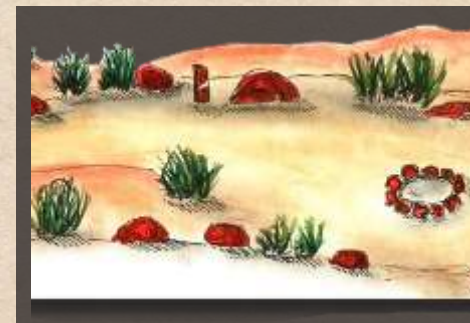


Rustic



Developed

### Campground Alternatives



Primitive



Rustic



Developed

### Visitor Centers and Museums Alternatives



Primitive



Rustic



Developed





# Proposed Recreation and Development Strategy Northern Arizona and Southern Utah Project Area







# Proposed Recreation and Development Strategy Northern Arizona and Southern Utah Project Area

## Northern Arizona and Southern Utah Project Area BLM Grant L16AC00320







# Proposed Recreation and Development Strategy Northern Arizona and Southern Utah Project Area

## Old Spanish Trail Segment Details

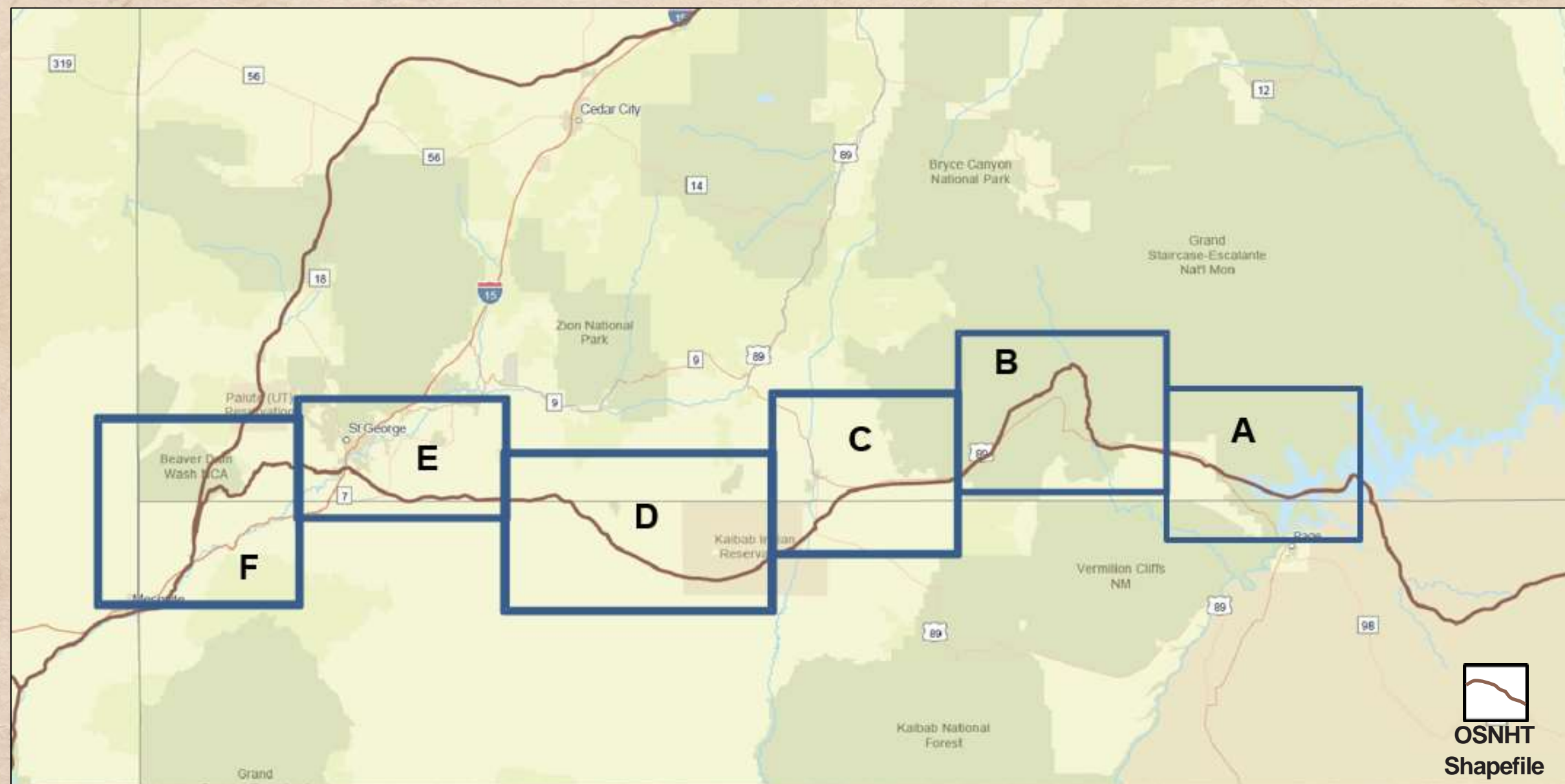






# Proposed Recreation and Development Strategy Northern Arizona and Southern Utah Project Area

## Recreation Trail Segments

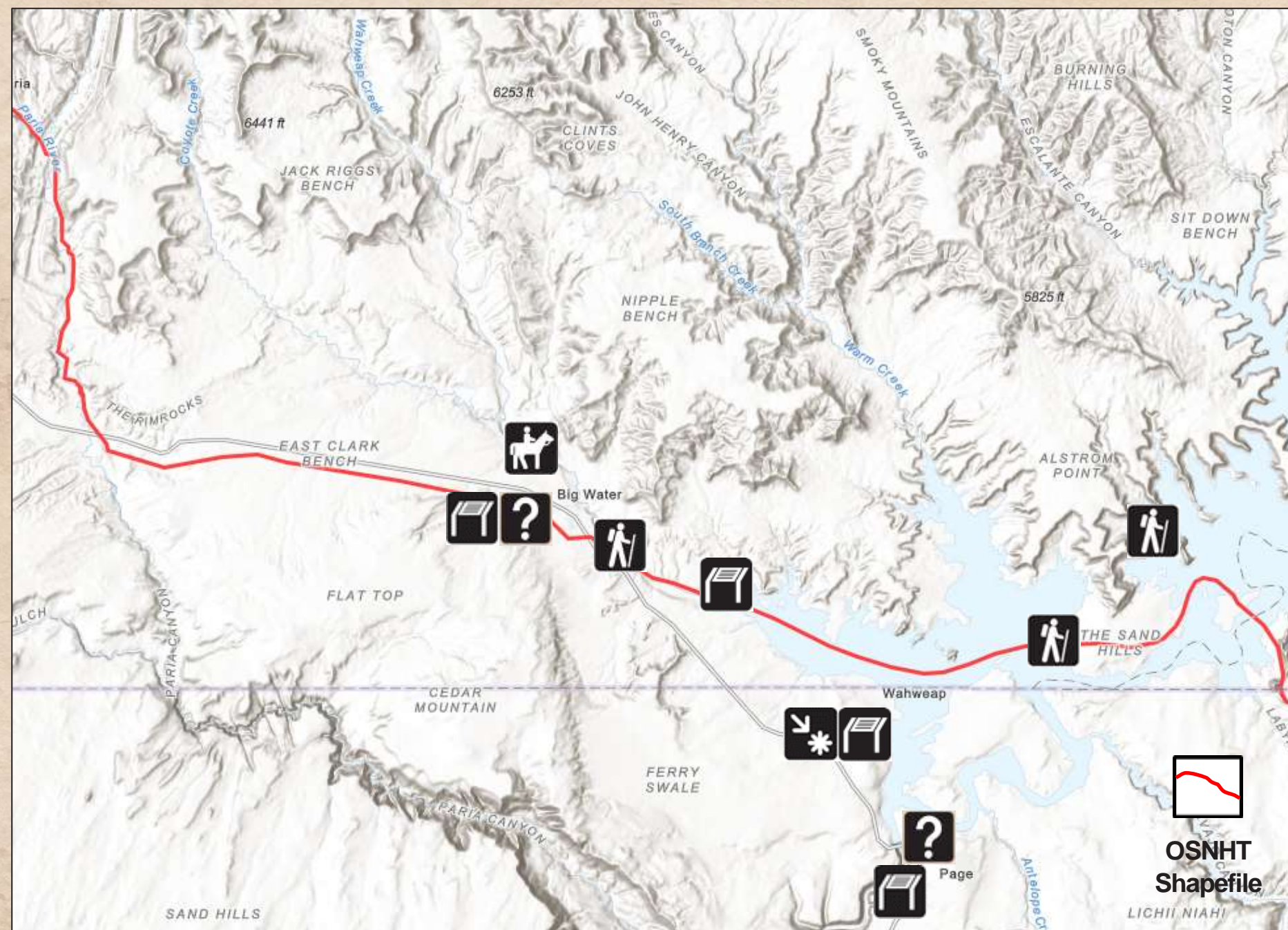






# Proposed Recreation and Development Strategy Northern Arizona and Southern Utah Project Area

## Segment A – Page, AZ / Big Water, UT Area Map







# Proposed Recreation and Development Strategy Northern Arizona and Southern Utah Project Area

## Segment A – Page, AZ / Big Water, UT Area

- Powell Museum / Glen Canyon Conservancy
- Sand Hills / Gunsight Pass Hiking
- Lone Rock Campground
- Wahweap Overlook and Wahweap Creek Hiking
- BLM Big Water Visitor Center

### Key Opportunities

- Installation of OSNHT wayside exhibits at visitor centers and overlooks
- Establish observation points overlooking the OSNHT corridor
- Trailhead hiking in Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument



*Powell Museum – Page, Arizona*



*Wahweap Overlook off Highway 89 – Glen Canyon National Recreation Area*





# Proposed Recreation and Development Strategy Northern Arizona and Southern Utah Project Area

## Segment A – Page, AZ / Big Water, UT Area

### Powell Museum / Glen Canyon Conservancy

#### Key Opportunities

- Install new OSNHT wayside exhibit to supplement existing assets at the Powell Museum and Glen Canyon Conservancy Visitor Center that include:
  - OSNHT Passport Stamp Location
  - 3D Regional Map
  - Dominguez-Escalante Bicentennial Marker
  - Retail Bookstore
- Consider NPS Certified Site designation for the Glen Canyon Conservancy Visitor Center







# Proposed Recreation and Development Strategy Northern Arizona and Southern Utah Project Area

## Segment A – Page, AZ / Big Water, UT Area

### GSENM Lone Rock Campground and Wahweap Creek (Armijo's White Canyon)



*Lone Rock Campground Restrooms – Glen Canyon National Recreation Area*

#### Key Opportunities

- Install new OSNHT interpretative panel at the Lone Rock campground restrooms where other wayside panels exist and overlooks the Old Spanish Trail corridor
- Three season hiking along Wahweap creek between Big Water, Utah, Lone Rock campground and intermediate access points.
  - *Note: Hiking in summer months along Wahweap Creek not recommended due to hot temperatures and the risk of flash flooding*



*Blank wall where OSNHT interpretative panel could be installed that overlooks the OSNHT Corridor*



*Wahweap Creek (Armijo's White Canyon)*





# Proposed Recreation and Development Strategy Northern Arizona and Southern Utah Project Area

## Segment A – Page, AZ / Big Water, UT Area

### GCNRA Sand Hills / Gunsight Canyon



*Paso Por Aqui Año 1776 Inscription Site*



*Gunsight Butte*



*View toward historic Gunsight Pass  
named by the 1869 Utah  
Territorial Militia*

### Key Opportunities

- Boat accessible hiking to Paso Por Aqui Año 1776 Inscription and Sand Hills Trail between Warm Creek and Gunsight Canyon
- Establishment of Historic District as part of the National Register of Historic Places to include the 1776 Inscription site, Gunsight Pass, the historic Sand Hills trail traveled by indigenous people, Dominguez-Escalante expedition, 1869 Utah Territorial Militia, Jacob Hamblin and John Wesley Powell







# Proposed Recreation and Development Strategy Northern Arizona and Southern Utah Project Area

## Segment A – Page, AZ / Big Water, UT Area

### Big Water Visitor Center – BLM GSENM

#### Key Opportunities

- Update “Exploring the Monument” map to show the route of the Old Spanish NHT
- Installation of new interpretive panel above bench on vacant wall
- Acknowledge that the Big Water Visitor Center is located directly on the OSNHT
- Consider retracement route for hiking and equestrian opportunities along Coyote Wash across Highway 89, north of the Visitor Center



Existing Interpretive Panels



Outdated GSENM Map



A vacant wall is available for OSNHT  
Interpretive Panel placement





# Proposed Recreation and Development Strategy Northern Arizona and Southern Utah Project Area

## Segment B – Paria River Area

- Paria River Contact Station
- Toad Stools Trailhead
- White House Campground
- Catstair Canyon Trailhead
- Cottonwood Wash – Box of the Paria (East Trailhead)
- Highway 89 Paria Townsite Turnout
- Paria Townsite – Box of the Paria (West Trailhead)
- Kimball Valley Equestrian Route



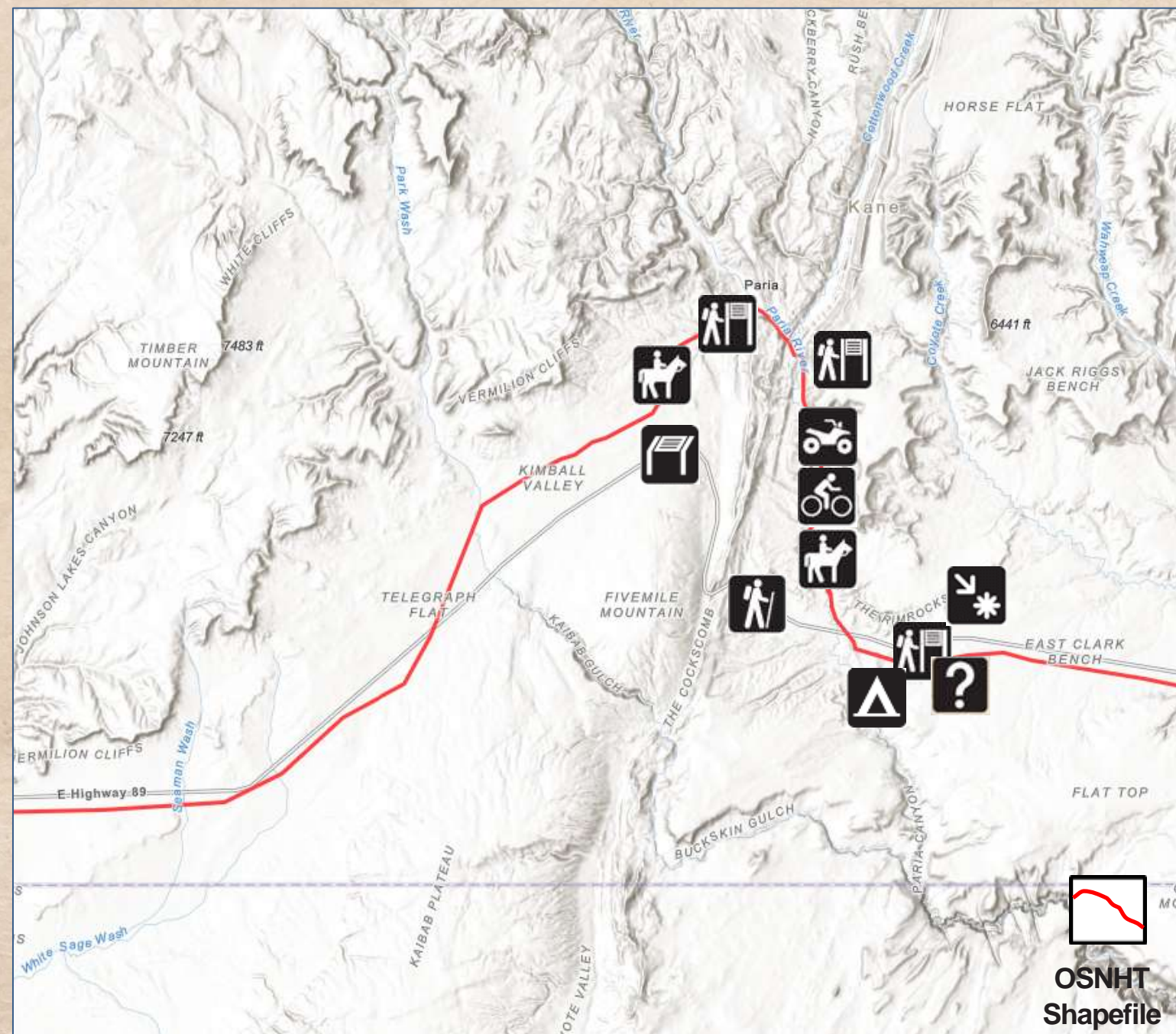
*Riders experiencing the Paria River*





# Proposed Recreation and Development Strategy Northern Arizona and Southern Utah Project Area

## Segment B – Paria River Area Map



Box of Paria River





# Proposed Recreation and Development Strategy Northern Arizona and Southern Utah Project Area

## Segment B – Paria River Area (East)

- Paria River Contact Station
- Toad Stools Trailhead
- White House Campground
- Catstair Canyon Trailhead
- Cottonwood Wash Road
- Box of the Paria River - East

### Key Opportunities

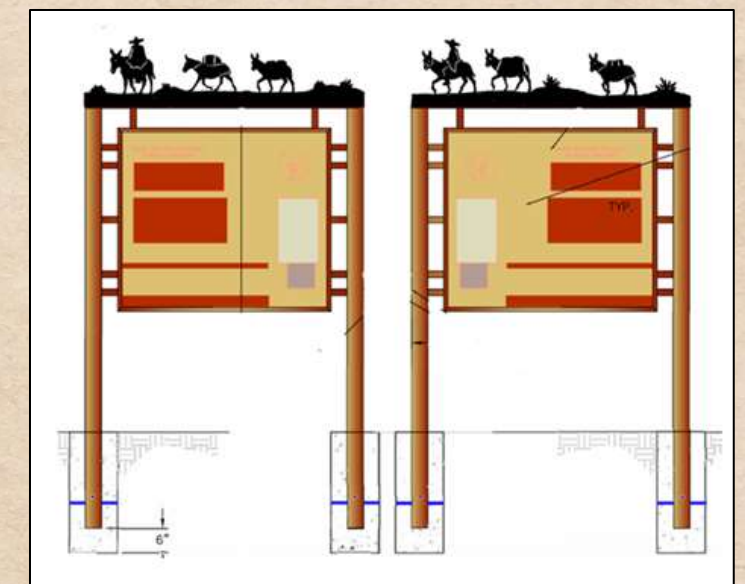
- New waysides at Paria River Contact Station, Cottonwood Canyon Road Junction and Toadstools Trailhead
- Observation points along Cottonwood Canyon Road
- Installation of OSNHT wayside and silhouettes at the Box of Paria River (east trailhead)



*Paria Contact Station*



*Toadstools Trailhead off Highway 89*



*Proposed BLM Trailhead signs for  
Box of Paria River*



*Outdated GSENM Map at  
Paria Contact Station*



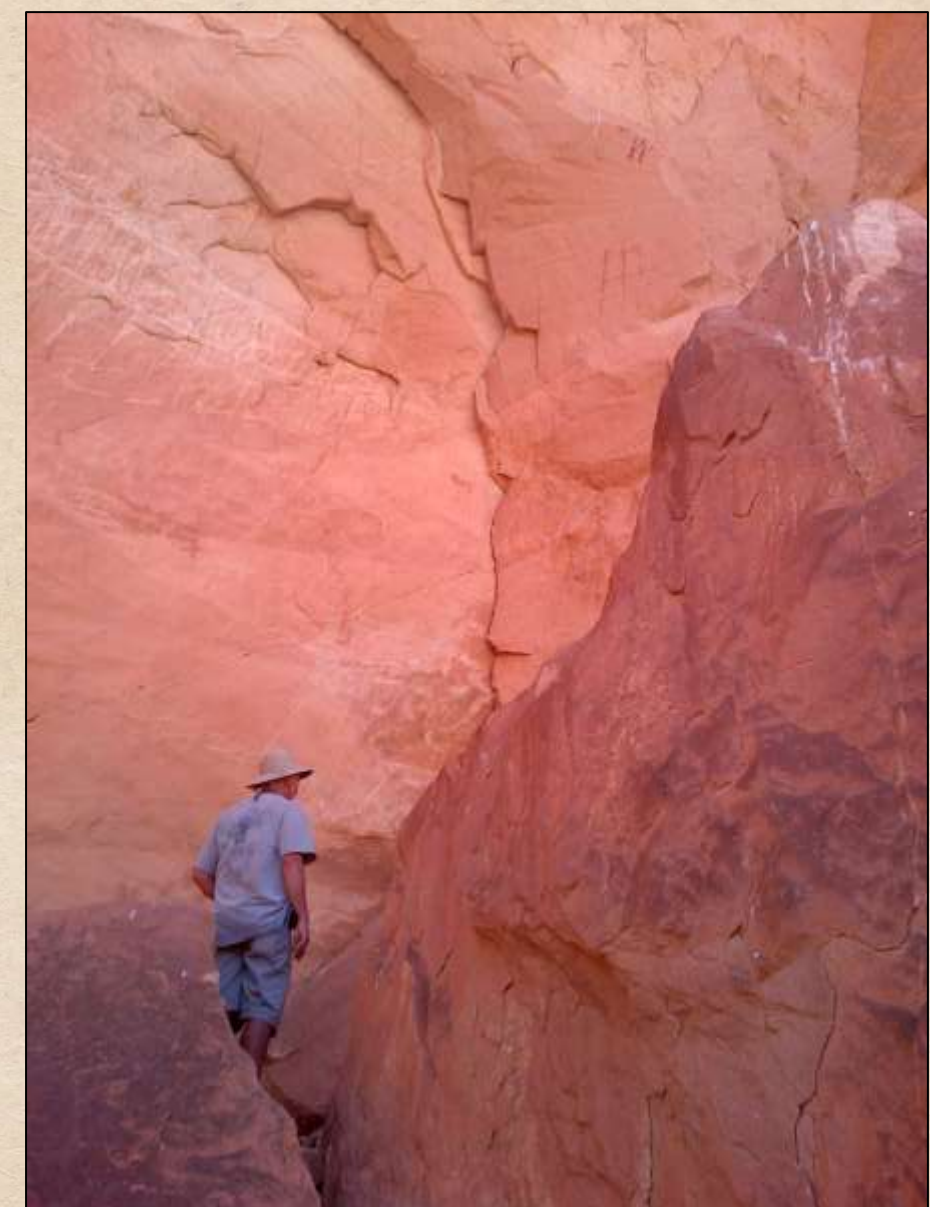


# Proposed Recreation and Development Strategy Northern Arizona and Southern Utah Project Area

## Segment B – Paria River Area (East)



*Recreational Opportunities near and along the Paria River*



*Catstair Canyon with petroglyphs and cowboy glyphs near Highway 89*





# Proposed Recreation and Development Strategy Northern Arizona and Southern Utah Project Area

## Segment B – Paria River Area (East)



*Cottonwood Canyon Road with many Old Spanish Trail observation points*



*The Cottonwood Canyon Road leads to the Box of Paria River east trailhead and offers opportunities for mountain biking*







# Proposed Recreation and Development Strategy Northern Arizona and Southern Utah Project Area

## Segment B – Paria River Area (West)

- Highway 89 Paria Townsite Turnout
- Box of Paria River (West Trailhead)
- Kimball Valley

### Key Opportunities

- Installation of mule caravan silhouettes at Highway 89 turnout behind existing OSNHT interpretive sign
- Installation of OST wayside and silhouettes at the Box of Paria River (west trailhead)
- Open range horse back riding in Kimball Valley along the OSNHT corridor



*Simulated view of existing Highway 89 OSNHT wayside  
with yet-to-be installed silhouettes*



*Kimball Valley*





# Proposed Recreation and Development Strategy Northern Arizona and Southern Utah Project Area

## Segment C – Fredonia, Arizona Area

- Great Western Trail Staging Area
- Kanab Visitor Center
- Red Pueblo Museum
- Pipe Spring National Monument



*BLM Kanab Visitor Center Waysides*



*Staging Area off Highway 89 (Buckskin Mountain)*

### Key Opportunities

- Installation of new interpretive waysides at agency Visitor Centers and the Red Pueblo Museum
- Update existing agency maps to show the OSNHT
- OHV, equestrian and mountain biking opportunities at the Great Western Trail Staging Area

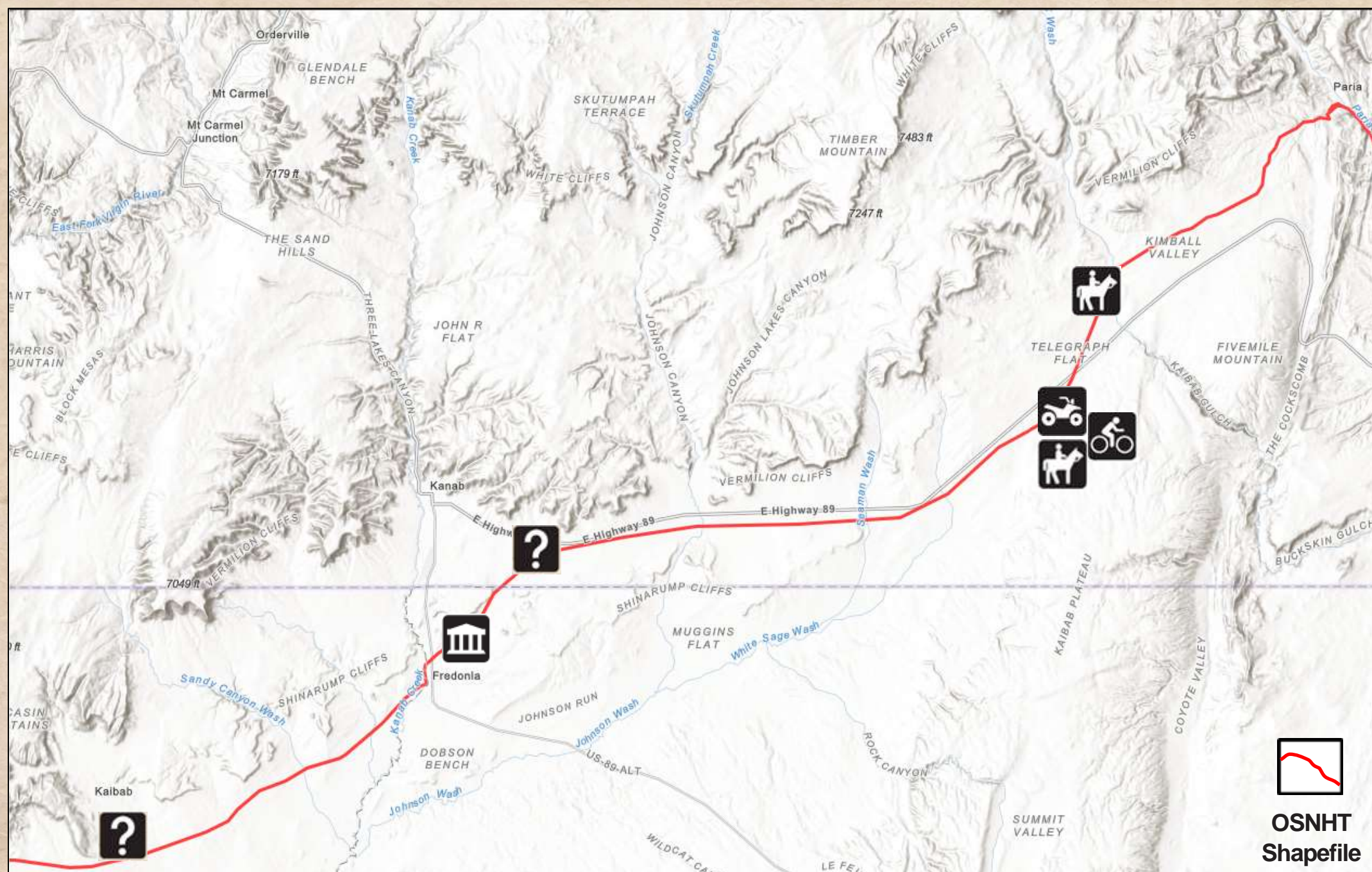






# Proposed Recreation and Development Strategy Northern Arizona and Southern Utah Project Area

## Segment C – Fredonia, Arizona Area Map



Pipe Spring National Monument  
(Armijo Route - Old Spanish  
National Historic Trail)







# Proposed Recreation and Development Strategy Northern Arizona and Southern Utah Project Area

## Segment C – Fredonia, Arizona Area

Kanab Visitor Center - BLM GSENM  
Red Pueblo Museum, Fredonia, AZ  
Pipe Spring National Monument - NPS

### Key Opportunities

- Update existing GSENM map to show the route of the OSNHT
- Installation of OSNHT waysides at Kanab Visitor Center, Red Pueblo Museum and Pipe Spring National Monument.
- Install mule caravan silhouettes at the Red Pueblo Museum (named for a nearby Armijo caravan campsite)
- Consider NPS Certified Site designation for the Red Pueblo Museum



*Existing Kiosk  
Kanab Visitor Center*



*Existing Wayside Exhibits  
Kanab Visitor Center*



*Red Pueblo Museum*





# Proposed Recreation and Development Strategy Northern Arizona and Southern Utah Project Area

## Segment D – Arizona Strip / Hurricane Cliffs Area

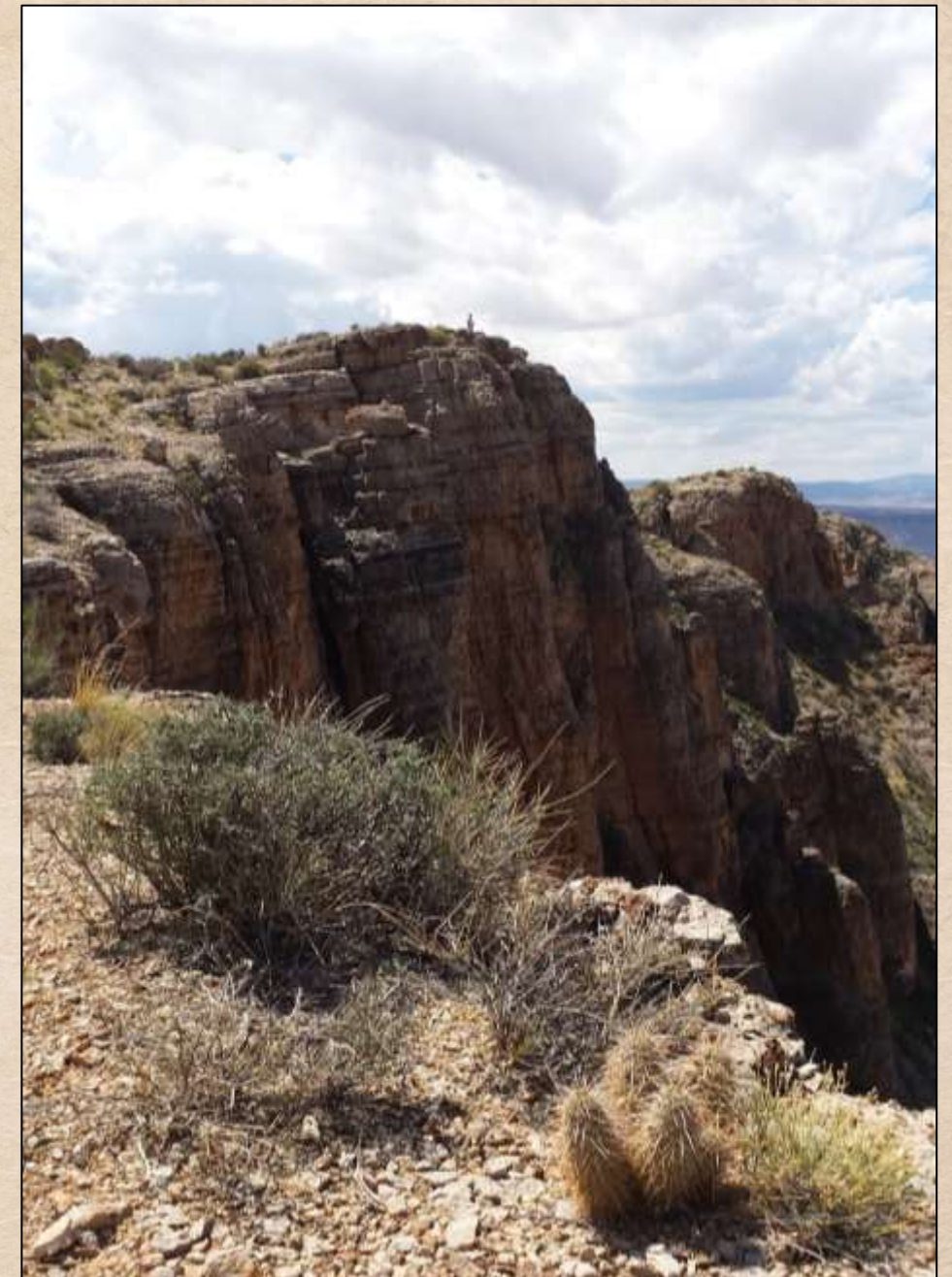
- Arizona Strip / Coyote Plain Observation Point
- Rock Canyon (Armijo's Limestone Canyon with pools of water campsite)
- Honeymoon Trail
- Hurricane Cliffs Observation Point

### Key Opportunities

- Observation Points overlooking Armijo's Coyote Plain and atop the Hurricane Cliffs.
- Trailhead hiking opportunity at Armijo's Rock Canyon
- OHV, equestrian and mountain biking along the route of the Honeymoon Trail.



*Honeyymoon Trail Marker*



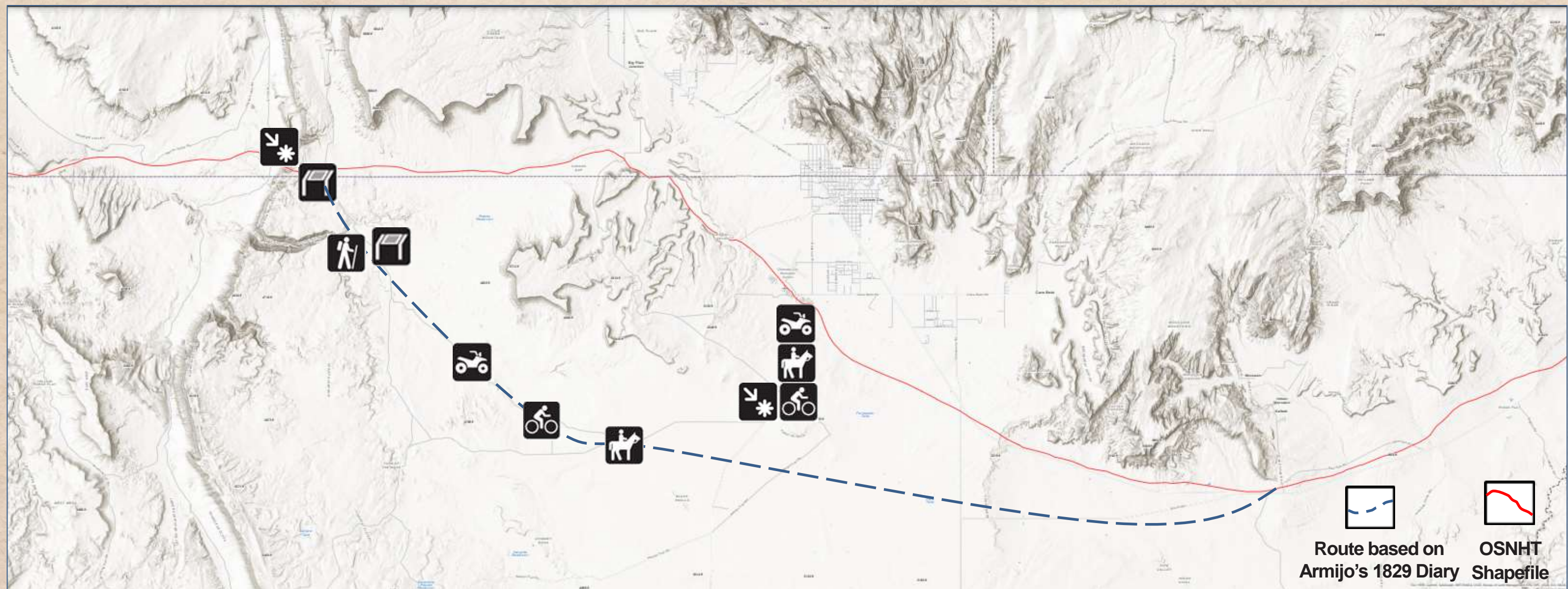
*Hurricane Cliffs on the Arizona Strip*





# Proposed Recreation and Development Strategy Northern Arizona and Southern Utah Project Area

## Segment D – Hurricane Cliffs Area Map







# Proposed Recreation and Development Strategy Northern Arizona and Southern Utah Project Area

## Segment D – Hurricane Cliffs Area

### Rock Canyon

- Armijo's 1829 diary reference to a campsite location at a "limestone canyon with pools of water"
- Situated along the route of the Honeymoon Trail
- Outstanding recreational opportunities exist for camping and hiking at this location
- Potential to be nominated for the National Register of Historic Places



*Rock Canyon - Limestone Canyon with Pools of Water (1829 Diary)*



*Camping at the mouth of Rock Canyon along the Honeymoon Trail*





# Proposed Recreation and Development Strategy Northern Arizona and Southern Utah Project Area

## Segment E – St. George, Utah Area

- Fort Pearce Heritage Site
- Virgin River Park - St. George, UT
- Beaver Dam Mountains / Bulldog Canyon

### Key Opportunities

- Installation of new interpretive waysides at Fort Pearce
- Trailhead hiking opportunities at Fort Pearce
- OHV, equestrian and mountain biking through Warner Valley and along Bulldog Canyon / Apex Road (north)
- Observation Points near Bulldog Pass / Beaver Dam Mountains



OST Plaque at Crosby Family Confluence Park  
St. George, Utah







# Proposed Recreation and Development Strategy Northern Arizona and Southern Utah Project Area

## Segment E – St. George, Utah Area Map







# Proposed Recreation and Development Strategy Northern Arizona and Southern Utah Project Area

## Segment E – St. George, Utah Area



*Fort Pearce Heritage Site located in Warner Valley*



*Virgin River Trail in St. George, Utah*



*One of many key observation points (KOP) along the northern section of the Bulldog Pass / Apex Road*







# Proposed Recreation and Development Strategy Northern Arizona and Southern Utah Project Area

## Segment F – Littlefield, Arizona Area

- Mojave Desert / Joshua Tree Road (Scenic Backway)
- Highway 91 - Mule caravan silhouettes and interpretive panels near Castle Cliff, UT
- Highway 91 - Big Bend of the Virgin River
- Highway 91 - Dispersed camping area near Littlefield, AZ
- Virgin River Bridge - Scenic Blvd near Scenic, AZ

### Key Opportunities

- Key Observation Points of the Mojave Desert landscape near Bulldog Knolls
- Install OSNHT waysides exhibits along the Mojave Desert / Joshua Tree Road (Scenic Backway) and at the dispersed camping area near Littlefield, Arizona



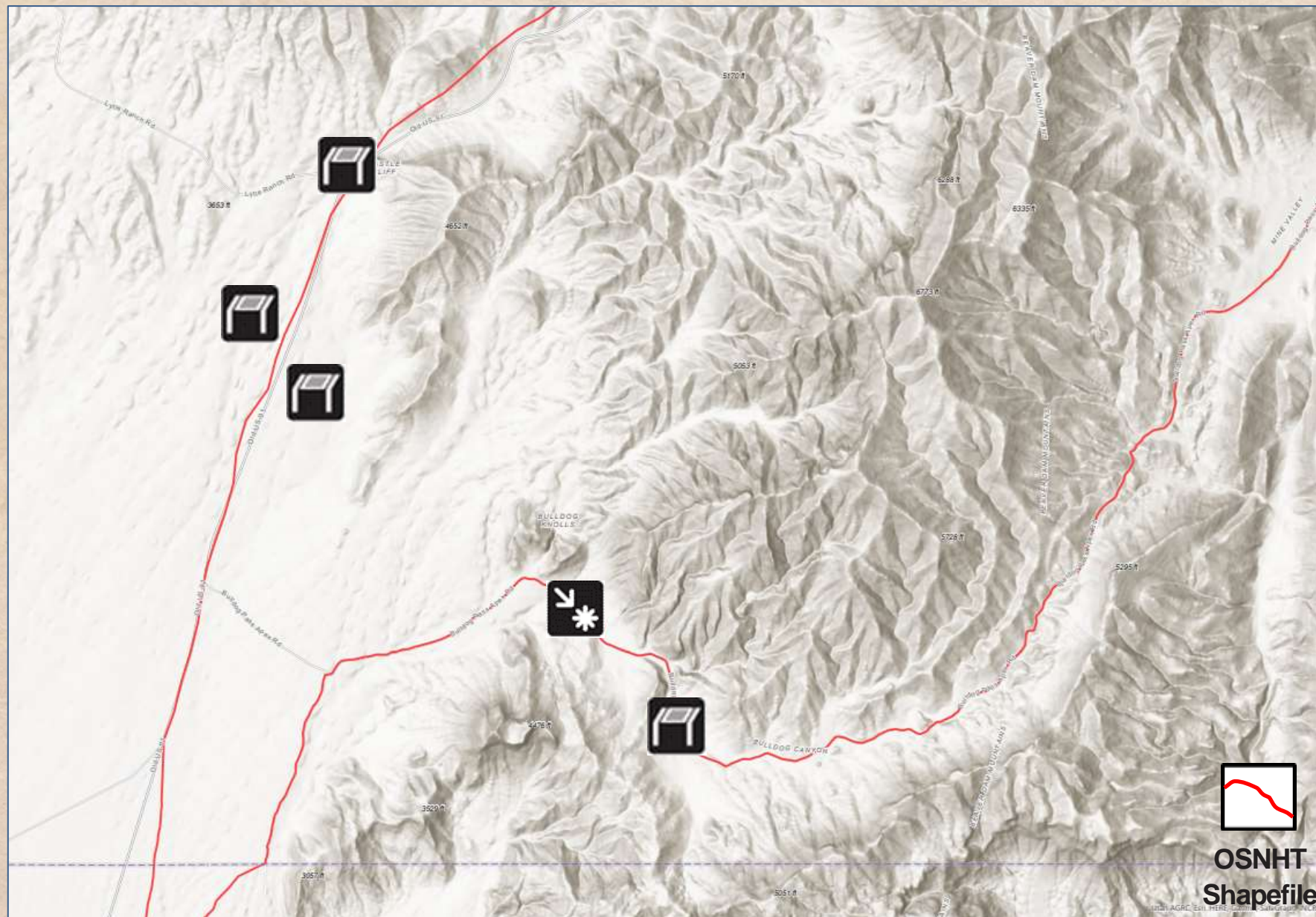
*Highway 91 – Wayside Exhibits and Mule Caravan Silhouettes  
(Beaver Dam Wash National Conservation Area)*





# Proposed Recreation and Development Strategy Northern Arizona and Southern Utah Project Area

## Segment F – Littlefield, Arizona Area Map #1



### Key Opportunities

#### Observation Points

- Mojave Desert near Bulldog Knolls

#### Interpretive Signage

- Wayside displays along Mojave Desert / Joshua Tree Road (Scenic Backway)



*Existing Waysides on the Mojave Desert  
/ Joshua Tree Road (Scenic Backway)*





# Proposed Recreation and Development Strategy Northern Arizona and Southern Utah Project Area

## Segment F – Littlefield, Arizona Area



*Examples of outstanding Mojave Desert landscape along the Mojave Desert and Joshua Tree Road (Scenic Backway)*

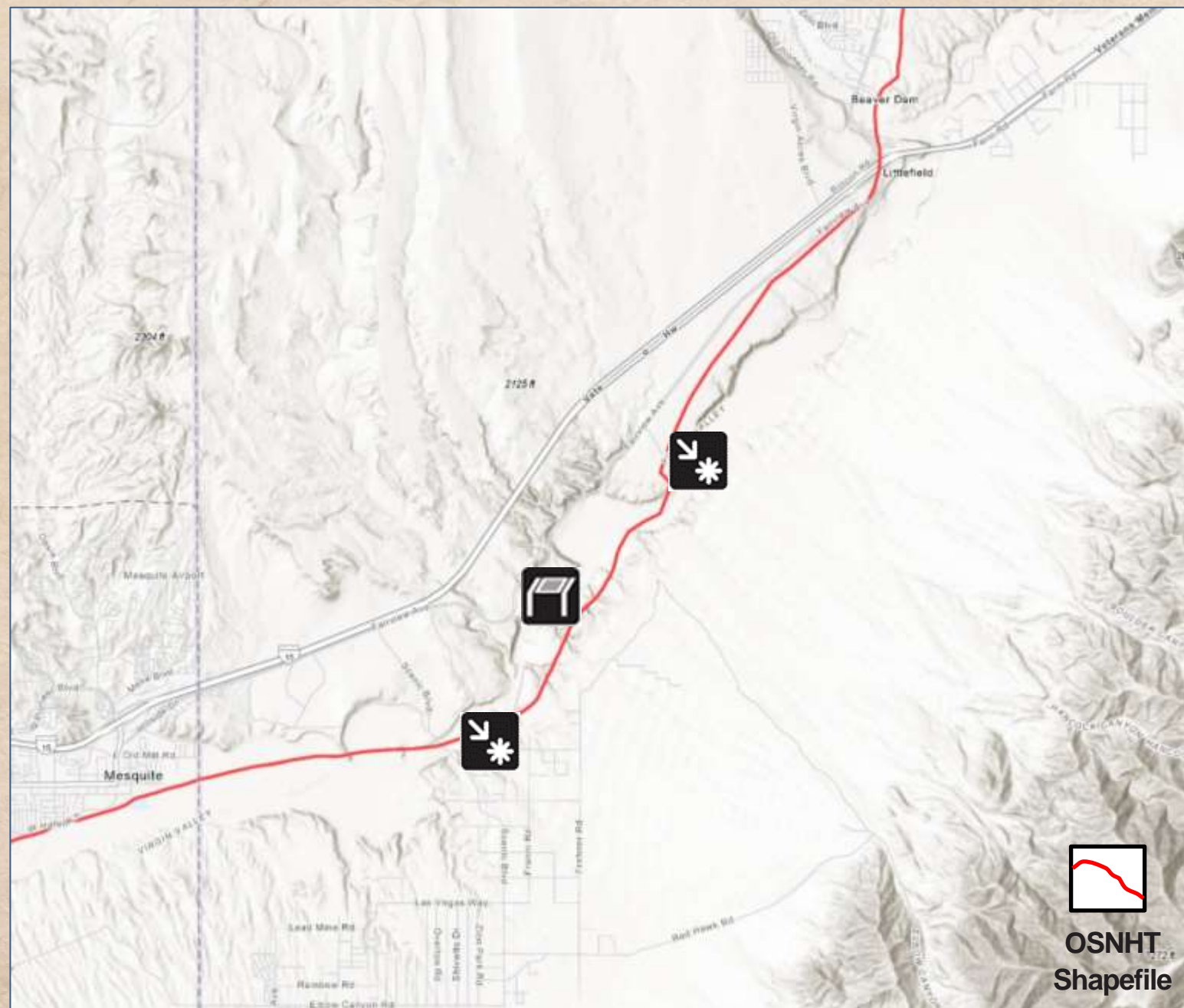






# Proposed Recreation and Development Strategy Northern Arizona and Southern Utah Project Area

## Segment F – Littlefield, Arizona Area Map #2



### Key Opportunities

#### Observation Points

- Big Bend of the Virgin River
- Virgin River Bridge (Scenic Blvd)



*Virgin River at Scenic Blvd Bridge*

#### Interpretive Signage

- Install wayside at disperse camping area north of Highway 91 near Sand Hollow Wash



*Existing Dispersed Camping Kiosk*





# Proposed Recreation and Development Strategy Northern Arizona and Southern Utah Project Area

## Proposed Interpretive Themes

### Traditional interpretive themes of the Old Spanish Trail include:

- The opening of mule caravans routes between New Mexico and California which established commercial trade across the region and introduced cultural consequences (e.g. interactions with indigenous populations, slave trading, emigration and immigration).
- Navigation during the fall, winter and spring to avoid high river flows and hot desert temperatures
- How geography shaped the trail and presented obstacles to navigation
- The availability of key resources along the trail (water and forage)
- American use of the trail
- How trail use evolved over time and became an important transportation corridor for wagon roads, highways, transmission lines, etc.)
- Changes to the landscape and ecosystems since the period of historic use (1829-1848)
- Conflict and development of important water resources
- Threats to the trail due to development, including renewable energy projects
- Castle Cliff as an important gateway that divided the Mojave Desert with the Colorado Plateau region







# Proposed Recreation and Development Strategy Northern Arizona and Southern Utah Project Area

## Proposed Interpretive Themes (cont.)

**The 1829 Antonio Armijo Diary can help guide a number of interpretive themes across this project area.**

- December 6. At the Rio Grande (Colorado) Crossing of the Fathers: on that day we reconnoitered the ford and it was found passable, and three individuals who forded it observed that there were three fresh tracks which they followed until dark without overtaking anyone.
- December 7. Stopping. The above mentioned individuals joined us relating what has already been recorded.
- December 8. We stopped the train and repaired the upgrade of the canyon, the same one which had been worked by the padres.
- December 9. At Blanco Canyon (Wahweap): permanent water.
- December 10. At the artenejal (rimrock?) of Ceja Colorada (Cockscomb Ridge)
- On this day there was found a settlement of Payuches, with no mishap; it is a gentle and cowardly nation.
- December 11. At the creek (Paria) of Ceja Canyon (Cockscomb Ridge)
- December 12. At the top of the tree-covered ridge (Buckskin Mountain): no water.
- December 13. At Colorado Pueblo: no water, but we used snow instead.
- December 14. At Carnero (Kanab) Creek.
- December 15. At Agua de la Vieja (Pipe Spring)
- December 16. At the Coyote Plains without any water.







# Proposed Recreation and Development Strategy Northern Arizona and Southern Utah Project Area

## Proposed Interpretive Themes

### 1829 Antonio Armijo Diary (continued)

- December 17. At Caloso (Rock) Canyon: water from water holes.
- December 18. Stopping: reconnaissance party went out and returned with nothing to report.
- December 19. At Stinking Water Canyon: permanent water.
- December 20. At the Severo (Virgin) River
- December 21. Stopping: reconnaissance party went out.
- December 22. At the *Milpas* [Cornfield] River: at this point the reconnaissance party rendezvoused without mishap.
- December 23. At *Calabacillas* [Little wild squash] Arroyo.
- December 24. Below [or beyond] the *Milpas* River.
- December 25. We hit the *Severo* (Virgin) River again from which point the reconnaissance party went out.
- December 26. Down the same river.
- December 27. We found a settlement of Indians with rings in their noses. Nothing happened for these Indians are gentle and cowardly.
- December 28. Down the same river.
- December 29. At the slough of the same river.
- December 30. At the aforementioned river.
- December 31. At the same river the reconnaissance party rendezvoused.
- Jan 1, 1830. Again at the Rio Grande (Colorado): Citizen Rafael Rivera is missing from the reconnaissance party of the day before.







# Proposed Recreation and Development Strategy Northern Arizona and Southern Utah Project Area

## In Conclusion

The public craves opportunities to connect with natural landscapes and historic trail settings.

Waysides, trailheads and observation points play an important role in making that connection in a tangible way. Signage can also serve as a physical portal to multi-media digital applications accessible through QR codes.

*"In order to provide for the ever-increasing outdoor recreation needs of an expanding population and in order to promote the preservation of, public access to, travel within, and enjoyment and appreciation of the open-air, outdoor areas and historic resources of the Nation, trails should be established"*

National Trail System Act, 1968



Moving Forward, Looking Back  
"...affording an opportunity to vicariously share the experience of the original users of a historic route."



Observation Point Overlooking Antonio Armijo's "Coyote Plains"



Empowering a new generation of OSNHT trail stewards

