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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.

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