



Uinta Basin Railway

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Section 106 Consulting Party Teleconference 2

Uinta Basin Railway EIS
February 26, 2020



Uinta Basin Railway

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Agenda

- Introductions
- Consultation to Date
- Undertaking/Project Description
- Project Updates
- Area of Potential Effects
- Next Steps
- Draft Agenda for Next Call



Uinta Basin Railway

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Introductions

Lead Agency - 800.2 (a) (2)

- Surface Transportation Board

Other Federal Agencies – 800.2 (a)

- Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Forest Service, Ashley National Forest
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Council – 800.2 (b)

- Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

State Historic Preservation Officer – 800.2 (c) (1)

- Utah Division of State History

Indian Tribes – 800.2 (c) (2) (i)

- Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation

Indian Tribes – 800.2 (c) (2) (ii)

- The Hopi Tribe of Arizona

Representatives of Local Governments – 800.2 (c) (3)

- Utah Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office
- Uintah County
- Duchesne County
- Carbon County

Applicant for Federal permit – 800.2 (c) (4)

- Seven County Infrastructure Coalition

Additional Consulting Parties 800.2. (c) (5)

- State Institutional Trust Lands Administration
- Nine Mile Canyon Coalition
- Colorado Plateau Archaeological Alliance



Uinta Basin Railway

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Consultation to Date Invited Consulting Parties

Accepted Consulting Party Status

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	Seven County Infrastructure Coalition
BLM Price Field Office	State Institutional Trust Lands Administration
BLM Vernal Field Office	The Hopi Tribe of Arizona
Bureau of Indian Affairs, Uintah and Ouray Agency	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District
Bureau of Indian Affairs, Western Region	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Carbon County	U.S. Forest Service, Ashley National Forest, Duchesne/Roosevelt Ranger District
Colorado Plateau Archaeological Alliance	Uintah County
Duchesne County	Utah Division of State History
Nine Mile Canyon Coalition	Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation
Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office	---



Uinta Basin Railway

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Project Introduction and Updates

Project Overview

Project Map

Environmental Review Process

National Historic Preservation Act

Public Involvement

Documents & Links

Project Mailing List

Contact Us

HOME PAGE

Welcome to the project website for the Uinta Basin Railway Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Project Introduction

The Seven County Infrastructure Coalition (Coalition) plans to file a request with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) for authority to construct and operate an approximately 85-mile common-carrier rail line connecting two termini in the Uinta Basin near South Myton Bench, Utah, and Leland Bench, Utah, to the national rail network. The construction and operation of this proposed project has the potential to result in significant environmental impacts. Therefore, the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) has determined that the preparation of an EIS is appropriate pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Project Updates

- OEA issued a Notice of Availability of the Final Scope of Study for the EIS in the Federal Register on December 13, 2019. [Click here to view.](#)
- The scoping public comment period is now closed. [Click here](#) to learn more about the scoping process.
- Information from the July 2019 public scoping meetings is available to review. [Click here to view.](#)
- OEA issued a Notice of Intent and Draft Scope of Study for the EIS in the Federal Register, initiating the scoping process, on June 19, 2019. To see the Notice of Intent and Draft Scope of Study, [click here.](#)
- If you wish to be added to the project mailing list, [click here.](#)

This project website was developed and is maintained by the Surface Transportation Board, the lead federal agency responsible for preparing the Uinta Basin Railway Environmental Impact Statement. The Seven County Infrastructure Coalition has no role in determining the content of this website.



Uinta Basin Railway

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

New Information on the Project Website

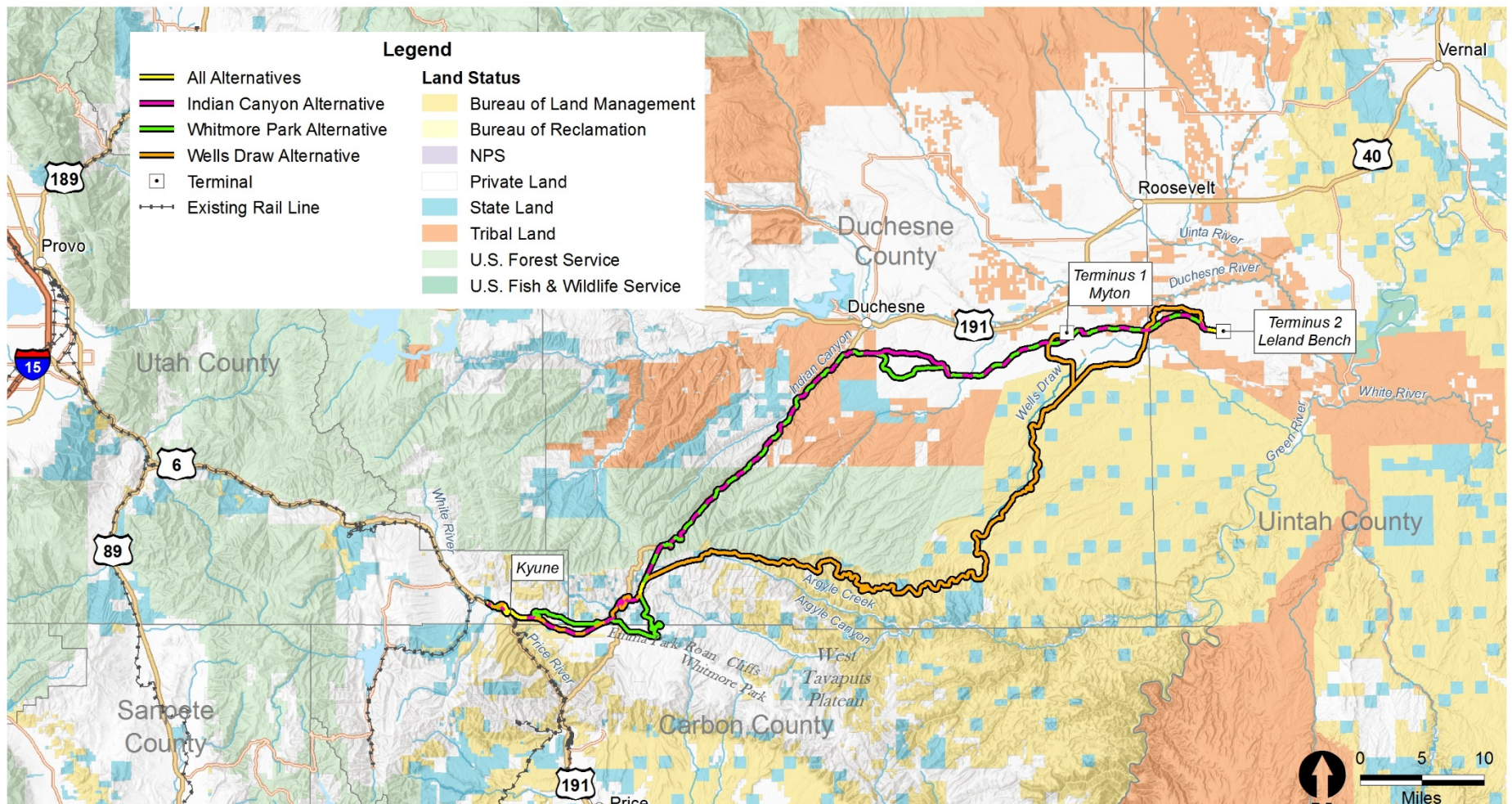
- January consulting party teleconference
 - Powerpoint presentation
 - Meeting summary
 - Tentative meeting schedule
- Technical reports prepared by Coalition
 - Archaeology
 - Historic architecture

<http://uintabasinrailwayeis.com/>



Uinta Basin Railway

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT





Uinta Basin Railway

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

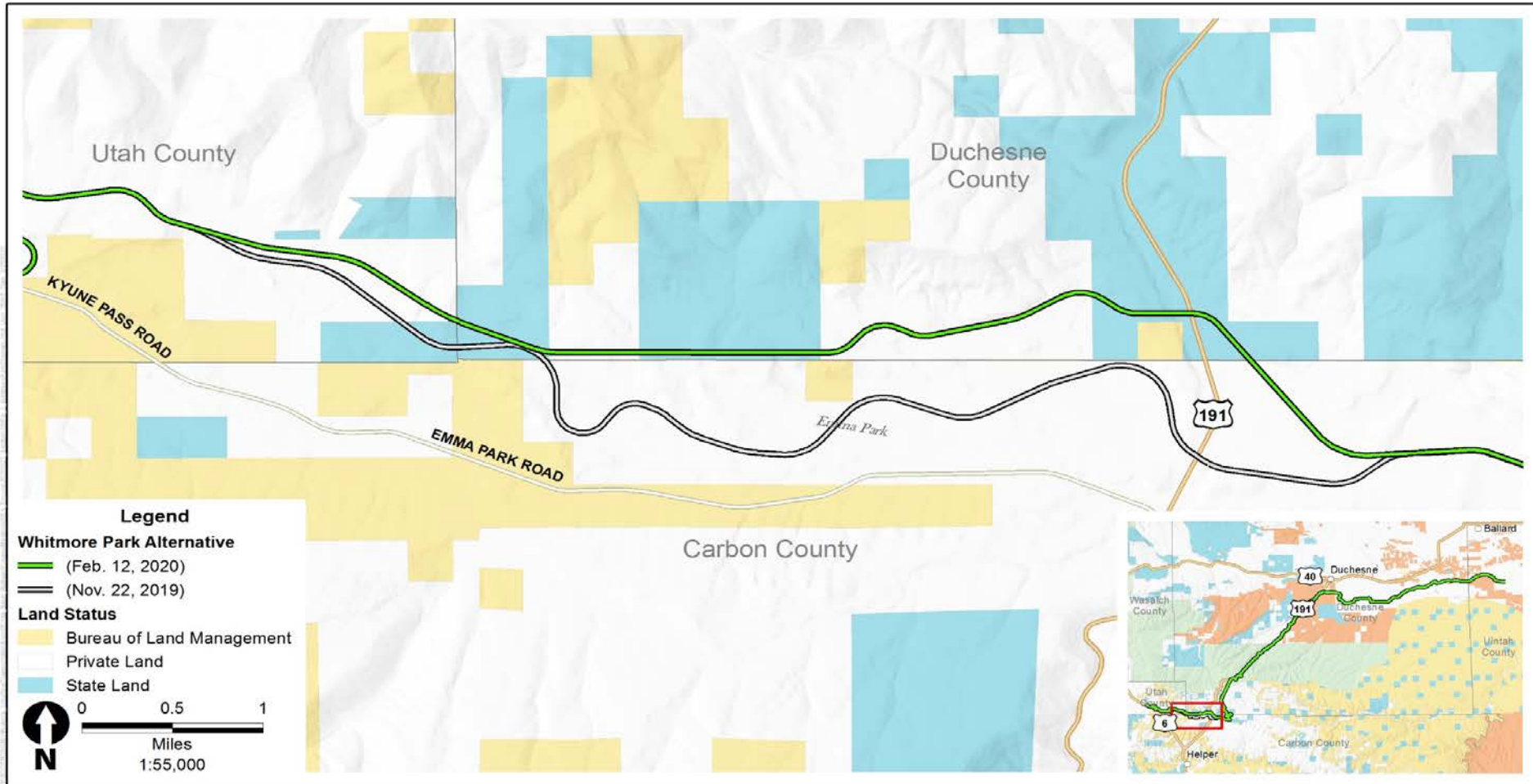
Undertaking/Project Description

- Final Scope of Study published December 13, 2019
 - Proposed Action and Alternatives
 - Three alternatives carried forward for study
 - Indian Canyon
 - Wells Draw
 - Whitmore Park
 - Analysis of Cultural and Historic Resources
 - Section 106 – phased identification and evaluation
 - Anticipate development of programmatic agreement per CFR 800.4 (b) (2)



Uinta Basin Railway

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT





Uinta Basin Railway

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Area of Potential Effects Guidance

➤ Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

Updated guidance issued June 7, 2019

Direct Effects

- Based on causation
- Physical
- Visual
- Auditory

Indirect Effects

- Later in time or more distant

Reference: <https://www.achp.gov/news/court-rules-definitions-informs-agencies-determining-effects>



Uinta Basin Railway

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Area of Potential Effects

- Archaeology
 - ❑ Limits of disturbance (LOD) plus 100' buffer
- Built environment
 - ❑ 1,500' buffer
- APE may evolve as Coalition continues to refine project



Uinta Basin Railway

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

APE Considerations

➤ Noise

- ❑ Study area for 65 decibels DNL* is 500 feet from centerline
 - 60 decibels ~ quiet urban residential area
 - 70 decibels ~ noisy urban residential area
- ❑ Ambient Noise Measurements
 - Extrapolate results to locations of noise sensitive cultural resources

*DNL Day/Night Level is a weighted average



Uinta Basin Railway

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

APE Considerations

➤ Vibration

- Study area: 100 feet from centerline
- For most resources, vibration not expected to exceed thresholds for cosmetic or structural damage
- Fragile resources (e.g. cabins, homesteads) may be present in the APE
- Vibration contour analysis will examine distance at which fragile resources may be affected



Uinta Basin Railway

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

APE Considerations

➤ Hydrology

- Study area 500' each side of centerline
- Project elements include road and stream relocations; new bridges and culverts
- Coalition intends its bridge and culvert designs to clear 50-year flood event without backwater increase and 100-year event with no more than 1 foot increase
- Final locations of bridges, culverts, and crossings under development by Coalition



Uinta Basin Railway

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

APE Considerations

➤ Visual

- 1/2 mile study area
- Visual simulations in progress
- Topographical features
- Other visual buffers

➤ Geology

- Water drainage
- Landslide risk



Uinta Basin Railway

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Identification and Evaluation Preview

➤ Archaeology

- Prehistoric and historic sites
- Lithic scatters
- Camp sites
- Rock art

➤ Historic Architecture

- Dwellings
- Agricultural resources





Uinta Basin Railway

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Next Steps

- Review questions and comments from this call
- Prepare and post a call summary
- Finalize draft APE
- Distribute draft APE for comment
- Continue building out project website



Uinta Basin Railway

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Draft Agenda for Next Call

- Provide opportunity for comments on APE
- Review identification and evaluation effort



Uinta Basin Railway

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

<http://uintabasinrailwayeis.com/>

Alan Tabachnick

Historic Preservation Specialist
Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board

Alan.tabachnick@stb.gov

202-245-0367