



# Uinta Basin Railway

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

## Section 106 Consulting Party Teleconference 5

Uinta Basin Railway EIS  
May 27, 2020



# Uinta Basin Railway

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

### Agenda

- Introductions, Background and Project Updates
- Area of Potential Effects
- Identification and Evaluation Approach
- Assessment of Effects Approach
- Programmatic Agreement
- 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
- Utah Rock Art Research Association



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## 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	Utah Rock Art Research Association
Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office	Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation





# 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.*



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### **New Information on the Project Website**

- April 22 consulting party teleconference
  - PowerPoint presentation
  - Meeting summary
- April 29 rock imagery teleconference
  - Meeting summary
- Coalition-provided Historic Architecture Report
  - Final version from April 2020

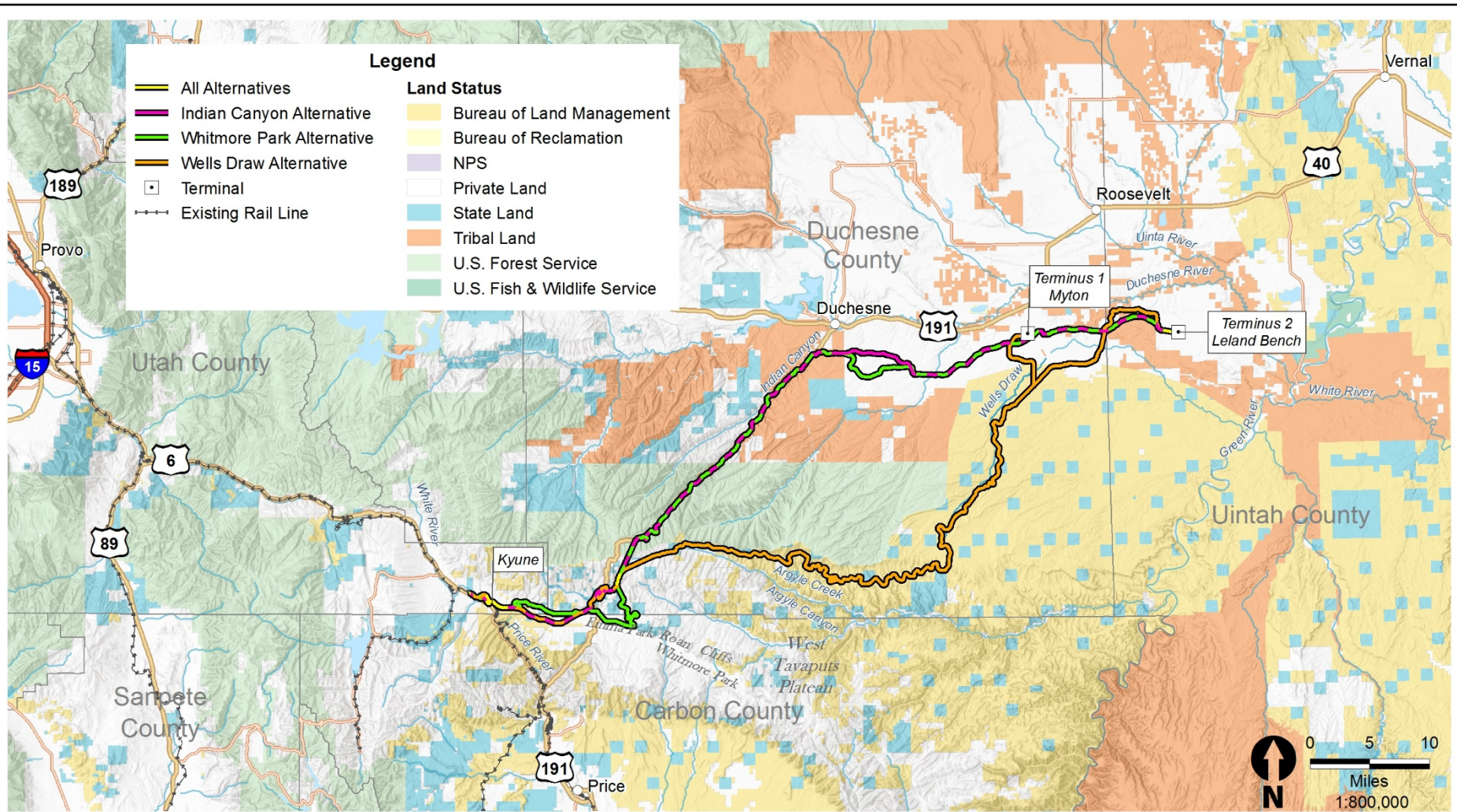
<http://uintabasinrailwayeis.com/>





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## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT







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## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

### Area of Potential Effects / Refined Definitions

#### ➤ Rail line footprint

- Permanent disturbance
- Railbed; areas cut, cleared, or filled; plus 25' buffer
- Includes fence lines, communications towers, siding tracks, new access roads or relocated roads, tunnels, and power distribution lines
- Width varies based on site-specific conditions, such as topography, soil slope stability, and other geotechnical conditions

#### ➤ Temporary footprint

- Temporary disturbance during construction
- Width varies based on site-specific conditions

#### ➤ Project footprint

- Total combined area of the rail line footprint and temporary footprint
- Irregular in size and shape
- On average, extends 240' on each side of centerline





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## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

### Identification and Evaluation

- Incorporate Coalition's cultural resources technical reports by reference
- Coalition's technical reports available on project website
- Archaeological resources report includes inventory forms; historic architectural resource report does not
- OEA will adopt many of the Coalition's recommendations regarding eligibility
- In some cases, OEA will treat resources as eligible where Coalition had recommended against eligibility



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## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

### Effects Analysis

#### *Above-ground Resource Examples*

- Railroads
- Telephone lines
- Canals
- Roads, trails & highways
- Cairns
- Rock imagery
- Cabins & homesteads
- Historic district

#### *Below-ground Resource Examples*

- Lithic and artifact scatters
- Lithic quarries



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## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

### Effects Analysis

#### ➤ *Analytical Considerations Include*

- Adverse effect criteria
- Property type
- Character-defining features
- Construction activity
- Location relative to the rail line, temporary, and project footprints





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## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

# Programmatic Agreement

I. Area of Potential Effects

II. Identification, Evaluation, and Determination of Effects

III. Reporting, Consultation, and Review of Documentation

IV. Tribal Consultation

V. Resolution of Adverse Effects

VI. Historic Properties Treatment Plan

VII. Personnel Training

VIII. Discovery of Previously Unidentified Cultural Resources

IX. Discovery of Human Remains

X. Curation

XI. Initiation of Construction Activities

XII. Changes in Construction Activities

XIII. Applicant's Responsibilities

XIV. Annual Report and Review

XV. Dispute Resolution

XVI. Amendment

XVII. Termination

XVIII. Duration of this PA



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## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

### Next Steps

- Review questions and comments from this call
- Prepare and post PowerPoint & call summary
- Post Coalition's revised Archaeology Report, redacted as appropriate
- Continue drafting the PA
- Continue drafting Board's identification and evaluation/effects assessment technical memo
- Continue building out project website



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## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

### Draft Agenda for Next Call

- Opportunities for comment on identification and evaluation effort
- Preliminary effects analysis discussion
- Programmatic Agreement
  - Section presentations
  - Timetable for Review of PA





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<http://uintabasinrailwayeis.com/>

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