



Community Invited to Official Ribbon Cutting for Trail Enhancements at Pine Valley Recreation Area

St. George, Utah – Aug. 14, 2019 – Trail enhancements have been made at the Pine Valley Recreation Area thanks to effort of local groups and financial support from the Utah Office of Outdoor Recreation. The Pine Valley Recreation Enhancement Project aided the construction of two equestrian bridges on a frequently used trail. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, August 17 at the Pine Valley Recreation Area to celebrate.

The Pine Valley Recreation Enhancement Project is the result of a collaborative effort from the Southwest Chapter of Back Country Horsemen of Utah, American Conservation Experience, and the U.S. Forest Service, with guidance from the Greater Zion Convention & Tourism Office. The project was awarded a 2018 Utah Outdoor Grant which provided \$20,857 in matching funds. Labor and additional funds for the project were provided by members of the contributing organizations.

“This is a great example of what we can achieve when we work together as a community,” said Kevin Lewis, director of Greater Zion Convention & Tourism. “Projects like this increase the quality of life for locals, enhance the experience for visitors and generate economic development in the local communities of Greater Zion.”

Located in the Dixie National Forest, the Pine Valley Recreation Area is home to a number of multi-use trails, including many popular equestrian routes. The Southwest Chapter of Back Country Horseman of Utah had long sought to place bridges on trails in the area to provide convenient water crossings for horseback riders and hikers. Funding for the project proved to be a challenge until recently when they were able to secure Outdoor Recreation grant funding with the support of the Greater Zion Convention & Tourism Office.

“So many people in our community came together to make this project a reality,” said Paul Sloane, president of the Southwest Chapter of Back Country Horseman of Utah. “Kevin and the folks at Greater Zion helped point us in the right direction on funding, and many dedicated volunteers who worked so hard to write the grant application and place the bridges. We hope everyone will come out and enjoy the new experience.”

Community members and visitors are invited to join an official ribbon cutting to celebrate the new bridges, at 10 a.m. on August 17 near the Thomas Forsythe Group Campground at the Pine Valley Recreation Area. Light refreshments will be served. No RSVP is necessary to attend, and recreation area fees will be waived. For more information, please visit GreaterZion.com/upcoming-events.

About Greater Zion

Located in the southwest corner of Utah, Greater Zion is a destination that offers more than 2,400 square miles of adventure and inspiration. Zion National Park, the fourth most visited National Park in the United States, is the premier attraction, but Zion is only the beginning. Four state parks and a multitude of year-round recreational lands set the stage for a burgeoning mountain biking scene, some of the best off-highway vehicle riding in the country, scenic and

challenging play at 12 top-rated golf courses, world-class cultural performances at Tuacahn Center for the Arts and so much more. The vibrant communities of St. George, Springdale, Hurricane, Ivins and towns in between offer a wide range of lodging options, dining experiences and access to outdoor pursuits through local outfitters and tour companies. Home to the 2021 IRONMAN 70.3 World Championships, Greater Zion also is a world-class destination for sporting events, conferences and meetings. The Greater Zion Convention and Tourism Office is a transient-room-tax-funded entity of Washington County, Utah. For more information, please visit GreaterZion.com.

About the Utah Office of Outdoor Recreation

The Utah Office of Outdoor aims to establish a nationwide recreation management standard, and ensure that the state's natural assets can sustain economic growth for years to come. The private sector is a key partner in Utah's success, and our state is committed to responsibly partnering with the business community. Outdoor recreation contributes more than \$12.3 billion to the economy, employs more than 110,000 people and is the primary driver behind the tourism industry. Not only does Utah outdoor recreation create \$737 million in state and local tax revenues, it is the reason for \$3.9 billion in wages and salaries. Governor Herbert created Utah's Office of Outdoor Recreation January 2013 as a result of the large contribution the industry plays in Utah's economy. It is the first office of its kind in the country.

About Back Country Horsemen of Utah

Back Country Horsemen of Utah (BCHU) is a state-wide organization of men and women concerned about sustained equestrian access and proper use on public lands. BCHU are members of Back Country Horsemen of America, a service organization with over 14,000 members nationally. These members contribute about \$12 million annually in in-kind labor and materials for trail maintenance on the nation's public lands. They also endeavor to keep public lands open to the public for all to enjoy. For more information, please visit bchu.com.

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