This is the type of monogamy that the federal highway program was designed to mitigate. I appreciate how quickly everyone on the ground worked together to provide the information to the office so that we could speed the repair forward," Matheson said.

Matheson praised the cooperative efforts of the Grand County Council, the BLM, and the Utah governor's office for getting a quick approval from ERSO.

"It's a tribute to the spirit of cooperation and the working history here. When there's a problem in this county everyone gets down and works on it," and Shelley Smith, director of the BLM Moab District Office.

The road can only be rebuilt in its approximate original conditions, Greenwell said, and ERSO funds cannot be used to enhance the road or to increase its capacity.

"Now soon in the 2011 tourist season the work will be completed depending on specific site measurements and geotechnical information necessary to establish a design approach, Greenwell said."

His agency will follow a "fast track approach." In attempting to overlay design and construction "about every possible" Greenwell said.

Matheson and Greenwell agreed that an economic analysis of the road's importance to the local economy, conducted by the BLM, showed a "key role" in the road's approval for federal funding.

The BLM analysis estimated the cost of repair will be about $1.7 million. The analysis is not yet to be determined, Greenwell said.

ERSO's mission "is to provide funding and engineering expertise to restore access to public lands," according to its website.

The Mineral Bottom Road is owned by the BLM and maintained by Grand County under a long-standing agreement, Smith said.

PILT Funds...

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The two districts each received 30 percent of the PILT money, while the Grand County Recreation District each received 20 percent of the PILT money.

Next year, allocations to the recreation and school districts will remain the same, at 20 percent each. The change in the shares for the transportation district is a result of the loss of nursing home fees.

``It was a real shock," Allred wrote. "We're punishing the prudent," said Ciarus.

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