

# REDROCK

## W I L D E R N E S S

The Newsletter of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance  
Volume 23, Number 1 • Spring 2006

Celebrating Utah's New Cedar Mountains Wilderness

**Cover Photo:** Sunlight softly accentuates the juniper-covered slopes of the new Cedar Mountains Wilderness—the first federal wilderness area to be designated in Utah in over 20 years. Copyright Scott T. Smith.



The mission of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA) is the preservation of the outstanding wilderness at the heart of the Colorado Plateau, and the management of these lands in their natural state for the benefit of all Americans.

SUWA promotes local and national recognition of the region's unique character through research and public education; supports both administrative and legislative initiatives to permanently protect Colorado Plateau wild places within the National Park and National Wilderness Preservation Systems or by other protective designations where appropriate; builds support for such initiatives on both the local and national level; and provides leadership within the conservation movement through uncompromising advocacy for wilderness preservation.

SUWA is qualified as a non-profit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the federal tax code. Therefore, all contributions to SUWA are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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# In this issue:

Wilderness Notes .....4

Features:

    Celebrating Utah's New Cedar Mountains Wilderness .....5

DC News .....7

Cosponsors of America's Redrock Wilderness Act .....9

Canyon Country Updates.....10

Grassroots Network .....18

Inside SUWA.....19

America's Redrock Wilderness Act Reference Map .....27



page 5



page 10

Correction: The third item in last issue's SUWA Index (Winter 2005-2006, back cover) should have read: "Barrels of oil we could save in the next 50 years if the quality of replacement tires was upgraded to meet new car standards: 7.3 billion."



page 13

## Redrock Wilderness • Volume 23, Number 1 • Spring 2006

This issue of *Redrock Wilderness* was written by the following staff and outside contributors: Justin Allegro, Steve Bloch, Ray Bloxham, Jeremy Christensen, Peter Downing, Scott Groene, Heidi McIntosh, Lindsey Oswald, Franklin Seal, Liz Thomas, and Giles Wallace. It was laid out and edited by Diane Kelly and proofread by Lindsey Oswald.

Newsletter design by Leslie Scopes Garcia.

Contributions of photographs (especially of areas within the citizens' proposal for Utah wilderness) and original art (such as pen-and-ink sketches) are greatly appreciated! Please send with SASE to Editor, SUWA, 425 East 100 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84111.

*Redrock Wilderness* is published quarterly. Articles may be reprinted with credit given both to the author(s) and to the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance.

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## wilderness notes

### Starting the Year Off Right

On a chilly Saturday morning in January, a convoy of current and former SUWA staff followed a winding, snow-covered road toward the Cedar Mountains. This high desert range—just forty miles west of Salt Lake City—belongs to Utah's Basin and Range province. It is lonely, harsh, and beautiful country, where rugged peaks, thrust skyward from block faulting, form biological islands in a sea of desert playa.

At the mouth of Rydaich Canyon, we stopped to stretch and look around. A band of wild horses on the cliffs above looked back. As the sun broke through the clouds, we began our hike up a snowy ridgeline. Nestled in my backpack carrier was my nine-month-old daughter, Maggie, her cheeks red in the cold air. When we reached the crest of the ridge, SUWA organizer Jeremy Christensen surprised us all with a bottle of champagne. With a deep sense of satisfaction, I savored the sweeping views from Utah's newest Wilderness and joined my colleagues in a celebratory toast.

**President Bush signed legislation protecting over 100,000 acres of the Cedar Mountains as Wilderness on January 6, 2006. Wilderness designation will keep the Cedar Mountains a quiet place, free from the encroachment of off-road vehicles.**

SUWA extends special thanks to Utah Representative Rob Bishop, who worked hard and against enormous odds to enact this legislation. When other members of the Utah delegation hesitated, Mr. Bishop kept on pushing. We also thank Governor Huntsman, who lobbied hard for the bill while the Defense Authorization Act (which contained the Cedar Mountains legislation) was caught in a political maelstrom.

Last but not least, we thank you, the SUWA members and activists who made this victory possible. While this specific legislation was four years in the making, it's really the result of twenty years of persistent grassroots effort. In fact, former Utah Representative Jim Hansen tried to pass similar legislation several times during his tenure in Congress, but because he couldn't resist poisoning the pot with bad

wilderness language, we defeated him time and again. We're glad Mr. Bishop chose a path of success by working with wilderness advocates, not against us.

The success of the Cedar Mountains Wilderness legislation demonstrates that even in tough political times we can still gain wilderness designation without compromising wilderness ideals. The bill is a true gain for Utah wilderness, upholding the spirit and intent of the Wilderness Act while protecting twice the amount of land previously designated as wilderness study areas.

The Cedar Mountains Wilderness bill ranks among our top five successes in public lands protection over the past twenty years. Thanks to all of you for helping make it happen!

For the Redrock,

Scott Groene  
Executive Director



Jeff Kessler

*SUWA staff enjoy a beautiful January afternoon in the newly designated Cedar Mountains Wilderness.*

## features

# Celebrating Utah's New Cedar Mountains Wilderness

On January 6, 2006, President Bush signed legislation granting lasting wilderness protection to 100,000 acres (150 square miles) in the Cedar Mountains—a refuge of peace and solitude less than an hour's drive west of Salt Lake City. Though the Cedar Mountains Wilderness represents a tiny fraction of the total acreage in America's Redrock Wilderness Act (see page 8), passage of this visionary bill was no small victory and no mean feat. To put things in perspective, it ranks among the top five successes in public land protection achieved by wilderness advocates in SUWA's 22-year history. In this issue of *Redrock Wilderness*, we celebrate this hard-won success and offer our thanks and congratulations to the members and activists who made it possible.

### Close to home but worlds away

An easy day trip from Utah's populous Wasatch Front, the Cedar Mountains offer excellent hiking opportunities, outstanding views, and a wealth of peace and quiet. Rising to 7,700 feet above the Great Salt Lake Desert, this island range was once a literal island surrounded by the waters of ancient Lake Bonneville, an inland sea which covered much of western Utah over 14,000 years ago. Today it is part of Utah's lonely and expansive Basin and Range province, an undulating succession of peaks and valleys rolling west toward the Nevada border. The wilderness itself is characterized by sagebrush grasslands, juniper-studded hills, rugged limestone outcrops, and exposed cliff faces. Known for its resident band of wild horses, the area is also home to mule deer, pronghorn antelope, coyotes, bobcats, golden eagles, and the occasional mountain lion. Markedly different from Utah's famous redrock canyon country, the Cedar Mountains' rugged contours and awe-inspiring vistas are no less humbling and enchanting.

### Sowing the seeds of success

Undoubtedly, the seeds of success for the Cedar Mountains Wilderness were sown by Utah activists from across the country many years before the legislation was actually introduced in Congress. Probably no one deserves as much credit as our nationwide network of Utah wilderness advocates who have fought long and hard for our last wild



Looking south from a ridgetop in the Cedar Mountains.

Ray Bloxham

places. Over the course of the Cedar Mountains campaign, a great many citizens joined together to urge Congress to preserve this special landscape.

We also owe a great deal of gratitude to our champions in Congress. Utah's first district representative, Congressman Rob Bishop, sponsored the original Cedar Mountains wilderness legislation and was a driving force behind this Utah wilderness victory. Utah Governor Jon Huntsman and the Utah congressional delegation supported the effort as well. And, last but not least, we thank our longstanding Utah Wilderness champions, Congressman Maurice Hinchey (NY) and Senator Dick Durbin (IL), who have spearheaded America's Redrock Wilderness Act and remained committed to protecting Utah's canyon country.

### A hard-won victory

With the entire Utah delegation on our side, one might assume that preserving the Cedar Mountains wilderness was a foregone conclusion—a mere by-product of other issues driving Bishop's legislation. This was simply not the case. Both in the final weeks before passage of the Cedar Mountains

## features

wilderness provision, and at many critical junctures in the years leading up to this victory, Utah wilderness proponents faced some daunting challenges.

When we last wrote in *Redrock Wilderness* about the Cedar Mountains Wilderness legislation (see Autumn 2005 issue, p. 5), the path ahead was uncertain. Congressman Bishop had introduced the Utah Test and Training Range Protection Act, which accomplished three important goals: it designated wilderness in the Cedar Mountains, blocked a controversial nuclear waste transportation route, and addressed military needs at nearby Hill Air Force base. In 2005, the House of Representatives passed the Defense Authorization Act with Bishop's bill included, but the Senate chose not to adopt it.

At the end of 2005—a time of year when Congress is typically on recess—negotiators in the House and Senate were still grappling over how to reconcile the differing versions of the Defense Authorization Act. A key question in this debate was whether or not to attach Bishop's bill protecting the Cedar Mountains. As the Utah delegation and Governor Huntsman vigorously campaigned for inclusion of the bill, Utah wilderness activists ratcheted up the pressure as well. Springing into action at a moment's notice, activists from key states made important calls to their Senators in Virginia, Michigan, and Nevada. Their efforts were critical in demonstrating how serious conservationists were about getting Bishop's legislation passed.

On December 16, the House and Senate negotiators agreed to a modified version of Bishop's bill that would retain good wilderness language and still address the military and nuclear waste issues. Within a week, both chambers of Congress passed the reconciled version of the Defense Authorization Act and it was signed by the President on January 6, 2006.

### A good precedent for Utah wilderness

The real victory in the Cedar Mountains story is not that we passed a wilderness bill, but that we passed a wilderness bill we can be proud of, even in a hostile political climate. From the very beginning, wilderness activists worked with Congressman Bishop to craft acceptable language and negotiate boundaries that would protect the integrity of the Cedar Mountains Wilderness. As a result, Bishop's bill protects more than 90 percent of the acreage recommended for the area in America's Redrock Wilderness Act, while protecting twice the amount of land previously designated as wilderness study areas. In the end, less than two acres of former wilderness study areas were relinquished under the agreement, cherry stems (roads that penetrate but do not bisect the wilderness) were kept to a minimum, and boundaries were reasonably drawn along existing roadways. Yes, the Cedar Mountains Wilderness bill was a compromise, but it was a compromise strongly weighted in our favor.

### The future of the Cedar Mountains

The task of managing the new Cedar Mountains Wilderness now belongs to the BLM. The agency is working on officially mapping the wilderness, planning information kiosks, and posting signs along the wilderness boundaries. Much of the on-the-ground work is expected to take place this spring. We hope you have a chance to celebrate this wilderness success story by experiencing this beautiful, wild mountain range in person. But if you can't go there yourself, just turn to our Cedar Mountains photo gallery on pages 14-15 and enjoy an armchair tour.

Once again, thank you for helping us protect the Cedar Mountains Wilderness!

—Pete Downing

## Cedar Mountains Wilderness Index

Acres of designated BLM wilderness in Utah prior to Cedar Mountains bill: **25,120**

Approximate acreage of the new Cedar Mountains Wilderness: **100,000**

Wilderness study area acreage now permanently protected as wilderness: **50,500**

Number of years since federal wilderness was last designated in Utah: **22**

Date Cedar Mountains Wilderness legislation was first introduced in Congress: **July 2003**

Date legislation was signed into law by President Bush: **January 2006**

**DC news**

## Colorado River Land Exchange Edges Forward

How many lines on a map and edits to a bill does it take to make everyone happy? The answer to that question has probably eluded many legislators and wilderness advocates over the years. Nonetheless, conservationists continue to walk the line as we work toward an agreement on the Utah Recreational Land Exchange Act, a bill that allows the BLM to acquire and protect important state-owned lands along the Colorado River corridor. In exchange for these lands, the state will acquire more commercially valuable lands located primarily in and around existing oil fields.

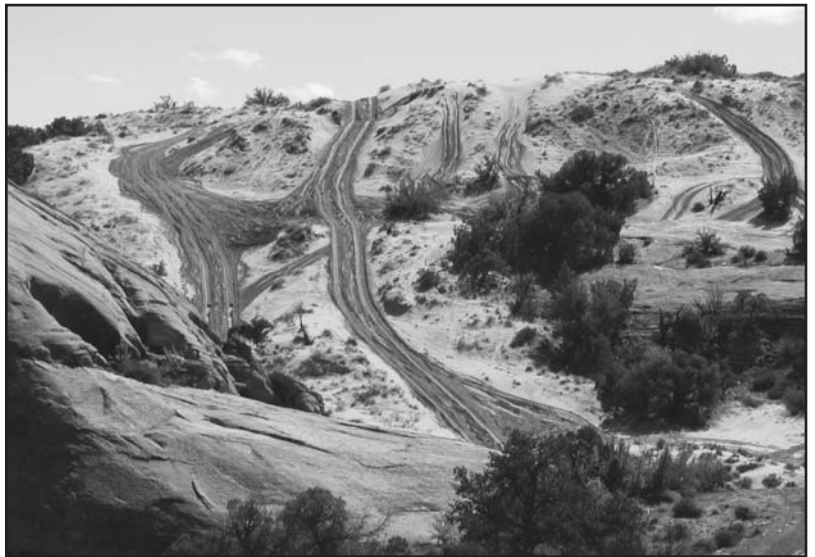
Legislation to accomplish this land trade was introduced in the House and Senate last year by Representative Cannon (R-UT) and Senator Bennett (R-UT). When the bill was debated in a House Resources Committee hearing in September of 2005, SUWA presented testimony supporting public acquisition of the many wilderness-quality parcels along the Colorado River (see Winter 2005-2006 issue, p. 8). Most of the parcels are located near Moab, Arches National Park, and along the Colorado River.

Working closely with the Grand Canyon Trust and our conservation partners in the Utah Wilderness Coalition, we're hopeful that negotiations can also resolve the question of how the BLM would manage any newly acquired conservation lands. Given the extraordinary wilderness values at stake in the exchange, SUWA recommends that Congress withdraw the conservation parcels from future oil and gas leasing. We'll keep you posted on the progress of this legislation.

—Pete Downing

## Legislators Question BLM Management of ORVs

Many of us know all too well that off-road vehicles (ORVs) are overrunning our public lands in Utah. Fortunately, some members of Congress are paying attention too.



*Kevin Walker*

*Designated ORV route systems on BLM lands would help prevent the kind of destructive trailblazing that has plagued areas like Behind the Rocks near Moab.*

In the final weeks of 2005, Representatives Mark Udall (D-CO) and Rush Holt (D-NJ) delivered a letter signed by 42 of their colleagues to Interior Secretary Gale Norton, chastising the BLM for its failure to curb damaging ORV use on public lands. The letter comes on the heels of our citizens' activist week held in Washington, DC last fall, which brought the problem of ORV mismanagement to the attention of U.S. legislators (see Winter 2005-2006 issue, page 19).

Today, only about five percent of BLM lands nationally and just ten percent of BLM lands in Utah have designated route systems—the first step in protecting fragile landscapes from ORV damage. Though Congress has provided the BLM with over \$250 million over the past six years to update land use plans in a variety of areas—including route designation and travel planning—the BLM has failed to get a handle on the ORV problem.

The recent congressional letter to Secretary Norton demands that the BLM: 1) account for the money provided for route designation; 2) describe how it will complete route designations throughout the country; and 3) assess and document the environmental impacts of each route.

Representatives Udall and Holt deserve big thanks for their leadership in this effort, as do the

**DC news**

other 42 House members who joined their call for BLM accountability. We are now waiting for Secretary Norton's response.

SUWA members and activists throughout the country sent hundreds of letters and emails to their representatives on this issue. Thanks to these efforts, Utah's wild places now have more defenders in Congress. Stay tuned for future updates on the progress of this campaign.

—Justin Allegro

## What's in Store for the Zion-Mojave Wilderness?

As we celebrate our recent congressional victory on the Cedar Mountains Wilderness, we are also cautiously eyeing the possibility that the Utah delegation could introduce legislation affecting southwestern Utah's Zion-Mojave region. Though it's not yet clear whether the proposal would help or hurt the Zion-Mojave wilderness, SUWA and our conservation partners in the Utah Wilderness Coalition are preparing for both possibilities.

As many readers know, the Zion-Mojave wilderness has been a longstanding piece of America's Redrock Wilderness Act. This southwestern-most corner of Utah, with all its inspiring redrock forms and peaceful desert landscapes, spans the distance between the Mojave Desert and Zion National Park. While families, vacationers and retirees have long been attracted to the area's mild weather and spectacular scenery, sprawl, traffic congestion, and the lack of urban planning has left Washington County with mounting open space and water problems. These growth issues make wilderness designation in the Zion-Mojave even more important.

As this newsletter goes to press, no wilderness legislation for the Zion-Mojave region has been introduced in Congress. However, Senator Bob Bennett (R-UT) continues to pursue an unspecified legislative proposal for the region that could potentially undercut its wilderness values. SUWA is monitoring the situation and will closely scrutinize any proposal that would affect proposed wilderness lands in the region.

Citizen activists from across the country will educate Congress about the Zion-Mojave wilder-

ness this spring during the Utah Wilderness Coalition's annual Wilderness Week in Washington, DC. To learn more about the Zion-Mojave wilderness and how you can help protect it, visit [www.zionmojavewilderness.org](http://www.zionmojavewilderness.org).

—Pete Downing

## Update on America's Redrock Wilderness Act

The recent designation of Utah's Cedar Mountains Wilderness highlights the importance of our ongoing campaign to build congressional support for America's Redrock Wilderness Act. Currently, 160 representatives and 14 senators actively support federal wilderness protection for more than 9 million acres of BLM lands in Utah through their endorsement of this visionary legislation.

Utah wilderness activists play a key role in the advancement of America's Redrock Wilderness Act by contacting their Senators and Representatives in support of its passage. You can help too by urging your members of Congress to cosponsor America's Redrock Wilderness Act today, or by thanking them if they already have (see opposite page for a list of current cosponsors).

—Justin Allegro

### Help Us Build Congressional Support for America's Redrock Wilderness Act!

#### Write Your Legislators at:

The Honorable [Representative's name]  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable [Senator's name]  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

#### or Call:

(202) 224-3121 and ask to be connected to the appropriate office



**H.R. 1774, Sponsored by  
Rep. Maurice Hinchey  
(D-NY26)  
160 House Cosponsors**

#### **Arizona**

Raul Grijalva, D-07

#### **California**

Mike Thompson, D-01  
Doris Okada Matsui, D-05  
Lynn C. Woolsey, D-06  
George Miller, D-07  
Barbara Lee, D-09  
Ellen O. Tauscher, D-10  
Tom Lantos, D-12  
Fortney Pete Stark, D-13  
Anna G. Eshoo, D-C14  
Michael M. Honda, D-15  
Zoe Lofgren, D-16  
Sam Farr, D-17  
Lois Capps, D-23  
Brad Sherman, D-27  
Howard L. Berman, D-28  
Adam B. Schiff, D-29  
Henry A. Waxman, D-30  
Xavier Becerra, D-31  
Hilda L. Solis, D-32  
Diane E. Watson, D-33  
Lucille Roybal-Allard, D-34  
Maxine Waters, D-35  
Jane Harman, D-36  
Juanita Millender-McDonald, D-37  
Grace F. Napolitano, D-38  
Linda T. Sanchez, D-39  
Loretta Sanchez, D-47  
Bob Filner, D-51  
Susan A. Davis, D-53

#### **Colorado**

Diana DeGette, D-01  
Mark Udall, D-02

#### **Connecticut**

John Larson, D-01  
Rosa DeLauro, D-03  
Christopher Shays, R-04  
Nancy Johnson, R-05

#### **District of Columbia**

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#### **Florida**

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Robert Wexler, D-19  
Debbie Wasserman Schultz, D-20  
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#### **Illinois**

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Daniel Lipinski, D-03

# America's Redrock Wilderness Act Cosponsors in the 109th Congress

(as of March 1, 2006)

Luis V. Gutierrez, D-04  
Rahm I. Emanuel, D-05  
Danny K. Davis, D-07  
Janice D. Schakowsky, D-09  
Mark Steven Kirk, R-10  
Jerry F. Costello, D-12  
Judy Biggert, R-13  
Timothy V. Johnson, R-15  
Lane Evans, D-17

#### **Indiana**

Julia Carson, D-07

#### **Iowa**

James Leach, R-02

#### **Kansas**

Dennis Moore, D-03

#### **Kentucky**

Albert Benjamin Chandler III, D-06

#### **Louisiana**

William Jefferson, D-02

#### **Maine**

Thomas Allen, D-01  
Michael Michaud, D-02

#### **Maryland**

Benjamin L. Cardin, D-03  
Albert Russell Wynn, D-04  
Roscoe G. Bartlett, R-06  
Elijah E. Cummings, D-07  
Christopher Van Hollen Jr., D-08

#### **Massachusetts**

John W. Olver, D-01  
Richard E. Neal, D-02  
James P. McGovern, D-03  
Barney Frank, D-04  
Martin T. Meehan, D-05  
John F. Tierney, D-06  
Edward J. Markey, D-07  
Michael E. Capuano, D-08  
Stephen F. Lynch, D-09  
William D. Delahunt, D-10

#### **Michigan**

Dale Kildee, D-05  
Sander Levin, D-12  
Carolyn Kilpatrick, D-13  
John Conyers, D-14

#### **Minnesota**

Betty McCollum, D-04  
Collin Peterson, D-07

#### **Mississippi**

Bennie Thompson, D-02

#### **Missouri**

William "Lacy" Clay, D-01  
Emanuel Cleaver, D-05

#### **Nevada**

Shelley Berkley, D-01

#### **New Jersey**

Robert E. Andrews, D-01  
Christopher H. Smith, R-04  
Frank Pallone Jr., D-06  
Michael Ferguson, D-07  
Bill Pascrell Jr., D-08  
Steven R. Rothman, D-09  
Donald M. Payne, D-10  
Rush D. Holt, D-12  
Robert Menendez, D-13

#### **New Mexico**

Tom Udall, D-03

#### **New York**

Timothy H. Bishop, D-01  
Steve Israel, D-02  
Carolyn McCarthy, D-04  
Gary L. Ackerman, D-05  
Gregory W. Meeks, D-06  
Joseph Crowley, D-07  
Jerrold Nadler, D-08  
Anthony D. Weiner, D-09  
Edolphus Towns, D-10  
Major R. Owens, D-11  
Nydia M. Velazquez, D-12  
Carolyn B. Maloney, D-14  
Charles B. Rangel, D-15  
Jose E. Serrano, D-16  
Eliot L. Engel, D-17  
Nita M. Lowey, D-18  
Sue Kelley, R-19  
Michael R. McNulty, D-21  
Brian Higgins, D-27  
Louise McIntosh Slaughter, D-28

#### **North Carolina**

G.K. Butterfield, D-01  
David Price, D-04  
Brad Miller, D-13

#### **Ohio**

Ted Strickland, D-06  
Marcy Kaptur, D-09  
Dennis J. Kucinich, D-10  
Stephanie Tubbs Jones, D-11  
Sherrod Brown, D-13  
Timothy J. Ryan, D-17

#### **Oregon**

David Wu, D-01  
Earl Blumenauer, D-03  
Pete DeFazio, D-04  
Darlene Hooley, D-05

#### **Pennsylvania**

Robert Brady, D-01  
Chaka Fattah, D-02

Tim Holden, D-17

#### **Rhode Island**

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James Langevin, D-02

#### **South Carolina**

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James E. Clyburn, D-06

#### **Tennessee**

Jim Cooper, D-05  
Bart Gordon, D-06  
Harold Ford Jr., D-09

#### **Texas**

Al Green, D-9  
Silvestre Reyes, D-16  
Sheila Jackson-Lee, D-18  
Charles A. Gonzalez, D-20  
Lloyd Doggett, D-25  
Gene Green, D-29  
Eddie Bernice Johnson, D-30

#### **Virginia**

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Rick Boucher, D-09

#### **Virgin Islands**

Donna Christensen, D-VI

#### **Washington**

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Rick Larsen, D-02  
Brian Baird, D-03  
Norman D. Dicks, D-06  
Jim McDermott, D-07  
Adam Smith, D-09

#### **Wisconsin**

Tammy Baldwin, D-02  
Gwen Moore, D-04

### **S. 882, Sponsored by Sen. Richard Durbin (D-IL) 14 Senate Cosponsors**

Barbara Boxer, D-CA  
Evan Bayh, D-IN  
Edward Kennedy, D-MA  
John Kerry, D-MA  
Frank Lautenberg, D-NJ  
Joseph Lieberman, D-CT  
Debbie Stabenow, D-MI  
John Corzine, D-NJ  
Hillary Clinton, D-NY  
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## canyon country updates

Good  
News!

### Native Wildflower May Get Protection

More than three years after a coalition of botanical societies and conservation groups petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to protect the Graham's "beardtongue" penstemon (*Penstemon grahamii*) under the Endangered Species Act, the Service announced in January of this year that it is proposing "threatened" status for this magnificent wildflower. The Service is also proposing to designate 3,500 acres of "critical habitat" for the plant. Graham's beardtongue is a rare wildflower found only on oil shale outcrops in the Uinta Basin of Utah and northeastern Colorado—smack in the middle of an area commonly referred to as "Utah's oil patch." The Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that there are only 6,200 individual plants in existence.

Concerned about increasing oil and gas development in the wildflower's habitat (as well as a renewed interest in oil shale development), the Utah Native Plant Society, Colorado Native Plant Society,



© Susan Meyer

*Under pressure from botanists and conservation groups, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing threatened status for the rare Graham's beardtongue.*

Center for Native Ecosystems, and SUWA formally petitioned the Service to protect Graham's beardtongue under the Endangered Species Act in 2002. After the Service ignored the petition, the coalition filed suit in 2003. The Service's recent decision was prompted by a settlement reached in September of 2005.

Thanks to Robin Cooley and Jay Tutchtton at the Environmental Law Clinical Partnership at the University of Denver College of Law, who represented our coalition in the lawsuit. Thanks also to Erin Robertson at Center for Native Ecosystems for her staunch advocacy on behalf of the Graham's beardtongue.

—Steve Bloch

Good  
News!

### Sensitive Lands Pulled from Lease Sale

Famed explorer John Wesley Powell extolled the virtues of Labyrinth Canyon after his voyage of discovery in 1869, and Utah's official tourism website describes the canyon as an amazing area where visitors can enjoy a landscape "unchanged since Powell saw it." Now, the Utah BLM threatens to lease portions of this very landscape to the oil and gas industry. The agency's February lease sale originally proposed to include 3,700 acres just west of the Green River in Labyrinth Canyon, an area extremely popular with families and river runners alike. Also up for auction were more than 100,000 acres of land proposed for wilderness in the San Rafael River and San Rafael Desert regions.

After receiving numerous protests from conservationists and river outfitters, the BLM agreed to withdraw 30 parcels from the lease sale pending further study. This is a welcome, though possibly brief, reprieve. BLM spokesperson Don Banks recently told the *Salt Lake Tribune* that the agency believes most of the contested parcels will be cleared for oil and gas development and may return to the auction block as early as this summer.

The BLM is hurrying to lease and develop as much public land as it can, but what's the rush? Not even a third of leased lands in Utah had been developed by the end of fiscal year 2004, and nearly

## canyon country updates

half of the 5,000 drilling permits approved in Utah over the last five years remain unused. With this kind of surplus of leases and permits, there's absolutely no reason for the BLM to sell off our national treasures.

SUWA, the Wilderness Society, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and the Grand Canyon Trust have submitted a formal protest to the BLM over the proposed leasing of lands in Labyrinth Canyon, the San Rafael River and San Rafael Desert regions, and a 360-acre parcel next to Dinosaur National Monument in northeastern Utah. We hope the BLM will do the right thing and permanently withdraw these sensitive areas from its current and future lease sales.

—Steve Bloch



*The goosenecks of Labyrinth Canyon.*

© Ray Wheeler

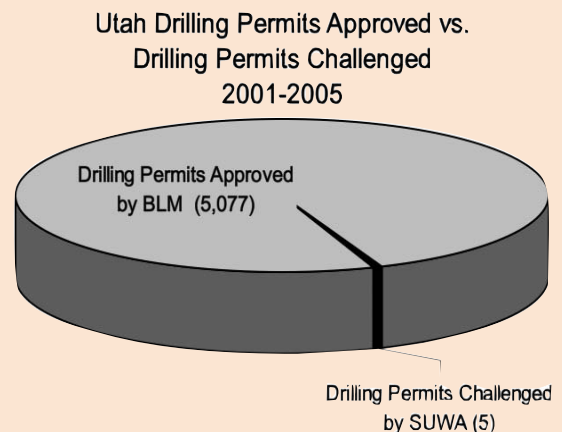
## Questar Scapegoats Conservationists

If you live in Utah and receive a monthly bill from Questar Gas, you may have noticed something odd about January's mailer. Inserted with the company's bill was a letter from Questar Gas President and CEO Alan Allred which laid the blame for rising gas prices chiefly on "misguided environmental opposition." According to Mr. Allred, this opposition has led to large amounts of natural gas being placed off-limits to development.

Nice try, Mr. Allred, but the facts indicate otherwise. According to Interior Department statistics, the overwhelming majority of recoverable natural gas resources on public lands in the Intermountain West are currently available for leasing and development. Here in Utah, approximately 75 percent of BLM lands are open to oil and gas drilling. The truth is, oil and gas companies in Utah have millions of acres of leased federal lands and approved drilling permits burning a hole in their pockets. In fact, many leaseholders have obtained more drilling permits than they can currently handle. Of more than 5,000 permits approved in Utah over the last five years, over 2,000 remain unused (see SUWA's Oil and Gas Fact Sheet at [www.suwa.org](http://www.suwa.org)).

Questar's implication that environmentalists are somehow obstructing oil and gas development is pure propaganda. In the past five years, SUWA has challenged less than one-half of one percent of proposed drilling projects on Utah's public lands. It is the well-reported shortage of oil rigs and workers, and not the occasional legal challenge filed by conservationists, which prevents companies like Questar from keeping up with its surplus of drilling permits.

While Questar Gas uses conservationists as scapegoats for rising gas prices, its parent company, Questar Corporation, is raking in record profits. Meanwhile, Utah Governor Jon Huntsman has asked federal regulators to investigate possible market manipulation of gas prices. Eventually, Questar will have to face the facts and come clean on what's really behind the high price of natural gas in Utah.



## canyon country updates



## Straight Talk on RS 2477

As we reported in the last issue of *Redrock Wilderness* (see Autumn 2005 issue, p. 11), the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals reversed an earlier district court ruling in favor of wilderness advocates in a seminal RS 2477 case. (For those who are new to the issue, RS 2477 is a Civil War Era legal loophole that wilderness foes are now using to claim highway rights-of-way across public lands.) The appeals court has sent the case back to district court for a new review under a standard derived from Utah state law. As a result, Utah's standard of ten years continuous use (as opposed to proven construction) to establish a right-of-way will guide the district court's decision in its second review of this case.

Fortunately for us, the task of establishing ten years continuous use is a tall order—though you wouldn't know it from the boastful talk of some RS 2477 promoters. In fact, Utah legislator Mike Noel of Kanab bragged to a committee of the state legislature that the appeals court had actually given the routes to the counties outright (not true). Here's the straight skinny on what the Tenth Circuit's decision really means. Thanks to our co-counsel Jerry Epstein at Jenner and Block for pulling these threads together.

**Where it all started:** *San Juan County asserts an RS 2477 claim by illegally blading a road across BLM lands in 1996.*

**Issue:** Are the standards established by the Tenth Circuit easier to meet than an "actual construction" standard?

**Court Holding:** No. The court emphasized several times that its standard is no less demanding than an "actual construction" standard, and may even be more demanding. The court noted that there could well be "actual construction" on a road but not continuous public use. The court also expressed great skepticism that there could be the requisite "sustained substantial use" by the general public for 10 years without some maintenance or other actual construction.

**Issue:** Do the counties and the state still have to shoulder the burden of proving that their claim is valid?

**Court Holding:** Yes. The court clearly established that a county claiming the existence of an RS 2477 right-of-way has the burden of proving to a court that all the requirements of a right-of-way have been satisfied. The Tenth Circuit further noted that the burden of proof may be a tough hurdle for right-of-way claimants to overcome. Because "evidence in these cases is over a quarter of a century old, the burden of proof could be decisive in some cases."

**Issue:** Is the proper interpretation of RS 2477 a matter of federal or state law?

**Court Holding:** RS 2477 is a federal law and therefore must be interpreted based on federal law. Courts may look to common law to help interpret

the statute, but RS 2477 establishes threshold requirements which state law cannot override.

**Issue:** What is the requirement for a highway under Utah law?

**Court Holding:** One of the minimum requirements for a "highway" under Utah law is continuous public use for a ten-year period. The court established that occasional use is clearly insufficient. The court accepted the BLM's conclusion that "haphazard, unintentional, or incomplete actions," such as "the mere passage of vehicles" would not be sufficient to establish an RS 2477 right-of-way. The court went a step further and concluded that to find an RS 2477 right-of-way based on mere evidence of vehicles passing over land would be a "caricature" of the requirements. Yet this is precisely the nature of many of the claims now made by various counties, with the support of the Governor's office and the Utah Attorney General.

**Issue:** What other factors did the court find significant in determining whether an RS 2477 right-of-way was established?

**Court Holding:** There must have been "continual public use over a lengthy period of time," as opposed to routes that served limited purposes for limited periods of time. Mining and logging roads were cited as examples of routes used for limited purposes which would be insufficient to establish a public highway, as were routes used for activities such as trailing of sheep and travel to sawmills.

## canyon country updates

## Planning Process Shapes Future of BLM Wildlands

A Resource Management Plan (RMP) is a planning document that, by and large, serves as the basis for every land management decision the BLM makes. Among other things, RMPs designate areas that are acceptable for oil and gas leasing and development, establish trail systems for off-road vehicles (ORVs), and identify areas in need of special protection. Each field office of the BLM is responsible for revising its RMP every 10-20 years. In Utah, there are six RMP revisions currently underway in Price, Vernal, Richfield, Moab, Monticello, and Kanab.

Will the BLM choose to protect special places along the White River and Upper Desolation Canyon or convert them into oil and gas fields? Will the agency continue to allow destructive motorized use in important riparian corridors such as southeastern Utah's Arch Canyon? These significant decisions will be part of the planning process and you will have several opportunities throughout

this process to voice your opinions and urge the BLM to do the right thing. Following is an update on the status of Utah's six RMPs.

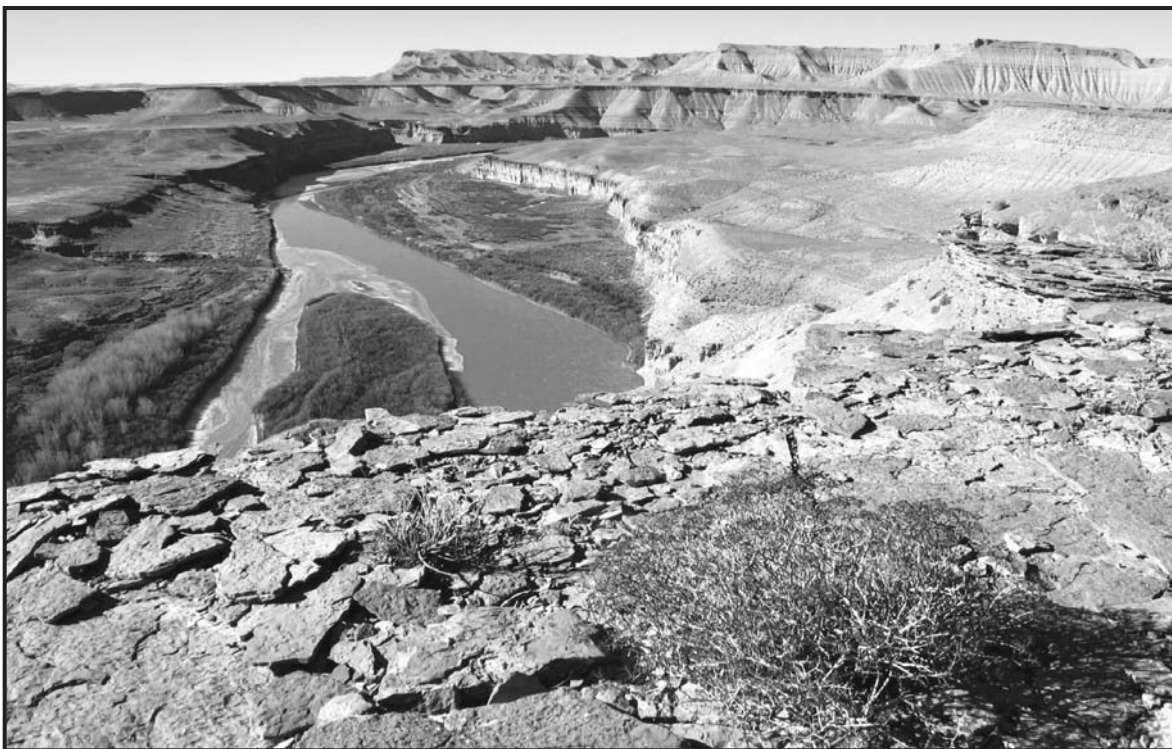
### Vernal

The Vernal field office, responsible for public lands around Browns Park, near Dinosaur National Monument, in Upper Desolation Canyon, and in the Book Cliffs, released its draft RMP in early 2005 and is expected to release its final RMP this spring. This region is at the heart of Utah's oil and gas boom, and we have urged the BLM to place sensitive areas off-limits to oil and gas development, or, at a minimum, to implement protective stipulations in those areas.

### Price

The Price field office, responsible for public lands in the San Rafael Swell, Desolation Canyon, and Labyrinth Canyon, released its draft RMP in the fall of 2004 and is expected to release its final RMP near the end of 2006. This area is threatened by both ORV use and oil and gas development. Wilderness-quality lands and primitive recreational

*(continued on page 16)*



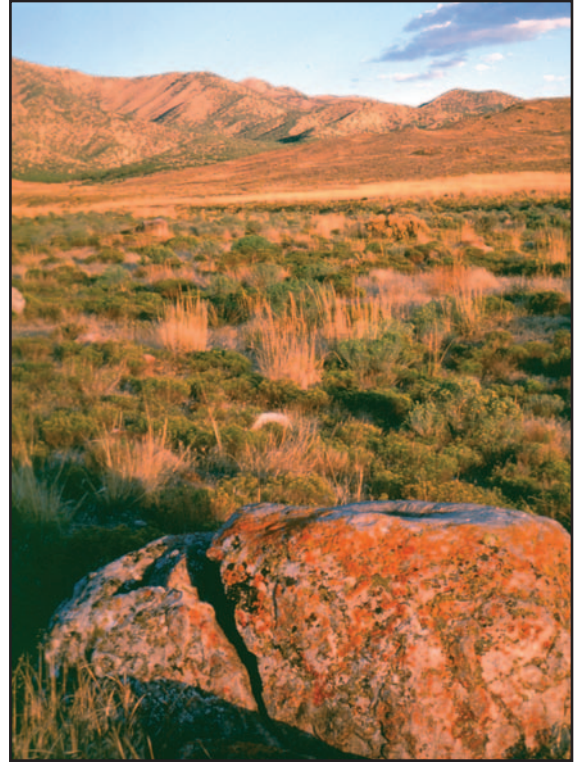
*Ray Bloxham*

*The rare solitude and wild beauty of Upper Desolation Canyon—treasured by river runners and other recreationists—could be lost forever if the BLM approves a 1,538 well gas project proposed by Gasco Production Company.*

# Congratulations, Utah . . .



*Ray Bloxham*



*© Jeff Garton*



*© Scott T. Smith*



*Ray Bloxham*



*© Scott T. Smith*

# . . . on the New Cedar Mountains Wilderness!



*Diane Kelly*



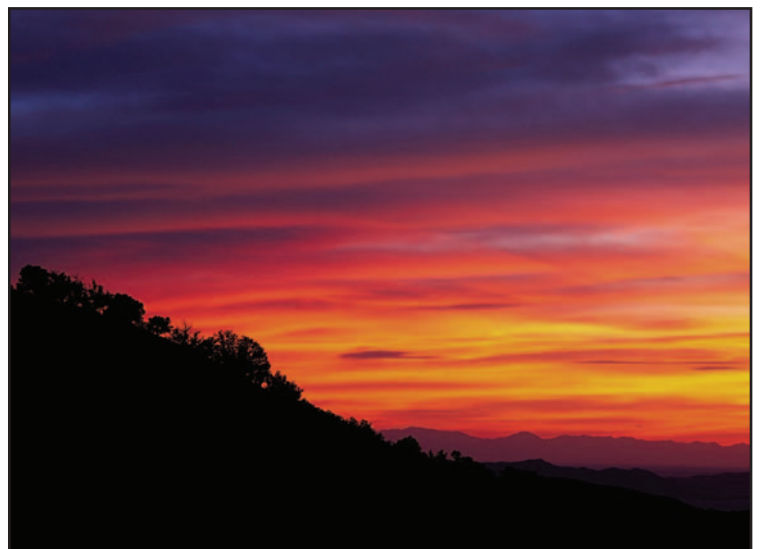
*Ray Bloxham*



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*Ray Bloxham*



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## canyon country updates

*(continued from page 13)*

opportunities, such as the tranquil river experience of Labyrinth Canyon, may be in jeopardy,

### Richfield

The Richfield field office, responsible for public lands in the Henry Mountains, the Dirty Devil region, and the Factory Butte area, is expected to release its draft RMP this summer. Once the draft is released, the public will have an opportunity to comment on the management of these extraordinary landscapes. Among the many issues to be decided by the BLM is the question of how to protect the delicate badlands of the Factory Butte area from unrestricted ORV use.

### Moab

The Moab field office has jurisdiction over Westwater Canyon, Fisher Towers, and lands adjacent to both Arches and Canyonlands National Parks. The BLM is expected to release its draft RMP for this region by late summer or early fall. With the release of the draft RMP, the public will have an important opportunity to let the agency know how they would like to see these public lands managed. Both ORV use and oil and gas development pose serious threats to this outstanding area.

### Monticello

Southeastern Utah's Monticello field office is responsible for managing the public lands of Cedar

Mesa, Indian Creek, Dark Canyon, and the San Juan River. The BLM is expected to release its draft RMP sometime around September of this year. With this release, the public will have an opportunity to submit comments on the management of this region. Both ORV use and oil and gas development are a problem in this area. Aside from the ecological values at risk, world-class archaeological sites are also endangered.

### Kanab

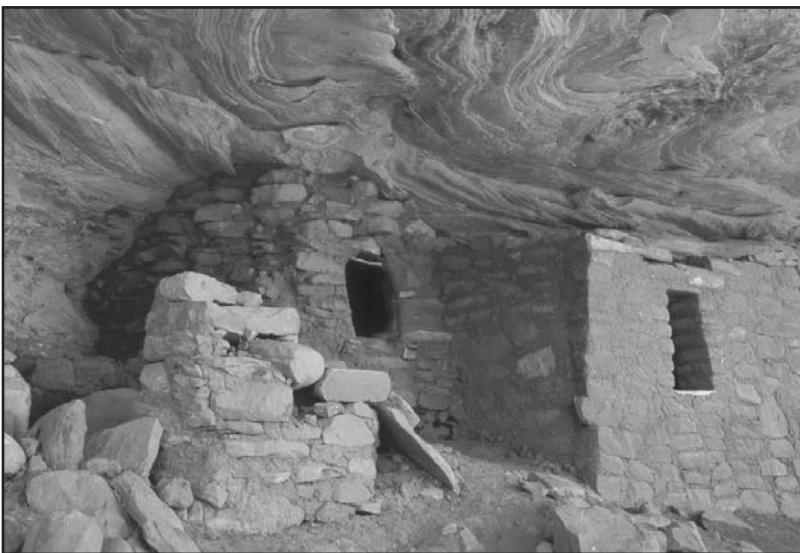
Adjacent to Zion National Park and the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, the Kanab field office is responsible for the public lands of Coral Pink Sand Dunes, the Vermillion Cliffs, and Parunuweap Canyon. The BLM is expected to release its draft RMP at the end of 2006, at which time comments from the public will be accepted. Unregulated ORV use is the primary concern in this region.

For more information about this important BLM planning process, see [www.suwa.org](http://www.suwa.org) or contact Ray Bloxham at [ray@suwa.org](mailto:ray@suwa.org) or (801) 428-3982.

## Oil Shale Threat Still Looms

Just when we thought the fossil fuel frenzy couldn't get any worse, get-rich-quick oil shale development schemes have become the latest rage in Congress. In fact, Utah's own Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) has been leading the charge to convince lawmakers and the American public that Utah, Colorado, and Wyoming together make up the "Saudi Arabia" of oil shale. While Senator Hatch is right that these three states contain large reserves of shale (in Utah, oil shale resources underlie hundreds of thousands of acres of proposed wilderness in the Book Cliffs region), he's terribly wrong to suggest that shale development will be an easy path to energy independence. Below is a quick update of recent events related to oil shale development on Utah's BLM lands. To learn more about the dangers of oil shale development on Utah's public lands, visit [www.suwa.org](http://www.suwa.org) and click on the *Oil and Gas* campaign link.

- In January of 2006, the BLM wrapped up its initial public comment period for oil shale and tar sands leasing. The agency is now developing a



© James W. Kay

*Just as the management of Utah's wilderness lands will be determined in the RMP process, so will the fate of sensitive archaeological resources found on those lands.*



## Senator Hatch a Former Oilman?

SUWA has long been aware of Senator Orrin Hatch's affinity for energy production, but it appears that his long history of support for energy development on public lands has generated false memories of his own involvement in the oil business. The following is an excerpt from a piece by Robert Gehrke and Thomas Burr that appeared in the *Salt Lake Tribune* on November 27, 2005.

*Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, was full of righteous indignation the other day when, on the Senate floor, he angrily scolded Democrats backing a "windfall tax" on tens of billions in profits Big Oil earned in the past quarter.*

*As he railed, he tossed in this tidbit: "I used to be in the oil business. I know how hard it is."*

*And again: "I have been in this business. I know doggone well what it takes and how much it takes and how much it costs to develop oil and gas."*

*And then, when Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., said Hatch was mistaken about what oil companies do with their profits, Hatch put it most definitively: "No, it wasn't wrong. I lived in this industry. I understand it."*

*Um . . . not precisely.*

*His official bio mentions he was a lather, janitor, desk attendant at a dormitory, then a lawyer and a senator. No mention of hardscrabble days on the rigs drilling for black gold.*

*Turns out, "lived in this industry" may have overstated it a tad. His spokesman says the senator did some legal work for a small oil company 30-plus years ago when he was in private practice. He doesn't remember the name of the oil firm.*

programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS) that will analyze the environmental, social, and economic impacts from a commercial oil shale and tar sands development program in Utah, Colorado, and Wyoming. If you missed the first comment period, don't worry. There will be another chance for the public to weigh in on this program when the BLM issues its draft PEIS later this year. The BLM is hoping to amend several of its land use plans to facilitate oil shale and tar sands development in this region, so please speak out on behalf of Utah wilderness.

- Also in January of 2006, the BLM announced that proposals submitted by two companies to obtain research and development leases for oil shale in Utah (and six other proposals in Colorado) would be considered in detail. The two R&D leases in Utah are proposed at the old White River mine in Uinta County—the site of failed oil shale operations from decades ago and not in an area proposed for wilderness. The BLM will conduct a separate environmental analysis before it issues R&D oil shale leases.

- As if provisions in the 2005 Energy Bill that fast-tracked large scale commercial oil shale and tar sands development on western public lands weren't bad enough, this past fall, House Republicans tried to insert language into an annual budget process that would have made oil shale development less regulated, more widespread, and virtually inevitable. The version of the 2005 Budget Reconciliation bill passed by the House would have exempted lease sales from detailed environmental review by declaring any analysis adequate before the study had even begun. It would have also directed the leasing of 2.5 million acres of prospective public lands in Utah, Colorado, and Wyoming, regardless of industry interest or environmental costs. And in a blatant handout to industry, the bill would have significantly reduced royalties charged for production from oil shale or tar sands leases on public lands. Fortunately, Senate Democrats were able to cut these provisions from the final Budget Reconciliation bill that Congress eventually passed in late January.

—Justin Allegro and Steve Bloch

## grassroots network

### Wild Utah Slideshow Visits CO and NM

SUWA takes its acclaimed slideshow, *Wild Utah: America's Redrock Wilderness*, on tour to Colorado and northern New Mexico in April. The slideshow is free and open to the public. For details and a complete tour schedule, visit [www.suwa.org](http://www.suwa.org) and click on *Events*, then *Slideshow Tour*. For more information, contact Bob Brister at [bob@suwa.org](mailto:bob@suwa.org) or (801) 428-3990.

### Photo Project Seeks Volunteers

SUWA's Photo Documentation Project is seeking volunteer photography buffs to take photos of proposed wilderness areas throughout Utah. We'll match your interests and abilities with a specific area and provide you with a map and field form to record notes and photo locations. Donated photos are filed for later use in outreach materials and on the SUWA website.

The Photo Project is also seeking a few dedicated individuals to join us at the SUWA office one night a week (for about 2 hours) to help recruit volunteer photographers, prepare field packets, and electronically catalogue scenic photographs from around the state. If you'd like to learn more about Utah wilderness, help build SUWA's photo

archive, and meet like-minded activists, this is the project for you!

If you're interested in either of these volunteer opportunities, please contact project organizers at [photo@suwa.org](mailto:photo@suwa.org).

### Sign Up Now for Spring and Summer Festivals

With the weather growing steadily warmer and those spring and summer festivals just around the corner, SUWA will soon be recruiting volunteers to help run outreach tables at outdoor events such as local Earth Day celebrations, KRCL's Day in the Park, and the Founder's Title Folk and Bluegrass Festival. To volunteer, contact Jeremy Christensen at [jeremy@suwa.org](mailto:jeremy@suwa.org) or (801) 428-3991.

### Join SUWA's Email Alert List

The best way to stay informed on breaking issues affecting Utah wilderness is to add your name to SUWA's electronic listserve. If you have an email address and would like to be part of our "first responder" activist network, go to [www.suwa.org/alertlist](http://www.suwa.org/alertlist) and fill out the online subscription form. This is absolutely the easiest way to stay in the loop on Utah wilderness issues and events while learning how to get involved. On top of that, it's free and it saves trees!



### Monthly *Wild Nights* Bring Local Activists Together

Join us at SUWA's Salt Lake City office every second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm for a night of fun, friendship, and hands-on activism. Each *Wild Night* opens with a staff presentation on issues of immediate concern. Then we'll take action by working on specific projects to make a difference for Utah's threatened wild lands. Refreshments are provided. For more information, contact Jeremy Christensen at [jeremy@suwa.org](mailto:jeremy@suwa.org) or (801) 428-3991.

## inside SUWA



*Laurel's artistic abilities came in handy when we needed protest signs.*

## Thank You Laurel Hagen

For the past year and a half, Laurel Hagen has served SUWA as Conservation Associate in our Moab office. Her position was funded by a special grant, which concluded in December, so she'll be moving on, eventually pursuing a Masters degree in economics with an emphasis on water distribution issues. After that, she plans to go on to law school.

Meanwhile, until her degree program starts, she'll be working for our sister organization, Red Rock Forests. We'll miss her many talents: her amazing skill as a graphic artist, her keen sense of humor, and her heroic capacity to comb through volumes of complex research material for essential information. (But, given that our Moab staff would probably go completely insane without regular doses of her wonderful laughter and dry wit, she has agreed to continue working for SUWA on a contract basis for an indefinite period.)

During her tenure at SUWA, Laurel worked closely with Field Attorney Liz Thomas and Outreach Coordinator Franklin Seal. Her natural inclination toward community organizing led her to become a key player in our Factory Butte cam-

paign, designing the website and bumper sticker, and meeting with citizens groups and Richfield BLM officials (who, after their encounters with Laurel, will never be the same again). She has also been the creative force behind our beautiful Zion-Mojave logo and map, and she was instrumental in many other SUWA media and outreach efforts. We also benefited immensely from her ability to see into the heart of complex issues and cut to the chase in long strategy discussions.

During her time in Moab, Laurel has integrated herself into the broader community, serving on the board of the Moab Film Society, and becoming involved in local water issues. We hope to see her back on SUWA's staff after completing her Masters and law degrees—armed with knowledge and fiercer than ever. In the meantime, the SUWA staff will miss her terribly.

## Steve Allen Slideshow Tour a Success

Author, backcountry explorer, and SUWA advisory committee member Steve Allen recently completed a successful slideshow tour of the greater Los Angeles area to highlight conservation of Utah's wild lands on the Colorado Plateau.

Steve's slideshow, "Canyoneering Chronicles: The Legend Speaks," takes the viewer on a dazzling tour of some of Utah's most spectacular and remote canyons, and highlights several areas currently being considered for Wilderness designation in America's Redrock Wilderness Act, now pending before Congress.

Known throughout the West for his series of books on Utah Canyoneering, Allen has spent over 35 years hiking more than 35,000 miles in the canyons of southern Utah's backcountry. He has explored nearly every canyon and climbed practically every pinnacle and tower in the million acres of Utah's San Rafael Swell region.

Through the slideshows, Steve hopes to show the value of preserving this wilderness and support SUWA in its efforts to protect more than 9 million acres of Utah's public lands from uncontrolled off-road vehicle use, oil and gas exploration and development, and other threats.

## inside SUWA

“SUWA has, for more than 20 years, been leading the battle in Utah, around the nation, and in the halls of Congress to try to preserve for all time the desert that I call home,” says Steve. “I hope to educate hundreds more people about the beauty and wonder of these lands, which currently have little or no protection, and about SUWA’s invaluable work to preserve them as congressionally designated Wilderness.”

SUWA would like to thank Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI) for hosting the slideshows at their Rancho Cucamonga, Arcadia, Manhattan Beach, and Huntington Beach locations. We would also like to thank REI and Black Diamond Equipment, Ltd. for their generous donations of outdoor gear for door prizes.

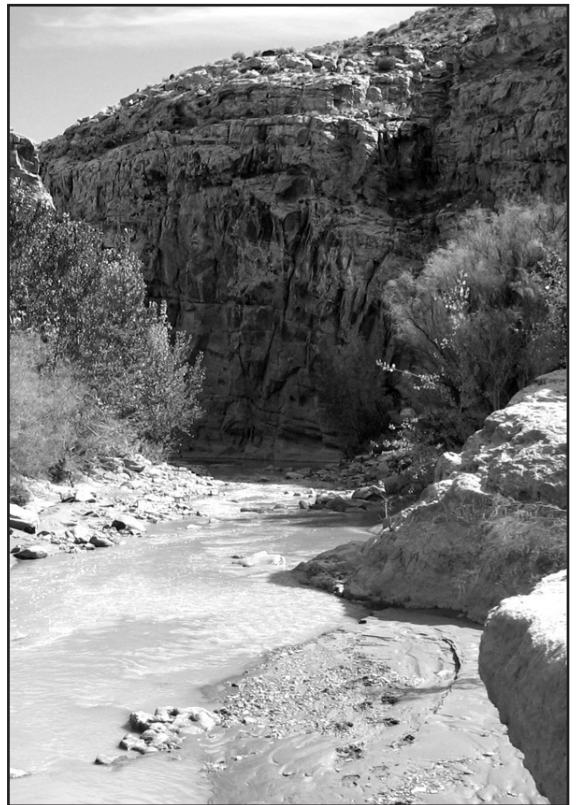
## Roundup Scheduled for October 6-8, 2006

Mark your calendar for this year’s annual membership gathering at Hidden Splendor, scheduled for October 6-8. Set in the heart of the San Rafael Swell, the SUWA Roundup offers our members the opportunity to meet SUWA staff and enjoy the beautiful Indian summer of redrock country with fellow desert rats from Utah and other states. Activities include an interactive discussion of Utah wilderness issues with SUWA staff and board members, a potluck dinner, evening music around the campfire, and—best of all—guided day-hikes in our Muddy Creek proposed wilderness unit. Sunday morning you’ll awake to the aroma of freshly brewed coffee followed by a hearty breakfast prepared by SUWA staff in thanks for all your support and dedication.

If you plan to attend this year’s Roundup, here’s what you should bring along: a potluck dish

serving five people for Saturday evening (if you plan to partake with the group), personal food for Friday evening and Saturday breakfast and lunch, camping gear, plenty of drinking water (none is available on site), utensils, folding chairs, and lanterns and tables to share with the crowd if you have them. Feel free to bring your own musical instruments and favorite libations, too.

Watch for more details in our summer issue or contact Anne Williams at [anne@suwa.org](mailto:anne@suwa.org) or (801) 428-3972 for more information.



*Laurel Hagen*

*The meanders of Muddy Creek Canyon reveal new wonders at every turn.*

## Thank You SUWA Members! Our Fall 2005 Fundraising Appeal Was a Big Success

Thanks to all of you who made a contribution to SUWA above and beyond your annual membership dues through our year-end appeal letter. Because of your generosity, we met our fundraising goal and secured a \$100,000 matching gift from an anonymous donor. SUWA’s important work on behalf of America’s redrock wilderness would not be possible without your continued support!



## Earth Friends/SUWA Redrock Wild Lands Rescue Challenge

On September 8, 2005, the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals issued a decision that opens the door to the loss of some of America's most beautiful places (see page 12 for more details). Now at risk are Canyonlands National Park, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, and millions of acres of Utah's proposed redrock wilderness.

Judge Michael McConnell, a Bush appointee, issued the decision. To the delight of the off-road vehicle industry, he accepted arguments that trails can be claimed as "roads," even where there has never been any construction. This ruling reinterprets the Mining Law of 1866, also known as RS 2477. It opens the door to motorized use of National Parks, National Monuments, Wilderness Areas, and nearly all of America's public lands.

SUWA is working through the courts, Congress, and the executive branch to protect Utah wilderness from this latest threat. So far, we've been successful: not an acre of wilderness has yet been lost to RS 2477. But with this court decision, the threat is worse than anything we've faced in the last decade.

Earth Friends Wildlife Foundation has teamed up with SUWA to help ensure that Utah's redrock wild lands—places like Salt Creek in Canyonlands and Arch Canyon on Cedar Mesa—don't become off-road vehicle playgrounds. Earth Friends has given us a Challenge Grant, and our goal is to bring in donations from 1,000 new and existing supporters by June 1, 2006. Please help us take advantage of this opportunity to leverage your giving to protect Utah's wildlife and wild places!

Leverage your gift and make it go further by contributing to the Earth Friends/SUWA Redrock Wild Lands Rescue Challenge. Donate today to help keep off-road vehicles out of America's Redrock Wilderness and National Parks.

### Earth Friends/SUWA Redrock Wild Lands Rescue Challenge

New Member       Renewal       Donation

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail form with payment in enclosed envelope to:**  
 SUWA, 425 East 100 South, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111.  
 You may also donate through our secure website at [www.suwa.org](http://www.suwa.org)

**inside SUWA**

## Make a Difference to Utah Wilderness: Join or Donate to SUWA Today!

SUWA's membership is our lifeblood. Since 1983, when SUWA was founded by a handful of people committed to protecting Utah's incomparable wild places, our members have been our greatest asset. More than 16,000 concerned citizens from every state in the nation, and even other countries, have joined SUWA's hard-hitting, grassroots commitment to save Utah's magnificent canyon country. These public lands belong to all of us, and it is both our right and our responsibility to speak out for their protection.

**More than 80 percent of our funding comes from membership dues and donations from individuals like you.**

SUWA truly is a membership-driven organization. While we receive important contributions from private foundations, this money is often allocated for work on a specific issue or activity. The strong financial support that SUWA receives from individual members gives us the freedom and flexibility to focus on those issues that pose the most immediate threats to redrock country. Our ability to tackle the multitude of administrative, legislative, and on-the-ground threats to Utah wilderness is only possible through the continued generosity of our members.

**There is strength in numbers.**

An active, nationwide membership demonstrates to decision-makers on Capitol Hill the broad base of support that exists for protecting America's redrock wilderness. SUWA members from around the country attend hearings, make phone calls, write letters, travel to Washington, DC to meet with their congressional representatives, submit letters-to-the-editor, organize slide shows, participate in phone banks, and help spread the word about Utah wilderness to their friends and family.

**Protecting America's redrock wilderness is a full-time job.**

We know that you're busy. Even the most dedicated desert rats don't always have the time and energy to stay on top of all of the issues affecting Utah's remaining wild places. That's why we're here: to work full-time on behalf of Utah's spectacular redrock wilderness. As a member of SUWA, you can rest assured that someone is always staying on top of the issues and doing whatever it takes to protect the wilderness lands that you love. At the same time, we make every effort to keep our members up-to-date on the latest threats—through our website, email alerts, action bulletins, phone banking, and quarterly newsletter—so that you can stay informed and involved.

If you are already a member of SUWA, we thank you for your support! If you are not yet a member, please join today. Annual dues are just \$30, and, of course, additional donations are welcome and appreciated. SUWA is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization—so all contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. There are three ways to give:

- **Online:** donate with a credit card (VISA, Mastercard, or AMEX) through our secure website at [www.suwa.org](http://www.suwa.org) (click on the *Join or Give* link).
- **By Mail:** return the envelope included in this newsletter with check or credit card information to: SUWA, 425 East 100 South, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111.
- **By Phone:** call us at (801) 486-3161 with any questions or to make a credit card donation.

On behalf of the entire staff and board at SUWA, we thank all of our members for your loyalty and support! With your continued assistance, we will succeed in permanently protecting all of Utah's remaining BLM wilderness lands. Please contact us anytime with questions or comments. Thank you!

***SUWA's Membership Services Team: Lindsey Oswald, Giles Wallace, and Anne Williams***

## Giving Options

### Monthly Giving Program

If you're looking for a convenient, hassle-free way to help SUWA, our monthly giving program is for you. Monthly giving is easy and secure, and provides SUWA with reliable, year-round funding to fight current and future attacks on Utah wilderness. All you need to do is commit to contributing \$10 or more per month, provide us with a credit or debit card or a cancelled check, and we'll do the rest. Best of all, you're off the hook for annual membership renewals! Use the enclosed envelope to sign up, or contact Anne Williams, SUWA's Membership Coordinator, at [anne@suwa.org](mailto:anne@suwa.org) or (801) 428-3972 for more information.

### Gifts of Cash

The most common way to support SUWA's efforts is to send us a check or donate with a credit card. Some employers will match your donation to SUWA, doubling the amount of support you can give to Utah wilderness. If your company or firm has a matching gift program, simply enclose the form along with your check or credit card information.

### Gifts of Stock

You can give a meaningful gift to SUWA and gain a substantial tax advantage for yourself by giving stocks or mutual fund shares that have appreciated in value. For information on how to transfer stocks or mutual funds to SUWA's account, please contact Giles Wallace, SUWA's Associate Director, at [giles@suwa.org](mailto:giles@suwa.org) or (801) 428-3971. In addition, please let us know the details of your transfer (your name and contact information, intended date of transfer, type of stock, and number of shares), so that we may promptly process and acknowledge your generous gift.

### Gift Memberships and Honorary/Memorial Donations

Get your friends and family involved in the fight to protect Utah wilderness by giving them a gift membership or renewal. Or, honor a friend or loved one by donating to SUWA in their name. Keep us in mind for special occasions: birthdays, weddings, Christmas, and other holidays—there's no better gift than the gift of wilderness! Simply send us your name and address, along with the name and address of the recipient of the gift membership or honorary donation. Contact Anne Williams at [anne@suwa.org](mailto:anne@suwa.org) or (801) 428-3972 for more information.

### Bequests and Other Planned Gifts

Including SUWA in your estate planning is an excellent way to support our ongoing efforts to protect Utah's wild lands for our future generations. If you have already included SUWA in your will or named our organization as a beneficiary of your trust, retirement plan, life insurance policy, or other planned gift, please contact Giles Wallace at [giles@suwa.org](mailto:giles@suwa.org) or (801) 428-3971, so that we can recognize your commitment by including you in our Redrock Society.

Although we recommend that you meet with your own estate attorney or financial advisor to determine the method of giving that best suits your individual needs, we're happy to answer any general questions that you might have about planned giving. We can also point you in the direction of a professional who can answer specific questions and help identify which technique is best for you. For more information, please visit our website at [www.suwa.org](http://www.suwa.org), click on *Join or Give*, then click on *Planned Giving*.

**Thanks for your support!**

## Order a Copy of *America's Redrock Wilderness*

*America's Redrock Wilderness: Protecting a National Treasure* features stunning full-color photographs of Utah's threatened BLM wilderness lands and includes a black-and-white insert on the key issues affecting Utah's BLM lands today. Available only from SUWA and a few selected bookstores.

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copies of *America's Redrock Wilderness* at \$18 per copy (includes shipping).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

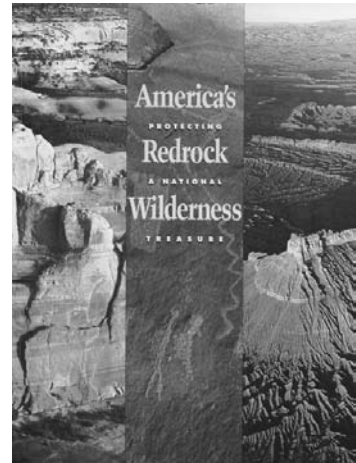
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to SUWA, or include credit card information (VISA, MC or AMEX):

CC#: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

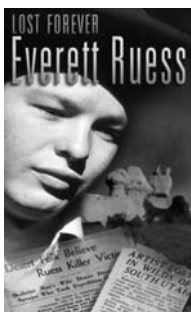
Mail form with payment in enclosed envelope to:  
 SUWA, 425 E. 100 S., Salt Lake City, UT 84111



*America's Redrock Wilderness*: 104 pages (56 pages color, 48 pages B/W); 9"x12," soft cover.

Available on Video or DVD!

### *Lost Forever: Everett Ruess*



For SUWA members, the image of Everett Ruess and his burros has long symbolized the spirit and intrigue of Utah's canyon country. The young artist, poet, and adventurer left his Los Angeles home in the late 1920s to explore the wild and remote lands of the Colorado Plateau.

For several years he wandered through the redrock of southern Utah, using the country's magnificent vistas as inspiration for his own artistic creations. But at the age of twenty, young Ruess vanished in the Escalante canyons, creating an enduring mystery that has yet to be solved.

In *Lost Forever: Everett Ruess*, filmmaker Diane Orr explores the spirit and passion of Ruess' legacy. Combining documentary and fiction, Orr's stirring film will offer new evidence and insights to even the most fervent Ruess enthusiasts. Thanks to the generosity of Diane

Orr, proceeds from sales through SUWA will benefit our work to protect Utah wilderness. Order your video or DVD today and help preserve the lands that captured the soul and imagination of Everett Ruess.

Please send \_\_\_\_\_ copies of *Lost Forever: Everett Ruess* at \$25 each (includes shipping).

Check One:  Video  DVD

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to SUWA or include credit card information (VISA, MC, or AMEX):

CC#: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. date: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form with payment in enclosed envelope to:  
 SUWA, 425 E. 100 S.  
 Salt Lake City, UT 84111



### Fine Art Posters by David Muench

Please send \_\_\_\_\_ White Canyon or \_\_\_\_\_ Cedar Mesa fine art posters at \$20 each (including shipping).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to SUWA or include credit card information (VISA, MC or AMEX):

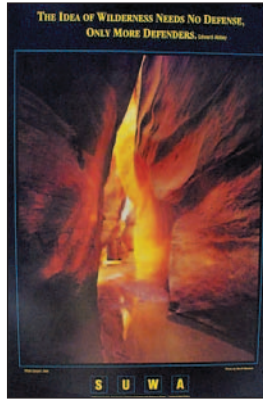
CC#: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form with payment in enclosed envelope to:

**SUWA, 425 E. 100 S.  
Salt Lake City, UT 84111**

White Canyon



Cedar Mesa

These 24" x 36" posters feature full-color images of southern Utah by world-renowned wilderness photographer David Muench. The White Canyon poster (on black) features Edward Abbey's words, "The idea of wilderness needs no defense, only more defenders." The Cedar Mesa poster (on natural fiber ivory) includes a quote by late SUWA board member Wallace Stegner: "...the spiritual can be saved..."

### Give Two Gift Memberships and Save \$10!

If you share a love of the outdoors with your friends, why not share your activism too? Gift memberships make wonderful gifts for birthdays and holidays. Simply mail in this order form with **\$50 for two memberships** (a \$10 savings) or **\$30 for one membership** and get your pals involved in the wilderness cause!

#### Gift Membership #1

From: \_\_\_\_\_

(your name)

To:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Gift Membership #2

From: \_\_\_\_\_

(your name)

To:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to SUWA or include credit card information below (VISA, MC, or AMEX):

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. date: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form with payment in enclosed envelope to:

**SUWA, 425 E. 100 S.  
Salt Lake City, UT 84111**



## Do You Have Experience in Organic Lawn Care and/or Snow Removal?

If so, SUWA could use your help. We need someone to oversee the care and maintenance of our new Salt Lake City property at 425 East 100 South. Spring through fall duties include mowing grass, trimming shrubs, maintaining sprinkler system, raking leaves, etc. Winter tasks include snow removal and salting of driveway and parking lot. If you can offer these services, please contact Terra at (801) 428-3961 or terra@suwa.org.

## SUWA T-Shirts and Hats For Sale!

**T-shirts** are 100% organic cotton “Beneficial Ts” from Patagonia. Choose from several colors and styles, including a special women’s cut. Strikethrough indicates sizes that are currently out of stock. **NOTE:** White short sleeve Ts run very large. **Hats** include a baseball cap with SUWA logo (in two colors), plus a floppy hat and sun visor printed with the slogan “Protect Wild Utah.”

<b>SUWA T-Shirts</b>		Circle Choice(s)	
Short Sleeve White, \$15	S M L XL	Qty	_____
Short Sleeve Black, \$15	S <del>M</del> <del>L</del> <del>XL</del>	Qty	_____
Women’s Cut White, \$15	S M L	Qty	_____
Long Sleeve White, \$20	S <del>M</del> L <del>XL</del>	Qty	_____
Long Sleeve Black, \$20	S M L <del>XL</del>	Qty	_____

<b>SUWA Hats</b>		Circle Choice(s)	
Baseball Cap, \$25	Sage or Sandstone	Qty	_____
Floppy Hat, \$20	Bright Yellow	Qty	_____
Sun Visor, \$15	Bright Yellow	Qty	_____

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

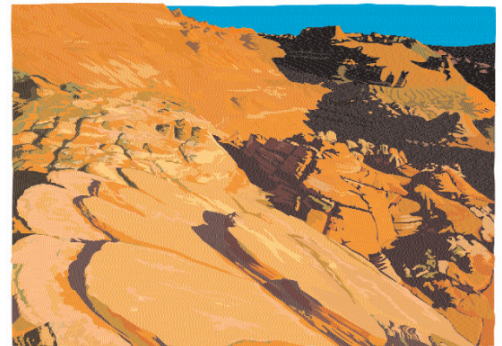
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to SUWA or include credit card information (VISA, MC, AMEX). Prices include shipping & handling.

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. date: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form with payment in enclosed envelope to:  
**SUWA, 425 E. 100 S., Salt Lake City, UT 84111**

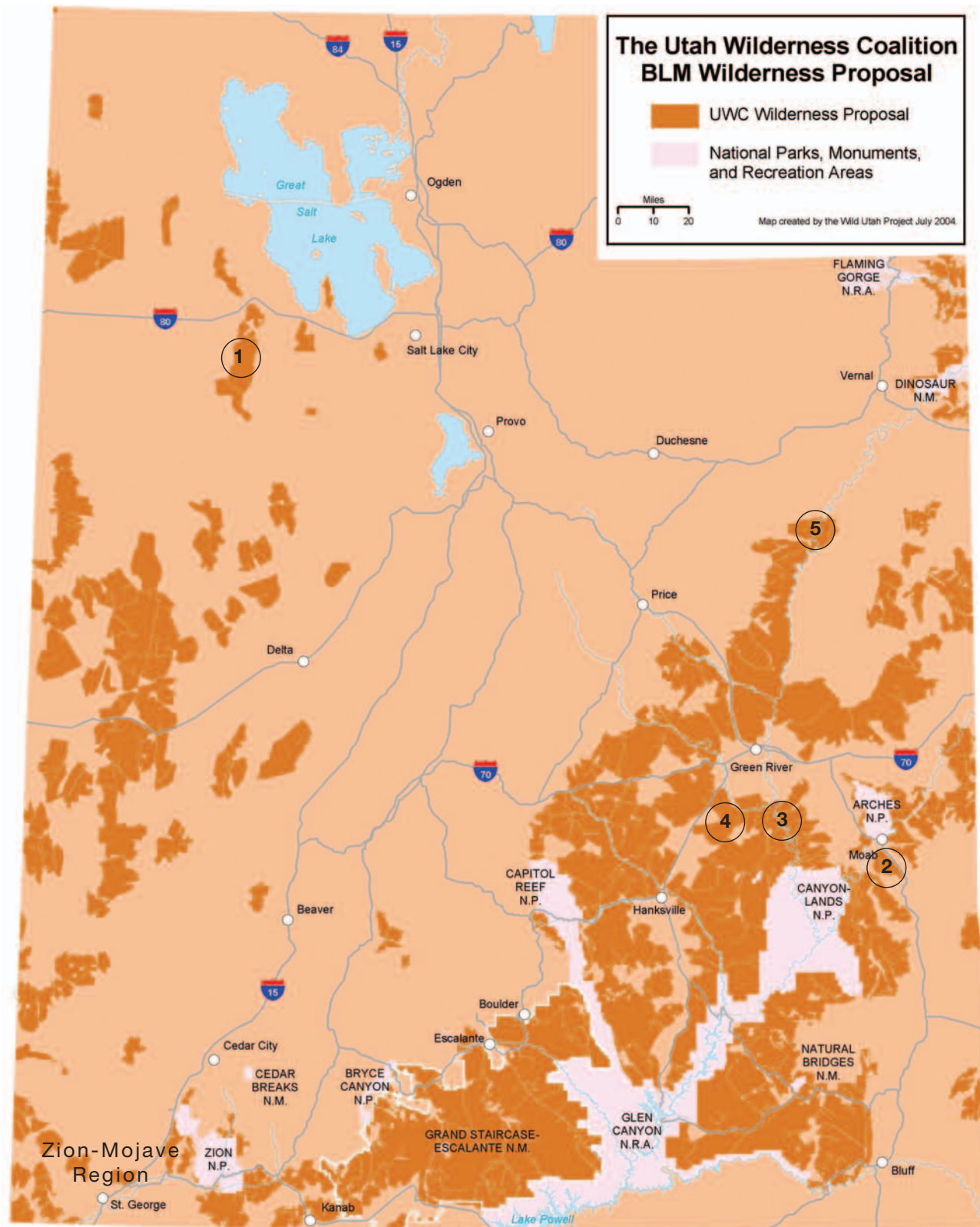


southern utah wilderness alliance

*Artwork on back of short sleeve and long sleeve T-shirts. “SUWA” is printed in small lettering on front.*



*Baseball caps come in two colors: sage and sandstone.*



**Reference Map for Features, DC News, and Canyon Country Updates**

- ① Cedar Mountains (see pp. 5-6)

② Behind the Rocks (see p. 7)

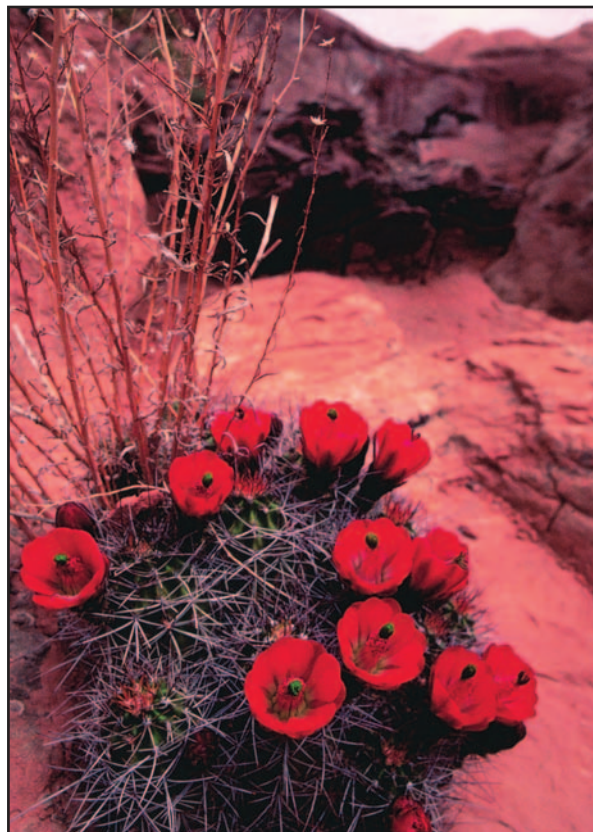
③ Labyrinth Canyon (see pp. 10-11)
- ④ San Rafael River & San Rafael Desert region (see pp. 10-11)

⑤ Upper Desolation Canyon (see p. 13)

Save the Date!  
2006 SUWA Roundup, October 6-8  
(See page 20)

“The Utah deserts and plateaus and canyons are not a country of big returns, but a country of spiritual healing, incomparable for contemplation, meditation, solitude, quiet, awe, peace of mind and body. We were born of wilderness, and we respond to it more than we sometimes realize. We depend upon it increasingly for relief from the termite life we have created. Factories, power plants, resorts, we can make anywhere. Wilderness, once we have given it up, is beyond our reconstruction.”

- Wallace Stegner



*Blooming claret cup cactus.*

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alliance

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