

REDROCK

W I L D E R N E S S

The Newsletter of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
Volume 24, Number 2 • Summer 2007

Utah's Cowboy Caucus

Cover Photo: Sunlight illuminates an intriguing slot canyon in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.
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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.

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This issue of *Redrock Wilderness* was written by the following staff and outside contributors: Justin Allegro, Steve Bloch, Ray Bloxham, Barry Bonifas, Clayton Daughenbaugh, Scott Groene, Diane Kelly, Darrell Knuffke, Heidi McIntosh, Richard Peterson-Cremer, Bill Raleigh, Deeda Seed, Liz Thomas, and Anne Williams. It was edited by Darrell Knuffke and laid out by Diane Kelly.

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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.

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**Moving? Please send your change of address to:
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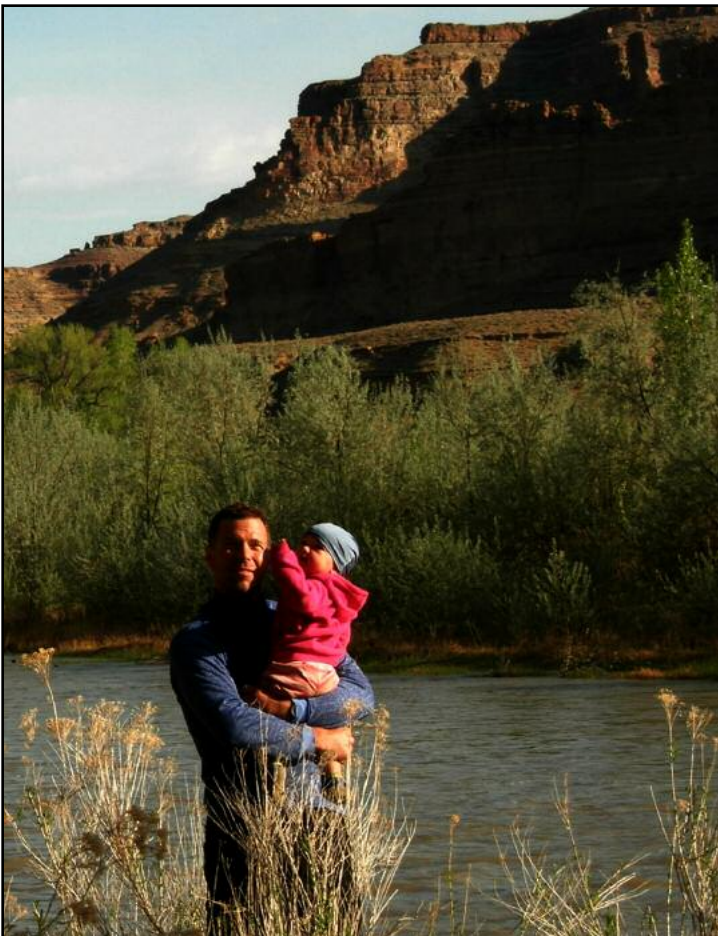
wilderness notes

Coming Home, When Home Has Changed

Christy and I just packed up our two little girls and moved from Salt Lake City back to Moab. With the blessing of the SUWA Board, I've traded my office view of the Wasatch Mountains for one of the Navajo sandstone domes that frame the Moab Valley. Much has changed since I left here a decade ago. Some of it is surprisingly good: for example, a new urban trail system and an award-winning library.

On the less welcome side of the ledger, there's also been a jarring increase in visitation, especially motorized. Places that were free of motors a decade ago are now noisy as ATV riders and dirt bikers push further into the backcountry.

One of my new officemates, SUWA's Moab attorney Liz Thomas, just returned from a trip to a nearby Green River tributary. She'd been with some archaeologists that had discovered a 5,000-year-old mammoth hunter site. As they were leaving the discovery, one of them discounted Liz's concern for possible ORV damage, noting that the site is on a bench above the canyon floor, protected from above by a series of steep slickrock ledges and slopes. Inaccessible. Then they heard dirt bikes. The first rider appeared, clad in plastic Star Wars storm trooper protection. He skidded down the slope and missed the site by feet. Soon, over a dozen riders were down, a few tearing donuts in the turf as they descended. They were so absorbed they failed to notice Liz and the archaeologists watching from a scant 20 yards away.



Scott and his oldest daughter, Maggie, on the banks of the White River.

We've accomplished much to protect the Redrock, but around Moab riders in growing numbers take a new breed of expensive motorized toys to canyons and mesas until recently untouched by machines. In the face of the exploding machine numbers and in the face of more and more alarming information about the severity of the damage they cause, the need to permanently protect the Redrock grows more urgent. The primary political obstacle to balanced and rational land management remains a handful of local politicians. Our lead article will introduce you to a few of these characters, and explain how they work to block wilderness protection.

There is no denying Moab is a noisier and more crowded place than the Moab I first visited 30 years ago. Many of you have also witnessed the transformation. But there is still wonderful backcountry around here that deserves protection and remains worth visiting. If you are in Moab and have time to discuss SUWA's work please give me a call: (435) 259-7049.

For the Redrock,

Scott Groene
Executive Director

features

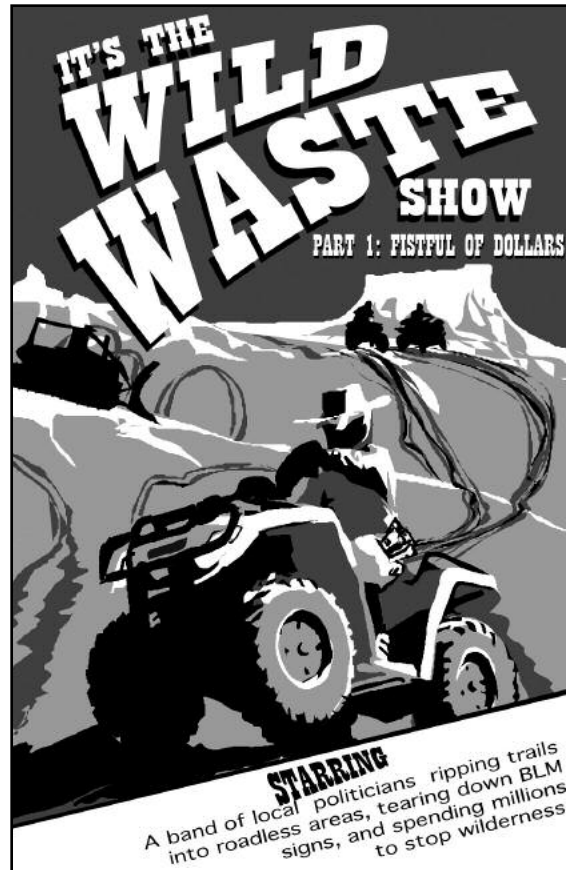
The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Utah's Cowboy Caucus Rides On

Tell you about Utah? Happy to, but which one? Yes, there are several. There's the physical Utah, spectacular beyond description: it's the Big Country, the Wild West. It's a place of redrock, endless vistas of scoured canyons, sheer 1,000-foot walls of salmon-hued sandstone cliffs, sinuous slot canyons like Spooky and Little Wild Horse. It's a place of plateaus like Cedar Mesa, carpeted with pinyon-juniper forests that shelter the centuries-old remnants of Puebloan cultures, where the cascading notes of the canyon wren at dusk call to mind water pouring over the cliffs.

There's also the public Utah. In this Utah, the evidence says Utahns value their state's natural beauty, and well they should. Tourism, after all, brings in over \$4 billion a year in revenue. And to keep it flowing, the state spends \$11 million annually to promote tourism and business relocation in Utah, with the coast-to-coast distribution of glossy representations of Utah's remarkable parks and other wild places. This is a Utah where the state takes pride in being a place where quality of life is unmatched. It goes with the license plates that proudly feature Delicate Arch, the quintessential symbol of the redrock desert.

Utahns genuinely care about this stuff. In a 2005 poll by Dan Jones & Associates, a Salt Lake City polling firm, a solid majority of Utahns said that "protecting Utah's wilderness lands should be a high priority for Governor (Jon) Huntsman," with 65 percent giving it a priority rating of 4 or 5 on a 1 to 5 scale and 87 percent a rating of 3 or higher. (By that same percentage, Utahns also responded that "there are some public lands where motorized access should not be permitted.")

Then there's another facet of Utah which has spent over \$20 million in public money attempting to establish thousands of miles of rough, abandoned trails as "highways" under a beat-up 19th Century law. It's a Utah where the point man for public lands loudly disparaged wilderness in the local press, where elected county officials tear down BLM signs meant to protect areas from off-road vehicle (ORV) damage, and buy graders to rip



Art by Laurel Hagen

trails in roadless areas. And it's a Utah which filed a "friend of the court" challenge to the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument—seven years after an earlier governor settled his suit against the monument with a massive land exchange bill that netted \$50 million for the state school trust fund.

For citizens advocating for wilderness or other public land protection, that brand of Utah is a continuing challenge to protecting the spectacular places we cherish—no matter what the tourism posters and the public opinion polls say. This is the Utah that throws its weight around like a 500-pound bear in the dance hall. State government in Utah has quietly deferred to a handful of county officials on its public lands policies—with a wink,

features

“The Wild Bunch is a 1969 English language western film directed by Sam Peckinpah in which an aging group of outlaws hope to have one final score while the West is turning into a modern society.”

–Wikipedia entry

a nudge, and sacks full of public money to pursue an agenda that runs counter to the public’s strong conservation ethic.

Political cults, like others, need a creation story, and this bunch has one. That tale depicts a jack-booted, heavy-handed federal government, spurred on by environmentalists who, in turn, are bankrolled by eastern rich people dead set on destroying a hallowed way of life for who-knows-what selfish yuppie reasons. If Utah’s rogue politicians didn’t cast themselves as rebels with a serious, even sacred, cause they’d have to confront the reality that they are simply shrugging away federal laws they don’t happen to like or agree with. In doing so, they attack and disparage the very values that make Utah the wondrous place that it is, the special place that brings in the bucks, inspires awe in all who visit, and provides a last refuge for those seeking solitude, quiet, and peace.

A few examples . . .

Lynn Stevens: The Man of Many Hats

Lynn Stevens notified the governor in April that he would resign effective June 1 from his post as the Governor’s Public Lands Policy Coordinator. For the two years just past, he held that job, served (and still serves) as a San Juan County Commissioner, and in that position serves as a member of the Utah Association of Counties’ (UAC) natural resources steering committee.

Wearing all three big hats, Stevens wove common threads through all those roles, some of them clear conflicts of interest by any reasonable definition. Those threads are his hostility towards wilderness, his resentment of federal jurisdiction over public lands, and a fervor for a network of roads spreading far and wide across the land (and, in the metastatic process, disqualifying much of it as wilderness).

A primer: The Public Lands Policy Coordination Office (PLPCO) was created in 2005, ostensibly to coordinate the public lands policies of the State of

Utah. Stevens was, until so recently that his chair is still warm, the coordinator of that office. The governor appointed him shortly after the office was created (and about a year after Stevens led a Jeep Jamboree into Arch Canyon in San Juan County, despite the BLM’s refusal to grant a permit for the event). Since its creation, PLPCO has focused like a laser on the identification of still-secret RS 2477 claims, at a cost of millions of dollars of public money. (Secret highways, you ask? Yup. The state still claims that information on these public highways is privileged, known only to the lawyers and sometimes the counties. Lawsuits to pry open this process are in progress.)

The San Juan County Commission is, well, the San Juan County Commission. And the Utah Association of Counties is supposed to be essentially a coalition of counties all across the state brought together to promote their mutual, shared interests. Except that some rural counties have hog-tied UAC and pursued all sorts of schemes in its name.

Lynn Stevens sits on the UAC committee that oversees this work, which includes aggressively pushing a platform of RS 2477 highways that spread across the land like a bowl of spaghetti, western style. Or crafting model letters for counties to mail to the BLM, telling them to take their wilderness and shove it. Or mine it. Or drill it. Just don’t preserve it, because that would be against the law. (It’s not, but more on that later.)

Given his interlocking roles, it’s difficult to tell which hat Stevens is wearing at any given moment—or when conflicting interests arise. For example, Utah law gives PLPCO the authority to award grants to counties for the pursuit of RS 2477 claims. And on June 5, 2006, Stevens, wearing all three hats at once, sent a memo to all 29 county commissions, noting that at a recent UAC conference he “informed the counties that the Public Lands Policy Coordination Office would pay up to \$10,000 to reimburse each county” for efforts to rustle up RS 2477 road claims. He wrote, “we encourage you to strike while the iron is hot.”

features

Not one to disregard his own good advice and the prospect of some state government gelt, Stevens went home to his own San Juan County, where he put the wheels in motion. On June 19, he stated in a commission meeting that the county's application to PLPCO was due at the end of the month and that the county could get \$10,000 for the work. Three weeks later, the July 10 commission meeting minutes noted that PLPCO had granted the county the ten large. A week later, Commissioner Stevens noted that some sister counties had not taken advantage of the funding so San Juan County might be able to sop up even more public money.

The San Juan County Commission meeting minutes also document repeated discussions disparaging roadless area protection in the ongoing planning for the nearby Manti-La Sal National Forest, and that Stevens promised to take San Juan County's objections straight to the governor. Often, he directed the county planner to contact staff in PLPCO's office for assistance—the very staff that worked for Lynn Stevens in his PLPCO position. Whether these staff people responded to the county as one among 29 equal county brethren or whether they jumped to respond to a boss they refer to internally as “The General,” is anyone's guess.

Nowhere are these conflicts more obvious than in Arch Canyon, where a scenic, winding canyon harbors both a rare riparian area and a wealth of archaeological sites the BLM has yet to inventory. Here, in 2004, the BLM refused to grant a permit for an event known as the Jeep Jamboree because of the lack of environmental studies and potential for impacts to sensitive fish species. No matter. In the end, Stevens was in the lead Jeep, heading up a line of vehicles all the way into the canyon, right past television cameras and BLM rangers who stood by dutifully and watched. The rationale



SUWA photo

San Juan County Commissioner Lynn Stevens is caught on video as he leads a caravan of jeeps illegally up Arch Canyon in 2004. The BLM had denied the group a permit due to a lack of environmental study and potential impacts to sensitive fish species.

for the illegal trip? Why, it's an RS 2477 right-of-way. Repercussions? Nope. A year later, Stevens was the chief of PLPCO.

Late last year, after SUWA, Utah Navajos, and others filed a petition asking the BLM to protect Arch Canyon from vehicles, Stevens erupted in a fit of fury at a county commission meeting. What business, he demanded, did the Navajo have in Arch Canyon and San Juan County's dealings there, anyway? The target of the attack was County Commissioner Kenneth Maryboy, himself a Navajo. His tribe has ties to the canyon reaching back hundreds of years.

(continued next page)

“It seems to us that the person designated to act as a liaison among the state, the counties and federal land management agencies should be able to do so with some objectivity, with some interest in protecting public lands as well as maintaining appropriate multiple uses. Stevens' public lands views are rigidly anti-environmental and anti-federal.”

—Salt Lake Tribune editorial, June 1, 2007

features

The Kane Mutiny

Lying long and skinny against the Arizona border, Kane County includes jaw-dropping scenic wonders and thousands of acres of proposed wilderness. About half of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument lies within its borders, as well as Paria-Hackberry and Parunuweap Canyons, Moquith Mountain, the Vermilion Cliffs, the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and a thin slice of Zion National Park. With a total of about 4,000 square miles and 6,000 residents, there's plenty of elbow room—about 2/3 of a square mile per resident.

Here, “wilderness” is a trigger-point for heated debate. It's an old West where waitresses at a local eatery, “Houston's,” still wear six-shooters as they lug plates mounded with eggs, bacon, and pancakes to hungry visitors and locals alike. (“Hey, our waitress has a gun!”)

In the 1990s, as the battle over the Andalex coal mine loomed over the Kaiparowits Plateau, the town council passed a resolution declaring all SUWA and the Grand Canyon Trust members and

“Tourism and related outdoor recreational opportunities are the lifeblood of Southern Utah because they provide each household with \$550 in tax relief each year. It keeps people employed and sustains many of the area's ‘mom and pop’ businesses.”

**—St. George Spectrum
editorial, May 23, 2007**

staff *persona non grata*—not welcome in the community. (Hey, are those six-shooters loaded???)

But things have changed. Many of the aforementioned personae drive the Kane County economy with the money they spend there. Increasingly, Kane County and Kanab have become meccas for tourists and retirees drawn not by the opportunities for ranching or mining jobs but by the beauty of the land, and the peace and quiet they find

there. One BLM study cited in the *Deseret News* concluded that visitors to the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument generated about \$88 million in revenues in southern Utah. In 2005, Kane County's accommodation and food services sector was the largest of 20 major economic sectors studied. Per capita income in the county grew by an astounding 31.6 percent between 1995 (one year before the monument was created) and 2005.

Determined to throttle the infernal goose that lays all those golden eggs on the county doorstep, Kane County commissioners have ignored their moderate constituents and have been busily devising ways to undermine protection for their neighboring national monument, the Grand Staircase-Escalante. In 2003, newly-elected commissioner and former Nevada lawman Mark Habbeshaw led a posse of county officials on a sign-hunting trip throughout the monument. By sundown, they had bagged 31 BLM signs posted to close routes to ORV use in an effort to protect sensitive plants, soils, wildlife, and traditional, quieter forms of recreation. They then deposited the booty at the offices of the monument visitor center where federal agents locked the signs up as “evidence.”

Later, this same posse led their own sign-posting sortie in the monument, planting Kane County signs inviting ORV use in exactly the same places the BLM had banned them. These signs bore county road numbers and a decal with a miniature rider on an ATV; these were, the county cried, all highways under RS 2477. Then for good measure, the county passed an ordinance that specifically allowed ATVs on all the county roads—like the tracks with the signs on them.



© Tom Miller

Local economies have shown marked growth since the establishment of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in 1996.

f e a t u r e s

Where are these new “highways” anyway?

- In the Paria River Canyon west of the Cockscomb, and the Dry Fork of Coyote Canyon along the Hole-in-the-Rock Road in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, where the county claims that hundreds of miles of canyons, streambeds, cow paths and hiking trails should be open to ORV use.
- In Bryce Canyon National Park, where Kane County claims that portions of the scenic Under-the-Rim hiking trail and the Riggs Spring hiking trail are open to dirt bike and other ORV use.
- In Zion National Park, Utah's oldest, where the county claims the eastern 5 miles of the East Rim foot and equestrian trail as a “constructed highway” that should be open to dirt bike and ORV use. The National Park Service bans such vehicle use on this trail and has for decades. The world-famous East Rim Trail includes some of the Park’s most dramatic scenery.
- In Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, where Kane County claims hundreds of miles of river corridors and desert footpaths as routes for dirt bikes and ORVs. Use of such vehicles is prohibited in Glen Canyon and has been for decades.

The county’s vigilantism didn’t go unnoticed, by golly. It triggered a stern letter from then-BLM state director Sally Wisely:

These signs have been placed without proper authorization and most are in conflict with current management plans and direction. I am very concerned that such actions, which result in conflicting management directives, may likely present serious safety issues to members of the public, possibly subject them to legal exposure, and cause resource damage.



© Lin Alder (www.alderphoto.com)

A hiking trail in Bryce Canyon National Park that Kane County claims as an RS 2477 “highway.”

. . . we request that the county immediately refrain from removing BLM signs from, or placing County road signs on, public land administered by the BLM. Further, the County must immediately remove the signs that it has placed on such lands.

Please be aware that in the event the County fails to take these steps within two weeks of receipt of this letter, the BLM is prepared to initiate appropriate legal action against the County. (Letter to Kane County Commissioner, 4/26/05)

Two weeks go by. Nothing. Six months go by. Nothing. The county sits smugly pat, oozing disdain. And the BLM . . . rolls over like a well-trained lap dog.

(continued next page)

“Why has the BLM allowed the present violation of federal law to continue while it is clear that the BLM has the authority to issue trespass violations in an effort to rectify the on-the-ground trespass situation?”

–Letter from Sen. Richard Durbin to Asst. Interior Secretary Rebecca Watson, July 27, 2005.

features

In October 2005, SUWA and The Wilderness Society finally sued the county, claiming that its actions conflicted with federal law, in violation of the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution. And after the U.S. District Court ruled that the county could not simply place road signs without a shred of evidence that their highway claims were legitimate, the county rescinded its ordinance. As it did so, it believed (erroneously) that it had an ace in the hole at the Utah Legislature.

On February 7, 2007, Mike Noel, former BLM staffer responsible for the Andalex permit processing, current day sagebrush rebel, and Utah state representative, introduced HB 425, a bill that would allow ATVs on all highways of the State of Utah. The image this bill evoked was one of teenagers riding ATVs through neighborhoods and into soon-to-be wrecked foothills, and ATVs running cheek-by-jowl with 18-wheelers on highways like 191 to Moab, or 24 south of Factory Butte.

But others were well aware that “highways” could include all those Class D trails that Noel’s home county was doing battle over in the monument. Suddenly, a way opened to shift Kane County’s legal costs to innocent Utah taxpayers who’d now not only be stuck with a ludicrous and dangerous state law, but would also be forced to defend the lawsuit in which the county had suffered some significant losses—both legal and financial.

After all, Kane County’s civil war against federal lands is already partly responsible for the county’s having to borrow a whopping \$2 million to meet its expenses. It was time to foist as much of the legal bill onto others as possible. This despite

Commissioner Habbeshaw’s bragging to the *Salt Lake City Weekly* newspaper that, “[w]e welcome any legal action against us because we see it as an opportunity for us to be vindicated by the law.”

Ultimately, at the stroke of midnight on Feb. 28, 2007, with HB 425 on the threshold of a vote, the legislative session ended and the computers on the Hill went down—along with HB 425.

How the West Was Spun...

This clan is quick to play the hapless victim, out-gunned by the newcomers with their lawyers and their wealthy backers in the East. That’s the mythology, anyway, and it’s pervasive in both the legislature and county governments.

But it just ain’t so. Kane County and its partners in the Utah Attorney General’s office have clambered into the ring more often than they admit. The UAC, the State of Utah, and Kane County have all launched so-far futile legal challenges to the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. Goaded by the UAC, Garfield and Wayne Counties have filed an unusual case challenging the BLM’s effort to protect Factory Butte from ORV damage—unusual because the counties are challenging a broader planning effort the BLM hasn’t even completed yet.

And don’t forget the nearly decade-old lawsuit the State of Utah and UAC brought to stop the BLM’s wilderness inventory (and which the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals threw out), and which they used in 2003 as a Trojan Horse for a “settlement” banning the creation of new wilderness study areas (pending in the 10th Circuit now). That last suit

Rep. Mike Noel is an experienced hand at shifting private burdens onto public shoulders. But this year, the legislature slashed by two-thirds his request for \$300,000 to fund litigation sympathetic to his anti-fed crusade. This money would bankroll litigation in which his own son-in-law challenged the sale of federal grazing permits to the Grand Canyon Trust. And earlier this year, a state court judge enjoined the county from spending any more public money for purely private litigation.

Noel was more successful in enacting legislation this year which created a fund for ORV education and litigation. Except that the bill was narrowly framed to ensure that only one organization qualified: the Utah Shared Access Alliance, a group that has filed lawsuits challenging nearly every BLM measure to curb ORV damage in the last half dozen years.

Outlaw Humor

Some ORV advocates in Wayne County, Utah (not the clean-cut family values types, apparently) are still pretty steamed about the BLM's decision to protect Utah's iconic Factory Butte landscape from widespread ORV damage (see Winter 2006-2007 issue, p. 5). Stan's Burger Shak in Hanksville, Utah advertises this oh-so-subtle t-shirt in a local newspaper with the proud statement: "We support USA-ALL [an ORV advocacy group] and Wayne County's efforts to put an end to the illegal closure of public lands."



locks the BLM into wilderness inventory mistakes made in the 1970s (at least for now).

And then there are the championship bouts of hyperbolic rhetoric. In 2005, Mark Ward, now UAC's policy analyst but working on RS 2477 for the Utah Attorney General at the time, compared his sign-rustling compatriots in Kane County to the human rights struggle fought by the Chinese students at Tiananmen Square.

The *Salt Lake Tribune* spoke for many Utahns when it referred to the comments as polarizing, silly and unhelpful. ("Incendiary Inanities," *Salt Lake Tribune*, July 19, 2005.) This is the same attorney who has used strong-arm tactics on the BLM. His threatening letters have included the ridiculous assertion that any management option discussed in the BLM's new plan revisions which preserve the land's magnificent natural beauty was illegal.

But Ward outdid himself in the ludicrous comparison throwdown when he likened the planned protective fencing to enforce the new Factory Butte ORV rules to . . . you won't believe it . . . Auschwitz. Yes, Auschwitz. Persecuted Jews likened to dirt bike riders having to live with a long-overdue measure of control—a measure they brought on themselves by irresponsible use. That kind of action speaks for itself and reveals an

astounding lack of sensitivity and perspective. While this wild bunch doesn't represent the majority view in Utah, where outdoor values really are a matter of civic pride and family history, this "cowboy caucus" is able to exercise a minority tyranny of sorts. They seek not only to undermine wilderness, but also to mau-mau the BLM and erode its very authority to protect and manage the public's lands.

But it's important to remember this: Like turtles on a fence post, they didn't get there by themselves. They got there because too many in Utah's government have turned a tolerant eye on these damaging policies and those who promote them.

Our homegrown wild bunch may seem destined for disappointment as they make a last quixotic stand for a West that is changing before their eyes. But don't count them out. Until a tougher sheriff rides into town—one inclined to call their behavior by its real name instead of just dismissing it as quaint—they'll continue to influence public lands issues in the Beehive State. 🐝

DC news

America's Red Rock Wilderness Act Reintroduced with Record Support

With record numbers of cosponsors, America's Red Rock Wilderness Act has been introduced in both the U.S. House and Senate. Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL) introduced the Senate version, S.1170, with 18 original cosponsors. Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) introduced the House version, H.R. 1919, with 123 original cosponsors, a number that has grown since introduction to 138.

The Red Rock bill seeks to permanently protect Utah's wild desert landscapes by designating more than nine million acres of public land as wilderness. New Senate supporters this Congress include Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Benjamin Cardin (D-MD), and Tom Harkin (D-IA).

We are extremely grateful to Rep. Hinchey and Sen. Durbin for their unwavering leadership on this important legislation. In introducing the Senate measure, Sen. Durbin said, "While I introduce this legislation to protect these lands, I come here today to carry on this effort on behalf of citizens across the country who hope to see these lands protected."

Please help us build on this support by urging your members of Congress to cosponsor America's Red

Rock Wilderness Act, or by thanking them if they already have. (See page 15 for contact information and a list of current cosponsors.)

—Richard Peterson-Cremer

Momentum Builds for a Red Rock Hearing

Now that Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) and Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL) have reintroduced America's Red Rock Wilderness Act, SUWA and our congressional champions are focused on the next important step in protecting Utah's redrock country: an in-depth congressional hearing on the legislation.

Though the bill to protect America's Red Rock Wilderness has been around for many years, it has never before had a formal committee hearing. Committee debate is an essential step in getting a bill through Congress. SUWA has worked diligently to ensure that this bill includes only lands that deserve protection under the strict standards of the 1964 Wilderness Act, and we are eager for the opportunity to formally debate its merits.

A hearing on the bill in the House or Senate also provides the perfect venue for the broad array of supporters, in Utah and nationally, to voice their strong support for the Red Rock bill. With so many, and so many different, people—business

Who's Cosponsoring America's Red Rock Wilderness Act?

Number of House full and subcommittee chairmanships Red Rock cosponsors hold: **71***

Number of Senate full and subcommittee chairmanships Red Rock cosponsors hold: **32***

Most Senate Red Rock cosponsors in a single Congress, 1996-2006: **17**

Number of Senate cosponsors in the 110th Congress: **18** (a record!)

Number of Republican House cosponsors in the 110th Congress: **6**

Number of freshman cosponsors in the House: **17**

(*Some cosponsors hold multiple committee or subcommittee chairmanships.)

DC news

owners, outfitters, hunters, anglers, tribal representatives, representatives of faith communities and wilderness advocates—in favor of protecting the redrock, the bill is long overdue a hearing.

Perhaps the most important reason for a congressional hearing is that the threats to redrock country have the potential to swell to a whole new level as the Bush Administration barrels towards its conclusion. Its long history of anti-wilderness policies—increased oil and gas leasing and drilling, a refusal to manage off-road vehicle abuse, and the sympathetic ear it has offered extremist county governments that advocate privatization of our public lands—is likely to continue. A hearing in Congress that supports protection and draws attention to the threats these lands face can serve as a strong disincentive against anti-wilderness policies from this lame-duck administration and among the career land managers who will remain long after it has gone.

We are optimistic that this 110th Congress will hold the first-ever congressional hearing on America's Red Rock Wilderness Act.

—Justin Allegro

Activists Kick Off Cosponsor Drive in Washington, DC

The work that the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance and its allies do in Congress is effective only because of the commitment of wilderness activists across the country. That is never clearer than during Wilderness Week.

At least once a year, many of these volunteers journey to the Nation's Capital to advocate for the protection of their favorite places during the Utah Wilderness Coalition's Wilderness Week. The teams coordinate their own congressional appointments, a process that can occupy a fair amount of time in the weeks leading up to the event. Members of Congress and their staffs are busy, so the actual meetings are often brief. But each has the potential to move America's Red Rock Wilderness Act one vote closer to becoming law.

This year a diverse and talented group of 48 wild folks came to town, setting aside their personal and professional lives for five days to talk to their own representatives and to visit other offices represent-



Aron Ralston (author of "Between a Rock and a Hard Place"), Suzanne Jones of The Wilderness Society, and Pete Downing of SUWA meet with Utah wilderness champion Rep. Maurice Hinchey (center) and his Legislative Assistant, Anne Georges (far left), during Wilderness Week 2007.

"Throughout Utah and the rest of the country there is great citizen support for the permanent protection of these spectacular places. But only the U.S. Congress can enact the will of the people and designate wilderness."

—Aron Ralston (author and Wilderness Week participant)
Salt Lake Tribune Op-Ed, April 19, 2007

ing their states or regions. In all, activists met with 200 offices to educate legislators and their staff about the threats to Utah's wild lands and to seek their support for America's Red Rock Wilderness Act.

It is always exciting to see what dedicated citizens can accomplish in Washington: by the end of the week, 85 House members had pledged to cosponsor the bill. Several of our activists came back with entertaining accounts of meetings with new staff members who were unsure of the office's position, only to encounter the representative who didn't hesitate to sign on to the bill.

We thank all of those who came to DC to lobby as well as our partners in the Utah Wilderness Coalition for making this event successful. We look forward to building on the relationships we made over the week. Utah wilderness will be stronger because of them!

—Richard Peterson-Cremer & Bill Raleigh

DC news

Midwesterners Unite for Wild Utah

Trivia question: When John Wesley Powell first rowed down the Green and Colorado Rivers, on whose behalf was he traveling?

Answer: the Illinois Natural History Society.

There from the beginning, Midwesterners are working hard to maintain the region's longstanding interest in the redrock wilderness. Thousands of people from the region travel to enjoy the solitude of Utah's wild lands every year, and it holds a special place in many hearts. Interest is growing as a result of 42 slideshow presentations we've made to over 1,400 people during the past year.

The results are impressive. The Midwest is responsible for 20 percent of the original cosponsors of America's Red Rock Wilderness Act in the House of Representatives and 5 of the record 18 original cosponsors in the U.S. Senate where the lead sponsor is Sen. Richard Durbin of Illinois. The 500-participant strong Illinois Task Force for Utah Wilderness deserves much of the credit.

With Ron Schell of Madison at the helm, the newly formed Wisconsin Friends for Utah Wilderness is making its own presentations, providing public appreciation for the long-standing support of Sen. Russ Feingold, and generally raising the profile of the redrock country with the rest of the Wisconsin delegation. Carol Izant and Patrick Dengate of Michigan have similarly revived Michigan Friends of Utah Wilderness.

The expanding volunteer corps was well represented at Wilderness Week in Washington, DC, in March. Among those making the trip were Anne McKibbin of Illinois, Diana Lawrence and Ron Schell of Wisconsin, George Malis of Indiana, Ginnell Schiller of Ohio, Joshua Houdek of Minnesota, and Carol Izant of Michigan.

A unique feature of the redrock support in the heartland is activity from the faith community. Most prominent is the creation of a new support group, Illinois Clergy and Laity for Utah Wilderness, which helped secure Illinois Sen. Barack Obama's opposition to the Washington County Growth and Conservation Act in the last Congress. The group also met with Senator Obama's "downstate" staff director and sent a letter signed by 50 people in a continuing effort to gain his cosponsorship of the Red Rock bill. Members of the First Unitarian Society of Madison have been instrumental in starting a similar group in Wisconsin. And when Rep. Dan Lipinski of Illinois expressed some hesitation at renewing his cosponsorship for the legislation, members of Wesley United Methodist in Cicero and First United Methodist in LaGrange sprang into action with calls and letters to his office. They were successful: the congressman renewed his cosponsorship in early May.

—Clayton Daughenbaugh

Rep. Hinchey Blasts BLM for Leasing Wilderness

Early in the new Congress, SUWA staff in DC began working with Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-NY), lead sponsor of America's Red Rock Wilderness Act, to focus attention on the explosion of oil and gas exploration on wilderness-quality lands in Utah and around the West. Rep. Hinchey's seats on the Natural Resources Committee and on the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee position him well to scrutinize the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) agenda for our public lands.

In early March, Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne was scheduled to defend the administration's budget proposal for fiscal year 2008, including proposals to sell public lands to pay down the national debt. That gave Hinchey a chance to raise some Utah-specific issues in the committee, the chair of which is Rep. Norm Dicks (D-WA).

Hinchey tore into the BLM's "drill first, think later" approach to land stewardship in Utah. He cited several examples of unnecessary lease sales in proposed wilderness, including the Desolation Canyon, Book Cliffs, and White River Wilderness Inventory Areas. "The Bush Administration is rushing to issue leases for wilderness-quality land in Utah as part of an effort to help its close friends in the oil and gas industry," Hinchey said. "Energy companies fully realize they may never have another administration as friendly to them as the Bush Administration and as a result they are leasing this land now so they can have it later. Unfortunately, the American people are paying the price for these leases."

Hinchey later sent a letter to the Interior Department asking for a moratorium on new leases on any lands included in the Red Rock bill. He noted the ratio of acres under lease in Utah to those actually in production—about 4 to 1. We are grateful to Rep. Hinchey for bringing this issue to the attention of his fellow committee members. They took great interest in it and some raised the issues in later hearings with other Interior and BLM officials.

—Richard Peterson-Cremer

**H.R. 1919, Sponsored by
Rep. Maurice Hinchey
(D-NY22)
138 House Cosponsors**

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Lucille Roybal-Allard, D-34
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Jane Harman, D-36
Grace F. Napolitano, D-38
Linda T. Sanchez, D-39
Loretta Sanchez, D-47
Bob Filner, D-51
Susan A. Davis, D-53

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Mark Udall, D-02
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Joseph Courtney, D-02
Rosa DeLauro, D-03
Christopher Shays, R-04
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District of Columbia

Eleanor Holmes Norton, D-DC

Florida

Corrine Brown, D-03
Robert Wexler, D-19
Alcee Hastings, D-23

Georgia

Hank Johnson, D-04
John Lewis, D-05

**America's Red Rock Wilderness Act
Cosponsors in the 110th Congress**

(as of June 15, 2007)

Jim Marshall, D-08
David Scott, D-13

Hawaii

Mazie Hirono, D-02

Illinois

Bobby L. Rush D-01
Jesse L. Jackson Jr., D-02
Daniel Lipinski, D-03
Luis V. Gutierrez, D-04
Rahm I. Emanuel, D-05
Danny Davis, D-07
Janice D. Schakowsky, D-09
Mark Steven Kirk, R-10
Jerry F. Costello, D-12
Judy Biggert, R-13
Phil Hare, D-17
Ray LaHood, R-18

Indiana

Julia Carson, D-07

Kentucky

John Yarmuth, D-03

Louisiana

William Jefferson, D-02

Maine

Thomas Allen, D-01

Maryland

Albert Russell Wynn, D-04
Elijah E. Cummings, D-07
Chris Van Hollen, D-08

Massachusetts

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Richard E. Neal, D-02
James P. McGovern, D-03
Barney Frank, D-04
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
Keith Ellison, D-05

Missouri

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

Nevada

Shelley Berkley, D-01

New Jersey

Frank LoBiondo, R-02
Christopher H. Smith, R-04
Frank Pallone, D-06
Bill Pascrell, D-08
Donald M. Payne, D-10
Rush D. Holt, D-12
Albio Sires, D-13

New Mexico

Tom Udall, D-03

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Gregory W. Meeks, D-06
Joseph Crowley, D-07
Jerrold Nadler, D-08
Anthony D. Weiner, D-09
Edolphus Towns, D-10
Carolyn B. Maloney, D-14
Charles B. Rangel, D-15
Jose E. Serrano, D-16
Eliot L. Engel, D-17
John Hall, D-19
Michael R. McNulty, D-21
Brian Higgins, D-27
Louise McIntosh Slaughter, D-28

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David Price, D-04
Brad Miller, D-13

Ohio

Marcy Kaptur, D-09
Dennis J. Kucinich, D-10
Betty Sutton, D-13

Oregon

David Wu, D-01
Earl Blumenauer, D-03
Peter DeFazio, D-04
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Pennsylvania

Allyson Schwartz, D-13
Mike Doyle, D-14

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South Carolina

John Spratt, D-05

Tennessee

Stephen Cohen, D-09

Texas

Al Green, D-09
Sheila Jackson-Lee, D-18
Charles A. Gonzalez, D-20
Lloyd Doggett, D-25
Gene Green, D-29
Eddie Bernice Johnson, D-30

Virginia

James Moran, D-08

Virgin Islands

Donna Christensen, D-VI

Washington

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Brian Baird, D-03
Norm Dicks, D-06
Jim McDermott, D-07
Adam Smith, D-09

Wisconsin

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

**S. 1170, Sponsored by
Sen. Richard Durbin (D-IL)
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Joseph Lieberman, D-CT
Evan Bayh, D-IN
Tom Harkin, D-IA
Benjamin Cardin, D-MD
Edward Kennedy, D-MA
John Kerry, D-MA
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Frank Lautenberg, D-NJ
Robert Menendez, D-NJ
Charles Schumer, D-NY
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Sherrod Brown, D-OH
Jack Reed, D-RI
Sheldon Whitehouse, D-RI
Patrick Leahy, D-VT
Maria Cantwell, D-WA
Russell Feingold, D-WI

**Ask Your Members of Congress to
Cosponsor America's Red Rock
Wilderness Act!**

To find out who your elected officials are,
go to www.congress.org

Call: (202) 224-3121 and ask to be connected to the appropriate office
or **Write to:**

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

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

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BLM Decides to Increase ORV Use in Arch Canyon County's One Vote Trumps Native Americans and 24,000 Citizen Comments

This spring, the Monticello BLM office backed down from its dreadful proposal to approve eight off-road vehicle (ORV) events in southeast Utah's Arch Canyon, limiting its approval to two events. That is precisely two too many. The decision was neither benign nor non-controversial.

The agency scrubbed its plan to set in place a five-year approval that would have increased motorized use in Arch Canyon by 400 percent. Whether that mega-scheme was simply a diversion so the resultant permit would seem inconsequential by comparison is hard to know, but easy to suspect. The agency issued its scaled-down, but still plenty destructive, decision over the objections of the Hopi Tribe, the Utah Navajo Commission, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, independent archaeologists, biologists and riparian experts, and 24,000 citizens from around the country.

The Hopi Tribe expressed concern that ORV events would "adversely affect the identified and unidentified cultural resources significant to the Hopi Tribe" and noted that the BLM "appeared driven by a timetable of accommodation allowing minimal [cultural and environmental] review."

The National Trust for Historic Preservation asked that the BLM not allow ORV events in Arch Canyon until the agency completes comprehensive cultural resource inventories of the canyon. (To date, less than a quarter of the estimated 100 sites have been recorded.) The trust also asked the agency not to okay ORV events until it assesses the potential impacts to cultural resources from increased ORV use. That curious notion—weighing impacts before making a decision—seems alien to the BLM.

Mark Maryboy, a former Navajo Nation councilman, noted, "The BLM has ignored the Utah Navajos' concerns for lands and resources that have important cultural and traditional values. Preservation of this canyon and the surrounding area is important to our cultural and spiritual values."

The BLM's decision will allow up to 12,000 vehicle crossings of Arch Creek. They will increase soil erosion and sedimentation, and potentially impact the three native fish species that live in Arch Canyon, one of which the State of Utah lists as a sensitive species.

SUWA obtained documents indicating that a San Juan County commissioner was coordinating with the BLM well before the decision was announced to make sure that one event, the Jeep Jamboree, would go off as planned. Although besieged with citizens' comments voicing concern over significant damage to the natural and cultural resources in Arch Canyon, the BLM issued its scaled-down decision one day before the controversial Jeep Jamboree, sponsored by the DaimlerChrysler Corporation, got underway. It is not cynical, merely observant, to think that such timing smells suspiciously like a pre-determined decision.

Several sign-waving protesters were on hand during the Jeep Jamboree, suggesting to participants that driving vehicles in a creek and in a canyon with irreplaceable cultural resources is not a terribly wholesome recreational pursuit.

—Liz Thomas



Photo by Liz Thomas

Protesters hold signs along the Jeep Jamboree route as drivers make their way up Arch Canyon.

canyon country updates

Tenmile Canyon: Moab BLM's Dirty Little Secret

Tenmile Canyon winds its way through layers of Navajo sandstone until it reaches the Green River in Labyrinth Canyon. Its spring-fed stream, meandering through expansive cottonwood galleries, is an oasis in Utah's hot desert landscape. If this place touches us, it was appealing to ancient civilizations, too. Evidence of their presence is there in fascinating rock art displays and numerous cultural sites dating back as far as 5,000 years.

Although Tenmile enjoyed relative obscurity for eons after the mammoth hunters left, the canyon's seclusion, and the tranquility that came with it, suddenly vanished in the mid-1990s. That's when the Moab office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) decided to surrender this spectacular canyon to dirt bike and ATV events.

Those early and stunningly ill-considered decisions were the beginning of the end for idyllic Tenmile Canyon. Today, gangs of riders kitted out in full-body armor race full-throttle up and down the canyon, charging cross-country up to the rims, forging new trails up side canyons. It has become a moto-cross obstacle course, and not merely with the BLM's acquiescence but with its active encouragement.



Photo by Liz Thomas

Thanks to the BLM, once serene Tenmile Canyon is now overrun by ORVs.

You or I might have sought Tenmile, once, for its peace and quiet, for its links to earlier people, before all those values were surrendered to dirt bikes. Neither peace nor quiet can survive the bikers' onslaught and those are not the reasons they come. Something else brings them. Hundreds of first-person observations identify it pretty clearly. Riders approach Tenmile as a racecourse to be mastered, just another Oscar Mayer venue for hot-doggers. And the riders count coup, telling and retelling the racing and mud-bog stories on websites, complete with boasting photos of wrecked stream banks and newly pioneered routes in virgin territory. It is an odd way to keep score, this I-ravaged-more-than-you-did accounting system, but it's the one that operates among such people.

If the riders are fully armored lest they get an owie during their rampage, the canyon is defenseless. The once-lush floodplain has disappeared under the scars of innumerable deep ATV and dirt bike ruts. The stream is no longer a healthy, functioning riparian area. Archaeological sites have been looted and vandalized—pretty much the result you'd expect when a wild place is reduced to a motorized arena.

(continued next page)



Above: a dirt biker in Tenmile Canyon. Right: Severe erosion caused by ORV ruts channelling floodwaters. Photos by Liz Thomas.



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What about the ever-vigilant Moab BLM—you know, the agency that is duty-bound to manage public lands for all of us? Surely it is doing something about this travesty? You betcha! The BLM has placed dozens of helpful route signs up and down Tenmile, directing riders through the dozens of creek crossings, up to benches, through thick floodplain vegetation—in short, encouraging the carnage: Wanna tear up something irreplaceable? Just follow these signs!

Has the Moab BLM surveyed and documented the archaeological treasures in the canyon? Has the Moab BLM assessed the impacts of the ORV routes located in the stream?

You know the answer, of course: not a chance. How, without that fundamental information, can the BLM make a sensible decision about the wisdom of allowing hundreds of dirt bikes and ATVs—that's every week, mind you—to use this canyon as a moto-cross playground? The simple answer is that it had no intention of making a reasoned decision. The agency had already made its decision. It was in the nature of a foregone conclusion. The Moab BLM, after all, is the Ministry of Yes when it comes to destructive activities. Only when citizens seek resource protection does it become the Ministry of No, and in the blink of an eye.

How can the managers sleep at night knowing that they have personally presided over the destruction of this desert gem? Since we've heard of no surge in Sominex sales in Moab, the likely answer is that they sleep the sound sleep of the utterly unconcerned. It is only we who are kept awake mourning the loss of yet another desert jewel.

But ask the Moab BLM for yourself. We'll be interested to see what sort of creative answers you get, so please let us know. At a minimum, your query will remind the Moab BLM that Tenmile Canyon is neither out of sight nor out of mind and that sooner or later, the agency will be called to account for the destruction it has promoted in this once-splendid place.

—Liz Thomas

Send your letter to:

Moab BLM
Attention: Russ von Koch
82 East Dogwood
Moab, UT 84532

Email: Russ_von_Koch@blm.gov

BLM Plans to Resurrect Expired Tar Sands Leases Monument, National Recreation Area, and Wilderness Study Areas at Risk

Under direction from the U.S. Interior Department, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has set the wheels in motion to reinstate expired oil and gas leases within the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, and two Wilderness Study Areas.

The purpose of the move isn't to allow the oil and gas development for which the leases were originally issued. It is to allow environmentally disastrous "tar sands" exploration and development. SUWA and other conservation groups filed a lawsuit in April challenging these decisions, arguing that the BLM's maneuver is illegal because the BLM's efforts to reinstate the leases were not undertaken before the leases expired more than a decade ago.

The history of the leases in question is confusing and points to decades of sloppy management decisions by the BLM. One thing is certain: the majority of the leases expired shortly after the applications were filed in 1982-83; all expired by 1992.

In the early 1980s, the BLM received applications to convert conventional oil and gas leases to permit tar sands development and, in the mid-1980s, the agency prepared draft environmental impact statements to look at potential tar sands development in areas that today include much of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, and the Fiddler Butte and French Spring-Happy Canyon Wilderness Study Areas.

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Tar sands development would either involve strip mining large swaths of land, or an *in situ* variation of extraction such as underground fires. The BLM's own draft studies suggested that any level of tar sands development would bring significant, long-term environmental degradation to Utah's pristine environments and require tremendous water use and substantial infrastructure for on-site refining and processing.

As oil prices fell in the mid-1980s, the interest of the lessees/applicants waned (as did the BLM's) and the agency put these projects on the shelf for more than 20 years without finally adjudicating the underlying leases. In the meantime, the national—and natural—significance of these lands was recognized and they were formally protected from future development.

In a series of decisions issued in 2006-2007, the BLM breathed new life into these long-expired leases and many companies have taken the BLM up on this unexpected windfall to take a crack at developing the tar sands.

The plaintiffs in this litigation include SUWA, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the National Parks Conservation Association, The Wilderness Society, and the Grand Canyon Trust. Judge Dale Kimball will hear the case in federal district court in Salt Lake City.

—Steve Bloch

Who Calls the Shots in SE Utah? (Hint: Not the BLM)

Here's a quiz: Who is calling the shots on public lands in southeastern Utah, renowned for its abundance of archaeological resources, including the Cedar Mesa-Grand Gulch area with approximately 100 sites per square mile, and some of the widest expanses of remote, rugged, and roadless public lands in Utah? You get two guesses, and one of them doesn't count: The BLM, or San Juan County? Find the answer below.

Abdicating Management Responsibility

A few months ago, a "trail cat," a type of bulldozer, gouged a new off-road vehicle (ORV) trail down Lime Ridge, through an area the BLM had closed to motor vehicle use, and through an archaeological site. There was, of course, a clue: San Juan County owns the only trailcat in the neighborhood. It didn't take much sleuthing, then, to figure out who the culprit was. In fact, documents that SUWA obtained via a Freedom of Information Act request confirm that the BLM knew that the county bladed the new ORV route, and knew, too, that a former BLM employee was at the scene of the crime actually directing the trail cat work! Nevertheless, Monticello BLM has not taken any action against the county. Surprised yet?

(continued next page)

Denial Was Too Good to Be True; State Okays Lila Canyon Coal Mine

In our last issue we reported that the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGGM) had resisted pressure from industry and other branches of state government to approve a permit to mine coal at Lila Canyon. If it sounded too good to be true, that's because it was. On May 2, DOGGM notified UtahAmerican Energy, Inc. that its permit was approved.

SUWA has challenged DOGGM's decision before the Board of Oil, Gas and Mining; we fought (and won) an earlier battle to block coal mining at Lila Canyon in 2000—and hope to be successful again. One of our main complaints is that DOGGM—contrary to its own rules—has never required the company to monitor water quality and quantity within the mine permit area. Without this baseline data, DOGGM and other state and federal agencies won't have any idea about the impacts of coal mining to the springs, seeps, and ultimately to wildlife.

Our legal team includes pro-bono counsel Kathy Weinberg and David Churchill from the law firm of Jenner & Block, expert hydrologist Elliot Lips, and SUWA staff attorney Steve Bloch.

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Similarly, San Juan County used its trailcat to construct new roads across the Red Rock Plateau near Natural Bridges National Monument. When SUWA asked the BLM why neither an environmental assessment nor an archaeological clearance was completed before the road construction, the agency responded that San Juan County claims the newly bladed route as a county road, so the county does not “have to inform us of routine maintenance.”

Say what?! All it takes to lay greedy hands on someone else’s stuff is to holler, “Mine, all mine?” Now there’s a good lesson for the children in this land of family values. You wouldn’t know it from the BLM’s dereliction, but there are laws that are supposed to govern this sort of thing. The mere fact that San Juan County “claims” a route does not make it the county’s and certainly does not give the county a right to unilaterally construct a road on public lands. The BLM has taken no action against the county for destruction of public property. Disgusted yet?

In yet another instance, when a new, illegally constructed 30-mile-long ATV trail in Recapture Wash was discovered, the Monticello BLM office scurried to process a right-of-way application that San Juan County had submitted for the new trail. What it should have done was jump-start a criminal investigation of the illegal action. An after-the-fact archaeological survey found that the illegal trail passes directly through archaeological sites and impacts several, including the Recapture Great House. The survey also concluded that increased indirect impacts, including artifact loss, accidental feature damage, and looting, are the likely consequences of increased access to the sites. Sick to your stomach yet? So are we.

The BLM’s acquiescence in these illegal shenanigans merely emboldens the bully in the playground (that would be the owner of the big equipment) to dictate how public lands are managed. Who’s in charge? Ask the Monticello BLM office.

—Liz Thomas

Send your letter to:

Monticello BLM – Acting Manager
PO Box 7
Monticello, UT 84535

Email: Mail_UT-Monticello@ut.blm.gov

Price BLM: From Compliant to Downright Illegal

Over the years, the Price Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), which oversees much of the San Rafael Swell, Desolation Canyon, and the western half of Labyrinth Canyon, has been moving to rein in out-of-control off-road vehicles (ORV) that were causing such damage to the Swell.

The Price office produced one of the two route designation plans in Utah: the San Rafael Route Designation Plan, released in 2003. The agency finally provided the public with guidance as to which routes are open to motorized use, essentially eliminating the ORV free-for-all that was riding roughshod over the natural resources and scenic qualities in the area. Shortly after this plan was approved, the BLM began aggressively to manage for these provisions, putting signs on designated routes, reclaiming and marking closed routes, and steadily working to discourage illegal use and new routes once they were discovered.

Unfortunately, this has changed dramatically. Now the Price BLM staff is not only authorizing several illegal activities throughout the Swell, they are actually conducting much of this work themselves.

Motorized users recently established a new dirt bike trail. It runs within the San Rafael Reef wilderness inventory area and was not part of the agency’s list of designated routes. Then, when the BLM reprinted the map of designated San Rafael motorized routes, it added several additional routes, including the dirt bike trail. SUWA queried the BLM about this new route but the agency claimed that the addition of several miles of new single track trail was the result of a “mapping correction.”

The map has changed, no doubt about that. Whether it is “correct” is precisely the question. The route modifications do not comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). There was no public notice or participation in advance of the changes, apart from whatever cozy side conversations the agency had with local motorized users.

After SUWA went to Price and pressed the BLM for answers, agency personnel reluctantly admitted that the route in question was not a “mapping

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error” after all, and that motorized use on the route should end. That’s handy lip service but so far that’s all it is. The BLM has yet to discourage—never mind eliminate—continued motorized use along this illegally created route.

In October 2006, an impressive flood hit southern Utah, including the Swell. The flooding dramatically altered several “ways” (trails identified by the BLM) within the Sids Mountain Wilderness Study Area (WSA). While we don’t think any trails should be open to motorized use within a WSA to start with, it seems equally clear to us that when a natural event removes or alters them, the agency ought to embrace the opportunity to rectify an earlier mistake and eliminate the use. Obviously, the dirt bike community disagrees and the BLM seems eager to side with it.

The BLM authorized the use of a trail cat (a type of bulldozer) to rework or maintain the ways inside the WSA and BLM personnel, with the help of local volunteers from the dirt bike community, worked over several of the ways. Later, again after SUWA contacted the BLM about this illegal management and surface disturbing activity in a WSA, the agency admitted that it should have prepared an environmental assessment before the work was done.

Such unacceptable actions aren’t confined to these locations. In the northern part of the San Rafael Swell, decades of erosion naturally rehabilitated an old route. Local motorized users pressured the agency to re-open it. What to do, what to do?

Well, if you are the BLM, you fire up the trail cat again and get to work. When SUWA or someone else asks why in the hell you are running motorized repair equipment on a route that’s nearly impassable—and without bothering to inform the public—you retreat to the same fiction you always use: “[t]he maintenance of this road was done because it was considered a route that was deteriorating with the resulting danger to the resource values in the area.”

Resource values? What resource values? Wildlife, soils, wilderness qualities? Scarcely. We know the BLM cared little about those values before performing its handiwork here. But “resource values” are the all-purpose camouflage behind which the agency operates to do what the motorized recreation community wants it to do. For us, it is little but a tattered excuse that attempts to justify the unjustifiable . . . and probably the patently illegal.



Photo by Ray Bloxham

Once naturally rehabilitated, this route in the San Rafael Swell is now passable by motorized vehicles thanks to BLM “maintenance” work.

If you are concerned about these and other continued motorized abuses in the San Rafael Swell, contact the Price field office manager and let him know that activities like this are unacceptable. You might also make these points:

- Any surface disturbance from this work should be rehabilitated immediately.
- The BLM must comply with NEPA and provide the public an opportunity to comment on such proposals before the work is done.
- The BLM should immediately stop the use of trail cats anywhere on lands it manages.
- The Price field office needs to tackle WSA monitoring and the rehabilitation of non-designated routes throughout the Swell at least as enthusiastically as it struggles to accommodate motorized users via new and illegal routes.

—Ray Bloxham

Send your letter to:

Roger Bankert, Price Field Office Manager
125 South 600 West
Price, UT 84501

Email: rbankert@blm.gov

inside SUWA

DC Office Says Goodbye to Pete Downing

It would be a stretch to say that the last four years have been a good time to work with the Congress on environmental issues. But it's no stretch at all to say that throughout that difficult time, Pete Downing has been an absolute rock for Utah wilderness.

As SUWA's legislative director, Pete navigated the halls of a Congress hostile to wilderness protection. In the process, and of necessity, he developed innovative ways to fend off attacks on the land—and even led the passage of Utah's first BLM wilderness bill.

Pete is leaving SUWA to clerk for a judge in Washington, DC, this summer before taking the leap from part-time to full-time law student. He joined SUWA after working in the Senate for several years. He brought with him the perfect combination of humor, optimism, and professionalism. His leadership is a given. But more than anything else, Pete's calm spirit and jovial demeanor immediately endeared him to the SUWA staff and those he worked with in the Congress on Utah wilderness.

We knew from the start that Pete would represent SUWA well in DC: on his first long trip in the desert as a part of the staff, he rejected a silk-weight shirt for a crisp button-down. But he quickly proved himself to be a wilderness warrior on many other trips with the staff to southern Utah, and through his tenacious work to build record cosponsorship of America's Red Rock Wilderness



Pete Downing leaves SUWA to focus on law school.

Act and to pass the Cedar Mountains wilderness legislation. One of his lasting achievements will certainly be the vital role he played to stop, against strong odds, awful legislation undermining the Zion-Mojave wilderness in the last Congress. And he led the charge while taking nearly a full load of law school classes in the evening. That's a fair portrait of a superhero.

Washington can be a very tough place to work. People like Pete make it worlds better. Though we'll sorely miss him, we wish him the very best.



Legal Fellow to Stay One More Year

The SUWA staff is thrilled to announce that our "legal fellow" David Garbett has decided to stay one more year in the Salt Lake City office. David has a job waiting for him in New York City, but requested—and received—permission from his future employer to stay on longer with SUWA.

In his short tenure at SUWA David has made a tremendous impact in our legal and legislative campaigns and we're grateful that he's decided to continue his work defending the Redrock.

Upcoming Events

Utah Wilderness Day Celebration Set for Aug. 7

We've promised some great celebrations of SUWA's 25th anniversary and we're going to deliver! Here's news of the first one.

On Tuesday, August 7, 2007, from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Salt Lake City's Gallivan Center, SUWA will host a Utah Wilderness Day Celebration featuring Greg Brown, a virtuoso singer and songwriter who has a deep affinity for wild lands. We will also welcome cyclists from "Hybrid-pedal" sponsored by KEEN Footwear and the Conservation Alliance, an environmental grant maker.

Hybrid-pedal is a 1,000-mile journey by volunteer cyclists through Washington, Oregon, and Idaho that will end in Salt Lake City. It is designed to bring attention to proposed wilderness areas and to Conservation Alliance grantees, including SUWA, in communities along the way. Join us on August 7 for great food, drinks, music, and a celebration of Utah's wild lands. We're asking for a donation of \$5 at the door (kids under 12 are free), which will also enter you in the contest for our fabulous door prizes. More information about Utah Wilderness Day is available at www.suwa.org.

SUWA Hosts Wild and Scenic Film Festival

This November, SUWA is proud to host the Patagonia Wild & Scenic Environmental Film Festival on Tour. The festival is a potpourri of some of the world's best environmental films. Showings will be held at venues in Moab, Salt Lake City, and possibly one other location in Utah. Detailed information on times and locations will be available soon at www.suwa.org.

Join Us for this Year's Roundup, Oct. 5-7

Last year, we had waterfalls in the desert and a spectacular full moon; this year, who knows what wonders await us? If you're curious, join us for SUWA's 2007 membership gathering, October 5-7, in the heart of the San Rafael Swell.

Held at the aptly-named Hidden Splendor campsite, the SUWA Roundup offers our members and SUWA staff the opportunity to meet one another and to enjoy the beautiful Indian summer of redrock country with fellow desert rats from Utah and other states. Activities include a 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 area. Sunday morning you'll awake to freshly brewed coffee followed by a hearty breakfast the SUWA staff will prepare in thanks for all your support and dedication.

If you plan to attend this year's Roundup, here's what you should bring: a potluck dish serving five people for Saturday evening (if you plan to eat with the group), your own food for Friday evening and Saturday breakfast and lunch, camping gear, plenty of drinking water (none is available on site), utensils, folding chairs, and, if you have them, lanterns and tables to share with the crowd. Feel free to bring your own musical instruments and favorite libations, too.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Anne Williams at (801) 428-3972 or anne@suwa.org. Directions to the Roundup are available on our website at www.suwa.org.

inside SUWA

Wilderness Toolkit Aids Faith-Based Outreach

For many years SUWA has worked with communities of faith that are concerned about protecting the magnificent lands that comprise Utah's redrock wilderness. A wide variety of religious congregations across the nation have hosted our slideshow presentation and discussions about preserving and protecting the redrock.

Communities of faith are tremendously important sources of support and activism as we work to educate the nation about the need for wilderness preservation and the unique qualities of redrock wilderness. To help still more congregations become involved in the work of wilderness protection and preservation we are putting together a "Wilderness Protection Toolkit for Congregations." The toolkit will be available in July, either as a download from our website (www.suwa.org), or in hard copy.

The kit will include fact sheets about protecting redrock wilderness, quotes about stewardship and caring for the land from a variety of faith perspectives, ideas for worship and study sessions on wilderness preservation, possible activities for congregations and action steps, and a list of helpful additional resources and links.

For more information about the toolkit and to learn how your faith community can become involved, contact Deeda Seed at (801) 428-3971 or deeda@suwa.org.

Send Us Your Utah Wilderness Family Photos

SUWA is seeking digital photos of you and your family enjoying Utah's spectacular wilderness lands. If you have good scenic photos of your family hiking, canoeing, camping, etc., in wilderness study areas or proposed wilderness (including lands in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument), please send digital images on disk to our Salt Lake City office (attn: Photo Editor) or via email to diane@suwa.org. Photos will be used on our website and in various publications. Be sure to include your name and the area where the photo was taken.

SUWA's Bank of America Credit Card Discontinued

If you are among those who have chosen to support SUWA through our special "affinity" credit card with Bank of America (formerly MBNA), we are sorry to inform you that the card has been discontinued as of June 1, 2007. This means SUWA will no longer receive a percentage of total card purchases and Bank of America will issue a new standard credit card upon your expiration date. The bank will also notify you of these changes by mail. If you choose to cancel your credit card, you may do so at any time by contacting Bank of America directly.

SUWA would like to thank everyone who has participated in the affinity card program over the years. We'll let you know if a similar offer becomes available again in the future.

Learn More Online

Please visit www.suwa.org for more news and information relating to Utah wilderness, including:

- The latest action alerts and news updates (with convenient RSS feeds)
- A 2007 tour schedule for our *Wild Utah!* traveling slideshow
- A Utah wilderness resource library
- Activist tips and a business supporter petition
- Job and volunteer opportunities
- A wilderness protection toolkit for congregations (available in July)
- Utah wilderness photo galleries . . . and much more!

Thank You SUWA Business Members!

Listed here are businesses that support SUWA and Utah wilderness through our business member program (this list is also available at www.suwa.org). We encourage SUWA members around the country to reward these businesses with their patronage. If you own a business and care deeply about protecting Utah's remaining wilderness lands, please consider joining our business member program. For more information, contact Barry Bonifas at (801) 428-3970 or barry@suwa.org.

SUWA Business Members in Utah...

Avalanche Properties, Park City
 Benstog Construction Corporation, Ogden
 Black Diamond Equipment, SLC
 Boulder Mountain Lodge, Boulder
 Brennan and Shultz Painting, LC, Park City
 Calf Canyon Bed & Breakfast, Bluff
 Canyon Voyages Adventure Company, Moab
 Dabney & Dabney, PC, Saint George
 Dammeron Corporation, Dammeron Valley
 Deanna Rosen, LCSW, SLC
 Desert Highlights, Moab
 Faceplant, Heber City
 Far Out Expeditions, Bluff
 Heindselmans Knit & Weaving, Provo
 John O Johnson, SLC
 Kevin Parson, Eden
 Lazy Lizard International Hostel, Moab
 Lucky Dog Communications, SLC
 Manning Curtis Bradshaw & Bednar, SLC
 Mazza, SLC
 Nichols Expeditions, Moab
 Page Speiser, LCSW, Provo
 Red Rock Mortgage, SLC
 Rocking V Cafe, Kanab
 Sam and Liz Dunham, SLC
 Schneider Auto Karosserie, Inc, SLC
 Scott T Smith, Logan
 Snow County Limousine, Inc, Park City
 Spring Lake Publishing, Payson
 Stephen Trimble, SLC
 Streamline Bodyworks, LLC, SLC
 Tesch Law Offices, PC, Park City
 Tom Till Gallery, Moab
 Treasure Mountain Inn, Park City
 Underwood Environmental, Inc, Park City
 Waterwise Design & Landscapes, LC, SLC
 With Gaia Design, Moab

...And Across the Country

Adventure Travel West, Idledale, CO
 Agave, Henderson, NV
 American Image Photography, Holly, MI
 Andrew Donahue, Norwalk, CT

Baked In Telluride, Telluride, CO
 Brad M King Associates, Inc, Venice, CA
 Brown Bag Farms, Petaluma, CA
 Capitola Book Cafe, Santa Cruz, CA
 Cedar Mesa Music, West Hollywood, CA
 Centerline Alfa Romeo, Boulder, CO
 Chaco Sandals, Paonia, CO
 Charles Cramer Photography, Santa Clara, CA
 Community Builders Cooperative, Somerville, MA
 Compact Disc Service, Glendale, CA
 Consulting Psychologists, Flagstaff, AZ
 David Gibans Law Offices, Denver, CO
 Deer Hill Expeditions, Durango, CO
 Dennis Chavez Development Corporation, Albuquerque, NM
 Fuller Therapeutics, Inc, Boulder, CO
 Githens Properties, LLC, Carbondale, CO
 Glenn Randall Writing and Photography, Boulder, CO
 Haymaker Construction, El Cajon, CA
 HonkyTonkHomeSlice.com, Lafayette, CA
 Horsethief Ranch, Aspen, CO
 HyperEvolution, Newport Beach, CA
 Hyperspod Sports, Moscow, ID
 ID Interiors, Aspen, CO
 Image Counts, Durango, CO
 Image Trader, Flagstaff, AZ
 Injoy Productions, Longmont, CO
 Institution of Taoist Education and Acupuncture, Inc, Boulder, CO
 J Edward Hansford, DDS, Buena Vista, CO
 J Groene Construction, Inc, Lawrence, KS
 Jack Dykinga Photography, Tucson, AZ
 Kind Coffee, LLC, Estes Park, CO
 Law Office Of Don Lipmanson, Ukiah, CA
 Matheson Design, Portland, OR
 Maui Mountain Environmentally Friendly Coffee, Makawao, HI
 Michael Gordon Photography, Long Beach, CA
 Michael Kuttan, DDS, Saint Louis, MO
 Mountain Chalet, Colorado Springs, CO
 Mountain Gear, Inc, Spokane Valley, WA
 Muench Photography, Inc, Corrales, NM

Neiman Wealth Management, LLC, Merrick, NY
 Osprey Packs, Inc, Cortez, CO
 Otterness Repairs, Northfield, MN
 Ottertrack Productions, Joseph, OR
 Pack Rat Outdoor Center, Fayetteville, AR
 Pemba Serves, Madison, WI
 Pinnacle Peak Eye Care, Scottsdale, AZ
 Purdy Associates, Inc, Seattle, WA
 Purple Dragon Ventures, Greendale, IN
 Pursuit of Beauty, Seattle, WA
 Richard Farrell, CPA, Fort Collins, CO
 Richard Lane, MD, Prescott, AZ
 Robert Cheyne Photography, Farmington Hills, MI
 Robert Trimble, Architect, Trumbull, CT
 Rupestrian Cyber Services, Flagstaff, AZ
 San Juan Constructors, Flagstaff, AZ
 Select Stone, Inc, Bozeman, MT
 Selinda Research Associates, Chicago, IL
 Southwest Planning & Marketing, Santa Fe, NM
 Steve Gilsdorf, CPA, Tucson, AZ
 Steven Lamb, Central City, KY
 Stockbridge Animal Clinic, Stockbridge, MI
 Tsakurshovi, Second Mesa, AZ
 White Water Dental Seminars, Ketchum, ID
 William Stone Photography, Albuquerque, NM
 Williams Tree Farm, Meridian, ID
 Willis Greiner Photography, Conifer, CO
 ZAK Construction (Manzanita, OR)



inside SUWA**Make a Difference for Redrock Wilderness: Join or Donate to SUWA Today!**

Even the most dedicated desert rats don't always have the time to stay abreast of all of the issues affecting America's redrock wilderness, unique on planet Earth. That's why the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance is here: to work full-time for you on behalf of these remaining wild places. As one of SUWA's 15,000 members, you can rest assured that your exceptional staff is closely following the issues that threaten these lands and doing whatever it takes to protect them. At the same time, we also work hard to keep you current on the latest threats—through our website, email alerts, action bulletins, phone banking, and our newsletter—so that you can stay informed and involved.

*Photo by John Nutting*

Over 80% of SUWA's funding comes from memberships and donations from individuals like you. SUWA's members are truly its lifeblood. Concerned citizens from every state in the nation, and even other countries, have joined SUWA. This strong financial support gives us the freedom and flexibility to protect the land every day, and to work for permanent preservation through wilderness designation. These public lands belong to all of us, and it is our right and responsibility to speak out for them.

*SUWA photo***SUWA's strength is in numbers.**

Now entering its 25th year, SUWA is a membership-driven organization. 15,000 active, national members demonstrate 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 can attend hearings, make phone calls, write letters on issues, meet with their congressional representatives, or submit letters-to-the-editor. They can also organize slideshows, participate in phone banks, and help spread the word about the redrock wilderness to their friends and family.

Protecting America's redrock wilderness through SUWA is easy.

If you are already a member of SUWA, 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 appreciated and needed. SUWA is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization—so all contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. There are three easy ways to join or donate:

► **By Mail:** fill out and return the envelope included in the center of this newsletter with your check or credit card information.

► **Online:** with your credit card through our secure website at www.suwa.org (click on the *Join or Give* link).

► **By Phone:** call us at (801) 486-3161 with your credit card, or with any questions you may have.

Additional Ways to Make a Donation

►Monthly Giving Program

If you'd like 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 threats to the redrock. Please visit our website for details: www.suwa.org.

►Gifts of Stock

You can make a meaningful gift to SUWA and likely gain a substantial tax advantage for yourself by transferring stocks or mutual fund shares that have appreciated in value. For information on how to transfer stocks or mutual funds, please contact Associate Director Barry Bonifas at barry@suwa.org or (801) 428-3970.

►Gift Memberships and Honorary/Memorial Donations

Get your friends and family involved in protecting wilderness by giving them a gift membership, 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 honoree. Use the gift membership form below or visit our website at www.suwa.org.

Thank you for your support of SUWA and America's redrock wilderness!

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.

SUWA's Membership Services Team: Barry Bonifas, Deeda Seed, and Anne Williams

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**

inside SUWA

Planned Giving: A Legacy of Support for America's Redrock Wilderness

You can leave your money to your heirs, to the government, or to a non-profit. Pick two.

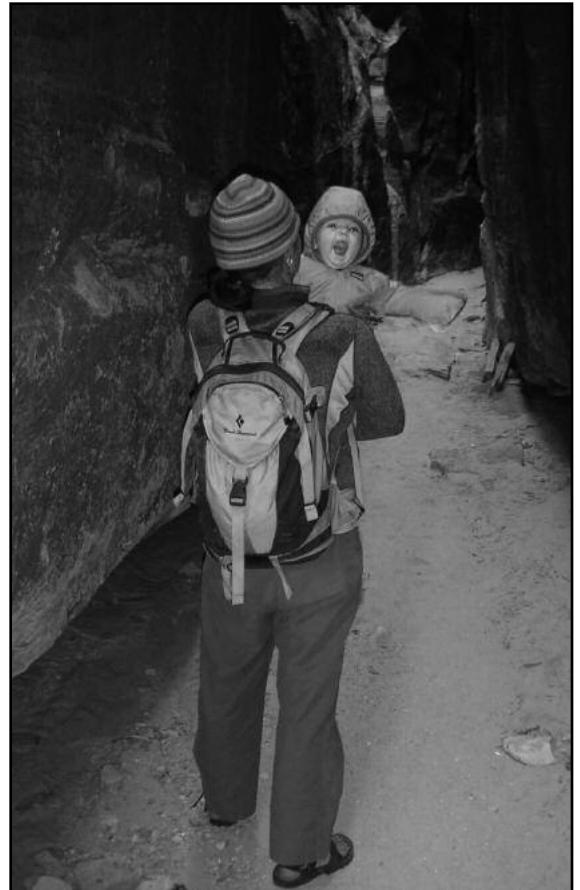
As the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance nears its 25th birthday, we realize that the work of protecting and preserving the magnificent redrock country we love will be a long-term challenge. Planning for the next decade is already underway, and we all need to take steps to ensure the future of these lands. Annual memberships and gifts are crucially important, but SUWA will also need legacy gifts for this work.

Many of us are unable during our lifetimes to make major donations to the causes we love. A planned gift gives us an additional opportunity to make a difference. It is not necessary to make a huge gift. Even a modest percentage of an estate can have a major impact on protecting the redrock. What is important is to make a gift that reflects the values you cherish. Your legacy gift to SUWA will enable us to accomplish your goal of permanent preservation and protection for these lands.

If you are interested in making a planned gift to SUWA, or have already included SUWA in your will, trust, retirement plan, life insurance policy, or other estate gift, please contact Associate Director Barry Bonifas at barry@suwa.org or (801) 428-3970, or use the envelope in the center of this newsletter. We

would love to recognize your deep commitment by welcoming you to SUWA's Redrock Society as a legacy donor, joining the 150 individuals and couples who have taken that important step.

For more information on planned giving, please visit our website at www.suwa.org and click on *Join or Give*, then select *Planned Giving*. Planned gifts can be an effective way to secure tax advantages for your estate and heirs. We recommend that you meet with your estate attorney or financial advisor to decide which plan is best for you and your family.



Double Your Contribution with a Matching Gift

Many employers will match your contribution to SUWA, making your financial support go even farther in protecting Utah's magnificent wild places. If your company offers a matching gift program, simply include the matching gift form when you send us your donation and we'll take it from there.

For more information, please contact Barry Bonifas at (801) 428-3970 or barry@suwa.org.

**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):

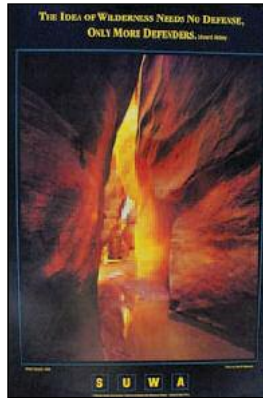
CC#: _____ Exp. date: _____

Amount: \$ _____

Mail form with payment in enclosed envelope to:

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

White Canyon

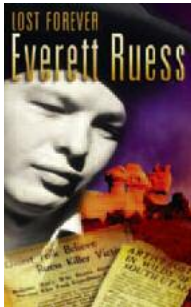


Cedar Mesa

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..."

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**

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 four colors), plus a floppy hat and sun visor printed with the slogan “Protect Wild Utah.”

SUWA T-Shirts

Circle Choice(s)

Short Sleeve White, \$15	S	M	L	XL	Qty	_____
Short Sleeve Black, \$15	S	M	L	XL	Qty	_____
Women’s Cut White, \$15	S	M	L		Qty	_____
Long Sleeve White, \$20	S	M	L	XL	Qty	_____
Long Sleeve Black, \$20	S	M	L	XL	Qty	_____

SUWA Hats

Please Note Quantity

Baseball Cap, \$25	Sage	_____	Chamois	_____
	Sandstone	_____	Dusk	_____
Floppy Hat, \$20	Bright Yellow	_____		
Sun Visor, \$15	Bright Yellow	_____		

Name: _____

Address: _____

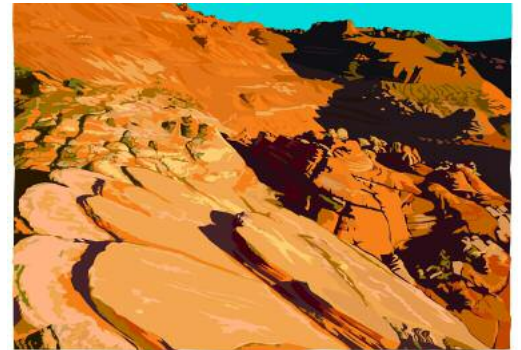
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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.



Organic cotton t-shirts are available in long sleeve, short sleeve, and women’s cut (with a smaller image on the front instead of back).



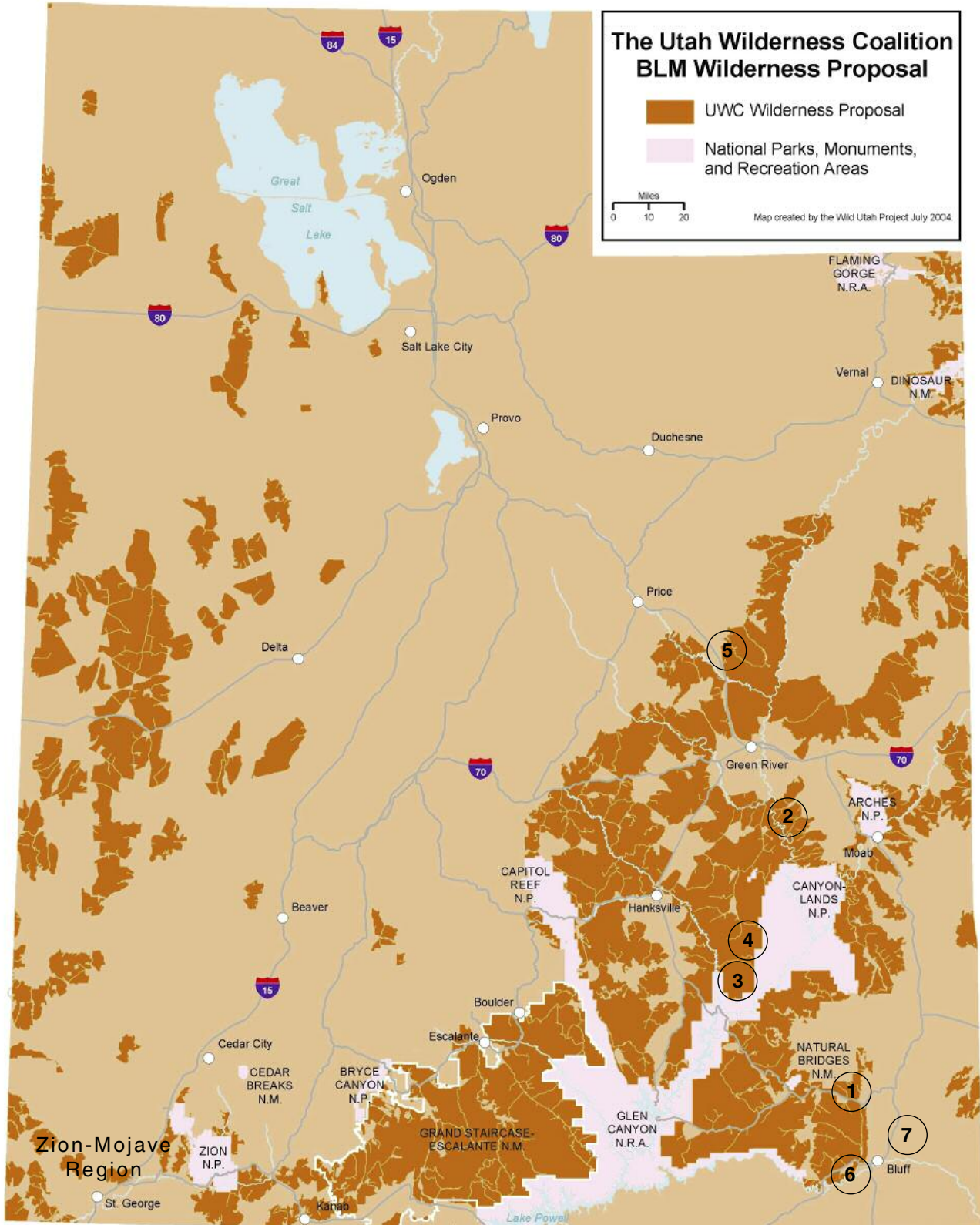
Floppy hats are available only in Yellow.



Baseball caps come in Sandstone, Dusk, Chamois and Sage (clockwise from lower left).



Sun visors are available only in Yellow.



Reference Map for Articles in this Issue

- ① Arch Canyon (pp. 7, 16)

② Tenmile Canyon (p. 17)

③ Fiddler Butte (p. 17)
- ④ French Spring-Happy Canyon (p. 18)

⑤ Lila Canyon (p. 19)

⑥ Lime Ridge (p. 19)
- ⑦ Recapture Wash (p. 20)



“Independence Day.” Artwork by Scotty Mitchell (www.scottymitchell.com)

“I have come to see that activism fully engages us in the democratic process, that the freedom to express our opinion is a precious gift, and that conservation is a way of speaking out for the American land, perhaps the ultimate form of patriotism.”


—Richard Nelson (*anthropologist and writer*)

“The wilderness and the idea of wilderness is one of the permanent homes of the human spirit.”

—Joseph Wood Krutch (*writer, critic, and naturalist*)

Fieldwork Vehicles Needed

SUWA is seeking two 4x4 vehicles in good condition for the purpose of conducting fieldwork in remote areas (on legitimate roads, of course!). If you are able to donate such a tax-deductible vehicle, please contact Barry Bonifas at (801) 428-3970 or barry@suwa.org.

 Printed on recycled paper using soy-based ink.



**southern
utah
wilderness
alliance**

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Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

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