

REDROCK

W I L D E R N E S S

The Newsletter of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
Volume 23, Number 3 • Winter 2006-2007

Making Strides against Utah's ORV Epidemic

Cover Photo: Aglow from the rising sun, Factory Butte towers majestically above the Mancos shale badlands north of Hanksville, Utah. Wilderness activists won a major victory in 2006 when the BLM finally took action to protect this iconic landscape from abuse by off-road vehicles.
© James W. Kay (www.jameskay.com).



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

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

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

Staff

Justin Allegro, *Legislative Assistant*
Steve Bloch, *Staff Attorney*
Ray Bloxham, *Field Inventory Specialist*
Barry Bonifas, *Associate Director*
Bob Brister, *Interregional Outreach Coordinator*
Jeremy Christensen, *Northern Utah Organizer*
Terra Cronshey, *Administrative Director*
Peter Downing, *Legislative Director*
David Garbett, *Legal Fellow*
Scott Groene, *Executive Director*
Diane Kelly, *Print/Web Media Specialist*
Heidi McIntosh, *Conservation Director*
Bill Raleigh, *National Field Director*
Gina Riggs, *Office Coordinator*
Franklin Seal, *Utah Grassroots Organizer, SE*
Chaitna Sinha, *Field Attorney (La Verkin)*
Liz Thomas, *Field Attorney (Moab)*
Giles Wallace, *Associate Director*
Anne Williams, *Membership Coordinator*

Main Office
 425 East 100 South
 Salt Lake City, UT 84111
 (801) 486-3161

Washington, DC
 122 C Street NW
 Suite 240
 Washington, DC 20001
 (202) 546-2215

Moab
 P.O. Box 968
 Moab, UT 84532
 (435) 259-5440

La Verkin
 394 S. State Street, #A
 La Verkin, UT 84745
 (435) 635-3901

E-mail: suwa@suwa.org
Website: <http://www.suwa.org/>



Internet services donated by XMission

Board of Directors

Hansjörg Wyss, *Chair*
 Malvern, PA

Richard Ingebretsen
 Emigration Canyon, UT

Ted Wilson, *Vice-Chair*
 Salt Lake City, UT

Darrell Knuffke
 Nageezi, MN

Mark Ristow, *Treasurer*
 Indianapolis, IN

Cindy Shogan
 Silver Spring, MD

Trent Alvey, *Secretary*
 Salt Lake City, UT

Johanna Wald
 San Francisco, CA

Jim Baca
 Albuquerque, NM

Chip Ward
 Grantsville, UT

Bert Fingerhut
 Aspen, CO

Terry Tempest Williams
 Castle Valley, UT

Bill Hedden
 Castle Valley, UT

Advisory Committee

Steve Allen (Boulder, CO), **Bruce Berger** (Aspen, CO), **Dottie Fox** (Snowmass, CO), **Rich Genser** (Tucson, AZ), **Harvey Halpern** (Cambridge, MA), **Ginger Harmon** (Ketchum, ID), **Dale and Frandee Johnson** (Boulder, CO), **Martin Litton** (Portola Valley, CA), **Bill Lockhart** (Salt Lake City, UT), **Roderick Nash** (Santa Barbara, CA), **Ed Norton Jr.** (Washington, DC), **Guy Saperstein** (Piedmont, CA), **Ken Sleight** (Moab, UT), **Susan Tixier** (Santa Fe, NM), **James Udall** (Carbondale, CO)

In this issue:

Wilderness Notes4

Features:

 Taking Back the Wilderness5

DC News10

Canyon Country Updates14

Special Insert: SUWA's Position on Wilderness Legislation17

Grassroots Network24

Inside SUWA26

America's Red Rock Wilderness Act Reference Map35



page 8



page 13



page 21

Correction: The photo on page 17 of our last issue (Summer 2006) was incorrectly attributed to Angela Harper. This image of a trail (and RS 2477 claim) in Bryce Canyon National Park was actually photographed by Lin Alder (www.alderphoto.com).

Redrock Wilderness • Volume 23, Number 3 • Winter 2006-2007

This issue of *Redrock Wilderness* was written by the following staff and outside contributors: Justin Allegro, Bruce Berger, Steve Bloch, Barry Bonifas, Terra Cronshey, Peter Downing, Scott Groene, Diane Kelly, Darrell Knuffke, Heidi McIntosh, Lindsey Oswald, Franklin Seal, Liz Thomas, Giles Wallace, and Anne Williams. It was edited by Darrell Knuffke and laid out by Matt Crawley.

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

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

**Moving? Please send your change of address to:
SUWA, 425 East 100 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84111**

wilderness notes

Wilderness and Public Land Privatization: Bad Deal, Dangerous Trend

The Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance's Board of Directors and staff have watched with growing concern a new breed of wilderness bills cropping up across the West. Some of the bills include land sales with money going to local developers and development along with a wilderness designation.

Too often, the wilderness component comes at the additional cost of relinquishing wilderness study area status, and thus any protection at all, for other lands. Admittedly, our federal land managers have been less than diligent in ensuring the interim protection of these areas that we think the law requires. But imperfect protection is better than none.

Our concerns about these novel measures flow very specifically from our commitment to protecting all deserving wilderness in the State of Utah. That is where we work and what we believe you, our members, want us to advocate for.

It has seemed to us not only likely but inevitable that as these radically different wilderness bills proliferated they would infect the process in Utah. And they have, with Sen. Robert Bennett's and Rep. Jim Matheson's introduction of the Washington County Growth and Conservation Act. We have reported regularly on this measure in "Redrock" and do so again in this issue.

Sen. Bennett and Rep. Matheson argue their bills let everyone win, a claim that is spurious on its face. In point of fact, everyone loses but developers. The measure will legislate for Utah's southwest corner a new round of growth and development that, by all accounts, is already out of control. So residents who value the openness and relative tranquility of that place lose in a major way. America's taxpayers lose lands that are theirs. And wilderness advocates lose most of all. Their secondary defense is that if these curious land

disposal measures with some wilderness thrown in are good enough for Nevada, where they began and built a head of steam, they are good enough for Utah. No, they are not.

We take this opportunity to tell SUWA members why they are not. We have included a special insert in this issue of "Redrock" that explores the background of these land giveaway bills, why we think they are dangerous as a general matter and why they are a particular threat to Utah wildlands.

For the Redrock,
Hansjörg Wyss
SUWA Board Chairman



Winter Afternoon, mixed media landscape by Vivian Bergenthal
(www.vivianbergenthal.com)

features

Taking Back the Wilderness

How Activists Are Making Strides against Utah's ORV Epidemic

There were only 5 million off-road vehicles (ORVs) in use in the United States 30 years ago, but even then there were signs aplenty of their growing popularity and the likely consequences of that growth. In what now seems a remarkably prescient move in a long-ago time, President Richard Nixon gave us a chance—more than a chance, a responsibility—to deal sensibly with ORVs.

He issued an Executive Order that required federal agencies to manage the lands to protect resources and minimize conflicts between various uses when deciding where ORV use should occur. The agencies responded by ignoring the order from the outset and steadfastly ignoring it ever since.

Today, there are an estimated 36 million ORVs in use—a 700 percent increase. An estimated 500,000 ORV owners live in Utah alone; thousands more come from elsewhere every year, drawn by wide-open and essentially uncontrolled spaces. Never mind \$3-per-gallon gas prices: sales trends are ever upward, fueled by advertising designed to appeal to the adolescent in consumers and recklessly depicting ORV use as an endless run of high-powered, nothing-can-stop-me, mine-all-mine mayhem.

In the early days, a rider probably dared not drive an ORV any further than he was willing to drag it back. That has changed. Machines are bigger, faster, more powerful and more reliable. Their range has multiplied along with their numbers. In a series of talks he gave after serving as Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, Mike Dombeck listed what he considered to be the 10 direst threats to the health of the national forest system. Near the top of his list was damage from unregulated ORV use. Given differences in topography and extent, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands are even more vulnerable to that threat than forests.

A Tradition of Mismanagement

Has the BLM adapted its management to contend with the obvious and well-documented threat from those changes in the machines' numbers, ranges and use? Scarcely. ORVs can go nearly anywhere on 75 percent of Utah's public lands, destroying wildlife



© Ray Bloxham

In a major victory for Utah wilderness activists, the BLM issued a decision in September that limits ORV use around Factory Butte to designated routes and a single, manageable play area.

habitat, damaging sensitive streams, plants and soils that depend on a critical balance to maintain healthy watersheds, and crushing stable soil crusts that prevent erosion and loss of nutrients. This catalog of damage does not include the incalculable cost of the destruction of experience for non-motorized users who seek solitude, silence and natural sounds.

The BLM's management of Utah's public lands is not only out of compliance with existing federal law; it is wildly out of step with how the public wants its public lands managed. In the summer of 2005, SUWA released the results of a poll conducted by Dan Jones and Associates, an independent public opinion and market research firm. That poll confirms that Utahns want better management of ORVs on our public lands. Eighty-eight percent responded that there are some public lands where motorized access should not be permitted, and a whopping 90 percent said that public land managers should allow ORV use only on specific trails.

features

Gaining Ground, Slowly but Surely

In 1999, SUWA first responded to the growing threat of ORV damage by issuing a report that found the Utah BLM had failed in its efforts to protect the lands in its care from off-road vehicles. The agency's reaction to our findings? "Sue us." We did.

Since that time—thanks largely to our members' support—we've gained the following protection for America's redrock wilderness through legal challenges, grassroots organizing, and legislation:

- A strong ORV travel plan for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument;
- A good San Rafael Swell travel plan that closed 40 percent of the Swell's ORV trails;
- Important ORV use restrictions in southwestern Utah's Vermilion Cliffs (see below);
- Unprecedented ORV use restrictions in central Utah's Factory Butte region (see below); and
- For the first time in two decades, new Utah BLM wilderness (with subsequent ORV route closures) for 100,000 acres of basin and range landscape in the Cedar Mountains of north western Utah.

Through these accomplishments, SUWA helped secure protection from ORVs for almost 3 million acres of proposed wilderness in the past 10 years. As a result, there are now a total of some 6 million acres of BLM land in Utah with ORV restrictions.

BLM Needs a Shove in the Right Direction

It is well past time for the public to insist on the same voice in ORV management decisions as ORV owners and users have long enjoyed as a virtual franchise. And now is precisely the time to galvanize public opinion. The BLM is now working on travel plans, including ORV route designations, for approximately 11 million acres in Utah. The travel plans are part of the process of periodically revising resource management plans or RMPs. The process gives us an important opportunity to weigh in with our own vision of how we want ORVs managed on our public lands. But while this process moves at its stately, not to say glacial, pace, ORV users are pioneering new and unplanned routes across our public lands and doing it at a deadly rate.

The BLM, of course, has ample authority to initiate ORV restrictions and closures on its own but has been lethargic in doing so. ORV users aren't waiting for the formal process; neither is SUWA. In an effort to stanch the bleeding, we have begun filing formal petitions asking the BLM to restrict ORV use in particular areas based on documented natural and cultural resource damage. So far, two of these petitions have spurred an encouraging, if reluctant, change of direction by the BLM.

Vermilion Cliffs

In fall 2004, SUWA petitioned the BLM to restrict ORV use in the Vermilion Cliffs north of Kanab. The area had recently become a playground for ORV users who were forging new trails up a narrow canyon that has year-round flowing water. In other areas, users cut ancient juniper trees to allow vehicles to navigate along canyon rims and mesas that hold a wealth of undocumented cultural resources.

SUWA's petition incorporated statements from a noted riparian and ecosystem specialist from Arizona State University and an archeologist who had earlier conducted research on the cultural resources in the area. Even shown photographs and documentation of the damage to streams, cultural resources, ancient trees and the integrity of the landscape, the BLM did not act.

The *Salt Lake Tribune* editorialized on SUWA's petition and the BLM's foot-dragging: "BLM managers must act quickly as they weigh the often-devastating effects of uncontrolled OHV use on Utah's natural outdoor treasures and the complex issue of how the delicate ecosystems of the state's deserts and mountains can survive and co-exist with OHV users and non-motorized recreationists."

Eventually, the BLM issued ORV restrictions for the area, but not before abuse had caused long-term, possibly irreparable, damage to the stream and nearby mesa tops. The agency's tardy restrictions eliminated cross-country ORV use, but fell short of adequately protecting the area's natural beauty and resources because many of the illegally constructed trails in the area remain open to motorized use.

Factory Butte

Factory Butte, east of Capitol Reef National Park, is iconic, one of Utah's best-known, most-pho-

features

tographed landscape features. By the spring of 2005, the area surrounding it was rapidly becoming just another unregulated “rip and tear” venue for ORV use. ORV tracks blanketed the serrated ridges, undulations and mesas of the Mancos shale badlands around the butte itself. SUWA partnered with a group of Wayne County residents and businesses in a petition asking the BLM to end ORV abuse in the Factory Butte area. This petition, too, relied on science, including a report from an adjunct professor of geosciences at the University of Arizona, on ORV use and the resulting soil erosion of the shale badlands.

The report concluded that ORV use quadruples the rate of soil erosion that is natural in these badlands. SUWA’s petition also highlighted the fact that the BLM had been aware of the problem for over a quarter of a century and done nothing. The agency’s 1982 management plan for the area stated fairly unequivocally that ORV use was degrading scenic, geologic and recreational values and that the area should be closed or at least managed to control ORV use. SUWA’s petition also pointed out that ORVs were routinely crushing two federally listed endangered cactus species in the area.

The agency’s response to the petition was not to take the obvious protective steps but to form a group of interested parties and charge them with finding a solution. In the working group were SUWA representatives, ORV activists, county commissioners and business owners. After nearly a year’s worth of meetings, the members were at loggerheads. ORV activists and county commissioners refused to agree to what were obviously necessary ORV restrictions.

Meanwhile, ORV damage continued unabated. But it was clear that, agreement or no agreement, the agency would have to significantly restrict ORV use. In response to that looming reality, one ORV advocacy group sent a letter to the agency, something it surely hoped would be a preemptive strike against legally required management decisions. The threats in the letter are scarcely veiled and speak

volumes about the mentality of the user group: *It is our intent to meet unacceptable closures with as much force as we can muster. . . It should be known that the motorized community will not simply roll over and allow an area such as Factory Butte to be broadly closed to motorized travel and wrongfully managed. . . Current rumors are that the pending emergency closure . . . will be too broad and unsupportable by our community. This makes it difficult for the community to police itself and work with federal agencies in the spirit of cooperation.*

Although the BLM should have acted much sooner to protect the lands and resources it is responsible for, its eventual decision to manage ORV use around Factory Butte is a huge victory for the landscape and for our friends who fought so hard to protect it. And the Richfield Field Office of the BLM deserves our thanks for this decision.

The letter was signed by Michael Swenson, executive director, Utah Shared Access Alliance. (The group also goes by the name USA-All, which fairly, if inadvertently, describes what these folks demand in the way of ORV access to America’s public lands.)

The Endangered Species Act speaks louder and with more authority than county

commissioners and ORV activists. The BLM’s inventory of the threatened and endangered cacti indicated that unregulated ORV use was affecting them adversely . . . as in squashing them flat. In September 2006 the BLM published a Federal Register notice announcing that it would restrict ORV use on 142,000 acres in the Factory Butte area to designated routes, thereby eliminating all cross-country use except for a well-defined, 2500-acre play area. Although the BLM should have acted much sooner to protect the lands and resources it is responsible for, its eventual decision to manage ORV use around Factory Butte is a huge victory for the landscape and for our friends who fought so hard to protect it. And the Richfield Field Office of the BLM deserves our thanks for this decision.

We are optimistic that other BLM offices around the state will take their lead from these recent management decisions and, as the *Salt Lake Tribune* editorially suggested, “[not] wait for conservationists to prod them before taking action to protect public lands . . . [and] consider emergency restrictive orders to get a jump-start on closing some areas to off-road vehicles.”

features



© Ray Bloxham

Before the BLM restricted ORV use around Factory Butte, almost the entire landscape was open to cross-country travel, resulting in widespread damage.



© Liz Thomas

Water sources important to wildlife are often muddied and polluted by off-road vehicles. Here, ATV riders cruise carelessly through Tenmile Canyon in the Labyrinth Canyon proposed wilderness.

What Lies Ahead

Thanks to the support of our dedicated members and activists, we've made remarkable progress in the uphill battle against Utah's ORV epidemic. With your continued help, we will build on those accomplishments by:

- Submitting additional petitions to restrict ORV use. SUWA's efforts will focus on areas with sensitive natural or cultural resources that are experiencing increasing damage from ORV use;
- Challenging new ORV route systems that have been illegally constructed or have not been analyzed to assess their impacts on natural and cultural resources;
- Continuing to organize citizens to participate in the BLM's ORV route designation process while providing the BLM and public with information regarding the environmental impacts of ORV use;
- Attacking each bogus "road" claim proffered by rural Utah counties and the state;
- Organizing service trips with our members and conservation partners to assist in the clean-up and restoration of ORV-damaged areas; and,
- Securing lasting protection for sensitive Utah public lands by advocating passage of America's Red Rock Wilderness Act while continuing to defend against harmful legislation.

As ORVs make alarming inroads throughout the West, Utah wilderness activists have ensured that nearly every acre of Utah's deserving public lands still remains eligible for wilderness designation. Let's pause for a moment and reflect on that astounding success. Then, let's dig in our heels and work even harder to take back the solitude, serenity, and untrammled splendor of Utah's magnificent Redrock country.

—Liz Thomas and Darrell Knuffke

features

Pearls of Wisdom from the Off-Road Community

While SUWA and its allies found much to cheer in the BLM's Factory Butte decision, not everyone shared that view. Here, we can glimpse this inscrutable mentality at work.

“What if we just burn the cactus and get rid of the problem all together. If it's an endangered species, then it has obviously outlived its usefulness. If it hasn't adapted to grow in other areas, then it probably should go extinct. It's not like it died off because of OHV use or deforestation. Also, there should be a new open hunting season on SUWA members...the proceeds of tags could go to wilderness studies and awareness.”

—from www.thumpertalk.com website

(Editor's note: Well, it's from thumpertalk [think “Bambi” here] and plenty harebrained: Clever word-play or just a limited mind missing the point? You judge. It is worth noting that that final sentence, as open an incitement to violence as you are likely to see, is enough to get some folks arrested in the current anti-terrorism climate. But not, we guess, a native-born, card-carryin' ORVer...)

“Who besides environmental weirdos, care about a stinking cactus? How does that benefit the public to save a plant with spines? . . . Kill the cactus, let people enjoy the open space!

—from www.ksl.com comment page

(Editor's note: This one puts us in mind of Mo Udall's classic definition of the difference between cactuses and caucuses . . . : with cactuses, the pricks are on the outside.)

Just more desert land in Utah that nobody will ever do anything with. It's desert!! Heaven forbid that we put some tire tracks on this God Forsaken [sic] already ugly as can be land and actually enjoy it!”

—from www.ksl.com comment page.

(Editor's translation: I think it's ugly so why can't I destroy it? Geez, I got gas and every-damned thing!)



DC news

Zion-Mojave Update

This is our last legislative update during the 109th Congress and we want to take the opportunity to thank you for helping protect the Zion-Mojave proposed wilderness. The last several months have been a challenging time for Utah wilderness in Congress, but thankfully, with your help, Utah wilderness has emerged relatively unscathed, so far.

Bill Flops in House Hearing

The Sept. 14 House Resources Committee hearing on the legislation served, as much as anything, to spotlight the bill's flaws. One theme became abundantly clear throughout the hearing: unless you happen to be one of the special-interest beneficiaries of the bill, it's a rotten deal for the American public and our public lands. Members examined the strengths (few) and weaknesses (many) of the legislation and solicited comments from the public and key witnesses. As this was a hearing rather than a legislative mark-up, the committee took no action on the bill and did not advance the measure.

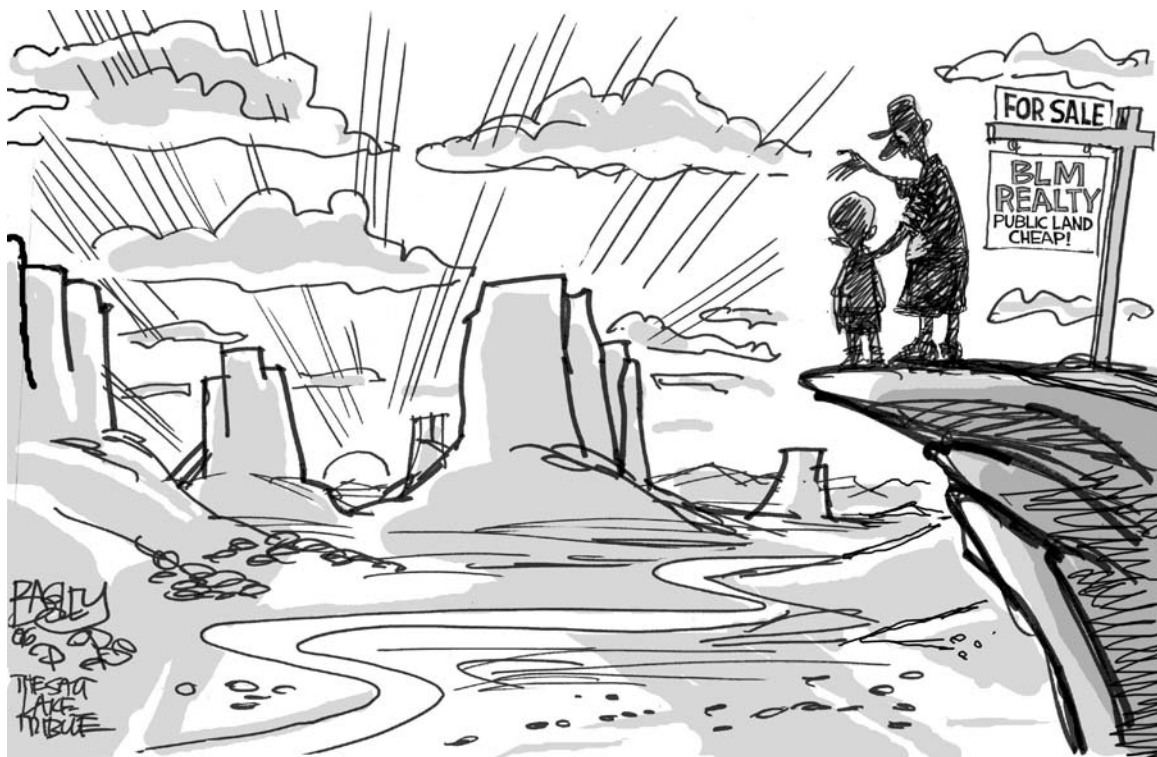
The Utah Wilderness Coalition, of which SUWA is a part, provided testimony for the hearing. (You

can find this testimony in its entirety at www.zion-mojavewilderness.org.) The coalition's testimony noted that the county commissioners' bill not only fell short of protecting wilderness, but it missed the mark by miles. The bill, pushed by both Sen. Bennett and Rep. Jim Matheson, would leave behind 200,000 acres of proposed BLM wilderness in the Zion-Mojave region. America's Redrock Wilderness Act, in contrast, would protect them.

From Bad to Much Worse

The county commissioners' bill is not just bad, it's actually worse than previous wilderness legislation covering public lands in Washington County. Rep. Jim Hansen's bill, the Utah National Parks and Public Lands Wilderness Act of 1999, would have designated 144,000 acres of wilderness in Washington County outside of Zion National Park. The current bill, on the other hand, would protect fewer than 100,000 acres of BLM public land. In other words, it's the worst of the worst.

The county commissioners' bill, coupling meager wilderness with lavish giveaways, is also a raw deal



"SOMEDAY, SON, NONE OF THIS WILL BE YOURS..."

for Americans who care about keeping our public lands in public hands. First, the bill calls for the sale (or exchange) of as much as 24,000 acres of public land in Washington County, making what is now federal public land available for real estate development. Let's put this into perspective: Based on the national housing density average of three houses per acre, the commissioners' bill would turn over enough land to accommodate 75,000 new homes.

The second special interest provision is the direct giveaway to the county's water developers of development rights for over 8,800 acres of public land. Third, the bill carves out a network of almost 900 linear miles of half-mile-wide utility corridors across what are now our public lands

Opposition Mounts

Though Rep. Matheson (D-UT) touted the bill as a meaningful attempt at conservation, the conservation community unanimously disagrees. At least 78 national conservation organizations have opposed the legislation.

The Utah Wilderness Coalition and other conservation organizations were not the only ones crying foul at the House hearing. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) testified that it, too, had concerns with some of the bill's provisions. In its oral testimony, the BLM noted that the White House's Office of Management and Budget could not support the bill's proposal to direct nearly all the money from public land sales back to special interest projects in Washington County.

The Shivwits Band of the Paiutes, whose homeland is in Washington County, submitted written testimony stating, "We oppose the Washington County Growth and Conservation Act because it was created without any consultation with the Shivwits Band and will significantly harm the interests of the Shivwits."

It is difficult to say exactly when or where we may next see Sen. Bennett or Rep. Matheson pushing the commissioners' bill. We'll be watching carefully during the last days of the 109th Congress and watching for any fast breaks when the new Congress convenes in 2007. And we may well need your help again before it's all over! To stay up-to-minute with congressional plans and actions, please visit www.zionmojavewilderness.org.

—Pete Downing

Opposition to Bennett/Matheson Land Bill Abounds

National conservation groups
opposed to the bill:
78

Outdoor retailers
opposed to the bill:
31

Regional and national newspapers
that have editorialized
against the bill:
11

Letters published in the
St. George Spectrum
opposing the bill:
38

Citizen comments to Congress
opposing the bill:
over 100,000

Regional bands of the Paiute Tribe
opposed to the bill
(Shivwits Band, Kaibab Band):
2

Towns in Washington County that
have passed resolutions
against the bill:
3

Number of Utah public interest groups
opposed to the bill:
15

DC news

Editorial Boards throughout the Nation Agree: Washington County Land Bill Is Bad Public Policy

“This is, in short, a raid on national resources aimed at helping private developers. It is the worst sort of Congressional earmarking. And it gives true wilderness bills a reputation they do not deserve.”

New York Times, “True Wilderness, and False,” September 4, 2006

“...It is simply—no, astoundingly—unwise to begin what will be a complicated and controversial planning process by giving the Bureau of Land Management, which holds title to large swaths of southern Utah, direction to sell as much as 24,300 acres of federal land.”

Salt Lake Tribune, “Bigger pants: Washington County bill is on backwards,” September 2, 2006

“...The public properly recoils when it sees its birthright put on the auction block to offset the government's profligate fiscal policies or to advance private development projects. If the Senate does not reject the Bennett bill, it invites a proliferation of proposals in the West to use land sales to finance not conservation but the despoliation of the public's land.”

Boston Globe, “A ruinous land rush,” August 16, 2006

“...There's nothing wrong with the federal government helping long-pressed areas build public projects. But converting federal resources into local windfalls, at the expense of taxpayers nationwide, is a way to squander money while carving up protected land.”

Los Angeles Times, “How the West Was Sold,” July 31, 2006

Other Regional and National Newspapers Have Editorialized in Opposition to the Bill:

The Minneapolis Star Tribune, “Public land Grab Takes Shape in Utah,” September 18, 2006

The Arizona Republic, “Pigging out on heritage,” September 17, 2006

The Salem Statesman Journal, “Our viewpoint: Oregonians Must Unite to Protect Wilderness,” Sept. 13, 2006

The Salt Lake Tribune, “Wilderness Lost: Congress can't create wilderness, only ruin it,” Sept 14, 2006

The Fort Wayne Journal Gazette, “Selling Public Lands,” August 18, 2006

The Hartford Courant, “Stop Sprawl On Public Lands,” August 15, 2006

The Santa Fe New Mexican, “Assets for sale; nation shortchanged,” August 1, 2006

The Salt Lake Tribune, “A bad plan: Bennett's bill would encourage St. George sprawl,” July 13, 2006

The Sacramento Bee, “Wild West sell-off,” July 7, 2006

Congress Poised to Pass Colorado River Land Exchange

The House of Representatives passed the Utah Recreational Land Exchange Act of 2005 by a voice vote on Sept. 26 after years of exceptional work by the Grand Canyon Trust, the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) and SUWA members in Grand and Uintah Counties.

The Congress is set to return for more legislative work in a post-election, lame-duck session, and we believe the Senate is likely to pass this important collaborative bill before adjourning and send it to the President to sign into law.

Land exchange legislation such as this is an effective way to protect the wilderness-quality lands of America's redrock wilderness. As in other western states, public lands throughout Utah are interspersed with state-owned school lands that Utah desperately wants to develop. This legislation, introduced by Sen. Robert Bennett (R-UT) and Rep. Chris Cannon (R-UT), would authorize an exchange of 40,000 acres of state lands along the Colorado River corridor near Moab for a roughly equal amount of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land in nearby Grand and Uintah Counties.

Much of what the American public would get from SITLA through this deal encompasses important conservation and recreation lands, many within areas proposed as wilderness. The land the BLM would give to the state has little conservation value but has strong potential for commercial development.

It is important that once the lands enter BLM management the agency protect the important recreational and scenic resources that fueled the drive to move these lands into federal public ownership in the first place.

Thus, a key victory for SUWA and its members in this legislation is a provision in the House-passed bill that permanently withdraws from oil and gas leasing many lands the BLM will acquire. This withdrawal extends to exchanged state lands within and adjacent to wilderness study areas and lands within the Castle Valley watershed. The oil and gas withdrawal also covers lands in Goldbar and Mary Jane Canyons, Fisher Towers, and Beaver Creek, all units proposed as wilderness in America's Red Rock Wilderness Act.

—Justin Allegro



© James W. Kay, www.jameskay.com

Scenic lands in the Fisher Towers proposed wilderness area could be permanently withdrawn from oil and gas leasing if the Recreational Land Exchange Act becomes law.

canyon country updates

Court: BLM Illegally Ignored Wilderness Values in Rush to Sell Utah Energy Leases

U.S. Federal District Court Judge Dale Kimball has ruled that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) violated federal environmental laws when it sold oil and gas leases on 16 parcels of wilderness-quality lands in eastern and central Utah. In the landmark Aug. 2 ruling, the court specifically rejected BLM's practice of "leasing now, thinking later." Judge Kimball wrote that federal law requires "that BLM postpone leasing in areas where the agency had significant new information about wilderness values that had not been adequately accounted for."

The lawsuit challenged the first oil and gas lease sale following a controversial settlement in 2003 between the state of Utah and the Interior Department, commonly referred to as the "no more wilderness" settlement. That agreement allegedly gave BLM the right to sell oil and gas leases in some of Utah's and other western states' most spectacular public lands. Utah holds these lease sales quarterly, and since the controversial 2003 decision, nearly every sale has included wilderness-quality land. Since 2003, the BLM has sold oil and gas leases on more than 100 separate parcels of land in Utah alone, including well over 125,000 acres that the agency itself acknowl-

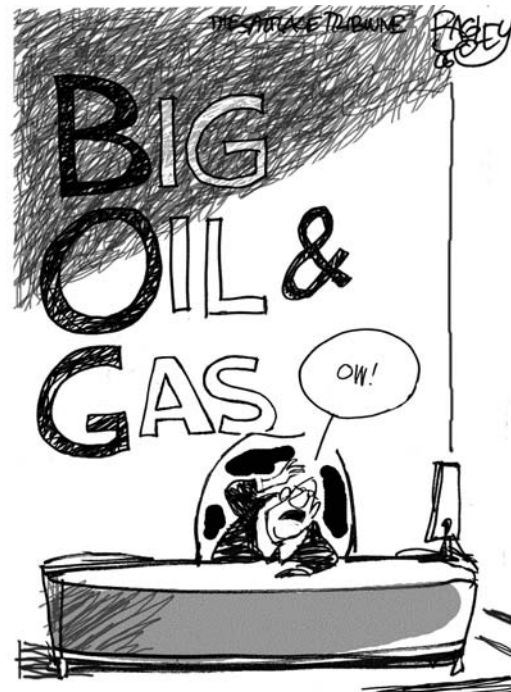
edges are of wilderness caliber and 35,000 acres of additional citizen proposed wilderness.

Judge Kimball's decision throws into question every Utah lease sale over the past three years, as well as sales in Colorado, New Mexico, and Wyoming that included wilderness-quality land. Since April 2003, the BLM has auctioned off more than 70,000 acres of proposed wilderness in Colorado. The Utah sales include land near Desolation Canyon, an area that the agency described in 1999 as representing "... one of the largest blocks of roadless BLM public lands within the continental United States."

The BLM recently announced that it was appealing Judge Kimball's decision to the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals.

SUWA Staff Attorney Steve Bloch and NRDC Public Land Director and senior attorney Sharon Buccino are representing the plaintiffs in this case: SUWA, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and The Wilderness Society.

—Steve Bloch



canyon country updates

Inspector General to Investigate Whether “The Fix” Is In

The Interior Department’s Inspector General has opened an investigation into allegations that Utah Bureau of Land Management (BLM) officials may have made commitments behind closed doors to “fix” new land-use plans to assure more oil and gas and other development on wilderness-quality lands in the state. Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-NY), House sponsor of America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act, requested the probe in August after learning of a leaked e-mail written by Bob Weidner, a lobbyist on behalf of several Utah counties.

The leaked Weidner e-mail reported on a meeting held in July 2006 with Henri Bisson (then-acting Utah BLM state director) and BLM Deputy Director Jim Hughes. Also present were several Utah BLM field office managers and a number of representatives from the oil and gas industry. The subject was the treatment of oil and gas and other issues in Utah BLM Resource Management Plans (RMPs) now being written. (RMPs are basically the blueprints that the agency is required to produce and periodically update, with full public participation, for how to manage public lands under its supervision.)

In the note to his clients, Weidner wrote, “We as counties owe it each other to strike while the iron is hot in finalizing these RMPs. As the governing documents over public lands for the next 20 years, working with the new State BLM Director and the State to ‘fix’ these RMPs is an opportunity which may never come again.”

In response to the Weidner e-mail, Mr. Hinchey asked the Interior Department Inspector General for an inquiry into the meeting that Bisson, Hughes and Weidner attended, as well as into the larger question of whether these land-use plans are being rigged to favor the oil and gas industry and other development interests.

The Inspector General, Earl Devaney, told Mr. Hinchey in late August that the Office of the Inspector General has opened an investigation that would examine “concerns about top BLM officials making commitments to ‘fix’ several resource management plans that would reduce restrictions on access to public lands.” Devaney

said that his office would also probe Mr. Hinchey’s concern about “BLM’s campaign to put a ‘public relations spin’ on its oil and gas leasing program.” He said that he expects the investigation to take two or three months to complete.

Devaney made headlines in September, when he delivered a scathing report to the House Government Reform Subcommittee, cataloguing the Interior Department’s ethical lapses. Among other things, he said, “Short of a crime, anything goes at the highest levels of the Department of Interior.”

You can read the Weidner e-mail, Mr. Hinchey’s letter to the Inspector General, a *Salt Lake Tribune* editorial supporting the Inspector General’s inquiry, and other documents at SUWA’s website, www.suwa.org.

—Steve Bloch

Ya Gotta Pace Yourself...

Okay, you’re an Interior Department employee. You’ve shoveled a bunch of wildland oil and gas leases out the door, understated the environmental consequences of a raft of actions . . . and it’s not even lunch time. What next? Well, you’d probably look for more work to do. But not all your colleagues are so dedicated.

According to the department’s inspector general Earl Devaney, a sizeable number of DOI’s employees hit the Web when they get a spare minute. In a recent report, “Excessive Indulgences,” Devaney found that at least 7,700 did just that, registering more than a million visits to game and auction sites. Over 4,700 visits were to sexually explicit and gambling sites, the Associated Press says.

Devaney pronounced the behavior “egregious” and “alarming.” We are shocked, of course.

Wonder if they’re hiring . . . ?



**southern
utah
wilderness
alliance**

The Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance's Board of Directors and staff have watched with growing concern a new breed of wilderness bills cropping up across the West. These radically different wilderness bills have now infected the Utah wilderness debate, with Sen. Robert Bennett's and Rep. Jim Matheson's introduction of the Washington County Growth and Conservation Act. In response, we have crafted SUWA's position on wilderness legislation. It raises these issues:

1. BLM wilderness study areas (WSAs) are already protected by federal law and should not be relinquished where this results in a net loss of legislatively protected land.
2. There should be no new and inappropriate activities allowed within designated wilderness; that list is already far too long.
3. A decision to support wilderness legislation should rest on whether it both results in a net increase in protection for the lands in question and helps the cause of wilderness advocacy elsewhere.
4. We should be extremely reluctant to surrender our public lands into private hands, even to secure the prize of wilderness.

The wilderness advocacy community is deeply divided over these issues. We emphasize our enduring respect for the tireless activists who work so hard to protect wilderness elsewhere. They are our friends, our colleagues, and our supporters as well.

And we also emphasize that our position should not be read as one that opposes compromise. It is more accurate to say that it opposes only bad compromises, the reach of which will plague not only us but our children as well.

SUWA's very specific mission is protection of Utah's matchless Redrock wilderness. We would dishonor that mission if we remained silent on matters that compromise our ability to fulfill it.

SUWA's Position on Wilderness Legislation

America's Red Rock Wilderness Act

For over 20 years, the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA) has devoted itself to the permanent wilderness protection of all deserving Bureau of Land Management (BLM) wild lands in the state. With our partners in the Utah Wilderness Coalition, some 260 organizations, we've developed America's Red Rock Wilderness Act to achieve that goal.

America's Red Rock Wilderness Act is a remarkable measure, based on an exhaustive citizen inventory undertaken precisely to address the failings of the original BLM inventory of the late 1970s and early 1980s. No western state's wild lands fared very well in that process and Utah's suffered more than most.

America's Red Rock Wilderness Act includes the wilderness study areas (WSAs) established in the shamefully inadequate original inventory, adds

lands that the agency identified as having wilderness character in a re-inventory in 1999, and goes beyond both to incorporate what hundreds of volunteers found and documented in a statewide citizens' inventory. In all, America's Red Rock Wilderness Act proposes wilderness protection for over nine million acres of land in Utah, three times what the BLM originally proposed.

Recent wilderness legislation, in Nevada and other states, has paired the release of existing WSAs, which enjoy protection under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), with the designation of smaller acreage as wilderness. This "relinquishment" model was used in older BLM wilderness legislation, first in 1990, and was essentially an artifact of the wilderness community's experience with Forest Service wilderness legislation.

Poor WSA Recommendations Left Little to Trade

As activists raised their sights though, they largely abandoned the relinquishment model and had good reasons for doing so. They rejected the BLM's egregious understatement of deserving candidate wilderness, a process that produced grossly inadequate WSA determinations. Not incidentally, that systematic understatement of wilderness-quality land left little or no room for the sorts of legislative trade-offs that characterized Forest Service wilderness enactments.

Relinquishment of WSAs is based on assumptions that simply no longer apply in today's political world. And for BLM lands, it produces a net loss of land with legislative protection.

Alarming, in our view, and probably in response to a congressional climate that is ever more hostile to wilderness, relinquishment is back. Some wilderness advocates willingly rely on the old relinquishment model as a way to make gains. The question, of course, is whether the gains are real or illusory and whether they are in the best long-term interests of protecting wilderness.

Forest Service Roadless Areas, BLM WSAs: Fundamental Differences

There is an essential difference between Forest Service roadless areas and BLM WSAs that makes relinquishment especially treacherous. Forest Service roadless areas lack clear legislative protection and whatever protection they enjoy can disappear through agency planning processes or policy changes at the national level. In significant contrast, it takes congressional action to eliminate protection for BLM WSAs. To say it another way and more plainly, lands that BLM has designated as WSAs are protected to a significant extent until the Congress says otherwise. For example, WSAs are closed to oil and gas leasing. And when agencies fail in their mandate to ensure that protection, WSA status gives advocates a legal tool to at least try to force compliance.

This basic difference is the central point in any determination of whether current BLM wilderness legislation is worth what it costs.

What This Means to the Future of Utah Wilderness

In 2004, SUWA entered negotiations on a wilderness bill for Washington County in far southwestern Utah. Going in, we made our bedrock position clear: we would support legislation only if pro-

tected all existing WSAs and additional land beyond them. The political brokers assured us that the county commissioners understood our position.

Things changed markedly in December of 2004. We were suddenly confronted with the expectation that the BLM's original, and discredited, inventories and recommendations would be the starting point and largely the ceiling for negotiations, just as was the case in recent wilderness bills for Lincoln County and elsewhere in Nevada.

The particulars of the Lincoln County wilderness bill are these: it designated around 750,000 acres of WSAs, along with a small amount of land outside WSAs, and released around 250,000 acres of WSAs. Maps of the designation also show some cherry stems that will allow motorized use to plunge deep into wilderness areas.

Utah congressional staff involved in the Washington County discussion declared that the Nevada-style wilderness bills were the new model for wilderness designation. The Nevada model persuaded Utah county commissioners that they could insist upon even less wilderness than they had agreed to in the past.

While for SUWA the release of WSAs is the most problematic provision in the Lincoln County bill and its imitators, there are other provisions that greatly concern us and others in the environmental community. The bill paves the way for a Las Vegas water grab in rural areas, overturns a court decision that blocked an illegal land transaction, and, most ominous, deals off approximately 100,000 acres of public land into private hands. "Quid Pro Quo Wilderness," a recent report from the Western Land Exchange Project and the Western Watersheds Project, details the deal and its dangers. The report is worth reading.

It takes little imagination in the present climate to see this as a prelude to and precedent for the kind of massive public land disposal that the extreme anti-environmental right has long sought. That, after all, was what the Sagebrush Rebellion was all about. That is what California Rep. Richard Pombo proposed. And it is what the Bush administration proposed, as well. The Congress said no to all of them. But a gloss of wilderness seems to be enough to allow land disposal measures to sail through the Congress with an ease they'd never achieve if they were considered on their own. If the Nevada model persists, henceforth we may only have wilderness bills if we buy them with other public lands that

have important public values of their own. SUWA is not so hungry for passage of a wilderness bill that we will acquiesce in a scheme that could so clearly endanger America's public estate. Once we capitulate to a demand that we must trade other public lands to achieve wilderness protection, it's a short step to dealing off the public estate to reduce the deficit, to fund federal mandates, or for any of a hundred other things.

A Threat to Years of Hard Work

Years of dedicated effort by SUWA and its partners had begun to shift the politics of wilderness in Utah. From an adamant position of "no more wilderness, ever" a decade ago, Utah's political leaders, however grudgingly, had come to an acceptance that WSAs are two things for wilderness advocates: sacrosanct and no more than the merest floor in any wilderness negotiation. With the political imposition of the Lincoln County model on our work, that hard-won progress has begun to slip away.

Another pending package promises additional difficulty for Utah wilderness: an agreement to protect part of the Owyhee Canyonlands in Idaho. In brief, this measure would release 210,000 acres of WSAs, and designate 510,000 acres of WSAs as wilderness. Applying the mathematics of that formula to Utah isn't terribly complicated. If wilderness here means surrendering 30 percent of the WSAs (3.2 million acres) to political expediency, we will end up with a scant 2.4 million acres of designated wilderness in redrock country. That's only three-fourths of what even the BLM proposed in its original inventory, and a small percentage of lands America's Red Rock Wilderness Act proposes to protect.

Difficult Times and Likely to Worsen

We well understand that these wilderness deals pose daunting choices. They are especially difficult for those who toil in the most anti-wilderness states where any designation seems like deliverance.

The landscape of wilderness protection has grown ever stonier. And that makes it an increasingly dangerous place for wilderness advocates. We are hungry for protection of the lands that we cherish, saddened when they are damaged. That leaves us vulnerable to temptations to make this concession or that one in order to get a bill passed. The only defense against such temptation is to stand more firmly than ever for the fundamental principles that have brought the movement to where we are today. Principles, as we all know, are most meaningful—perhaps only meaningful—at precisely the moment

when defending them is most difficult. Among the principles of wilderness advocacy is the steadfast belief that wilderness is a matter of national, not merely regional, significance, that the integrity of all wilderness depends on a strong, unified, national system. That must extend to the designation process, too. What we stand for in one place becomes armor and shield for wilderness battles everywhere. What we surrender in one place will inevitably become a vulnerability somewhere—perhaps everywhere—else.

Just as there is a national constituency for wilderness, there is a national constituency against it. Its members talk to one another, just as we do. They pay careful attention to what finds its way into wilderness enactments elsewhere and demand no less (or is it no more?) in their own states.

Can we, in such a climate, take at face value assurances that novel language in a particular bill has only site-specific impact, that it is no precedent, and thus, no threat, elsewhere? Sadly, our own experience in Washington County tells us we cannot.

Our Own Tradition of Deference

The wilderness community has for years wisely left it to activists in their own states to know the issues, the land, and their wilderness politics better than anyone else can know them. They will know best which lands absolutely must be protected in a bill, which might safely wait and be removed from consideration in the near term. Our history is one of taking what we can get, then coming back for what the land and the nation deserve as and when we can. A passion for wilderness does not obviate pragmatism. Together, they've given us a National Wilderness Preservation System of over 105 million acres. Compromise has shaped every wilderness bill from the Act of 1964 to the present. The approach has served us well and we must honor it.

But in that process, we have been careful not to encumber other advocates in other places with agreements that threaten wilderness and wilderness protection. In the current climate, we believe it is vitally important to come together as a community and reaffirm that commitment to each other and to declare that some matters are simply non-negotiable. Release of BLM WSAs is surely one such matter. It seems to us that the wilderness community has allowed itself to be drawn into a deadly reckoning over BLM wilderness: How much less than already-inadequate WSA acreage is acceptable just to rack up a wilderness bill?

All of us work first and probably hardest for those wild places closest to our homes and our hearts. But we are also part of a wilderness tradition that values wild places everywhere, which understands the centrality of an enduring public estate. We have embraced a shared duty to think of all those places and all of those things. We have a shared duty to weigh our choices in terms of their impact on colleagues who toil anywhere in the wilderness vineyard and on our vision of an as-yet incomplete National Wilderness Preservation System. It will remain unrealized if we allow ourselves to be captured by the notion that our wilderness vision is capped at the present WSA acreage and that we'll have to surrender even some of that into the devilish bargain.

Our fear is that the American wilderness movement is slipping downhill and that the pace quickens. We'd like to begin a conversation, and soon, with our wilderness colleagues nationally, regionally and locally about this trend and our great fear of it. We would like them to understand our position; we'd like to better understand theirs.

A Place to Begin a Conversation

We suggest the following framework for that conversation:

1. BLM WSAs are already protected by federal law. And just like designated wilderness, they can only be undone by an act of Congress. In this they differ from Forest Service roadless areas which lack any legislative protection, except in rare circumstances. Because they are the core of most BLM wilderness proposals, WSAs should be the barest floor for wilderness legislation and should rarely, if ever, be relinquished. That is most particularly the case when relinquishment results in a net loss of legislatively protected areas or acreage.
2. Preservation of wild landscapes is at the heart of the mission we share. Accordingly, we have deep concerns about legislative provisions that include destructive activities in areas proposed for wilderness. Provisions creating or promoting off-road vehicle trails, pipelines, or water developments do not, as a general proposition, belong in wilderness legislation. They can only serve to weaken wilderness protections by expanding the range of incompatible activities allowed in designated wilderness.
3. Decisions to support or oppose wilderness legislation should rest on the answers to two questions: Does the legislation result in a net increase or decrease in protection for the lands in question?

Does it help or hinder the cause of wilderness advocacy or the wilderness ideal elsewhere? We understand that pragmatic and creative strategies are necessary to achieve protection for wild landscapes, but we remain fearful of strategies that undercut protection, or protection efforts, elsewhere.

4. The specter of wholesale disposal of public lands is suddenly real. Most conservationists accept, at least in general terms, the principles of conservation biology. One of its lessons is the virtual certainty that even our largest parks and wilderness areas are inadequate for the protection of the systems they anchor. Their health and the health of the species that inhabit them depend in large measure on the integrity of the entire network of public lands that are a uniquely American birthright. But for relatively tiny, even tinkering, exceptions, there is no surplus public land. We ought to be very, very reluctant to agree to the surrender of our public lands into private hands, even to secure the prize of wilderness.

A Respectful Disagreement

We emphasize our enduring respect for the tireless activists who work so hard to protect wilderness in Nevada and Idaho and elsewhere. They are our friends, our colleagues, and our supporters as well. And we also emphasize that our position should not be read as one that opposes compromise. It is more accurate to say that it opposes only bad compromises whose reach will plague not only us but our children as well.

SUWA's very specific mission is protection of Utah's matchless Redrock wilderness. We would dishonor that mission if we remained silent on matters that compromise our ability to fulfill it. Sadly, recent legislation, both pending and passed, seems to be doing just that. Legislation that relinquishes BLM WSAs erects additional hurdles to wilderness protection everywhere. In anti-wilderness Utah, those measures have already begun to create an expectation that our WSAs should be offered as trading stock as they have been elsewhere.

For these and other reasons, it is the position of the SUWA board and staff that the organization will not support legislation inconsistent with the four principles expressed above.

canyon country updates

Appeals Court Dismisses Challenge to Monument

The long legal fight over President Clinton's establishment of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument went out with a whimper this past summer as the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals dismissed the case on jurisdictional grounds.

The last remaining party to challenge the creation of the monument was the far-right Mountain States Legal Foundation (an organization founded by former Interior Secretary James Watt and staffed by former Interior Secretary Gale Norton) and the Tenth Circuit ruled that Mountain States lacked "standing" to pursue its case because the group had not shown that any of its members were harmed by the monument (as opposed to their own actions). Mountain States had not sought review of the Tenth Circuit's decision before the Supreme Court and thus the decision ends a nearly decade-long court battle challenging the creation of the monument.

Defense of the monument's creation was a long and tortuous road for SUWA and its partners: The

Wilderness Society, the Grand Canyon Trust, the Boulder Mountain Lodge, Escalante Canyon Outfitters, and Escalante's Grand Staircase B&B. It began with a trip to the Tenth Circuit in 2001 to ensure that we could intervene on behalf of the United States to defend against this lawsuit and continued with another trip back to the Tenth Circuit in 2005 to argue that President Clinton acted appropriately when he established the monument.

We want to extend our thanks to several current and former attorneys in the Minneapolis office of the Faegre & Benson law firm who worked closely with us over the years on this case. They include Rick Duncan, Brian O'Neil, Sarah Wheelock, Craig Coleman, Bill Underwood, and Karleen O'Connor. SUWA attorneys Steve Bloch and Heidi McIntosh worked on the case for SUWA and the other plaintiffs.

—*Steve Bloch*



Sunset Arch in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

© James W. Kay, www.jameskay.com

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument: Celebrating a Decade of Protection

"Sometimes progress is measured in mastering frontiers, but sometimes we must measure progress in protecting frontiers for our children and for all children to come . . . we can't have coal mines everywhere, and we shouldn't have mines that threaten our national treasures."

—President Bill Clinton, Sept. 18, 1996.

With these words, President Clinton inked a proclamation creating a lasting and remarkable legacy for all Americans: the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. Truly grand in scale at 1.7 million unique acres, it includes some of the most fascinating landscapes, fossils, archaeological sites and natural diversity to be found anywhere. For some of us who had worked for years to protect this magnificent place, and who had huddled together in a chilly drizzle since before dawn to hear these words, they were a long-awaited inspiration.

In the 10 years since the creation of the monument, coal giants Pacificorp and Andalex both agreed to sell their existing leases back to the government;

Conoco drilled thousands of feet into the earth in the monument and came up dry; and Kane and Garfield Counties pushed unsuccessfully to establish R.S. 2477 highways on what are now dirt trails. The Utah Association of Counties and the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) filed suit against the monument. SITLA agreed to a precedent-setting land exchange and \$50 million in cash in 1998. The county group lost its case in the federal district court in 2005 and did not appeal it to the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals. The Mountain States Legal Foundation did and, as the final plaintiff on the suit, lost its appeal this summer.

In nearly record time, the BLM published a management plan for its new charge in 1999. The plan protects 1.3 million acres for primitive backcountry use only, and includes a travel plan that protects the remaining roadless areas while providing access to much of the monument's spectacular scenery. Fabulous, never-before-seen dinosaur fossils have emerged from the desert, including the 80-million-year-old, rhinoceros-like "Last Chance Ceratopsian" found just this year.

Hundreds of thousands of visitors travel in the monument every year and local towns like Kanab and Escalante have not dried up and blown away as some earlier predicted.

The next 10 years will certainly include challenges to the wilderness character of this spectacular place, but in generations to come, our grandchildren—and theirs—will be grateful for a blank spot on the map, a place of quiet reflection, indescribable beauty and scientific and geological marvels in an increasingly hectic world.

—Heidi McIntosh



© James W. Kay, www.jameskay.com

Just one of countless stunning views inside the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

canyon country updates

RS 2477: A Travelogue from the Roads to Nowhere

RS 2477 retains its role as the central anti-wilderness strategy of some rural elected officials and “go anywhere, anytime” off-road vehicle advocates in the State of Utah. New developments in the litigation and legislative arenas continue to evolve as the administration’s own plans begin to take shape and move forward, although in distinctive bunny-hop style.

On the legislative front, Representative Steve Pearce (R-NM) introduced a bill, H.R. 6298, which is a dream come true for RS 2477 cheerleaders. Drafted by rural county commissioners, the bill proposes to recognize RS 2477 “highways” anywhere a line on a travel map (including ordinary tourist maps) indicates a route of some sort. The Pearce bill would give states and counties countless “constructed public highways,” and the right to use, maintain, and even widen or pave any river, trail, or footpath across any piece of land ever owned by the U.S. government where the river, trail, or footpath is shown on any federal, state, or county map.

The bar here is so low as to be subterranean. The Pearce bill seeks to legitimize and turn over to wilderness foes routes:

- that were illegally constructed on public lands;
- in areas now protected as wilderness, National Forest, National Wildlife Refuge, National Monument, a watershed, Native American gravesite, etc.;
- on lands now set aside as military training ranges;
- constructed by and for the Federal government (such as those built to help federal land managers protect wildlife habitat, manage livestock, protect watersheds, etc.);
- which appear on only a single map even though every other reliable map fails to show the route;
- that are no more than a footpath or trail abandoned decades or centuries ago; and
- that have never been maintained or constructed by a state or county government.

Candidate for Early Burial

Among other basic problems, the bill flouts the 2005 decision of the U.S. Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals in *Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance v. BLM*, which requires the counties to prove their claims. A single route on a single map doesn’t even come close to the standard envisioned by the courts. Pearce’s overreaching, radical and unbalanced legislation deserves an express ride to the legislative graveyard. It’s beyond fixing and needs to be buried.

In the meantime, the BLM moves forward haltingly to implement the so-called “non-binding determination” process, former Secretary of Interior Gale Norton’s farewell gift to the West. This “informal” process would allow the BLM to review and approve, for internal purposes, RS 2477 claims. So far, the BLM is considering three applications in Utah: Arch Canyon, the Hole in the Rock Road, and a route near Bryce Canyon called Bald Knoll.

Arch Canyon is cause for particular alarm. There, ad hoc, dead-end jeep use has created a route at the bottom of a canyon, which crosses a beautiful stream over 100 times on the round trip. The canyon is full of wondrous archaeological sites, which, with increased access, suffer increased damage and looting. It is also the scene of the controversial Jeep Jamboree event which finally ended in 2004, after the BLM denied the necessary permit. Jeep’s official position is that they moved the event to another site, but dozens of Jeeps still rode the canyon in an organized effort. Their rationale? Courtesy of San Juan County and Commissioner Lynn Stevens (now head of Governor Jon Huntsman’s Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office) it was this: the route is a “highway” under RS 2477 and beyond the BLM’s authority to protect. Stevens himself led the road warriors into the canyon.

Don’t be fooled, though, by the “informal” nature of this process. The BLM would make non-binding determinations based on much less evidence than a court would require, but the effect on the ground, in places we care about, would be no different than if the counties had affirmed the validity of their claims in court. The BLM would—and already is—making determinations in the context of its

canyon country updates

resource management planning, or oil and gas leasing program, and those determinations are carried forward and recognized in all subsequent decisions. In a very real way, these informal determinations are forming the backbone of plans and decisions every day.

Sign Language

If nothing else, the issue provides loads of courtroom drama. Here's the update. Last summer, the federal district court in Utah ruled that SUWA could proceed in our case directly against Kane County to stop its sign shenanigans in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. (You may recall the county commissioners decided to take the law into their own hands, ripping down BLM signs that placed sensitive areas off-limits to ORVs. The county eventually put up its own "welcome ORV" signs in the same places. The county even passed an ordinance promoting the newly "open" routes.)

Our suit—a novel approach to these sticky cases—is to argue that this kind of county action is unconstitutional because it overrides the federal role in managing and protecting federal lands. So far, we're in good shape, and although the county is rolling the dice with an appeal to the 10th Circuit, we're pushing ahead with our own requests that the county put up evidence supporting its "highway" claims . . . or shut up.

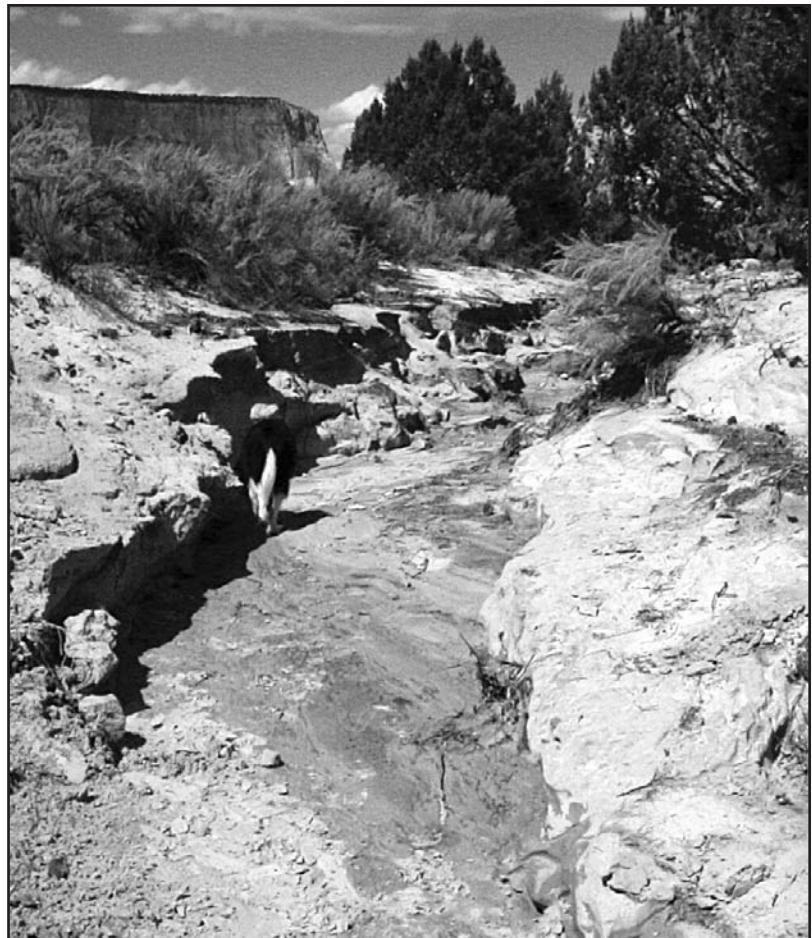
At the same time, Kane County has filed its own suit claiming, 10 years after the monument's creation, that the monument's management plan should be overturned because of its failure to recognize the county's RS 2477 claims. Never mind that the county still refuses to do what the law requires and file a claim under the federal Quiet Title Act—the only legally recognized basis for a property claim against the federal government. The county is still, despite the 10th Circuit's ruling to the contrary, trying to make the point that all they have to do is wave a dead cat over a trail three times and claim ownership and the deed is done, the county "highway" is created. (Well, actually, they're not even doing the dead cat part...)

RS 2477 continues to be the weapon of choice for wilderness foes looking to threaten proposed and designated wilderness areas, national parks, wildlife refuges, even military training grounds.

Emboldened by their sympathetic comrades in both the Congress and the White House, RS 2477 boosters are running amok, with little control, reason or balance.

But the bottom line is that so far, despite millions of dollars of taxpayer money down the tube, countless hours spent by private and state attorneys with the political winds blowing at their backs, not a single RS 2477 claim has been validated in Utah. This reflects both the hubris of the RS 2477 cabal, its bad choices and systematic overreaching. But it also reflects the commitment and strength of the wilderness community which has fought so hard on this issue. Kudos to all of you for your continuing letters, comments, and participation!

—Heidi McIntosh



©SUWA

An RS 2477 "highway" claim in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

grassroots network

Finding the Redrock Country's Passionate Supporters... Wherever They Live

SUWA's work to protect Utah's special places against the worst impulses of its local governments and congressional delegation has always relied heavily on the passion that Americans all across the country feel for Utah wildlands. We need them now more than ever with Sen. Robert Bennett's introduction of the Washington County Growth and Conservation Act.

In the last issue of "Redrock," we introduced you to two new grassroots field organizers we've enlisted to extend our reach and focus our efforts in the northwest and upper Midwest. Here's a bit more about the excellent work of both: Eileen Crawford of Seattle and Clayton Daughenbaugh of Berwyn, IL.

Eileen's work in Washington and Oregon has resulted in the formation of several coalitions. One, the Washington League for Utah Wilderness, has sponsored a booth at a local hiking fair and mailed postcards urging supporters to contact their members of Congress. Another coalition composed of Washington State environmental and religious organizations met with congressional staff to discuss concerns about the Bennett bill. A similar coalition has come together in Oregon to

communicate with Oregon's congressional delegation. And a number of groups in both states signed onto a *New York Times* ad this summer opposing the Bennett legislation.

Clayton's work in Illinois and Wisconsin has been equally fruitful. A dozen members of an Illinois activist group affiliated with the Utah Wilderness Coalition met with members of their congressional delegation. They've also been writing letters and making phone calls. A group of United Methodist pastors in Illinois also met with one of their congressional representatives.

In Wisconsin, Clayton has visited a number of Sierra Club chapters and religious groups. As a result, a number of people from those groups met with members of their congressional delegation to discuss the Bennett legislation.

"My favorite part is when people really take hold of this and start running with it on their own, as these folks have," Clayton said. "These are great people!"

They are, indeed, and so are Eileen and Clayton. We are lucky to have them all working with us in defense of the redrock!

Join SUWA's Email Alert List

The best way to stay informed on breaking issues affecting Utah wilderness is to add your name to SUWA's electronic listserve.

If you have an email address and would like to be part of our "first responder" activist network, go to www.suwa.org/alertlist and fill out the online subscription form.

This is absolutely the easiest way to stay in the loop on Utah wilderness issues and events while learning how to get more involved.

On top of that, it's free and it saves trees!

grassroots network

Zion-Mojave Website Adds Interactive Features



Up-to-date news and interactive features make www.zionmojavewilderness.org the Web's best source of information on the Zion-Mojave wilderness.

If you've already visited the Zion-Mojave Wilderness website, www.zionmojavewilderness.org, we think you will enjoy a second look. If you've never been there, now is the time! This site is ground-zero for everything concerning the fight to save one of Utah's most spectacular and threatened landscapes.

New Citizen Action Tools

The site now has new citizen action tools, including an online petition that has already collected thousands of signatures and individual comments from people across the country. On the home page, click any of the Take Action buttons in the column on the right.

New Zion-Mojave Wilderness Blog

If you're new to the world of web-logs, or blogs, this is your opportunity to find out what all the buzz is about. If you are already familiar with blogs you'll want to put www.zionmojavewilderness.org/blog at the top of your list. The blog is updated at least once, sometimes two or three times, a day. It's where you'll find all the breaking news concerning the fight to save

the Zion-Mojave. Categories include media coverage, postings on other blogs, reports from grassroots activists and from our legislative team in Washington. Individuals are encouraged to post comments. You can also subscribe to the RSS feed to receive instant updates. Help build buzz in the blogosphere about the effort to stop Sen. Robert Bennett's bill by posting a comment or a diary entry on other blogs you enjoy.

New Zion-Mojave Video Stream

The home page now boasts a new, professionally produced 6-minute video about the beauty of the Zion-Mojave area, the history of the Washington County Growth and Conservation Act, and our efforts to stop the sell-off of America's public lands. The video, posted on Google Video along with another 20-minute video about America's Redrock Wilderness Act, is available for anyone to view online, streamed to the browser of their choice. After viewing it, you might want to send a few of your friends an email containing the link to the homepage so they too can see the video.

inside SUWA

Membership Maven Moves On

If you've been a SUWA member for a while, you've likely had contact at one time or another with veteran staff member Lindsey Oswald. Whether it was an event invitation, a thank-you card, an issues update in your renewal notice, or any other membership-related correspondence, Lindsey almost certainly had a hand in it.

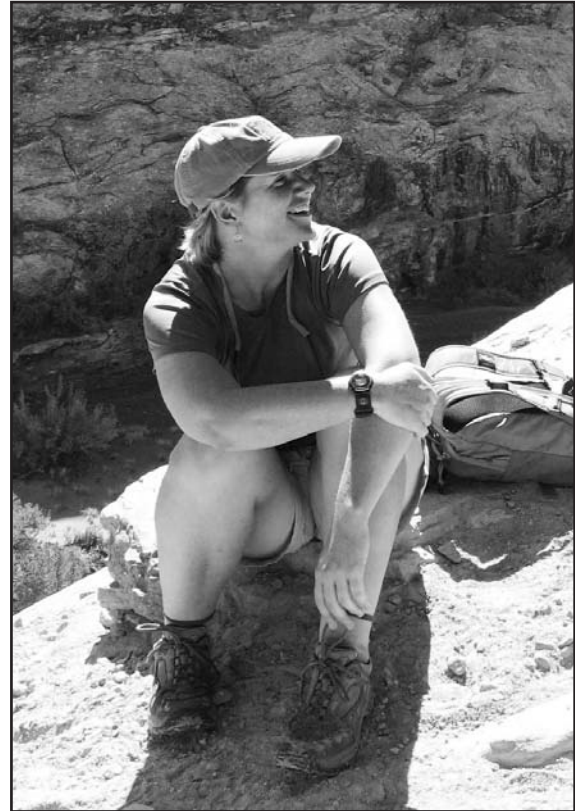
Eight years ago she joined our staff as membership coordinator and soon took on event planning, grant writing, and just about every other member outreach and fundraising task at SUWA. After heading up our membership team as development director for the past six years, she has now moved on to new adventures.

A Salt Lake City native, Lindsey's lifelong passion for Utah wilderness showed through in every detail of her work at SUWA. Affectionately dubbed the "Comma Queen" by co-workers, Lindsey proved endlessly exploitable as a sharp-eyed proofreader. No run-on sentence or dangling participle could ever escape her red pen. Diligent and detail-oriented, she was a one-woman quality-control department who brought polish and consistency to SUWA's public face.

Though her writing skills were considerable, perhaps her greatest strength as a fundraiser was her personal rapport with people. Our members are the most valuable part of the organization; Lindsey made sure they knew it. A gracious hostess, she was equally sociable at large events and with drop-in visitors. Also considerate of co-workers, she somehow kept track of all the staff birthdays and always made sure they were celebrated.

As Lindsey takes a well-earned break and contemplates her next adventure (most likely in South America), SUWA loses a dear friend and dedicated activist. We will miss her always cheerful, ever obliging nature, her boundless patience, and her willingness to pitch in whenever and wherever she was needed. We'll also miss her chocolate lab, Moxie—the official office dog and SUWA mascot these past 8 years—though we're sure to see them both on the trails now and then.

Thank you, Lindsey and Moxie, for all you've given to SUWA and to the cause of wilderness!



©Jeff Kessler

After eight years at SUWA, Lindsey looks forward to new adventures.

Big Thanks to Marcy Haro

After six years as administrative director, Marcy Haro has left SUWA to spend more time with her family and generally lead a less hectic existence. Down the line, she plans to help her husband Jorge run his newly established business. Though we miss her terribly already, we applaud her decision to make health and sanity the top priorities in her life.

Marcy came to SUWA the way so many of us have—by volunteering at a particularly busy time, then suddenly finding herself on the payroll. With a desire to help protect the wild landscapes of her home state, plus experience with financial systems and protocols, she was the perfect fit at the perfect time.

At the hub of SUWA's daily operations, Marcy was the one we all turned to for just about everything.

inside SUWA

The queen of Quickbooks and an expert multi-tasker, she could manage the payroll while processing invoices, fixing the fax machine, and cleaning up after messy co-workers. Ever proficient and eager to help, she even got roped into spearheading SUWA's big move to the Wyss Wilderness House in 2005—an enormous responsibility that became a whole second job in itself. If not for her steadfast determination and voluntary overtime, who knows how we could have pulled it off.

As den mother to a staff of around 20, Marcy's job was never easy. Despite constant interruptions and an ever-increasing workload, she stayed focused and kept SUWA running smoothly all these years. Her patience, good humor, and heart-felt dedication have made SUWA a stronger, more efficient organization. For all of these things, and for paying our salaries every month, we heartily thank her!

We wish Marcy the best of luck with her family business venture and hope to see her at many (if not all) of our SUWA events in the future.



©Veronica DeOllos

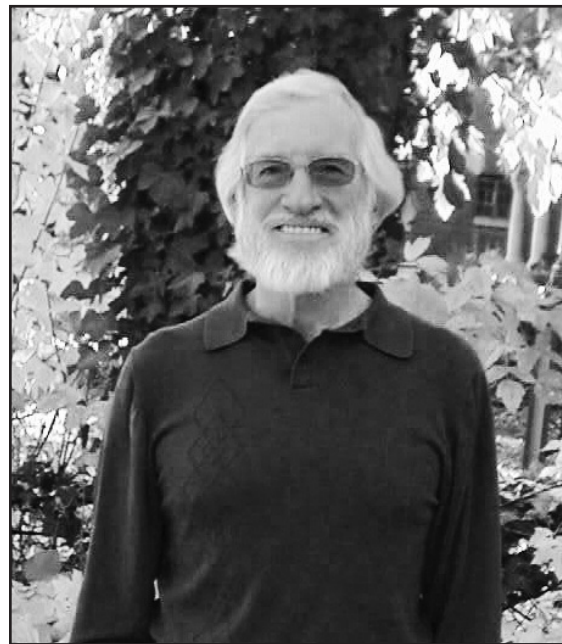
Thanks to Marcy's efforts, SUWA is as strong and efficient as ever.

Barry Bonifas Joins SUWA as Associate Director

What do you do after retiring from 40 years working in the arts and entertainment business? For Barry Bonifas, the answer was easy: follow your passion and work for an organization that protects the land that you have treasured and explored for most of your life.

Barry joined SUWA as its new associate director in October to lead SUWA's fundraising efforts and staff. Barry has managed nonprofit organizations in Utah, Washington, Idaho, Montana, and California while producing and presenting over 4,000 performances and public events. He also spent 12 years restoring and renovating historic theaters, when he wasn't out exploring the West.

"The basic operational responsibilities and expertise needed by nonprofits are the same whether they are involved in the arts, environmental issues, or any other area, so I'm delighted to be able to contribute my skills to SUWA, which I've been a member of for many years," said Bonifas. "I first saw the Colorado Plateau from the window of a Greyhound bus when I was 8 years old. I was immediately hooked, and I've been coming back almost every year since. Now I won't have as far to travel!"



©Diane Kelly

Barry brings years of management and fundraising experience to his new job at SUWA.

inside SUWA

Gina Riggs Joins Administrative Team

SUWA is pleased to welcome Gina Riggs as our new administrative assistant in the Salt Lake City office. Gina has lived in Utah most of her life (about 99.9 percent of it, she says) and has been an avid wilderness advocate for the past 14 years. A longtime fan of SUWA's work, Gina discovered our job posting by serendipity. After staring hopelessly at an online list of over 600 jobs, she hit the Page Down key and suddenly noticed our ad. "It was like hitting the jackpot" she says, "Never in a million years did I think I'd end up here."

Along with substantial data entry experience and organizational skills, Gina brings with her a great love of the outdoors. She and her husband Scott have long enjoyed mountain biking, backpacking, and hiking with their two dogs, Bailey and Bear.

With her sunny disposition and can-do attitude, Gina fit in at SUWA right away. Even her first, ill-omened trip to the SUWA Roundup proved no great difficulty for her; she was one of only two staff members who made it within striking distance of our usual backcountry campsite—with a pickup full of supplies—despite a 200-year down-

pour and extensive flash-flooding (see article on page 29). If this had been a planned initiation rite, she would have passed with flying colors.

Welcome aboard, Gina. You're a true find!

SUWA Welcomes Back David Garbett

We're excited to welcome David Garbett back to SUWA's Salt Lake City office. David clerked for SUWA in the summer of 2004 between his first and second year at Harvard Law School and just wrapped up his law degree there last spring.

David secured his own funding from Harvard to spend the next year with SUWA focusing on Utah's School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) and the unique role that school trust lands play in the wilderness debate in Utah. He'll also work on a variety of other issues, including SUWA's state legislative and federal energy campaigns.

A native Utahn, David has degrees from Brigham Young University and Utah State University and a deep passion for our state's spectacular public lands. We're fortunate to have David working alongside us.

Welcome back David!

The Return of Slideshow Bob

Just in time to take the brand new *Wild Utah!* slideshow on its inaugural tour, "Slideshow Bob" Brister is back at SUWA.

After a six-month sojourn in the world of politics, Bob has resumed his former position as Interregional Outreach Coordinator in our Salt Lake City office and is busily planning the itinerary of his spring tour.

To learn more about the slideshow tour and where it's headed in 2007, visit www.suwa.org and click on Events.



©Diane Kelly

David and Gina have proven valuable additions to the Salt Lake City office.

inside SUWA

Roundup 2006: The Year of the Great Flood

The SUWA staff would like to commend our intrepid members who braved the great flood of 2006 to reach what will surely stand as a Roundup unique in SUWA's 23-year history. Record rainfall on Thursday and Friday swelled the Fremont, San Rafael, and Dirty Devil Rivers until they overflowed their banks and washed out roads, ultimately shutting down Highway 24 between Hanksville and Capitol Reef National Park. Throughout the San Rafael Swell, dry washes became streams, creeks became rivers, and waterfalls cascaded from the redrock cliffs. Friday night found many SUWA members and staff sleeping in their cars or pitching tents wherever they could find dry ground.

By Saturday morning the skies had cleared and two parallel Roundups began to take shape—one at Temple Mountain, the other at Hondu Arch—separated from each other by 25 miles of slippery and uncertain terrain. Though communal Roundup supplies were split between camps (the Temple Mountain crew with the lion's share of breakfast food, the Hondu folks with a surplus of melons and cookware), everyone made do with what they had and insisted that the Roundup they were at was assuredly the better of the two. Due to a blown-out culvert which rendered the last few miles of road impassable, no one made it all the way to Hidden Splendor this year (despite the best efforts of some early arrivals).

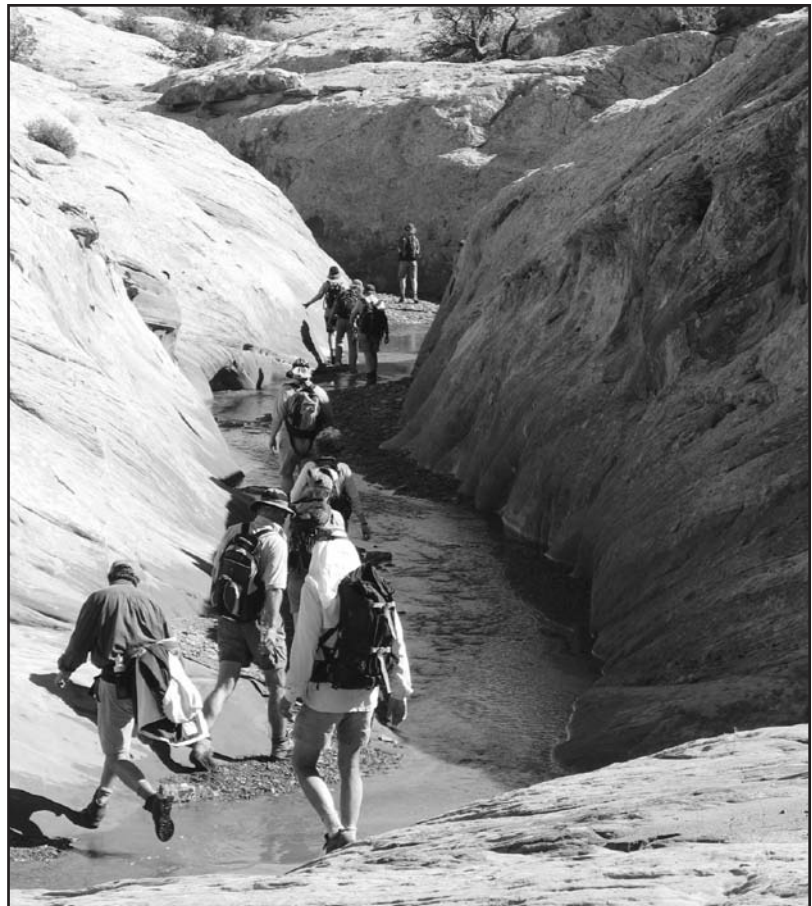
We're happy to report that nobody was injured in the downpour, and those who weathered the storm were rewarded with friendship, fair skies, and a brilliant full moon. Among the brave-hearted folks who survived the 200-year deluge were members from Utah, Alabama, Maryland, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Montana, and California—including two toddlers and a 10-day-old infant! Some were first-time Roundup-goers whom we hope to see again next year when things, we hope, return to normal.

Thanks to the 45 or so people who made it to one of the two parallel Roundups this year and to all the folks who tried their best but were thwarted by the bad weather. Special thanks go out to Steve Allen who led the Temple Mountain campers on a lovely hike through Wild Horse Canyon on Saturday before heading into yet more uncertain weather conditions for a week-long SUWA donor trip.



©Ginny Carlson

SUWA members send their tallest cohort (Steve Allen) to test the depth of flood waters at Temple Wash. This photo was taken after the water had already receded two or three feet.



©Jeff Kessler

Roundup hikers soak up the sun of a perfect autumn day.

inside SUWA**Join or Donate Today and Make a Difference!**

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

As a member of SUWA, you can rest assured that someone is always staying on top of the issues and doing whatever it takes to protect the wilderness lands that you love. At the same time, we make every effort to keep our members up-to-date on the latest threats—through our website, email alerts, action bulletins, phone banking, and our newsletter—so that you can stay informed and involved.

Ways to Give**Monthly Giving Program**

If you're looking for a convenient, hassle-free way to help SUWA, our monthly giving program is for you. Monthly giving is easy and secure, and provides SUWA with reliable, year-round funding to fight current and future attacks on Utah wilderness. Please see opposite page for details.

Gifts of Cash

The most common way to support SUWA's efforts is simply to send us a check or donate with a credit card.

There are three ways to give:

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

Some employers will match your donation to SUWA, doubling the amount of support you give to Utah wilderness. If your company or firm has a matching gift program, simply enclose the form along with your donation.

Gifts of Stock

You can give a meaningful gift to SUWA and gain a substantial tax advantage for yourself by giving stocks or mutual fund shares that have appreciated in value. For information on how to transfer stocks or mutual funds to SUWA's account, please contact Barry Bonifas at barry@suwa.org or (801) 486-3161. In addition, please let us know the details of your transfer (your name and contact information, intended date of transfer, type of stock, and number of shares), so that we may promptly process and acknowledge your generous gift.

Gift Memberships and Honorary/Memorial Donations

Get your friends and family involved in the fight to protect Utah wilderness by giving them a gift membership or renewal. Or, honor a friend or loved one by donating to SUWA in their name. Keep us in mind for special occasions: birthdays, weddings, Christmas, and other holidays—there's no better gift than the gift of wilderness! Simply send us your name and address, along with the name and address of the recipient of the gift membership or honorary donation. Call us at (801) 486-3161 for more information.

Thank you for your support of SUWA and Utah wilderness!

inside SUWA

Recurring Monthly Donations: Convenience for You and SUWA!

SUWA's committed and active membership has been the little engine that could for almost 25 years. SUWA members have consistently provided the generous contributions that allow SUWA to fight for Utah's vulnerable wild lands. You have responded to our paper renewal notices, diligently and patiently renewing your support year after year.

We thank you for this commitment and—along with our thanks—offer you a relatively simple alternative to this annual check-writing event: recurring monthly donations. For as little as \$10 a month, we can set up your membership so that funds are electronically debited from your checking account or credit card. Once this process is set up, your work is done! You'll have the satisfaction of knowing that you've done your part to protect Utah's Redrock. And you won't have to worry about receiving paper renewal notices, losing the reply envelope, or wondering if you've made your annual contribution yet. You'll receive a thank-you letter, which you can use for tax purposes, at the end of the calendar year. What could be easier?

Of course, we benefit too! SUWA saves money on printing and processing of renewal letters and envelopes. Postage becomes unnecessary; paper, ink, and energy consumption are minimized; and SUWA can count on consistent income each month. If you are able to contribute to SUWA at this level, please give it a try. Call us at (801) 486-3161 with your debit or credit card number (you can also send us a voided check), and we'll get you enrolled in our monthly giving program right away. Thank you in advance for your ongoing support!

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**

Book Review

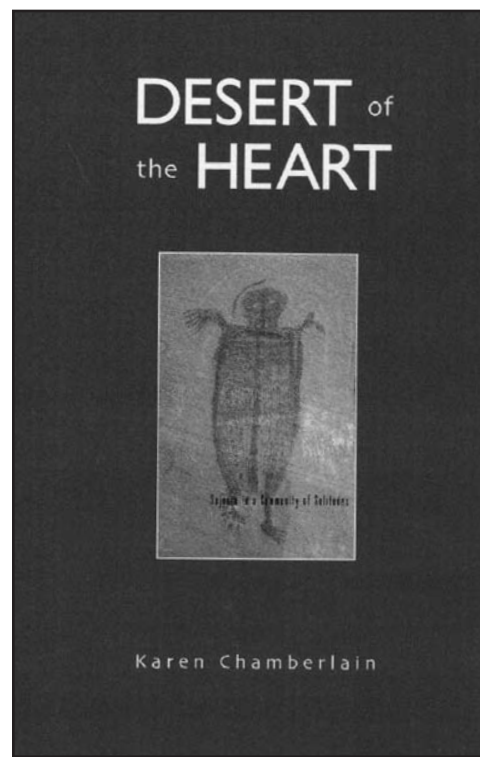
Desert of the Heart: Sojourn in a Community of Solitudes

by Karen Chamberlain
 Ghost Road Press, 2006

Reviewed by Bruce Berger

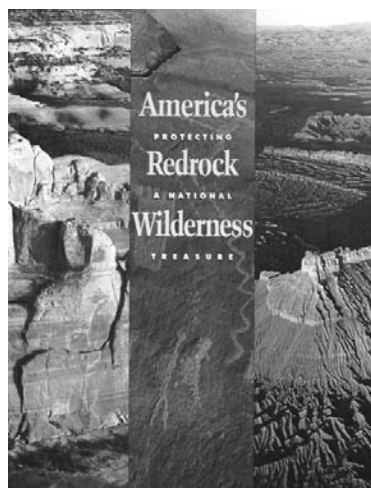
Anyone who is interested in the confluence of fine writing and deep experience of the canyon and mesa landscapes of southeast Utah should not miss Karen Chamberlain's *Desert of the Heart*, her account of five years as caretaker and sole human resident of Horsethief Ranch, an isolated node of rusticity north of Island in the Sky.

A crossroads of creatures from raven-riding phoebes to a deer who falls out of the sky, and from SUWA-hosted Congress-people to a desert rat from Brooklyn, Horsethief is a nexus of constant surprise. Every visitor to the ranch, whether AIDS survivor or sex-crazed French tourist, sheds light on a sliver of civilization that Horsethief takes in, survives, and ultimately holds at bay. The memoir's central protagonist is, in fact, the landscape itself, which the author has absorbed deeply and gives back in language as clear as the spring that feeds this ancient desert oasis.



Order a Copy of *America's Redrock Wilderness*

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



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

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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

CC#: _____ Exp. date: _____

Amount: \$ _____

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

SUWA T-Shirts and Hats For Sale!

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

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

Circle Choice(s)

Baseball Cap, \$25	Sage or Chamois	Qty_____
Floppy Hat, \$20	Bright Yellow	Qty_____
Sun Visor, \$15	Bright Yellow	Qty_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

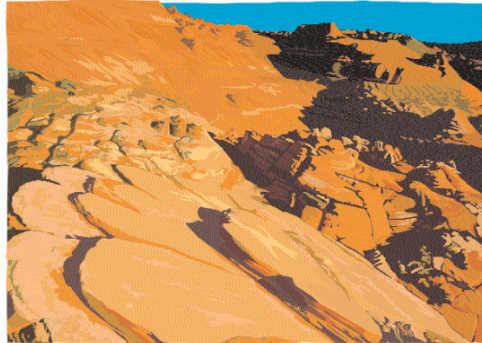
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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 are available in Sage and Chamois (light beige).



Sun visors are available only in Yellow.

**Fine Art Poster
by David Muench**

Please send _____ Cedar Mesa fine art poster(s) at \$20 each. (\$100 each for posters autographed by David Muench.)

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 \$ _____

Prices include shipping and handling.

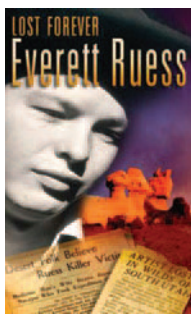
Mail form with payment to:

SUWA, 1471 S. 1100 E.,
Salt Lake City, UT 84105-2423



This 24" x 36" poster features a full-color photograph by world-renowned wilderness photographer David Muench. Printed on natural fiber ivory paper stock, this dramatic shot of a Native American cliff dwelling on Cedar Mesa will be a constant reminder of the magic and wonder of Utah's canyon country. Poster 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: _____

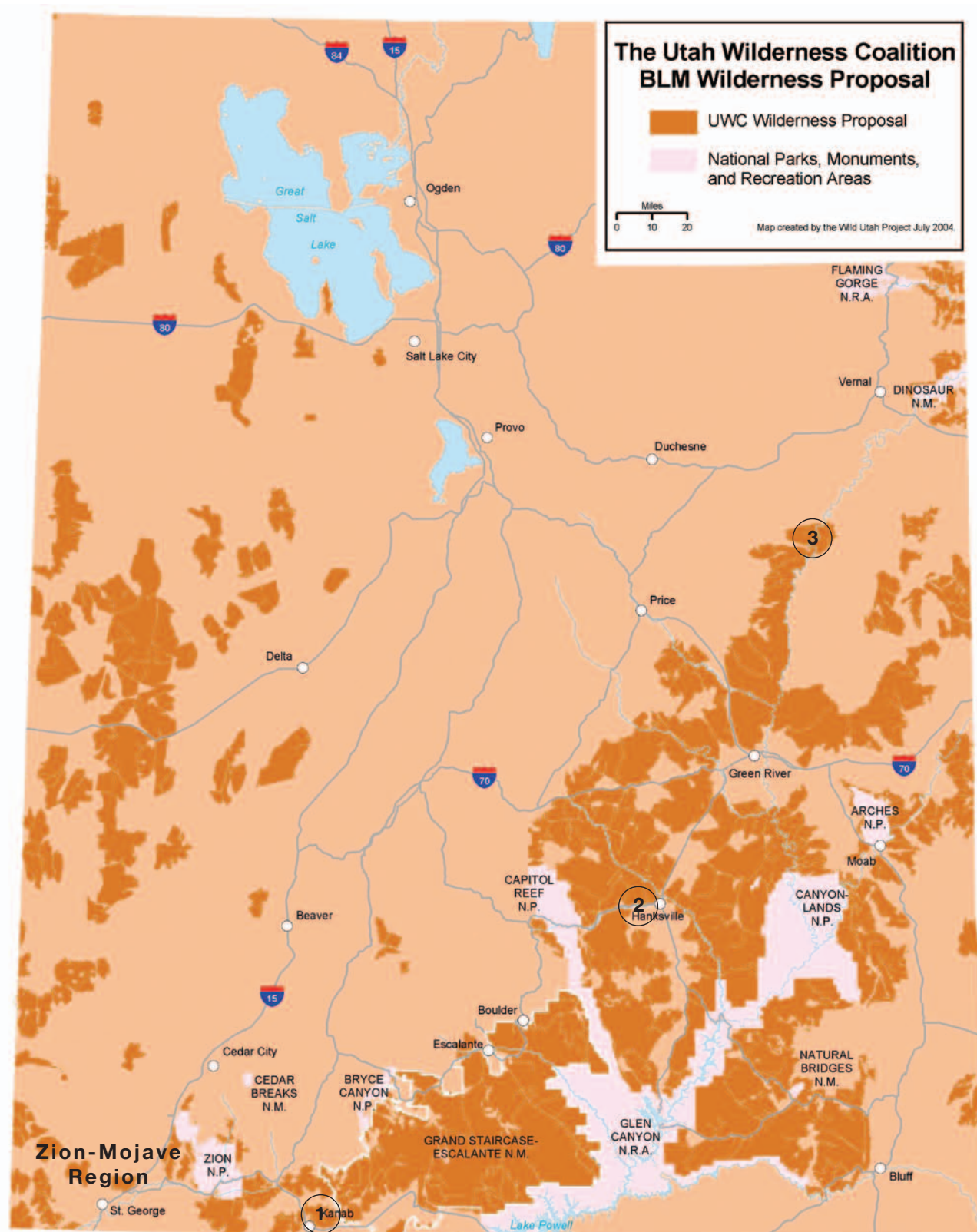
Please make your check payable to SUWA or include credit card information (VISA, MC, or AMEX):

CC#: _____

Exp. date: _____ Amount: \$ _____

Mail form with payment in enclosed envelope to:

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



Reference Map for Articles in this Issue

- ① Vermilion Cliffs (see p. 6)
- ② Factory Butte (see p. 6)
- ③ Upper Desolation Canyon (see p. 16)



Artwork by Rich Vroom, richvroom@msn.com.

Factory Butte Saved!

Off-road vehicles no longer have free rein to tear up Factory Butte's world-renowned scenic landscape.


As of September 20, 2006, the Bureau of Land Management has limited ORVs to designated routes and a single, manageable play area.

Big thanks to the Richfield BLM office and to everyone who spoke out for the protection of this magnificent Utah icon.

(see page 5 for more details)

"If future generations are to remember us with gratitude rather than contempt, we must leave them something more than the miracles of technology. We must leave them a glimpse of the world as it was in the beginning, not just after we got through with it."

- President Lyndon B. Johnson, on the signing of the Wilderness Act of 1964

 Printed on recycled paper using soy-based ink.



**southern
utah
wilderness
alliance**

425 East 100 South
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
S.L.C., UT
Permit No. 474