



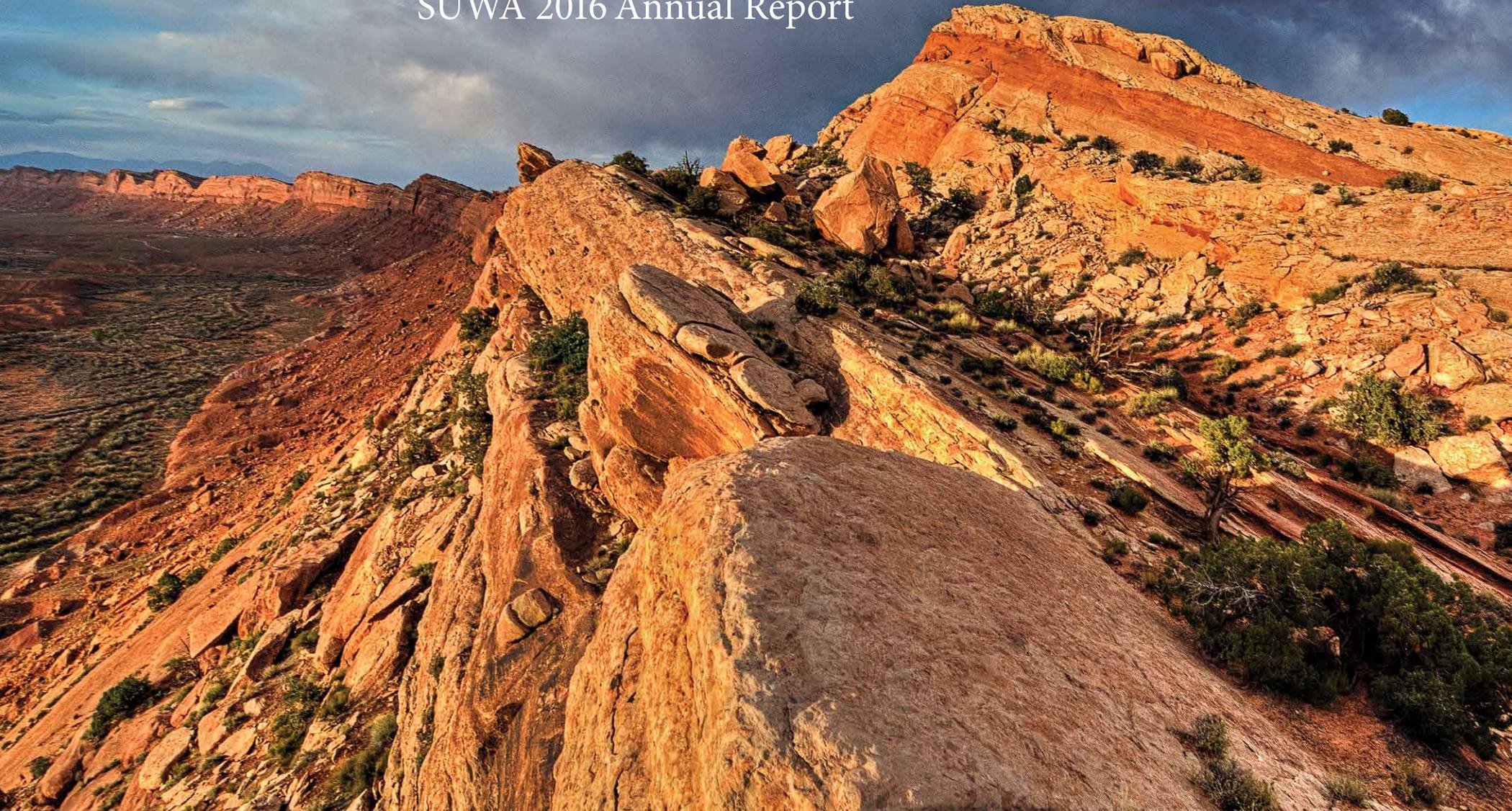
southern  
utah  
wilderness  
alliance

---

# We Stand For The Redrock. We Stand With You.

---

SUWA 2016 Annual Report

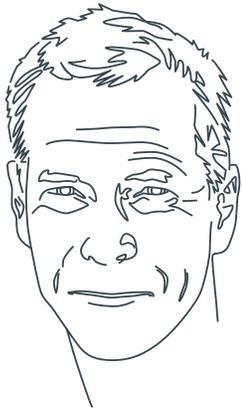


# Table of Contents

From Our Executive Director.....	3
Legal Team Report .....	4
Legislative Report .....	5
Member Profile .....	6
SUWA by the Numbers .....	8
SUWA Board.....	10
SUWA Staff.....	10
SUWA Finances.....	11



# From Our Executive Director



**Scott Groene**  
Executive Director

The morning after the election, I drove from Moab to Salt Lake City to pick up Representative Alan Lowenthal, the House sponsor of America's Red Rock Wilderness Act. To be honest, I'd secretly hoped the long planned trip would be cancelled so I could mope and rage in private. But our 1,350-mile road trip went on as scheduled, and instead proved the antidote to despair.

The congressman and his staffer Devin Helfrich, along with designated millennial and SUWA DC staffer Jordan Giaconia, shared my sense of disbelief and anxiety over Trump's election. We drove for hour after hour, stopping to survey the Bears Ears proposal from Salvation Knoll, marvel over rock art panels in the San Rafael Swell, walk the RS 2477 claim in Arch Canyon, and consider White Canyon made vulnerable by Congressman Bishop's Public Lands Initiative. Our journey was a salve for the pain of loss we all felt, as was the conversation and enthusiasm for canyon country from my great traveling companions.

Terry Tempest Williams and the SUWA Moab staff then joined us for dinner at my home, where we cursed and plotted. The congressman and Devin offered insights. The community of fellow activists, sharing ample wine and an unabashed passion for the cause, made the evening more rally than wake.

The election crushed our plans to make gains for the redrock under a Clinton administration. But by the time I dropped Devin and Representative Lowenthal at the airport, we were energized for the fights ahead.

To say the Nov. 8th election was unalloyed bad news for the redrock is an understatement. What's at stake is just about everything we care about at SUWA. The state will redouble its efforts to wrest millions of acres of public land from the American people—but now with a compliant White House. We'll face both

administrative and legislative efforts to roll back America's legal protections for our air, water, land and our public land managers. The Trump administration will drive hard to lease and drill public lands for dirty fuels. With the Republicans controlling the House and the Senate, Trump will have significant discretion in making judicial appointments, including the Supreme Court. It will take time, but this will eventually affect the court decisions involving our public lands far beyond Trump's term.

We've finished an era of relative peace as far as Utah wilderness goes and are headed into nasty conflict. Our opponents pretty much hold all of the political cards—from President, to Congress, the governor's office, all of Utah's federal offices, and down to the county commissioners. They will be emboldened to try to seize public lands and put an end to our wilderness campaign.

In significant ways, there is little new in any of this. From the beginning of SUWA and the campaign for redrock wilderness, the challenge has been difficult. Faced with intransigent Utah politicians, we have rarely NOT been on the defense. That is the nature of what we do. With help from members like you, we have ensured that millions of acres of Utah are still wild by holding the line and fighting acre by acre to keep it wild. Trump cannot simply toss out the regulations that protect our public lands. His administration will need to justify any decisions as fully as those originally made. That opens the door for us to bring court action. The House will be free to pass crazy legislation, but Senate rules give us opportunity for challenges.

The experience of defending the canyon country over three decades has taught us that even the friendliest administrations are never as good as we hoped they'd be. And the most hostile were never quite as ugly as we feared. We and the redrock have survived and thrived through

changes of administrations. We've done so because of you, our members. You are our lifeblood and we draw our strength from your support.

There's no doubt the Trump administration presents us with horrendous challenges and will bring dark moments. But the things that matter are not fleeting and are not lost in a single night's election. We can still protect the places and values that matter. We can still protect the places and values that matter. We stand for the redrock. We stand together, with you.

# What You Helped Do



*Legal Team Report*  
Steve Bloch, Legal Director

2016 was a productive year for SUWA's legal team in fields ranging from oil and gas to RS 2477.

After several years of review, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has completed the long awaited Moab Master Leasing Plan (Moab MLP), a comprehensive update to where, when and under what conditions BLM will offer lands for oil and gas leasing in the Moab area. Notably, under the Moab MLP the public lands in that planning area 'closed' outright to leasing jumped from 753 acres to more than 145,000 acres, including lands adjacent to Arches and Canyonlands National Parks. MLPs were a piece of the Obama administration's efforts to improve BLM's oil and gas leasing program and were a direct outgrowth of SUWA litigation.

SUWA also successfully litigated a challenge to one of the first 'on-the-ground' decisions implementing a sweeping oil and gas project in the Upper Desolation Canyon region. That decision will slow development in this uniquely wild landscape.

SUWA continued its longstanding effort to protect a native Utah wildflower, Graham's beardtongue, which only grows in eastern Utah, in areas proposed for oil shale leasing and development. In collaboration with our conservation partners, we defeated an effort by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to keep this species off the list for protection under the Endangered Species Act.

In the RS 2477 arena, SUWA's team of attorneys briefed and argued a key matter before the Utah Supreme Court that could deal a decisive blow to the state of Utah's scheme to take ownership of more than 12,000 rights-of-way across public lands in Utah, including through national parks, national monuments, and proposed wilderness.

Looking forward to 2017, we are well aware that

in November 2016 the earth shifted below our feet. Carefully laid plans for another four years of a Democratic administration were shelved and we are prepared for the worst.

We will lead the fight in federal court to defend President Obama's Bears Ears National Monument. We have been here before with our successful defense of President Clinton's establishment of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, and we will be there again for Bears Ears.

We also fully expect intense pressure from a Republican Interior Department with close ties to industry to push efforts to lease, drill and develop wide swaths of Utah's redrock wilderness. With our expertise in federal oil and gas and public land law, and SUWA's on-the-ground knowledge of these special places, we are well positioned to weather the coming storm.

Likewise, we expect the State of Utah and its counties to make a run at settling their slew of largely meritless RS 2477 'rights-of-way' lawsuits with the Trump administration. Our years of work on this arcane but crucial issue give us the inside track to block any settlement or public lands giveaway.

Finally, we stand ready to fight any ill-conceived lawsuit by the State of Utah that seeks to take away America's public lands in Utah and sell them to the highest bidder. We face many unknowns in the coming years, but one thing is certain—SUWA will be here to protect and defend our precious redrock wilderness for generations to come.

We offer our profound thanks to the host of public and private attorneys who helped us over this past year and who have already indicated a willingness to stand by us as we look to 2017 and beyond.





*Graham's beardtongue / Photo by Susan Mever*

In our DC office, our victories in 2016 were measured as much by what didn't happen as what did. Foremost, Rep. Rob Bishop's disastrous Public Lands Initiative never made it so far as the floor of the House, sparing the millions of acres of precious Utah Wilderness it threatened to destroy. Often, victories look this way here. They're built by accretion—years of phone calls to members of Congress, years of relationship building with staffers—until the moment comes when the Utah delegation can't advance its anti-wilderness agenda. SUWA is uniquely positioned to keep up the drumbeat in Congress.

Another such defensive victory came when we stopped the giveaway of thousands of miles of off-road vehicle routes in an unrelated military bill involving the Utah Test and Training Range. Rep. Chris Stewart had hoped to sweeten an expansion of that test range with a "roads" giveaway to three counties. With the help of our champs in Congress, we got that provision removed in the Senate version of the bill that ultimately moved. Unfortunately, we fell short of also fixing a bad land exchange that swapped state lands into proposed wilderness for development, because the BLM ultimately endorsed the plan. But had we not been working on it, all of the bad provisions would have sailed by.

And of course, victory on the Bears Ears was the sweetest of all, protecting a region unique for both its wild landscapes and its priceless antiquities. To see history come full circle, and the Antiquities Act finally used in support of the Tribes whose artifacts it was first created to protect, went beyond just environmental conservation for us at SUWA. It was a needed act of social justice, and we are fired up to celebrate and defend it.

In the near term, we're likely to see our victories continue to come in the defensive column. We're looking at tough sledding in Congress, and an administration that will be unpredictable (to say the least). But we've been fighting attacks on the redrock for more than 30 years. These next four are what we've been training for.

## What You Helped Do



**Legislative Report**  
*Jen Ujifusa, Legislative Director*

# Member Profile

Growing up in New York City the thought of sleeping outside, on the ground, never once crossed my mind. However, my best friend in college suggested we go backpacking in the Grand Canyon for spring term break our freshman year. So off we went to go backpacking for 5 days into one of the most spectacular landscapes on the planet. I was immediately hooked, and it's no exaggeration to say that the course of my life was changed forever.

After graduating I joined that friend and a few others (all of whom I'm still close with) to do the obligatory cross country road trip of the mid 1970s. This trip started in the Uinta Mountains of Northeastern Utah simply because my school (Earlham College) had a wilderness program there, so I had heard about them. From there we drove down to meet more friends in Albuquerque, which brought us right through Moab, so of course we had to check out Arches and Canyonlands National Parks. It was at this point my addiction to spectacular landscapes really became overwhelming. An eleven week sojourn in 1980, into what were then pretty remote corners of canyon country, convinced me that I had to devote the majority of my free time to exploring this magnificent landscape.

In 1983 I read in Earth First's journal about a newly formed organization fighting for these very lands that I loved so—The Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance. So, I signed up. Having been an activist against the war in Vietnam and then a staff person for the organization fighting the Seabrook Nuclear Power Station, I was no stranger to grassroots organizing. Not being content to merely send in my annual dues, I contacted SUWA's executive director, Brant Calkin, and floated my idea of going around New England presenting slide shows about the wonders of canyon country and the very real threats that these lands faced from wanton development. Brant gave me the green light and I was off and

running. Speaking to church groups and university outing clubs, environmental groups and hiking clubs, camping stores and camera clubs, I spread the gospel of Redrock Country. My goal was to educate people as to what was out there and what could be lost. People in the East think of these lands as so remote that surely nothing could threaten them. When they visually see how wonderfully beautiful these lands are, then hear about the threats from ORV's, oil and gas production, over grazing, pot hunting, mining, dam building and needless road construction, they're eager to lend their voices to save the landscape we all love so much.

I'm a firm believer that if people come to love the land, they'll become its protector. To that end I make them an offer: if they join SUWA, one of the most effective voice these lands have, I'll custom design a trip for them to canyon country. No matter what their interest—rock art or big views, solitude or slot canyons—if they're fit climbers or folks in their 80's, I will custom design a trip to match their skill level and interest. And it works!

I've been incredibly fortunate in my life to be able to spend as much time in remote areas of canyon country as I have. I've also been lucky to have met up with my hiking partner, famed canyoneer Steve Allen, at a SUWA Roundup at Pack Creek Ranch in 1990. Together we've hiked and climbed in some of the most spectacular yet rarely seen landscapes in the continental United States. Our sojourns are usually long, and last year Steve and I shared our longest trip yet—33 days. Many of the people in my audiences are used to seeing hundreds of people a day on New England trails. But hiking in backcountry Utah is an opportunity for solitude that exists in few other places in the lower 48 states. I've been on trips as long as 30 days without seeing another hiker, and during the entire decade of the 1990s, Steve and I saw only one other party of hikers in the backcountry.

Having wilderness that allows this kind of solitude, and at the same time being some of the most spectacular landscapes on the face of the planet is a gift. A gift we must fight to protect. When I go out and speak about the redrock, I stress that if you use the land you must join the fight to protect it. You must tithe to the groups that give a voice to the land. That's why I proudly say I'm a member of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance.



## Why I Fight for the Land Harvey Halpern

*Harvey Halpern is a member-owner of a carpentry collective that renovates old homes in the Boston area, and has been a passionate volunteer activist and organizer for SUWA for over 30 years. Harvey's exquisite redrock and wilderness photography can be found at [www.harveyhalpern.com](http://www.harveyhalpern.com).*



# SUWA by the Numbers

Our staff tracks such annual metrics as how many days we spend in the field, how many comments we file on proposed projects, how many grassroots presentations we give across the country, etc. Here is just a sampling of what we've accomplished with your help in 2016.

*Photography Credits from left to right:*

*Bears Ears Kiva / Bruce Hucko  
Hammond Creek Panorama / Tim Peterson  
Protect Bears Ears / Staff*



**54** RS 2477 legal depositions taken (for statewide federal lawsuit)



**30** Meetings and field visits with the BLM



**21** Scoping/Environmental Assessment/Environmental Impact Statement comments submitted



**100+** Organizer presentations and tabling events



**73** Days spent conducting fieldwork



**11** Wilderness Character submissions filed with the BLM



**38** Action Alerts sent to supporters nationwide (via email)

Photography Credits from left to right:

Campfire / Michelle Farnsworth  
Fisher Towers & the La Sals / Scott Smith  
Valley of the Gods / Stephen Trimble



**4,000+** New grassroots contacts made



**27,933** Activist comments submitted electronically to decision-makers



**4,343** Postcards submitted to the president or congressional offices



**1,837** New email subscribers



**425** Protect Wild Utah lawn signs delivered in Salt Lake City



**191** Activist meetings with congressional offices



**27,750** New Facebook Followers

# SUWA Board

---

Tom Kenworthy, Chair	Jim Baca
Richard Ingebretsen, Secretary/Vice Chair	Bill Hedden
Rusty Schmit, Treasurer	Oriana Sandoval
Scott Groene, Executive Director	Sharon Buccino
Darrell Knuffke	Liz Thomas
Terry Tempest Williams	Anne Milliken
Cindy Shogan	Hansjoerg Wyss

# SUWA Staff

---

Steve Bloch, Legal Director	Mathew Gross, Media Director	Laura Peterson, Staff Attorney
Ray Bloxham, Wildlands Field Director	Travis Hammill, Eastern Grassroots Organizer	Gina Riggs, Administrative Assistant
Joe Bushyhead, Staff Attorney	Luke Henry, Wildlands Field Advocate	Jen Ujifusa, Legislative Director
Neal Clark, Wildlands Program Director	Diane Kelly, Communications Specialist	Anne Williams, Administrative Director
Clayton Daughenbaugh, Midwest Field Organizer	Kya Marienfeld, Wildlands Field Advocate	
Karin Duncker, Associate Director	Terri Martin, Western Regional Organizer	
Michelle Farnsworth, Membership Coordinator	Creed Murdock, GIS Analyst	
Jordan Giaconia, Legislative Advocate	Landon Newell, Staff Attorney	
Scott Groene, Executive Director	Dave Pacheco, Utah Grassroots Organizer	

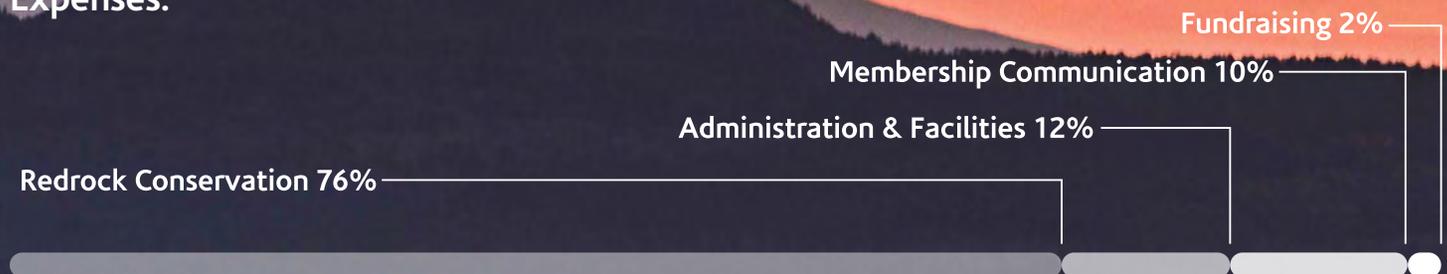
# SUWA 2016 Finances

How your redrock-loving dollars are spent

## Income:



## Expenses:



## Charity Navigator Rating:

☆☆☆☆ *The highest rating.*

# SUWA 2016 Annual Report



southern  
utah  
wilderness  
alliance

**Salt Lake City**

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) 259-7090