



**SOUTHERN
UTAH
WILDERNESS
ALLIANCE**



**ANNUAL
REPORT
2014**

thanks to you... thanks to you... thanks to you... thanks to you... thanks to you...

When the state of Utah unleashed its latest assault on Utah wilderness in 2012 **SUWA** called on you for help, and you responded.

With your help we've turned the tide on the biggest fight we've faced in years, and we've had important victories that help protect Utah's redrock wilderness.

We've ensured that **Salt Creek** in Canyonlands National Park remains a place of pristine beauty, closed to off-road vehicles (ORVs); we protected the **Henry Mountains** and **Dirty Devil** area from ORVs by overturning a bad land use plan; we protected 80,000 acres of wilderness in the **San Rafael Swell** from energy and mineral leasing; and we're winning the debate over **how much wilderness exists in Utah**.

These victories for redrock wilderness were made possible by your support and activism, along with the voices of thousands of others who want to ensure that America's redrock wilderness is protected, now and forever.

...Here's what YOU helped make happen in 2014



Angel Arch at the top of Salt Creek



© Tom Till, Angel Arch

Saving Salt Creek

After 20 long years, Salt Creek is protected from ORVs. In June a federal appeals court held that San Juan County and the State of Utah cannot force the National Park Service to open Salt Creek to Jeeps and dirt bikes.

Not only does this ensure that this special desert oasis is protected from the noise and destruction of ORVs, it means that other places like it might be saved too. Why? Because the decision

sets legal precedent that stops other so-called "road" claims from being approved.

For those of you who have been with us from the start, as well as those who have joined us over the last 20 years – thank you for helping to save a treasured landscape!



The state of **Utah** thinks this a **road**. And they're willing to spend **millions** to prove it.

© Ray Bloxham / SUWA, county "road" claim

Winning the debate over wilderness

Thirty years ago the BLM said there were only 2.5 million acres of wild land in Utah.

But now, because of the support of tens of thousands of people like you, the BLM acknowledges that almost 80%, (7.5 million acres) of the land proposed for protection in America's Red Rock Wilderness Act meets the definition of "wilderness." This status gives these lands additional legitimacy in political discussions about wilderness protection, as well as some protection as the BLM considers development projects. And this percentage will likely grow as additional land is assessed.

Turning the tide: fighting the state's "road" claims

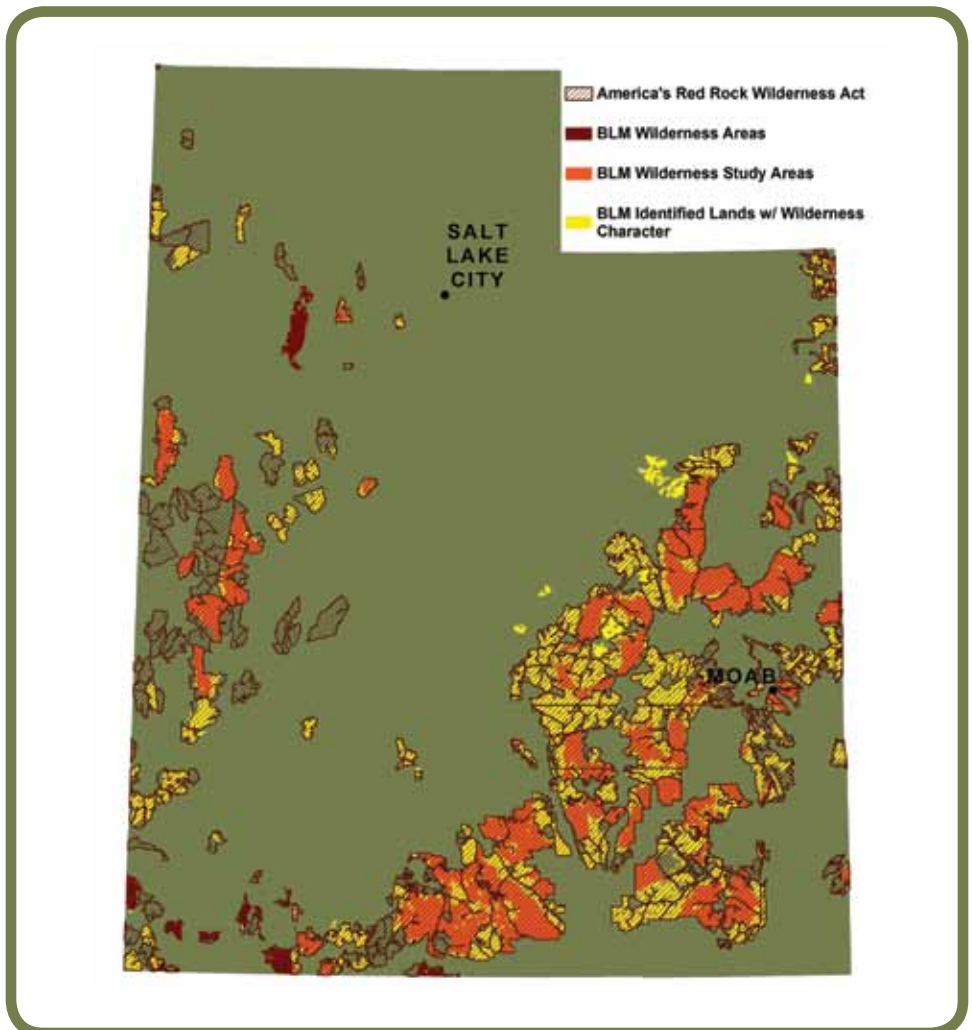
In 2012 Utah sued the United States 20 times claiming control over thousands of so-called "roads" — all in a thinly veiled effort to prevent protection of wild lands. This is perhaps the largest litigation ever filed by a state against the federal government.

The threat is real. If Utah is successful the National Park Service and BLM will not be able to stop ORVs.

We made enormous progress in the last two years. We've assembled possibly the largest litigation team ever to work on a public lands issue and we've won cases that make it harder for the state to prove its claims. We've also won the right to participate in the litigation, questioning witnesses at almost one hundred hearings in far-flung locations throughout Utah.

It's hard work, but we're not going to give up. This is the single greatest threat Utah's wild lands have faced in the last 15 years.

America's Red Rock Wilderness Act and BLM Land with Wilderness Character





Building the Redrock Nation

The strength of the movement to protect Utah's redrock wilderness comes from tens of thousands of people like you – in Utah and around the nation.

In Utah, many elected officials are ideologically opposed to wilderness protection, making it critical to have strong local and national support for protection of the redrock. And thanks to you, we do.

As national support for redrock wilderness grows, and you ask your members of Congress to support America's Red Rock Wilderness Act, our strength in Congress grows. We have 100 representatives and 23 senators from all over the nation who have agreed to support America's Red Rock Wilderness Act.

Stopping energy leasing in the San Rafael Swell

We protected 80,000 acres of wild land in the San Rafael Swell from energy and mineral leasing. Because the bad Bush-era land use plans opened so much wild land to potential energy and mineral leasing, we've been busy trying to stop leases on wild lands from being offered for sale. Saving the Swell from leasing was a team effort – helped by the 5,000 people who submitted comments and the 200 people who showed up at a rally outside the office of the Utah BLM.

Working In Congress

Power to protect redrock wilderness lies in the hands of the federal government. It is therefore essential that the redrock is represented in our nation's capital both on Capitol Hill and with the Obama administration, and that we talk to leaders regularly. In the last year our D.C. staff have held over 140 meetings with congressional and executive administration offices.

Overturning the bad Bush administration land use plans

In the last year we won litigation against the first of six bad Bush administration land use plans that opened millions of acres of Utah's redrock wilderness to energy and mineral extraction as well as ORV use.

We are fighting all six of these bad land use plans in court. This first important victory was for the Richfield plan which covers wild lands in the Dirty Devil area and Henry Mountains. We are now working with the court and the Obama administration to develop a remedy that protects wild lands and cultural resources from ORVs. The Richfield decision means we should win the other cases as well, thus protecting millions of acres of wild lands.

Here's what we've done in the last 12 months...

Spoke with 70 groups about redrock wilderness protection nationwide

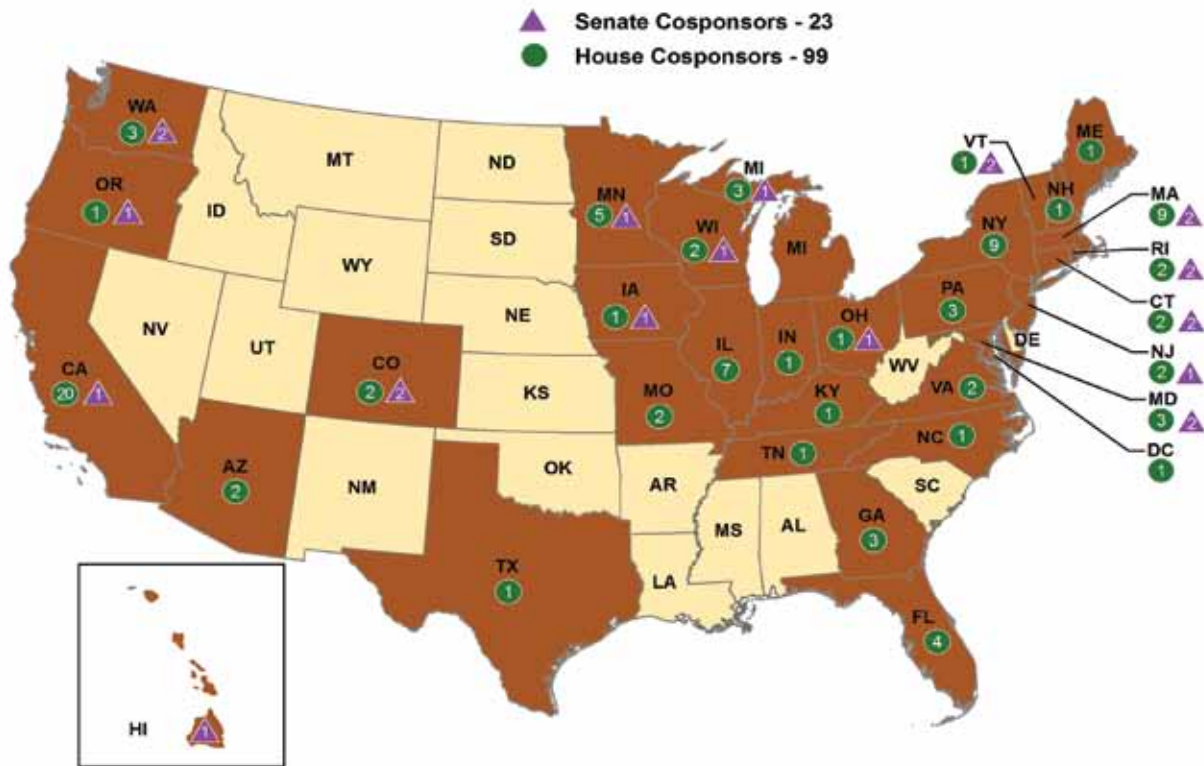
Knocked on over 25,000 Utahn's doors to discuss wild land protection

Increased our team to 40,000 members and supporters

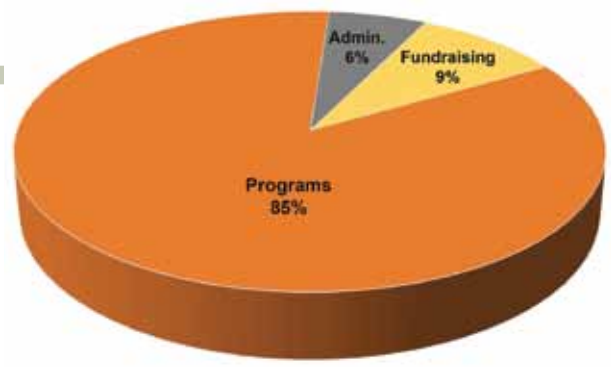
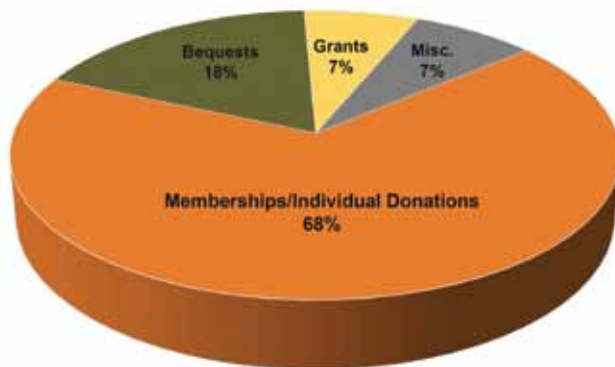
Placed 700 "Protect Wild Utah" lawn signs along Wasatch Front

Built our Facebook following to nearly 50,000

Sponsors of America's Red Rock Wilderness Act



Where money to save the Redrock comes from...



...and how we spend it

Greater Canyonlands - Gooseneck, Colorado River



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