

# REDROCK

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

The Newsletter of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance  
Volume 26, Number 3 • Autumn/Winter 2009

The Utah Wilderness Movement  
Reaches New Heights



**Cover Photo:** *The Green River as it runs through the Desolation Canyon proposed wilderness. Oil and gas development still poses a threat to this river runner's paradise. Copyright Tom Till (www.tomtill.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.

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# In this issue:

Wilderness Notes.....4

Features:

    Utah Wilderness Movement Reaches New Heights .....5

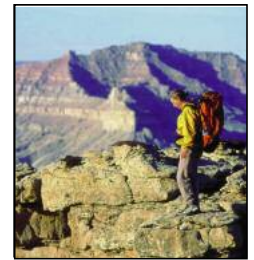
DC News .....9

Cosponsors of America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act.....13

Canyon Country Updates.....14

Inside SUWA.....20

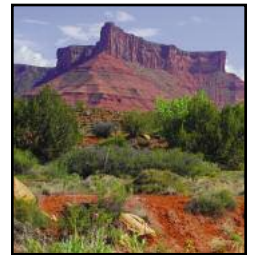
America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act Reference Map .....27



page 7



page 9



page 11

## Redrock Wilderness • Volume 26, Number 3 • Autumn/Winter 2009

This issue of *Redrock Wilderness* was written by the following staff and outside contributors: Tiffany Bartz, Steve Bloch, Scott Braden, Amy Brunvand, Jackie Feinberg, David Garbett, Scott Groene, Heidi McIntosh, Maureen Nelson, Richard Peterson-Cremer, Deeda Seed, and Liz Thomas. It was edited by Darrell Knuffke and laid out by Diane Kelly.

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

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

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**wilderness notes**

## A Turning Tide Leaves Wilderness Opponents Adrift

Protection for wild Utah reached a new milestone on Oct. 1 when the House public lands subcommittee held a hearing on America's Red Rock Wilderness Act. This is the bill's first stand-alone hearing since its introduction 25 years ago (it was paired with another Utah bill in a mid-90s hearing). A new Congress and new administration, bolstered by a quarter-century of tireless advocacy, converged to make it happen.

The hearing gives us new hope. Others will see in it only confirmation of the growing fear that was on such raucous display in an early August protest at the State Capitol. Under the banner of "Take Back Utah," and parading on machines that would make Mad Max hyperventilate, off-roaders threatened and raged. One of their leaders warned: "We're God-fearing and gun clinging . . . you guys that love rocks and trees more than human beings, you have awakened a sleeping giant. There is a new war in the western United States to take back our lands."

"Take back" is a curious mantra for a gang whose stranglehold on Utah's public lands was further tightened in the BLM's recent resource management plans. Perhaps what festers is that they didn't get it all.

There is real economic fear in rural Utah communities, but they have no corner on it in the current economic climate: ask any of millions of jobless Americans. And certainly some in Utah fear that the Obama administration portends a return to the Clinton days and more designations like the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. (They probably dread the prospect as much as we relish it.) Add to all that this summer's arrests of San Juan County residents for looting archaeological sites and the conditions are ripe for another sagebrush tantrum.

Where facile fear-mongering and mindless anger are, so too are Utah's public figures. Our U.S. senators have lined up to lead the charge, forming a new Western Caucus to wrest control of western public lands from the federal government. At a June press conference, Sen. Orrin Hatch said, "As one of the senators who helped initiate and carry the battle on the original Sagebrush Rebellion back in the Carter years, we're there again."

Indeed. Previous sagebrush rebellions included plenty of sound bites and fury, but accomplished blessedly little. That's because these folks are wrong. The Take Utah Backwards crowd is long on rhetoric and short on logic. Outside of a small group of the misinformed and permanently outraged, their arguments crumble. The politicians? They're simply out of touch with their constituents. A September poll found that over 60 percent of decided Utahns want 9 million acres or more of Utah BLM wilderness protected.

All the significant western public land conservation victories have been controversial at first, then accepted—even celebrated—in time. The Redrock will be no different.

Meanwhile, it's as if a recent Stephen Colbert line has become guiding dogma for the rebels: "Remember children, if you want to defend an untenable position, you must remain actively ignorant!"

For the Redrock,



Scott Groene  
Executive Director



## features

# Utah Wilderness Movement Reaches New Heights Exciting Opportunities Build on Past Success

Walk from the Silver Island Mountains to the Newfoundland Mountains in Utah's West Desert and you'll cross 15 miles of salt flats with all the relief of a billiard table. Even after hours, your footsteps trailing behind you, the Newfies remain stubbornly distant. When eventually the Silver Island range recedes behind you, there is little by which to mark progress at all.

It's easy to view the 25-year battle over America's redrock wilderness from a similar perspective: a trail of footsteps behind, the goal still far ahead. But just as the attentive hiker will notice that the orientation of the distant desert peaks has shifted, so will the wilderness activist see that the political landscape has changed. Faith in the mile-eating efficacy of step-by-step effort is our sustenance.

In 1989, Utah Congressman Wayne Owens introduced legislation to protect 5.1 million acres of Utah BLM wilderness. Many viewed Wayne's bill as wildly unrealistic, even quixotic. With every other

Utah politician so hostile to wilderness—and seeming in that to so faithfully mirror their constituents—who would dream of protecting so much BLM land in Utah? In those days, 80 percent of Utahns who'd made up their minds opposed that much wilderness. If, as Wallace Stegner said, "wilderness is the native home of hope," Utah seemed surely to be the native home of "don't even think about it."

### Utah Catches Up with Rep. Owens

If Wayne were alive today, he'd be delighted that Utah support has caught up with his vision. Now, 60 percent of decided Utahns support 9 million acres or more of Utah BLM wilderness, which matches nicely our current wilderness proposal. Our anti-wilderness politicians have been left behind.

We've made steady steps towards protection, and this progress in turn has made us stronger as a movement and created new opportunities. Along

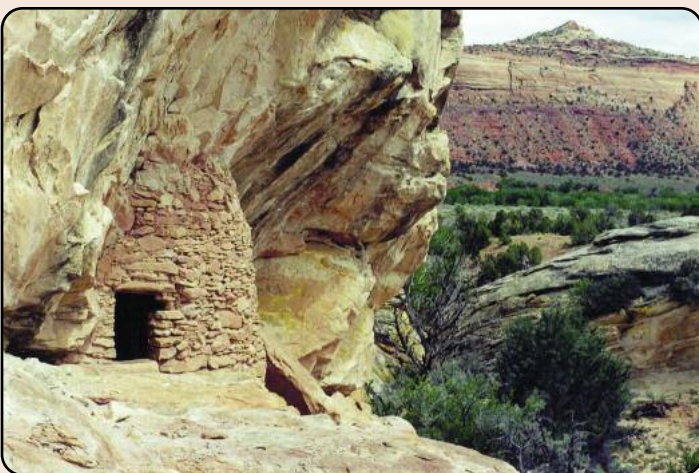


**Factory Butte.** Factory Butte was once a premier target of reckless dirt bike use that left scars running every which way. Trailer-loads of machines rumbled in on weekends, and clouds of selenium-laced dust blotted the sky as dirt bikers roared across the landscape as they pleased. After years of SUWA work, including a legal petition, the BLM closed much of the area. Unfortunately, dirt bikers still press the BLM to reopen the area. *Photo copyright Ray Bloxham/SUWA.*

## features



**Zion-Mojave Wilderness.** After five years of our advocacy, which included blocking two bad bills, the Congress in 2009 gave wilderness protection to wild lands surrounding Zion National Park, including Canaan Mountains, Black Ridge, Cottonwood Canyon, and Red Mountain. Especially important was the protection of the remote Bull Valley Mountains wilderness complex centered on the Beaver Dam Narrows. The bill also designated as wilderness over 200 square miles around Zion National Park and 185 square miles in the park itself. It prevents mining and off-road vehicle use on 110 square miles of desert tortoise habitat, and it blocks dam development on 165 miles of river, vital to Zion National Park, by placing them in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. *Photo copyright Ray Bloxham/SUWA.*



**Cedar Mesa.** It seems unthinkable today, but the BLM once tried to transfer portions of the headwaters of Grand Gulch and Fish and Owl Creek Canyons to the State of Utah for commercial development. SUWA's litigation blocked the action. Now, these lands will remain safely in public ownership. *Photo copyright Ray Bloxham/SUWA.*

the way, we've stopped enormous threats. Without SUWA, its activists, and its partners—including redrock champions Rep. Maurice Hinchey and Sen. Richard Durbin—Utah wilderness would have been shattered in many places. But even more importantly, we've protected real places, like the Cedar Mountains, Muddy Creek, Beaver Dam Narrows and Cedar Mesa. And we are poised for significant gains in the near future.

First, let's talk about what hasn't happened. We've killed 13 bad bills, all authored by members of the Utah congressional delegation and all of which would have harmed the Redrock.

We've successfully defended our proposal against bogus RS 2477 road claims, off-road vehicle (ORV) use and energy development. In the 50 years from 1930 to 1980, wilderness values vanished from nearly 14 million acres of Utah BLM land—that's well over half. In the almost 30 years since, we've stemmed this horrendous rate of loss. In fact, we've lost far less than 1 percent of our proposal, despite two oil and gas booms, a pair of Bush administrations, and the explosive rise in off-road vehicle use. It was not a more enlightened federal government that stopped the hemorrhaging, it was unified citizen activism.

### Conservation Gains

The Congress has enacted five significant pieces of federal legislation benefiting Utah wilderness:

- ▶ The Utah Schools and Lands Exchange Act of 1998 (proposed wilderness in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument was converted from state lands managed for maximum revenue generation to federal lands managed essentially as wilderness);
- ▶ The West Desert Exchange Act of 2000 (also transferring proposed wilderness into federal management);
- ▶ The Cedar Mountains wilderness legislation in 2006;
- ▶ The Zion-Mojave wilderness bill in 2009; and,
- ▶ The Utah Recreational Land Exchange Act of 2009 (proposed wilderness along the Colorado River traded into federal ownership).

Originally, only about 3 million acres of our proposal were closed to cross-country (off-trail) ORV travel. Now, most of our proposal is closed to this use and the fight has moved to the hundreds of



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**features**

routes the BLM designated in these areas. ORV riders from states like Idaho and Colorado have long hauled their machines to Utah because its public lands were less well-protected than those in their home states. That is no longer the case.

And while energy development from oil and gas, coal, uranium, tar sands, and oil shale still pose meaningful threats to our proposal in such places as the Book Cliffs and Upper Desolation Canyon, our work has slowed the pace and helped bring sanity to the process.

Over the past two decades, we've made gains through a willingness to work through all three branches of federal government, and at times state government, rather than focusing solely on passing federal wilderness legislation. There are many avenues for protection of our public lands. We work where the best opportunities arise.

Thus, SUWA has staff in Washington, DC, lobbying on legislation affecting Utah. Our grassroots team works nationally, in Utah's urban core and in rural southern Utah communities. SUWA staffers living in southern Utah know first-hand our proposed wilderness areas and seek to influence the BLM in its management of these special places. And when it is necessary, our attorneys challenge agency decisions in federal court.

### The Future

All of these gains have built our political strength and opened new doors to protection. Twenty-five years of relentless advocacy for the vision of protecting the Redrock on a landscape scale has prevented loss and put meaningful protection in place.

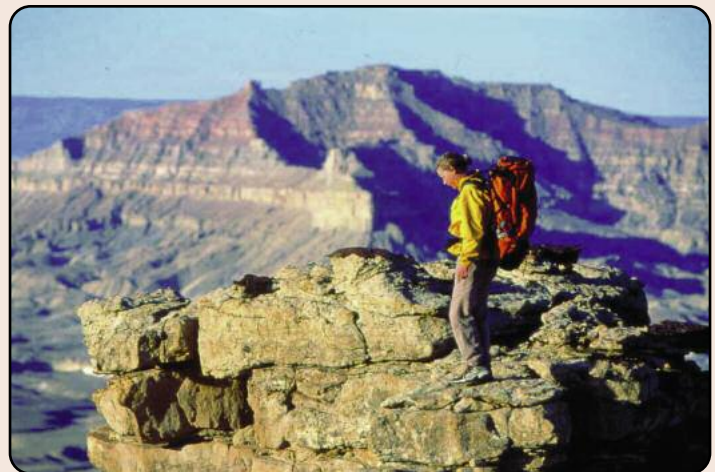
We fully anticipate huge gains in protection in the years ahead. It may come through negotiating regional bills, working with the Obama administration, moving America's Red Rock Wilderness Act in the Congress, or all of these. But it will come.

The threats from climate change, uncontrolled ORV use, and a lack of a sound national energy policy are real. But with your help we'll keep pushing and pushing until the Redrock is designated wilderness. We've got far to go, but we've come far as well. Though it can seem hard to measure, the goal draws ever nearer.

—Scott Groene



**Cedar Mountains Wilderness.** In 2006, President Bush signed legislation granting wilderness protection to 150 square miles in the Cedar Mountains—a refuge of peace and solitude less than an hour's drive west of Salt Lake City. This took four years to accomplish, working with Utah Rep. Rob Bishop through two rounds of negotiations. Rising to 7,700 feet above the Great Salt Lake Desert, this island range is part of Utah's lonely and expansive Basin and Range province, and is known for its resident band of wild horses. Though markedly different from Utah's famous redrock canyon country, the Cedar Mountains' rugged contours and awe-inspiring vistas are no less enchanting. *Photo copyright Ray Bloxham/SUWA.*



**Kaiparowits Plateau.** The Kaiparowits is a big lonely country of expansive views and rugged canyons. When a foreign coal company conned the state of Utah into subsidizing a mine there it looked like mining would rip apart the heart of this wilderness. President Bill Clinton's proclamation of a national monument ended that potential nightmare. *Photo copyright Lin Alder (www.alderphoto.com).*

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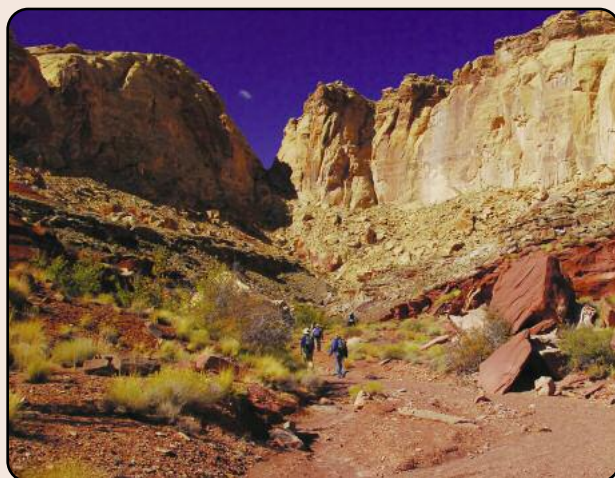
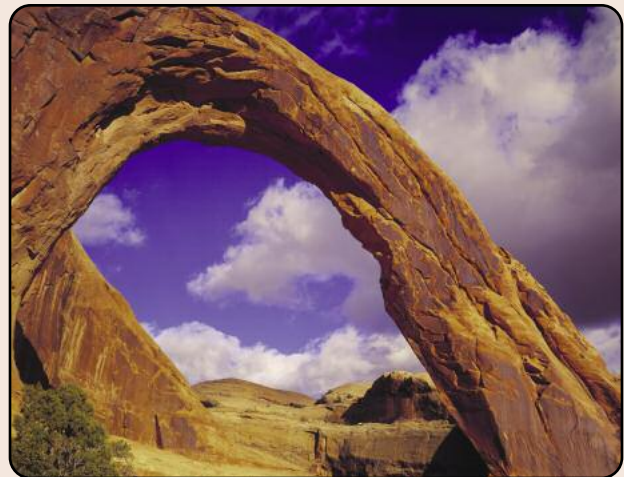
**features**

## More Special Places Protected by Utah Wilderness Activists



**Escalante Canyons.** To many, the Escalante is the best of southern Utah. Rare springs nourish wildflower gardens hidden in sinuous slickrock canyons. In the past, the Escalante has been threatened by two mainstream dams, ORV use in the canyons, and the trans-Escalante highway, which the Congress authorized to run from Big Water up the west side of the Colorado River and across to Moab. Establishment of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in 1996 eliminated many of these threats. *Photo copyright James Kay (www.jameskay.com).*

**Corona Arch.** Among the greatest threats to Utah wilderness are the scattered sections of state land interspersed within proposed wilderness and managed by the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration. Three land exchange bills have transferred over 400 square miles of state land within our proposal to federal ownership in exchange for less sensitive lands more suitable for development. Much of the federally acquired lands are now managed as wilderness study areas. Under the recent Grand-Uintah land exchange, led by the Grand Canyon Trust, the federal government acquired inholdings along the Colorado River near Moab, including Fisher Towers and Corona Arch. *Photo copyright Tom Till (www.tomtill.com).*



**San Rafael Swell.** Portions of the San Rafael Swell, such as Buckhorn Wash, used to be horrible examples of ORV abuse. Tracks shredded hillsides and dust clouds billowed with spring winds. SUWA's litigation prompted the BLM to complete a travel plan that, while far from perfect, went a long way toward reining in the abuse by protecting over 1,500 square miles from motorized cross-country travel. The plan ended ORV use through Muddy Creek as it courses through the Reef and closed unnecessary routes that splintered Segers Hole and other proposed wilderness areas. *Photo copyright Ray Bloxham/SUWA.*



## DC news

Good  
News!

# Historic Hearing for Red Rock Bill Marks Shift in Utah Wilderness Debate

America's Red Rock Wilderness Act (ARRWA) got its time in the bright light of a congressional committee on Oct. 1, and the testimony made one thing very clear: the terms of the debate over wilderness in Utah have shifted hugely, from "whether" wilderness to "how." (The subtexts, of course, remain the same: "how much," "where," and who gets to decide.)

ARRWA's sponsor and our House champion, Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) took full advantage of pro-environmental majorities in the Congress to secure the hearing before the House National Parks, Forests and Public Lands Subcommittee. Such a hearing is a crucial first step towards passage of legislation.

While the hearing attracted the attention of activists and Members of Congress from across the nation, its impact was seismic in Utah. The entire Utah congressional delegation, along with Lt. Gov. Greg Bell, attended and testified. Significantly, they did not condemn wilderness but instead committed to resolving the issue and suggested alternatives to ARRWA as ways to do so. (As our lead story in this issue reports, this represents a marked change over the past 30 years.)

None of this is to say that the hearing was some sort of love-fest. There was criticism aplenty of ARRWA and its scope. That was predictable. So was the bitter carping and name-calling from some Utah local officials (see sidebar, p. 10). But in the main, opponents focused their criticism on ARRWA as legislative vehicle, not on wilderness itself. The fact that all the players in the debate—the BLM, the Utah delegation, and conservationists—accept that more wilderness in Utah is a given constitutes a significant step forward.

Rep. Hinchey's mastery of his legislation's particulars and his vigorous defense of it were impressive—so much so that even the Utah delegation and the lieutenant governor encouraged him to participate actively in the discussions ahead.

Other supportive witnesses brought their own passion and their own differing perspectives to the



Photo by Michael Iger

*Utah wilderness activists George Handley, McKenzie Carlisle, and Eve Miller, posing here with redrock champion Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-NY), flew to Washington DC for the October 1st congressional hearing on America's Red Rock Wilderness Act.*

hearing. They included Peter Metcalf, chief operating officer of Black Diamond Equipment (an outdoor equipment company) and vice-chair of the Outdoor Industry Association; Bryson Garbett, a former Republican Utah state legislator and now president of Garbett Homes, a major development company; and, Rocky Anderson, former Salt Lake City mayor. This diverse line-up of Utahns displayed broad support for wilderness stewardship in Utah that cuts across ideological and political boundaries.

SUWA thanks the witnesses who testified in support of the Red Rock bill and commends the leadership of Rep. Hinchey, Resources Committee Chairman Nick Rahall (D-WV) and subcommittee Chairman Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ).

To learn more, view additional photos, and read Robert Redford's Huffington Post blog on ARRWA, visit [www.suwa.org/subcommitteehearing](http://www.suwa.org/subcommitteehearing).

—Richard Peterson-Cremer

## DC news

## “Let’s Talk . . . and Bring Your Lackey!”

At the October 1 hearing on America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act (see previous page), most of “official” Utah criticized the bill as too much of just about everything. The better way, they intoned in chorus, is a series of county-by-county processes, now sanctified by the Zion-Mojave wilderness bill, wherein conservationists sit down with right-minded county commissioners and come to agreement.

Then the antis trotted out Carbon County Commissioner John Jones. Apparently, he didn’t get the goodwill-and-brotherhood tweet and delivered a tirade rather than testimony. The ill-informed Jones claimed grazing is not allowed in wilderness. Oh yes it is, Rep. Martin Heinrich (D-NM) pointed out in quick rebuttal. Not only is grazing allowed, but ranchers are even permitted motorized access in certain cases, making them something of a privileged class.

Jones saved his really big guns for ARROWA sponsor Maurice Hinchey (D-NY), calling him SUWA’s “lackey.” That earned Jones another rebuke from the committee chairman. The House, you see, strives for decorum; calling a member a lackey is scarcely decorous. (None too bright, either, if you are trying to persuade a House committee.)

Watching someone like Jones struggle to get both feet in his mouth is pretty good theater. But the giggles give way to a sobering concern. SUWA is more than willing to work with county governments in southern Utah on wilderness issues. But Commissioner Jones’s rant illustrates just how challenging that may prove to be, a message not lost on the committee.





Good  
News!

## Senate Red Rock Sponsorship Hits Record High

The welcome addition of Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR) brings U.S. Senate sponsorship of America's Red Rock Wilderness Act (S.799) to a new high of 21 since Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL) first introduced it in 1996. The late Utah Rep. Wayne Owens first introduced the bill in the House in 1989 and today it has 146 House cosponsors.

Those are remarkable numbers: fully one third of the House members and over a fifth of senators are cosponsors of the bill. That broad support has increased the national visibility of Utah's redrock country and our ability to keep it safe. And it didn't just happen. It is the result of the tireless work of an exceptional network of redrock volunteers across the country who have taken the time to meet with their representatives to educate them about Utah wilderness, why it matters, and what threatens it.

Congressional support is a powerful tool for protecting redrock wilderness from damaging off-road vehicle use, destructive mining and energy development, and administrative mismanagement. Our champions are essential to keeping the redrock country intact and wild until we achieve eventual wilderness protection. They deserve our gratitude—please thank them.

And SUWA thanks the countless dedicated activists across the country who have done so much to build this support!

—Maureen Nelson

Good  
News!

## SUWA Applauds Passage of Utah Land Exchange Bill

In a polarized political world, it is rare legislation that allows everyone to claim victory. The Utah Recreational Land Exchange bill, which President Obama signed into law in August, is such a measure.

This law provides for the federal government to acquire state land parcels within the spectacular



© Ray Bloxham/SUWA

*Spectacular landscapes like Mary Jane Canyon (pictured above) can be better managed for protection of their wilderness character now that the Utah Recreational Land Exchange bill has been signed into law.*

Colorado River corridor near Moab. Many of the lands to be acquired by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in this exchange qualify as wilderness and would be managed to preserve their wilderness character. The law also trades out state parcels within the Sand Flats Recreation Area, thus protecting recreational opportunities, and at the south end of Castle Valley, guaranteeing that development will not alter the area's rural character.

The exchange simplifies land ownership patterns and management for stellar landscapes, among them wilderness study areas encompassing Morning Glory Arch and the North Fork of Mill Creek, and other lands proposed for wilderness at Onion Creek, Fisher Towers, and Mary Jane Canyon. Many of the state parcels to be traded are completely surrounded by lands proposed for wilderness in America's Red Rock Wilderness Act. Their acquisition strengthens the bill. At the same time, the State of Utah and its schoolchildren will benefit by receiving lands in Uintah County that are more appropriate for energy development and can provide school revenues.

Rep. Jim Matheson (D-UT) and Senator Bob Bennett (R-UT), the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration, the BLM, and the Grand Canyon Trust all contributed significantly to drafting this legislation and seeing it to passage.

*(Continued next page)*

**DC news**

We commend them for meeting with and involving such a diverse group of interested parties.

This land exchange is a noteworthy example of how diverse stakeholders can work constructively together to balance conservation and development needs.

—*Scott Braden*

## SUWA Welcomes New BLM Director Bob Abbey

The United States Senate in August confirmed President Obama's selection of Bob Abbey as Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Abbey is no stranger to the BLM. He directed the BLM's Nevada state office for eight years and has had a long career in the agency even before turning his attention to the Great Basin.

Perhaps more important to us, Abbey is no stranger to Utah and Utah wilderness. He co-led the 1996-1999 Utah wilderness re-inventory ordered by Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt—an inventory which confirmed that an additional 2.6 million acres of BLM-managed lands (on top of the existing 3.4 million acres of wilderness study areas) in Utah were wilderness quality landscapes. The inventory was a powerful reversal of decades of BLM statements on the issue of Utah wilderness. The agency consistently argued that the initial inventories it conducted in the late 1970s had found all the wilderness there was in Utah. (Our citizens' inventory, of course, found over 9 million acres of wilderness-quality land.)

Mr. Abbey has a daunting job in Utah: cleaning up the mess left by the Bush administration. We're hoping that he'll start with six resource management plans finished in the waning days of the last administration. Those plans sought to cement the Bush administration's unbalanced agenda of promoting off-road vehicle use and oil and gas development above all other uses of the public lands.

We have had a few opportunities to meet and discuss these critical issues with Mr. Abbey and are optimistic that he is up to the task. After weathering the onslaught of the past eight years, the redrock wilderness desperately needs his attention and help.

—*Steve Bloch*

## Activists' Summer Work Boosts Support for Red Rock Bill in Congress

It's becoming a gratifying—and effective—pattern: the U.S. Congress goes home during the August recess and SUWA's activists across the country start scheduling meetings with their representatives.

This summer during Wild Utah Local Action Month, redrock activists set up over 30 local meetings, often with Congress members themselves, sometimes with district staff people. These meetings were designed to gather even more support in Congress for America's Red Rock Wilderness Act and to help prepare our congressional champions for the hearing on the bill we hoped for—and got. It was held on October 1 (see article on page 9).

In-district meetings are perhaps the most effective way to convince those Senators and Representatives who are on the fence to support Utah wilderness, and also to re-invigorate those members of Congress who have been longtime supporters of the cause.

This summer's meetings resulted in new cosponsors for America's Red Rock Wilderness Act and pledges from House Natural Resource Committee members to support the bill at the fall hearing. Clearly, the involvement of passionate constituents makes SUWA's legislative efforts much more effective.

We thank all who participated in this year's Local Action Month and look forward to working with even more activists the next time around. If you are interested in meeting with your Member of Congress locally, it is not too late! Please contact SUWA's National Grassroots Organizer, Jackie Feinberg, at [jackie@suwa.org](mailto:jackie@suwa.org) or (202) 266-0474 for more information about how you can help SUWA's legislative campaign.

You can view an interactive map showing all the local meetings which took place over the summer at [www.suwa.org/localaction](http://www.suwa.org/localaction).

—*Jackie Feinberg*



**H.R. 1925, Sponsored by  
Rep. Maurice Hinchey  
(D-NY22)  
146 House Cosponsors**

**Arizona**

Raul Grijalva, D-07

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Jan Schakowsky, D-09  
Mark Kirk, R-10  
Jerry Costello, D-12

**America's Red Rock Wilderness Act  
Cosponsors in the 111th Congress**

(as of October 14, 2009)

Judy Biggert, R-13  
Tim Johnson, R-15  
Phil Hare, D-17

**Indiana**

Andre Carson, D-07  
Baron Hill, D-09

**Iowa**

Bruce Braley, D-01  
Dave Loebsack, D-02  
Leonard Boswell, D-03

**Kentucky**

John Yarmuth, D-03  
Ben Chandler, D-06

**Maine**

Michael Michaud, D-02

**Mariana Islands**

Gregorio Sablan, I-MP

**Maryland**

Elijah Cummings, D-07

**Massachusetts**

John Olver, D-01  
Richard Neal, D-02  
Jim McGovern, D-03  
Barney Frank, D-04  
Niki Tsongas, D-05  
John Tierney, D-06  
Ed Markey, D-07  
Mike Capuano, D-08  
Stephen Lynch, D-09  
Bill Delahunt, D-10

**Michigan**

Vernon Ehlers, R-03  
Dale Kildee, D-05  
Gary Peters, D-09  
Sander Levin, D-12  
Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick, D-13  
John Conyers, D-14

**Minnesota**

Tim Walz, D-01  
Betty McCollum, D-04  
Keith Ellison, D-05  
Collin Peterson, D-07

**Missouri**

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

**Nevada**

Shelley Berkley, D-01

**New Hampshire**

Carol Shea-Porter, D-01  
Paul Hodes, D-02

**New Jersey**

Rob Andrews, D-01  
Frank LoBiondo, R-02  
John Adler, D-03  
Chris Smith, R-04  
Frank Pallone, D-06  
Leonard Lance, R-07  
Bill Pascrell, D-08  
Steven Rothman, D-09  
Donald Payne, D-10  
Rush Holt, D-12  
Albio Sires, D-13

**New Mexico**

Martin Heinrich, D-01

**New York**

Steve Israel, D-02  
Gary Ackerman, D-05  
Jerrold Nadler, D-08  
Anthony Weiner, D-09  
Nydia Velazquez, D-12  
Carolyn Maloney, D-14  
Charlie Rangel, D-15  
Jose Serrano, D-16  
Eliot Engel, D-17  
Nita Lowey, D-18  
John Hall, D-19  
Maurice Hinchey, D-22  
Dan Maffei, D-25  
Brian Higgins, D-27  
Eric Massa, D-29

**North Carolina**

David Price, D-04  
Melvin Watt, D-12  
Brad Miller, D-13

**Ohio**

Marcy Kaptur, D-09  
Dennis Kucinich, D-10  
Betty Sutton, D-13  
Tim Ryan, D-17

**Oregon**

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

**Pennsylvania**

Robert Brady, D-01  
Joe Sestak, D-07  
Allyson Schwartz, D-13  
Mike Doyle, D-14

**Puerto Rico**

Pedro Pierluisi, D-PR

**Rhode Island**

Patrick Kennedy, D-01  
James Langevin, D-02

**South Carolina**

John Spratt, D-05

**Tennessee**

Steve Cohen, D-09

**Texas**

Charlie Gonzalez, D-20  
Lloyd Doggett, D-25  
Eddie Bernice Johnson, D-30

**Vermont**

Peter Welch, D-VT

**Virginia**

Jim Moran, D-08  
Gerry Connolly, D-11

**Virgin Islands**

Donna Christensen, D-VI

**Washington**

Jay Inslee, D-01  
Rick Larsen, D-02  
Brian Baird, D-03  
Norm Dicks, D-06  
Jim McDermott, D-07  
Adam Smith, D-09

**Wisconsin**

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

**S. 799, Sponsored by  
Sen. Richard Durbin (D-IL)  
21 Senate Cosponsors**

Barbara Boxer, D-CA  
Mark Udall, D-CO  
Joseph Lieberman, D-CT  
Ted Kaufman, D-DE  
Richard Durbin, D-IL  
Roland Burris, D-IL  
Tom Harkin, D-IA  
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Robert Menendez, D-NJ  
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Jack Reed, D-RI  
Sheldon Whitehouse, D-RI  
Patrick Leahy, D-VT  
Bernie Sanders, D-VT  
Maria Cantwell, D-WA  
Russell Feingold, D-WI

To learn more about  
America's Red Rock  
Wilderness Act, go to  
[www.suwa.org/arrwa](http://www.suwa.org/arrwa)

## canyon country updates

Good  
News!

### SUWA Wins Litigation Victory in Monument RS 2477 Case

The Kane County commissioners have been gunning for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument since the day they took office.

Ultimately, in 2003, they took the law into their own hands and ripped out scores of BLM signs meant to keep off-road vehicles (ORVs) out of sensitive areas closed by the monument's land management plan. Later, the county planted its own signs on monument ground specifically inviting ORV use in sensitive areas. To cap it all off, the commissioners passed an ordinance that allowed ORV use on all of the county's RS 2477 right-of-way claims, many of which are the faint trails and tracks the BLM found so damaging to the monument. (To learn about RS 2477, visit [www.suwa.org/RS2477](http://www.suwa.org/RS2477).)

What did the BLM do in response to this audacious act? Nothing. Remember, this was during the Bush years when standard practice was to roll over to local politicians hostile to land preservation.

So, in 2005, SUWA and The Wilderness Society brought suit, arguing that Kane County had violated the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution by enacting its ordinance and taking actions that specifically conflicted with federal law. We won the case in the federal district court in 2008. The



*A route sign erected illegally in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument by Kane County officials.*

court enjoined the county from encouraging ORV use in places the monument plan had closed to ORVs. The county appealed.

In August 2009, the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the district court's decision, ruling that the county had indeed violated the U.S. Constitution. Until it "proves up" its RS 2477 rights in court, the county may not simply wield its claims to undermine the BLM's authority to protect the monument. Undeterred (and spending cash like mad), the county has asked for additional review by all of the Tenth Circuit's judges, not just the three-judge panel.

SUWA and The Wilderness Society were represented in this case by Heidi McIntosh and Steve Bloch of SUWA, and Jim Angell and Ted Zukoski of Earthjustice.

—Heidi McIntosh

### 'Give Me What I Want or I'll Hurt Myself . . .'

After losing their case in the district court, the Kane County commissioners blew a gasket. In a fit of pure pique the commissioners unleashed their frustration on Kane County drivers by abandoning their road maintenance responsibilities, even on routes where there is absolutely no controversy, such as the Skutumpah Road.

They're hoping that locals will buy the goofy story that the court's injunction applied to all roads in the county, a notion that both the district court and the Tenth Circuit dismissed as "dramatically overstating" the ruling. The commissioners have even gone so far as to remove highway safety signs meant to protect motorists, including stop signs. This scorched-earth approach endangers everyone, and is in no way required by the courts who have heard this issue. You can see for yourself by reading the court opinions at [www.suwa.org/RS2477library](http://www.suwa.org/RS2477library).



## canyon country updates

## Salt Creek (Canyonlands) Highway Claim on Trial

In 1995—fourteen years ago—SUWA filed a lawsuit challenging Canyonlands National Park’s decision to allow hundreds of jeeps a month to drive through a sensitive riparian area known as Salt Creek. The creek is the only perennial source of water in the park, other than the Green and Colorado Rivers, and contains the park’s densest concentration of Native American artifacts. It was a gem. And it was getting hammered by jeeps.

SUWA won round one when a federal district court enjoined further use, but the litigation continues to this day in various forms. Fortunately, all this time, Salt Creek has been protected from jeeps and the water pollution, soil erosion, and diminished native plant and animal life jeeps leave in their wake.

In September, the district court convened the latest round in this legal battle: a trial on San Juan County’s claim that Salt Creek is actually an RS 2477 highway. This is an important case to watch. This canyon is like many others throughout the West where cowboys occasionally camped, uranium miners poked around, and eventually jeeps started to explore using their post-WW II jeeps. Yet no highway was ever constructed, and the route lies at the bottom of the canyon where tremendous flash floods roll boulders through the canyon and scour the vehicle tracks on a regular basis, leaving 4-foot deep incisions where soil used to be.

This case has already made history due to our early appeal of the court’s denial of our motion to intervene in the case. We had argued that, based on our 20 years of hard work to preserve Salt Creek, we had a legally recognizable interest that could be impaired by a decision in the case.

It took a milestone opinion by the Tenth Circuit to affirm that principle. However, in the end it appeared that the United States was, in legal parlance, “adequately representing our interests,” and that proving otherwise—the final requirement of intervention—would be a sketchy proposition. The upshot is that we are actively participating in the case, together with the Grand Canyon Trust, National Parks Conservation Association and The Wilderness Society, as amici curiae, or “friends of the court.”

The trial was scheduled to end with closing arguments on Oct. 9, after this newsletter’s deadline. We will update you online and in the next issue of *Redrock Wilderness*. Whatever the decision, it will have enormous ramifications for citizens’ ability to protect Utah’s remaining wild country.

—Heidi McIntosh

Good  
News!

## Settlement Protects 40,000 Acres in SW Utah from Leasing

Nearly 40,000 acres of wilderness-quality land in southwestern Utah are now off limits to oil and gas leasing thanks to a settlement agreement SUWA has reached with the Bureau of Land Management.

The late August agreement settles an appeal SUWA filed before the Interior Board of Land Appeals in 2008. The appeal, based on the agency’s failure to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act, challenged the BLM’s environmental assessment for oil and gas leasing in the eastern portion of lands the agency’s Cedar City field office manages.

The agency agreed to amend its environmental document to place off limits to oil and gas leasing all BLM-managed lands in the eastern portion of the area that are proposed for wilderness protection in America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act (ARRWA). The agreement binds the agency until it completes a new land use plan or revises its existing plan. The amended document similarly prohibits oil and gas leasing from occurring on lands the BLM has found to possess wilderness characteristics.

Two unique areas in southwestern Utah receive immediate protection under the settlement: Granite Peak and the Antelope Range, both around 20,000 acres in size, both proposed for wilderness protection in ARRWA. In addition, the BLM’s Fillmore field office, which manages most of Utah’s West Desert public lands, has independently enacted the same restrictions, protecting hundreds of thousands of acres of land. As result of the two actions, SUWA can happily announce that a vast majority of the West Desert is off limits to oil and gas leasing.

—Tiffany Bartz

## canyon country updates



© Liz Thomas/SUWA

Utah's renowned Highway 12 offers heart-stopping views that stretch 50 miles or more in every direction—over the canyons of the Escalante, Fifty Mile Mountain, the Kaiparowits Plateau, and beyond to Navajo Mountain.

## Help Us Save Scenic Highway 12!

*Usually, terrible things that are done with the excuse that progress requires them are not really progress at all, but just terrible things.*

~Russell Baker, Pulitzer Prize-winning writer

Highway 12 is the narrow, winding, breathtaking road through the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM) from Boulder to Escalante—so spectacular that it is a destination in itself. Few people with a soul can forget their first trip over the Hogback

Well, busy, busy road engineers from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) are plotting to significantly change the character of one of the most scenic and best-loved roads in all of Utah. They have targeted Highway 12 for a major makeover, and everyone who loves this stunning route will hate what they have in store for it.

Today, Highway 12, designated a Scenic Byway and All-American Road, is a narrow (22 to 34 feet wide), winding road. It offers heart-stopping views

that stretch 50 miles or more in every direction—over the canyons of the Escalante, Fifty Mile Mountain, the Kaiparowits Plateau, and beyond to Navajo Mountain.

The highway agencies propose a 200-foot-wide right-of-way for Highway 12 through the monument. They are intent on turning this wonderful and remote route into a straighter, wider, stupefyingly ordinary version of itself, happy to sacrifice its charm in the process.

### Background

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has jurisdiction over this route, and has allowed UDOT to maintain it for decades. Now, however, UDOT and FHWA have decided that they want jurisdiction and control, as they want to make significant “improvements.” The agencies allege that the proposed improvements are to reduce accidents and “driver frustrations,” and improve deteriorating pavement edges, embankments, and barriers.

The agencies have provided no data that indicate that the current road is unsafe. In fact, data show that the number of crashes on this highway is lower than would be expected on rural highways in general, and that most of the crashes are due to animals



## canyon country updates

and excessive speed. We are left to wonder how turning a narrow, winding scenic road into a straighter and wider one will encourage drivers to slow down. Certainly the highway builders haven't provided any support for that bizarre proposition.

The GSENM was the first national monument to be entrusted to management of the BLM. The monument proclamation states clearly that the purpose of the GSENM designation is to protect the resources of the monument, including the rugged, remote and unspoiled naturalness of the area. Granting this 200 foot-wide right-of-way will terminate BLM's authority to manage this scenic route through the GSENM. It would give the road engineers free rein to turn this one-of-a-kind road into a major highway indistinguishable from any other.

Please take a moment to contact Rene Berkhoudt, manager of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, and urge him to reject this right-of-way application. Highway 12 is an integral part of the monument and an unforgettable introduction to the monument experience. The BLM should retain jurisdiction and control and manage the route in compliance with the monument's proclamation.

—Liz Thomas

### Address your comments to:

Rene Berkhoudt  
190 East Center  
Kanab, UT 84741

Email: [Rene\\_Berkhoudt@blm.gov](mailto:Rene_Berkhoudt@blm.gov)

## Utah Dust Is Melting Colorado Snow

While naysayers tie themselves into rhetorical knots arguing that climate change is hoax, a natural, cyclical occurrence, and an environmentalist plot, science moves inexorably ahead.

We have by now heard much about what the desert southwest faces from a warming climate caused by greenhouse gases. Rapidly developing science now

suggests that human activity on the Colorado Plateau destabilizes desert soils, feeding large dust storms. Those dust storms may be responsible for creating regional climate change in the Colorado River Basin.

A group of researchers, led by Dr. Thomas Painter of the University of Utah, set out to test that proposition. The team determined that disturbed desert soils are leading to early snowpack melt in the San Juan Mountains of Colorado. Every westerner knows that winter snowpack is summer water supply. Its slow, steady release from melting sustains the arid West through spring, summer, and into fall when the next snows historically arrive. Disruption in that usually reliable cycle—too little snow or snow that disappears too quickly—means inadequate water.

In the spring, as of late, a number of monster dust storms have blown into Colorado from the west. These dust storms leave a clearly visible pink, brown, or red layer on mountain snow. The result is a huge increase in the amount of sun absorbed by the snowpack because of decreased reflectivity (think of wearing a dark shirt or getting into a dark-colored car on a bright summer day).

In 2005 and 2006, Dr. Painter and his team estimate, the snowpack in southern Colorado's San Juan Mountains disappeared anywhere from 18 to 35 days earlier than it would have without that dust because of decreased reflectivity. This early melting of the snowpack leads to a chain reaction throughout the ecosystem.

It seems that the biggest cause of this dust on Colorado's snowpack can be attributed to surface disturbing activities on the Colorado Plateau, much of it in Utah, where the federal government is by far the largest landowner.

Human activity, off-road vehicles (ORVs), dirt roads, oil and gas development, and grazing all tend to destabilize soils, making them susceptible to wind erosion. For example, scientists from the U.S. Geological Survey and elsewhere recently published information showing that ORVs in the Factory Butte area were increasing dust production by a factor of approximately 68. This story is repeated throughout southern Utah.

Clearly, one solution to limiting this early snowmelt and its cascading environmental consequences is to protect big areas of the Colorado Plateau from

## canyon country updates

these soil-disturbing activities. Passage of America's Red Rock Wilderness Act would be a great first step.

—David Garbett

### Update on Utah RMPs and the Lila Canyon Coal Mine

It's been nearly a year since BLM's Utah state director Selma Sierra signed off on six resource management plans (RMPs) in Utah, ending a frantic sprint by the agency to finish these plans before the Bush administration left office. The plans opened the door for ORVs to drive on more than 20,000 miles of dirt roads and trails and attempted to memorialize the last administration's "drill here, drill now" policies.

In December 2008 we filed our first lawsuit challenging three of these plans—the Moab, Price, and Vernal RMPs—and this litigation is moving along in the courts. The BLM has begun producing all the paper (called the administrative record) in support of its decisions and we are reviewing that mountain of documents. The federal district court judge hearing our case in Washington, DC, has not yet ruled on motions filed by the state of Utah and others to move the case from Washington to Utah, but we expect a decision soon.



© Ray Bloxham/SUWA

Site of the proposed Lila Canyon coal mine on the western slope of the Book Cliffs (part of the greater Desolation Canyon proposed wilderness).

### From the BLM Vault:

You never know what gems you'll come across when reviewing internal BLM documents. Here's a good example:

Utah BLM Director Selma Sierra to RMP planner Lauren Mermejo on getting the green light to publish the (lousy) Kanab Draft RMP in 2007: **"Party time!"**

We haven't forgotten about the Monticello, Richfield, and Kanab RMPs that were finished at the same time as the three plans now in litigation. Look for updates on SUWA's website, [www.suwa.org](http://www.suwa.org), for the latest information on our next steps regarding those plans.

### Lila Canyon

The Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals recently announced that it will hear oral argument on SUWA's challenge to the Lila Canyon coal mine on Nov. 18. This hearing follows a federal district court judge's rejection in 2008 of our claims that the BLM and the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement violated federal laws when they green-lighted the mine. Since the district court's decision, the mining company has proceeded with initial operations at the mine site, including clearing the surface area and tunneling into the rock face. If we prevail on appeal, the company will not be permitted to continue mining.

The Lila Canyon mine is located on the western slope of the Book Cliffs not quite halfway between Price and Green River, Utah. Several of the coal leases that will be mined as part of the Lila Canyon mine are located beneath the Desolation Canyon Wilderness Study Area.

Over our nine year challenge to this ill-conceived project we have been supported by attorneys from the national law firm of Jenner & Block; the firm is with us at the appeal stage as well. Pro bono attorneys William Hohengarten and Joshua Segal are the lead attorneys on the appeal and Segal will argue the matter before the Tenth Circuit.

—Steve Bloch



## canyon country updates

## SUWA Participates in National Public Lands Day

To mark National Public Lands Day (Sept. 26) SUWA teamed up with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to implement the new Red Butte Wilderness Area designation in southwestern Utah's Washington County.

Eight volunteers, including two SUWA staff members, and the Outdoor Recreation Planner for the BLM's St. George field office, spent several hours erecting signs along the eastern boundary of the new wilderness area, removing old WSA (wilderness study area) signs, eliminating vehicle tracks that entered the wilderness, rehabilitating and removing unsightly fire rings, and generally cleaning up trash.

This project was particularly meaningful for SUWA because it marked the first time our staff has participated in on-the-ground implementation of a wilderness area designation on BLM land. There is something very satisfying about pounding into the ground a sign that declares "Wilderness!"

Throughout Utah, the BLM and volunteers from other groups participated in a variety of service projects in recognition of National Public Lands Day. Volunteers on Cedar Mesa restored areas impacted by vehicle tracks entering wilderness study areas, removed unauthorized fire rings, posted signs to identify WSA boundaries, monitored archaeological sites for illegal digging and vandalism, and removed graffiti. In the Westwater Canyon WSA, volunteers removed trash and non-native species and cleaned up campsites along the Colorado River.

—Tiffany Bartz



On National Public Lands Day, SUWA staff and volunteers spent several hours erecting signs along the eastern boundary of the new Red Butte Wilderness Area, removing old WSA signs, eliminating vehicle tracks that entered the wilderness, rehabilitating and removing fire rings, and cleaning up trash.

## Our Secret Agenda Uncovered

A few months back, the *Southern Utah News* printed a rather inflammatory article by Shawna Cox, organizer of the illegal Paria Canyon ORV ride in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument last spring (see Summer 2009 issue, page 17). Following is one of the more intriguing passages:

"Daily our natural resources are being literally stolen from the people of America under the guises of danger to everything from desert tortoises to cryptogrammic [*sic*] crust. We recognize these are only lies perpetrated on Congress and the general public to further environmentalists' goal of control and the damnation of the United States."

## inside SUWA

Good  
News!

### Another Sort of Hearing on the Red Rock

The congressional hearing on America's Red Rock Wilderness Act (ARRWA) was a welcome milestone in a debate that has raged for over 20 years (see article on page 9). But when Congress takes up the bill it won't necessarily be talking about the same thing that Utah citizens talk about when we talk about wilderness. To members of Congress, wilderness is a legal term that defines a specific set of land management rules, and properly so. But to many citizens wilderness has more deeply personal, symbolic, and even spiritual meanings.

There was another recent hearing on ARRWA and lawmakers didn't convene it. It happened at the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly that took place at the Salt Lake City Salt Palace in June. There, thousands of delegates from religious congregations across the United States voted to adopt America's Red Rock Wilderness Act as an Action of Immediate Witness. That is a term with particular force among Unitarian Universalists. It reflects

delegates' belief that Utah wilderness protection is an urgent social issue worthy of a response based on deeply held principles of their religious community.

Of course, legislation should not be based on anyone's religion. Still, faith really is an issue in the wilderness debate. A remarkably beautiful and moving interfaith statement titled "Faith and the Land: a Call for Wilderness Stewardship" should be required reading for any legislator who seeks to engage the issue of Utah wilderness.

"Faith and the Land" was compiled from conversations held during the past year with members of Roman Catholic, Episcopalian, Islamic, Jewish, Latter-day Saint, Methodist, Presbyterian, Quaker, Unitarian Universalist, and United Church of Christ communities. SUWA facilitated the discussions, but participants clearly spoke only for themselves. We began with the question, "How do the teachings and traditions of your church call on us to care for the natural world?" Despite the varying



Photo by Terri Martin

*Members of the Holladay United Church of Christ call for the protection of Utah's wild lands during "Wilderness Stewardship Days."*



**i n s i d e S U W A**

religious practices represented, no one seemed surprised or confused by the question. People of all faiths could—and did—clearly describe the important place Earth stewardship occupies in their own religions.

Many of us find in wilderness a counterbalance to the busyness of day-to-day lives, a place of spiritual reflection, a reminder of what is important in life, and a place of revelation and enlightenment that has inspired great spiritual teachers throughout history. As the “Faith and the Land” statement puts it, “The astounding beauty, utter vastness, and enveloping silence of wild places awaken our sense of awe and connect us to something larger than ourselves—God, Allah, the Divine, spirit, the un-nameable mystery of life.”

We care deeply about wilderness protection because in our direct experience, wilderness has already given us something of enormous value. It seems likely that legislators’ discussions about Utah wilderness would be more fruitful, their decisions wiser, if they truly understood that. Conservation ethics often go hand-in-hand with spiritual practice even though, as one LDS “Faith and the Land” participant wryly put it, “Scripture says ‘Be fruitful, multiply, and replenish the earth.’ Some people skip over the ‘replenish’ part.”

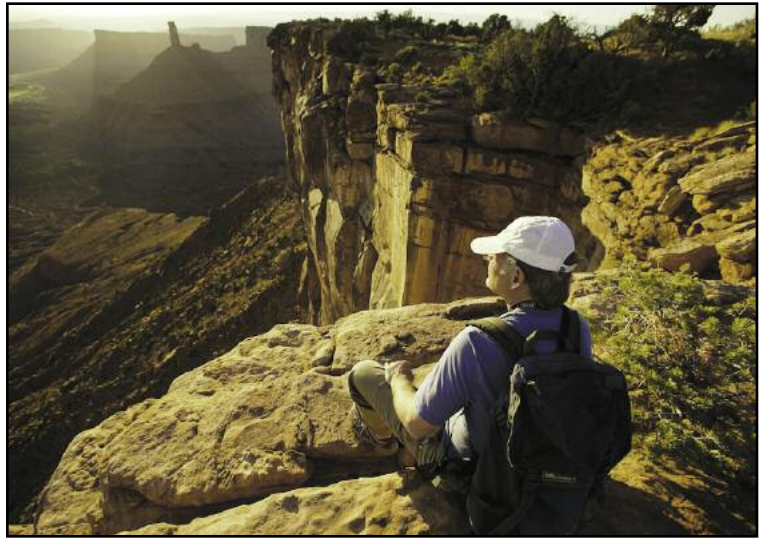
We leave the pragmatic and bureaucratic aspects of wilderness legislation to the Congress. We will speak from the heart about experiences and moral values that are to us profoundly more important than oil profits and off-road thrill-seeking.

—Amy Brunvand

(Amy Brunvand writes about environmental issues for *Catalyst* Magazine and is a member of the First Unitarian Church in Salt Lake City and of SUWA.)

You can learn more about the Faith and the Land statement and the Act of Immediate Witness at:

**[www.suwa.org/FaithandtheLand](http://www.suwa.org/FaithandtheLand)**  
and  
**[www.suwa.org/UnitarianAIW](http://www.suwa.org/UnitarianAIW)**



Brooke Williams looking out over Castle Valley, Utah.

© Chris Noble

## SUWA Welcomes Brooke Williams to the Staff

A new and welcome addition to SUWA is Brooke Williams, who’s joined us in our Moab office. Brooke, a native Utahn, is no novice to the work of helping save southern Utah wildlands: he has been active in Utah wilderness and public lands issues for the past 30 years.

Most recently, Brooke was the executive director of the Murie Center in Jackson Hole, WY, a fledgling non-profit organization focused on conservation of wild places and wildlife. Brooke has been a keynote speaker and panelist at a wide array of meetings, conferences, and workshops and has written four books including *Halflives: Reconciling Work and Wildness*, and hundreds of articles. He is also involved with The Great West Institute, a think tank exploring expansion and innovation in the conservation movement.

Brooke’s M.O. is energy, imagination and passion, all of which he fuels by being in nature. He is a birder and backcountry skier, and has a rich store of tales from his hiking and other outdoor adventures. One of them includes repeating a hike to locate Rio, his loyal (and head-strong) Basenji dog that has his own notion of when a hike should end.

Brooke says his personal goal is to “understand what Thoreau meant when he said, ‘in wildness is the

## inside SUWA

preservation of the world,' because it seems to me the world could use a little preservation about now."

Brooke makes his home in Castle Valley, with his wife Terry and dog Rio.

## A Sad Goodbye to Morgan Wyenn!

We are very sorry to say goodbye to SUWA Staff Attorney Morgan Wyenn, who recently accepted a position as a Project Attorney with the Natural Resources Defense Council in Santa Monica, CA.

In her new post, Morgan will tackle the enormous task of improving the air quality of the Los Angeles metropolitan area. Southern California couldn't wish for a better person to take on this critical issue. While we at SUWA already deeply miss Morgan, we are excited that she will continue her career as a public interest environmental lawyer.

Utah's public lands benefited greatly from Morgan's year of work with SUWA. She was the lead attorney on several administrative appeals before the Interior Board of Land Appeals and achieved some significant victories. In one appeal, Morgan's challenge of an oil and gas lease sale resulted in an IBLA decision that directed the Bureau of Land Management to comply with the National Historic Preservation Act and to consult



*Morgan is now working on air quality issues for the Natural Resources Defense Council in Santa Monica, California.*

with two Native American Tribes, the Hopi and the Laguna Pueblo. In another, Morgan uncovered an illegal oil and gas lease reinstatement and engineered a settlement agreement with the oil company that guarantees protections for a beautiful landscape near Canyonlands National Park.

Morgan was an integral part of SUWA's legal team and her kindness, enthusiasm, and dedication to protecting Utah's wild lands endeared her to the entire staff. Thank you, Morgan, for all your hard work and long nights sleeping under your desk at SUWA! We wish you the best of luck in your new job at NRDC.

## Register at SUWA.org and You Could Win a Backpack!



Join the movement of e-activists working to protect Utah's wild lands by registering on SUWA's website. You'll get the most up-to-date information about what we're doing to protect Utah's redrock wilderness and how you can help; access to free Utah wilderness screensaver images; and a secure profile page where you can update your email preferences, change your address, subscribe to our various email lists, and more. And don't worry about spam—we promise not to share your email address with anyone else!

**Special Offer:** Register online in the month of November and your name will be entered into a drawing to win a free Osprey Talon 22 backpack (retail price \$99)! To be entered in the drawing, go to: [www.suwa.org/NovemberDrawing](http://www.suwa.org/NovemberDrawing).



inside SUWA

# SUWA Grassroots In Action

Across the country this summer and fall, Utah wilderness activists were busy educating people about the importance of protecting Utah's wild lands. To become more active in your area, visit [www.suwa.org/volunteer](http://www.suwa.org/volunteer).



*Above: SUWA grassroots leaders Jonathan Wall and John Kashwick march in the NYC Pride Day Parade.*



*Above: SUWA grassroots leader Denise Sobieski tables at the Terre Haute Indiana Farmer's Market.*



*Above: Ed Riggs (sitting) and Bob Wuerthner (standing, left) manned the Mainers for Utah Wilderness table at the Maine Common Ground Fair.*



*Above: Westminster College students pose after a SUWA public education and outreach project in downtown Salt Lake City.*



*Above: Terri Martin and Arne Carter at the Salt Lake City Avenues Street Festival.*



*Left: Barbara Eubanks and Tiffany Bartz tabling at the Salt Lake City Bonnie Raitt/Taj Mahal concert.*

**inside SUWA**

## Wanted: Your Used Car

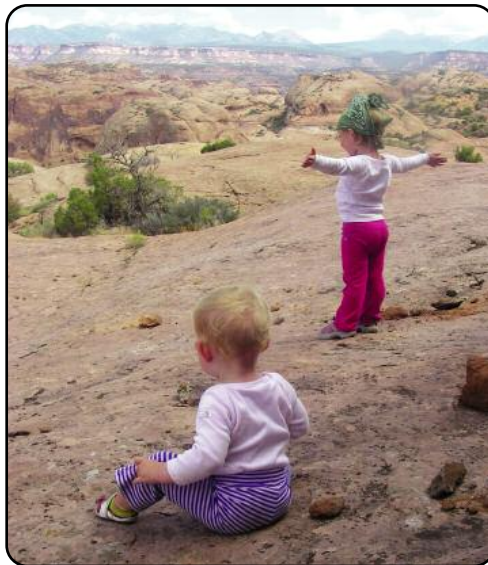
SUWA is still in need of two vehicles our staff can use for conducting fieldwork and traveling throughout the state. We'd like something with low miles (say under 75K) and in good shape. Please consider donating your used vehicle to help us save money. We're looking for:

1. An all-wheel drive car that is relatively fuel efficient and can carry four adults. Imagine something suitable for traveling down an icy I-15 for a meeting in Cedar City. Say a Subaru Outback or Forester, or a Toyota Rav4.
2. A four-wheel drive similar to a Jeep Cherokee or Toyota 4Runner. Something with more passenger capacity than a pickup, and in good enough condition to handle difficult four-wheel drive roads.

If you're able to donate one of these vehicles, please contact Ray Bloxam at (801) 428-3982 or ray@suwa.org. Thanks!

## The Desert's Beauty Is Timeless Your Planned Gift Can Help Keep It that Way

Many of us are unable to make major donations to the causes we love during our lifetimes. A planned gift gives us an additional opportunity to make a difference. Even a modest percentage of an estate can have a major impact on protecting the redrock. Options may include:



▶ **Bequest by Will**

A simple and common way to give

▶ **Living Trusts**

A revocable trust provides flexibility and privacy

▶ **Charitable Life Insurance**

An excellent way to make a gift with modest annual payments

▶ **IRAs and Qualified Retirement Plans**

Retirement plans are often considered the smartest assets to leave to organizations

▶ **Gifts that Provide Income for Life**

Contribute cash or stock and you can receive payments for life.

These are just some of the ways you can leave a lasting legacy of wilderness protection for the benefit of future generations. Please consult your financial advisor or estate attorney on tax-related matters specific to your own financial situation. For more information, visit [www.suwa.org/plannedgiving](http://www.suwa.org/plannedgiving) or contact Thomas Burke, Development Manager, at (801) 236-3763 or thomas@suwa.org. We welcome the opportunity to answer any questions you might have about SUWA and our work to protect Utah's redrock country.



# Thank you to all who contributed to the Earth Friends Wildlife Foundation's Challenge Grant!



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**We did it! Through this generous challenge, you helped SUWA raise \$272,445 dollars to protect America's redrock wilderness!**

## 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 #: \_\_\_\_\_ CVC# \_\_\_\_\_

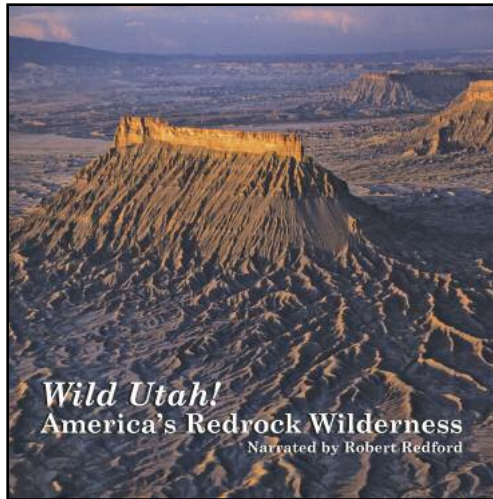
Exp. date: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form with payment to:

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

**inside SUWA****Get a Copy of SUWA's *Wild Utah* Video on DVD**

SUWA's popular multi-media slideshow, *Wild Utah! America's Redrock Wilderness* includes video interviews, stunning photos, and compelling narration by longtime wilderness activist Robert Redford. These DVDs make great gifts and educational tools!



*Wild Utah* DVDs can also be ordered online at [www.suwa.org/goodies](http://www.suwa.org/goodies).

Please send \_\_\_\_\_ copies of the *Wild Utah* DVD at \$10 each (includes shipping).

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mail form with payment to:

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

### Fine Art Posters by David Muench

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

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

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

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

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

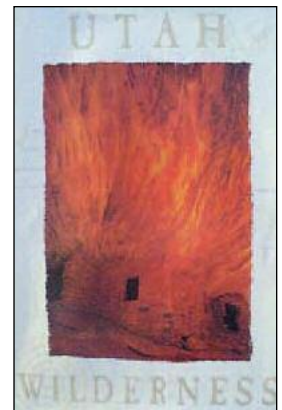
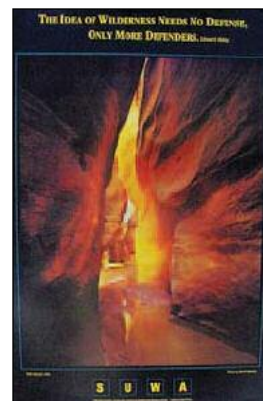
CC# \_\_\_\_\_ CVC# \_\_\_\_\_

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

Mail form with payment using enclosed envelope.

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

White Canyon



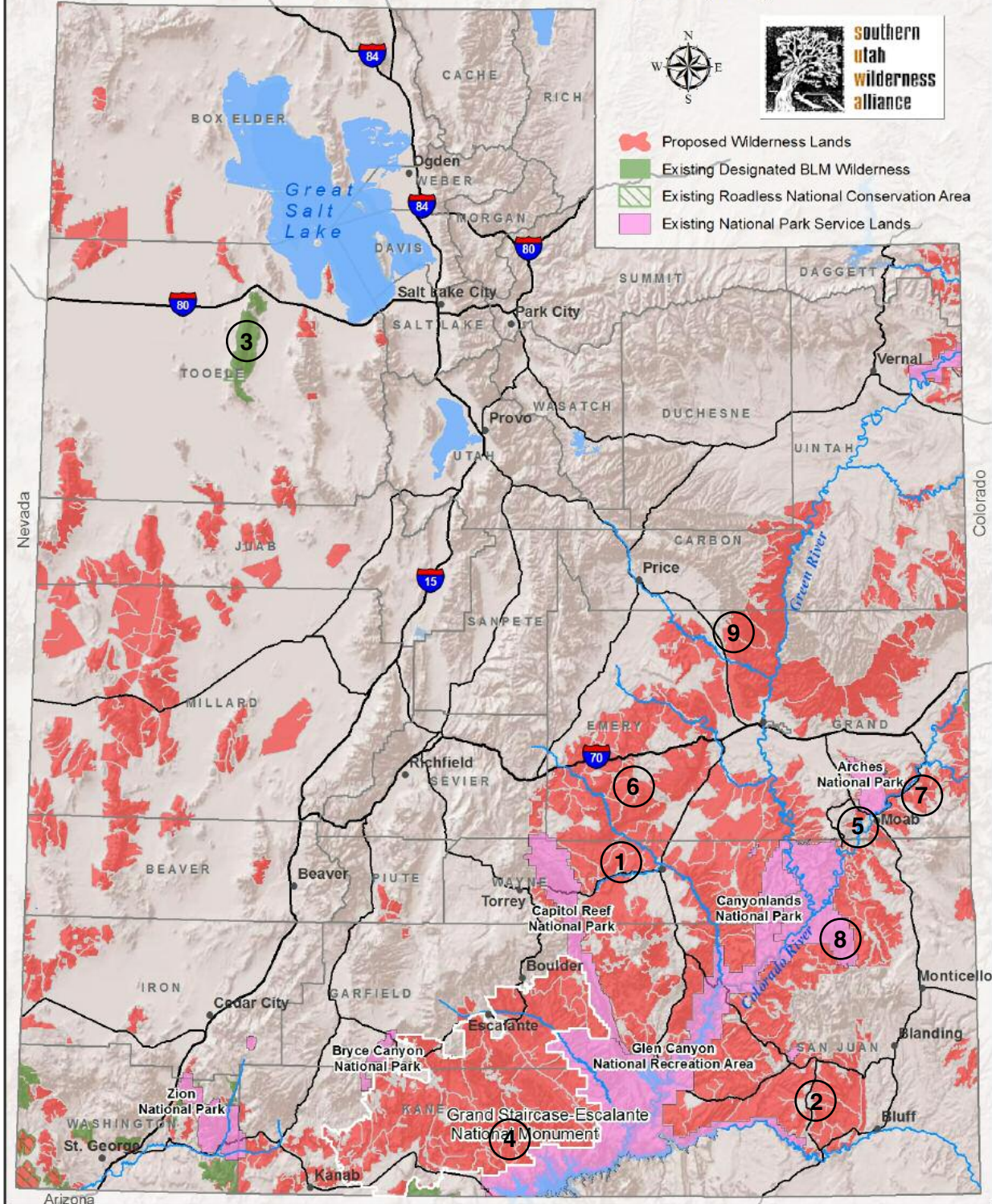
Cedar Mesa

These now classic 24" x 36" SUWA posters feature full-color images of southern Utah by world-renowned wilderness photographer David Muench. The White Canyon poster (on black) features Edward Abbey's words, "The idea of wilderness needs no defense, only more defenders." The Cedar Mesa poster (on natural fiber ivory) includes a quote by the Wallace Stegner: "...the spiritual can be saved..." Either one would make a great gift for that wilderness lover on your holiday shopping list!



# America's Red Rock Wilderness Act

A Citizens' Wilderness Proposal for Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands in Utah



## Reference Map for Articles in this Issue

- |                          |                              |                             |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ① Factory Butte (p. 5)   | ④ Kaiparowits Plateau (p. 7) | ⑦ Mary Jane Canyon (p. 11)  |
| ② Cedar Mesa (p. 6)      | ⑤ Corona Arch (p. 8)         | ⑧ Salt Creek Canyon (p. 15) |
| ③ Cedar Mountains (p. 7) | ⑥ San Rafael Swell (p. 8)    | ⑨ Lila Canyon (p. 18)       |





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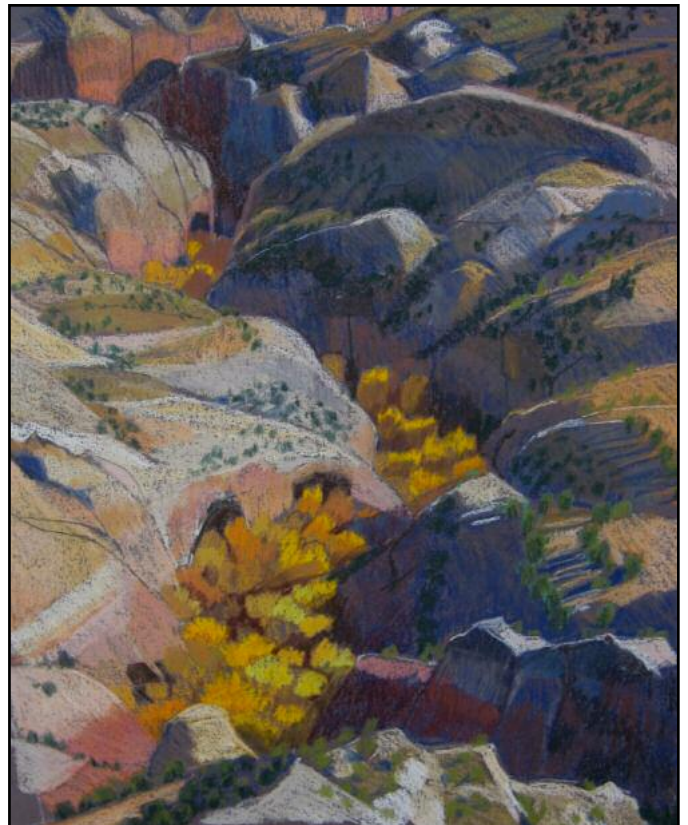
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## Visit Us Online

Please visit [www.suwa.org](http://www.suwa.org) for more news and information relating to Utah wilderness, including:

- The latest action alerts and news updates (with convenient RSS feeds)
- Our *Wild Utah* video and an updated traveling slideshow tour schedule for 2009-2010
- A Utah wilderness resource library
- Activist tips and sign-up opportunities
- Job and internship postings
- Utah wilderness photo galleries
- An online store for purchasing SUWA baseball caps, DVDs, posters, and more

**Register online and you could win a free Osprey backpack (see page 22)!**



*"Calf Creek, October."* Plein-air pastel by Scotty Mitchell  
([www.scottymitchell.com](http://www.scottymitchell.com))