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

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

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Beneath Trump’s Circus, Wickedness Is Afoot

President Trump’s increasingly erratic behavior and the towering ineptitude of the Congress might leave us believing that such a circus of blunders is unlikely to threaten the redrock country. That would be a mistake. As we discuss in this newsletter, the Trump administration is launching extraordinary attacks against America’s public lands; Utah is a primary target. While Trump fulminates, his appointees focus, and with deadly effect.

Trump’s major weapon in this enterprise is Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. He oversees 350 million acres of public land. That includes our national parks and the holdings of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), notably the 9+ million acres of redrock wilderness in Utah. Zinke has built an abysmal record in a very short time. It is a record of deceit and the pursuit of the dirtiest-possible energy development.

Under Zinke, the National Rifle Association is a “hunting group.” Complaints about his use of private jets are “BS.” Sweetheart deals for the oil and gas industry are “restoring public trust.” Federal employees who are trying to do their jobs are “disloyal.” Zinke proposes to bust the BLM apart and ship career employees from D.C. to the hinterlands so as to make the agency even more susceptible to pressure from local politicians.

While Trump staggers about avenging perceived slights to his imperial person, Zinke and other political appointees are hard at work: taking the public out of public lands, pushing dirty fuels development over all other uses, keeping the off-road vehicles churning through wild places under the banners of “hunting” and “access,” and giving the industrial tourism lobbyists free rein over national parks and public campgrounds.

Trump’s egomania threatens our lands, waters, rights, health, and safety. I worry—I really worry—about the world my children face. Increasingly, I find time spent in the backcountry essential in holding on to some sense of balance and perspective. When I can’t be in wild places, I take solace in Wendell Berry’s poem “The Peace of Wild Things,” long tacked to my office wall:

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children’s lives may be
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

With you, we will fight the Zinkes. There will be nothing easy about it. It will be discouraging when we lose, and we will lose a few. But Trump will not last forever. And the wilderness endures, pulsing with its own light and grace, reminding us that its future rests with those of us who love it.

For the Wild,

Scott Groene
Executive Director
Unless you have been living under a rock for the past six months you know that President Donald Trump has threatened to revoke or substantially gut the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments, as well as several others ranging from Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument in Maine to Mojave Trails National Monument in California. (There is even some chance that after we go to press he will do so.) As with so many things that Trump trumpets he will do, we simply have no rational scale by which to measure such actions.

Zinke to Trump: Slash Bears Ears, Grand Staircase-Escalante

We now know that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has formally recommended that the president eviscerate Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante. In reaching this predictable conclusion, Zinke’s recommendation relied on a host of extraneous factors that Trump directed him to consider (and that are not in the Antiquities Act). One such is whether the Bears Ears designation appropriately balanced protection of public resources within the monument against the designation’s alleged effect on non-federal lands outside the monument. What happens next is, tragically, up to Trump.

It bears noting that Americans across the land left little doubt about their view of the Trump-Zinke plot. They submitted more than 2 million written comments on the proposed changes to our national monuments. And according to several reviewers, the comments in support of our national monuments dwarfed opponents’ comments by a massive margin: more than 98 percent opposed changes to the monuments.

Zinke’s leaked report to the president on the future of several monuments conceded that the public comments were “overwhelmingly in favor of maintaining existing monuments” but in the next breath...
dismissed this overwhelming support as merely “a well-orchestrated national campaign.” Zinke’s back-of-the-hand rejection of Americans who love public lands and national monuments and who took the time to say so isn’t all that surprising. It comports with our ever-dwindling expectations of this Interior Secretary.

Speaking of the leaked report, it was, in a word, underwhelming. The report devoted less than two pages, total, to its discussion of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante and contained only the most generalized statements about the remarkable nature of the objects those monuments aim to protect and the less-than-colorable complaints by monument opponents. Given this, perhaps it’s no surprise that Zinke submitted the report under cover of darkness and has refused to release it to the public.

**Responding to the Unthinkable**

In the 111-year history of the Antiquities Act there have been roughly two dozen instances in which a president has diminished a national monument. In all but one of those cases (President Wilson’s reducing the acreage of Olympus National Monument in the midst of World War I) the acreage at issue was relatively small, hundreds to thousands of acres, and noncontroversial. None of those actions to shrink a national monument were challenged in federal court and thus tell us nothing about whether such actions were lawful.

The most recent presidential action to adjust a monument’s size was more than 50 years ago, in 1963, when President John F. Kennedy added some acres and took away others in Bandelier National Monument in New Mexico. That executive order, and all the ones before it which tinkered with monument boundaries, was issued prior to 1976, the year in which the Federal Land Policy and Management Act became law. In debating FLPMA, Congress was clear that it intended to leave intact a grant of power to the president to create—but not to gut or rescind—a national monument. No president has acted since.

**Unparalleled Executive Overreach**

Whether he revokes them outright or merely eviscerates Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments, Trump will (once again) take the country into uncharted waters. We will respond as others have responded: by beating a path to the federal courthouse doors to check Trump’s outlandish executive overreach.

And we won’t be alone. Native American tribes have been clear that they will not sit idly by and watch Trump attack Bears Ears, the first national monument designated at the specific request of tribes. Other monument proponents and supporters have voiced similar outrage over Trump’s plans and a willingness to take him on in court. We’ll be in excellent company when we respond to this never-before-seen assault on our federal public lands.

We are confident that Trump lacks the authority to eviscerate the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments. We didn’t go looking for this fight, but we’re going to do everything in our power to win it.

—Steve Bloch
President Donald Trump’s attack on America’s national monuments is unprecedented and outrageous all by itself. Bad as it is, though, it is only one in a series of relentless assaults on our public lands since he took office.

From approving the Dakota Access pipeline in February to killing President Obama’s Clean Power Plan in October, Trump has taken a wrecking ball to America’s environmental protections and shown a reckless lack of concern for the security and well-being of future generations.

In many cases, Utah has been Ground Zero in Trump’s attack on the environment. Nearly ten months into his presidency (can it possibly have been so short a time?) it’s worth looking back on the actions he and his administration have already taken that threaten our efforts to protect Utah wilderness.

- **December, 2016:** Trump announces his intention to nominate Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke to head the Department of the Interior. Despite never missing an opportunity to remind people of his supposed admiration for Teddy Roosevelt (who is surely spinning in his grave!), Zinke is a dyed-in-the-wool fossil fuel booster obsessed with industry deregulation. His actions since being confirmed in March, 2017—even outside of his sham, dishonest monument review—have already taken that threaten our efforts to protect Utah wilderness.

- **January, 2017:** Trump nominates Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court. Gorsuch is hostile to public lands issues and to environmental groups.

- **January, 2017:** During his confirmation hearing before the U.S. Senate, Zinke refers to Bears Ears as a “five meter target”—a rather unfortunate turn of phrase for a monument meant to honor Native American history, and a place where the antiquities are often quite literally riddled with bullet holes.

- **March, 2017:** At the behest of the Trump administration, Congress repeals the BLM’s “Planning 2.0” rule, which was an earnest attempt to modernize BLM’s planning process to include more stakeholders and improve transparency.

- **March, 2017:** President Trump lifts a moratorium on coal mining leases on federal lands. A week later, Secretary Zinke repeals an Obama-era rule that would have prevented coal companies from shortchanging taxpayers by selling coal mined from public lands to foreign affiliates.

- **March, 2017:** Trump also directs the BLM to “review” Obama-era rules limiting hydraulic fracturing (fracking) on public lands.

- **March, 2017:** Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt repeals an Obama rule requiring industry to report methane emissions from new oil and gas wells on public lands. A dedicated sycophant of the energy industry as Oklahoma attorney general, Pruitt reprises that role at the EPA.

- **April, 2017:** The Department of Interior scrubs its climate change website, so that the phrase “climate change” appears only once, without explanation of what it is or what the department is doing about it.

- **June, 2017:** Zinke puts forward a budget that slashes funding for the already-strapped Interior Department by $1.4 Billion, including a $2.7 million cut to the management of designated BLM wilderness. He also announces plans to eliminate 4,000 jobs at Interior—about eight percent of the department’s workforce—including more than 1,000 jobs at the Bureau of Land Management, already understaffed.

- **June, 2017:** The BLM announces that it is reviving a zombie proposal to open up more than 100,000 acres of Utah’s San Rafael Swell to oil and gas leasing, despite the fact that less than three percent of those lands have been surveyed for cultural resources. And on a return to the Bush administration’s scorched earth approach to oil and gas
10 Unbelievable Things Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Has Actually Done (for Real)

1. He has a flag raised whenever he’s at the Department of the Interior (DOI) to indicate to his subjects that he’s “in garrison.” Or, as the rest of us call it, just at work.

2. He commissioned commemorative coins of himself to hand out to . . . Wait, somebody wants these??

3. He rode a horse to work his first day so we know he’s really a cowboy. Yeehaw!

4. He installed the shoot ‘em up video game Big Buck Hunter in the DOI cafeteria. It’s like Pokemon, but with a lot more blood.

5. He wasted $12,000 of taxpayer money on a private jet so he could meet with rich donors and the Las Vegas hockey team.

6. He compared the Department of the Interior to a pirate ship. Yaaarrrr, maties!

7. He called 30 percent of DOI employees “not loyal to the flag.” (Unclear if that’s the Zinke flag or the Jolly Roger.)

8. He said he can’t fill open positions at DOI because of “the Resistance” (keep up the good work!), despite failing to offer nominations for a majority of open slots.

9. He said fracking is proof that “God’s got a good sense of humor and he loves us.” WE SWEAR WE ARE NOT MAKING THIS UP!

Anti-Wilderness Bills Surface in Congress, Two of Them from Utah Legislators

Since last year’s election, things that would have once been unthinkable now inspire hardly a twinge of incredulity. We live in a world where the Commander in Chief spends his time attacking sports stars on Twitter and the Interior Secretary runs his agency like he’s president of some second-tier fraternity. So, in our looking glass reality, one of the most unbelievable things is how many of the things we feared aren’t yet happening.

Don’t get us wrong—we’re not overlooking all of the truly damaging things the Trump administration has done to people, other environmental values, and basic human decency. But, at least in the Utah wilderness universe, we’re in a better place in Congress a year after the election than we expected to be.

Our reprieve in Congress is unlikely to last for the entirety of the Trump era. So while we keep a lookout from the lighthouse, here are a few of the hidden hazards still lurking beneath the frothy tumult of the 24-hour news cycle.

• **H.R. 3990, the National Monument Creation and Protection Act.** This bill from Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT) effectively undoes the Antiquities Act by placing acreage restrictions on monuments, removing “natural geologic features” as objects that can be protected, and creating a gauntlet of approval requirements from county commissioners and state officials before a monument could be created.

The list of places that would never have been protected had these parameters been written into the original Antiquities Act is staggering. In Utah, Bears Ears National Monument, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Natural Bridges National Monument, Timpanogos Cave National Monument, Dinosaur National Monument, Cedar Breaks National Monument, Rainbow Bridge National Monument, Zion National Park, Bryce Canyon National Park, Arches National Park and Capitol Reef National Park would not have been protected. That’s seven of our eight monuments and four of our five national parks.

In a move that’s becoming routine, the House Committee on Natural Resources advanced this bill without a hearing (let’s face it—why hear from the public on something you know is colossally unpopular?). But we’re guessing the Senate knows better than to pick up this landmine.

• **H.R. 2423, the Washington County, Utah, Public Lands Management Implementation Act.** This gem from Rep. Chris Stewart (R-UT) seeks to put a highway through the Red Cliffs National Conservation Area, which was protected in 2009 because it’s important desert tortoise habitat. Gallingly, Stewart and his allies in the delegation claim this road was promised in the 2009 bill, but actually, at the time former Rep. Jim Matheson (D-UT) and former Sen. Bob Bennett (R-UT) issued statements saying the highway would not be a part of their bill.

• **H.R. 3668, the Sportsman’s Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act.** Rep. Jeff Duncan’s (R-SC) bill purports to expand access for hunters and fishermen, and you could say it does. Because it gives local agency staff the authority to override environmental laws, including the Wilderness Act, if they’re doing so in the service of recreation, hunting or fishing. So if a bad actor at the agencies decides a road needs to be built through a wilderness area so people can “recreate,” they have the power to override wilderness protections and approve just that. As in the last Congress, this bill has passed the House; but as in the last Congress, we expect it to die in the Senate.

—Jen Ujifusa

Congressional Support for Red Rock Bill Continues to Grow

As the first half of the 115th Congress nears its end, support for America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act (ARRWA) continues to grow. As of mid-October, the bill has 89 cosponsors in the House of Representatives and 20 in the Senate. (That’s an even 20 percent of the Senate, just over 20 percent of the House. And it is early times yet.)
DC news

These cosponsorships matter. Much of the land area in both the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments would receive protection under our wilderness proposal. So a show of support for ARRWA is also a show of support for our national monuments. This is all the more important as we await Trump’s final decision on Secretary Zinke’s recommendations (see feature article, p. 5).

While we are gaining momentum, there are still members of Congress who haven’t cosponsored the bill. Visit suwa.org/arrwa and click on the link at the bottom left to ask your senators and representative to become cosponsors. The more cosponsors we have, the better equipped we are to push back against proposals that would damage Utah wilderness, national monuments, and public lands generally.

You can find the full list of cosponsors at suwa.org/cosponsors. If any of your legislators have endorsed the bill, please take a moment to thank them for helping protect Utah’s redrock country.

—Adrienne Carter

Sen. Durbin Visits Utah to Prepare for Upcoming Battles

Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL) has been the champion for Utah's wilderness for 20 years, introducing America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act, fighting off threats, and helping behind the scenes to advance Bears Ears National Monument. In September, we had the honor of showing him and his staff around Bears Ears and preparing for the battles ahead. He met with leaders from the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, marveled at ancient petroglyphs, and proved adept at rock scrambles. And he went back to D.C. with a fire in his belly for keeping up the fight!

At a time when the president is threatening to rescind monuments like Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante, we're lucky to have true public servants like Mr. Durbin fighting for them. Thanks, Senator, and come back soon!

Redrock champion Senator Dick Durbin on a visit to Bears Ears National Monument in September.
Energy Industry Gets What It Paid for with Trump’s BLM

In pursuit of its absurd goal of “American energy dominance,” the Trump administration has declared war on the environment, and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is leading the destructive charge. Abandoning any semblance of care or balance, the agency is scurrying to auction off large swaths of wilderness-caliber public land for oil and gas exploration and development. Wild places throughout Utah, including in the heart of the Colorado Plateau, are threatened.

At its December 2017 oil and gas lease sale, the BLM proposes to offer parcels in three sensitive places: in the wild and culturally rich Molen Reef region of the western San Rafael Swell, near Dinosaur National Monument, and in the Desolation Canyon proposed wilderness area. Oil and gas development in these areas will affect views, air quality, ecosystems, and irreplaceable wilderness and cultural values. In addition, the BLM admits it lacks data on cultural resources in the Molen Reef region but is forging ahead with the sale of 15 leases in the heart of this area. The agency is also ignoring Utah Governor Gary Herbert’s request that parcels near Dinosaur National Monument be deferred from the sale.

March 2018 Sale: More Monuments at Risk
The BLM has another dose of rotten judgement in store for us at its March 2018 lease sale. It proposes to auction off tracts on the doorsteps of Bears Ears and Hovenweep National Monuments. At risk here are wilderness-caliber lands in Hatch Point and Hatch Canyon, southwest of Moab, Utah, and less than a mile from the Bears Ears boundary. This seems to be a clear indication that oil and gas operators are eager to push development into Bears Ears National Monument if and when President Trump decides to come down on the wrong side of history.

(Continued on page 14)
Redrock Nation: Your Activism Makes a Difference!

In so many respects, the ongoing work to Protect Wild Utah starts with you—our members, activists, supporters, email subscribers and social media followers. We dedicate the centerpiece of this Redrock Wilderness newsletter to YOU! We simply would not be in the strong position we are today without your help over the years and your ongoing support in today’s dangerous political times. On these pages are just a sampling of images from the many festivals and special events in Utah and across the country that SUWA organizes or participates in. We thank everyone who took part in these events (and many more) and encourage others who want to Protect Wild Utah to join our cause and take a stand for America’s Redrock Wilderness!

To get involved, contact your regional organizer. In Utah, contact Dave Pacheco, dave@suwa.org, or Terri Martin, terri@suwa.org. In the western U.S., contact Terri. In the eastern U.S., contact Travis Hammill, travis@suwa.org. In the Midwest, contact Clayton Daughenbaugh, clayton@suwa.org. Latinx/Chicano groups contact Olivia Juarez, olivia@suwa.org.
(Continued from page 11)

(and the law) by partially revoking or eliminating the monument.

Also on the block will be lease tracts in the Cross Canyon, Monument Canyon, and Tin Cup Mesa proposed wilderness areas only a few miles north of Hovenweep National Monument, and in the Alkali Ridge Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), designated to protect its remarkable archaeological and cultural resources, including rock art and habitation structures. In 2015, the BLM deferred leasing the Alkali Ridge ACEC citing the need to collect more information regarding the region’s unique resource values. The agency has never collected the information but plans to lease it anyway.

The fossil fuel industry is getting its money’s worth in Trump’s BLM. The agency’s assault on public lands at industry’s behest threatens Utah’s wildest places. SUWA, working alongside our conservation partners, has been engaged at every stage of the BLM’s ill-conceived oil and gas leasing proposals. We will continue to work to keep Utah’s special places free from the sights, sounds, and smells of pump jacks and drill rigs. Stay tuned for updates and to learn how you can get involved.

—Landon Newell

The BLM Then . . .               . . . and Now

What a difference an administration makes. On Earth Day 2014, the Bureau of Land Management under President Obama introduced its first three vintage-style posters celebrating the agency’s system of National Conservation Lands. Including such jewels as Grand Staircase-Escalante and Rio Grande del Norte National Monuments, the system is comprised of “nationally significant places with outstanding cultural, ecological, and scientific values.” A few short years after the poster series was launched, some of the very landscapes depicted are under attack, and the Trump administration has released its own series of posters that reflect a clear—and ominous—shift of priorities in the management of America’s public lands.
SUWA Files Lawsuits Over Closed-Door Meetings

SUWA has filed lawsuits against Kane, Garfield and San Juan Counties, alleging that all three violated Utah’s Open and Public Meetings Act when they met with D.C. officials to discuss the future of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments. We filed the suits in August and September in Utah state court.

Utah’s Open and Public Meetings Act requires the state, agencies, and political subdivisions—including county commissions—“to take their actions openly” and “conduct their deliberations openly.” The purpose of the act is to ensure that state and local governments conduct public business publicly, transparently, and openly, with public awareness and involvement, rather than behind closed doors.

On several occasions in May and June, each of the county commissions held closed-door meetings with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, other Interior Department officials, and members of the Utah congressional delegation to discuss the fate of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante. The commissioners did not publicly announce the meetings and did not allow members of the public to attend or participate in the meetings.

Both Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante are prime targets in Zinke’s “review” of national monuments (see feature article, p. 5). County commissioners in all three counties are vocal opponents of the monuments, advocating for either significant reductions in size or total elimination of the monuments’ protected status.

Commissioners Demand Local Input in Monument Decisions, then Slam Door

Before the monuments were proclaimed, southern Utah county commissioners complained that decisions were being made without local input (untrue). When Zinke came to town, though, the commissioners kept their constituents in the dark about the real decision-making process. Instead of discussing plans for the future of the monuments openly and engaging constituents of all stripes, these county commissions have decided to operate under cover of darkness in blatant disregard of Utah’s Open and Public Meetings Act.

SUWA hopes to put a stop to these secret meetings so that SUWA members living in these counties, along with the general public, can have a voice in these important discussions about the future of federal public lands and ensure that elected officials are accountable to their constituents for their actions.

David Reyman and Austin Riter with the Salt Lake City law firm of Parr Brown Gee & Loveless represent SUWA in the suit against Garfield and Kane Counties. SUWA attorneys Laura Peterson, Joe Bushyhead and Steve Bloch represent SUWA in the San Juan case.

—Laura Peterson

Settlement Reached in Cedar Mesa Trekking Dispute

SUWA is happy to announce that it has settled its appeal of a permit to allow large-group hiking and handcart trekking in Bears Ears National Monument and on lands proposed for wilderness designation in America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act.

The BLM’s Monticello field office approved a “special recreation permit” to allow the Hole-in-the-Rock Foundation to guide up to 250 participants per day on three routes in the Cedar Mesa area (Salvation Knoll, Long Flat, and San Juan Hill), hiking and pulling handcarts in a manner reminiscent of early Mormon pioneers. In total, the 10-year permit authorized up to 17,100 user days per year on the three approved trekking routes. A “user day” is defined as one person visiting BLM lands for any portion of a day.

SUWA’s primarily concern was with potential harm to wilderness qualities—especially the remarkable solitude found throughout Cedar Mesa—resulting from large groups travelling through these remote landscapes day after day. As a result, we filed an appeal of the permit with the Interior Department’s administrative review board. Settlement discussions between the Hole-in-the Rock Foundation and SUWA soon followed. During months of negotiations, all parties worked together to reach a compromise that, while imperfect, allows the Hole-in-the-Rock Foundation to conduct trekking events...
**Definition of Incompatible:**

Helicopters in Wilderness

Do you want to hear the thump-thump-thump of helicopters landing and taking off in Utah’s wilderness backcountry? A Moab-based helicopter company’s plans to charter flights to state lands surrounded by a federal wilderness study area (WSA) has turned what should be a ridiculous, rhetorical question into an awful potential reality.

SUWA learned this summer that Pinnacle Helicopters plans to fly tourists into several locations in the remote Robber’s Roost region of Wayne County, within the Horseshoe Canyon WSA. WSAs are spectacular, wilderness-quality areas that are to be managed in a manner that ensures that they remain unimpaired—until Congress decides their future.

To circumvent restrictions on helicopter use within WSAs, Pinnacle intends to use landing sites on school trust lands—small “islands” of land given to western states at statehood and often surrounded...
by federal lands such as WSAs. Utah’s School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) is responsible for these lands in Utah. They are arguably the worst-managed lands in the state. Tar sands mining, oil shale development, and helicopter tours can occur on state sections with little regard to their environmental health or their impact upon surrounding landscapes. At SITLA, “anything goes” as long as it makes even a small amount of money. That is exactly why Pinnacle Helicopters proposes to operate on trust lands—even though tourists would be flying in to experience the dazzling public lands that surround each SITLA landing site.

Adding to the egregiousness of these landing sites, the northernmost SITLA parcel is immediately adjacent to the Horseshoe Canyon unit of Canyonlands National Park. Within the unit are some of the most pristine and fragile rock art panels in the world, including the famous “Great Gallery.” The entire unit is managed as an archaeological district and access is carefully maintained to preserve the exceptional rock art. Although the National Park Service and the Utah Rock Art Research Association have already expressed their concern with this particular landing site, noting the potential damage to irreplaceable rock art panels in the canyon, SITLA and Pinnacle Helicopters seem to care little about these legitimate concerns.

This is not a question of accessibility—the wild landscapes in Robber’s Roost and Horseshoe Canyon are already easily accessible with enough driving time and preparation. Experiencing these areas is all the more special when some effort and planning is involved in getting there. Helicopter tours, with their high cost and invasive presence, would simply make it quicker and easier for the wealthy elite to noisily insert themselves into pristine areas that ordinary people may see only with a bit of time and effort.

By encouraging this activity in the midst of a WSA and near a remote section of Canyonlands National Park, Pinnacle Helicopters is cheapening a rare wilderness experience and declaring that they value profit over all else—even if it means sacrificing the very qualities of solitude, remoteness, and wilderness that attract visitors to this special region in the first place.

—Kya Marienfeld
Meet Olivia Juarez, SUWA’s Latinx Community Organizer

SUWA extends a warm welcome to Olivia Juarez, our new Latinx Community Organizer. Olivia hails from Salt Lake City and Tooele, Utah. She is a recent Honors graduate from the University of Utah’s College of Humanities Peace & Conflict Studies program. In her words, “I’m starting by helping to re-frame the way SUWA communicates about wilderness protection and engages in its advocacy, so that it’s more relevant to our local and national Chicanx and Latinx communities. My outreach includes interpersonal engagement as well as increasing media and visibility opportunities.”

Since joining the team, Olivia’s work has focused on two groups—student organizations on campuses across Utah and Utah-based Latinx leaders—to engage interested community members on redrock issues and raise diverse voices. Whether through a one-on-one meeting, a group presentation, or a community event, the call to Proteja Utah Salvaje breathes new life into our seasoned rally cry. We anticipate that the relationships Olivia has begun to cultivate with community organizations, leaders, and individuals will soon pay huge dividends for redrock wilderness in Utah and across the country. Please join us in welcoming her to the SUWA family!

Veteran Conservationist Kerry Schumann Joins SUWA Board

The board and staff of SUWA are pleased to welcome the newest addition to our board, Kerry Schumann.

Kerry is a talented and battle-hardened conservation leader from Wisconsin, where for more than 20 years she has led organizations deeply involved in efforts to protect that state’s natural resources and environment. She also has many years of experience serving on the boards of a number of non-profits. She is an expert in developing strong citizen engagement, and in surviving, and thriving, in a hostile political environment.

Since 2004, Kerry has been the executive director of the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters, the state affiliate of the national League of Conservation Voters. She also serves on the national LCV board. Outdoor education is another area of interest for her, and she serves with Wisconsin Women Forward for Environmental Education and works with the Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center.

Kerry is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin. She grew up on a farm in Waukesha County. She
obviously loves her native state, but she has a longstanding addiction for the redrock of southern Utah. She hikes and explores that country at every opportunity. Our board chairman Tom Kenworthy did a rim-to-rim hike with Kerry in the Grand Canyon some 20 years ago and reports that she put him to shame in the endurance department.

We are very lucky to have Kerry at our side for the battles ahead. She is a true warrior for conservation.

**Thanks to Grassroots Intern Olivia Olsen**

The advent of the Trump administration in January made SUWA’s organizing work more important than ever; Olivia Olsen showed up as our winter Weissman Intern and was so effective that we kept her on through the early summer. For everything from town hall meetings to Bears Ears rallies and press conferences, Olivia was the behind-the-curtain magician who makes events run smoothly and seamlessly.

All those postcards we gather? Olivia’s job was to make sure the information was recorded—correctly—in our database. Quick study that she is, Olivia soon added volunteer coordination to her workload. This involved finding activists to distribute information at various events, creating posters for rallies, staffing information tables at area fairs and festivals, along with various chores generally listed as “other duties as assigned.” For Olivia, this included heading up our Protect Wild Utah lawn sign delivery campaign. Remarkably, she managed all this while a full-time student and a part-time job holder.

A native of Utah’s capital city, Olivia is a student in the University of Utah’s Environmental Sustainability program and the daughter of an activist river rat. Small wonder that she’s a natural at this work. We offer our sincere thanks and wish her the best of luck!

**DC Intern Spencer Ward Extends SUWA’s Reach**

Saying goodbye to our interns is always difficult—doubly so when we are blessed with a super intern. Our summer D.C. intern, Spencer Ward, was such a one. After graduating from the University of Connecticut in May, Spencer came straight to D.C. to join our team. With a degree in Environmental Studies, Spencer explained that he was excited about what SUWA does for Utah’s public lands, and as an outdoors lover, he was looking forward to protecting his favorite places to recreate.

Whether he was in the office helping us rummage through old documents, moving furniture into our temporary office space, or heading to the Hill to attend hearings, Spencer was always there with a smile. In true super-intern form, when we asked...
SUWA Field Volunteers: the Land Ethic in Practice

With the autumn service season coming to a close in southern Utah, we’d like to acknowledge all of our supporters for your commitment to our field volunteer program. Over the past 18 months we have established the framework for a program that will continue to grow in the coming years as we extend our reach and diversify our service presence across Utah’s most critical landscapes.

To date, roughly 150 volunteers have served nearly 1,200 hours in the field. Those hours have produced good work and, just as importantly, good will. In a political climate where good will is elusive and all too rare, rather than the common ingredient of everyday life, your service helps us to reassert a wilderness land ethic so much needed.

Aldo Leopold coined the term “land ethic” and noted that “We abuse land because we see it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.” We look forward to working with our volunteers again in 2018—and thank you!

Legal Intern Gordon Rowe Returns to the Books

We’d like to thank our stellar legal intern Gordon Rowe for his great work this past summer in our Salt Lake City office.

Gordon, a second-year law student at the University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law, was a familiar face from his days before law school, when he worked as research director at Utah Rivers Council. And he quickly proved himself a valuable contributor to SUWA’s legal team. Gordon drafted scoping comments and administrative appeals, attended RS 2477 depositions and Utah legislative hearings, and provided excellent research for a number of legal battles. We were lucky to have him on board. Thanks Gordon, and good luck in your second year of law school!
Art Supports Advocacy in Red Rock Stories

*Red Rock Stories* gathers passionate words from three generations of writers who treasure Utah’s public lands. First printed as a limited edition, art-as-advocacy chapbook, *Red Rock Testimony*, this collection was delivered to Obama administration officials and every member of Congress in June 2016, as decision-makers deliberated between a destructive public lands bill and a national monument proposed by the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition. Just before year’s end, President Barack Obama established Bears Ears National Monument, and in June 2017, this historic collection was expanded and published as a trade book, *Red Rock Stories*, in celebration of protecting exquisite and sacred landscapes.

SUWA was excited to support redrock activists Kirsten Johanna Allen and Stephen Trimble in helping to bring this book to life and put it in the hands of decision-makers. It remains a beautiful and powerful advocacy tool for Utah’s redrock wildlands. Every activist should have a copy!

All royalties from *Red Rock Stories* go to the Utah Wilderness Coalition to fund grassroots organizing on behalf of Utah’s redrock wilderness. To order a copy, visit [torreyhouse.org/redrockstories](http://torreyhouse.org/redrockstories).

Make a Longterm Investment in Utah Wilderness

**Join Our Monthly Giving Program**

If you’re looking for a convenient, hassle-free way to help SUWA over the longterm, our monthly giving program is for you. Monthly giving is easy and secure, and provides us with reliable, year-round funding to fight current and future attacks on Utah wilderness. To sign up, use the envelope in this newsletter or go to [suwa.org/donate](http://suwa.org/donate), select an amount, and check the recurring donation box.

**Leave a Legacy for the Redrock**

Bequests are a simple, effective way for those of us who love the redrock to ensure that when we’re gone, the work to protect these amazing wild landscapes continues. Just name the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance in your will, trust, retirement plan, or life insurance policy, along with our contact information and tax I.D. number and the dollar amount or percent of your estate you wish to contribute. If you’d like to make a gift to SUWA or have already included a gift in your estate, please contact Karin Duncker at (801) 428-3971. Or visit us online at [suwa.org/plannedgiving](http://suwa.org/plannedgiving).

Thank You to Our New Business Members!

SUWA would like to thank the following businesses for recently joining our Business Membership Program at $150 or more.

- **Greater Yellowstone Guides**
  - Bozeman, MT

- **Janice Trane Jones Fine Art**
  - Cave Creek, AZ

- **Mountain West Hard Cider**
  - Salt Lake City, UT

- **RoHa Brewing Project**
  - Salt Lake City, UT

- **Tailwind Nutrition**
  - Durango, CO

- **The State Room**
  - Salt Lake City, UT

If you own a business, please consider joining today at [suwa.org/businessmembers](http://suwa.org/businessmembers).
Gift Memberships and Other Goodies for the Holidays!

SUWA offers posters, hats, DVDs, gift memberships, and t-shirts for purchase on our website—all of which make great gifts for friends or family. To view our product catalogue, go to www.suwa.org/goodies.

Looking for that perfect non-commercial, non-toxic, non-fattening, environmentally friendly gift-that-keeps-on-giving? A SUWA gift membership could be just the thing! Each gift membership is just $25, and we’ll send a welcome packet with a newsletter and “Protect Wild Utah” sticker to your gift recipient (or to your own address if you prefer).

And if you place your order during the month of December, we’ll throw in a free winter beanie like the one pictured here (the value of the cap is not tax-deductible). Offer good only on gift membership purchases made during this limited time period.

* Please order by December 8th to guarantee Christmas delivery.

Order a Copy of Our Wild Utah Video on DVD

SUWA's popular multi-media presentation, *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!

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, DISC):

CC#:_________________________ CVC#:_______
Exp. date:_______ Amount: $_______

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

Wild Utah DVDs can also be ordered online at suwa.org/goodies.
Reference Map for Articles in this Issue

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Call for Videographers

Are you eager to put your videography skills to good use in support of redrock wilderness? SUWA is looking for a few enthusiastic professional or skilled amateur videographers to document various events and activities in Utah for use on our website and social media platforms.

Activities include documenting our participation in festivals (mostly in urban areas) and the work of our volunteer service program on public lands throughout the state of Utah.

Interested individuals and companies should send a one-page letter expressing your interest and describing your experience to volunteer@suwa.org.