

REDROCK W I L D E R N E S S

The Newsletter of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
Volume 24, Number 1 • Spring 2007

Moving America's Red Rock Wilderness Act in Congress

Cover Photo: Located near the town of Boulder, Utah, the 150-foot cascade of Lower Calf Creek Falls lies within proposed wilderness yet is easily accessible from a nearby campground. Copyright James W. Kay (www.jameskay.com).



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

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

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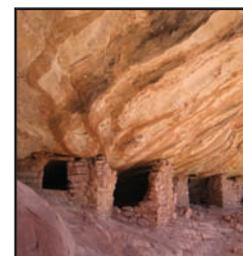
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This issue of *Redrock Wilderness* was written by the following staff and outside contributors: Justin Allegro, Steve Bloch, Barry Bonifas, Bob Brister, Peter Downing, David Garbett, Scott Groene, Diane Kelly, Darrell Knuffke, Richard Peterson-Cremer, Deeda Seed, Liz Thomas, and Anne Williams. It was edited by Darrell Knuffke and laid out by Matt Crawley.

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**wilderness notes**

A Quarter Century Behind Us, An Exciting Year Ahead

SUWA is entering its 25th year. With our coalition partners during that quarter century we've kept the redrock wilderness intact through swings in congressional control and executive branch environmental policies. The invariable certainty through those years has been a Utah congressional delegation bent on erasing wilderness.

Consider that 75 years ago little of southern Utah was scarred. Over the next 50 years 13 million acres fell to mining, drilling, chaining, damming and road construction. By 1983, the year SUWA was founded, fewer than 10 million acres of Utah's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land remained wild.

Over the last 25 years, the bleeding has everywhere slowed and in most places stopped. The total loss approximates far less than 1 per cent of the remaining wild country. That's not coincidence. Certainly, we lament that the Vernal BLM office has allowed drill pads and roads to carve up parts of the White River Canyon, and that the Moab office has allowed ORVs to run amok here and there. But across the board we've proven that committed citizens can thwart a federal government and politicians that at are at best indifferent, and at worst openly opposed, to conservation.

Some ask how long SUWA can stay on the defensive. Two answers: first, as long as it takes; second, that's far from all we do! We've also made significant gains in long term protection. And we've done it by working through all three branches of governments—the legislative and executive when we can, the judicial when we must. The amount of land legislatively protected as wilderness study areas has grown from 2.9 million acres to approximately 3.5 million. The Congress designated an additional 100,000 acres as wilderness. Executive branch actions have provided some form of protection for roughly another 1.5 million acres.

And 2006 was a rip-roaring year for the Redrock. With our coalition partners we stopped bad wilderness legislation (for Washington County), passed a good wilderness bill (in the Cedar Mountains), led on litigation that's unravelling the Bush administration's voracious push on behalf of the oil and gas industry, and gained a major victory over ORV abuse around Factory Butte.

We're proud of that record and, as SUWA members, you should be too because so much of the credit is yours. But it's the future that's truly exciting. The last election broke the anti-environmental grip on the Congress that put public land committees in the hands of Richard Pombo, Don Young and Jim Hansen. After 12 long and dark years, the Congress is in friendlier hands much more inclined to value wilderness. That means we can finally move forward with America's Red Rock Wilderness Act. With our coalition partners, including The Wilderness Society and the Sierra Club, we're committed to doing precisely that. (In our lead story in this issue, our Washington team details the process and the prospects for that legislation.)

If you evaluate SUWA's history by reviewing our newsletters, you'll find a remarkable record of conservation, one that rightly focuses on the canyon country that should survive us all. But that record does not—cannot—tell all the stories of the people behind the scenes: SUWA's staff, board, volunteers and, most importantly, SUWA's members. Real people leading ordinary lives have toiled along side one another for Utah wilderness, even as we mourned the deaths of friends and family and celebrated the births of our children.

Faces have changed over time, but the constant thread is a collection of committed Americans willing to give a part of themselves to leave the Redrock a little quieter, a little safer. Thanks to all of you.

For the Redrock,
Scott Groene
Executive Director

features

Time to Move America's Red Rock Wilderness Act

The pundits have labeled the changes in Washington since the November elections "seismic." They are certainly significant and we think they are auspicious. After more than a decade of defending Utah wilderness in the Congress, piece by piece, bad bill by even worse ones, it is now time to actively advance America's Red Rock Wilderness Act.

The bill will protect roughly 9.5 million acres of public lands in Utah. This may strike some as a bold venture. And it is, but no bolder than Utah's uniquely beautiful landscape deserves. Those who have visited Utah's slickrock canyons and sagebrush deserts know that firsthand.

And we know in advance what critics will argue because they've argued it all before. Too much wilderness! they'll cry, as if safeguarding the little that remains could possibly be excessive. But set against the surpassing splendor of Utah's public lands, the charge is as empty as it is tattered. We take our counsel on this subject from the late Utah Congressman Wayne Owens, also a former chair of SUWA's board. He said, "Wilderness is not created by legislation; that is the handiwork of God and nature." Congress can only protect what Providence has given us.

Pressing forward with America's Red Rock Wilderness Act is the right thing to do and now is the right time. Though sending this bill to the



Photo by Justin Allegro

Each year, citizens from across the country gather in Washington, DC to build support for America's Red Rock Wilderness Act.

features

President may have to wait until later Congresses, House passage is uniquely within our grasp today. House sponsor Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) is well-positioned because of his seats on the Natural Resources Committee and the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee to help guide the bill through the House.

The Senate is more environmentally friendly than it has been in years, but because of Senate procedures and the narrow margin there, Senate passage will be more difficult. The chief Senate champion of

the America's Red Rock Wilderness Act will once again be Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL), now Majority Whip and second most senior member of the his caucus.

Nonetheless, Senate passage will require a multi-year effort. We are building strength there, too, and will continue to do so.

Why It Matters

Why move the bill through one house if prospects are poor for moving it through both and sending it to the President? There are several reasons. First, passage by even one house sends a strong signal to Utah politicians that America's Red Rock Wilderness Act is not pie-in-the-sky, that it is a credible proposal and has strong support. That can help dissuade attempts to pass anti-wilderness bills, such as the late and unlamented Washington County Growth and Conservation Act. A strong House-passed bill will stand as a prominent declaration of what is wild in Utah and what deserves protection as such, as well as a strong standard against which to measure inferior proposals.

Second, it will serve as a strong reminder to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) that it needs to respect public lands that at least one chamber of the Congress has found fully deserving of permanent wilderness protection. Certainly, there is no force of law in only a House-passed bill. But agency personnel are as adept at reading political tea leaves as anyone else; a House-passed measure may lead them to a new-found restraint in caring for those lands. There is something to be said for both moral suasion and enlightened self-interest.

Third, we will find many House members more inclined to tough oversight of land managers—from committee hearings to letters of inquiry—regarding agency stewardship of lands the House has declared wilderness.

Why is Now the Time?

If those are some of the reasons why we think a House bill is by itself a good idea, there are several reasons to believe we can succeed. In November Americans unseated scores of entrenched anti-environmental members and ushered in a pro-environmental majority in both the House and Senate for the first time since 1993. Voters in the American West particularly helped change the dynamics in Congress by electing more pro-environmental members in California, Arizona, Colorado, and Montana.

It is a sign of this change that the House committee that Rep. Richard Pombo chaired and renamed the Resources Committee is once again the Natural Resources Committee. The name change is more than mere gloss. Pombo's Resources Committee behaved as though the public lands were no more than a storehouse of commodity resources convertible to profit, the only value that mattered. The



America's Red Rock Wilderness Act—By the Numbers

Number of votes needed to pass ARWA in the House of Representatives: 218

Number of House cosponsors from 109th Congress in the 110th Congress: 151

Number of votes in addition to existing cosponsors needed to pass ARWA in the House: 67

Number of new Democratic House Members: 42

Number of cosponsors from 109th Congress on the House Natural Resources Committee: 15

Total number of members on the House Natural Resources Committee needed to pass the bill out of the committee: 26

features

Natural Resources Committee will concern itself, as it has traditionally done, with all the values of our public lands, including the priceless natural values of clean air, clean water, wildlife, solitude, quiet recreation and spiritual renewal.

We also note that Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ), chairman of the subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands which first considers public land legislation, is a cosponsor of America's Red Rock Wilderness Act. Significantly, 15 returning cosponsors of the measure sit on the Natural Resources Committee. If 10 of the remaining 34 on the committee also co-sponsor the bill, it would have enough votes to be reported out of committee, the first hurdle.

The House at large will also be a friendlier place for America's Red Rock Wilderness Act. House Speaker Rep. Nancy Pelosi cosponsored the bill in three successive congresses. Of the 161 House cosponsors from the 109th Congress, 151 have returned to the 110th. To pass America's Red Rock Wilderness Act through the full House, we will need only another 67 votes in addition to theirs to reach the magic 218.

Protecting vs. Selling Off Utah Wilderness

America's Red Rock Wilderness Act represents more than a decade of intensive field work by citizens, activists, and professional who combed the land and scrutinized BLM records. The result is a legislation proposal that can stand firmly on its merits. This legislation represents a clear alternative to the special interest spending and earmarking that permeated the Tom Delay Congresses of the past four years. It also stands as a repudiation of the Bush Administration's proposal, included in both last year's and this year's federal budgets, to sell off of public lands across the nation. It recalls and affirms the fundamental notion that we serve the public interest by protecting public lands, not by selling them off.

Thinking Big When Nothing Else Will Do

America's Red Rock Wilderness Act protects a large area of land. But that's exactly why this legislation is so unique and important. The American West, and especially the southwest, is growing rapidly. With fewer open spaces remaining, those large unbroken expanses are all that much more important for the species that depend upon them; humans are one such species. Utah wilderness is a place where canyons hundreds of feet deep cut through the Colorado Plateau, a place where the view

encompasses hundreds of miles. A small wilderness proposal would not begin to do it justice.

When President Clinton proclaimed the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in 1996, he said, "Sometimes progress is measured in mastering frontiers, but sometimes we must measure progress in protecting frontiers for our children and all children to come." In precisely this sense, the House has a unique contribution to make to the future—to all our children—by passing America's Red Rock Wilderness Act.

—Pete Downing

Impending Disaster... and Deliverance

It was little more than 10 years ago when Utah wilderness faced one of its most daunting challenges. The Senate was set to take up a bill that would have denied protection for millions of acres of Utah's pristine wild country.

In response, a core group of Utah wilderness champions in the Senate came to the defense of America's Red Rock Wilderness Act. Over three days of debate, it became increasingly clear that support for Utah wilderness was as strong in the Senate as it was across the country. When the Clerk of the Senate read the roll call on Wednesday, March 27, 1996, Utah wilderness supporters had fended off disaster by a nine-vote margin.

If that was the fiercest challenge to protection for Utah's wild places, it was by no means the last. The Congress has beat back numerous attempts to undercut Utah wilderness since that defining vote in 1996, most recently just last year in the 109th Congress by blocking the Washington County Growth and Conservation Act. And with every challenge, the campaign for Utah wilderness has continued to grow in Utah and across the country.

DC news

Good
News!

Unified Opposition Dooms Washington County Bill

We're pleased to begin our first update on the 110th Congress by conveying some terrific news from the final spasms of the last Congress: the Washington County Growth and Conservation Act was stopped dead in its tracks. Massive opposition to the measure, both local and national, helped block what its Utah sponsors, Sen. Robert Bennett and Rep. Jim Matheson, hoped would be an easy route to passage.

Though its sponsors labored mightily to masquerade the bill as a conservation measure, the bill would actually have diminished protection for wilderness-quality lands. But Matheson and Bennett were unable to find any year-end legislation to which they could attach their proposal. So once again, and against the odds, some of Utah's best places remain safe.

The measure included only laughably small wilderness designations for the Zion-Mojave region of Utah, half of it within Zion National Park where it already enjoys some measure of protection. Miniscule wilderness was the "quid." The "pro-quo" was the lifting of protection on other wilderness-quality lands and the outright sale of huge tracts of valuable public open space for development—this in a county that is already facing explosive growth.

The public saw through the sound bites quickly enough. Our partners in the Utah Wilderness

Coalition and other conservation groups were unanimously and energetically against it. Other opposition came in letters from area residents, tribes, and businesses; editorials from major national newspapers; even a letter from members of Congress who enthusiastically support Utah wilderness. This campaign has revealed once again that protecting America's Redrock is a national priority.

With 2007 and a new majority in the 110th Congress, it becomes more difficult to predict what may happen next with Washington County legislation. While it seems less likely that the new Congress would approve a wilderness bill this objectionable, the bill's sponsors have announced that they'll try again. But now there is strong, organized and vocal opposition to the bill from Washington County citizens, spearheaded by a local smart-growth group, Citizens for Dixie's Future. These concerned citizens may be able to come up with their own solutions for protecting the land.

As always, we'll be prepared should the same bad legislation pop up again. And once again we'll turn to you for help. We couldn't have won this round without you. Please accept our thanks!

—Justin Allegro



A still-quiet corner of the Zion-Mojave proposed wilderness.

Jeremy Franchow

New Congress Means New Opportunities

The outlook for protecting Utah's wild areas is the brightest it has been for over a decade. One clear measure is the fact that in November, nine of the anti-environmental members on the League of Conservation Voters' (LCV) "Dirty Dozen" list lost their congressional seats. We also see important opportunities to shift the agency policies that daily threaten Utah's wild places.

There is reason to be hopeful that this Congress will be greener than the last. Many in the congressional freshman class arrived in Washington with shining environmental credentials. Of the 10 new Senators, 8 received LCV endorsements, along with 20 of 54 new House members. Among them are a former wind energy businessman, a land use attorney, and several local and state legislators with excellent records in promoting land conservation and slowing hell-for-leather oil and gas development. One, Ed Perlmutter of Colorado, even made designation of wilderness in the Colorado Plateau a part of his campaign platform.

Oversight Overlooked

Among the many things the "do nothing" 109th Congress didn't do was scrutinize the surrender of western public lands to ill-considered energy development. That may change. Key committee chairs have vowed to undertake oversight investigations of the Bush Administration's oil and gas lease programs and to examine the corruption and waste that typified Gale Norton's tenure at the Interior Department.

The Department's Inspector General, Earl Devaney, has already testified twice in the new Congress about inquiries into uncollected oil royalty payments and illicit ties between oil lobbyists and Interior employees. He also mentioned pending criminal charges at the department, which he describes as having "a culture replete with a lack of accountability" and exhibiting "jaw dropping example[s] of bureaucratic bungling." Senators and representatives are listening intently. Because energy use and development are such hot topics in Washington right now, current and proposed oil and gas development in Utah are bound to come under Congressional scrutiny. We'll do all we can to focus congressional attention on these and other issues that affect wild Utah.

—Richard Peterson-Cremer

Utah Recreational Land Exchange Act, Part II

In our fall newsletter we reported on what we hoped would be the pending passage of the Utah Recreational Land Exchange Act. The bill made it through the House of Representatives, but because of unrelated legislative wrangling failed to move through the Senate in the twilight hours of the 109th Congress.

The bill returns for a second try in the 110th Congress. Sen. Robert Bennett (R-UT) and Rep. Jim Matheson (D-UT) have reintroduced the legislation in their respective chambers. The bill's prospects in this session seem good; it will simply need some legislative shepherding to guide it through the process.

To recap, the act would enable a roughly equal swap of 40,000 acres between the BLM and the State Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA). The BLM would receive scattered, scenic and environmentally sensitive state trust lands, most within proposed wilderness areas and located primarily around Moab and upstream near the Colorado River. Most of that land would no longer be eligible for oil and gas leasing. In return, SITLA would get a comparable amount of non-wilderness-quality BLM land, much of it in Uintah County. That land is more appropriate for fulfilling the state's perceived directive to manage trust lands to maximize revenue for schools.

SUWA is fully supportive of this exchange. It would give the BLM full control of such treasures as the Fisher Towers, Mary Jane Canyon, and Castleton Tower, as well as parts of popular Westwater Canyon and the Slickrock and Kokopelli trails.

We extend our thanks to the Grand Canyon Trust and SITLA for putting this bill together and pushing it to this point. We also thank our dedicated activists for helping with this significant step forward.

—David Garbett

canyon country updates

SUWA Files Petition to Protect Arch Canyon

For years, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has watched idly while off-road-vehicles (ORVs) ravaged the natural and cultural resources of Arch Canyon on the northern edge of Cedar Mesa. In partnership with Navajo Tribal leaders, local businesses and other conservation groups, the SUWA has petitioned the BLM to protect Arch Canyon from ORV damage. The Hopi Tribe and the National Trust for Historic Preservation have submitted letters to the BLM in support of the petition.

Ancestral Puebloans inhabited this lush and steep-walled canyon and the ruins they left behind are exceptional. The canyon continues to be important to Native Americans as a clan homeland and as a source for traditional ceremonial plants. The BLM hasn't even stirred itself to survey and record the canyon's archaeological sites. Neither has it adequately consulted with tribes as the law requires. Instead, it continues to allow ORVs to churn through the canyon, putting cultural and natural resources alike at risk.

It was the perennial stream in Arch Canyon, a desert rarity and a gem, which probably attracted the prehistoric settlers in the first place. It supports three species of native fish, some of which experts suspect may be relict species, separated geographically from the larger gene pool, possibly for millions of years, and thus unique.

Less than one percent of Utah's public lands are riparian areas, yet these narrow green ribbons support from 75 to 80 percent of all wildlife species. That alone should be reason enough for the BLM to bar ORVs from this canyon. But here there is an even more compelling reason. During the 16-mile round-trip, ORVs cross the

stream 120 times, silting the waters, savaging stream banks and their sheltering vegetation. (The trip would be longer had not the BLM's sister agency, the U.S. Forest Service, had the courage and common sense to close the canyon's upper reaches to ORVs.)

If the BLM lifts a hand at all in Arch Canyon, it is to beckon even more ORVs into it. The BLM recently partnered with a local ORV group to place ORV signs in the canyon! So as the BLM shirks its duties as steward of our public lands, it scrambles to placate the playground bullies: ORV users, the State of Utah and local San Juan County anti-wilderness interests.

Underlying this pathetic situation is yet another bogus RS2477 road claim. The state and county claim that one or the other owns a right-of-way in Arch Canyon and need no BLM permission to do as they please. The truth is that neither has a legitimate right-of-way for this supposed "road" across federal public lands and neither has even formally applied for one. Nevertheless loud claims and intimidation have been enough to reduce the BLM to rank servility.

All we citizens have on our side is the law; SUWA's petition invokes it. The BLM must do its job and protect this special canyon and its resources from continued damage from ORV use.

For more information regarding the Petition to Preserve Arch Canyon's Natural and Cultural Heritage, please go to www.suwa.org/archpetition.

—Liz Thomas

"Can You Spell 'Aid and Abet?'"

While many groups are asking the BLM to protect Arch Canyon, and independent experts have concluded that continued ORV use will adversely affect the canyon's cultural and natural resources, the BLM seems far from ready to stop the assault on this fragile place.

The agency is now reviewing an application for a Jeep Jamboree event scheduled for April, high-horsepower hilarity that would send several dozen jeeps plowing into Arch Canyon. If you

or I applied for some sort of BLM permit approval, of course, we'd be pretty much on our own as to the application's form and adequacy: pass or fail, better luck next time, etc. But meeting minutes from the San Juan County Commission indicate that the BLM is working with the county to make sure the Jeep Jamboree application is complete so the BLM can approve the event without a hitch—one such hitch being any citizen's ability to challenge it!

An Anti-wilderness Head with Way Too Many Hats

San Juan County Commissioner Lynn Stevens lost no time in abusing the Navajos for their support of SUWA's Arch Canyon petition. At the January 8, 2007, county commission meeting, Stevens questioned the Navajos' "authority" to take a position regarding public lands in San Juan County "outside the reservation boundaries."

That's a truly bizarre view of American civic rights and responsibilities. The county's response to the Arch Canyon petition, assembled under Stevens's guidance and direction, doesn't mention the Navajo Tribe's concerns. That's regrettable, certainly, but not surprising, considering that Stevens seems to think tribal members are not quite citizens. Around 55 per cent of San Juan County's population is Native American—a handy majority. So much, then, for representative government. Beyond that, as the Utah Governor's Coordinator for the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office, Stevens has

a duty to "preserve archaeological resources." He ignores that duty, too, in favor of his own anti-wilderness fervor.

Mark Maryboy, former San Juan County commissioner and former Navajo Tribal Council member, made the tribe's case in a Salt Lake Tribune article ("Tribe Says Rights Trampled on Road Use," Jan. 20, 2007). Maryboy noted that tribal members are "insulted by...the county's rejection of Navajo concerns over the [Arch Canyon] road's status." He pointed out what ought to be obvious to any middle-school student—and surely to any elected official: all Americans, including Navajos and other first Americans, have a stake in public lands.

Navajos consider the Arch Canyon area to be aboriginal land and homeland to the great Chief Manuelito, his brother and their descendants, the Bitahnii clan.



Liz Thomas

Arch Canyon—with its tranquil scenery, ancient cultural sites, and rare desert stream—is no place for off-road vehicles.

canyon country updates

But, But...Off-Road Vehicles Are Our Heritage!

Off-road vehicle activists are profoundly displeased that the BLM has moved at long last to keep one of Utah's most famous icons, Factory Butte, from being pounded to death by ORVs. They've offered a protest resolution to the Wayne County Commission for its consideration. Not yet approved by the county commission, the draft states:

The lands in the Factory Butte area are largely void of plants and vegetation. The limited areas where vegetation does thrive have not been adversely impacted by the open nature of OHV [off-highway vehicle] travel in the area, as riders tend to avoid the vegetated areas...

Interesting spin, though not at all what the BLM found. The BLM issued a Federal Register Notice to prohibit cross-country vehicle use in approximately 142,000 acres around Factory Butte, in

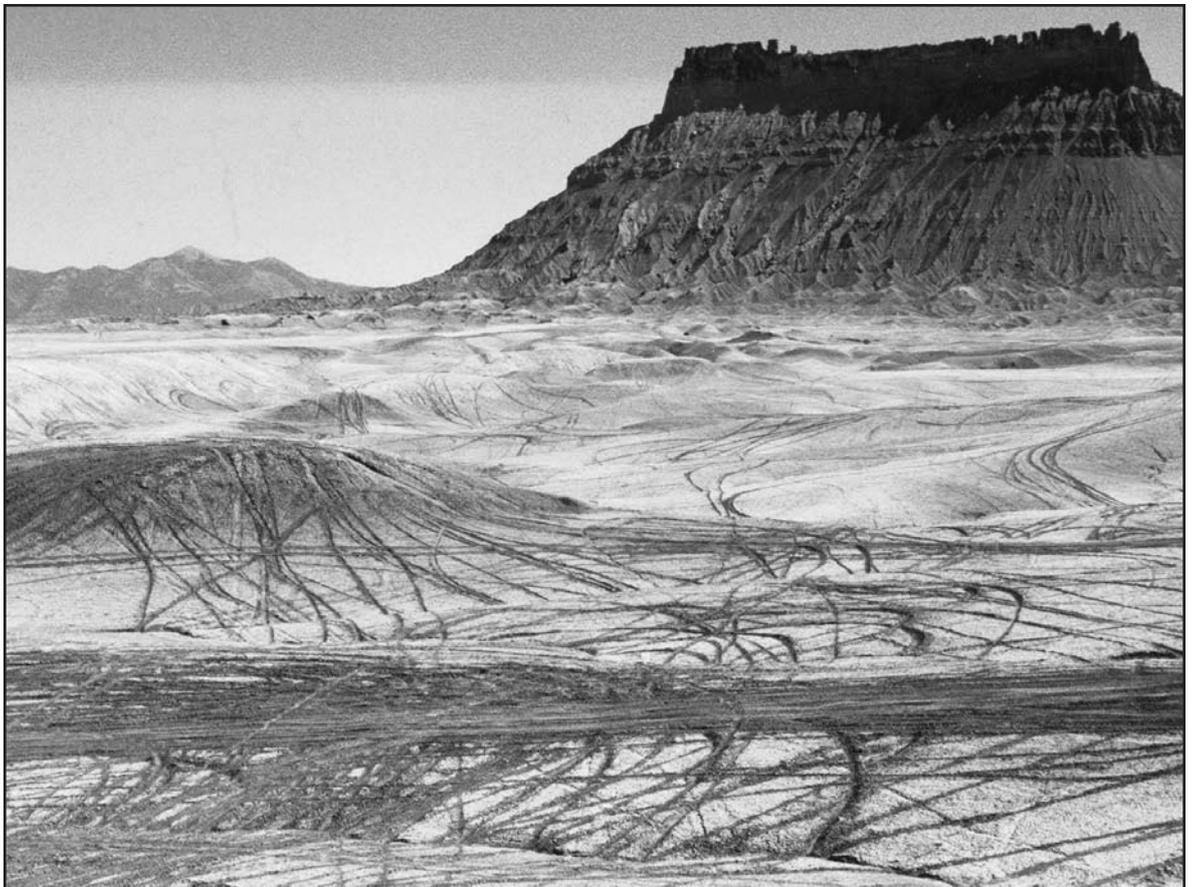
order to protect threatened and endangered species that "have been adversely impacted or that are at risk of being adversely impacted by OHV use." (The emphasis is ours.)

Here's another bit from the ORVers' draft resolution:

Wayne County specifically and emphatically opposes the use of fences to cordon off areas. Fences degrade the aesthetic value of the Factory Butte area. Fences are unsightly, hazardous, and only invite vandalism and destruction.

Fences are unsightly, but a spaghetti bowl of tire tracks, garnished with scraps of shredded vegetation, is not? And sakes! who would "vandalize" the fences? Surely not law-abiding riders?

—Liz Thomas



Thanks to new BLM restrictions, off-road vehicles can no longer run rampant across the Factory Butte badlands.

Ray Bloxham

Good
News!

Appeals Board Overturns BLM Oil and Gas Leasing Decision

An Interior Department panel has overturned a BLM oil and gas leasing decision that included a number of parcels near Utah's famed Nine Mile Canyon. The Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) ruled in SUWA's favor in January, overturning the October 2003 BLM decision. The contested leases involved 16 parcels, covering approximately 14,000 acres of public land in Utah's rugged and scenic backcountry.

Eleven of the sixteen are located just north of Nine Mile Canyon in east-central Utah, an area with world-class cultural resources such as petroglyphs, cliff dwellings, and pit houses. Three other parcels are located along the southern slope of Utah's imposing Book Cliffs which—together with the Roan Cliffs in Colorado—form the world's longest continuous escarpment. The remaining two are located south of Dinosaur National Monument.

The IBLA agreed with SUWA that the BLM failed to make any real effort to identify fragile archaeological sites such as rock art and cliff dwellings before it sold the contested leases. The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires such identification. The IBLA also agreed with SUWA that the BLM violated the NHPA when it failed to consult with Native American tribes in a meaningful fashion before it leased the lands.

This ruling follows several other recent federal court and IBLA decisions overturning Utah BLM lease sales. In August 2006, Utah federal district court judge Dale Kimball ruled in SUWA's favor and overturned the Utah BLM's November 2003 lease sale. That decision has had profound impacts on the BLM's leasing program across the west. Also, from 2004 to 2006, the IBLA overturned several other Utah BLM lease sales involving sensitive public lands.

—Steve Bloch

Good
News!

Agencies Cap Oil Well Scheme in Glen Canyon NRA

A proposal to drill an oil well in Middle Moody Canyon in the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area is dead. A Denver company, Viking Exploration, sought to drill on a lease issued in 1969, before either the national recreation area (NRA) or adjacent Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument was created.

Opposition to the proposal produced over 78,000 public comments. The opposition was well-founded. The project would have entailed scraping an area for a drill pad and sludge pit and setting holding tanks—all within the NRA—and either building or rebuilding several miles of dirt road across one of the most scenic parts of the national monument.

The Sierra Club originally blocked the project when it was first proposed in 1972. The lease sat with no activity for 15 years—the formal term is “suspension” which allows a lease to remain in force even though no activity has occurred on it within a required time. The company resurrected the idea in 1990, asking the NPS for permission to drill. The company failed, despite repeated warnings from the agencies, to provide a complete operations plan detailing how it meant to comply with stringent protective conditions imposed on the project. Finally, the Bureau of Land Management, which administers the national monument, lifted the suspension and the lease expired.

—Darrell Knuffke



Ray Bloxham

Middle Moody Canyon—no longer a target for drilling

canyon country updates

Dodging Bullets in the Utah Legislature

This January and February the Utah Legislature considered a number of bills and issues relevant to the fight to protect Utah wilderness. You will notice that they all spring from the fecund, if fevered, mind of Rep. Mike Noel, a former Bureau of Land Management (BLM) employee in Kanab. He believes, according to his website (www.mikenoel.com), that a “green alliance” between “Big Government, Wealthy Foundations, and Big Environmental Organizations” has waged an “unrelenting assault on rural communities.”

Litigation Subsidy

Noel requested \$326,000 in state funds to reimburse Kane and Garfield counties for ongoing public lands litigation. SUWA is a party to at least two of the three lawsuits for which this appropriation was requested. The other lawsuit involves an action against the Grand Canyon Trust that would benefit Noel’s son-in-law. Fortunately, the Executive Appropriations Committee shrunk this request to \$100,000. This is welcome news as it should ultimately limit the ability of these two counties to pursue lawsuits related to Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM).

ATVs-Everywhere-Bill

Noel proposed that, with only minor modifications such as turn signals, all-terrain-vehicles (ATVs) be permitted to drive on all public roads in the state. Besides allowing four-wheelers on residential roads and thoroughfares of the Wasatch Front, the bill would also make it state law that ATVs be allowed on claimed

RS 2477 rights-of-way—not adjudicated or otherwise proven, mind you, merely claimed. Thus, if the federal government were ever to close a claimed route to ATVs, as it did in the GSENM to protect the monument’s resources, the action would violate state law. Noel thought this bill would resolve a lawsuit—and the threat of future lawsuits—between SUWA and Kane County (it wouldn’t). Thanks to all the activists who contacted their senators, this bill failed to pass in the final hours of the legislative session.

Rights-of-Way on State Trust Lands

School trust lands are scattered throughout the State of Utah and are generally surrounded by federal public lands. One problem with these lands, from the view of Noel and others, is that RS 2477 rights-of-way cannot be claimed on trust lands. Since many of these alleged RS 2477 routes cross trust lands this leaves “gaps” in claims that make it more difficult for counties and the state to convince a court they have a valid right-of-way. To solve this quandary, Noel introduced a bill that would apparently allow counties to obtain rights-of-way on trust lands by simply filing a map with the county recorder and notifying the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA). If SITLA did not like the claim, its only recourse would be in court. Seemingly, this bill attempts to make the burden so onerous on SITLA that it would never refuse a right-of-way claim. Thus, any possible gaps in RS 2477 routes would be filled. This bill failed, never even making it to the floor of the House or Senate.

Another Litigation Subsidy—This One for Needy ORVers

Finally, thanks to another nifty Noel bill which did pass, Utahns will be able to donate \$2 on their motor vehicle registration forms for the preservation of motorized access to public lands and, nominally at least, for off-road vehicle education. But this bill was so narrowly drawn that the only group eligible to receive the money funds may be the Utah Shared Access Alliance (USA-All), the vitriolic pro-off-road-vehicle group. The legislation expressly allows these funds to be used for litigation, so USA-All has a public war chest to fund lawsuits against SUWA and the federal government to protect its drive-everywhere campaigns. If it’s any consolation, legislative analysts think the fund will only generate \$8,000 per year.



Liz Thomas

Off-road vehicles were a hot topic during Utah's 2007 legislative session.

—David Garbett

Babies on Bombardiers? Not Even in Utah (barely)

We're happy to report that the Utah House of Representatives, faced with too many bills and too little time, failed to pass HB 237, a bill that would have allowed 6-year-olds to operate ATVs—motorized all-terrain-vehicles. Some Utah lawmakers apparently think the current minimum age of 8 is an excessive governmental intrusion into parental discretion. Or something. (At this point, columnist Dave Barry would assure his readers that he is “not making this up.” Neither are we.)

One representative argued that plopping the little tykes on four-wheelers will let them “become involved with safety at a younger age.” You betcha! And don't forget death and dismemberment.

The Salt Lake Tribune editorialized against the monumentally goofy idea with some interesting numbers:

- 46 young people under age 16 (that's 16, not 6) died in Utah ATV accidents between 1982 and 2001;
- 17 Utahns under 16 died by ATV between 2002-2004; 1600 were injured in 2002 alone;

- Nationally, 120 young people under age 16 died in ATV accidents in 2005 and 40,000-plus suffered serious injuries.

The easy explanation for this insane measure is the Utah House has more than its share of stumbling dupes of the ATV industry. That probability grows when you consider that one ATV company, Polaris, markets a cute little pink number, named “Youth Predator” with tragic aptness, aimed at kids as young as 6.

But maybe that's too simple and too sinister. Here's another possibility: Utah consistently has the highest birth rate in the nation and the largest school class sizes. It also boasts the lowest per capita educational funding in the nation; a half-billion-dollar boost this year may not be enough to keep it out of the national funding cellar if other states follow suit. Could HB 237 be a diabolically clever move by some in the legislature to redress all that without raising taxes? Fewer first-graders mean smaller class sizes, no dispute there. And the per capita spending numbers should improve as well.

Is that political leadership or what?

Good
News!

State Agency Says No to Lila Canyon Mine (For Now)

The proposed Lila Canyon coal mine has been delayed once again. The project is located on the western slope of the Book Cliffs and lies partially within the Desolation Canyon wilderness study area. Members will recall that SUWA has been battling the Lila Canyon mine since 2001 and we've been successful, thanks to the hard-work of former SUWA attorney Herb McHarg, pro-bono counsel Kathy Weinberg and David Churchill from the law firm of Jenner & Block, and expert hydrologist Elliot Lips.

But some bad ideas just don't go away. The mining company, UtahAmerica Energy, Inc. (UEI), has continued to hound the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGGM) to approve the company's

permit application. What makes this latest delay noteworthy is that DOGM did a remarkable thing: it told the company no, at least for now. The agency stood up against a steady stream of threatening letters and relentless badgering from UEI and its parent company, Murray Energy, Inc. Murray Energy even went so far as to close down another mine in Carbon County in an effort to pressure DOGM to expedite approval of the Lila Canyon mine. The economic intimidation didn't work this time.

We're not sure how long to expect DOGM to be able to hold out against UEI's advances but we welcome this reprieve, temporary or not.

—Steve Bloch

canyon country updates

Coal Mine Whack-A-Mole: Is Bryce Canyon Next?

The Bureau of Land management (BLM) has begun preparing an environmental impact statement on a proposal to sell a coal lease just west of Bryce Canyon National Park. If issued, the lease would launch the BLM on the road to permitting the so-called “Coal Hollow mine.” This would thrust the nose of a particularly insidious camel under the Canyon Country tent. The Coal Hollow mine would be the very first coal strip mine in the state of Utah—and it couldn’t be located in a worse place.

At full capacity, the Coal Hollow mine would require over 150 coal haul truck round-trips per day from Alton to Cedar City, a 220 mile circuit. They could run as frequently as one every seven minutes. The proposed haul road for taking the coal to market would run through several small towns along Utah’s nationally recognized “Heritage Highway,” State Highway 89. That route would carry the trucks right through the small town of Panguitch, which was recently placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Several local business owners that rely on the natural beauty of Bryce Canyon National Park and the surrounding public lands to attract tourists are concerned that the mine and its related operations will drive tourists away and them out of business.

The impacts would go far beyond the site-specific. The Coal Hollow mine will produce approximately 46 million tons of coal at a rate of 2 to 3 million tons per year. The company hopes to sell most of its coal to the Intermountain Power Plant near Delta, UT. Intermountain’s existing two generating units already emit nearly 15 million tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) annually and the plant is proposing a third 950 megawatt unit. According to data from the U.S. Department of Energy, the coal mined from this proposal could be responsible for injecting an additional 6 million tons of CO₂ into the atmosphere every year.

SUWA—working together with Natural Resources Defense Council, the Sierra Club, and their hundreds of thousands of members—submitted “scoping” comments to the BLM in late February 2007 on the proposed mine. A draft environmental impact statement will be available for public review in 2008 with a final decision slated for 2009. Stay abreast of this proposal by visiting our website at www.suwa.org.

—*Steve Bloch*

Staying in Touch with SUWA

About Your Address

To ensure that our members receive mail from us in a timely fashion, we periodically update our database records using an address validation service. If you notice that your address is punctuated or abbreviated differently, this may be the reason. In most cases, this change will help the Postal Service deliver your mail more efficiently. If for some reason you are experiencing problems with the delivery of our mail, please let us know.

Join SUWA’s Email Alert List

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

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

inside SUWA

SUWA Celebrates 25 Years of Wilderness Advocacy

April marks the beginning of SUWA's 25th anniversary year. It was in that month in 1983 that a small group of dedicated activists with a passion for preserving and protecting redrock wilderness launched the organization.

Creating an organization is never easy, even under ideal circumstances. So just imagine doing it with very limited financial resources, a handful of volunteers, primitive computers (and even, gasp, typewriters!), and you have an image of SUWA's early years. Flash forward to today. SUWA, supported by a growing membership of 13,000 people across the United States, is a vibrant organization. With your help, we've built a national constituency for the protection of 9.5 million acres of wilderness land in Utah, protection embodied in America's Redrock Wilderness Act.

A celebration is obviously in order and we intend to have one, a long one! Throughout the coming 12 months we will be hosting events to celebrate a quarter-century of organizing, talking, writing, researching, calling, meeting, walking, mobilizing, alerting, funding, energizing for wilderness protection. It will all culminate in April 2008 with a really fabulous 25th birthday party (we promise). Check out the events section of our web site at www.suwa.org and upcoming additions of Redrock Wilderness for details.

We'll kick off our 25th anniversary celebration on April 27 and 28, 2007, when the Utah Symphony performs Olivier Messiaen's "From the Canyons to the Stars" at Abravanel Hall, in Salt Lake City at 8 p.m.

The red rocks and blue skies of Utah's Bryce Canyon were the ideal subject for Messiaen, a "composer of colors." Music Director Keith Lockhart will conduct the work, described as being as vast as the Utah land that inspired it.

In celebration of our 25 years of wilderness advocacy, SUWA will present a red rock photo exhibit in the lobby. If you mention SUWA when purchasing your tickets the Utah Symphony will make a \$10 contribution to SUWA. For tickets call 801-355-ARTS (355-2787).



SUWA's original Salt Lake City office in 1987

New Website Launched

SUWA's brand new website went live in late February with a host of new features we think you'll like. We've updated the content and given the site a fresh look. And we've taken advantage of powerful web-based tools to help us better communicate with our members and supporters, and to help them more easily take action on important issues facing Utah wilderness. Among other things, our new site offers:

- A new online action center, where you can read the latest SUWA alerts and contact your decision makers at the click of a button;
- A personal profile page where registered users can update contact information, define email preferences, and more;
- Easier online giving and a new online store.

Please visit our new website at www.suwa.org and let us know what you think!

inside SUWA**Meet Deeda Seed, SUWA's New Development Manager**

I'm proud to introduce myself as a new SUWA employee. Growing up in Chicago, living in an apartment and surrounded by people, traffic and concrete, I developed a longing for the wild. Lake Michigan offered some relief from the endless buildings, but looking to the south we could see the Gary steel mills. (On a bad day, we could smell them, too!)

My first wilderness experience came at age 12, when my father wisely (and bravely) sent me on a National Outdoor Leadership School course. I spent a blissful month in Wyoming's Wind River Range. It changed my life. I became a 12-year-old mountain goat: filthy, with ratty hair, an enormous smile, and a profound love for wild places.

Over the 20-plus years of my professional life I've experienced many organizational models, personalities, and causes, and I can tell you that SUWA is remarkable. I'm working with a team of smart, dedicated, generous people whose belief in the importance of protecting wild places is deep and heartfelt. Working to protect the places that are the antidote to the frenzy of urban life, lands that provide spiritual solace, and renewal, feels good. Especially in a time when the eyes of humans across the globe are being opened to the damage we've caused to our planet.

There is much to be done, such as building the number of people supporting wilderness protection through contributions of time, money and energy. I hope my years working in the realm of fundraising, organizing, and hard-boiled politics will be helpful in that effort. Together we can protect 9.5 million acres of a landscape so beautiful and full of mystery that words sometimes are not enough.

—*Deeda Seed*

[Deeda Seed, SUWA's Development Manager, has an undergraduate degree from the University of Utah and received a Master's Degree from the University of Chicago. In 1996 she was elected to the Salt Lake City Council and also served as Mayor Rocky Anderson's Chief of Staff and Communications Director. She has worked with a wide array of non-profit organizations and campaigns.]



Diane Kelly

From political campaigns to fundraising campaigns—Deeda has done it all.

SUWA's New Slideshow Hits the Road

Bob Brister, our grassroots organizer, is taking the new SUWA slideshow on the road across the U.S. this year. And it's better than ever! SUWA updated the slideshow, "Wild Utah: America's Redrock Wilderness," last year to a DVD format with video footage and new narration by Robert Redford.

Here's the current schedule:

April: Southern Indiana and Louisville, KY
 May: Montana
 June: California
 September: Minnesota
 October: Denver area and eastern Kansas
 November: Western North Carolina and the Atlanta, GA, area

You can find additional slideshow tour details at www.suwa.org/slideshowtour. For more information, please contact bob@suwa.org.

SUWA Says Goodbye to Giles Wallace



Giles and his wife Julie spending quality time in Switzerland.

Some days are better than others, and one of the really good ones was the day Giles Wallace joined the staff in early 2005 as SUWA's Associate Director. He graced our office and our work, not only with his infectious enthusiasm for wilderness, but with his wonderful artistic talent as well.

It was that talent that began Giles's affiliation with SUWA—through the design of event posters, t-shirt logos, invitations, membership brochures and anything else that needed a skilled, professional hand. Then a staff position opened up that seemed tailor-made for Giles and his ability to connect so well with activists and leaders in the wilderness movement and his gift for organizing memorable gala events.

Because Giles and his wife Julie Marple are avid canyoneering specialists who have hiked and climbed extensively in our proposed wilderness areas, Giles already had a solid knowledge of the threatened lands we all love so much. He led a number of trips into the canyon country for SUWA and through them helped many of our members discover for themselves the matchless beauty of undisturbed wilderness.

While we will miss Giles's daily presence, the environmental movement has not lost his talent and his dedication. He is now working with Julie full-time in their marketing and events business and we know he'll still be involved in SUWA's work. We wish them both the best.

A Fond Farewell to Chaitna Sinha



Chaitna takes reluctant leave of canyon country.

It didn't take long to know we had a terrific candidate for SUWA's southwest Utah representative when we called to check Chaitna's Sinha's references. Her contact at the Lewis and Clark Law School said, "Oh yes! She's the one who had the 'Protect Wild Utah' table set up in the hallway during her first year of law school."

And it didn't take long, either, for Chaitna to begin making an impact on Utah wilderness. During her year and a half in St. George, Chaitna spearheaded local opposition to the dreadful Washington County Growth and Conservation Act and simultaneously helped build a constituency for real wilderness protection in the Zion-Mojave region.

Chaitna first became involved with Utah wilderness advocacy in 1999 when she took an internship with the Sierra Club in Salt Lake City working on the Adopt-a-Wilderness project. In 2000, she took another internship with the Utah Wilderness Coalition, working to support the group's grassroots efforts on the ground.

Chaitna's focus and determination, along with her openness, good humor and relentless enthusiasm, endeared her to her SUWA colleagues. We will miss her.

Before coming to SUWA, Chaitna worked as an Americorps: VISTA volunteer on the White Mesa Ute Reservation in White Mesa, UT. Now, armed with a law degree, she hopes to return to her work with the native people whose ancestral homelands comprise much of Utah's red rock wilderness. Our loss is their gain. They will never have a more effective advocate.

inside SUWA

Make a Difference for Utah Wilderness: Join or Donate to SUWA Today!

SUWA's members are our lifeblood. Since 1983, when a small group of people committed to protecting Utah's incomparable wild places started the organization, our members have been our greatest asset. More than 13,000 concerned citizens from every state in the nation, and even other countries, have joined SUWA's hard-hitting, grassroots commitment to save Utah's magnificent canyon country. These public lands belong to all of us, and it is both our right and our responsibility to speak out for their protection.

More than 80 percent of our funding comes from membership dues and donations from individuals like you. Now entering its 25th year, SUWA truly is a membership-driven organization. While we receive important contributions from private foundations, this money is often allocated for work on a specific issue or activity. The strong financial support that SUWA receives from individual members gives us the freedom and flexibility to focus on those issues that pose the most immediate threats to redrock country. Our ability to tackle the multitude of administrative, legislative, and on-the-ground threats to Utah wilderness is only possible through the continued generosity of our members.

There is strength in numbers.

An active, nationwide membership demonstrates to decision-makers on Capitol Hill the broad base of support that exists for protecting America's redrock wilderness. SUWA members from around the country attend hearings, make phone calls, write letters, travel to Washington, D.C., to meet with their congressional representatives and submit letters-to-the-editor. They organize slide shows, participate in phone banks, and help spread the word about Utah wilderness to their friends and family.

Protecting America's redrock wilderness is a full-time job.

We know that you're busy. Even the most dedicated desert rats don't always have the time and energy to stay abreast of all of the issues affecting Utah's remaining wild places. That's why we're here: to work full-time on behalf of Utah's spectacular redrock wilderness. As a member of SUWA, you can rest assured that our exceptional staff is closely following issues that threaten our wilderness lands and doing whatever it takes to protect them. At the same time, we work hard to keep our members up-to-date on the latest threats—through our website, e-mail alerts, action bulletins, phone banking, and our newsletter—so that you can stay informed and involved.

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

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

On behalf of the entire staff and board at SUWA, we thank all of our members for your loyalty and support! With your continued assistance, we will succeed in permanently protecting all of Utah's remaining BLM wilderness lands. Please contact us anytime with questions or comments. Thank you!

Planned Giving: A Legacy of Support for the Redrock

"You can leave your money to your heirs, to the government, or to a non-profit. Pick two."

As the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance enters its 25th year, we realize that the work of preserving the magnificent redrock country we all love will take years. Planning for the next decade is already underway, and we will all need to take steps to ensure the future of our work. Annual memberships and gifts are crucially important. We also need legacy gifts.

Many of us are unable during our lifetimes to make major donations to the causes we love. A planned gift gives us an additional opportunity to make a difference. It is not necessary to make a huge gift. Even a modest percentage of an estate can make a major impact on preserving the redrock. What is important is to make a gift that reflects the values you cherish. A legacy gift continues your support to SUWA. And your investment enables us to work toward your dream of permanent wilderness protection for these lands.

For more information on planned giving, please visit our website at www.suwa.org and click on Join or Give, then select Planned Giving. Planned gifts can be an effective way to secure tax advantages for your estate and heirs. We recommend that you meet with your estate attorney or financial advisor to decide which plan is best for you and your family.

If you are interested in making a planned gift to SUWA or have already included SUWA in your will or named our organization as a beneficiary of your trust, retirement plan, life insurance policy, or other estate gift, please contact Barry Bonifas at barry@suwa.org or (801) 428-3970. We would love to recognize your deep commitment by welcoming you to our Redrock Society as a legacy donor.

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 #: _____

Mail form with payment in enclosed envelope to:

Exp. date: _____ Amount: \$ _____

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

**Fine Art Poster
by David Muench**

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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

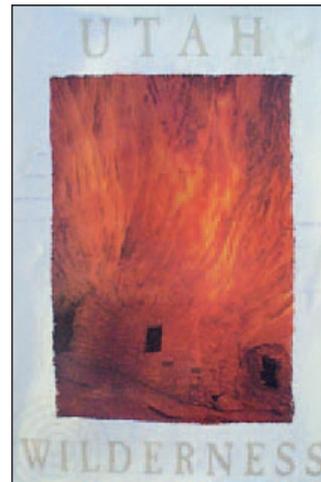
CC# _____ Exp. date: _____

Amount \$ _____

Prices include shipping and handling.

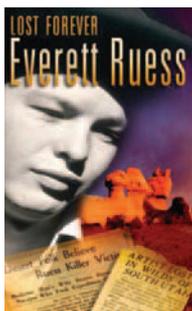
Mail form with payment to:

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



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

**Available on Video or DVD!
*Lost Forever: Everett Ruess***



For SUWA members, the image of Everett Ruess and his burros has long symbolized the spirit and intrigue of Utah's canyon country. The young artist, poet, and adventurer left his Los Angeles home in the late 1920s to explore the wild and remote lands of the Colorado Plateau. For several years he wandered through the redrock

of southern Utah, using the country's magnificent vistas as inspiration for his own artistic creations. But at the age of twenty, young Ruess vanished in the Escalante canyons, creating an enduring mystery that has yet to be solved.

In *Lost Forever: Everett Ruess*, filmmaker Diane Orr explores the spirit and passion of Ruess' legacy. Combining documentary and fiction, Orr's stirring film will offer new evidence and insights to even the most fervent Ruess enthusiasts. Thanks to the generosity of Diane Orr, proceeds from

sales through SUWA will benefit our work to protect Utah wilderness. Order your video or DVD today and help preserve the lands that captured the soul and imagination of Everett Ruess.

Please send _____ copies of *Lost Forever: Everett Ruess* at \$25 each (includes shipping).

Check One: _____ Video _____ DVD

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

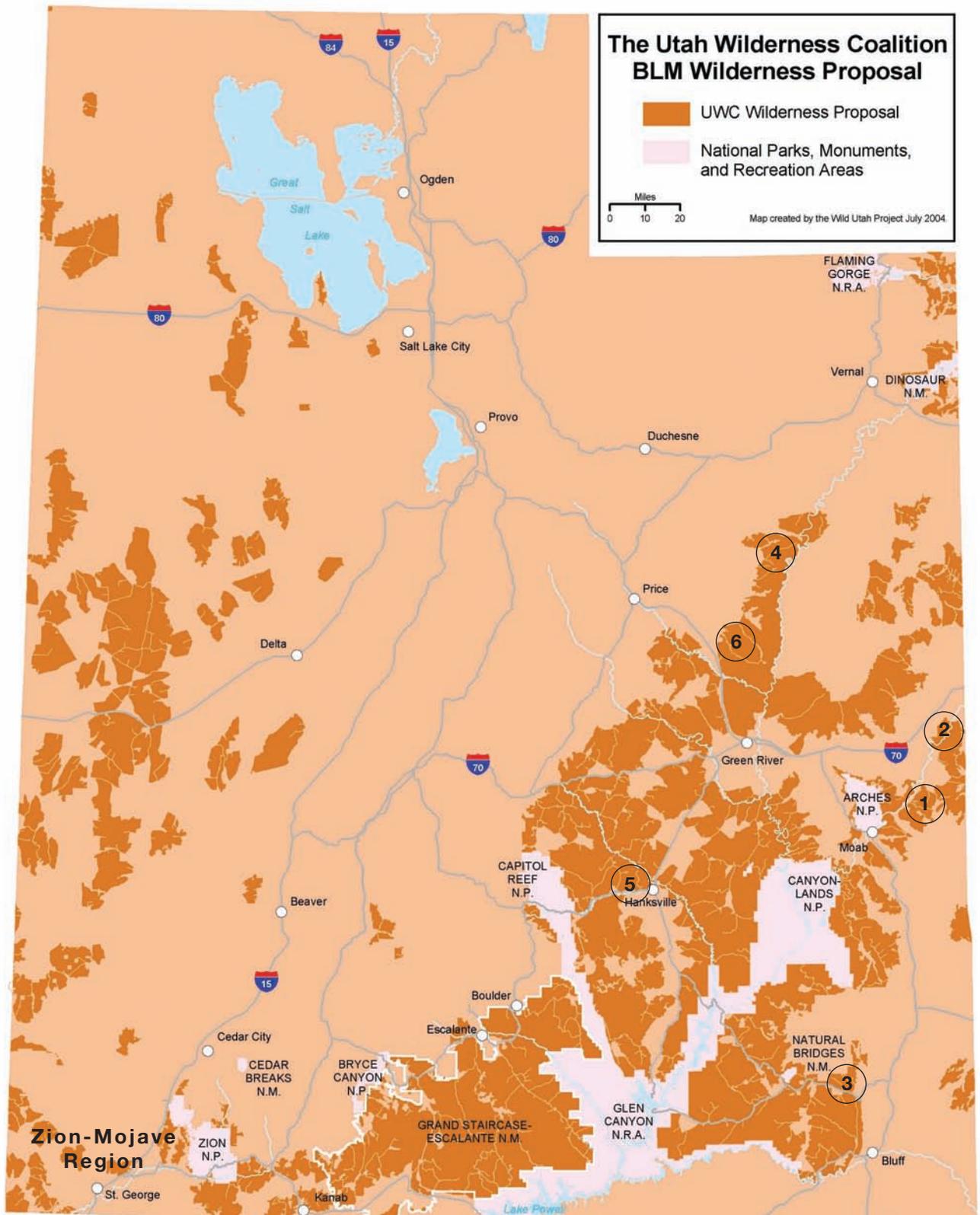
Please make your check payable to SUWA or include credit card information (VISA, MC, or AMEX):

CC#: _____

Exp. date: _____ Amount: \$ _____

Mail form with payment in enclosed envelope to:

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Reference Map for Articles in this Issue

- ① Fisher Towers, Mary Jane Canyon and Castleton Tower (see p. 9)
- ② Westwater Canyon (see p. 9)
- ③ Arch Canyon (see p. 10)

- ④ Nine Mile Canyon (see p. 13)
- ⑤ Factory Butte (see p. 12)
- ⑥ Lila Canyon (see p. 15)



The Red Butte proposed wilderness near Zion National Park. Photo by Ray Bloxham.

Help Pass America's Red Rock Wilderness Act

Over the past decade, congressional support has steadily grown for America's Red Rock Wilderness Act—a visionary bill that would protect over 9 million acres of wilderness-quality land in Utah (see page 5).

As the bill is reintroduced in the U.S. Congress this spring, we'll have our best opportunity in years to gather the support needed to ultimately pass this important legislation. You can help by going to www.suwa.org/ARWA_alert and urging your legislators to cosponsor America's Red Rock Wilderness Act.

Future generations will thank you for it!



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