

REDROCK

W I L D E R N E S S

The Newsletter of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
Volume 25, Number 1 • Spring 2008

Utah's BLM Roadless Areas

Cover Photo: A quiet spot along the Escalante River—one of many special places recognized as wilderness-quality by the Bureau of Land Management and proposed for wilderness designation in America's Red Rock Wilderness Act. Copyright James W. Kay (www.jameskay.com).



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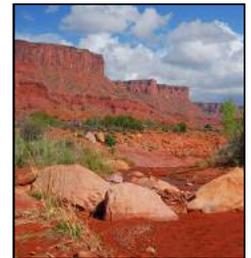
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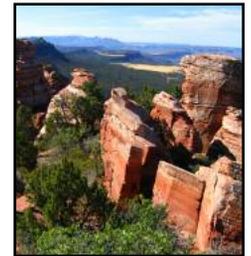
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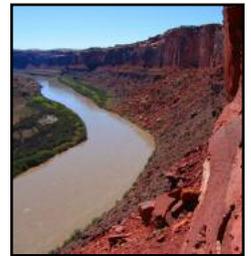
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This issue of *Redrock Wilderness* was written by the following staff and outside contributors: Justin Allegro, Steve Bloch, Barry Bonifas, Scott Braden, Bob Brister, Clayton Daughenbaugh, David Garbett, Scott Groene, Pat Lambrose, Richard Peterson-Cremer,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

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

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wilderness notes

Climate Change on the Colorado Plateau Weather Forecast: Hotter and Drier for the Next Century

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) predicts that the Colorado Plateau, which overlaps with the bulk of our wilderness proposal, will become hotter and dryer over the next century. Specifically, temperatures could range from 7 to 11 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than usual and precipitation could decline by as much as 15 to 20 percent. This combination will increase water demand while simultaneously sharply reducing water supplies—for golf courses in St. George and willows along the banks of the Escalante alike.

SUWA's work to protect Bureau of Land Management (BLM) roadless areas could be one of the most important human components to mitigating the expected environmental harm. Certainly, SUWA has been at this work since long before the science was in on climate change. We would be no less impassioned about it were there no such threat. So add this to the long list of reasons to protect the Colorado Plateau . . . but put it high on that list. If ever there was something that we are all in together, it is climate change.

Most desert soils are stable until they're disturbed or their vegetation is removed. I recall sitting at the top of the Moki Dugway on a windy day. I watched billows of red dust blowing off the Valley of the Gods dirt loop road but saw relatively little soil moving elsewhere.

Soil disturbance in the lowland regions (and in Utah, this means mostly BLM land) reduces or removes natural components that stabilize desert soils—live and dead plant materials, physical and biologic crusts, rocks. This leaves the land more vulnerable to the erosive forces of wind and water.



Aerial view of the Labyrinth Canyon proposed wilderness.

Ray Bloxham

wilderness notes

Surface disturbance also aggravates the invasion of annual grasses. These grasses produce fuel in wet years that can carry a fire in dry years. Fires consume vegetation and leave soils even more subject to erosion. Increasing temperatures and declining moisture further diminish soil's resistance to land disturbance. An unhappy cycle emerges.

If predictions from the USGS are anywhere close to accurate, we can expect increases in evaporation, exotic plants, fire and insect outbreaks. These, in their turn, accelerate soil erosion and reductions in both the quality and the quantity of Colorado River water.

This all boils down to the threat of large dust storms, which reduce soil productivity and can both cause and exacerbate respiratory diseases. Much of the dust produced on the Colorado Plateau is deposited on snow packs feeding the Colorado River. The snow surface, thus darkened, absorbs heat, producing earlier spring run-offs.

The implications are adverse impacts from the base of the food chain upwards, for aquatic and terrestrial species. Perhaps the cheapest means to combat this is to prevent soil disturbance in the first place, especially on sensitive soils.

Fortunately, the bulk of the areas of greatest concern, at least in Utah, are publicly owned. The Mormon pioneers, who set the pattern for Anglo settlement in southern Utah, generally settled in small, clustered communities, rather than establishing isolated ranches across the landscape. As a result, there is relatively little private land in the heart of the Utah portion of the Colorado Plateau. Here, then, a single agency, the BLM, can make the most beneficial decision for millions of acres—and at little or no public cost.

Protecting the most intact of the BLM lands, the 7 million acres of agency-acknowledged roadless areas and wilderness study areas, from soil disturbance by energy development and off-road vehicle use would help mitigate the cycle of environmental damage the USGS predicts climate change will bring.

It comes down to a fairly straightforward question: Is it more important for the BLM to allow a relatively small group of motorized recreationists to tear the place up, contributing to environmental havoc on a scale greater than any of us ever imagined, than to take prudent steps to hold this ecosystem together?

After hearing a presentation on the USGS report, I asked the speaker how the BLM is responding to this information while it prepares Resource Management Plans (RMPs) that will control energy and ORV use on those 7 million acres for the next 15 to 20 years. Answer? The agency is ignoring it.

That answer, while not surprising, is tragic. The Bush administration is in a rush, if not a frenzy, to complete the RMPs before its tenure ends. Responding to increasingly irrefutable information about global climate change and managing accordingly would require a traditionally gutless agency to stand up to local county commissioners and the off-road vehicle crowd. We believe the agency has a legal obligation to address the issue responsibly. And, if necessary, we will seek to enforce that obligation.

For the Redrock,



Scott Groene
Executive Director

features

Roadless Areas: The Raw Material of Redrock Wilderness

2008 marks a pair of significant milestones: SUWA celebrates its 25th year of championing the protection of wild places on the Colorado Plateau, and the Bush administration's unhappy tenure will be nearing an end. (Officially, of course, the President remains in office until next January when his successor is sworn in. But the administration's reign of seven years and counting has seemed interminable; we can all be forgiven for starting the celebration early.)

The certainty of a new administration carries with it the temptation to hope that the constant, against-all-odds battles for America's public lands may ease, though they are unlikely fully to end. That easing may give the redrock country its greatest protection opportunity in a very long time. The opportunity comes in the form of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) roadless areas.

Under the simplest definition, the Utah BLM roadless areas are public lands that the agency has

inventoried and assessed in the last decade and determined to have "wilderness character" but that have not yet been afforded the protective management status of a wilderness area or a wilderness study area (WSA).

Certainly, the Bush administration has done its level best to eliminate roadless areas and, by all the signs, isn't through yet. And certainly, there are many additional wild places in Utah that still need a thorough wilderness inventory. Even so, by the agency's own calculation, there are currently approximately 3.7 million acres of BLM roadless areas in Utah. Add that to the 3.2 million acres of wilderness study areas in place from the agency's original wilderness inventory, and the BLM has confirmed that upwards of 7 million acres of public lands in Utah have wilderness character. That's more than three-fourths of the acreage proposed as wilderness in America's Red Rock Wilderness Act.

A Springboard to Protection

Over the next few years, SUWA hopes to use BLM's own confirmation that these lands fully qualify for wilderness designation to create a buzz of inevitability that finally produces the protection too long denied. It is well-understood that Utah BLM's original wilderness inventory in the early 1980s was woefully flawed. Indeed, it was the dime-on-a-dollar shortchanging in that original inventory that raised the very real threat that we would lose the unique redrock splendor of canyon country to a biased, resource-hungry, federal land management agency. Introduction of the original America's Red Rock Wilderness Act in 1989 was our first response to that threat.

For the last 25 years, citizens have undertaken to do the job that the agency failed so abysmally to do. Citizen inventories have been, in large part, an attempt to remedy the flaws of the original BLM wilderness inventory. In the process, we have proven what we all believed: there are millions of acres of BLM land in Utah that fully meet the wilderness standards set out in the 1964 Wilderness Act but which the agency ignored, overlooked or simply rejected.



Ray Bloxham

Mary Jane Canyon, east of Moab, is a BLM roadless area recognized for its wilderness character.

features

If BLM roadless areas seem newly prominent, they are. Oddly, that prominence originated in the belly of the beast, so to speak, as a product of the Utah BLM's recent land-use planning effort for 11 million acres on the Colorado Plateau. That process finally provides us a wilderness analysis from the BLM itself that more nearly comports with the views of countless visitors to the Redrock.

What Is a BLM Roadless Area in Utah?

Let's start with this: The term "BLM roadless area" is a SUWA creation. The agency, opting for confusion over clarity, uses its own unwieldy construction: "non-Wilderness Study Area lands with wilderness character."

For our definition, we reach to the Wilderness Act itself (and devoutly hope that the agency does, too) for there is no other codified referent for "wilderness character."

The Wilderness Act of 1964 defines wilderness "as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain," and as, "an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which . . . generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable." Pretty straightforward.

With this definition in hand, when the BLM assesses land in Utah and declares it to have wilderness character, the only logical assumption is that the area in question meets the standard of the Wilderness Act and its definitions. The presence of any significant man-made developments in that area—such as major roads or industrial facilities—would offend the congressional definition and disqualify the area for wilderness consideration at the threshold.

Again, the Public Gets it Right

The BLM is required by law to regularly update plans for managing the land and resources it oversees, and during the development of those plans the agency should inventory for areas with wilderness character. Indeed, the Moab, Monticello, Vernal, Price, Richfield, and Kanab BLM field offices have



Ray Bloxham

Upper Desolation Canyon—prized by river runners but threatened by oil and gas development—is a prime example of a BLM roadless area in need of protection.

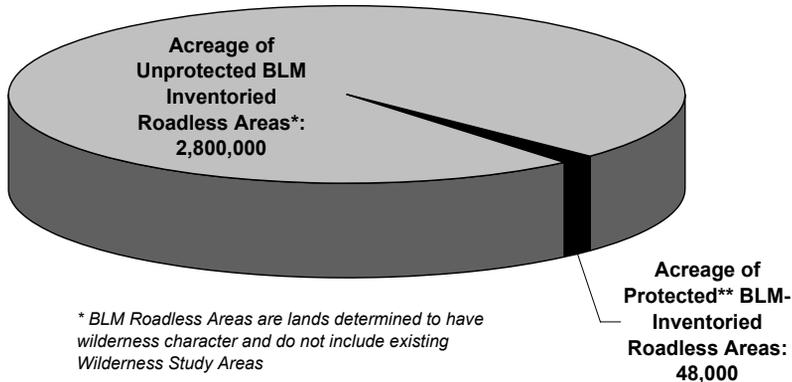
been undertaking such an inventory and assessment over the last seven years during the Resource Management Planning (RMP) process. Those six field offices have recently concluded that millions of acres in Utah are, in BLM-speak, "non-Wilderness Study Area lands with wilderness character." (For more on Utah's RMP process, see page 19.)

The BLM's latter-day declaration that millions of additional acres of Utah BLM land have wilderness character is tantamount to a confession that the original wilderness inventory was as bad as we've always claimed it was and that the citizens who conducted their own wilderness inventories were right.

Some of the areas where the BLM has finally found wilderness character include the iconic Fisher Towers along the Colorado River northeast of Moab, White Canyon and its many tributaries north of Natural Bridges National Monument, and the canyons and mesas that flank the Henry Mountains, the last mountain range to be mapped in the lower forty-eight states. (If the expression were not so tired from overuse, we would at this point shout, "DUHHH!")

features

BLM's Proposal for Protecting Roadless Areas in Utah



* BLM Roadless Areas are lands determined to have wilderness character and do not include existing Wilderness Study Areas

** Closed or restricted to No Surface Occupancy for oil & gas leasing

There is a sad reality here as well. There is no protective management framework to accompany the administration's acknowledgment that millions of wild, unspoiled acres in Utah possess wilderness values, along with other important resources such as wildlife and wildlife habitat, rare desert waterways, and irreplaceable archaeological remnants. The travel plans that the BLM is creating concurrently with the land-use management plans propose to perpetuate hundreds of miles of dirt tracks as off-road vehicle routes within BLM roadless areas. Even as the BLM has examined these lands and at long last found wilderness character, it proposes actions that would significantly impact these wilderness values—starting with the elimination of their very roadlessness. (For a clearer picture of this problem, see article on ORV travel plans, opposite page.)

Gettin' It Done . . .

The American public has long been fiercely protective of roadless lands on our national forests. We rose up in huge numbers to demand lasting forest roadless area protection. That effort culminated in the Clinton administration's 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule, protecting nearly 60 million acres from most logging and road building. And citizens have fought seven years of Bush administration attempts—not over yet, by the way—to gut that landmark rule.

Compared to forest roadless areas, roadless and undeveloped BLM lands are generally relatively

unknown. Utah's BLM roadless areas deserve protection from short-sighted development no less than do their counterparts in our forests. SUWA intends to ensure that they get it. Public awareness is the first and essential step in that process.

The Utah BLM has been labeled the "poster child" for a new era of land-use plans west-wide, offering a model that the BLM in other states will follow. If they do, we can hope that many public lands in the West will soon be recognized as BLM roadless areas. But just labeling them roadless areas does not ensure their protection. Proof of that lies in the agency's proposed management and off-road vehicle plans. Absent a solid and sensitive management framework, "roadless area" becomes little more than a new name for places likely to fall to the same old destructive schemes.

But we have a model of our own to follow. It is the model of Forest Service roadless areas, a special, named category with significance, heft and power. If that category didn't fully insulate forest roadless areas against damage, it ensured that a serious fight would surround every attempt to invade them. BLM roadless areas deserve as much for they are no less valuable. SUWA and our many colleagues nationwide will continue to seek administrative protection of Utah's roadless areas from ORV use and oil and gas leasing and development. At the same time, we will ask our growing list of congressional champions to act to protect these outstanding places.

As difficult as the past few years have been for our treasured public lands, it is perhaps fitting that one of this administration's lasting legacies may be its tacit admission—delinquent, certainly, and perhaps even inadvertent—of the failures of previous wilderness inventories in Utah. That admission is a welcome validation of years of hard work by thousands of canyon lovers.

A sharpened focus on protection of BLM roadless areas is not a departure from our campaign to pass America's Red Rock Wilderness Act. Rather, it is a complement to and a logical progression of that campaign. ✨

—Justin Allegro

Taking the “Roadless” out of Roadless Areas BLM’s Proposed Travel Plans Are a Nightmare for Our Public Lands

If you have visited some of the most beautiful public lands known to mankind near Moab, Kanab, Monticello, Hanksville, or almost anywhere in southern Utah, you might wonder how the “management” (we use that term loosely) of off-road vehicle (ORV) use could get any worse. We often ask ourselves the same question. But somehow, the Utah Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has figured out a way.

The agency has spent nearly seven years and millions of taxpayers’ dollars working on ORV travel plans covering 11 million acres of public lands in eastern and southern Utah. We had hoped so prolonged and pricey an effort might result in well-thought-out route systems that would allow reasonable access to public lands, while also protecting sensitive resources. We could scarcely have been more wrong.

BLM’s six draft ORV travel plans are about as far from reasonable as they could conceivably be. And search as we might, we have uncovered no analysis to support the route designations. BLM’s proposed plans are nothing more than jumped-up inventories of old mining and seismic exploration tracks, recently

pioneered ORV trails, wildlife trails, creeks, washes, canyon floors—essentially anything that could conceivably be traversed by some sort of motorcycle, ATV, rock-crawler or one of the endless variations of any of these. The agency seems to have included every route that local counties and hopeful ORV groups thought they could get away with. They have.

Virtual Verification—If That

The BLM is quick to say that it “verified” the existence of some small percentage of these tracks “on the ground” and then used aerial photography and some hocus-pocus to reach the conclusion that a fair number of these trails are visible by some means. That’s a far cry from an analysis of whether the ungodly spider web of trails and accompanying ORV use will impact wildlife habitat, cultural resources, sensitive soils, rare desert watersheds and streams, and the majority of public land visitors who do not recreate using ORVs. There is a stubbornly resistant strain of ignorance at work here. The simple fact that a user-created route is visible does not mean it belongs there or that its use should be sanctified.



features

BLM’s plans will institutionalize the unplanned, haphazard maze of routes that were created over time with little thought to a rationally conceived travel system. The agency is, in effect, saying: Why bother with that pesky analysis? We’ll produce some impressive colored maps with a lot of lines (lots and lots of lines!) and hope the public can’t figure out what the heck is going on.

The Gory Details

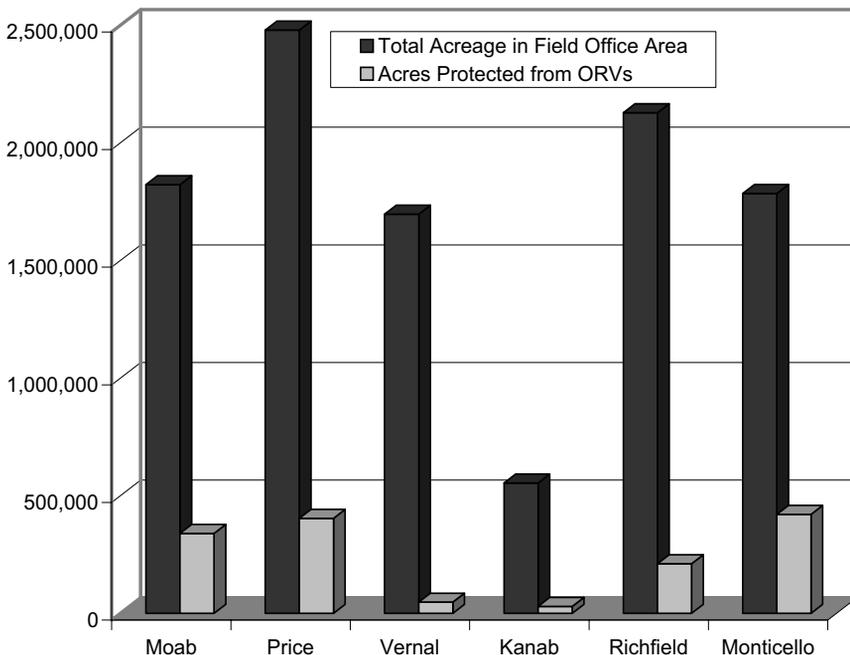
Well, here’s what’s going on with the BLM’s ORV travel plan for Utah’s public lands: Bureaucratically blessed, “official” ORV routes will blanket this world-famous landscape and forever change the character of the redrock country. In particular:

- Eighty-four percent of the 11 million acres will be available for ORV use (the numbers range from 77 percent in the Monticello resource area to 96 percent in Vernal);
- Hundreds of miles of ORV routes will be designated in BLM roadless areas. (That’s right: motorized routes in BLM roadless areas. But that’s oxymoronic, you say? Yes, indeed, but that sort of thing doesn’t even cause our BLM friends to break stride.);
- More than 16,000 miles of ORV routes will be designated across the Colorado Plateau—that’s

two-thirds of the circumference of the Earth! This is in addition to the tens of thousands of miles of state and county roads that are already available to motorized vehicle use in this area;

- There are already precious few places quiet recreationists can go to escape the sights and sounds of motor vehicles and there will be many fewer under these travel plans. For example, 84 percent of the public lands in the redrock canyon country around Moab will be within a half mile, or about five city blocks, of a noisy ORV route; less than 4 percent will be more than a mile from one. That virtually guarantees that it will be all but impossible to avoid these machines in Moab’s canyon country;
- To no one’s great surprise, a comparison of the BLM’s ORV travel plans to various county proposals reveals little difference. The BLM incorporated into its travel plan 97 percent of the county’s road claims in the Moab area. Maybe it just missed the other three percent and will toss them in later;
- The Moab BLM did a survey which found that only 7 percent of visitors to public lands in the Moab area recreate on ORVs. Yet the agency proposes to manage the vast majority of public lands to accommodate this small minority—to the obvious detriment of the vast majority of visitors who come to public lands precisely to escape the sights and sounds of motors;

Acres Protected from Off-Road Vehicles in BLM’s Proposed Travel Plans



- Simply legitimizing an unplanned spider web of ORV routes will scarcely help the BLM improve its shameful record of enforcing ORV rules. ORV users do not always stay “on the designated routes.” A Utah State University survey found that nearly 50 percent of riders prefer to ride “off trail” and that on their last visit to public lands, they did just that. ORV interests defensively argue that it is only a “few bad apples” that give their sport a bad name. Can the word “few” possibly have come to mean nearly half?

The BLM intends to finalize these ORV travel plans this summer, and SUWA will continue our effort on every front to protect proposed wilderness from ORV use. For more information about the BLM’s ORV travel plans, please go to: www.suwa.org.

—Liz Thomas

Nature Overrun

New York Times Editorial, originally published on January 8, 2008

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Nearly 40 years ago, President Richard Nixon issued an executive order calling for a national strategy to protect wildlife by restricting off-road vehicles to carefully designated trails. President Jimmy Carter later gave the interior secretary the authority to ban such vehicles from sensitive lands. Unfortunately, except for a brief and encouraging crackdown during the Clinton administration, nobody has paid much attention to these directives since.

There are now nine million off-road vehicles, meaning all-terrain vehicles and dirt bikes (snowmobiles are a separate category). And their owners, with little resistance from the authorities that ought to be policing them, are transforming some of America's most sensitive public lands into their personal playgrounds.

As Felicity Barringer and William Yardley wrote in *The Times* recently, there are responsible owners who stick to designated trails as well as renegades who go "off trail" with grave consequences for animal habitat, fragile desert soils and historical artifacts. The real problem, however, is that the important decisions about where off-road vehicles can go are not being made by the federal Bureau of Land Management, which is supposed to protect these lands and regulate these vehicles, but by the owners, user associations and rural county officials who are under their thumb.

Utah is an alarming case in point. The bureau is presently drafting six new land-use plans for Utah that would allow about 15,000 miles of designated trails. The Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, an environmental group, points out that many of these routes have been lifted straight from maps provided by the off-road vehicle associations and have not been independently surveyed to assess their potential damage to the soil, animal habitat and archaeological sites.

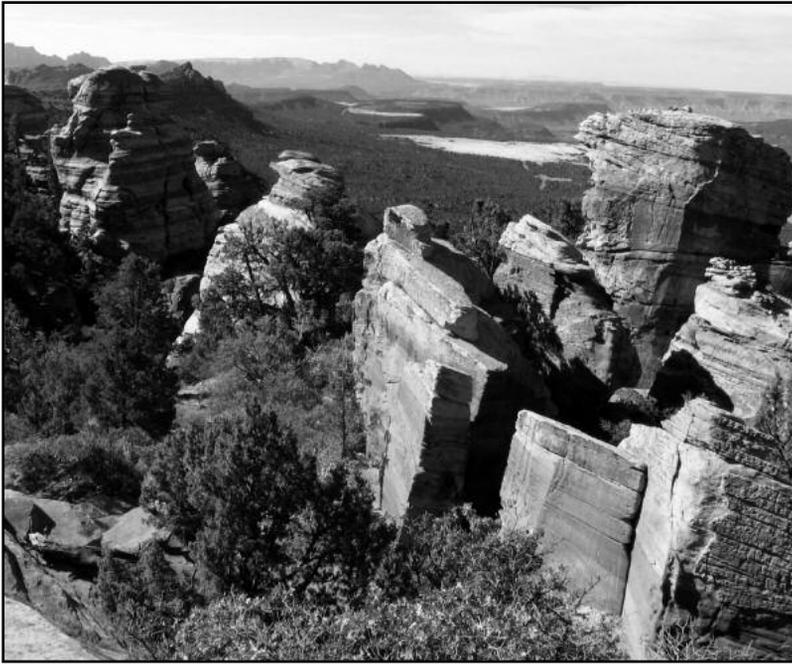
Worse, some of the trails would crisscross about 2.5 million acres of breathtakingly beautiful country that the Clinton administration thought worthy of permanent wilderness protection. Once these trails are in regular use, and enshrined on federal maps, the land would almost surely be ineligible for wilderness designation, which is typically reserved for roadless areas.

The threat to these lands stems partly from the Bush administration's philosophical inclinations: its aversion to federal stewardship and its relentless drive to open public lands to commercial and recreational use even when nature is the clear loser. It also stems from an insidious belief inside the federal bureaucracy that the problem is insoluble—that there are too many off-road vehicles and not enough federal agents to police them.

Washington has a duty to do better, beginning, at a minimum, with protecting those 2.5 million acres that the Bureau of Land Management identified in 1999 as having wilderness characteristics. It should then call a timeout on the whole process until the bureau has done the kind of independent surveys it is capable of doing—and is paid to do.

DC news

Dixie's Vision: Through the Windshield, Not the Rearview Mirror



Above: The Red Butte proposed wilderness in southwest Utah's Washington County. Photo by Ray Bloxham/SUWA.

The 109th Congress adjourned in late 2006 without any vote on Sen. Bob Bennett's (R-UT) bill involving wilderness and other public lands issues in Washington County. Not long afterward, communities in southwestern Utah began to engage in an innovative planning process to guide development in one of the fastest-growing areas in the United States.

The effort is called "Vision Dixie" and it is intended to allow residents of Washington County to decide upon and guide the future of their communities: what they want them to be and how they'd prefer to get there. The process stems from a proven model for dealing with unique western issues such as urban pressure on adjacent public lands, water conflicts, and increasing population pressures across the board. Over the course of 2007, Vision Dixie brought together over 3,000 local residents. They scrutinized maps, discussed a multitude of issues and expressed their opinions about how local, state and federal governments should respond to demands of rapid growth in a desert community.

Among the issues considered, along with housing density and road placement, was the value of public lands and how those lands can best enable sustainable growth in Washington County. There are 10 final Vision Dixie principles; three of them speak to the future of public lands and public land management in the county, an indication of the importance these lands hold for those who live in Washington County. These principles recommend preserving "signature" landscapes—thus providing natural recreational opportunities through greater open space—and limiting public land sales.

Neither the Vision Dixie process nor its final principles reflected much desire for a large scale sell-off of public lands in Washington County, especially in the absence of public participation in decisions about which lands may or may not be appropriate for sale or other disposal.

The sentiment that emerged was that municipalities should focus their efforts on acquiring lands within existing developments or lands that follow logical extensions of existing communities. This philosophy will encourage the towns and cities of Washington County to develop land already available within them—to fill in the gaps, in other words—and judiciously use any now-public lands that become private. Limiting expansive outward growth dovetails well with the principles regarding preservation of the "signature" landscapes and protection of the large tracts of open space that have drawn many newcomers to the area in the first place.

As the Vision Dixie process moves into the implementation phase, the Utah congressional delegation would do well to listen to the voices of these 3,000 participants in matters involving Washington County's public lands. Those voices have spoken pretty clearly.

We'll keep you updated on Vision Dixie and any legislative news affecting Washington County.

—Richard Peterson-Cremer

Want Wilderness? Ask Your Member of Congress!

If you want to protect redrock wilderness in Utah, there's no more effective way than to simply ask your congressional representative next time he or she is back home in the district.

We don't want to make this sound too simple or to suggest that it is ever certain. We do want to report that it works. In the last year, volunteers for America's Red Rock Wilderness Act (H.R. 1919/S. 1170) have begun to ring up an impressive list of success stories by engaging the local offices of their members of Congress. What we have here is dueling old saws. One holds that all the action is in Washington, D.C.—inside the beltway. The other is that all politics is local. There is, of course, some truth in both.

But on balance, we put our money on the latter and the record of redrock volunteers supports that choice, with the addition of nearly 30 members to the list of the bill's cosponsors since it was introduced last March. Sen. Bernie Sanders (VT), Reps. Ben Chandler (KY), Bruce Braley and Leonard Boswell, (IA), are just a few who have stepped forward as congressional supporters of Utah wilderness because of local activists' work. Operating on the notion that all politics is local, the in-district meeting has proven itself to be one of the most effective ways to gain the support of individual members and to build broader congressional support for Utah wilderness issues.

Interested in giving it a try? It's helpful first to have a slideshow in your area to identify a handful

of people ready to join you in the task. Next, contact your congressional office to get an appointment. At that meeting, tell the person you meet with about America's Red Rock Wilderness Act and why it's important to you. (Meetings with members in person are the most effective but also hardest to arrange because of their busy schedules. There's nothing wrong in meeting with staff people. You can be confident they will report to the member.)

Be sure to ask for the member's support as a cosponsor of the Red Rock bill and arrange a suitable time to follow up. SUWA's staff can bolster your effort by coordinating with SUWA members in your area and urging them to contact your member of Congress, too. The Sierra Club's National Utah Wilderness Task Force has also worked with local groups to do mailings to Sierra Club members asking for their help.

These Red Rock advocates have taken on various forms. Some are groups, such as the Wisconsin Friends for Utah Wilderness, the Drake University Environmental Action League in Iowa, Sierra Club groups and many others. Sometimes, though, it all happens through the persistence of just one motivated person—someone like John Scott in Lexington, KY, or Bob Jordan in VT, building one piece at a time by putting to work connections with friends and other like-minded individuals and groups.

If you'd like to give it whirl in your hometown, contact SUWA for a handy step-by-step guide to conducting an in-district meeting with your congressional office. It isn't hard, and it really does work!

—Clayton Daughenbaugh

Ask Your Members of Congress to Support America's Red Rock Wilderness Act

Write to:

The Honorable [Representative's name]
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable [Senator's name]
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

or Call:

(202) 224-3121 and ask to be connected to the appropriate office

See next page for a list of current cosponsors.
To find out who your elected officials are, go to www.congress.org

**H.R. 1919, Sponsored by
Rep. Maurice Hinchey
(D-NY22)
156 House Cosponsors**

Arizona

Raul Grijalva, D-07

California

Mike Thompson, D-01
Doris Matsui, D-05
Lynn C. Woolsey, D-06
George Miller, D-07
Barbara Lee, D-09
Ellen O. Tauscher, D-10
Gerald McEnerney, D-11
Tom Lantos, D-12
Fortney Pete Stark, D-13
Anna G. Eshoo, D-C14
Michael M. Honda, D-15
Zoe Lofgren, D-16
Sam Farr, D-17
Lois Capps, D-23
Brad Sherman, D-27
Howard L. Berman, D-28
Adam B. Schiff, D-29
Henry A. Waxman, D-30
Xavier Becerra, D-31
Hilda L. Solis, D-32
Lucille Roybal-Allard, D-34
Maxine Waters, D-35
Jane Harman, D-36
Juanita Millender-McDonald, D-37
Grace F. Napolitano, D-38
Linda T. Sanchez, D-39
Loretta Sanchez, D-47
Bob Filner, D-51
Susan A. Davis, D-53

Colorado

Diana DeGette, D-01
Mark Udall, D-02
Ed Perlmutter, D-07

Connecticut

John Larson, D-01
Joseph Courtney, D-02
Rosa DeLauro, D-03
Christopher Shays, R-04
Christopher Murphy, D-05

District of Columbia

Eleanor Holmes Norton, D-DC

Florida

Corrine Brown, D-03
Robert Wexler, D-19
Alcee Hastings, D-23

Georgia

Hank Johnson, D-04
John Lewis, D-05
Jim Marshall, D-08
John Barrow, D-12
David Scott, D-13

Hawaii

Mazie Hirono, D-02

**America's Red Rock Wilderness Act
Cosponsors in the 110th Congress**

(as of February 12, 2008)

Illinois

Bobby L. Rush D-01
Jesse L. Jackson Jr., D-02
Daniel Lipinski, D-03
Luis V. Gutierrez, D-04
Rahm I. Emanuel, D-05
Danny Davis, D-07
Janice D. Schakowsky, D-09
Mark Steven Kirk, R-10
Jerry F. Costello, D-12
Judy Biggert, R-13
Timothy V. Johnson, R-15
Phil Hare, D-17
Ray LaHood, R-18

Indiana

Julia Carson D-07
Baron Hill D-09

Iowa

Bruce Braley D-01
Leonard Boswell D-03

Kentucky

John Yarmuth, D-03
Ben Chandler D-06

Louisiana

William Jefferson, D-02

Maine

Thomas Allen, D-01

Maryland

Albert Russell Wynn, D-04
Elijah E. Cummings, D-07
Chris Van Hollen, D-08

Massachusetts

John W. Olver, D-01
Richard E. Neal, D-02
James P. McGovern, D-03
Barney Frank, D-04
Martin Meehan, D-05
John F. Tierney, D-06
Edward J. Markey, D-07
Michael E. Capuano, D-08
Stephen F. Lynch, D-09
William D. Delahunt, D-10

Michigan

Dale Kildee, D-05
Sander Levin, D-12
Carolyn Kilpatrick, D-13
John Conyers, D-14

Minnesota

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

Missouri

William "Lacy" Clay, D-01

Emanuel Cleaver, D-05

Nevada

Shelley Berkley, D-01

New Hampshire

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

New Jersey

Robert E. Andrews D-01
Frank LoBiondo, R-02
Christopher H. Smith, R-04
Frank Pallone, D-06
Mike Ferguson, R-07
Bill Pascrell, D-08
Steven Rothman, D-09
Donald M. Payne, D-10
Rush D. Holt, D-12
Albio Sires, D-13

New Mexico

Tom Udall, D-03

New York

Tim Bishop, D-01
Steve Israel, D-02
Carolyn McCarthy, D-04
Gary L. Ackerman, D-05
Gregory W. Meeks, D-06
Joseph Crowley, D-07
Jerrold Nadler, D-08
Anthony D. Weiner, D-09
Edolphus Towns, D-10
Carolyn B. Maloney, D-14
Charles B. Rangel, D-15
Jose E. Serrano, D-16
Eliot L. Engel, D-17
Nita Lowey, D-18
John Hall, D-19
Michael R. McNulty, D-21
Maurice Hinchey, D-22
Brian Higgins, D-27
Louise McIntosh Slaughter, D-28

North Carolina

David Price, D-04
Brad Miller, D-13

Ohio

Marcy Kaptur, D-09
Dennis J. Kucinich, D-10
Betty Sutton, D-13

Oregon

David Wu, D-01
Earl Blumenauer, D-03
Peter DeFazio, D-04
Darlene Hooley, D-05

Pennsylvania

Robert Brady, D-01

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

Rhode Island

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

South Carolina

John Spratt, D-05

Tennessee

Stephen Cohen, D-09

Texas

Al Green, D-09
Sheila Jackson-Lee, D-18
Charles A. Gonzalez, D-20
Lloyd Doggett, D-25
Gene Green, D-29
Eddie Bernice Johnson, D-30

Vermont

Peter Welch, D-AL

Virginia

James Moran, D-08

Virgin Islands

Donna Christensen, D-AL

Washington

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

Wisconsin

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

**S. 1170, Sponsored by
Sen. Richard Durbin (D-IL)
20 Senate Cosponsors**

Barbara Boxer, D-CA
Joseph Lieberman, D-CT
Richard Durbin, D-IL
Evan Bayh, D-IN
Tom Harkin, D-IA
Benjamin Cardin, D-MD
Edward Kennedy, D-MA
John Kerry, D-MA
Deborah Stabenow, D-MI
Frank Lautenberg, D-NJ
Robert Menendez, D-NJ
Charles Schumer, D-NY
Hillary Clinton, D-NY
Sherrod Brown, D-OH
Jack Reed, D-RI
Sheldon Whitehouse, D-RI
Patrick Leahy, D-VT
Bernie Sanders, D-VT
Maria Cantwell, D-WA
Russell Feingold, D-WI

canyon country updates

Good
News!

BLM State Director Rejects Three Oil and Gas Projects

Although the Vernal field office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has apparently never seen an oil and gas project it was not ready (nay: eager!) to approve, the BLM's state office has shown slightly more restraint.

The state office recently granted three SUWA requests to overturn oil and gas project decisions that the Vernal office made. All three would have placed oil and gas wells inside areas the BLM itself agrees have wilderness characteristics, areas also proposed for wilderness designation in America's Red Rock Wilderness Act (H.R. 1919/S. 1170).

In three rapid decisions last fall, separated by the span of only a few weeks, the Vernal office okayed the Tumbleweed Exploratory Drilling Project, the North Alger Natural Gas Expansion Project, and the Wilkin Ridge Natural Gas Exploration Project.

The Tumbleweed project, by the field office's own admission, would have destroyed all wilderness characteristics in the Wolf Point proposed wilderness area. The North Alger and Wilkin Ridge projects would have placed natural gas wells inside of the upper Desolation Canyon proposed wilderness.

In each instance SUWA petitioned the state BLM office to reject the field office's decisions. SUWA argued that wilderness values, wildlife, vegetation, and air quality would suffer if the projects came to fruition. SUWA even went so far as to propose alternate designs for each project that would have eliminated or minimized impacts to proposed wilderness areas.

The Vernal office flatly rejected our proposals. Fortunately, the state office agreed that these projects were flawed and sent them back to the drawing board. For the time being, Wolf Point and Desolation Canyon have found respite from the onslaught of oil and gas development. We'll do our best to see that the respite lasts.

—David Garbett



SUWA Challenges State Lease Sale Beneath Green River

Above: Labyrinth Canyon of the Green River. Photo by Ray Bloxham.

Late last November, a little-known state agency—the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and Sovereign Lands—quietly opened bids for two oil and gas lease parcels located beneath the bed of the Green River in Labyrinth Canyon west of Moab. This stretch of the Green River is a favorite of river runners and families and is one of Utah's most popular and well-recognized waterways. SUWA challenged this leasing decision, as did a coalition of river-related businesses and conservation organizations.

Utah's Constitution charges this division—on behalf of all Utahns—with protecting and preserving the visual, wildlife and open space values on what are called “sovereign lands.” Sovereign lands comprise the lands underlying navigable waters within the state (for example, the Green and Colorado River beds and the bed of the Great Salt Lake). These lands are managed according to the “public trust doctrine,” which requires that the state put the long-term protection and preservation of natural resources above short-term economic gain.

On Nov. 23, the *Salt Lake Tribune* editorialized against this lease sale and urged the division to protect remarkable Labyrinth Canyon. The division

(Continued on page 18)

Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance

Annual Report 2007

2007 Highlights

In 2007, SUWA continued its efforts to designate over 9 million acres of Utah's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands as federal wilderness through passage of America's Red Rock Wilderness Act (ARRWA), while also protecting these lands from oil, gas and coal development, off-road vehicle (ORV) abuse, and R.S. 2477 road claims. SUWA was also vigorously involved in responding to proposed Resource Management Plans (RMPs) from six BLM field offices in Utah. When finally approved, the plans will provide the framework for managing these lands for many years. As originally drafted, there are many provisions in the plans that threaten wilderness designation for lands included in ARRWA. In 2007, SUWA also significantly increased its grassroots efforts to expand public support for protecting these lands.

Wilderness Legislation

SUWA continues to work through all three branches of federal government to protect BLM roadless lands, with the State of Utah to protect parcels of state lands included in ARRWA, and in consort with our members, local communities and our partners in the Utah Wilderness Coalition to increase support nationwide for this protection.

On the heels of stopping bad public land legislation for Washington County at the very end of 2006, 2007 marked 25 years with virtually none of the 9+ million acres of Utah's BLM wild lands succumbing to the growing pressures of development, while over 5 million acres now have some form of protection. SUWA's work with BLM resulted in a potential silver lining in the six RMPs, as over 3 million acres of unprotected BLM Roadless Areas were identified as having wilderness character. SUWA continues to work toward a congressional hearing for ARRWA in the House of Representatives, and hopes that a good bill for wilderness in Washington County can be created.

Two fantastic Wilderness Weeks were held in Washington, DC, with over sixty activists attending, resulting in many advancements including a record number of Senate co-sponsors for ARRWA, a hearing confrontation between ARRWA sponsor Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) and Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne over wilderness and oil/gas development, and a letter signed by 93 members of congress urging Kempthorne "to protect cultural resources and wilderness values in Utah's canyon country from damaging off-road vehicle use."



2007 Wilderness Week participants. SUWA photo.

Oil, Gas & Coal

A thirty year fight over troublesome oil and gas leases deep in the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area ended successfully when the leases expired. The lease areas were only accessible through the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

SUWA also challenged several decisions by BLM to breathe new life into long expired oil and gas leases in the Monument, Glen Canyon NRA and other sensitive wildlands in the heart of redrock country. These leases would be used for tar sands development, a particularly destructive form of energy development.

Following several successful SUWA led challenges, the BLM has suspended offering new oil and gas leases in areas identified as having wilderness characteristics.



Factory Butte. © Ray Bloxham/SUWA.

2007 closed with still no final disposition of the proposed Lila Canyon coal mine. SUWA has been fighting this proposal since 2001 with close help from pro bono lawyers at the national law firm of Jenner & Block.

Off-Road Vehicles

SUWA successfully fought bills in the Utah Legislative session that would have expanded ORV access to both sensitive lands and all public roads in the state, including many bogus roads claimed under R.S. 2477 in ARRWA lands.

Court decisions relating to the BLM's ORV restrictions in the Factory Butte proposed wilderness area and the San Rafael Swell upheld those restrictions and should result in permanent closures.

SUWA coordinated with Native American tribes on several fronts, including Navajo leader Mark Maryboy joining us in D.C. for lobbying and education efforts with Congress, and both the Hopi and Navajo tribes supporting SUWA's petition to the BLM for eliminating motor vehicles in Arch Canyon. Although the BLM denied the petition, we continue to pursue this issue.

SUWA's efforts in coordination with local activists, Great Old Broads for Wilderness, and Native American tribes, were successful in persuading the BLM to close Recapture Canyon to off-road vehicles. The canyon has extensive archaeological resources and was on its way to becoming an unregulated playground for ORVs.

National attention to ORV abuse grew significantly in 2007, and in December, the *New York Times* published a major article on the damage that ORVs are causing to public lands across the West, with a video that exhibited the damage in Utah. SUWA was featured in the article and the video. Just after the first of the year, NYT followed the story with an editorial chastising the BLM for not doing its job of regulating these vehicles to protect our nation's public lands, again mentioning SUWA and this continuing threat to Utah's wilderness-quality lands.

R.S. 2477

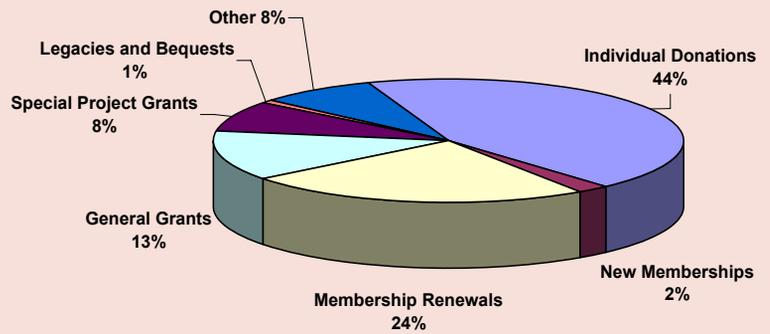
Across the United States, there has still never been an R.S. 2477 road claim validated in court. SUWA continues to hold the line on this issue, to take appropriate action when local governments behave as if their claims have been validated, and to participate in ongoing legal cases until they are resolved.

In an important decision in October, the Tenth Circuit Court upheld SUWA's involvement as an "interested party" in an R.S. 2477 case in Canyonlands National Park which should bode well for SUWA's involvement in any future cases.

Resource Management Plans (RMPs)

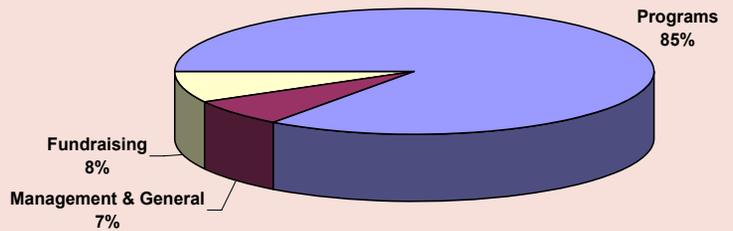
After years of delay, six of the ten BLM regions in Utah each unveiled their RMP in the last quarter of 2007, totaling over 6,000 pages and with a short 90-day period for public input and reaction. The plans propose to blanket southern Utah's public lands with a maze of ORV routes while allowing nearly unfettered oil and gas leasing. The last deadline for comment was 2/8/08, and SUWA staff prepared and submitted extensive and detailed comments on each of the plans while encouraging our members to do the same. Final plans should be introduced this summer, and will likely be followed by appeals and litigation.

SUWA Revenue 2007



Note: "Other" category includes inventory sales, interest, and investment income.

SUWA Expenses 2007



Financial Summary

FY 2007

Total Revenue:	\$2,046,814
Total Expenses:	\$1,992,075

Grassroots Support

SUWA now has six staff members working on building grassroots support nationally and in Utah. We are working to recruit new members, activists and supporters of SUWA through our "Wild Utah" presentations of a new DVD narrated by Robert Redford. We also work with a wide array of allied groups and organizations, and communicate regularly with people interested in protecting Utah wilderness through our website, e-mail alerts, newsletters and opportunities for activism. In August we celebrated Utah Wilderness Day with a Greg Brown concert event, featuring the Mayors of Salt Lake City and Salt Lake County as well as a promised appearance by our Governor (who had to cancel due to a coal mine tragedy in Carbon County). We also developed The Wild Lands Dialogue Project, designed to engage Utahns in conversation about our mutual love of the land and how we can best preserve and protect it for future generations. All of these efforts are now well integrated with our issues and mission.

** This annual report is also posted online at www.suwa.org.*

canyon country updates

(Continued from page 15)

ignored this advice and proceeded with the lease sale, earning the state a little over \$100,000 for selling the right to develop one of the state's most important riverways. The state argues that because the leases prohibit surface occupancy, there is little risk of harm to water quality, night skies, or many other important resources along the Green River. The arguments all ring hollow.

Development, should it ever come, will occur very close to the river and certainly within sight and sound of visitors. What's more, the public trust doctrine does not let the state take this kind of risk—basically leasing first and thinking later.

While the BLM is considering the river for much-needed and well-deserved special recognitions as a wild and scenic river and an area of critical environmental concern, the state has invited the camel, nose and all, into the tent for oil and gas leasing and development. We'll keep you posted on the progress of our challenge to the state's leasing decision.

—Steve Bloch

SUWA Loses Bid to Block Seismic Project

On a sobering note, late last fall, SUWA lost its bid to stop a private company from conducting a large seismic project in the San Rafael Desert. The Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals turned down our request to stay on-the-ground project activities pending an opportunity for the court to hear and rule on the merits of our appeal. The project will be completed during the winter and early spring of 2008.

This disappointing result showcases the real impact that energy development—facilitated and fast-tracked by the Bush administration—is having on wilderness-quality lands in remote corners of Utah. The company behind this seismic project was also the high bidder for oil and gas leases in the same area that the BLM offered in 2005 and 2006. Thanks to an earlier SUWA legal victory we've been able to keep those leases bottled up—for now. If the leases are issued, the company will have the right to conduct surface operations in a very remote and special corner of the state. We're working hard to prevent that.

—Steve Bloch

Energy Corridor Plan is Lavish Farewell Gift to Industry

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is moving ahead with plans to designate energy corridors across public lands in 11 western states. If the plans continue on their present course, some of Utah's best-loved places will be wildly different—and a good deal less wild—than they are today.

Utah's Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, the entry way to Arches National Park, and remote and scenic proposed wilderness areas, including Goldbar Canyon, Duma Point, and Hatch Canyon, could soon be home to gas, oil and hydrogen pipelines and electric transmission lines and facilities.

Pursuant to the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the DOE and the Departments of Interior, Agriculture, Commerce and Defense have issued a draft plan proposing over 6,000 miles of energy corridors through western public lands. They would be as wide as 3500 feet (about two-thirds of a mile) unless otherwise specified. The Bush administration is rushing to cement this huge land grab before it leaves town. (This is beginning to sound numbingly familiar, isn't it?)

Although industry wonks and bureaucrats might see these corridors as clean, straight lines on a map, they are anything but that. In Utah, these monster corridors would cross remote sandstone canyons, high plateaus and mesas, rivers and streams, and wildlife habitat—all places that are inappropriate for such industrial development. The corridors are planned to accommodate multiple pipelines (such as for oil, gas, or hydrogen), electricity transmission lines, and related infrastructure, such as access and maintenance roads, compressors, pumping stations, and other structures. Though the draft proposals only deal with public lands, it won't end there. Once these public lands corridors are designated, energy companies will relentlessly push to connect them via additional segments across thousands of miles of private and state lands, including parks and wildlife areas. It scarcely needs saying that the corridors will disqualify huge swaths of public land from future wilderness consideration.

The draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed corridors lacks thorough consideration

canyon country updates

of the likely damage to federal lands and other places, and fails to include alternatives that would minimize the number of corridors and maximize use of renewable energy.

SUWA thanks The Wilderness Society's Nada Culver for her tremendous leadership on this issue. You can find more information about this project with links to DOE maps and the EIS at www.suwa.org.

—Liz Thomas

Lila Canyon: Efforts Now Focus on Federal Lawsuit

After a six-year fight with the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining—which included a remarkable victory in 2001 overturning an earlier permitting decision by the division—SUWA settled its appeal over the division's 2007 approval of the Lila Canyon mine permit. The settlement agreement modified the terms of the mining company's permit to require several additional surveys and the collection of "baseline data" that we had alleged for years was missing in the permit application process.

As we reported in the last issue, SUWA brought a separate case in federal district court last fall against the BLM and the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) over their decisions giving a green light to the Lila Canyon mine. Because the court denied our motion for a preliminary injunction, SUWA was unable to prevent the mining company from clearing roughly 35 acres at the proposed mine site in January of this year. Regardless, we are continuing with the case and our efforts to overturn the BLM's and the OSM's permitting decisions.

We owe a huge thanks to the law firm of Jenner & Block which for years has worked closely with SUWA attorneys in this case. Our long-time friends Kathy Weinberg and Dave Churchill were joined this past year by Matt Thomas and Ben Wimmer from the firm's Chicago office. It has been a privilege for us to work alongside these talented and dedicated attorneys.

—Steve Bloch

RMP Update: No Routes Left Behind

The Utah Bureau of Land Management (BLM) continues to try to ram six new Resource Management Plans (RMPs) into place before the Bush administration leaves office in less than a year. The RMPs, each of them 1000-plus pages, are essentially land use plans for BLM-administered federal public lands in Utah. They cover a range of management activities and decisions, among them BLM roadless lands management, oil and gas development, off-road vehicle route designation, wild and scenic river suitability, grazing and the identification of public lands to be sold off or otherwise disposed of. The plans will remain in effect for 15 to 20 years as a roadmap for management decisions.

At issue are nearly 11 million acres of public lands across six different BLM field offices—including well over 3 million acres of currently unprotected BLM roadless areas. (For more on that story, see our feature article, page 6.)

In terms of protecting these wilderness qualities, the proposed plans are uniformly bad. Indeed, the BLM proposes to protect less than 2 percent of



Liz Thomas

Stranger than fiction: The BLM's proposed travel plan for Moab includes this virtually invisible "route" in the Goldbar proposed wilderness—a BLM roadless area deemed wilderness-quality by the agency itself.

canyon country updates

these spectacular lands. Left vulnerable are well-known BLM roadless areas such as Labyrinth Canyon, Comb Ridge, the Vermilion Cliffs and Muddy Creek.

The public had only a brief 90-day period in which to comment, barely enough time to ferret out the mischief buried in even one of the draft plans. But the agency calculatedly made matters worse by releasing all the plans within weeks of each other. Comment periods overlapped and spanned the holidays. To say that the deliberately difficult and compressed schedule undermined the public's ability to evaluate and comment is to grossly understate the case.

Utah BLM State Director Selma Sierra rejected out of hand repeated requests for extensions in the comment periods from a wide spectrum of the public: conservation groups, user groups and even U.S. Rep. Jim Matheson's office. Her callous dismissal of these requests suggests that she was more interested in meeting a politically dictated timetable than in giving the public a fair opportunity to digest these massive documents and comment effectively on them.

SUWA has submitted extensive comments on each of these plans, and many SUWA members have also submitted thoughtful and substantive comments that the BLM is legally obliged to consider. We very much appreciate your help! We expect the BLM to issue final decisions on these plans this summer or fall. SUWA remains ready to challenge these plans in court if necessary to prevent this reckless assault on America's redrock country.

—*Scott Braden*

UAC Tries to Light Sagebrush Fire

Then there's the Utah Association of Counties (UAC), an acronym that we can probably pronounce as "wack." (That would make the adjectival form, aptly enough, "wacky.") UAC purports to speak for the diverse interests of all 29 of Utah's county governments but, in fact, it serves the radical agendas of a few rural county commissions that represent only a tiny fraction of the state's population.

UAC has recently launched a campaign to get rural counties to amend their land use plans by adding sections on how federal public lands must be managed within each county. These additions, already added to a number of rural counties' land use plans, oppose any wilderness designations on public land or any other special management tools that the BLM might use to protect wilderness quality or natural resources.

These county plans, simply put, instruct the BLM on how to manage federal public lands. These are lands, mind you, which the counties do not own and do not manage—on paper, at least, and under the law, though even a casual reading of the draft BLM Resource Management Plans reveals that the counties have a substantial strangle-hold on federal land managers already. This new move is something like setting yourself up to dictate to your neighbors how to raise their kids, what kind of car to buy and how much to spend on clothes.

If neither Elvis nor Ronald Reagan is well and truly dead for many yearning hearts, the Sagebrush Rebellion still lives for these benighted local leaders. They continue to press the weary old argument that wilderness or any other special protections will damage the "traditional" economies of their counties—that is oil and gas development, mining and grazing. Oh, yes, and now add unfettered off-road vehicle use to the list of "traditional" uses—never mind that if great grandpappy wandered the canyons on an off-road vehicle, the vehicle was a horse.

This attitude illustrates how distant these commissioners and UAC are from reality. Many parts of southern Utah are now tourist or amenity economies with fast-growing populations of newcomers who come because of the outstanding, unspoiled redrock country. We commonly call that "quality of life." UAC should be helping fast-growing southern Utah counties plan for population growth and creating sustainable economies while preserving the scenic and wild places for future generations.

Instead UAC clings to an outdated worldview that blinds it to the real challenges Utah county governments face. And they persist in their quixotic crusade to oppose all wilderness . . . no matter how much taxpayer money it costs.

—*Scott Braden*

inside SUWA

Connecticut Native is SUWA's New National Grassroots Organizer

SUWA's grassroots and DC-based legislative staff are happy to welcome Jackie Feinberg as the organization's new national grassroots organizer. It is a position with many responsibilities and Jackie is a woman of many talents.

Jackie hails from Connecticut and earned her bachelor's degree from Bucknell (a.k.a. B-Nelly) University in 2006, where she focused on environmental studies, international relations and anthropology. She has an impressive record of service and commitment to environmental matters.

She began with summer internships in college where she focused on protecting watersheds near her hometown of North Haven. During a one-year internship with the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), Jackie worked on many public lands issues in the West, including the environmental community's broad—and successful—opposition to the ill-



When she's not enjoying the outdoors, Jackie is working hard in SUWA's Washington, DC office.

fated Washington County Growth and Conservation Act of 2006. That work eventually brought her to SUWA and she's very much at home with our issues and challenges. Her understanding of a range of environmental issues has made the transition into her new position remarkably smooth.

Jackie's active enjoyment of rock climbing, canoeing and hiking has shaped her environmental ethic. In her first visit to Utah during last fall's SUWA Roundup, colleagues introduced her to canyoneering in the San Rafael Swell. She took quickly to navigating open stretches of desert, descending pour-offs and deftly working her way down squeeze chimneys. She is eager to return soon (and often!) to the stunning landscapes of Southern Utah, which she so effectively describes in her slideshows and other local organizing efforts on the East Coast.

We are delighted to have her with us!

SUWA to Hold National Grassroots Leadership Workshop in Moab

A remarkable feature of the redrock wilderness campaign has always been the commitment and leadership of citizens from across the nation. If such broad-based support for wilderness in a particular place isn't unique, it is surely rare and it speaks to the magic of the canyon country.

The depth and diversity of that support has enabled us to block any number of destructive legislative proposals and to improve on-the-ground management while we work for full protection for Utah wilderness. And when we finally achieve that protection, it will be because of grassroots leaders across the country who love this place and who are willing to recruit, organize, teach and advocate on its behalf.

As impressive as that leadership has always been, we at SUWA are always working to make our outreach and organizing work even more effective. Over the last several months our grassroots staff has been busy identifying and surveying our grassroots leaders from across the country—SUWA members

inside SUWA

and supporters who have demonstrated an active commitment to protecting the redrock country.

SUWA will host many of them at a retreat in Moab in May. The retreat is designed to give these leaders the training and support they need to be even more effective advocates for Utah wilderness in their own communities. Participants will get an overview of the strategies, accomplishments, and challenges of the wilderness campaign, and will zero in on how people can make a difference where they live. There will be a special focus on building and sustaining local activist networks. The retreat will conclude with a hike to a nearby area that is part of our wilderness proposal for a first-hand look at how current threats, and the management issues they involve, are impacting the land.

If you want to make a difference for Utah wilderness in your own community, it is as easy as contacting one of SUWA's grassroots field staffers (see box below). Hope to see you in Moab this May!

Catch Our *Wild Utah* Slideshow this Spring

One of the most effective tools for activating people to support Utah wilderness, and to educate them about its importance, is to show it to them. The SUWA slideshow is second only to a visit to the unmatched wilderness of Utah.

Slideshow Bob Brister takes *Wild Utah: America's Redrock Wilderness* on the road again in March, this time to the mid-south. For the first time since 2004, the slideshow goes to Arkansas. Look for

SUWA presentations in Little Rock, Beebe, Conway and Fayetteville, plus Farmington in neighboring Missouri. In April, the slideshow goes to San Bernardino, CA and in May to Grand Junction, CO, and Topeka, KS.

Also this spring, Clayton Daughenbaugh takes *Wild Utah* to Iowa, Michigan, Illinois, and Minnesota. Stops will include Iowa City, Grand Rapids, and Minneapolis, among others.

And if you live in the East, be sure to attend one of Jackie Feinberg's slideshow presentations in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, or Virginia.

If you'd like to schedule a showing of *Wild Utah: America's Redrock Wilderness* for a group in your area, please contact the appropriate grassroots staff person listed in the box below. You can find the complete slideshow presentation schedule at www.suwa.org/slideshowtour.

Wild Lands Dialogue Project Takes Off

SUWA's Wild Lands Dialogue Project is designed to give people from a variety of different backgrounds, interests and communities the opportunity to talk together about the future of Utah's wild lands. The project was born out of a series of informal conversations about new ways we can work to engage people in protecting Utah's extraordinary redrock wilderness.

A group of thoughtful, talented women brought together through our Women Protecting Wilderness

SUWA Grassroots Contacts

Southern Utah residents: Contact Franklin Seal at franklin@suwa.org or (435) 259-4399

Northern Utah residents: Contact Jeremy Christensen at jeremy@suwa.org or (801) 428-3991

East Coast residents: Contact Jackie Feinberg at jackie@suwa.org or (202) 546-2215

Midwest residents: Contact Clayton Daughenbaugh at clayton@suwa.org or (708) 795-0514

Everyone else: Contact Bob Brister at bob@suwa.org or (801) 428-3990

Limited-Edition Greg Brown CD Available to SUWA Supporters

A limited-edition CD of critically acclaimed singer-songwriter Greg Brown's Utah Wilderness Day Celebration, is now available for a \$50 donation to SUWA. (The donation includes SUWA membership or membership renewal.)

Greg Brown's music reflects a strong love of place, of family, home, and the natural world. Through stories, humor and warmth, Greg Brown imparts his commitment to community and environmental responsibility—not just compatible values, but inseparable ones. Willie Nelson, Carlos Santana, Michael Johnson, Shawn Colvin and Mary Chapin Carpenter have all performed Greg's songs. Rolling Stone describes him as, "a wickedly sharp observer of the human condition." Support SUWA (and give yourself and your family an enduring treat!) by going to www.suwa.org/donate and ordering this great CD!



(WPW) project brainstormed ways SUWA might enhance our organizing and outreach work. As these brainstorming sessions unfolded, a theme emerged that centered on talking, listening and sharing stories about our love of the land as an essential, but often overlooked, starting point (sometimes displaced by the obvious need for specific, time-sensitive advocacy work).

The participants in the WPW meetings felt that the discourse about protecting the redrock (particularly in Utah) was perceived by many as a polarized debate characterized by being "for" or "against" wilderness. The ideas developed focused on ways to engage people who are interested in questions about what the future of Utah's wild lands should be and how we should care for them, but who have never had the opportunity to engage in the discussion, either because they haven't been asked or because they don't feel they fit in at either end of the spectrum of views.

Our Wild Lands Dialogue facilitators are people skilled in using a "conversation café" approach to talking and listening. Some of the discussions, especially those including participants from very different backgrounds, such as inter-faith groups, start by asking and answering simple, but very important questions: "Why are wild lands important to you?" and "What do we hope the future of these lands will be?" The group then works to capture common themes that have emerged and starts to explore ways to make ideas reality.

Thus far, the dialogue sessions have been inspiring and heartening as people from very different faith and political backgrounds find shared values in their love of Utah's magnificent redrock. Our last Wild Lands Dialogue took place in early February in the Provo/Orem community of Utah. We are also working with community partners to organize dialogues in several Southern Utah communities. Eventually we'd like to take this program to interested communities throughout the country. For more information about the project, go to www.suwa.org/dialogueproject.



Terri Martin

Participants discuss the value of wilderness at a Wild Lands Dialogue meeting held at the Salt Lake City Public Library last October.

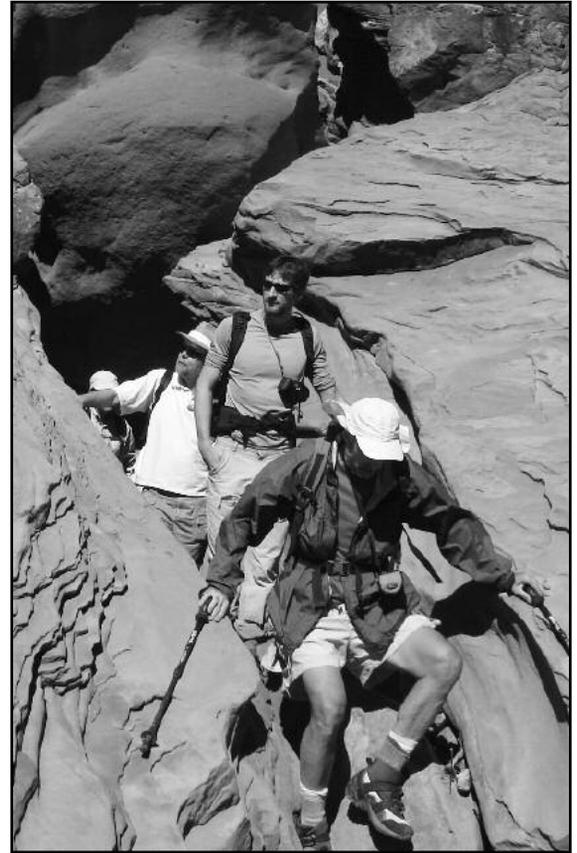
inside SUWA

Join Us for the SUWA Roundup this September

Mark your calendar for SUWA's 2008 membership gathering at Hidden Splendor, September 19-21. After a couple of years of interesting weather, we've scheduled this one a few weeks earlier in the hope of enjoying a calm, clear weekend in canyon country.

Held in the heart of the San Rafael Swell, the SUWA Roundup offers our members and SUWA staff the opportunity to meet one another and to enjoy the beautiful Indian summer of redrock country with fellow desert rats from Utah and other states. Activities include a discussion of Utah wilderness issues with SUWA staff and board members, a potluck dinner, evening music around the campfire, and—best of all—guided day-hikes in our Muddy Creek proposed wilderness area. Sunday morning you'll awake to freshly brewed coffee followed by a hearty breakfast the SUWA staff will prepare in thanks for all your support and dedication.

If you plan to attend this year's Roundup, here's what you should bring: a potluck dish serving five people for Saturday evening (if you plan to eat with the group), your own food for Friday evening and Saturday breakfast/lunch, camping gear, plenty of drinking water (none is available on site), utensils, folding chairs, and, if you have them, lanterns and tables to share with the crowd. Feel free to bring your own musical instruments and favorite libations,



Scott Braden

SUWA members and staff enjoy a day hike in Ramp Canyon at last year's Roundup.

too. For more information or to RSVP, contact Jeremy Christensen at (801) 428-3991 or jeremy@suwa.org. Information and driving instructions are posted at www.suwa.org/roundup2008.

Survey Finds Young People Support Wilderness

In November 2007, a group of University of Utah students in Professor Catlin Cahill's Community Development & Environmental Change class conducted a survey of 100 young adults between the age of 18 and 25, to better understand their experiences with nature, their views regarding wilderness protection and concerns about the environment. The young people were interviewed at locations throughout the Wasatch Front.

The results of the survey are heartening. Ninety percent of the young people interviewed favor protecting wilderness, all of them said that nature is important, and 70 percent defined themselves as environmentalists. As a follow-up to the survey we are working to develop outreach tools specifically designed to engage young people in wilderness protection.

Complete survey results will soon be available at www.suwa.org.

Stock Donations Can Benefit Both You and SUWA

A majority of donors who own stock are unaware of the tax benefits they could receive by donating securities (stocks, bonds, mutual funds) that have risen in value. Nationally, donors who make their gifts by check when they could donate appreciated securities instead are collectively foregoing over \$2 billion a year in tax savings. That's money they could retain or use to give even more to the charitable organizations they believe in and support.

In a recent survey of owners of appreciated securities who make charitable donations, only 5 percent

have donated them to charities over the last three years. Among the rest, 39 percent said they did not want to part with investments that were doing well, perhaps not realizing they could simply buy them again. Guidance is available from a Fidelity Investments survey report entitled *The Benefits of Giving Appreciated Securities*. You can get a free copy of the report on Fidelity's website at www.charitablegift.org.

You can gain a significant tax advantage for yourself and make a meaningful donation to SUWA by transferring appreciated stocks, bonds or mutual fund shares. For more information, please contact Associate Director Barry Bonifas at barry@suwa.org or (801) 428-3970.

Planned Giving: A Legacy of Support for America's Redrock Wilderness

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

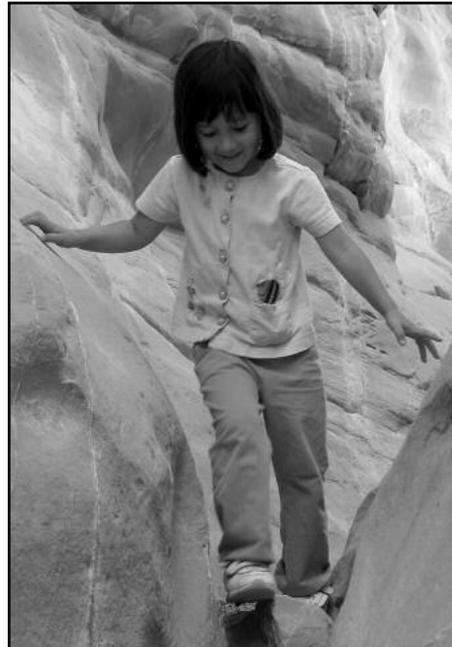
As the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance celebrates its 25th birthday, we realize that the work of protecting and preserving the magnificent redrock country we love will be a long-term challenge. Planning for the next decade is underway, and we all need to take steps to ensure the future of these lands. Annual memberships and gifts are crucially important, but SUWA will also need legacy gifts to assure continued protection.

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 have a major impact on protecting the redrock. What is important is to make a gift that reflects the values you cherish. Your legacy gift to SUWA will enable us to accomplish your goal of permanent preservation and protection for these lands.

If you are interested in making a planned gift to SUWA, or have already included SUWA in your will, trust, retirement plan, life insurance policy, or other estate gift, please contact Associate Director Barry Bonifas at barry@suwa.org or (801) 428-3970, or use the envelope in the center of this newsletter.

We would love to recognize your deep commitment by welcoming you to SUWA's Redrock Society as a legacy donor, joining the 150 individuals and couples who have taken that important step.

For more information on planned giving, please visit our website at www.suwa.org/plannedgiving. 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.



Norah Milam explores a slot canyon in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. Photo courtesy of SUWA member Steven Milam.

wilderness spotlight

Editor's Note: As a part of the Women Protecting Wilderness Project, SUWA has been collecting stories from women about their experiences with wilderness. The stories will be posted on our website at www.suwa.org. If you have a story you would like to share, please send it (along with a related photo if possible) to deeda@suwa.org. Below is Pat Lambrose's story as told to SUWA intern Anna Paul. Pat is a SUWA member and teacher trainer for the Salt Lake City School District.

My life is dedicated to pursuing outdoor adventures. My passion is skiing and being out in the mountains as often as I can. Before I started teaching, I worked for the Forest Service. During my years with the Forest Service, I worked with students and kids in a program called the Y.C.C. (Youth Conservation Corp). We were helping 15 to 18 year olds understand how to appreciate nature and the outdoors. We built bridges, planted trees, built fences, maintained picnic tables, and built trails.

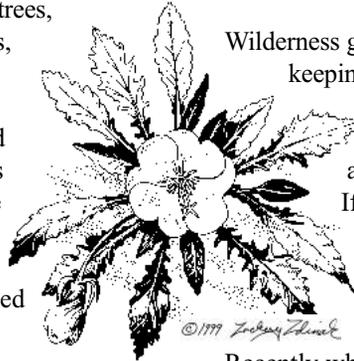
I also was a wildland firefighter and avalanche forecaster for many years with the Forest Service, and my life totally revolved around being in the outdoors. While I worked with the Forest Service, I also worked as an outdoor guide for 12 years at the U of U teaching beginning rock-climbing classes and leading weekend backpack, mountain bike, and road bike trips.

I grew up in Salt Lake. But as a kid, I spent most of my childhood outdoor experiences in the eastern Nevada Mountains. I was seven or eight years old when my aunt and uncle would take us hiking, fishing, and camping every summer in the mountains around McGill, Nevada. We explored the Ruby Mountains, Humboldt Range and Wheeler Peak.

When I go backpacking, I like to be with other people. But I go hiking alone all the time because it's easy. I feel confident. I carry my basic emergency stuff that I need. Being in the outdoors is my therapy. I was raised in a very organized religion but quit practicing when I discovered mountain and desert adventures. My religion is connected to nature and the outdoors. Any day that I'm out in the wild is a special and spiritual day.

I think one of my favorite experiences was in Grand Gulch in Cedar Mesa. We backpacked seven days beginning at Kane Creek and exiting out of Bullet Canyon about 15 years ago. I experienced

an incredible connection to the land, dwellings, and rock art of the Ancestral Puebloans while hiking in Grand Gulch. What made that experience so amazing was that we backpacked, explored ruins, and were self-sufficient. As we visited ruins and/or rock art, we tried to interpret what was going on and wondered . . . What brought them here? . . . What made them leave?



Wilderness gives back comfort. By maintaining and keeping wilderness, we have hope that we're not totally over-populating places that are pristine, sacred and special. What are we leaving to our future generations? If we can do our part to protect now, let's hope we can have some wild spot for future generations which is not developed and overcrowded.

Recently while I was in the Bear River Range in the Uinta Mountains I was discouraged in seeing how the OHVs (ATVs) seem to be over-running the dirt roads and trails in that area. We've got to do something about the ATVs. I think they are the challenge of this decade right now for land managers. My next hope is that we don't have all of these counties saying that a little scratchy dirt path is a road. Then it's a done deal that we can't designate wilderness because there are existing roads that really don't qualify. I would like to see more wilderness areas designated in Utah.

My message to other women with regard to wilderness is—be confident. The wilderness is a place for healing. Do not believe that you have to wait on another partner, male or female, to go do things in the outdoors. Seek out groups who share your outdoor interests like the Wasatch Mountain Club, Sierra Club, SUWA or The Nature Conservancy. In order to gain some life balance and sanity, get out of the urban jungle by taking walks, hikes, meditation retreats, or whatever. Your garden can also be a place of rejuvenation. Stay balanced by staying connected to nature and the outdoors.

Increase the Impact of Your Contribution To SUWA

Any new or increased contribution you make will help SUWA generate matching funds from

EARTH FRIENDS WILDLIFE FOUNDATION



**southern
utah
wilderness
alliance**

Please start the year with a gift larger than you gave to SUWA in 2007, or make a gift of any size if you did not contribute to SUWA last year, and your gift will generate matching funds!

Give Two Gift Memberships and Save!

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 #: _____

Exp. date: _____ Amount: \$ _____

Mail form with payment in enclosed envelope to:

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

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

Even the most dedicated desert rats don't always have the time to stay abreast of all of the issues affecting America's Redrock Wilderness, unique on planet Earth. That's why the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance is here: to work full-time for you on behalf of these remaining wild places. As one of SUWA's 18,000 members, you can rest assured that your exceptional staff is closely following the issues that threaten these lands and doing whatever it takes to protect them. At the same time, we also work hard to keep you current 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.

Over 80% of SUWA's funding comes from memberships and donations from individuals like you.

SUWA's members are truly its lifeblood. Concerned citizens from every state in the nation, and even other countries, have joined SUWA. This strong financial support gives us the freedom and flexibility to protect the land every day, and to work for permanent preservation through wilderness designation. These public lands belong to all of us, and it is our right and responsibility to speak out for them.

SUWA's strength is in numbers.

Now in its 25th year, SUWA is a membership-driven organization. 18,000 active, national members demonstrate 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 can attend hearings, make phone calls, write letters on issues, meet with their congressional representatives, or submit letters-to-the-editor. They can also organize slide shows, participate in phone banks, and help spread the word about the Redrock Wilderness to their friends and family.

Protecting America's Redrock Wilderness through SUWA is easy.

If you are already a member of SUWA, 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 appreciated and needed. SUWA is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization—so all contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

There are three easy ways to join or donate:

- **By Mail:** fill out and return the envelope included in the center of this newsletter with your check or credit card information.
- **Online:** with your credit card through our secure website at www.suwa.org/donate.
- **By Phone:** call us at (801) 486-3161 with your credit card, or with any questions you may have.

Double Your Contribution with a Matching Gift

Many employers will match your contribution to SUWA, making your financial support go even farther in protecting Utah's magnificent wild places. If your company offers a matching gift program, simply include the matching gift form when you send us your donation and we'll take it from there. For more information, please contact Barry Bonifas at (801) 428-3970 or barry@suwa.org.

Additional Ways to Make a Donation

►Monthly Giving Program

If you'd like a convenient, hassle-free way to help SUWA, our monthly giving program is for you. Monthly giving is easy and secure, includes all the benefits of membership, and provides SUWA with reliable, year-round funding to fight current and future threats to the redrock. Learn more at www.suwa.org.

►Gifts of Stock

You can make a meaningful gift to SUWA and likely gain a substantial tax advantage for yourself by transferring stocks or mutual fund shares that have appreciated in value. For information on how to transfer stocks or mutual funds, please contact Associate Director Barry Bonifas at barry@suwa.org or (801) 428-3970.

►Gift Memberships and Honorary/Memorial Donations

Get your friends and family involved in protecting wilderness by giving them a gift membership, or honor a friend or loved one by donating to SUWA in their name. Keep us in mind for special occasions: birthdays, weddings, Christmas, and other holidays—there's no better gift than the gift of wilderness! Simply send us your name and address, along with the name and address of the recipient of the gift membership or honoree. Use the gift membership form below or visit our website at www.suwa.org.

Thank you for your support of SUWA and America's redrock wilderness!

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.

SUWA's Membership Services Team: Barry Bonifas, Deeda Seed, and Anne Williams

Now Available: SUWA's *Wild Utah* Video on DVD

SUWA's popular multi-media slideshow, *Wild Utah! America's Redrock Wilderness* was recently updated with new interviews, stunning photos and video clips, 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: _____

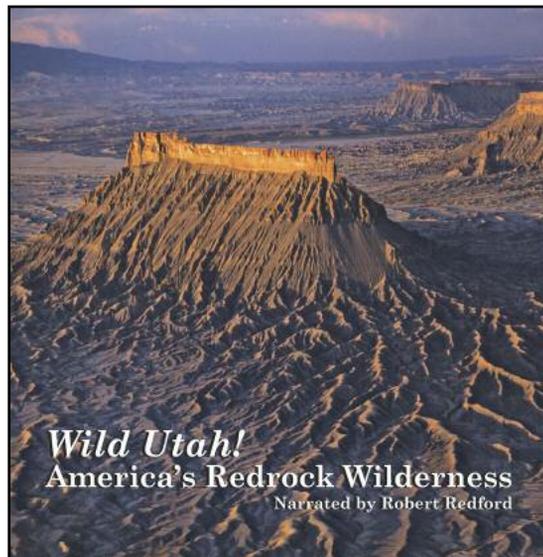
Please make your check payable to SUWA or include credit card information (VISA, MC, or AMEX):

CC#: _____

Exp. date: _____ Amount: \$ _____

Mail form with payment in enclosed envelope to:

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



Wild Utah DVDs can also be ordered online at www.suwa.org/DVD.

**Fine Art Posters
by David Muench**

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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

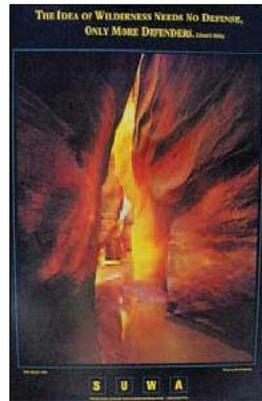
CC# _____ Exp. date: _____

Amount \$ _____

Mail form with payment using enclosed envelope.

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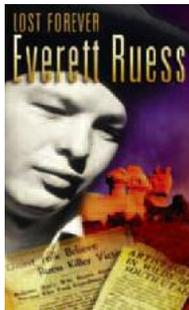
White Canyon



Cedar Mesa

These 24" x 36" posters feature full-color images of southern Utah by world-renowned wilderness photographer David Muench. The White Canyon poster (on black) features Edward Abbey's words, "The idea of wilderness needs no defense, only more defenders." The Cedar Mesa poster (on natural fiber ivory) includes a quote by 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: _____

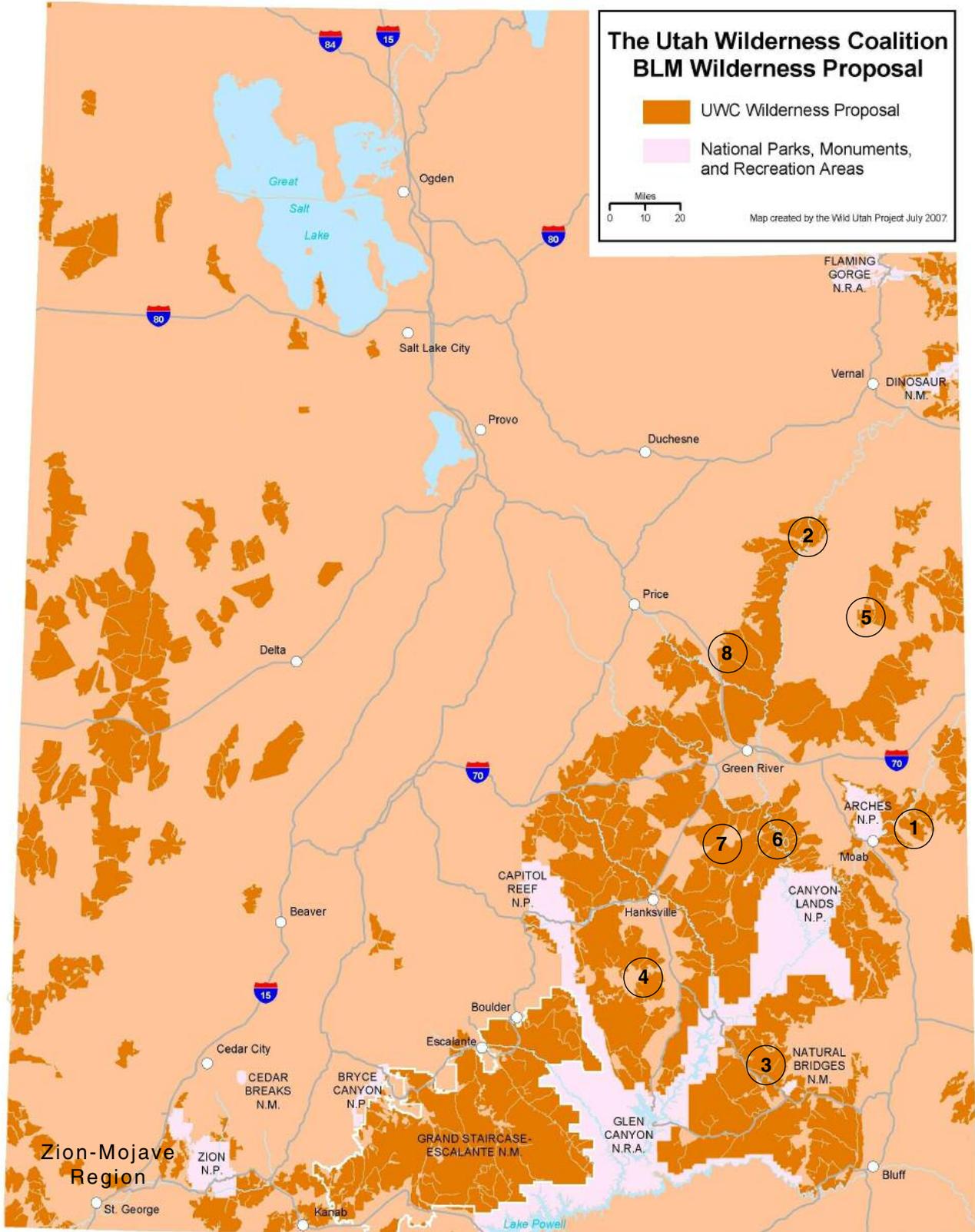
Please make your check payable to SUWA or include credit card information (VISA, MC, or AMEX):

CC#: _____

Exp. date: _____ Amount: \$ _____

Mail form with payment in enclosed envelope to:

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| ① Mary Jane Canyon (p. 6) | ④ Henry Mountains (p. 7) | ⑦ San Rafael Desert (p. 18) |
| ② Upper Desolation Canyon (pp. 7, 15) | ⑤ Wolf Point (p. 15) | ⑧ Lila Canyon (p. 19) |
| ③ White Canyon (p. 7) | ⑥ Labyrinth Canyon (p. 15) | |



Spring bloom in canyon country. Photos by Diane Kelly.

Educational and Service Field Trips in the Redrock Desert of Moab

Outreach and research staff based in SUWA's Moab Field Office are available to work with your organization's field trip program to create a custom educational experience for your members.

Does your college, club or corporation organize travel tours for small groups of your members? Would they be interested in bringing a small group to the heart of the redrock desert in Moab, Utah to learn first-hand about the threats to this area and what needs to be done to protect it? Service trips can be tailor-made to your group's particular needs.

For more information visit www.suwa.org/MoabServiceCamps or call Franklin Seal, SE Utah Outreach Coordinator at (435) 259-4399.



Franklin Seal

A group learns about Utah's threatened wilderness lands from SUWA field advocate Scott Braden.

 Printed on recycled paper using soy-based ink.



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