

REDROCK

W I L D E R N E S S

The Newsletter of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
VOLUME 40, NUMBER 1 • SPRING 2023

LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING AHEAD



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

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

SUWA is qualified as a non-profit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the federal tax code. Therefore, all contributions to SUWA are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tom Kenworthy, Chair
Golden, CO

Rebecca Chavez-Houck,
Vice-Chair & Secretary
Salt Lake City, UT

Rusty Schmit, Treasurer
Berkeley, CA

Sharon Buccino
Laramie, WY

Wayne Hoskisson
Moab, UT

Ani Kame'enui
Eugene, OR

Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk
Towaoc, CO

Oriana Sandoval
Albuquerque, NM

Kerry Schumann
Madison, WI

Liz Thomas
Moab, UT

Hansjörg Wyss
Wilson, WY

EMERITI

Mark Maryboy
Montezuma Creek, UT

**Terry Tempest
Williams**
Castle Valley, UT

STAFF

Steve Bloch,
Legal Director

Ray Bloxham,
Wildlands Field Director

Judi Brawer,
Wildlands Attorney

Delaney Callahan,
GIS Analyst

Rachel Carlson
Eastern Organizer

Neal Clark,
Wildlands Director

Kelsey Cruickshank,
Policy Fellow

Clayton Daughenbaugh,
Organizing Director &
Midwest Organizer

Jasmine Despain,
Membership Coordinator

Scott Groene,
Executive Director

Travis Hammill,
DC Director

Jack Hanley,
Stewardship Coordinator

Diana Haro
Latinx Community Organizer

Joyelle Hatch,
Administrative Associate

Jenny Holmes
West Coast Organizer

Diane Kelly,
Communications Manager

Hanna Larsen
Staff Attorney

Jeremy Lynch,
Stewardship Director

Kya Mariefeld,
Wildlands Attorney

Michelle Martineau,
Administrative & HR Director

Heather Rose Martinez,
Development Associate

Nicole Milavetz
Utah Organizer

Creed Murdock,
GIS Manager

Landon Newell,
Staff Attorney

Laura Peterson,
Staff Attorney

Kaya Tate
Southwest Organizer

Michelle White,
Staff Attorney

OFFICES

Main Office
425 East 100 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84111
801-486-3161

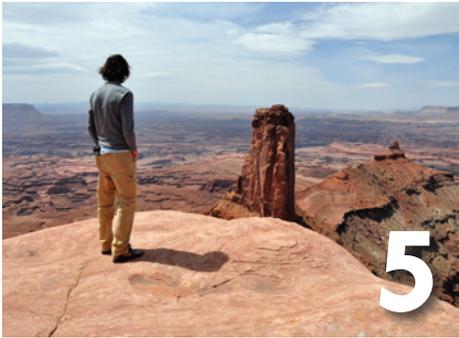
Washington, DC
122 C Street NW
Suite 240
Washington, DC 20001
202-546-2215

Moab
P.O. Box 968
Moab, UT 84532

info@suwa.org • www.suwa.org

SPRING 2023

Volume 40, Number 1



4 WILDERNESS NOTES

Forty Years

5 FEATURES

Looking Back and Looking Ahead: What We Hope the Next Two Years Will Mean for Utah's Redrock Wilderness



9 DC NEWS

12 CANYON COUNTRY UPDATES

18 INSIDE SUWA



23 AMERICA'S RED ROCK WILDERNESS ACT REFERENCE MAP

This issue of *Redrock Wilderness* was written by the following staff and outside contributors: Ray Bloxham, Judi Brawer, Rachel Carlson, Kelsey Cruickshank, Clayton Daughenbaugh, Scott Groene, Travis Hammill, Diane Kelly, Hanna Larsen, Jeremy Lynch, Kya Marienfeld, Heather Rose Martinez, Landon Newell, Laura Peterson, Kata Tate, and Michelle White. It was edited by Darrell Knuffke and laid out by Diane Kelly. Newsletter design by Amy Westberg.

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 submissions to photos@suwa.org or via regular mail c/o Editor, SUWA, 425 East 100 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84111.

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



FORTY YEARS

SUWA marks its 40th anniversary this year. We look back over an improbable history in which a ragtag collection of activists pulled off impossible victories, and in the process somehow became a sophisticated and influential movement.

SUWA has grown up through some remarkably tumultuous turns in our nation's politics. First came the congressional fights of the 90s. Then Utah activists learned they could stand up to a united Utah congressional delegation and prevail, despite our elders telling us we couldn't. That fight made saving the redrock a national issue and resulted in President Bill Clinton's

designation of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AND TRUMPIAN POLITICS

The early 2000s brought the second Bush administration and forced us to beef up our legal skills to fight off Bush's energy-uber-alles obsession. Then came the Obama administration and the rise of the coalition of five Tribes as a united voice calling for the protection of Bears Ears and the designation of that region as a national monument. Next was the national embarrassment of the Trump administration. It brought another wave of litigation. It also brought Trump's dismantling of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante, a payoff to Utah politicians unable to stifle their hostility toward public lands.

President Joe Biden has now reversed the Trump monument outrages and we are in court defending Biden's actions. Biden also offers hope of real action toward protecting 30 percent of the nation's lands and waters to prevent mass extinctions. These are mere headlines. Behind them are the important stories of the thousands of activists who have joined the effort over the years and created the political muscle to defend the redrock country. They've taken time from their lives to join the political battle in DC, to be part of the raucous protests at the state capitol, to educate and enlist elected representatives, to engage friends and neighbors, and to volunteer in southern Utah.

America's Red Rock Wilderness Act has served to unify us through these decades. The bill's simple presence has been a powerful force in the protection of Utah public lands. It is responsible for the passage of three smaller wilderness bills that have designated, with attendant land trades, nearly one million acres of wilderness.

In all, SUWA members and other activists have gained some form of protection for over 5.5 million acres. That is half a million acres more than we dared dream of 30 years ago when Rep. Wayne Owens introduced his first redrock bill of just over five million acres. Our history has taught us that endurance matters. Utah's politicians come and go. But the movement to protect these lands endures and grows. As we celebrate our 40th year, we're proud of what we've accomplished with your help, enthusiasm, and support. We're also excited about where we are headed and profoundly thankful that you are with us in this movement.

Former SUWA leader Brant Calkin always said, "do good, fight evil." We still live by those words and have added another: persist.

For the Redrock,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Groene". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Scott Groene
Executive Director

LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING AHEAD

WHAT WE HOPE THE NEXT TWO YEARS WILL MEAN FOR UTAH'S REDROCK WILDERNESS

President Joe Biden and his team at the Interior Department and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are starting their third year in office. It's an opportune time to pause and recap some of the highlights (and lowlights) from the first two years and then look forward to what we're hoping can be accomplished between now and the end of the president's first term in office. (Spoiler alert: The past two years have been a mixed bag but we're cautiously optimistic about making durable conservation gains in 2023 and 2024.)

THE PLACE WAS A MESS

Before we begin, let's not forget the mess that Interior Secretary Deb Haaland and BLM Director Tracy Stone-Manning inherited from their predecessors. At the highest level, the place was a mess. From the cartoon imagery of former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke riding a borrowed horse (named "Tonto" no less) to his first day in office, to longtime sagebrush rebels like William Perry Pendley and Karen Budd-Falen being tapped to serve in leadership posts at Interior and the BLM, the inmates were running the asylum.

Over the course of four years, the Interior Department became a weapon for the Trump administration's assault

on America's public lands, and no place was more squarely in the crosshairs than Utah's redrock wilderness. In just a few years under Trump, Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears National Monuments were dismantled, oil and gas lease sales blanketed the state, off-road vehicle use proliferated, and disastrous clearcutting projects targeted old growth piñon pine and juniper forests.

The BLM itself was badly fractured, both by an attempt to move the agency's headquarters from Washington, DC to Grand Junction, Colorado, and by reshuffling dozens of career staff to far-flung corners of the West. In the end, the vast majority of career BLM staff targeted in the relocation scheme retired or switched jobs rather than move. That was the plan, of course: a deliberate effort to break the agency or wound it beyond repair.

GETTING BACK ON TRACK

Despite these obstacles, the Biden administration has worked diligently to get the Interior Department and the BLM back on track and back in the business of public land conservation. It all started with Biden prioritizing the confirmation of Haaland and Stone-Manning, along with



WITH THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION'S COMMITMENT TO CLIMATE ACTION AND PUBLIC LAND PROTECTION, SUWA IS CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT MAKING DURABLE CONSERVATION GAINS IN 2023 AND 2024. © RAY BLOXHAM/SUWA



BEARS EARS BUTTES. © JEFF FOOT

BEARS EARS LAND EXCHANGE

In his proclamation establishing Bears Ears National Monument, President Biden directed Interior Secretary Haaland to explore an agreement with the State of Utah to exchange the roughly 100,000 acres of land administered by the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) within the monument for BLM-managed lands outside of it. Negotiations between the BLM and Utah have identified other scattered state trust lands in the general Bears Ears area that it would also make sense to exchange for blocks of less sensitive BLM lands elsewhere.

Utah's state trust lands were earmarked at statehood for the express purpose of supporting public schools, universities, and certain other state institutions. As a practical matter, that trust mandate can be read to (and often does) conflict with the BLM's direction to prioritize the protection of objects within the monument. Completing this exchange would ensure that the agency is able to manage the monument as a single, unified landscape.

There is a model for exchanging state trust lands from within national monuments; Congress provided it in 1998 with passage of the Utah Schools and Land Exchange Act. That act authorized the exchange of trust lands from within Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. Completing the Bears Ears exchange as soon as practicable would better protect all the things that make Bears Ears important.

a host of other appointments and hires. By investing the time and energy to put his leadership team into place right out of the gate, the president left no doubt that the health of our public lands and environment would be priorities for him. He reinforced that commitment early on with a series of executive orders highlighting the climate crisis, increasing the role of tribal governments in public lands decisions and prioritizing science in agency decision making.

Now the Interior Department is on track to approve dozens of significant renewable energy projects that will speed America's transition away from fossil fuels. For her part, BLM Director Stone-Manning has made rebuilding the agency her top priority. This runs the gamut from a raft of new hiring to changing the agency's entrenched culture of favoring extractive uses over conservation.

On the Utah front, in October 2021 Biden took the long-anticipated step of restoring the original boundaries of Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears National Monuments (he even added an extra 12,000 acres to Bears Ears), thus protecting more than 3.2 million acres of Utah's redrock country. The monuments are home to countless irreplaceable cultural and sacred sites, unique fossils and geology, and native flora and fauna. The president declared that both these individual "objects" and the landscapes that harbor them are worthy of protection as national monuments.

The BLM has also pulled back on new oil and gas lease sales in Utah, offering significantly fewer parcels as it tries to square potential new leasing with the declared goal of transitioning away from fossil fuels. The agency has worked to be more transparent—if not always making better decisions—about the impacts oil, gas and coal leasing and development have on the climate. We've also seen an increased willingness in BLM's Utah field offices to work with SUWA's stewardship program, which brings teams of volunteers to help BLM build fences, remove old barbed wire, and restore areas suffering from illegal use.

NOT ALL ROSES

Let's be clear: it hasn't all been a bed of roses. At a national level we've seen Biden make confounding decisions, such as approving the "Willow Project" on the north slope of Alaska. That oil project alone will produce an estimated 576 million barrels of oil and release millions of metric tons of carbon dioxide over its expected 30-year life. This decision stands in stark contrast to Biden's own commit-

ment to renewable energy. We just can't afford a two steps forward, one step back approach to tackling the climate crisis.

And in Utah, it often remains BLM business as usual, with local managers and staff apologizing to county commissioners for Biden-era priorities and slow-walking, if not actively opposing, those priorities. All the while, visitor numbers continue to skyrocket, with more motorized and non-motorized users visiting Utah's backcountry, leaving a spiderweb of illegal trails, human waste, and trash. The BLM has a disappointing history of ignoring illegal routes and other unpermitted uses until it finds a chance to grandfather them in. On the ground, this means serious confusion about where people can lawfully recreate.

To be sure, some of this is due to a chronic underfunding of user-education and law enforcement. Among visitors to our public lands, there exists a pervasive culture that tacitly accepts if not outright condones the wrongheaded notion that federal public lands are there to be used (consumed, if you will) and not conserved. At bottom, it's going to take a long time to put the mammoth BLM ship on a new heading—longer still while some career staff work hard to keep things the way they've been for decades.

CRITICAL UNFINISHED BUSINESS

With all that in mind, there are several pressing items in Utah that we need to see safely across the finish line before the end of Biden's first term. While we're not yet anxiously watching the clock (after all, it's only the spring of 2023), we are mindful that many of these things take time and a concerted effort to complete.

Monument Management Plans: Restoring Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears National Monuments was a crucial first step in protecting these places. Now the work has turned to completing durable management plans that direct how the BLM puts the president's proclamations into action. The plans must prioritize and ensure the protection of the specific "objects" and values identified in the proclamations, such as cultural and historic resources and fragile geology. This means that some activities—recreation and issuance of special use permits to name two—are allowable only if they're consistent with the monuments' overall purposes.

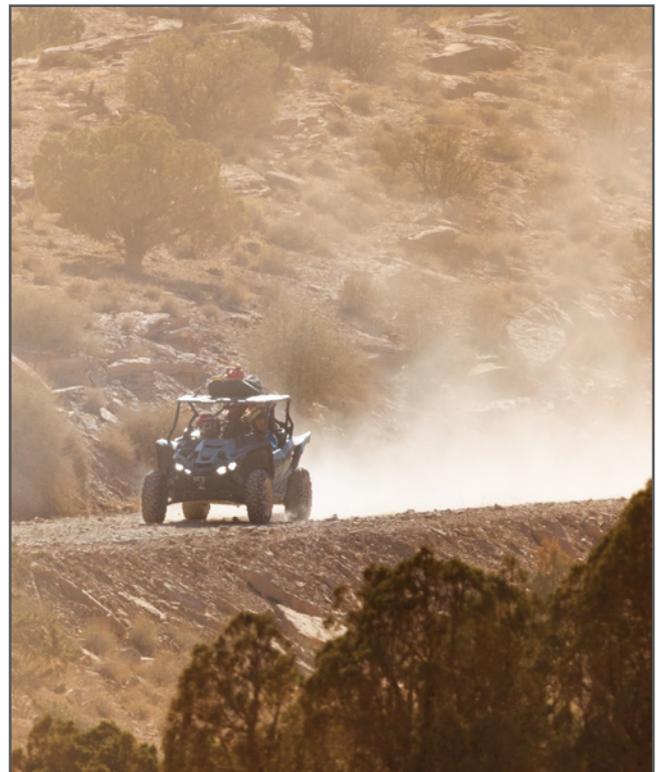
The plans will cover everything from recreation to transportation to grazing. And in the case of Bears Ears National Monument, the BLM has agreed to work with five Tribal

Nations through the Bears Ears Commission and to incorporate tribal knowledge through an active co-management process.

Travel Management Plans: As we've written about in several newsletters over the past five years, the BLM has signed a settlement agreement with SUWA and others regarding travel management plans in Utah. Under that agreement, the BLM is required to complete plans for several important redrock landscapes, among them the San Rafael Swell, the Henry Mountains, and the lands sandwiched between Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and Zion National Park (see article on page 15). Keep an eye out for ways to participate in these important planning processes.

Achieving balance between motorized recreation and other, quieter uses of Utah's public lands depends on developing responsible travel plans and then enforcing them. The plans have heightened importance today in the face of climate change. Undisturbed landscapes, as we now know, can be instrumental in easing the effects of climate change, by helping to reduce erosion and dust, retain water, and sequester carbon.

(Continued next page)



IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS, THE BLM WILL COMPLETE MOTORIZED TRAVEL PLANS FOR SEVERAL IMPORTANT REDROCK LANDSCAPES, INCLUDING THE SAN RAFAEL SWELL, THE HENRY MOUNTAINS, AND THE LANDS BETWEEN GRAND STAIRCASE-ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENT AND ZION NATIONAL PARK. © SUWA

MORE DETAILS ON BLM'S PROPOSED PUBLIC LANDS RULE

In addition to formally showcasing that conservation is on equal footing with the other uses of BLM-managed lands, the proposed Public Lands Rule has several other notable provisions. First, the BLM intends to establish a conservation leasing program under which public lands can be leased for active restoration and conservation purposes. Second, the rule would direct local BLM offices engaged in land use planning to assess the lands they manage, identify those that are the most ecologically intact, and prioritize their protection.

Finally, the rule would direct the agency to revitalize its congressional mandate to identify, designate, and protect “areas of critical environmental concern” or ACECs. These are places with important identified historical, cultural, and scenic values that require heightened management—places the BLM has historically given short shrift. Look for information from SUWA about how to make your voice heard in the rule’s public comment period.

Public Lands Rulemaking: Earlier this year, BLM Director Stone-Manning announced that the agency would update the rules that govern how the BLM goes about managing our public lands. Specifically, the agency will seek to define the “sustained yield” side of its “multiple-use and sustained yield” mission. Congress imposed that mission when it passed the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. It also, and quite clearly, said that sustained yield—otherwise known as “conservation”—is on equal footing with other uses of BLM-managed lands.

The point that conservation is, in fact, a use of the public lands will seem obvious to SUWA members, but too often BLM staff prioritize activities like grazing, mining, and motorized use over conservation. This rulemaking will provide express direction and outline a process for how agency staff should strike the balance between conservation and consumptive uses.

San Rafael Swell Recreation Area Management Plan: When Congress passed the Emery County Public Land Management Act as part of the 2019 John D. Dingell Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act, it established the nearly 217,000-acre San Rafael Swell Recreation Area. Congress mandated that the purpose of the recreation area is “to provide for the protection, conservation, and enhancement of the recreational, cultural, natural, scenic, wildlife, ecological, historical, and educational resources of the Recreation Area” and directed the BLM to complete a management plan for the area by 2024.

As the San Rafael Swell’s popularity continues to rise, it’s more important than ever that the BLM prepare a comprehensive plan that addresses all facets of the agency’s obligations and tackles difficult issues like commercial permits for guided trips and camping.

The Dingell Act also designated three segments of the Green River in Emery County under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The BLM was supposed to have completed a management plan for those river segments by 2021. The agency must make finishing those plans a priority as well.

Other Top-Line Items: There are several other pressing matters which we hope Interior and the BLM will address. That list starts with a Westwide programmatic environmental impact statement for solar energy development on public lands. The BLM is revising its 2012 solar study to account for changes in technology and to do a better job of locating solar development away from sensitive public lands.

The Interior Department should also address the proliferation of e-bikes on public lands. E-bikes are more appropriately treated as off-road vehicles (which, of course, they are), and federal land managers such as the BLM must analyze their impacts and adjust uses accordingly.

Finally, the BLM should review its files for long-suspended federal oil and gas leases and long shut-in wells in Utah’s redrock country to determine whether it’s appropriate to close the book on these old approvals.

LOOKING AHEAD

At the end of the day, we’re grateful to have the Biden administration in office. We look forward to working with and, where necessary, pressuring the Interior Department and the BLM to tackle these important pieces of unfinished business.

—Steve Bloch

MEET OUR NEW HOUSE CHAMPION FOR THE REDROCK!

After more than a decade as our redrock wilderness champion and lead sponsor of America's Red Rock Wilderness Act, Representative Alan Lowenthal retired from the House of Representatives at the end of 2022. We are deeply grateful for his commitment over the years to protecting Utah's wild public lands.

Now we are delighted to announce that Representative Melanie Stansbury (D-NM) is our new chief sponsor of the Red Rock bill in the House.

Rep. Stansbury, a lifelong New Mexican, spent many years in public service before becoming a member of Congress in 2021. She won a special election to fill the seat vacated by Rep. Deb Haaland, whom President Joe Biden named to be his Interior Secretary. Rep. Stansbury worked as a policy advisor at the Council on Environmental Quality in the Obama Administration, as a staffer on the Senate Energy



REPRESENTATIVE MELANIE STANSBURY. PUBLIC DOMAIN PHOTO

Committee, and as an aide to Senator Maria Cantwell of Washington. In 2018, she won a seat in the New Mexico House of Representatives where she introduced legislation to improve the state's energy conservation and water resource management.

She is a member of the House Natural Resources Committee and serves as Ranking Member of its Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations in the 118th Congress. In this role, Rep. Stansbury has proven repeatedly to be a fierce advocate for environmental protection, environmental justice, and the redrock. She voted in favor of the Inflation Reduction Act in 2022, the landmark legislation that aims to address many facets of climate change. She has spoken out against extractive projects that would be detrimental to the environment and local communities. She has also introduced her own legislation to protect public lands.

We are fortunate to have Rep. Stansbury as champion of America's Red Rock Wilderness Act. She's motivated, informed, and highly effective. We welcome her and we thank her.

To learn more about Rep. Stansbury, check out her website at <https://stansbury.house.gov/>, and if you live in her district, please thank her!

—Travis Hammill

RECREATION BILL RAISES SERIOUS CONCERNS

In Utah and elsewhere, rapidly increasing public lands recreation is resulting in natural and cultural resource damage and is straining the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) management and enforcement capabilities. Senators Manchin (D-WV) and Barrasso (R-WY) have introduced the America's Outdoor Recreation Act of 2023 (AORA) as an attempt to address this increased use. However, a number of provisions raise concerns as they may have significant, albeit unintended, consequences for public lands.

The science is clear that dispersing recreation use to less visited and undisturbed locations is not an effective management strategy. SUWA's report on recreation on the Colorado Plateau strongly affirms that, concluding that such dispersal strategies will likely result in adverse impacts to wildlife, cultural sites, and other resources (read full report at suwa.org/recreation). Unfortunately, AORA includes several provisions that would require agencies to

direct use into just such areas which, by their very nature, lack adequate infrastructure (parking, bathrooms, informational signage) to handle high visitation levels.

Also worrisome is the bill's treatment of special recreation permits (SRPs), which are required of commercial, competitive, or large group activities. The bill defines "large groups" as more than 75 people for both motorized and human-powered activities. By contrast, the Utah BLM typically requires permits for groups of more than 12 or 25 people, depending on location and activity.

The permitting process is an essential touchpoint between the BLM and the permittee that enables the agency to consider the proposed activity and location, specify group size limits, require minimum impact practices (for managing human waste, as an example), prevent user conflicts, and ensure public safety and resource protection. AORA would remove this touchpoint, thereby eliminating agency review and commonsense safeguards for groups as large as 75 people. The resulting impacts of such large, unchecked groups on resources and user experiences will be significant.

SUWA is tracking this bipartisan legislation and is working with lawmakers on improvements to ensure that land management agencies have the necessary tools to protect natural and cultural resources while providing for a spectrum of high-quality experiences—from backcountry solitude to frontcountry trail systems—for a growing and increasingly diverse user base.

Stay tuned for future updates.

—*Judi Brawer*



ACTIVISTS FROM 26 STATES TRAVELED TO WASHINGTON, DC IN MARCH TO BUILD SUPPORT FOR AMERICA'S RED ROCK WILDERNESS ACT. © SUWA

WILDERNESS WEEK IS BACK (IN PERSON)!

Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Representative Melanie Stansbury (D-NM) will have reintroduced America's Red Rock Wilderness Act by the time you receive this newsletter.

A cosponsor drive will follow. We launched that effort in early March, bringing activists from around the country to Washington, DC for Wilderness Week, our annual "Hill climb," as in Capitol Hill. In all, activists held more than 150 meetings during the event—the first fly-in we've hosted on this scale since before the pandemic struck. We thank everyone who attended for adding their energy to the campaign to protect Utah's wilderness.

We spent a full day working with the activists to recap the history of the wilderness movement and of America's Red Rock Wilderness Act. We also imparted some tips on how best to communicate the importance of wilderness to busy congressional staffers, and the group spent time with a real live Hill staffer from Rep. Stansbury's office. Over the following days, our teams' meetings with Senate and House offices translated into many commitments to cosponsor the Red Rock bill. There will be many more to come.

Wilderness Week is an important part of the Utah Wilderness Coalition's campaign to protect the redrock, but it is the beginning, not the end, of the drive for congressional cosponsors. The next steps involve all of you in your home states and districts. What we ask now is for you to help us sustain the momentum your fellow activists generated in DC. If you haven't already contacted your representatives in support of the Red Rock bill, there's no time like the present! To take action, go to suwa.org/cosponsor or text ARROWA to 52886. Thank you!

—*Travis Hammill*

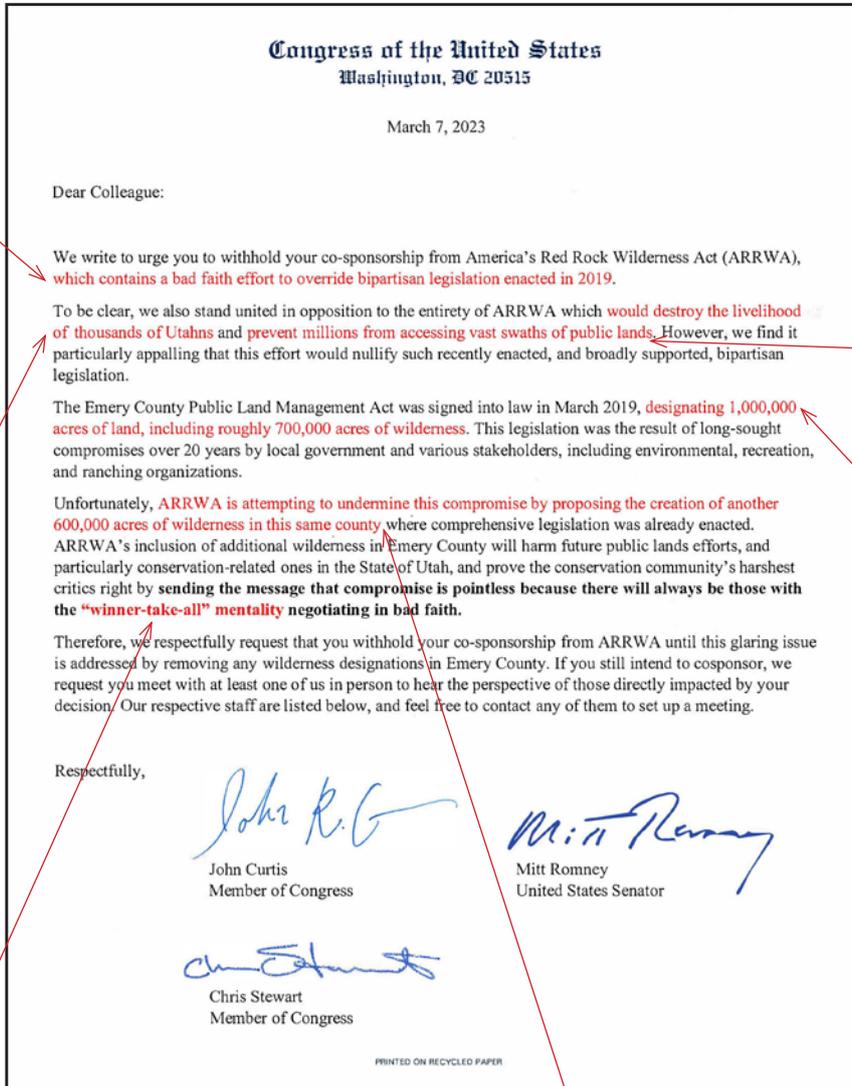
THE UTAH DELEGATION’S TALL TALES (CORRECTED)

Utah Representative John Curtis (R) recently spearheaded a letter to his House colleagues warning them off support for America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act (ARRWA). “Creative” is a charitable term for its contents; see our corrections below. To read online, go to suwa.org/curtisletter.

Nonsense. ARRWA does not override or amend any legislation. It would protect the status quo of more than 8 million acres of land across the state of Utah that qualify for wilderness designation in accordance with The Wilderness Act of 1964.

Thousands? The correct answer here is zero. These lands qualify as wilderness because no extractive uses exist on them. And we’re trying to keep it that way.

This is rich coming from the “winner-take-all” Utah politicians who supported the evisceration of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments over the objections of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, local businesses, and elected officials.



This claim is a head-scratcher. ARRWA passage would leave the real roads open while protecting lands from indiscriminate off-road vehicle use—a use which in many cases is already prohibited.

Not quite, but close. Total area protected was about 880,000 acres, 663,000 as designated wilderness. The other 217,000 acres became the San Rafael Swell Recreation Area.

This claim is just nuts. The Emery County legislation was in fact the result of a compromise between former Utah Senator Orin Hatch and ARRWA champion Senator Richard Durbin, an agreement which included the stipulation that undesignated lands would remain in future versions of ARRWA. Curtis introduced really terrible legislation, separately, which died in a Republican-controlled House without even a floor vote.

Now you have the real story. Please let your congressional representatives know the facts and urge them to cosponsor America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act in the 118th Congress.

Text ARRWA to 52886 to do so now!

GOOD
NEWS

SUWA APPEAL SAVES HORSE BENCH FROM OIL & GAS DEVELOPMENT

We're happy to report that SUWA recently prevailed in our appeal of a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) decision that attempted to extend the life of four oil and gas leases located on Horse Bench.

Horse Bench is a prominent prow of wilderness-caliber land atop the West Tavaputs Plateau overlooking the nearby Desolation Canyon stretch of the Green River. As a result of our victory, the four leases no longer exist and cannot be drilled or developed.

This triumph epitomizes a mantra that accurately describes SUWA's work: endless pressure, endlessly applied. For more than a decade, SUWA has

fought to eliminate these leases and prevent their development. We've filed administrative protests and federal lawsuits and have successfully challenged approved drilling projects, ultimately preventing the drilling of more than 175 wells on the leases.

SUWA's victory not only preserves Horse Bench but also protects the surrounding region, including Nine Mile Canyon—a cultural crown jewel renowned for its numerous rock art panels. Had these leases been developed, large haul trucks and tankers would have traveled through Nine Mile Canyon and ascended Cottonwood Canyon before reaching Horse Bench.

We are pursuing similar challenges for what ought to be defunct oil and gas leases scattered throughout Utah. As an example, we recently challenged a BLM decision involving an oil and gas lease that is partially located inside Bears Ears National Monument. Like the four Horse Bench leases, this lease also expired years ago, yet the BLM continues to maintain that it exists and is unlawfully keeping alive the threat of fossil fuel development in the heart of Utah's redrock wilderness.

Stay tuned for updates on these efforts to eliminate long-terminated oil and gas leases from Utah's wild places.

—Landon Newell



SUWA'S SUCCESSFUL APPEAL NOT ONLY PRESERVES HORSE BENCH BUT ALSO PROTECTS THE SURROUNDING REGION, INCLUDING NINE MILE CANYON. © RAY BLOXHAM/SUWA



UNDER PRESSURE FROM SUWA AND OTHERS, THE BLM HAS DECIDED TO CANCEL A PROJECT TO REMOVE NEARLY 900 ACRES OF OLD-GROWTH PIÑON PINE AND JUNIPER FOREST IN THE HENRY MOUNTAINS. © SUWA

GOOD
NEWS

BLM SCRUBS PROJECT TO REMOVE OLD-GROWTH IN HENRY MOUNTAINS

SUWA has spent the past year engaging with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on a proposal to remove nearly 900 acres of old-growth piñon-juniper forest in the Henry Mountains. We are excited to let you know that the BLM notified us it is canceling the project.

The Indian Springs vegetation removal project first emerged from the agency's Richfield field office a decade ago. Opposition from SUWA and others chilled its progress, but it returned to life last year. The project proposed to remove piñon pine and juniper forest on the vast benches just south of the Mount Hillers Wilderness Study Area in the Henry Mountains (east of Capitol Reef National Park). This is one of the most remote and stunning areas under the Richfield BLM office's purview. It boasts seemingly endless vistas and exceptional habitat, geology, cultural history, and wildlife.

No mechanical vegetation removal projects have been conducted on this site, but most of the surrounding area has suffered such treatments, as well as fires or other disturbances, in the past. Because of this, and because the area is only lightly grazed, it contains some of the highest-functioning native piñon pine and juniper forest and native plant understory we've seen anywhere, with little to no invasive species encroachment.

A visit to the area with a biologist last year showed that this is not only a healthy, functioning piñon-juniper forest, it is also largely old-growth as well. Tree cores and cookies (i.e., disks sliced off branches to enable tree ring counts while leav-

(Continued next page)

GOOD
NEWS

SUWA WINS LITHIUM MINE APPEAL

In a late-breaking victory for the redrock, SUWA prevailed in our appeal of a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) decision to approve two exploratory lithium wells along State Route 313, a designated scenic byway and the main access road to Dead Horse Point State Park and the Island in the Sky unit of Canyonlands National Park. The wells would have been visible from both parks and the scenic byway.

The victory grants a reprieve to one of Utah's most popular and scenic landscapes. The more than a million visitors per year who travel the Dead Horse Mesa Scenic Byway come to appreciate this remarkable redrock landscape, not to hear and see industrial development.

Lithium is an essential resource in the transition to a greener energy future, but its extraction cannot come at the expense of visually scarring magnificent scenic landscapes, nor should it escape comprehensive analysis of its environmental impacts, especially when it comes to water. Lithium mining consumes large quantities of this precious resource, and the BLM will now have to analyze and disclose this fact in light of the ongoing drought and climate crisis wreaking havoc on the Colorado Plateau.

—Landon Newell & Hanna Larsen



SUWA AND PARTNERS GRANTED INTERVENTION TO DEFEND UTAH MONUMENTS

Last year, the State of Utah, Garfield and Kane Counties, several individuals, and an off-road vehicle interest group sued President Biden over his re-establishment of Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears National Monuments (see autumn/winter 2022 issue, page 15).

These monuments were first established by President Clinton and President Obama, respectively, to protect and preserve the unparalleled geologic, cultural, and biological wonders contained within those public lands. At Utah's urging, President Donald Trump illegally dismantled the two monuments in 2017, reducing Bears Ears to less than a fifth of its original size and Grand Staircase to just over half. President Biden's action confirmed the integrity of the original monument designations, in accordance with the Antiquities Act of 1906.

For more than 100 years, federal courts have uniformly rejected challenges to the establishment of national monuments, including the State of Utah's prior challenge of the original Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. Unfortunately, the current Supreme Court may be receptive to novel legal theories that have been recently invoked to limit the authority of the Executive Branch. The plaintiffs in the current monuments litigation are now attempting to weaponize those novel legal theories to circumvent the long-standing precedent regarding a president's authority to establish national monuments.

SUWA, along with other nonprofit partners and several Tribal Nations (the Hopi Tribe, Navajo Nation, Pueblo of Zuni, and Ute Mountain Ute Tribe) have been granted intervention "as of right" in the lawsuit. This means SUWA will fully participate in the case and defend the monuments. It also means we'll have a seat at the table for any future appeal.

—Michelle White

ing the main trunk intact) revealed some juniper trees to be as old as 780 years.

In addition to the loss of the ancient forest itself, the project threatened damage to important cultural sites. Evidence of a long and consistent history of Indigenous human connection and use is present in the project area.

This victory is a huge win for healthy piñon-juniper forests, wilderness values, and old-growth ecosystems in Utah, and we're thrilled that our persistence and desire to provide data and input to the BLM paid off.

—Kya Marienfeld



"HIGH DESERT" MOTORIZED TRAIL SEGMENT STALLED

We're happy to report that a proposed 77-mile off-road vehicle trail across Washington County, Utah, is getting a closer look following an appeal by SUWA and our conservation partners. Late last summer, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) used a "categorical exclusion" to exempt the project from normal environmental and legal procedures and to approve the trail. If okayed, it would form the southernmost stretch of a proposed 700-mile High Desert OHV Trail across western Utah.

The BLM's quick approval would have allowed the State of Utah and Washington County to install signs and otherwise promote, and encourage new and increased off-road vehicle use on designated but lesser-used motorized routes in sensitive conservation and backcountry areas, including the Doc's Pass, Slaughter Creek, and Cougar Canyon Wilderness Areas and in the Beaver Dam Wash National Conservation Area. The trail segment, as approved, would bisect the heart of critical habitat for the Mojave desert tortoise, a federally listed threatened species and the primary reason Congress established the conservation area over a decade ago.

Because there was no public process under the National Environmental Policy Act, interested parties—including local public land users, Washington County residents, wildlife experts, and SUWA members—had no opportunity to suggest alternate routes or mitigation measures, or otherwise participate in the BLM's project planning. We filed our appeal last fall and our opening brief earlier this year. We are pleased to report that after filing our brief, the BLM

decided to vacate its categorical exclusion authorizing the 77-mile trail segment and remand the decision to the St. George field office for review and reconsideration.

We expect that if the agency considers authorizing the trail again it will offer opportunities for public comment and engagement, and that it will take a harder look at the potential impacts of encouraging new and expanded motorized travel in wilderness areas and sensitive wildlife habitat. We'll keep you posted.

—*Kya Marienfeld*

BLM'S TRAVEL PLANNING TO HEAT UP IN 2023 AND 2024

A 2017 settlement agreement between SUWA and our partners, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and several off-road vehicle groups requires the BLM to complete nine travel management plans covering more than five million acres of BLM-managed lands in Utah by June 2025

(the BLM has already completed two other required travel plans). These plans will determine where motorized vehicles are allowed to travel across some of Utah's wildest and most fragile landscapes.

Several of these plans were supposed to have been completed by now but were slowed by a variety of factors, from delayed wildlife surveys and cultural resource inventories to staffing challenges within the agency. In spite of these disappointing delays, there has been progress.

We expect the final Labyrinth Rims/Gemini Bridges plan to be released this summer. This plan will cover a hugely popular destination near Moab that is in desperate need of a balanced and reasonable approach to manage the explosion of use.

We're also encouraged that the BLM now anticipates it will complete five more travel plans by the end of 2024. These plans encompass the spectacular landscapes adjacent to Zion National Park and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (the Paunsaugunt and Trail Canyon Travel Management Plans) as well as the San Rafael Swell, Henry Mountains/Fremont Gorge area, and BLM lands near



THE BLM IS EXPECTED TO COMPLETE SIX MOTORIZED TRAVEL PLANS BY THE END OF 2024, INCLUDING ONE FOR THE PAUNSAUGUNT PLANNING AREA (PICTURED ABOVE) NEAR ZION NATIONAL PARK. © RAY BLOXHAM/SUWA



OFF-ROAD VEHICLE IMPACTS IN THE SAN RAFAEL SWELL. © SUWA

SUWA CONTINUES FIELDWORK TO INFORM TRAVEL PLANNING, PINPOINT ILLEGAL MOTORIZED USE

While this year's record amount of moisture has been hugely beneficial for the redrock, it has also delayed our field season. But as of late March, seasonal field staff are back on the ground conducting detailed inventories to document motorized use and inform possible future travel designations. Our goal is to collect information that will support the development of a rational system of motorized travel routes, one that protects Utah's amazing wilderness and other sensitive resources.

SUWA's inventories are more thorough and accurate than any similar work the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) or its contractors have produced; agency staff have acknowledged as much. Our inventories remain heavily focused on documenting all linear features across the agency's travel planning areas. This includes the seemingly endless spiderweb of tracks that get motorized use—whether permitted by existing plans or flatly illegal—as well as the agency's "lines on the map," which sometimes do not exist on the ground or are being naturally reclaimed or obliterated by erosion, plant regrowth, and weather.

This year, we will focus on the BLM's travel planning within the Henry Mountain, San Rafael Swell, and Bears Ears National Monument regions. We will also continue limited work in the Book Cliffs, the Dinosaur area near Vernal, and the Paunsaugunt area near Kanab.

—Ray Bloxham

Dinosaur National Monument. Travel plans for the Book Cliffs, Nine Mile Canyon, and Dolores River areas are not anticipated until 2025 or beyond.

SUWA will continue to urge the agency to craft travel plans that ensure protection of Utah's redrock wilderness. In the meantime, please subscribe to our email list at suwa.org/stayinformed to learn how you can participate in this important process. More information on the travel planning process can be found at suwa.org/travelplanning.

—Kelsey Cruickshank

KANE COUNTY RS 2477 LITIGATION MOVING FORWARD ON TWO TRACKS

Passed in 1866 as part of the Mining Act, Revised Statute (RS) 2477 is an obscure law that granted "highway" rights-of-way over federal lands in certain circumstances. Congress repealed the statute in 1976, but Utah politicians later seized on it as a means of preventing redrock wilderness designation and asserting local control over federal public lands.

Two cases involving RS 2477 rights-of-way in Kane County continue to slowly progress. Many of the claimed rights-of-way are located within the re-established Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and on lands proposed for wilderness designation in America's Red Rock Wilderness Act.

First, last December, SUWA participated in a three-day trial in the Kane 1 (or Bald Knoll) RS 2477 lawsuit. This litigation involves determining the width of three RS 2477 rights-of-way: the Skutumpah, the North Swag, and the Swallow Park/Park Wash routes. Briefing in that case is expected to continue through the summer and a decision is not likely before 2024.

Second, the district court judge has scheduled a July hearing on the United States' motion to dismiss in the Kane County "bellwether" litigation. That case involves 15 claimed RS 2477 rights-of-way and went to trial over three years ago. A decision in this case is also unlikely before 2024.

While the bellwether litigation continues in the district court, SUWA (with assistance from local and national

law firms) has appealed the judge's decision denying our request to intervene "as of right" in the case. That appeal is fully briefed and, in a very encouraging development, the Tenth Circuit recently denied a request by the State of Utah, Kane County, and the United States to decide the appeal through a highly unusual procedural mechanism known as initial en banc review.

The main takeaway from the Tenth Circuit's decision denying the request for initial en banc review (by a 5-4 vote) is that it is much more likely SUWA's appeal will ultimately succeed. We'll keep you posted on future developments.

—Michelle White

ANOTHER "MONUMENTAL" YEAR AHEAD FOR STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Deep snowpack promises high water and a wildflower flush in southern Utah this spring. As the moisture soaks in, we are kicking off another year of far-ranging stewardship projects. Dates are set and preparations are well underway. Join us as we head into the field for nine months of hands-on adventure in the service of Utah's wild places.

We will dedicate much of our energy this year to Utah's magnificent national monuments. Roughly half of our project calendar is divided between Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments. We will continue to work elsewhere, too—from an early season start in the Mexican Mountain Wilderness to summer stints in the far-flung wilderness study areas (WSAs) of the West Desert. Here's a closer look at a few of our scheduled projects.

GRAND STAIRCASE-ESCALANTE

In late April and September, we return to the Circle Cliffs to rehab off-road vehicle (ORV) and camping impacts in this increasingly-visited landscape. We'll prioritize wilderness boundary management and address illegal motorized travel. This multi-year project is quickly becoming a cornerstone of our program.

In May we join forces with Grand Staircase Escalante Partners' (GSEP) emerging stewardship program to manage off-road vehicle and camping impacts along the Hole-in-the-Rock Road. We are excited to support GSEP's stewardship program as Utah's public lands can use all the help they can get.

In April and October, we travel to the far reaches of the monument to work with the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Kanab field office restoring WSA boundaries adjacent to the Paria River. This is our first year partnering with the office and we look forward to stewarding more wilderness in the monument.

BEARS EARS

Twice in May and again in July we'll work with BLM and U.S. Forest Service staff on Cedar Mesa and Elk Ridge, tackling rehab of nonpermitted ORV travel caused by firewood collection on Cedar Mesa, a survey of cultural resources deep within the monument, and a backpack into Dark Canyon to survey and manage travel impacts in the wilderness.

For more information on these and all of our 2023 projects, head over to suwa.org/projectcalendar or email us at volunteer@suwa.org. We hope to see you out on the land this season!

—Jeremy Lynch



A VOLUNTEER STEWARDSHIP CREW ASSISTS BLM STAFF WITH WILDERNESS BOUNDARY DELINEATION AND PROTECTION IN THE SAN RAFAEL SWELL © SUWA

TERRI MARTIN: A LEGEND PASSES THE TORCH

After 12 years at SUWA, Terri Martin, our Intermountain West organizer, retired last October. One could argue that there's never been a more determined, passionate, articulate, and skilled advocate for Utah's wild country.

Terri first laid eyes on the redrock after accepting a summer lifeguard gig at Lake Powell. She arrived as a hitchhiker in a VW bug and it was love at first sight. Her heart has remained in southern Utah ever since—and SUWA has benefited from that loyalty many times over.

Her history in the Utah wilderness movement runs exceptionally deep; there is scarcely a notable Utah conservation story in which she wasn't involved. Her long public lands career even included many stints with the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as a seasonal employee.

From Terri we gained first-hand accounts of the original, deeply flawed BLM wilderness inventories in Utah. At one

BLM field office where she worked, the manager told the inventory team in advance where they were allowed to find wilderness-quality land and where they were not. The resulting inventory was so bad that citizen activists took it upon themselves to conduct their own fieldwork. That eventually became the citizens' proposal for Utah wilderness, aka America's Red Rock Wilderness Act. Terri was there through it all, helping to create the Utah Wilderness Coalition (UWC) and shepherd SUWA through its infancy.

As the regional representative for the National Parks Conservation Association for 14 years, Terri helped defeat coal mines near Bryce Canyon, power plants near Zion, and a nuclear waste dump outside of Canyonlands. Her reputation as a fierce public lands defender was such that the grazing shed near Cat Pasture on the Hole-in-the-Rock Road was once spray painted with the words "Terri Martin Sucks!"

At SUWA, Terri was an expert planner, a master of details, a galvanizing presence at rallies and marches, and our most engaging storyteller. She was central to our Faith and the Land and Women Protecting Wilderness projects, and her organizing work in the Four Corners states and Nevada was key to building regional support for the redrock.

Terri has been, and will continue to be, an inspiration to us all. We offer her our deepest gratitude and wish her the very best that retirement life has to offer!

ORGANIZER EXTRAORDINAIRE DAVE PACHECO RETIRES

After a bifurcated 20-year career at SUWA, Utah organizer Dave Pacheco finally hung up the ol' clipboard and retired this spring, leaving some mighty big shoes to fill.

He originally came to SUWA as a lone door-to-door canvasser in the spring of 1994, then worked a variety of positions through the years. He created, promoted, and presented slideshow tours across the country; encouraged people to speak out at public meetings; walked the halls of Congress; met with editorial boards; organized rallies; spoke in classrooms; painted Salt Lake City yellow with Protect Wild Utah yard signs and bumper stickers; and educated countless activists during many special trainings, including at our annual Wilderness Week events and retreats for grassroots leaders. Ever-versatile Dave even



TERRI IN HER NATURAL HABITAT (REDROCK COUNTRY), DOING WHAT SHE DOES BEST: EXPLAINING THE ISSUES AND TELLING THE UTAH WILDERNESS STORY.



WE'LL MISS DAVE'S EVER-PRESENT SMILE AND EVERYTHING ELSE HE BROUGHT TO THE UTAH WILDERNESS CAUSE.

became the voice of SUWA's *Wild Utah* podcast (a project he initiated and led).

His SUWA tenure intersected with some memorable historic events, too. He recalls the thrill of standing 20 feet in front of then-President Bill Clinton when he proclaimed Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in the fall of 1996. In 2001, he exemplified cool-headed, competent leadership at our Washington, DC office amid the chaos of a Wilderness Week interrupted by the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Above all, Dave cherishes the connections he made with people along the way. He has particularly fond memories of attending SUWA Roundups over the years and doing what he does best: making friends with redrock supporters and cultivating their spark of enthusiasm into meaningful action. In Dave's view, the splendor of Utah's landscapes is matched only by the beauty of the collective voices raised, generation after generation, to protect the lands we all love.

Dave represented SUWA in the best possible way through his passion, dedication, reliability, and unerring good nature. He may no longer have a desk at our Salt Lake City office, but he'll always be part of the SUWA family. We hope his well-earned retirement is filled with all the relaxation and outdoor adventures he and his wife Beth can handle!

MEDIA DIRECTOR MATHEW GROSS MOVES ON

After 13 years as SUWA's media director, Mathew Gross has moved on to a new position as deputy campaigns director at The Protection Campaign. During his time with us, he guided our external communications and helped raise the profile of Utah wilderness issues locally and nationally.

Matt played a key role in both our advocacy and fundraising efforts, with a particular focus on media strategy, public messaging, and digital outreach. In his first year, he developed and launched a statewide media campaign to deepen support for wilderness protection in the face of emerging political threats. He then spearheaded our Greater Canyonlands campaign before focusing his energy and expertise on supporting the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition's national monument proposal. He regards his collaboration with the Tribes as among the most rewarding experiences of his SUWA career. His involvement with the Bears Ears campaign would span the Obama, Trump, and Biden administrations as we celebrated, defended, and ultimately worked to restore this world-class monument.

Matt came to us with a solid track record in public policy, digital fundraising, and communications, having worked



ALL THE BEST TO MATT AND HIS MASTIFF-BOXER MIX, HENRY, AS THEY EMBARK (PUN INTENDED) ON NEW ADVENTURES.

as a consultant for a wide range of political candidates and nonprofit organizations. His experience brought a new level of sophistication to SUWA's outreach efforts and has served the redrock well.

As Matt moves on, we're heartened to know that he'll continue working to advance local public lands conservation efforts across the West. We wish him and his beloved mastiff-boxer mix, Henry, all the best in their next chapter!

FORMER INTERN KAYA TATE JOINS STAFF AS SOUTHWEST ORGANIZER

We first met Kaya Tate when she worked with SUWA as an intern in the spring of 2022, a position she sought out after learning that the Navajo Nation Council had unanimously endorsed America's Red Rock Wilderness Act. She joined our staff full time last fall after accepting the job of southwest organizer.

Kaya is a graduate of Westminster College in Salt Lake City, where she studied environmental science. She is Diné and grew up in Albuquerque, frequently visiting family on the reservation. Kaya enjoys climbing (especially in Indian Creek) and running. You might see her pounding the trails in races around Arches and Canyonlands. She is also a big fan of Hatch green chile!



SUWA WELCOMES FORMER INTERN KAYA TATE TO OUR UTAH-BASED ORGANIZING TEAM!

As she continues to settle into her job, Kaya is reaching out to activists and conservationists across her four-state region (NM, CO, NV & AZ) to explore joining forces in the protection of Utah's redrock wilderness. We're certain her background and intern experience will serve her well in this role and we're excited to have her on the organizing team!

RACHEL CARLSON TAKES ON EASTERN ORGANIZING ROLE

Rachel Carlson, SUWA's new eastern organizer, is happy to have her name mistaken for that of the famous author and environmentalist, Rachel Carson. In fact, by joining SUWA's staff she hopes to follow in Carson's footsteps to protect and preserve our awe-inspiring natural world.

Rachel joined us in August and relocated to Washington, DC the following month, eager to convert as many East Coasters as possible into devoted redrock supporters. Born and raised in Utah, she grew up skiing in Little Cottonwood Canyon and spent many weekends mountain biking, hiking, and generally frolicking on the magnificent public lands around Moab.

Rachel participated in policy debates in both high school and college, with many of her arguments addressing environmental advocacy, social justice, and the impacts



RACHEL CARLSON HAS HIT THE GROUND RUNNING IN DC AS OUR EASTERN ORGANIZER.

of exploitative institutions and industries. She recently graduated from the University of Utah with a bachelor's degree in communication theory and a focus on environmental communication.

Rachel spends her free time adoring her dog Luca (aka Baboo), thrifting vintage clothing, donning outlandish outfits, attending concerts, hiking, skiing, attempting to read philosophy, and choreographing dances to perform exclusively for her houseplants and dog.

She brings all of the above talents and much more to SUWA's organizing team (we can't wait to see how the dancing comes into play). Welcome aboard, Rachel!

MAKE A LONG-TERM INVESTMENT IN UTAH WILDERNESS

JOIN OUR MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM

If you'd like a convenient, hassle-free way to help SUWA, our monthly giving program is for you. Monthly giving of any amount 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.

Is protecting the redrock worth \$5 or \$10 a month to you? That's only \$60 or \$120 a year and goes a long way to helping keep your public lands wild. Already a sustaining member? For just \$5 or \$10 more a month, you can make an even greater impact and provide SUWA with a reliable funding source to keep fighting in defense of your public wild lands during these very challenging times.

For more details on joining SUWA as a sustaining member, please visit our website at suwa.org/monthly.

LEAVE A LEGACY FOR THE REDROCK

Please consider leaving a gift to SUWA in your will or trust. Bequests are a simple, effective way for those of us who love the redrock to ensure that when we're gone, the work to protect these amazing landscapes continues.

A gift to SUWA from your estate—whatever the amount—is entirely free from federal estate taxes. This means we are able to use the full amount of the bequest to protect the redrock. Also, bequests generally are not subject to state inheritance or estate taxes. You can also create a bequest so that the needs of your heirs are taken care of first.

A bequest for SUWA (or any other charitable organization) is very simple to establish. Just name the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance in your will, trust, retirement plan, or life insurance policy, along with our contact information and tax ID number and the dollar amount or percent of your estate you wish to contribute.

If you'd like to make a gift to SUWA or have already included a gift to SUWA in your estate, please contact Michelle Martineau at (801) 236-3763 or visit suwa.org/plannedgiving.



YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!

Since our inception in 1983, SUWA has been fortunate to have members who are so passionate about protecting Utah's redrock wilderness. Over the years you have shown that, together, we have the power to prevent politicians and land managers from tearing the backcountry apart with energy development, roads, and off-road vehicle routes.

Our collective voice speaks loudly to decision-makers who can either protect or destroy the lands we all cherish. Your membership provides both the political and financial strength needed to continue our work. Thank you for your investment in Utah's wilderness movement and your role in protecting the redrock.

If you are not yet a member, please join today at suwa.org/donate. And if you're already a member, please consider giving gift memberships to friends and family (see next page).

Thank you for your support!

VISIT OUR ONLINE STORE FOR GIFT MEMBERSHIPS AND OTHER GOODIES

SUWA memberships make wonderful gifts for birthdays and other special occasions. They are also a great way to get your loved ones more involved in the fight to protect Utah's redrock wilderness. Each gift membership is just \$25. Your gift recipient will receive a welcome packet that includes our latest newsletter, a "Protect Wild Utah" sticker, and a letter naming you as the membership donor. You can even buy a gift membership for yourself—we won't tell anyone. To purchase, go to suwa.org/giftmemberships

In addition to gift memberships, our online store offers SUWA logo tees in multiple fits and sizes for just \$25, a limited edition collection of monument-themed merchandise, our ever-popular trucker hats in two different styles, and a warm knit beanie (pictured at right).

Visit our website at suwa.org/goodies or click 'SHOP' at the top of our home page to view our list of products.



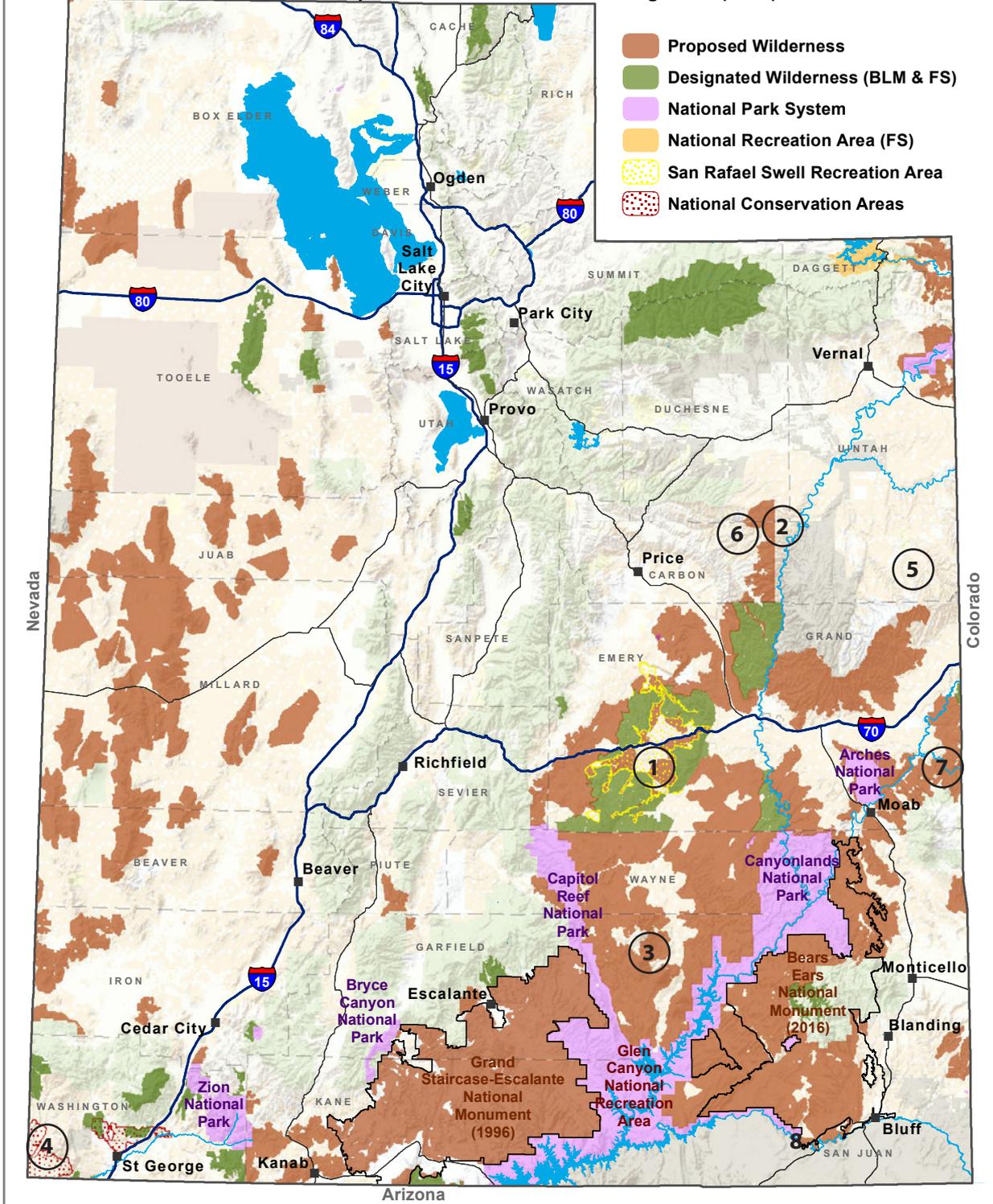
SUWA'S KNIT BEANIES ARE PERFECT FOR SPRING ADVENTURES IN CANYON COUNTRY. © SUWA



GOLD BAR ARCH. © PETER GATCH

America's Red Rock Wilderness Act

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



- 1 San Rafael Swell (pp. 7, 8, 15)
- 2 Horse Bench (p. 12)
- 3 Henry Mountains (pp. 7, 13, 15)
- 4 Beaver Dam Wash NCA (p. 14)
- 5 Book Cliffs (p. 16)
- 6 Nine Mile Canyon (p. 16)
- 7 Dolores River Area (p. 16)



SOUTHERN UTAH WILDERNESS ALLIANCE

425 East 100 South
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
S.L.C., UT
PERMIT No. 571



@protectwildutah



/SouthernUtahWildernessAlliance



/protectwildutah

SUWA IS CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF REDROCK ADVOCACY!



This year rounds off SUWA's fourth decade of defending Utah's incomparable redrock wilderness and we're excited to celebrate this incredible milestone with you! Please mark your calendars for our 40th anniversary celebration on Saturday, September 9th from 6:30-10 pm at the Natural History Museum of Utah in Salt Lake City.

Since our founding in 1983, we've secured some form of enduring protection for more than 5.5 million acres of Utah's wild country—from the San Rafael Swell and Desolation Canyon to the Grand Staircase and Canaan Mountain—and we couldn't have done it without your support. So start gathering those rad dirtbag duds, dayglo tees, and oversized shoulder pads from your attic or local vintage store 'cause we'll be channeling that 1980s vibe with a costume party! Follow us online for more details (and historical flashbacks) in the weeks to come.



Printed on recycled paper using soy-based ink.