



REDROCK

W I L D E R N E S S

The Newsletter of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
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**THE UTAH WAY: WHAT'S UP WITH ANTI-WILDERNESS BEEHIVE
STATE POLITICIANS?**



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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This issue of *Redrock Wilderness* was written by the following staff and outside contributors: Steve Bloch, Judi Brawer, Neal Clark, Scott Groene, Travis Hammill, Joyelle Hatch, Jenny Holmes, Tom Kenworthy, Hanna Larsen, Jeremy Lynch, Kya Marienfeld, Heather Rose Martinez, Nicole Milavetz, Laura Peterson, Grant Stevens, and Michelle White. It was edited by Darrell Knuffke and laid out by Diane Kelly. Newsletter design by Amy Westberg.

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THE WILDERNESS ACT AT 60: TAKING STOCK

Important historical anniversaries offer us an opportunity to take stock of our progress, or sometimes the lack of it, as a nation and society. Now, as we approach the 60th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, is a good time to look at the impact of that pioneering land conservation law and assess its future.

President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Wilderness Act into law on September 3, 1964. The Wilderness Act created the National Wilderness Preservation System and stocked it with the first 9.1 million acres of designated wilderness. Six decades on, the system includes about 110 million acres, five percent of the United States, and more than 750 individual wilderness areas in 44 states and Puerto Rico.

Getting to that presidential signature took decades of work by noted wilderness advocates like Howard Zahniser of The Wilderness Society and Bob Marshall, a founder of The Wilderness Society and a renowned wilderness advocate within two federal agencies he served. Marshall died young in 1939 but his influence proved long-lasting. He is honored forever in Montana's magnificent Bob Marshall Wilderness.

Looking back, it seems remarkable that the 88th Congress passed the Wilderness Act so easily, with only one vote against it in the House and just 12 in the Senate. Also striking is the far-reaching promise to "secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness." The Act fails to mention or acknowledge the contributions of Indigenous people—a clear mistake. We are committed to working with Indigenous Tribes to conserve public lands in Utah and believe that wilderness can protect the history and continuing cultures of Indigenous people.

Particularly in comparison to the congressional gridlock and paralysis that exist today, the 88th Congress was amazingly productive. I witnessed some of that work up close as a Senate page in the summers of 1963 and 1964. In addition to the Wilderness Act, that Congress also passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, and the Economic Opportunity Act, the centerpiece of Johnson's Great Society programs attacking poverty and social injustice.

Obviously, we're in a different time now. Bipartisanship ranges from rare to non-existent. The national wilderness movement has withered, with some national groups downsizing or abandoning this work. Opposition to sensible land conservation and protection efforts, which arose in the Sagebrush Rebellion and Wise Use movements, has hardened.

Getting wilderness bills through Congress is now a very heavy lift. It often seems the only way it can be done is with omnibus bills, which gather support for initiatives across many different states and roll them into a big ball with sufficient momentum to pass Congress. That is how advocates added 2.1 million acres of wilderness across nine states in 2009. The package also created the National Landscape Conservation System and expanded the Wild and Scenic Rivers and National Heritage Area systems.

We repeated that strategy in 2019 with the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act. That measure included land and river conservation protections in a bunch of states, among them Utah. Here, the act designated 663,000 acres of new wilderness and afforded lesser protections to another 217,000 acres in the San Rafael Swell (see article on page 11).



PRESIDENT LYNDON B. JOHNSON SIGNED THE WILDERNESS ACT INTO LAW ON SEPTEMBER 3, 1964, PROTECTING NINE MILLION ACRES OF FEDERAL LAND AND ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION/PHOTOGRAPHER ABBIE ROWE

So, has the wilderness movement run its course? Not as far as we're concerned. SUWA has proved over the years that we are both adept at stopping bad wilderness bills offered by cynical Utah politicians, and at seizing opportunities to expand wilderness when they arise.

We also think this may be an opportune time for revival of the wilderness movement. I wonder if there's a group out there that could lead the effort?

For the Redrock,

Tom Kenworthy
Board Chair

THE UTAH WAY: WHAT'S UP WITH ANTI-WILDERNESS BEEHIVE STATE POLITICIANS?

Much has changed since SUWA set out to protect the canyon country four decades ago. But in this transformed world, one thing has not changed: Utah politicians' mulish animosity toward America's public lands generally, and to wilderness specifically.

Two questions emerge: why are Utah's politicians so relentlessly wrong on environmental issues, and how have wilderness advocates nonetheless done so well in protecting the redrock country?

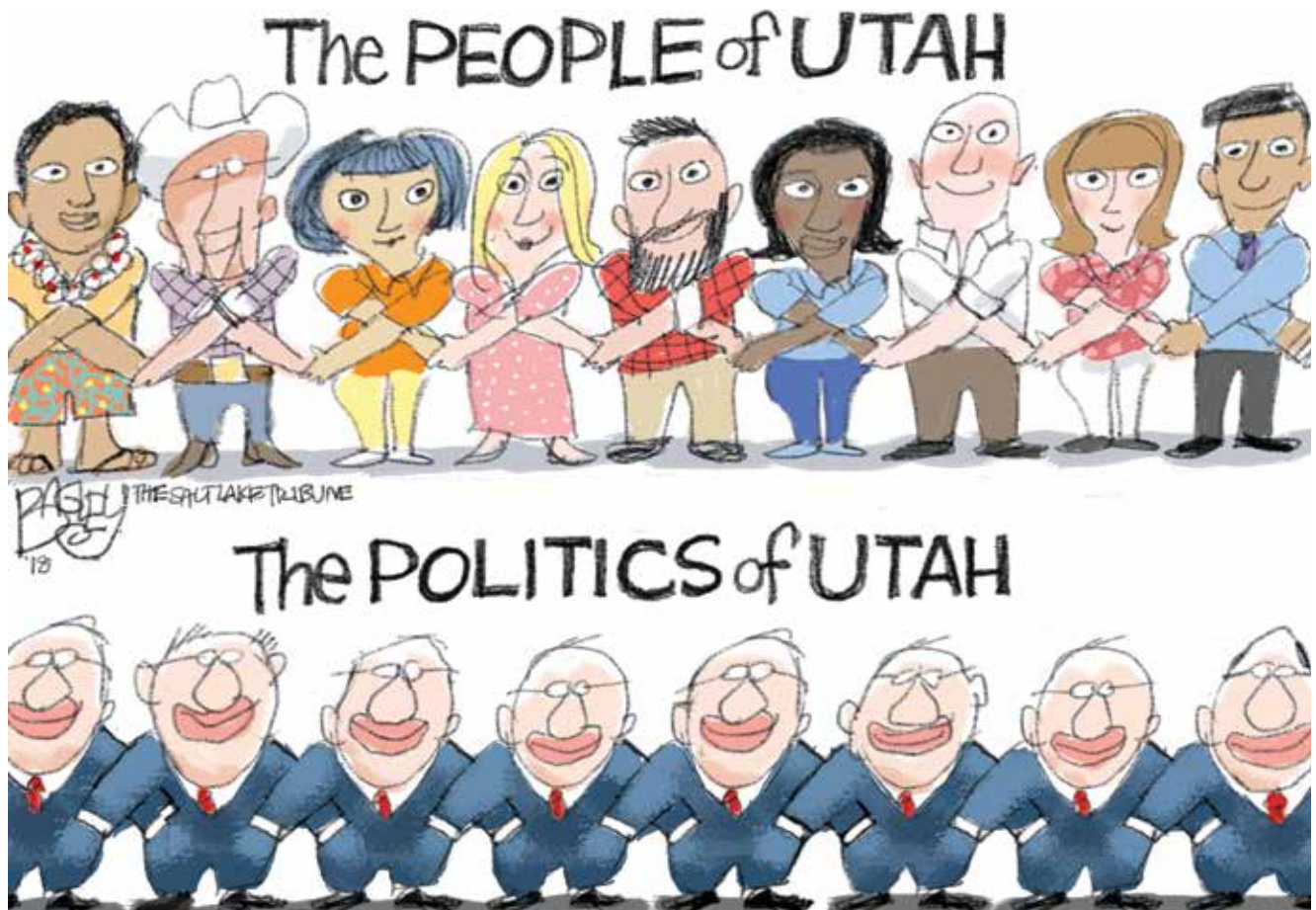
The League of Conservation Voters' score sheet, which shows lifetime voting records, tells us Utah's current members of Congress are marvels of perverse consistency. They vote against the environment at least 90 percent of the time—all but Senator Mitt Romney, that is: he voted the wrong way only 80 percent of the time. The delegation has championed bills intended to diminish wilderness, to block protective rules for public lands, and to repeal

the Antiquities Act (which led to many of the state's great national parks). Utah's members of Congress have voted to sanctify Donald Trump's evisceration of Bears Ears National Monument, and to sell off public lands for private gain.

They have attacked Utah's national monuments repeatedly, arguing that monuments bust economies and cost jobs. In that misguided regard, they ignore what has happened time and time again across the West. Bold conservation measures begin as controversial. In time, everyone acknowledges they were a good idea and moves on. In Utah, this happened with both Arches and Canyonlands National Parks, for example. And many communities long ago adjusted to the fact of Utah's national monuments.

IDEOLOGY TRUMPS COMMUNITY

Utah's politicians love to insist that they act only in local communities' interests. In truth, they act for the com-



munity only insofar as the community agrees with their primitive worldview. If not, communities lose. The Utah legislature has blocked efforts by Salt Lake City to clean its air; stymied county and city efforts to provide affordable housing; and ignored strenuous local objections to allow UTVs (utility terrain vehicles) to tear through our residential streets.

Other examples are like plastic bags on fence lines: they're everywhere. In recent years, Grand County commissioners lobbied the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to close Labyrinth Canyon to motorized vehicles and end the dust, noise, and damage they cause in that area while restoring some recreational balance for those living in or near Moab. But once a Labyrinth plan was finalized, Senator Mike Lee and Representative John Curtis—offering no discussion with the community—promptly introduced legislation to overturn the BLM's decision.

GOVERNANCE BY SPITE

We saw a glimmer of hope in 2023 when the Utah congressional delegation and the Interior Department agreed on a Bears Ears land exchange (a similar trade occurred in Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument). Environmental groups and the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition were on board. The state legislature agreed, and so did Governor Spencer Cox. Senator Mike Lee and Representative John Curtis introduced legislation enshrining the agreement. What could go wrong?

Right-wing elements continued to oppose the bill because it would implicitly recognize that Bears Ears National Monument legally exists. So, in February of this year, Cox and the legislature reversed course and opposed the legislation. Lee and Curtis also bailed. In a perfect example of cutting off one's nose to spite one's face, they claimed that Interior had "signaled" it would release a restrictive draft plan for the monument, and so the politicians were now opposing their own land exchange legislation (see sidebar).

State officials share the delegation's wacky insistence that they can drag southern Utah back to the economies of yesteryear. The governor has long supported litigation intended to seize control of thousands of miles of rights-of-way across public lands for off-road vehicle use, including through designated wilderness and national parks. Relying on an obscure and outdated law known as RS 2477, the state has spent millions of dollars seeking title to over 10,000 routes, some of which are little more than washes or don't exist at all.

COLLAPSE OF THE BEARS EARS LAND EXCHANGE (AT LEAST FOR NOW)

Our national monuments are managed under a mandate for resource protection. In contrast, state trust lands are managed for an economic return to support public education, even though Utah's per student spending ranks close to the bottom nationally. This confluence of facts helps explain why the former state trust lands administrator termed the Bears Ears exchange "a gold mine for the school kids."

So why did Utah politicians torpedo such a gold mine? One Utah state senator explained it succinctly to the *Salt Lake Tribune*: "There's nothing that I like better, and there's nothing Utah likes better than sticking it to the federal government."

We hope this won't be the last word on this important opportunity, but the likelihood of an exchange moving in the near term appears to be low. In the meantime, the State of Utah and others have appealed President Biden's restoration of both Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments. We expect the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals will hear the case later this year.

After more than a decade of litigation, Utah has little to show beyond the resolution of a handful of the claims. At the litigation's current pace, the state will spend millions more on at least another decade of litigation. We offered to discuss a settlement of the cases. "Politically impossible," state officials intoned.

UTAH LEGISLATURE HOLDS ITS OWN

For sheer goofiness, though, our state legislature is a title contender. Legislators like to fulminate and threaten to "take back" public lands. They should consider that the United States acquired from Mexico the lands that are now within Utah (not to mention that they are first and foremost Indigenous lands). They were never Utah's and still aren't. Utah's Enabling Act for statehood declares that Utah "forever disclaim[s] all right and title to the unappropriated public lands lying within the boundaries thereof."

Nonetheless, the legislature passed, and the governor signed, legislation demanding that the United States "return" over 30

(Continued next page)

million acres of public lands or else Utah would file a lawsuit. The U.S. did not “return” the lands and the state did not file such a lawsuit, though the state spent sacks of money on an outside law firm to advise it in such an effort.

Two millennia ago, Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius observed, “That which is not good for the beehive cannot be good for the bees.” But here in the Beehive State, that wisdom has bounced off the impregnable skulls of our politicians. They hurl public money at every bizarre boondoggle aimed at propping up the failing coal, oil, and gas industries.

Utah may trail the nation in funding education, but there’s always money to subsidize a coal shipping port in California or to build the oil and gas companies a new railroad to move fuel from Vernal into Colorado. And the state maintains an entire department of lawyers whose work is to fight sensible public land management, most immediately through the RS 2477 lawsuits.

OUT OF TOUCH WITH CONSTITUENTS

The politicians scurry about trying to outdo each other with this nonsense. But their constituents express a different view—if not electorally, at least intellectually. In mid-February, Colorado College’s State of the Rockies Project released its annual survey of voters, including Utahns. The poll found that among Utah voters:

- 84 percent support creation of new national parks, national monuments, national wildlife refuges, and protected Tribal areas.

- 70 percent prefer that leaders place more emphasis on protecting water, air, wildlife habitat, and recreation opportunities over maximizing the amount of land available for extraction.

- 82 percent think more emphasis should be placed on conserving wildlife migration routes than on new development, roads, ranching, and oil and gas production in those areas.

So what gives? Why are our politicians so irrationally insistent that every acre of our public lands be dammed, drilled, roaded, chained, and mined? Certainly, not all Utah politicians fit this description, but an always-reliable majority does. It is dedicated to shouting down the voices of every state legislator, mayor, and commissioner who supports environmental protection.

Consider Representative Wayne Owens, who represented Salt Lake City and was the first champion for America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act, as well as for the return of wolves to Yellowstone. Later, an infuriated state legislature gerrymandered Salt Lake City into four pieces. That diluted the environmental vote, ensuring that the likes of Wayne Owens would never again be elected to the House.

GETTING TO THE ROOT OF IT

If a single event spawned this current political reality, it happened in 2010, an election year. U.S. Senator Robert Bennett, a political moderate seeking re-election, was humiliated with a third-place finish at the Utah Republican Convention. A small number of delegates ended the

DO AS I SAY, NOT AS I DO

Utah Governor Spencer Cox has made much of his “Disagree Better” campaign: “It’s about disagreeing in the right ways, disagreeing without hating others or tearing them down—attacking ideas and not people.” Easier to do if you refuse to meet with those who might disagree with you. Cox has steadily refused to meet with SUWA from the time he was lieutenant governor to the present day. His administration has also done little to calm the rhetoric when Utah’s right wing politicians are involved.

Consider that Garfield County Commissioner Leland Pollock stood before Utah Attorney General Sean Reyes and Redge Johnson, executive director of the state Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office (PLPCO), at a public meeting and went on a tear against SUWA and other environmentalists. Pollock said, “I call these special interest groups like SUWA and Western Watersheds and the Grand Canyon Trust our al-Qaida . . . They are like our terror cell because they are constantly litigating us. He also called SUWA the “scum of the planet” and added, “These terror organizations like SUWA and all the bad people this is coming from . . . they are running the federal government right now.”

The AG and PLPCO leader listened and said nothing. When informed of the outrageous remarks, the governor also had nothing to say. Disagree better indeed.



Some of what we see politically in Utah mirrors what we see elsewhere in our polarized nation. Anti-fed and anti-public-land lunacy has dominated politics in Utah for a very long time. Utah's is much the purer, more virulent strain of the malady."

18-year Senate career of someone considered willing to compromise.

Bennett's fate persuaded surviving politicians they'd best pander to rural, right-wing officials on public land issues. And they do. That leaves them at variance from most Utahns on environmental issues. But while these issues may not shape the voting behavior of most in Utah, they remain bedrock ideological issues for the state's most extreme right-wingers. And these are the people likeliest to show up in droves at primaries armed with a zeal only self-proclaimed victims can muster. For most Utah races, to win the Republican primary is to win the general election.

Consider this: while Senator Mitt Romney was willing to stand as the lone Republican senator against some of Trump's most egregious acts and utterances, his public land positions echo those of other Utah politicians. For example, he wholeheartedly supported Trump's evisceration of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments.

Do elections, and specifically the Republican primary, really explain the behavior of Utah politicians? Certainly, some elected officials, perhaps residents of cloud cuckoo land, truly believe Utah should seize control of federal land. But that doesn't explain the behavior of others who are still in command of their wits. Why did Governor Cox flip-flop so dramatically on the Bears Ears land exchange?

Perhaps it is because the conversation dragged on into election year 2024, when Cox was faced with right-wing challengers to his re-election? And what of Representative John Curtis? He's no newcomer to extreme positions (such as opposing Utah monuments), yet he seems to have taken an even harder turn recently against public lands. It could be just coincidence. But it could be because he has announced that he will run for the retiring Romney's Senate seat.

Some of what we see politically in Utah mirrors what we see elsewhere in our polarized nation. Anti-fed and anti-public-

land lunacy has dominated politics in Utah for a very long time. Utah's is much the purer, more virulent strain of the malady.

NEVER GIVE UP, NEVER GIVE IN

Whatever feeds, shapes, and distorts Utah politics, it affirms the wisdom of SUWA's founders. They undertook to move wilderness and other public lands issues out of the sole hands of Utah's politicians. They envisioned the long haul and the need to build skills necessary to protect the red-rock, acre by acre, until permanent protection is achieved. They resolved to seek every opportunity to secure that protection, whether administratively or legislatively. And above all else, they vowed to persevere.

This strategy underwent a major test in the mid-90s. A shift in congressional control emboldened the Utah delegation to move legislation opening hundreds of thousands of acres in Utah to development. Veterans of the wilderness movement warned Utah activists that we could not stop a united congressional delegation on wilderness legislation. But we did.

After that epic congressional fight, the Utah delegation spent the next 15 years trying to enact a number of bills aimed at undermining America's Red Rock Wilderness Act. With activists from across the country and the Utah Wilderness Coalition, we have sent more than a dozen of these to the congressional dumpster. Blocking these bills was exhausting and at times terrifying but those challenges helped build our political power. The attacks made the redrock a national issue and set the stage for presidential proclamation of two national monuments and congressional passage of six good bills to protect parts of the canyon country. Key in this were our congressional champions, especially Senator Richard Durbin of Illinois.

Around 9.5 million acres of BLM wild lands are at stake here. We've managed to designate nearly a million acres of Utah's redrock county as wilderness. We've ensured that another 4.5 million acres enjoy some form of protection through management plans, off-road vehicle closures, national monuments, and national conservation areas. These lands still deserve wilderness designation, and we mean to get it.

The plan is working. Politicians come and go. We are still here. For that, we thank our members for their years of trust, support, and activism.

—Scott Groene

A WILDERNESS WEEK FOR THE BOOKS!

Dysfunction and “possible government shutdown” seem to be the words and phrases most associated with the 118th Congress, but our advocacy to protect the redrock stands in sharp contrast: it’s guaranteed, it’s well-organized, and it won’t be stopping anytime soon! In early March, activists from across the country headed to Washington, DC for Wilderness Week to meet with elected officials.

WHAT IS WILDERNESS WEEK?

Long-time SUWA members know that we’ve been sending activists to Washington for over 25 years in partnership with the Utah Wilderness Coalition. The intent of these trips is to grow the number of cosponsors for America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act, federal legislation that would designate over 8 million acres as wilderness in Utah.

Our Red Rock bill champions, Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Representative Melanie Stansbury (D-NM), tell us that regularly hearing from constituents and having meetings with activists sends a clear message to other elected officials: they should cosponsor the Red Rock bill. Building those congressional relationships also prepares us for a quick response when we must block attacks on the bill and the lands it would protect.

Here are some highlights from this year, by the numbers:

- ▶ **One** House staff person suggested we “water the desert” to stop the windborne dust (driven, in part, by off-road vehicle use, grazing, and vegetation removal) that’s coating the Colorado River Basin’s snowpack, melting it faster and earlier.



2024 WILDERNESS WEEK ACTIVISTS AT THE U.S. CAPITOL. © SUWA

- ▶ **Two** full-time SUWA staff are based in Washington, keeping track of everything happening on Capitol Hill (with the help of a very enthusiastic graduate student intern, Amy).
- ▶ **23** Wilderness Weeks is the attendance record now held by Clayton Daughenbaugh, long-time SUWA organizer and now enthusiastic volunteer.
- ▶ **24** states were represented by our redrock activists.
- ▶ **47** activists attended; 20 had been to prior Wilderness Weeks and 27 were attending for the first time.
- ▶ **100-plus** groups comprise the Utah Wilderness Coalition in support of the Red Rock bill.
- ▶ **110** Members of Congress cosponsor the Red Rock bill: 22 in the Senate and 88 in the House, with more expected soon.
- ▶ **Over 190** meetings and office visits were held with elected officials asking them to cosponsor the Red Rock bill.
- ▶ **Over 4,000** postcards from Utahns urging Senator Romney to leave a legacy of protection for Utah’s wild lands were hand-delivered.



UTAH ORGANIZER NICOLE MILAVETZ AND STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR JACK HANLEY HELP DELIVER POSTCARDS SIGNED BY THOUSANDS OF UTAHNS TO SENATOR ROMNEY’S DC OFFICE. © SUWA

Wilderness Week helps remind us that we're part of the national *Protect Wild Utah* movement. It serves as motivation for everyone involved: activists, elected officials, and staff. We hope that includes you too! If you're interested in joining us next year, especially if you live outside of Utah, please contact one of our grassroots organizers (see suwa.org/regionalorganizers). You can also help amplify the voices of our Wilderness Week activists by **texting ARRWA to 52886** and asking your members of Congress to cosponsor America's Red Rock Wilderness Act!

—Grant Stevens

THE SAN RAFAEL SWELL WILDERNESS BILL FIVE YEARS LATER

On March 12th we marked the fifth anniversary of the passage of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act! The Emery County part of the bill, which designated 663,000 acres of wilderness in the San Rafael Swell and Labyrinth Canyon, stands as the single biggest conservation victory for Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands in Utah.

But as we've learned from past victories, the hard work continues after a bill is enacted. Multi-year inventories and

planning processes must be completed, and agency staff must often learn how to manage wilderness. Along with other elements, public education is a critical component of wilderness implementation. Ensuring that wilderness remains wild forever is a challenge that continues far beyond designation.

SUWA has been fully engaged with the BLM since the San Rafael Swell wilderness bill passed to ensure that new management decisions align with both the legislative intent and the Wilderness Act. Shortly after the bill's enactment, we worked with other stakeholders to provide the agency mapping information to correct wilderness boundary errors. We continue to help with on-the-ground boundary delineation—a critical first step to ensure that these areas are not damaged by illegal off-road vehicle use or other uses incompatible with wilderness integrity. And we are also involved in the BLM's work to amend its existing land management plan to reflect the new wilderness designations.

All told, the San Rafael Swell wilderness bill was a tremendous step forward for wilderness conservation in Utah, and we—SUWA's members and staff—should all be proud to have played a part in making sure the legislation was worthy of our support. The fruit of all that labor is the assurance that the San Rafael Swell and Labyrinth Canyon will remain wild for generations to come.

—Neal Clark



PASSED IN 2019, THE SAN RAFAEL SWELL LEGISLATION DESIGNATED 663,000 ACRES OF WILDERNESS IN THE SAN RAFAEL SWELL AND LABYRINTH CANYON. IT REMAINS THE SINGLE BIGGEST CONSERVATION VICTORY FOR BLM LANDS IN UTAH. © RAY BLOXHAM/SUWA

BLM RELEASES PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVES FOR SAN RAFAEL SWELL TRAVEL PLAN

Over the past year, the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Labyrinth Canyon/Gemini Bridges travel plan and legal challenges to it have dominated SUWA's work to protect redrock country from destructive motorized impacts. This work now continues elsewhere throughout southern and eastern Utah. The agency must still complete eight more travel plans across several million acres of BLM-managed lands; plans which will determine where motorized vehicles are allowed and where they are not.

Up next is the travel plan for the San Rafael Swell. One of Utah's most treasured landscapes, the Swell features soaring redrock cliffs, sinuous canyons, and prominent buttes. It contains irreplaceable cultural sites that reflect thousands of years of human history and provides significant habitat for desert bighorn sheep, pronghorn, and Mexican spotted owls, among other species. The Swell also encompasses newly designated wilderness areas and the San Rafael Swell Recreation Area (see article on page 11). In total, the planning area is over 1 million acres.

The area is a haven for hikers, backpackers, river runners, climbers, bikers, photographers, campers, and other visitors. The travel plan will play a major role in shaping the region's future.

The BLM recently released preliminary alternatives for the plan. The preliminary alternatives reflect different travel networks the agency intends to analyze as part of its draft environmental assessment. While there is not a formal public comment period on the preliminary alternatives, they give us an idea of what the agency is considering. We expect that BLM will release a draft travel plan and accompanying environmental assessment later this spring and will announce a 30-day public comment period.

In the Swell, as elsewhere in the redrock, the agency must strike a balance. It should ensure access to trailheads, scenic overlooks and diverse recreation opportunities while also protecting the very reason people want to visit remote places: to enjoy their unspoiled beauty and quiet. The agency is charged by law with minimizing the damage motorized vehicles cause to cultural sites, riparian areas, wildlife habitat, soils and vegetation. It must also minimize conflicts between different resource users.

At this time, the only preliminary alternative that strikes that necessary balance is Alternative B. Stay tuned for opportunities to make your voice heard in this process.

—*Laura Peterson*



THE BLM IS EXPECTED TO RELEASE A DRAFT TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE POPULAR SAN RAFAEL SWELL AREA LATER THIS SPRING; A 30-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD WILL FOLLOW. © RAY BLOXHAM/SUWA

DEFENDING THE LABYRINTH CANYON TRAVEL PLAN

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) released its final travel management plan for the Labyrinth Canyon/Gemini Bridges area outside of Moab last September (see autumn/winter 2023 issue, page 6) and, as expected, it immediately came under attack.

SUWA thinks the plan is a crucial step forward in the management of this remarkable area. It strikes a thoughtful balance between motorized and non-motorized recreation, closing destructive motorized routes along the Green River and in side canyons where off-road vehicles (ORVs) have caused well-documented damage to riparian resources and cultural sites.

Several ORV groups and the State of Utah challenged the plan. They are somehow unsatisfied with the more than 800 miles of routes in the Labyrinth area and thousands more in the greater Moab area that remain open to motorized vehicles.

These opponents appealed the plan to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA), seeking a stay to block the agency's implementation of the plan. SUWA intervened in the appeal in defense of the plan and in opposition to a stay. The IBLA swiftly denied the petition, finding that the challengers would not suffer the type of "irreparable harm" necessary to warrant a stay.

Next, two ORV groups and an individual withdrew their administrative appeal and filed a lawsuit in federal district court. They sought an emergency injunction, again seeking to prevent the BLM from implementing the Labyrinth Canyon travel plan. SUWA also successfully intervened in the federal lawsuit in support of the plan and in opposition to the ORV groups' request for an emergency injunction.

A federal district judge heard oral arguments in February. The plan's challengers must meet an exacting four-part test to get their injunction. Among other things, they must show that they are likely to succeed on the merits of their lawsuit and that they will suffer immediate and irreparable harm as the lawsuit proceeds without the injunction. We are awaiting the judge's decision and remain confident that this plan will withstand judicial scrutiny. Meanwhile, the travel plan is in effect and visitors can finally enjoy the



LABYRINTH CANYON. © TOM TILL

sights and peace of Labyrinth Canyon without the dust and noise emanating from ORVs.

We will be there at every step of these proceedings to make sure that the Labyrinth Canyon protection endures.

—Laura Peterson

STATE AGENCY AIMS TO LOCATE GIANT TOWER INSIDE BEARS EARS

The San Juan County Planning Commission has approved a conditional use permit for a 460-foot telecommunication tower within Bears Ears National Monument. The proposal calls for building the tower on state land managed by the Utah Trust Lands Administration (TLA) off of Utah Highway 95 near its junction with Utah Highway 275, which leads to the entrance to Natural Bridges National Monument. SUWA learned of the decision in February.

The tower, with its red blinking lights at the top and mid-point, would be visible throughout much of Bears Ears and Natural Bridges National Monuments. President Theodore Roosevelt designated Natural Bridges as Utah's first

(Continued next page)

national monument in 1908. Compounding the scheme's absurdity is the fact that in 2007 the International Dark-Sky Association certified Natural Bridges as the first-ever International Dark Sky Park. Current zoning for the parcel limits tower height to 35 feet. A 460-foot tower would be 10 feet higher than the tallest building in the State of Utah: the Astra Tower, now under construction in downtown Salt Lake City.

Because the proposal conflicts wildly with current zoning—roughly 13 times the current limit—it now heads to the full San Juan County Commission for a variance determination. (The commission may have already acted by the time this issue of *Redrock Wilderness* reaches you.) If the commission approves the variance, the project will also require approvals from the TLA and the Federal Communications Commission.

Had the proposed Bear Ears Land Exchange succeeded (see sidebar on page 7), ownership of this parcel would have shifted to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), which would have rejected the tower application as it

is inconsistent with proper management of Bears Ears National Monument. To our knowledge, neither the TLA nor the project proponent consulted with the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, Tribal Nations, or the National Park Service.

The Salt Lake Tribune

Proposed tower in Bears Ears would eclipse Utah's tallest building

This proposal showcases the TLA's shortsighted management of its lands throughout Utah. Bears Ears and Natural Bridges

National Monuments encompass some of the most stunning and culturally important landscapes in the country. Defiling the scenic beauty, cultural sites, and dark night skies of these areas with such invasive development shows a lack of long-term vision and common sense on the part of the TLA. We hope that the San Juan County commission will come to this realization as well and will deny the variance. SUWA intends to fight this project and will keep you informed if it moves forward.

—Neal Clark

DRAFT PLAN RELEASED FOR BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT

In early March, the much-anticipated draft of the Bears Ears National Monument Management Plan was released. A remarkable 1.3-million-acre landscape, Bears Ears was created in 2016 and restored to its original boundaries in 2021; this new plan is an opportunity to ensure that the monument is managed for its unique and extraordinary values, and in collaboration with the Five Tribes of the Bears Ears Commission.

SUWA staff have begun reviewing the plan, which includes five possible alternatives. As of publication, dates for public meetings (hosted by federal agencies) have not yet been announced, though we expect one to be held in Salt Lake City as well as in southern Utah, northern Arizona, and on the Navajo Nation. Public comments are due by Tuesday, June 11th. We'll share additional updates and a future advocacy action by email, on social media, and on our website (suwa.org/bears). Be on the lookout!

PIÑON-JUNIPER DEFORESTATION RAMPANT IN THE BOOK CLIFFS

The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) Vernal field office is on a vegetation removal rampage, proposing two projects to remove piñon and juniper trees from over 19,000 acres in the Book Cliffs in northeastern Utah. Under the guise of restoring habitat for mule deer and sage grouse, in some areas the agency would bring in heavy machinery to masticate up to 100 percent of the trees.

The Bitter Creek Sagebrush Restoration project proposes to remove over 11,000 acres of piñon and juniper trees. Almost the entire project area is within lands the BLM has identified as having wilderness characteristics, including the Bitter Creek, Sweetwater, Cripple Cowboy, Hells Hole, Rat Hole, and Dragon Canyon units. The project is in its early planning stages, so we don't yet have an environmental analysis. But we have some history, and it is not reassuring. Recent adjacent projects have removed piñon-juniper forests across tens of thousands of acres. The cumulative impacts of all this deforestation could be lethal for forest-dependent species such as pinyon jay, recently proposed for protection under the Endangered Species Act.



THE BLM'S PROPOSED BITTER CREEK SAGEBRUSH RESTORATION PROJECT WOULD REMOVE OVER 11,000 ACRES OF PIÑON AND JUNIPER TREES. ALMOST THE ENTIRE PROJECT AREA IS WITHIN LANDS THE BLM ITSELF HAS IDENTIFIED AS WILDERNESS-QUALITY, INCLUDING THE BITTER CREEK PROPOSED WILDERNESS ABOVE. © RAY BLOXHAM/SUWA

A little further west, the South Book Cliffs Sagebrush Restoration project would remove over 8,000 acres of piñon and juniper trees, including in the Wolf Point proposed wilderness, which lies directly adjacent to the Winter Ridge Wilderness Study Area. The BLM first proposed this project in 2022 using a Trump-era rule which categorically excluded piñon-juniper removal projects spanning up to 10,000 acres from the usual detailed environmental analysis and public oversight. SUWA challenged the BLM's use of a categorical exclusion for this project and a court-approved settlement later required the BLM to abandon the piñon-juniper rule. The agency must now conduct environmental reviews of, and seek public comment on, piñon-juniper removal projects.

Accordingly, in 2023, the BLM prepared an environmental assessment on the South Book Cliffs project. Our extensive comments detailed the agency's failure to analyze impacts on a range of important resources, including lands with wilderness characteristics, naturally occurring piñon-juniper woodlands, bird and wildlife species and their habitats, and soils (including cryptobiotic soils). We are currently awaiting a decision.

We're keeping a close eye on these and other projects and will be sure to share updates in future issues.

—*Judi Brawer*

A SEAT AT THE TABLE FOR UTAH'S NATIVE FORESTS

As SUWA members know, preserving native dryland forests and woodlands is an important part of our work to protect lands in America's Red Rock Wilderness Act.

These forests, primarily composed of piñon pine and juniper trees, are tremendously important in preserving biodiversity, ensuring climate resilience, and protecting well-functioning native ecosystems on America's remaining wild lands.

On Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands across the arid West, however, these mixed-conifer woodlands have long been the targets of large-scale deforestation efforts, primarily due to their lack of inherent value to western agriculture and ranching practices. We have fought and prevailed against many deforestation projects throughout SUWA's history, and in recent years have worked to build relationships and open early conversations regarding proposed vegetation management in wilderness-quality lands.

Utah's Watershed Restoration Initiative (WRI)—coordinated by the Utah Department of Natural Resources—is a

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partnership of public and private entities created to “improve high priority watersheds throughout the state.” Since 2006, WRI has channeled hundreds of millions of dollars toward vegetation management projects on more than 2.5 million acres of public, state, and private lands throughout Utah. Many of these projects include the large-scale removal of piñon-juniper forests.

Because WRI’s ability to pool resources has inarguably increased the number and scale of vegetation projects on BLM-managed public lands in Utah since its inception—including on lands proposed for wilderness—we became actively involved in the partnership several years ago.

The nature, scale, and scope of potential WRI projects varies widely—from removing invasive species like tamarisk and Russian olive in riparian corridors and restoring aspen in overgrazed areas, to large-scale chaining or mechanical mastication of piñon-juniper woodlands and sagebrush shrublands. By participating as interested parties at the early stage of project planning we are able to gain insight into some of what drives these projects, ask questions, and make suggestions to help bolster their ecological credibility.

In addition, SUWA’s involvement allows us to continue to build relationships with land managers and other nonprofits, and to share our perspectives on ecosystem health and restoration. By doing so, we are able to directly advocate for the most scientifically-defensible, conservation-focused projects that do, in fact, improve Utah’s watersheds, and thus better protect wild lands from harmful activities now and in the future.

—*Kya Marienfeld*

BLM UPDATING SOLAR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE WEST

Earlier this year, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) released its draft Western Utility-Scale Solar Energy Development Plan. Known as the Western Solar Plan, it is intended to update the 2012 Solar Development Plan and expand the availability of utility-scale solar development on BLM-managed lands in eleven western states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

The plan is not intended to approve or deny specific solar projects. Rather, it will determine which lands are open to solar energy development and what design features future solar projects will be required to have in order to minimize adverse impacts.

The BLM predicts that approximately 700,000 acres of BLM-managed lands will be developed for renewable energy by 2045, with about 39,000 of those acres in Utah. Thus, each of the draft plan’s five action alternatives are designed to meet this acreage estimate with plenty of room to grow on both the national and state levels.

The BLM’s preferred alternative, Alternative 3, would only allow solar energy development in areas within 10 miles of transmission lines, on lands with less than a 10 percent slope, and outside of all resource-based exclusion areas, such as wilderness or critical wildlife habitat. With these restrictions in place, approximately 22 million acres will be available nationally, with 3.7 million acres available in Utah. Unfortunately, the lands open under Alternative 3 overlap with



UNDER THE WESTERN SOLAR PLAN, PARTS OF THE PRICE RIVER PROPOSED WILDERNESS, PICTURED ABOVE, MAY BE OPEN TO SOLAR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT. © RAY BLOXHAM/SUWA

LILA CANYON COAL MINE CLOSES

The contentious Lila Canyon coal mine, located on the western slopes of the Book Cliffs between the towns of Price and Green River, has been permanently closed.

Following an extensive fire in 2022, the mine operator was forced to close the mine. The operator then spent months and tens of millions of dollars putting out the fire -- only to learn that all the mining equipment (worth roughly \$250 million) was underwater and beyond repair.

SUWA spent over a decade fighting the Lila Canyon mine (both the construction of the mine itself and the leasing of the coal) before eventually losing a close decision at the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals in 2010. The mine was the state's leading coal producer before being shut down.

nearly 400,000 acres of land proposed for wilderness designation in America's Red Rock Wilderness Act.

To be clear, SUWA supports the urgent and necessary transition to renewable energy, but it shouldn't come at the expense of Utah's wildest lands. Therefore, SUWA is advocating for Alternative 5, which takes the lands open for development in Alternative 3 and further limits such development to previously disturbed lands. That leaves 8.3 million acres open to solar development nationally and 1.5 million acres open in Utah. Most importantly, there is very little overlap between lands open in Alternative 5 and those proposed for wilderness designation. And, with minor modifications to this alternative, there will be no conflict between wilderness-quality lands in Utah and solar energy development.

Stay tuned for updates and help us show support for Alternative 5 by submitting a public comment to the BLM by April 18th (visit [suwa.org](https://www.suwa.org) to learn more).

—Hanna Larsen

STEWARDSHIP 2024: NEW SEASON, FAMILIAR PLACES

SUWA's Stewardship Program, now in its 9th season, offers service-learning opportunities that allow individuals to experience firsthand the public lands SUWA is working with members and supporters to protect. We're pleased to announce that our 2024 season is now underway, with more projects and increased opportunities for volunteers to spend time on some of Utah's most magnificent landscapes.



STEWARDSHIP VOLUNTEERS IN THE NOTCH PEAK WILDERNESS STUDY AREA. © SUWA

Our early season projects guide us through the canyons of Moab and the plateaus of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, then onto the badlands of the Dirty Devil region, the remote wilderness study areas of the West Desert, and destinations in between.

We are again prioritizing national monuments, spending nearly eight weeks of project time in Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears. We will run three- to five-day projects with local land managers on work that ranges from off-route vehicle impact restoration to cultural surveys.

Now that our new schedule has been posted, we encourage you to review our project offerings and submit your applications. In 2024, we will limit each applicant to two project selections to ensure the greatest diversity of participants. If you have any questions, please reach out at volunteer@suwa.org or visit [suwa.org/stewardship](https://www.suwa.org/stewardship) for more information.

—Jeremy Lynch

HAPPY RETIREMENT TO ORGANIZING DIRECTOR CLAYTON DAUGHENBAUGH!

If there is a single watchword at SUWA, it is “organizing.” We lost a master of it in December when Organizing Director Clayton Daughenbaugh retired.

As we say goodbye to him, gratitude for all he has done for the redrock competes with sadness at his leaving. The son of a Methodist preacher and an heir apparent to organizing genius Saul Alinsky, Clayton has been a warrior for political change. He wrote the book on organizing, quite literally: *Common Sense Democracy: How to Complete the American Revolution in Your Neighborhood*.

It was our great good fortune that after his time organizing against redlining (a discriminatory zoning practice) in Chicago, he took on the challenge of protecting the redrock wilderness. More than anyone else, Clayton was responsible for persuading Illinois Senator Richard Durbin to become our Senate redrock champion in 1997. His ability to form networks of tenacious activists was—and remains—exceptional. More than one Senate staffer has remarked on the

extraordinary constituent outcry the office experienced due to Clayton’s organizing efforts.

Clayton joined the SUWA staff in 2006. A clear, careful, and analytical thinker, he developed many of our arguments for protecting Utah wilderness, including its role in mitigating climate change. He considered things in big-picture contexts and always asked tough questions.

Despite being based far from the canyon country, Clayton’s dedication to Utah wilderness knew no bounds. When he wasn’t traveling the Midwest spreading the gospel of America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act, he worked from his attic in Berwyn, IL (without air conditioning, as we noticed on Zoom calls).

As if single-handedly trying to keep Amtrak afloat, he took the train everywhere it ran, no matter how long the journey, continuing his work in transit. And when he landed at our Salt Lake City office, he slept in the attic, on a cot reserved for him.

We will miss much about Clayton, from that Chicago accent to his terrible food choices and extraordinary fashion decisions. But we’ll miss him mainly because he’s just a damned good person. If there’s any solace in his retirement, it is the certainty that his work will endure. Clayton mentored many organizers over the last 25 years (including 17 at SUWA) who continue to work for a better planet. That is a legacy beyond price.

Thank you, Clayton. We wish you the very best!

CHRIS RICCARDO BRINGS EXPERIENCE AND PASSION TO MIDWEST ORGANIZING WORK

We are happy to report that Chris Riccardo of Chicago has joined the SUWA staff following the December retirement of Organizing Director (and long-time Midwest Organizer) Clayton Daughenbaugh.

In Chris, we have found an experienced, excited, and committed successor to Clayton. Chris has long been an advocate for Utah’s redrock and is a regular visitor to its wild places. He has led service trips in the backcountry of Utah and will continue to do so as a SUWA staff member. Chris’s career abounds in environmental activism. He has



WE WISH OUR COLLEAGUE, FRIEND, AND MENTOR CLAYTON DAUGHENBAUGH A WONDERFUL RETIREMENT. HE WILL BE MISSED AT SUWA!



CHRIS RICCARDO IS SUWA'S ENTHUSIASTIC NEW MIDWEST ORGANIZER. PLEASE REACH OUT IF YOU LIVE IN THE REGION AND WANT TO GET MORE INVOLVED.

worked with Chicago's Shedd Aquarium and the Urban Rivers organization (also Chicago based), installing floating wetlands on the Chicago River.

Chris was the Illinois representative for the 2023 Wilderness Week in Washington, DC and led participants in meetings with many members of the Illinois congressional delegation. Those visits resulted in many new cosponsors for America's Red Rock Wilderness Act. He will continue to work with wilderness advocates across the Midwest to make sure that our message reaches congressional offices, administration officials, and new activists for wilderness protection.

If you're a Midwesterner who wants to get involved, Chris is eager to hear from you. You can reach him at chris@suwa.org.

Welcome, Chris! We are glad to have you on the team.

LEXI HAGER GROWS SUWA'S DIGITAL PRESENCE

SUWA is pleased to introduce Lexi Hager as our new digital engagement specialist based in the Salt Lake City office. Since starting late last year, Lexi has dived into a mix of projects. She's managing (and increasing) SUWA's social media channels, learning about our various online platforms and digital advertising opportunities, and helping to produce more content for our members and supporters.

Lexi comes to us with a background in creative storytelling and design. She's been developing new graphics, updating and refreshing materials that had spent

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KENNA AMONGERO SUPERCHARGES SLC ORGANIZING

Kenna Amongero, SUWA's Utah outreach intern, joined our organizing team in September and has since fostered love and protection for the redrock wherever she could find an audience. She has staffed outreach tables around the state while also spending time in the backcountry restoring damaged recreation sites as a Stewardship Program volunteer.

Over the past six months, Kenna has tallied nearly 8,000 postcards written to legislators, delivered yard signs across 50 miles of Salt Lake County, educated local activists on the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument draft management plan, quizzed BLM staffers on their definition of substantive public comments, and co-created a conservation leadership initiative to increase grassroots activism in Utah.

Kenna also joined us in Washington, DC this March for Wilderness Week, lobbying members of Congress in support of America's Red Rock Wilderness Act. We are grateful for all her help!

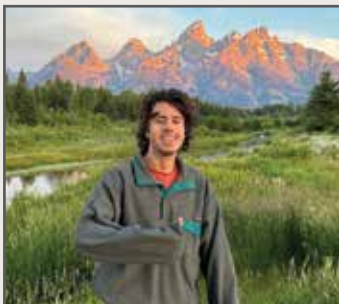


THANKS TO CALI OUTREACH INTERN REED OCHALEK

In January, our West Coast Organizer Jenny Holmes was pleased to welcome Reed Ochalek as our first California outreach intern. Reed is helping us connect with activists in some of the state's key congressional districts.

Through tabling and presentations, Reed engages with student and environmental groups with the goal of building more congressional support for America's Red Rock Wilderness Act and pro-wilderness administrative actions. He also flew to Washington, DC to participate in our 2024 Wilderness Week.

A student at the University of California Santa Barbara, Reed's undergraduate study is focused on Economics and Environmental Studies as he sets his sights on law school. On weekends he does outdoor guiding and serves with the Santa Barbara Urban Creeks Council. As his internship winds down, we thank him for his help in expanding awareness and support for redrock wilderness in the Golden State!



LEXI BRINGS FRESH IDEAS AND CREATIVE SKILLS TO SUWA'S COMMUNICATIONS TEAM.

a little too long in the sun, and working on many others projects you'll see rolling out in the next few months (both online and in print). Her upbeat attitude, creativity, and enthusiasm for breaking down complicated topics into digestible bites (no easy task in our world) has made her a great addition to the communications team.

Lexi joined SUWA after running her own contract design company. She also worked as a program specialist at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, where she focused on New Mexico and the Southwest. She grew up in Albuquerque and attended California College of the Arts, eventually making her way to Utah, where she fell in love with both the magic of the redrock and snowboarding in the Wasatch. When she's not at work, you can find her on long walks with her husky, exploring the Salt Lake Valley's food scene, or considering whether to become an urban beekeeper (is the honey worth the potential stings?). Welcome, Lexi!

MEGAN FORNELIUS JOINS SUWA'S ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

The cheerful voice you'll hear when calling SUWA's main office is that of Megan Fornelius, our new administrative associate. She also responds to email inquiries, processes donations, helps our administrative director with meeting and event logistics, and manages the charitable giving registrations required of nonprofits in more than 40 states, a major task. On top of all this, she keeps the office lively and the neighborhood squirrels well fed.

Megan lives in Sandy, Utah, with her partner, Gino, and cat, Phoebe. Born and raised in Salt Lake City, she was exposed at an early age to the amazing natural landscapes that Utah has to offer and frequently camped and explored with her family. Fun fact: she once worked at a pet bakery, helping create fancy treats for our four-legged friends.

Megan joined SUWA last fall, just before the administrative team's year-end crunch season. She was up to speed in no time. When she's not at the office, you'll most likely find her with a book or a microphone in hand (staff karaoke, anyone?). She's a wonderful addition to the team and we're fortunate to have her. Welcome, Megan!

SUWA WELCOMES KELLY BURNHAM AS MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

SUWA's new membership coordinator is Kelly Burnham, who joined our Salt Lake City staff on Halloween, just as the development team was bracing for its busiest season. She rose to the challenge, learning her way around a complex database and serving as a one-woman shipping department in December and January.

Among other things, Kelly answers your membership questions and mails out donation acknowledgement letters and SUWA merchandise. She is also planning some fun membership events for 2024, so stay tuned!

Kelly earned a degree in environmental science and geography from the University of Utah. In the process, this native of Anchorage, Alaska unexpectedly fell in love with Utah's dry desert air and beautiful redrock country. She runs to the desert every chance she gets, enjoying everything from crack climbing, topping out on desert towers, squeezing through slot canyons, running rivers, and photographing Utah's otherworldly geography.

Kelly lives in Cottonwood Heights, Utah, with her partner Karac, their pups Stryder and Daisy (who also work as greeters at our Salt Lake City office), and a cat named Juniper. We welcome Kelly, her energy, and her innovative ideas.



MEGAN IS THE FRIENDLY VOICE AND WELCOMING SMILE OF SUWA'S SALT LAKE CITY OFFICE.



KELLY'S LOVE FOR THE OUTDOORS FUELS HER WORK IN SUPPORT OF SUWA'S MISSION AND MEMBERSHIP.

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



© RAY BLOXHAM/SUWA

SOME SIMPLE STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO LEAVE A LASTING REDROCK LEGACY

Bequests and other legacy donations have become increasingly important in our work to protect wild Utah. In recent years, gifts from SUWA members' estates have made possible our Stewardship Program and several new positions on our legal, wildlands, and grassroots organizing teams. Thanks to legacy gifts, these new SUWA staff members can focus full-time on protecting and defending the redrock.

Fortunately, supporting SUWA beyond your lifetime can be as straightforward as a few clicks. While adding a bequest to a will or a trust is a wonderful way to leave a legacy, we understand that it can sometimes be a complex process. That's why we're excited to share with you some easy, alternative ways to make a significant impact.

- **Beneficiary Designations on Investment Accounts:** Consider naming the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance as a beneficiary on your IRAs or other retirement plans. This straightforward process usually just requires a simple form from your financial institution.
- **Life Insurance Policies:** You can also choose to name the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy. This is an easy way to make a meaningful contribution without altering your current financial planning.
- **Payable on Death (POD) or Transfer on Death (TOD) Accounts:** Setting up POD or TOD arrangements on your brokerage, savings, or checking accounts allows these assets to be transferred directly to the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance upon your passing and is a very easy process.

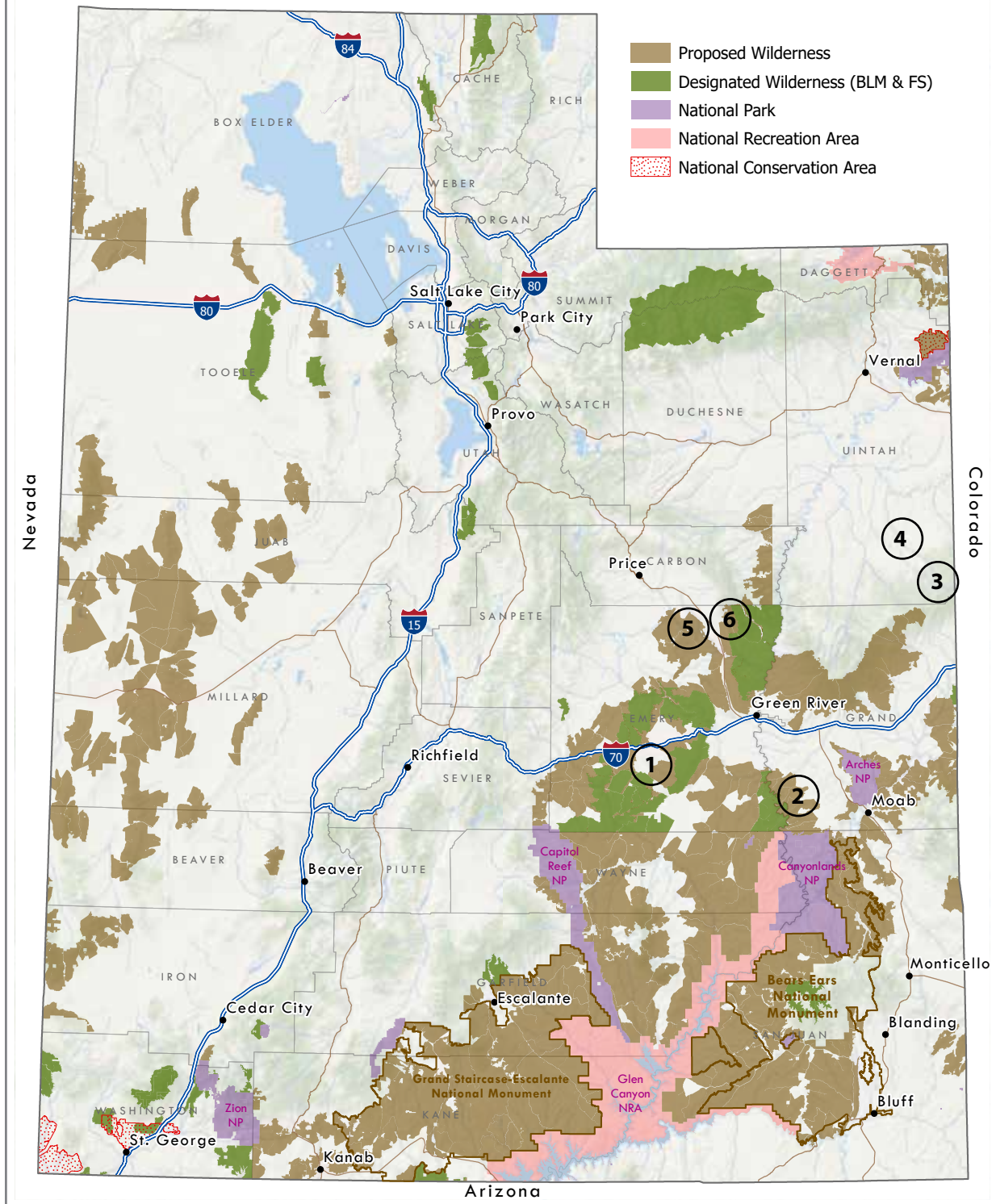
To name SUWA in your retirement plan, life insurance policy, will, or trust, you simply need the dollar amount or percent of your estate you wish to contribute, as well as the following information:

Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
425 East 100 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84111
Tax ID Number: 94-2936961
Contact: Heather Rose Martinez, (801) 428-3971

The lands we defend stand not just as monuments to nature's grandeur, but equally as monuments to your dedication to the enduring value of wild places. Your support, no matter the method, ensures our continued success. That success, in turn, ensures that future generations will be able to experience the beauty and solitude that we treasure in the canyon country. If you have questions about any of the above, please reach out to Development Associate Heather Rose Martinez at (801) 428-3971 or by emailing heather@suwa.org.

America's Red Rock Wilderness Act

A People's Wilderness Proposal for Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Lands in Utah



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| 3 Bitter Creek (p. 15) | 6 Lila Canyon (p. 17) |



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SPRING BLOOM AT FACTORY BUTTE PROPOSED WILDERNESS. © NEIL ESCHENFELDER