

JOINING HANDS FOR PUBLIC LANDS

Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
2017 Annual Report

SUWA
SOUTHERN UTAH WILDERNESS ALLIANCE



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Secretary
Zinke
PLEASE
LEAVE OUR
MONUMENTS
ALONE

HONOR
THE
ANTIQUITIES
ACT
Teddy Roosevelt
— Republican —



UTAH STANDS WITH
BEARS
WITH BEARS



BEARS EARS
MONUMENT
PROTECTED
- DECEMBER 28, 2016 -



UTAH
STANDS WITH
BEARS EARS



INTRODUCTION

SCOTT GROENE

Executive Director

2017 WAS A ROUGH YEAR FOR THE REDROCK COUNTRY.

- President Trump launched the worst attack on America's public lands in history, rolling back protection for nearly 2 million acres of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments.
- Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke led a rampage of gutting the regulations that protect our lands, rivers, and oceans.
- Utah's politicians, guided by Senator Orrin Hatch and Representative Rob Bishop, took advantage of the 2016 election to try to seize control of our public lands to benefit the energy industry, off-road vehicle users, industrial tourism, and livestock grazing. They've introduced horrible legislation and held kangaroo court hearings to bully those favoring conservation.

And yet not one acre of the monuments has been lost to development. The attacks on Bears Ears and Grand Staircase can be undone. *And they will be.*

Through the support of you, our members, we know the land better than anyone and work constantly to defend it on the ground, in the courts, and in Congress. We're reaching out to new constituencies, working with volunteers to restore the land, and organizing citizens locally and nationally. We've toured the redrock with our lead congressional champions, and they are ready to fight. With friends and allies, we've organized protests and rallies of the likes never seen before in Utah.

Utahns and Americans across the nation have responded to this corrupt Trump administration with a readiness to resist. As 2017 ended, your passion, energy, and support has shown us that the movement to protect the Redrock wilderness is stronger than ever.

There is nothing easy about this extraordinary time. But Trump will not last forever. The future of the Redrock wilderness rests with those of us who love it. This is our time. This is the time for SUWA.

Street rally in support of Utah Monuments, Salt Lake City / Photo by Terri Martin

LEGAL TEAM

Monument Fight

As 2017 came to a close we saw the once unthinkable unfold before our eyes. Following months of closed-door meetings between Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, Utah's congressional delegation, and state and local politicians, President Trump flew to Salt Lake City on December 4th to announce his decision to dismantle both Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears National Monuments. In his brief three-hour trip to Utah, Trump presided over a grotesque ceremony where he signed orders doing away with protection for more than two million acres of federal public land in the heart of Utah's redrock wilderness. A hand-picked crowd of

anti-monument forces cheered as Trump signed San Juan County Commissioner Bruce Adams' plastic cowboy hat and mugged for the camera.

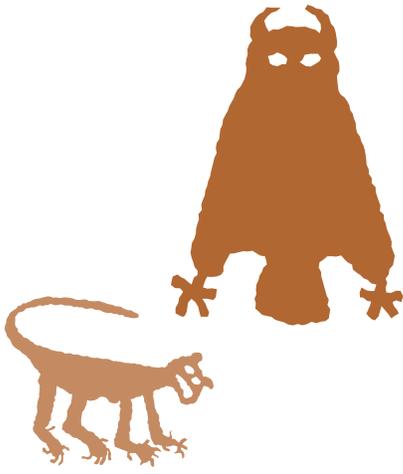
Trump's plane had barely taken off for Washington, D.C. before we filed our first lawsuit challenging his unlawful actions over the Grand Staircase-Escalante. Before the day was over, a total of three lawsuits were filed challenging the president's actions over Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears. Over the next few days that number would grow to five separate suits, including two filed by SUWA and our conservation partners.

In the 100+ year history of the Antiquities Act, no president has tried to so thoroughly destroy a national monument like President Trump has attempted to do here. Over that same period there have been roughly 20 instances in which a president has diminished a national monument,

though in all but a few of those cases the acreage at issue was relatively small (hundreds to thousands of acres) and non-controversial. None of those actions were challenged in federal court. As such, the legal issues, including whether the president has the authority under the Antiquities Act to diminish a national monument, are novel and untested. We have the better of this argument and are confident that the federal courts will agree that Congress' grant of authority to establish a national monument is one-way only and does not come with the implied power to rescind or diminish a previously established monument.

Trump's unlawful actions will be reviled as one of the most significant assaults on America's rich legacy of protecting federal public lands in our nation's history. SUWA's team of attorneys are working hard every day to bring about a swift and speedy end to this unprecedented attack on Utah's redrock wilderness.





LEGAL/ISSUES TEAM

STEVE BLOCH

Legal Director

LONDON NEWELL

Staff Attorney

JOE BUSHYHEAD

Staff Attorney

LAURA PETERSON

Staff Attorney

CREED MURDOCK

GIS Analyst

Valley of the Gods / Photo by James Kay



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument / Photo by Tim Peterson



WILDLANDS TEAM

Eyes on the Ground

It was early October 2017, and staff from SUWA's Wildlands Program were in the field monitoring off-road vehicle use in Utah's remote Deep Creek Mountains. The range is a designated wilderness study area (WSA) and was the subject of a 2013 settlement between SUWA and its conservation partners, the State of Utah, and Juab County, which defined future motorized use and maintenance on motorized routes in and around the WSA. As our associates rounded a corner, they were surprised by an abundance of orange flagging along the route. Flagging in this remote region is an alarming site, but alarm turned to outrage as they realized significant surface disturbance, both widening and grading, had occurred on an existing "way" inside the WSA. The work was so recent that the road grader was still on-site.

This is absolutely illegal. The local BLM field office manager blatantly disregarded the settlement agreement and decided that it was well within his authority to "maintain" the primitive route in the WSA. Worse still, this wasn't the only route in his crosshairs as work was planned on several other primitive routes in the vicinity that also border or enter the WSA. Not only was this activity well outside of the clearly defined settlement terms, but the field office manager didn't feel the need to conduct any environmental analysis or even notify the public. We immediately began discussions with the BLM's state headquarters regarding remedial action. We believe we've put an end to future shenanigans from this local manager by demonstrating our capacity to monitor the ground and uncover such abuses.

A month later (mid-November 2017), staff

from SUWA's Wildlands Program were standing around in the dark anxiously awaiting the start of another day of destruction. Maps had been studied, batteries charged, and cameras stood ready. Suddenly, the overwhelming silence of Utah's West Desert was shattered by the rumble of engines and the bone-crushing sound of old-growth pinyon pine and juniper trees being ripped out of the ground. A massive ship anchor chain was being dragged between two bulldozers through the fragile desert, uprooting vegetation, destroying soils, and leaving an indefensible moonscape in its wake. This antiquated and once abandoned practice, known as chaining, is the BLM's idea of "habitat restoration." We've brought federal court litigation against this project, which is ongoing.

These two stories illustrate an all-too-common occurrence on BLM-managed public lands in Utah. This year alone, we've intervened in numerous instances of BLM field office managers taking it upon themselves to broadly interpret their legal authority—purposefully sidestepping environmental review and a public process in an effort to kowtow to county commissioners and undermine conservation efforts. We're also witnessing emboldened county governments and their dutiful road departments readying themselves to illegally "improve" primitive motorized routes, environmentalists be damned. As no one is guarding the hen house, it's no surprise that the rabid anti-wilderness crowd is ramping up their desecration of our shared public resources. And why wouldn't they? With Secretary Ryan Zinke and the Trump administration at the helm, it's become clear that Utah's BLM leadership is either uninterested in conservation or has been clearly instructed to look the other way. The Trump BLM is simply not capable of protecting our public lands.

Unfortunately, we see it all, but that's the point. SUWA's Wildlands Program prides itself on being SUWA's eyes and ears on the ground. Our extensive knowledge of the

land and issues allow us to rapidly respond when problems occur. There's no doubting that these are dire times for Utah's remaining, unprotected wilderness. That's why it's even more important for our Wildlands staff to be out there monitoring on-the-ground activity, inventorying impacts to wilderness values, and challenging bad ideas when they arise. This is what we do best, and there's no more critical time for it than now.

"We've learned that in order to give voice to the land, we first have to listen to it. And I can think of no better way to 'listen' to the land than to go out into it."

— Emily, SUWA Service Volunteer





SUWA volunteers / Photo by Jeremy Lynch



SUWA volunteers / Photo by Jeremy Lynch

WILDLANDS TEAM

NEAL CLARK

Wildlands Program Director/
House Counsel

RAY BLOXHAM

Wildlands Field Director

LUKE HENRY

Wildlands Attorney/
House Counsel

JEREMY LYNCH

Volunteer Coordinator

KYA MARIENFELD

Wildlands Attorney

WILDLANDS BY THE NUMBERS

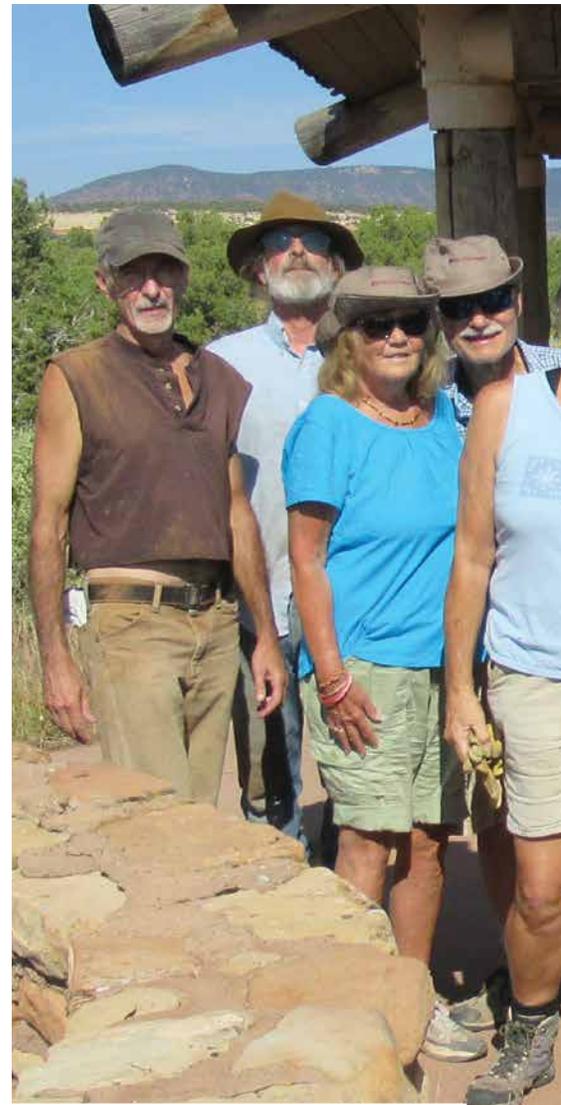
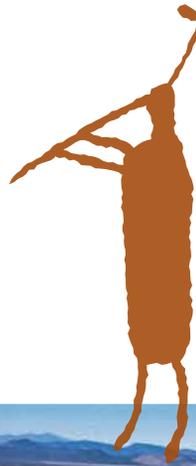
PROJECT DAYS LOGGED
BY VOLUNTEERS **14**

CONVERSATIONS
WITH BLM
133

PROJECT RELATED
COMMENTS SUBMITTED
22

FIELD PROJECT
VOLUNTEERS **108**

SERVICE HOURS
COMPLETED **996**



*BLM chaining project caught on camera by wildlands team /
Photo by SUWA & Twig Media*





A few weeks into 2017 I was standing around a campfire in the company of neighbors and strangers under a dark southern Utah night sky when a good friend spoke: “In times like these, we are driven to creativity. We have to be creative—it is how we define our values and rise in spite of opposition.”

Our work as an organization has long been grounded in the hearts and voices of the people who support us. Nowhere is this more evident than in hands-on volunteerism. SUWA’s service project program drives creative, site-specific solutions to counter the inadequacies of bureaucracy, corruption and incompetence. As a result, we redefine service as the core of land use, the highest form of recreation.

SUWA commits itself to service projects, especially in these times, with the explicit understanding that these lands are ours to protect. For now, at least, no one else is going to do it for us.

— Jeremy Lynch, Volunteer Coordinator



A crowd of 6,000 turned out for the Monumental Mistake rally in Salt Lake City on Dec. 2nd / Photo by Terri Martin

GRASSROOTS TEAM

We asked, and you delivered

There has never been a year quite like 2017. Many of us started it off wishing we could either hide under a blanket for four years or fast forward to the next election. It was clear what was coming: an all-out assault on our national monuments and wild places. If you loved the redrock, you knew you were in for possible heartbreak. But hiding out was never really a choice. What we do as redrock devotees is speak for the land. And there was no doubt that

the land desperately needed our collective voice. So SUWA's organizers put out the call: We need you to stand up, show up, and speak out! And WOW, what a year!

At rallies and protests and marches, at town halls and in meetings with elected officials, in letters-to-the-editor and guest editorials, in the nuts-and-bolts task of writing public comments, SUWA members showed up. And you showed up in force! You showed up with energy and enthusiasm and heart. You showed up again and again and again! Your message resounded loud and clear: People want Utah's precious wild lands and monuments protected and we will stand strong against attacks on them until that protection is assured.

When Utah's wild lands most needed your voice, you HOWLED.

If there were times when you wondered if anyone was listening, we encourage you to look back on 2017 and see what we see: SUWA member voices rang across Utah and across America and each of you made an enormous difference.

- 1) Grand Staircase-Escalante rally in Kanab, Utah / Photo by Terri Martin
- 2) Rep. Bishop's Town Hall meeting in Layton, Utah / Photo by Terri Martin
- 3) Protestor gives Sec. Zinke a send-off as he departs from Kanab airport / Photo by Terri Martin

Here are a few snapshots of what you made possible:

Defending our monuments: In 2017, the Utah delegation convinced President Trump to illegally shrink Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments. But citizen activism made it clear that Trump was on the wrong side of history and of public opinion.

- March 2: Ryan Zinke rides his horse to work on his first day as Secretary of Interior, claiming to be a modern day Teddy Roosevelt. But redrock activists in Washington, D.C. disrupt his narrative with signs and banners challenging his claim to a conservation mantle.
- May 6-10: Sec. Zinke travels to Utah to “review” Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments. Redrock activists show up at every stop of his trip, stealing the story. On the eve of his visit, a huge crowd of 2,500 rally in Salt Lake City. The next day, hundreds line the streets outside Zinke’s by-invite-only press conference, chanting “What would Teddy do? Protect our monuments.” When Zinke heads south to Bears Ears, activists intercept him with giant “Protect Bears Ears” banners wherever he touches ground. At Grand Staircase, 350 local residents line the main street of a gateway community, then meet Zinke’s entourage at the local airport, where they chant “We are locals, listen to us” while Zinke speaks to the media behind a chain link fence.
- May 12-July 10: When the Department of Interior invites public comment on Zinke’s monument review, 2.8 million people respond, 99% of them call for keeping monuments intact.
- December 2-4: On the cusp of President Trump’s trip to Utah to gut Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments, a crowd of 6,000 people rally in Salt Lake City, standing united with Tribes and people across the country in defense of monuments. When Trump speaks at the Capitol a day later, 2,000 people protest in the street, despite the snow and bitter cold, turning their backs and dropping to one knee to thump their chests, creating the sound of a single beating heart. That same day, redrock activists in Washington, D.C. stand vigil outside the White House.

Shaping the story

- Throughout the year, redrock activists flood newspapers with over 50 brilliant op-eds and eloquent letters-to-the-editor, effectively shaping the public narrative about Trump’s assault on our monuments.
- SUWA’s “online wilderness defenders” amplify the message by disseminating editorials, op-eds, and videos on social media.

Cultivating allies in Congress

- During “Wilderness Week,” 45 activists from 27 states walk the halls of Congress, meeting with over 311 members, inspiring them to step up for Utah’s redrock. On the ground in states across the country, activists reach out to over 40 targeted elected officials. In Utah, activists pack Town Halls, holding aloft “Protect Wild Utah” signs.



GRASSROOTS BY THE NUMBERS

POSTCARDS COLLECTED TARGETING ELECTED OFFICIALS OR EXECUTIVE BRANCH 6459

Latinx Wild Utah

Porque la defensa de la roca roja es hueca sin compromiso justo. New in our grassroots organizing this year is a full-time focus on educating Latinx & Hispanic Utahns on the priceless wonders of Utah's public lands and the many threats to these wild places. We do this because the wilderness needs each and every one of us. This collaboration touches both SUWA and the public, and through the program we are learning and engaging in new ways as we talk about conservation and do meaningful advocacy. Our responsibility and goal is to foster equitable representation of the public in public lands. From celebrating a historical tradition of Hispanics enjoying public lands in the 2017 Hispanic Heritage Parade, to creating interactive, informational workshops, and reaching out to new communities, we are committed to building a diverse constituency leading the charge for public lands defense.



Steve Bloch denounces Rep. Stewart's Grand Staircase legislation at SIC press conference / Photo by Terri Martin



Thousands protest as Trump announces repeal of monuments / Photo by Terri Martin



**VOLUNTEER-LED
EXCHANGES WITH
MEMBERS OF CONGRESS**
150

**“PROTECT WILD
UTAH” LAWN
SIGNS DELIVERED**
1494

**LAWN SIGNS
DISTRIBUTED AT
RALLIES/EVENTS**
1500



*Native women decry Trump's attack on Bears Ears /
Photo by Terri Martin*



National Monument Rally / Photo by Diane Kelly

GRASSROOTS TEAM

CLAYTON DAUGHENBAUGH
Midwest Regional Organizer

TRAVIS HAMMILL
Eastern Grassroots Organizer/
Field Organizing Director

OLIVIA JUAREZ
Latinx Community Organizer

TERRI MARTIN
Western Regional Organizer

DAVE PACHECO
Utah Grassroots Organizer

LEGISLATIVE TEAM

Washington turned upside-down

2017 turned Washington, D.C. on its head. Dazed Hill staffers spent January and February peering at one another in disbelief—was Donald Trump actually president? Phalanxes of women came from nationwide to stream down Pennsylvania Avenue. By spring, interns District-wide began congregating for happy hour specials named for the latest scandal, all while activists of all stripes began to see the destruction of which this administration was capable. Trump did not come for us first, but at SUWA's DC office we steeled ourselves for the inevitable. The nomination of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke was initially met

warmly by some in our community, thinking the appointment could be far worse. But his extremely poor environmental record during his tenure in the House made us skeptical. And when he announced in April that he would “review” 26 national monuments, bookending his list with Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante in Utah, we knew Utah was the prime target.

The review was a sham. The Department of Interior (DOI) went out of its way to dismiss the comments it got, even though the vast majority of the 2.8 million comments submitted confirmed that Americans love their national monuments and want them left alone. Zinke's Interior Department claimed that because the comments came from an organized campaign—in other words, because Americans had been informed of the comment period and decided to participate—they could not be taken seriously. A SUWA outing to hand-deliver nearly 3,000 comments in person to DOI turned into farce when the agency stamped them “received”

nearly a day into the future—and after the comment deadline. We made sure the mistake was rectified, but the incident neatly summed up the question everyone was asking about DOI: are they inept, or downright malicious?

The threat to the monuments galvanized our congressional allies. Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL), the champion of America's Red Rock Wilderness Act and the second most powerful Democrat in the Senate, took three days out of his schedule to personally visit Bears Ears National Monument. With SUWA staff, he met with tribal leaders and hiked to ruins and petroglyphs the monument had protected. Several senators who had never cosponsored America's Red Rock Wilderness Act—like Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Sen. Bob Casey (D-PA)—were now acutely aware of the threat to Utah wilderness and endorsed the bill.

When President Trump gutted more than 50 percent of Grand Staircase and more than 80 percent of Bears Ears in December,



DC activists welcome Sec. Zinke to his first day on the job by rallying in support of Bears Ears / Photo by Andrew Wainwright

Sen. Durbin put a hold on administration nominees that, in a few cases, still hasn't been lifted. Reps. Alan Lowenthal (D-CA), Raul Grijalva (D-AZ), and Jared Huffman (D-CA) joined us at the bullhorn for a lively protest at the White House to object the decision. We are the underdogs right now, but we have power. Our allies are more motivated than ever.

Unfortunately, our opponents are also emboldened. Immediately following the repeal of the monuments, Reps. Chris Stewart and John Curtis of Utah introduced legislation in December to ratify the repeal of Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears, respectively. We're fighting those bills now—hearing by hearing, markup by markup, hand-in-hand with our congressional champions. But going into year two of the Trump administration, nobody looks around in disbelief anymore. We know what we're capable of. We know what they're capable of. And we're going to beat them.

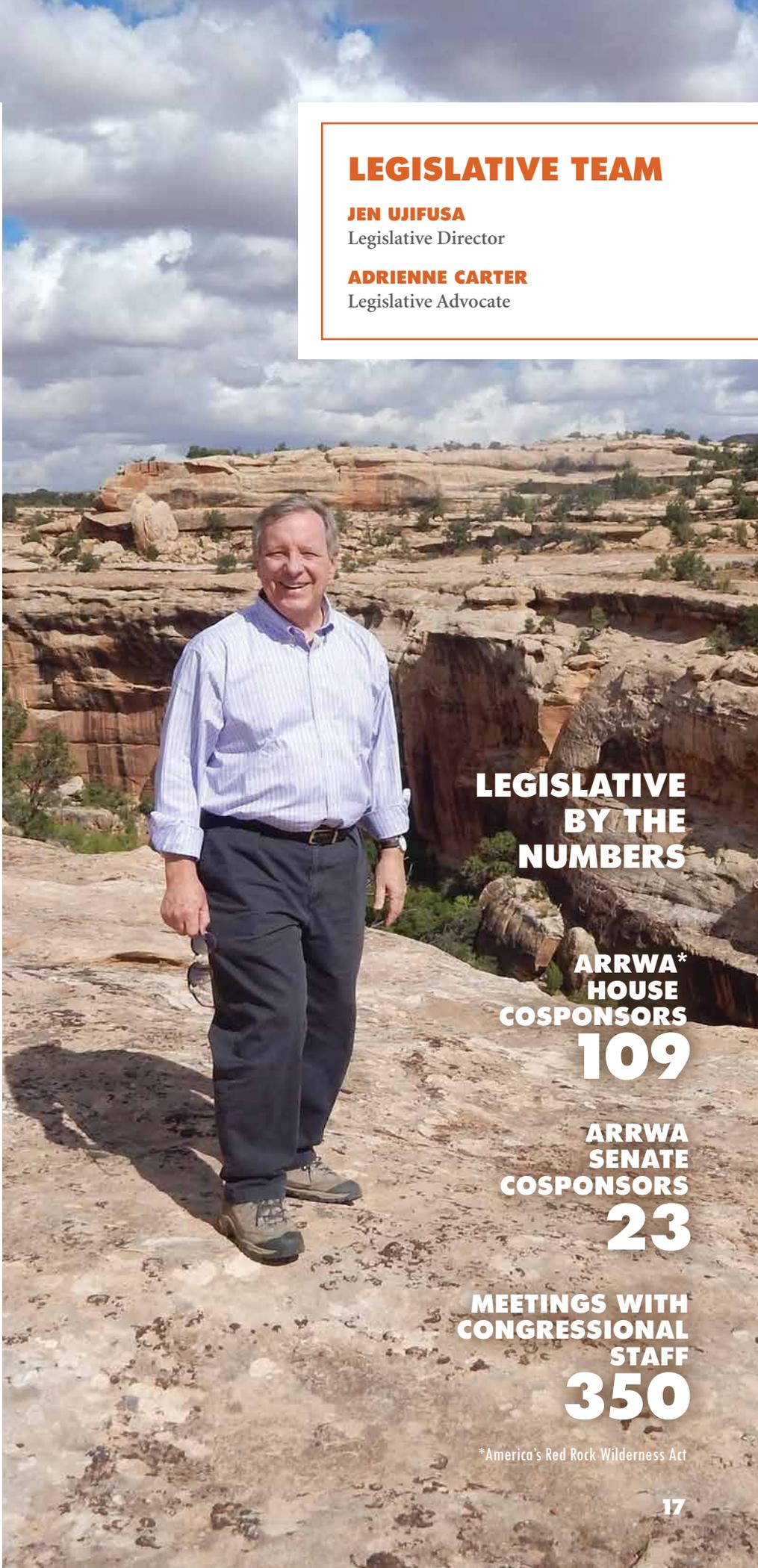
LEGISLATIVE TEAM

JEN UJIFUSA

Legislative Director

ADRIENNE CARTER

Legislative Advocate



LEGISLATIVE BY THE NUMBERS

**ARRWA*
HOUSE
COSPONSORS
109**

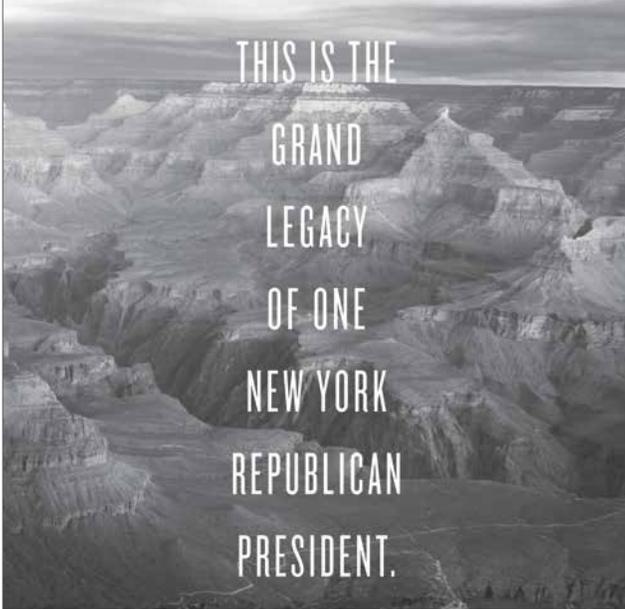
**ARRWA
SENATE
COSPONSORS
23**

**MEETINGS WITH
CONGRESSIONAL
STAFF
350**

Sen. Durbin takes in the splendor of Bears Ears National Monument / Photo by Jen Ujifusa

*America's Red Rock Wilderness Act

Slideshow on Trump SoHo New York Hotel /
Photo by SUWA & The Illuminator Collective



**THIS IS THE
GRAND
LEGACY
OF ONE
NEW YORK
REPUBLICAN
PRESIDENT.**

WILL PRESIDENT TRUMP'S LEGACY MEASURE UP?

In 1906, President Teddy Roosevelt signed the Antiquities Act, allowing presidents to protect historic landmarks by declaring them national monuments. He used this power to protect more than 800,000 acres of the Grand Canyon for all Americans. At the time, Arizona's congressional delegation called it a "land grab," but today, Grand Canyon National Park is revered as a living symbol of America and a vital economic driver attracting more than five million enthralled visitors every year.

On April 26th, another New York Republican, President Trump, signed an executive order requiring Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to review 27 national monuments, specifically targeting Utah's Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments. Within weeks, the president will decide their fate.

The Bears Ears region, with its thousands of archeological sites, is sacred ancestral ground to Native Americans who have long fought to protect its treasures from looting and desecration. At the urging of five tribes, Bears Ears National Monument was created last year. By upholding this commitment to the tribes and rejecting the misguided pleas of Utah politicians, President Trump can protect one of America's greatest living cultural landscapes. At Grand Staircase-Escalante, local chambers of commerce are among many that want the monument to keep its protections. After all, their communities have relied on it for 20 years, and their economies depend on it.

We must safeguard spectacular American landscapes like Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante so Americans can forever hunt, fish, graze livestock, and explore these lands that belong to us all. That's how President Theodore Roosevelt secured his place in history. Will President Trump tarnish his by devaluing these national treasures? Or will he protect what truly makes America great?



MEDIA/ COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

MATHEW GROSS

Media Director

DIANE KELLY

Communication Specialist

MEDIA/ COMMUNICATIONS

Bringing the Message to Trump

A week after Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke came to Utah for his sham review of monuments in May, SUWA ran full page ads in the New York Times and the Washington Post in an effort to dissuade President Trump from attacking Utah's national monuments. While the president clearly ignored the message, history won't—as the ads made clear.

SUWA Goes on the Air

SUWA launched two statewide television campaigns in Utah in the past 12 months.

The first spot was launched in February, 2017 to bolster support within the state for Bears Ears National Monument. While Governor Herbert and the Utah congressional delegation continued to attack the monument, SUWA went on the air to remind Utahns that despite the ideological rhetoric coming from Utah politicians, Bears Ears National Monument is good for Utah.

The second spot was launched at the end of January, 2018 to bring attention to the BLM's destructive practice of “chaining” pinyon-juniper and sagebrush on public lands—including a proposal to chain in Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

Both campaigns ran for three weeks on Utah's four major broadcast networks, as well as on cable, reaching more than 75 percent of Utah households.

Lights on in SoHo!

Two days after President Trump came to Utah to illegally roll back protections for Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears National Monuments, SUWA took the fight to him by projecting a slideshow on the Trump SoHo New York Hotel. “Attacking national monuments is immoral and illegal,” the slides read. “Trump: See you in court.”

**TRUMP:
SEE YOU IN
COURT**

**#SaveGrandStaircase
#StandWithBearsEars**

TRUMP SOHO

**DON'T BLOCK
THE BOX
FINE +2 POINTS**

**MEDIA/COMMUNICATIONS
BY THE NUMBERS**

**NEW FACEBOOK
FOLLOWERS**

24,680

**NEW EMAIL
SUBSCRIBERS**

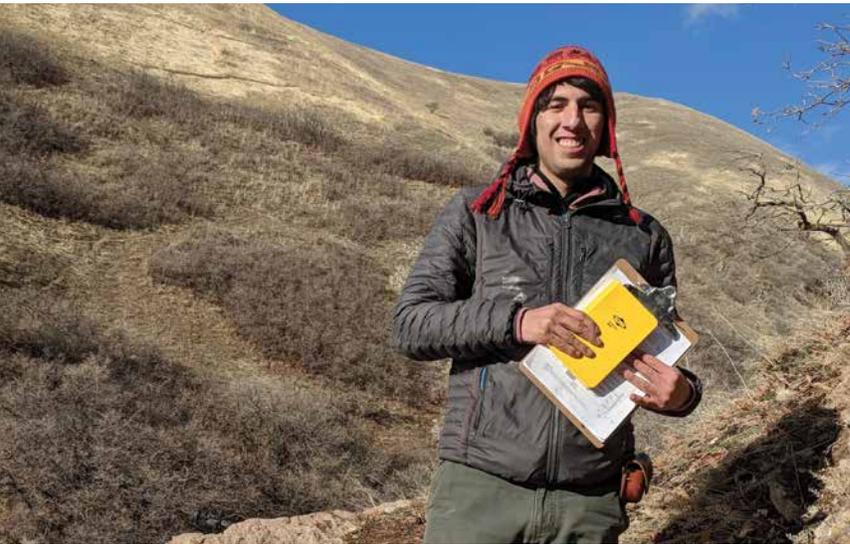
9,305

**EMAILS SENT TO
DECISION MAKERS**

33,740

SUWA MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT

You are SUWA too



Luis Vidal / Photo by Luis Vidal

Luis Vidal

The West Desert is Luis Vidal's place. He refers to it as a place of nothing and everything. "It's a vast landscape. If you're a person who likes fossils, they are everywhere. The geodes, sand dune fields, hot springs, Great Salt Lake, immense biodiversity, and the land art it has inspired speaks for itself." Luis is a geography student at the University of Utah whose life long love of public lands across the entire state has driven him to explore much of the West Desert and Utah's redrock country, advocating for its protection. "There is not one reason that drives me to advocacy. It's the culmination of everything I've seen and come to love in Utah's public lands. I value wilderness because of its uniqueness, the biodiversity it holds, and its uniqueness for future generations. I gain inspiration from wilderness. Among all of this, the wild's value is itself. America's Red Rock Wilderness Act matters. It protects all of that." Luis is also inspired by the diverse perspectives that come to conservation advocacy. "Being an ethnic minority brings a different perspective, and that's needed for the public lands protection movement to succeed. By 2050, the sum of racial minorities will be the majority of America. That's why I've gotten involved in organizing Hispanics to experience public lands. My perspective is unique and the unique perspectives of minority groups is valuable for public lands support."

Josh Scheuerman

"What's special about those petroglyphs is how clear a reminder they are. You feel how old the space is. How ancient the land is. And you remember that you're just a guest on someone else's 'property.' In the wilderness I've become more aware that I'm a guest here and that if you're a guest anywhere you need to be respectful." Josh Scheuerman—an arts activist driven by the impact the land has had upon him and fueled by the resolute belief that anybody who is passionate, active, and unafraid of taking time can make a difference—became a wilderness advocate when he was struck by the sight of oil derricks as far as his eyes could see in the Uintah Basin. He later began traveling in the Four Corners region to pick up trash, and found perhaps too much. So he made artistic installations of his findings. "I realized how dangerous our footprint has been and continues to be." Josh aims his visual nature and commitment to creating art as a way to offer representation for the lands unseen near urban spaces. He most recently portrayed Bear Ears National Monument's Indian Creek on a grand mural in Salt Lake City's Granary District to show public lands at stake. "Wilderness represents everything that is outside of the valuable. You show up to it and it doesn't ask or demand anything. It exists. It exists to fill you up for free. It will do what nothing else can."



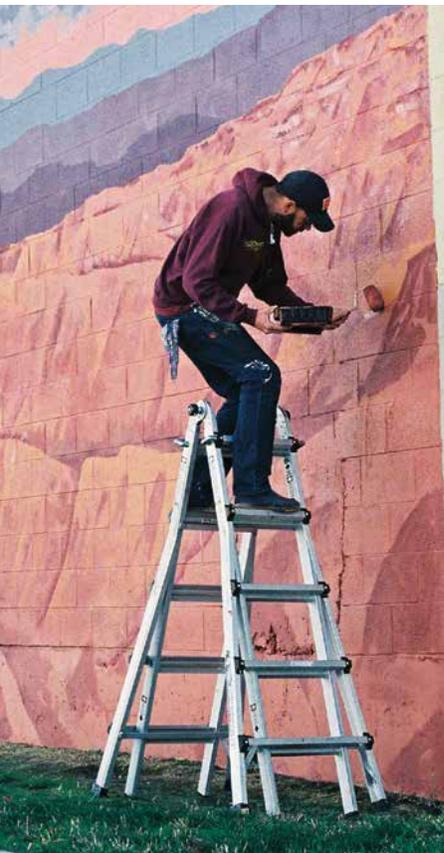


Night Sky / Photo by Joey Howell

Joey Howell

“Falling in love with Utah’s public lands is one of the easiest things I’ve ever done. It’s as natural and necessary as breathing. To say that I have a most memorable experience in the wilds of Utah would be like a father picking a favorite child, but of course, a few truly impactful moments stand out in my memory—like my inaugural trip to the expansive redrock Martian landscape surrounding Moab. After spending my first 23 years in Cincinnati, I was surprised at how quickly I began calling Utah “home” after moving here seven years ago. And it wasn’t until I returned to the Midwest for the holidays that I realized how unique Utah’s public lands are—as places where you can truly feel solitude—making me realize they’re places worth fighting for.

This last summer I combined my love for pedaling bikes with my appreciation for public land and embarked on a 45-day self-supported bike tour to visit all 15 national parks and monuments in Utah. My goal was to have fun, raise donations for SUWA, and hear first-hand how the public felt about these awe-inspiring locations. Every conversation followed a consistent theme: people were happy and excited to be in that moment, and free to explore beautiful public places.



Josh Scheurman / Photo by Deja Mckinnon

SUWA COMMUNITY PARTNERS

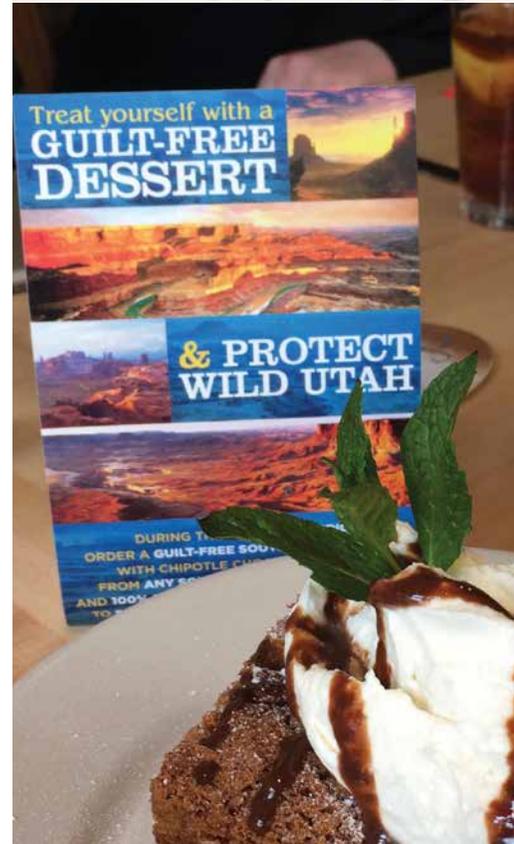
Our membership now stands at over 16,000, and the energy rising from all those who are concerned about attacks on our spectacular public wild lands is palpable. That energy isn't limited to individuals. In 2017 we saw a groundswell of companies eager to join voices with SUWA. Community partners support our work by providing expanded opportunities for outreach and promotion of message, aligning their businesses with our mission of defending Utah's precious wild lands.

In April 2017, longtime Salt Lake City microbrewers Squatters Craft Beers and Wasatch Brewery chose SUWA as the sole beneficiary of their annual "Guilt-Free Desert" promotion. During April, all proceeds from the sale of the "Dessert for the Desert" in the six Squatters/Wasatch locations in Salt Lake City and Park City went to SUWA.

April also brought with it the release of our first cause-marketing product, and the launch of a partnership with Mountain West Hard Cider. Mountain West opened their doors as Salt Lake's first cidery at the end of 2015, naming their ciders after some of Utah's best-loved canyons. Their latest release, Desolation Prickly Pear Hard Cider, has a little something extra special—SUWA's logo on the back label, and a commitment to donate a portion of the net proceeds from every bottle sold to support SUWA and its mission.

SUWA member companies also generously opened their doors to us throughout the year, providing venues throughout the Salt Lake Valley to help inform and expand support for our mission. Through SUWA Action Nights at Fisher Brewing in Salt Lake City and Rooster Brewing Company in Ogden, we were able to provide advocates with accurate information on how to submit comments regarding monument reviews. And a Postcard Party hosted by RoHa Brewing Project in Salt Lake City provided us the opportunity to compile postcards from Utah citizens that were then sent to Governor Herbert, clearly stating that the governor's constituents love redrock wilderness and want it protected.

The support from our members in reaction to the threats to Utah's redrock in 2017 was overwhelming and humbling, and prove more than ever that the SUWA organization is far more than its hard working staff. We are 16,000+ strong, we won't be silenced, and together we will fight attacks on the redrock and continue to Protect Wild Utah.



Top Left: Mountain West Hard Cider, Desolation Prickly Pear Hard Cider / Photo Ray Bloxham

Bottom Left: Squatters and Wasatch Brewery, Dessert for Desert / Photo by Michelle Farnsworth



DEVELOPMENT/ ADMINISTRATION TEAM

KARIN DUNCKER
Development Director

MICHELLE FARNSWORTH
Administrative Director

MADDIE HAYES
Membership Coordinator

GINA RIGGS
Administrative Associate

Top Right: Fisher Brewing December 4th Action / Photo Sarah Longoria

Bottom Middle: RoHa Brewing Company, Postcard Party / Photo by Karin Duncker

Bottom Right: Rooster Brewing Company Action Night / Photo by Karin Duncker

SUWA 2017 FINANCIALS*

2017 was an extraordinary year for SUWA on many fronts. We faced the most hostile administration towards public lands in recent memory. As the year closed, what started as rhetoric became very real as we witnessed what amounted to the evisceration of the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments by the Trump administration.

Like many other nonprofit organizations, SUWA also witnessed a groundswell of support in 2017. We achieved the highest membership numbers in years, exceeding 16,000 redrock lovers by year-end. Our financials for 2017 bear out the overwhelming support created from these challenging times, and will help shore up our resources for the very long and costly battles ahead. Thank you to all of our members and supporters. We are humbled by your generosity.



Charity Navigator awards
SUWA its 4-star rating



*Financials following are unaudited—please see www.suwa.org for audited financial information and 2017 tax filings, June 2018

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

For the 12 months ended December 2017

Assets	
Current assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,527,473
Open receivables	2,069
	1,529,543

Non-Current assets	
Property & equipment	862,429
Endowment*	2,654,791
Investments & stocks	7,196,068

TOTAL ASSETS	12,242,831
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Liabilities & Equity	
Liabilities	293
Equity	
Fund Balance	9,640,613
Net Income	2,601,924

TOTAL EQUITY	12,242,537
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	12,242,831

*This income reflects the extraordinary gifts we received in the form of bequests listed above. These bequests allowed us to start 2018 with an aggressive paid media campaign, including television advertising, to challenge BLM's practice of "chaining."

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY

For the 12 months ended December 2017

Revenues	
Donations	\$ 2,034,678
Bequests	1,487,236
Membership	1,232,538
Grants	143,000
Events and sales	29,688
Rents, reimbursed expenses and other income	73,756

TOTAL REVENUES	5,000,905
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Expenses	
Wilderness programs	1,116,249
(not including employee compensation)	
Education & services	170,660
Member services	257,175
Fundraising	41,736
General & administrative	144,456
Facilities & office expenses	208,216
Total employee compensation & benefits	1,591,366

TOTAL EXPENSES	3,529,858
NET ORDINARY INCOME	1,471,047

Other Income/Expenses	
Interest income	74,382
Investment income	219,913
Unrealized Gains/ (Losses)	770,814
Total other income	1,065,865

Depreciation/Amortization	46,896
Investment fees	26,824

Total other expenses	73,720
NET OTHER INCOME	992,145

SUWA BOARD

TOM KENWORTHY

Chair

RICHARD INGEBRETSEN

Vice-Chair & Secretary

RUSTY SCHMIT

Treasurer

SHARON BUCCINO

BILL HEDDEN

DARRELL KNUFFKE

MARK MARYBOY

ANNE MILLIKEN

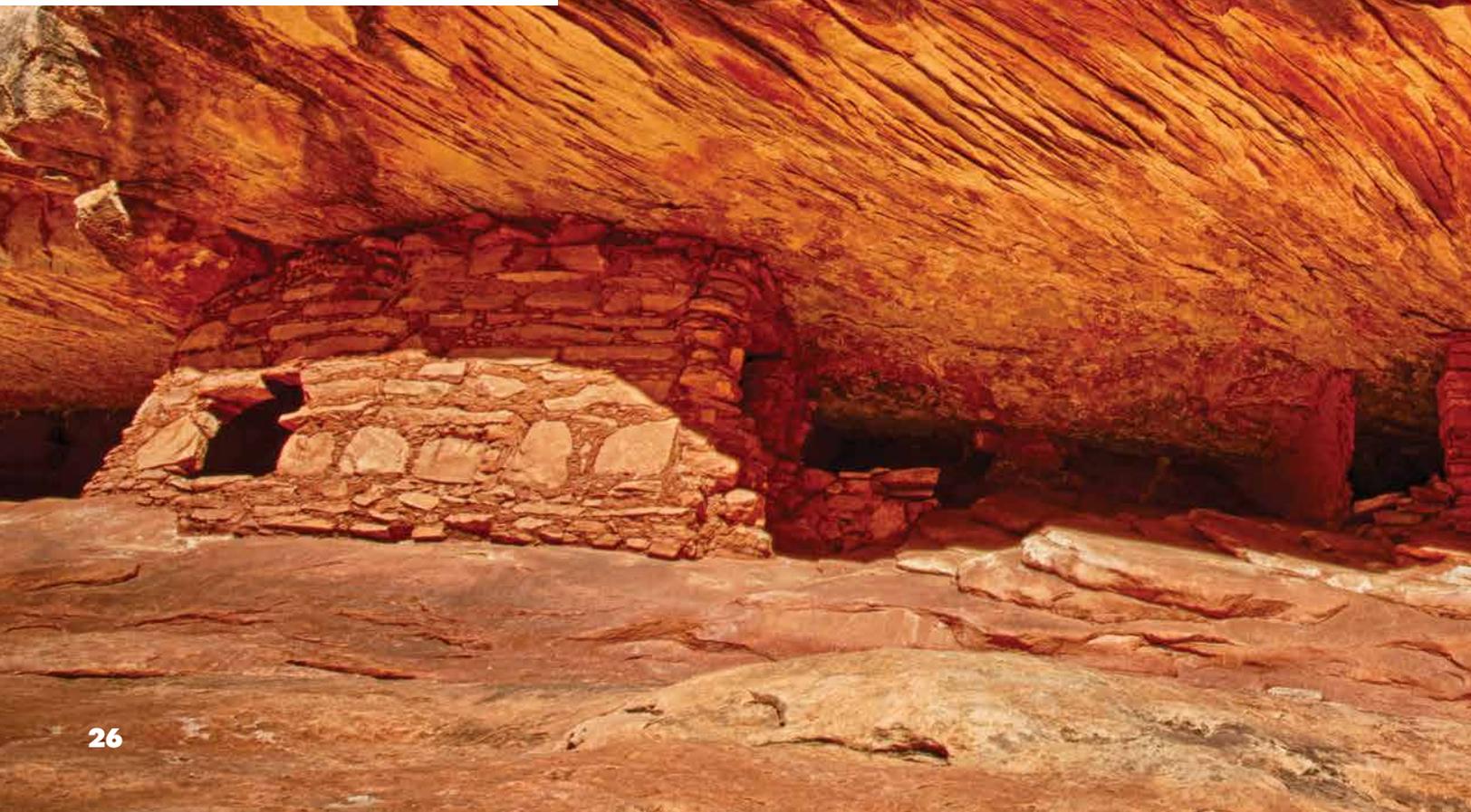
ORIANA SANDOVAL

KERRY SCHUMANN

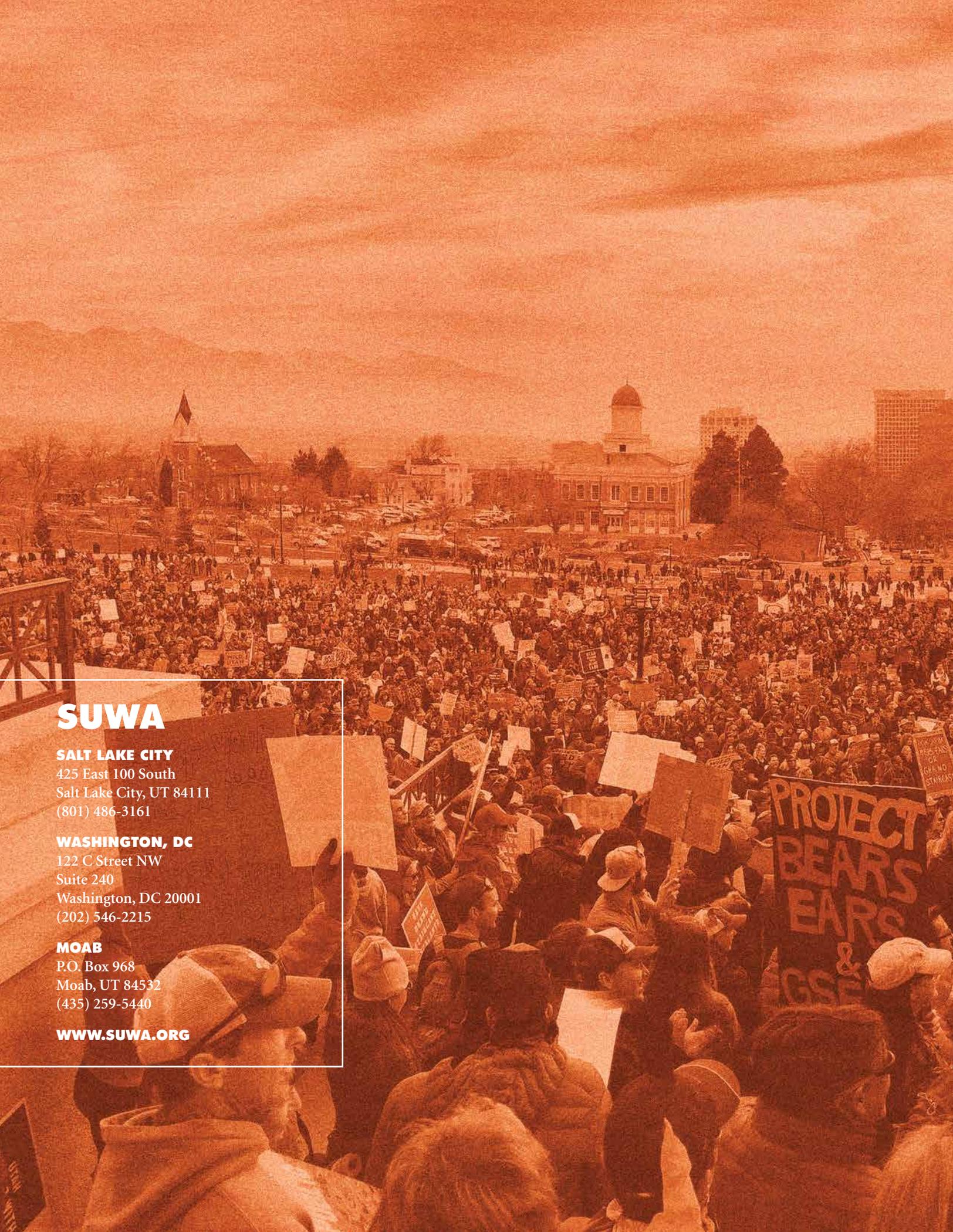
LIZ THOMAS

TERRY TEMPEST WILLIAMS

HANSJÖRG WYSS







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