



RED ROCK

WILDERNESS

The Newsletter of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
VOLUME 36, NUMBER 3 • AUTUMN/WINTER 2019

**GRAPPLING WITH MOTORIZED MAYHEM ON UTAH'S
PUBLIC LANDS**



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

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

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tom Kenworthy, Chair
Golden, CO

Richard Ingebretsen,
Vice-Chair & Secretary
Emigration Canyon, UT

Rusty Schmit, Treasurer
Berkeley, CA

Sharon Buccino
Arlington, VA

Rebecca Chavez-Houck
Salt Lake City, UT

Darrell Knuffke
Mancos, CO

Mark Maryboy
Montezuma Creek, UT

Anne Milliken
Salt Lake City, UT

Oriana Sandoval
Albuquerque, NM

Kerry Schumann
Madison, WI

Liz Thomas
Moab, UT

Terry Tempest Williams
Castle Valley, UT

Hansjoerg Wyss
Wilson, WY

STAFF

Steve Bloch,
Legal Director

Jeremy Lynch,
Stewardship Director

Ray Bloxham,
Wildlands Field Director

Kya Marienfeld,
Wildlands Attorney

Joe Bushyhead,
Staff Attorney

Terri Martin,
Intermountain West Organizer

Neal Clark,
Wildlands Program Director

Michelle Martineau,
Administrative Director

Madison Daniels,
Faith Community Organizer

Michael Mason,
GIS Analyst

Clayton Daughenbaugh,
Midwest Field Organizer

Creed Murdock,
GIS Analyst

Scott Groene,
Executive Director

Landon Newell,
Staff Attorney

Mathew Gross,
Media Director

Dave Pacheco,
Utah Organizer

Travis Hammill,
Eastern Grassroots Organizer

Laura Peterson,
Staff Attorney

Maddie Hayes,
Membership Coordinator

Gina Riggs,
Administrative Associate

Katherine Indermaur,
Development Associate

Jen Ujifusa,
Legislative Director

Olivia Juarez,
Latinx Community Organizer

Michelle White,
Staff Attorney

Diane Kelly,
Communications Specialist

Oliver Wood,
Wildlands Attorney

OFFICES

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

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

Moab
P.O. Box 968
Moab, UT 84532
435-259-5440

info@suwa.org • www.suwa.org



Cover Photo: Lower Calf Creek Falls in Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. Copyright Jack Dykinga

Moving? Please send your change of address to:
SUWA, 425 East 100 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84111

AUTUMN/WINTER 2019

Volume 36, Number 3



4

WILDERNESS NOTES

Finding Solace in the Wild

5

FEATURES

Grappling with Motorized Mayhem on Utah's Public Lands



10

DC NEWS

11

CANYON COUNTRY UPDATES

18

INSIDE SUWA



This issue of *Redrock Wilderness* was written by the following staff and outside contributors: Steve Bloch, Ray Bloxham, Neal Clark, Scott Groene, Mathew Gross, Travis Hammill, Katherine Indermaur, Olivia Juarez, Jeremy Lynch, Kya Marienfeld, Terri Martin, Landon Newell, Dave Pacheco, Jen Ujifusa, Michelle White, and Oliver Wood. It was edited by Darrell Knuffke and laid out by Diane Kelly. Newsletter design by Amy Westberg.

Contributions of photographs (especially of areas within the citizens' proposal for Utah wilderness) and original art (such as pen-and-ink sketches) are greatly appreciated! Please send submissions to photos@suwa.org or via regular mail c/o Editor, SUWA, 425 East 100 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84111.

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



FINDING SOLACE IN THE WILD

For a time

I rest in the grace of the world and I am free.

—“The Peace of Wild Things” by Wendell Berry

Autumn has finally overcome blistering summer heat here in southeast Utah. The hummingbirds are long gone and the turkey vultures just migrated south. Out my window the forested slopes of Mount Tukuñnikivatz loom above the town, flashing their poignant warnings of change, yellow aspens above red Gambel oaks. The canyon cottonwoods are more gold than green.

I’ve hauled my final load of winter firewood down from the La Sal Mountains. Last night’s frost finished my garden. Orion peers down at me when I wander out my back door to welcome the dark, chilly mornings.

These enduring seasonal rhythms lend me hope that the reign of Mad King Donald will finally end and that some decency will return after his unforgivable outrages: his thundering attacks on Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments; his administration’s push to lease every damn public acre to drilling; the profound stupidity of dismantling the agencies meant to watch over these lands; the unleashing of off-road vehicles to rip across formerly protected lands, even introducing these dreadful machines into national parks.

Far beyond our public lands, it seems there is no corner of American life left untainted by this corrupt administration, no cherished value still intact. There will be much to try to put back together.

It’s a hard time for all who care about this nation and it is especially hard for those who treasure its wild country. Still, it cheers me to consider what we have achieved by coming together and fighting back. We can celebrate the newly protected wilderness in the San Rafael Swell. We can all share credit for SUWA’s success in slowing—even blocking—the juggernaut of energy leasing in Utah. And we can admire the raucous spirit shown by old and young at the protests and rallies across the country, even here in Utah.

More than at any time in my life, wild places bring me solace. When the weight of troubles and threats pile up, I stare out my window at the sandstone cliffs above Moab. My thoughts drift to two weeks hence and our family’s traditional late-season trip down the San Juan River. I imagine floating silently through the late afternoon shadows on silty water whose inexorable might is old as time. I delight in the prospect of watching my teenage daughters reacquaint with canyons they first met as toddlers and have come to love.

We need these places more than ever, to hold the carbon in the ground, as home for stressed wildlife, and for ourselves. The fate of our lands rests with those who love them.

I hope you too can find solace and beauty in a quiet place this fall and winter. There is still much trouble ahead. But there is also promise of an end and a new beginning.

For the Redrock,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a stylized 'S' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Scott Groene
Executive Director

GRAPPLING WITH MOTORIZED MAYHEM ON UTAH'S PUBLIC LANDS

The use of off-road vehicles—primarily all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and utility task vehicles (UTVs)—has exploded on Utah's public lands over the past two decades. More than 125,000 UTVs and ATVs were registered in 2019, including 27,000 that are considered street-legal. This increase in off-road vehicles has, predictably, resulted in more backcountry noise, dust, and illegal use that can result in irreparable damage to natural and cultural resources.

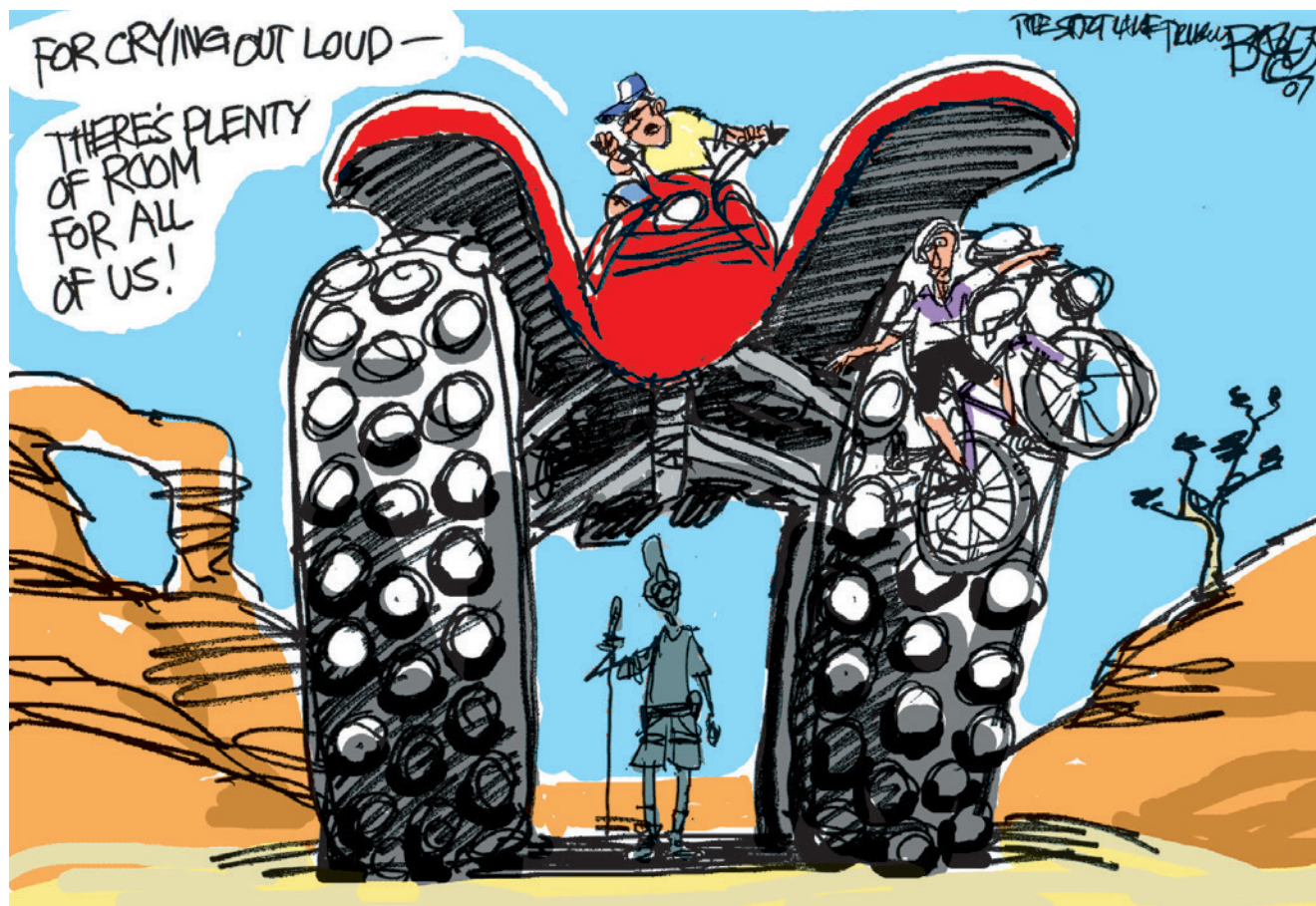
Compounding this problem is the steady advance of motorized technology, making it easier for less skilled drivers to push further into the backcountry. Mix the ease of use with aggressive thrill-machine marketing, and the result is a toxic and apparently irresistible Kool-Aid luring users to behave irresponsibly and to travel illegally off of designated routes.

Over the past decade, the off-road vehicle with the most effective appeal to such irresponsible motorized use is the UTV. These machines, which constitute the fastest grow-

ing segment of the industry, have inundated communities throughout southern Utah and overwhelmed federal land managers. They're loud, fast, engineered to make reckless off-road travel easy, and marketed to glorify it.

WAGGING THE DOG

As if commercial vendors and private off-road vehicle users weren't creating enough of a problem on our public lands, the Trump administration's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has only exacerbated an already unmanageable situation. In southern Utah, pro-motorized and anti-wilderness county commissions have cowed federal land managers, pushing forward a seemingly endless list of shortsighted and destructive projects. In that shameful process, the BLM has blatantly disregarded bedrock federal laws intended to protect the environment, balance competing interests, force reasoned decision-making, and provide for public notice and input.



In the past year alone we've seen the BLM and National Park Service leadership abrogate their duty to manage public lands in Utah for the benefit of all Americans. Instead, they have scurried to implement a wish list of terrible off-road vehicle decisions drummed up by county commissioners, state legislators, the congressional delegation, and their many surrogates who have entrenched themselves within the federal agencies throughout Utah.

Early this spring, the BLM showed just how deeply it has been ensnared by Utah politicians when it authorized Garfield County to pave a 7.5-mile stretch of the remote Burr Trail near Capitol Reef National Park—a move that would increase traffic and give off-road renegades easier access to the backcountry. Even in light of the fact that paving the entire Burr Trail has been highly controversial for the past 35 years (indeed, it was an original spark for the RS 2477 right-of-way battle—see page 17), the BLM limited the public comment period to just 15 days. In an even more abject surrender to county demands, the agency made its decision on a Friday afternoon, with no public notice.

LUCKY GUESS OR INSIDE INFO?

Although it deliberately failed to notify the public of its decision, the BLM did find time to notify Garfield County

that very afternoon so the county could begin work almost immediately. And it did. In what looks more than mildly suspicious now, the county had staged equipment and gravel near the project area in advance of the BLM's decision. The agency did not publicly announce its decision to the rest of the world until Monday afternoon, effectively ensuring that neither SUWA nor others could file a legal challenge to halt the project. Unethical at best, the BLM's collusion with Garfield County was an eye-opening example of just how far the agency is willing to go to advantage county interests and to duck scrutiny of its decisions.

Less than a month later we watched the BLM roll back protections for endangered cacti in the Factory Butte area by reversing a 2006 closure (to vehicles) order and opening 5,400 acres—including all the lands surrounding the landmark butte itself—to unregulated destruction by off-road vehicles. In relegating the area to no more than an off-road vehicle playground, the BLM again felt no apparent need to notify the public of its intention. It only provided a weakly-reasoned written rationale two days after the decision had been made. The BLM announced its decision just days before Memorial Day, the biggest off-road vehicle weekend of the year in southern Utah. The agency took no time to install adequate fencing and signage, or to staff up to mitigate illegal use spilling outside of the open area.



DUST AND VEHICLE TRACKS IN AN ESTABLISHED OFF-ROAD VEHICLE PLAY AREA NEAR FACTORY BUTTE. THE BLM RECENTLY OPENED AN ADDITIONAL 5,400 ACRES—including all the lands surrounding the landmark butte itself—to a similar fate. © RAY BLOXHAM/SUWA

EVEN OUR NATIONAL PARKS ARE NOT IMMUNE

This fall, Utah's anti-conservation influence with the Trump administration finally seeped into the National Park Service. The agency's acting regional director sent a directive to park superintendents in Utah instructing them to open all national parks and monuments in Utah to street legal off-road vehicles.

This highly controversial directive involved no public notice, no public comment, no environmental analysis and, in predictable turn, no compliance with federal environmental laws. In taking this ridiculous step, the Park Service ignored what it said so plainly when it ordered its earlier closure: off-road vehicles pose "a significant risk to park resources and values which cannot be appropriately mitigated," their use is "not consistent with the protection of the parks and monuments," and no "reasonable level of law enforcement presence would be sufficient to prevent . . . use off roads."

Fortunately, public outcry, pushback from park employees, and the inevitability of lawsuits convinced the Park Service to withdraw the directive, averting this impending disaster at the eleventh hour.

This close call follows the Park Service's plan to open all roads in the remote and spectacular Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (NRA) to off-road vehicle use. Among other damaging impacts, that decision will in part result in off-road vehicle use within the now-closed Orange Cliffs region—a wilderness landscape that abuts the Maze District of Canyonlands National Park. Making this terrible plan final will still require a federal rulemaking process, as the agency can only allow off-road vehicles in the NRA if the Park Service changes its own regulations to boost allowable noise-level limits from 60 to 96 decibels.

And we're still deep in the morass of defending the United States against the state's quixotic effort to wrest control of tens of thousands of miles of primitive routes, two-tracks, cow paths, and wash bottoms from the federal government through its RS 2477 right-of-way litigation (see article on page 17). The conflict has nothing to do with transportation. It has everything to do with a transparent effort to push off-road vehicles into every corner of Utah public lands and thereby disqualify millions of acres from wilderness consideration.

We also shouldn't forget that the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument was gutted in no small part to allow



UTILITY TASK VEHICLES (UTVs) HAVE SOARED IN POPULARITY, INUNDATING COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT SOUTHERN UTAH. © SUVOROVALEX/ADOBE STOCK

for increased off-road vehicle abuse within the "crown jewel" of America's national conservation lands.

We expect a new travel plan for that monument soon, one necessitated by Trump's unlawful rescissions of land in the monument. The plan will cover lands remaining within the diminished monument as well as those cut from the original boundaries. No doubt the administration will do its best to implement the most destructive travel plan imaginable, pandering to anti-conservation county commissioners in Kane and Garfield counties. If the draft management plans are any indication, we should expect nothing but an uphill battle and protracted legal fight on this front (see article on page 11).

STEMMING THE TIDE WITH LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE ACTION

To date, we've filed federal litigation against the BLM's backroom Burr Trail paving deal, the agency's foolhardy decision to sacrifice Factory Butte to off-road vehicle destruction, and the Trump administration's rescission of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. We've spent years battling the state to protect public lands from its disastrous RS 2477 lawsuits; we'll continue that fight for as long as it takes. And we'll challenge the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument plan that will allow off-road vehicle use to shred the monument.

The good news roster is skimpy these days, but not blank. As mentioned above, we successfully scuttled the Park Service's plans to open our national parks to UTVs and ATVs. Earlier this year, passage of the Emery County public lands legislation (see spring 2019 issue) ensured lasting

protection against the ravages of off-road vehicle use in places like Labyrinth and Desolation canyons, and the San Rafael Swell. Those lands are designated wilderness now.

And there is still an opportunity to protect Utah's remaining quiet backcountry from off-road vehicle use for decades.

A BETTER WAY FORWARD

The BLM is now in the midst of a planning process that will result in thirteen new travel management plans covering more than 6 million acres of public land in eastern and southern Utah. Those plans, to be completed over the next eight years, will determine where off-road vehicles will be allowed to travel in some of Utah's most remote and stunning wild places. The new planning process is the result of litigation SUWA and our conservation partners brought against six travel plans released at the end of the Bush administration (as a result of the settlement, the six travel plans at issue in the litigation were split into thirteen smaller travel planning areas).

The original plans riddled Utah's public lands with a spiderweb of thousands of miles of vehicle routes at the expense of cultural and natural resources. Some cut directly through cultural sites, bisected sensitive wildlife habitat, and created conflicts with quiet recreationists. A federal judge agreed that those travel plans failed to minimize impacts to natural and cultural resources as federal law requires.

The new plans, and the process that shapes them, give the BLM the opportunity to do things right—another chance to bring balance into the process and to develop a sensible network of motorized routes on BLM lands that ensure public access, yet protect quiet and sensitive landscapes and irreplaceable cultural resources. Designating routes that preserve access to important trailheads or scenic overlooks makes sense; opening reclaimed or redundant routes, old wash bottoms, or old cow paths to nowhere does little more than put natural and cultural resources at risk, disturb wildlife, and create a management nightmare for the BLM.

Getting it right this time around is also more important than ever. In the decade since the BLM released its six flawed travel plans, visitation to Utah has skyrocketed. Due in no small part to aggressive advertising by the state, social media, and outdoor industry marketing, visitation to Utah's fragile deserts has spiked and shows no sign of diminishing. But it's not just the crush of soaring visitor numbers



Forthcoming travel plans present a once-in-a-generation opportunity to shape the future of BLM public land management in southern and eastern Utah."

and new and ever more destructive forms of recreation. We are also grappling with a rapidly changing climate that will bring unique challenges for public land managers and the region generally.

The forthcoming travel plans present a once-in-a-generation opportunity to shape the future of BLM public land management in southern and eastern Utah. Truly balanced and reasonable travel plans should be forward-thinking and account for the perpetual increase in visitation and ever-evolving recreational uses, both of which are resulting in people pushing farther and farther into the backcountry. The drastic impacts of climate change will only worsen the situation.

As the faces of public land users continue to diversify, reasonable travel plans should provide access to our public lands and opportunities for all forms of recreation. But they also must protect cultural and natural resources, including air quality, wildlife, fragile soils, vegetation, and riparian areas. And it is important that they minimize conflicts between various groups (and between these groups and wildlife) without prioritizing off-road vehicle use over all others. This is especially important given the activity's disproportionate impact on all other public land uses. Rather than viewing this years-long process as a burden, the BLM should take advantage of this opportunity to protect our shared heritage, crafting truly visionary plans that will endure for years to come.

As these plans unfold, we'll need you to speak up for wilderness, for wildlife, for cultural resources, and for quiet recreation. With your help, we'll work to ensure that the BLM gets it right and develops rational travel plans that make sense on the ground and protect our public land heritage for future generations. Stay tuned for updates on when and how to get involved.

—Neal Clark

OFF-ROAD VEHICLE MITIGATION DOMINATES STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM WORK

In 2019, three of every four volunteer projects SUWA's Stewardship Program undertook were aimed at reversing damage caused by off-road vehicle (ORV) travel on Utah's public lands.

The immediate impacts of motorized recreation include trampled living soil crusts, shredded vegetation, disturbed wildlife breeding grounds, destruction of cultural resources, and broad-scale scarring of Utah's diverse landscapes. The long-term consequences are not hard to imagine. Decreased vegetation and barer soil lead to increased erosion. Louder, more frequent motorized presence impacts seasonal and migratory wildlife patterns. Proliferating tracks encourage similar behavior, perpetuating the cycle.

Not everyone is a bad actor. However, with agencies understaffed and underfunded, there remains too little awareness and too much willful negligence by user groups to avert serious consequences. Unskilled—and undisciplined—recreation is on the rise.

That is where SUWA's Stewardship Program comes in. We work with agency partners to address on-the-ground impacts of ORV travel. We begin with minimalist infrastructure and education. We install wilderness study area and wilderness signage. We build boundary markers and fencing (buck and rail, post and rail, log and block). And we reclaim impacts: removing tracks, loosening soil compaction, revegetating.

In 2019, over 250 SUWA volunteers spent more than 3,000 hours working for the protection of Utah's wild and culturally significant places. They monitored and maintained several thousand linear feet and hundreds of acres of wilderness and wilderness study areas and their boundaries.

If you'd like to learn more about how we do what we do, please join us on a service project in 2020. The more we commit to addressing the actual, tangible impacts to our public lands, the better informed and prepared we are to prevent them in the first place.

For more information about our Stewardship Program, visit suwa.org/fieldvolunteers.



A RECENT CREW CONSTRUCTS BUCK AND RAIL FENCING IN THE DEEP CREEK MOUNTAINS TO PREVENT ILLEGAL TRAVEL INTO THE SCOTT'S BASIN WILDERNESS STUDY AREA. © JEREMY LYNCH/SUWA



SALT LAKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS BUILD A "CAIRN BASKET" WILDERNESS STUDY AREA BOUNDARY MARKER IN GRAND STAIRCASE-ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENT. © JEREMY LYNCH/SUWA

WILLIAM PENDLEY'S WAR ON PUBLIC LANDS

Even in the anything-goes chaos of the Trump administration, we once looked askance on claims that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) was literally shacking up with a Chevron office in Colorado. Let's have a moment of silence for that remaining shred of innocence. It really is happening.

Moving the BLM headquarters somewhere out West has been kicked around since Trump took office. In the shorthand of this administration, Washington, DC is the enemy, and that enemy can only be vanquished through such actions as making dozens of employees of the Interior Department uproot their lives and families, head west to Grand Junction, and thereby be somehow more responsive to the

public while they look for housing and new piano teachers for the kids. (Never mind that this administration's M.O. has been to curtail public input on lands decisions at every turn, including this one.)

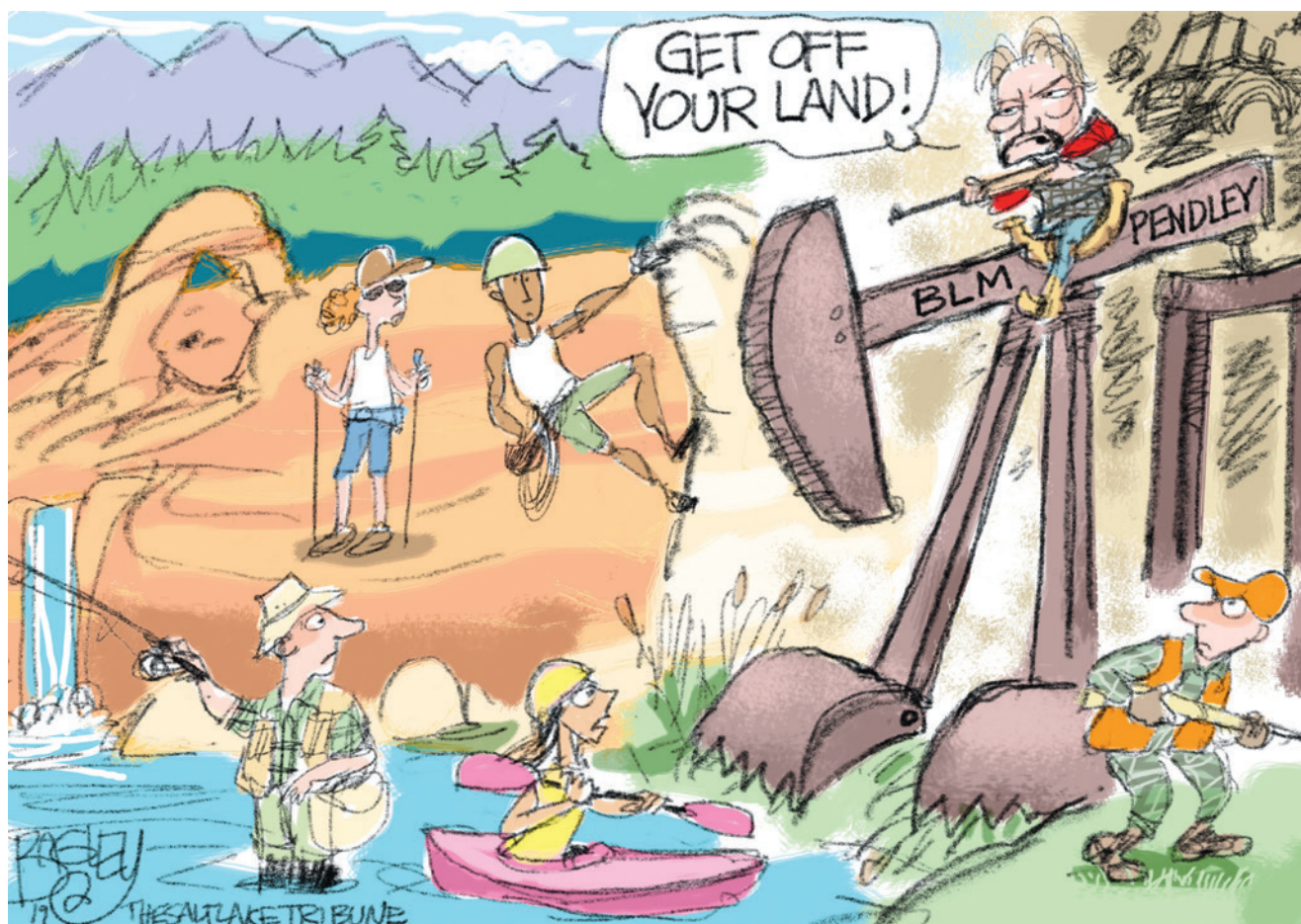
At the helm of this dream, which will eventually move about 222 BLM employees west, including 27 top staff, is William Perry Pendley, the Acting (read: unconfirmed by the Senate) Director of the BLM. Pendley is also an alumnus of the Reagan administration and James Watt's Mountain States Legal Foundation, where he vigorously advocated for the sale of public lands.

Employees who opt for the DC exodus rather than resign (which is one of

the underlying goals) will be scattered through many western states, with Colorado serving as HQ. "[F]rankly we do most of our work by telephone or electronically anyway. The days of walking down the hall to speak to someone is a bygone era. It's a digital world," Pendley told the *Colorado Sun*.

Okay, so maybe most of their business will be conducted electronically, and it won't matter that the BLM moved into a building that also houses the Chevron offices, the Colorado Oil and Gas Association, and Laramie Energy. But we'll wager \$5 that those folks swing by with a fruit basket now and again. You know, just to be neighborly.

—Jen Ujifusa





DEER CREEK CANYON IN GRAND STAIRCASE-ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENT. © JACK DYKINGA

PLANS TO PLUNDER: THE CONTINUING ASSAULT ON BEARS EARS AND GRAND STAIRCASE-ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENTS

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has released its near-final management plans for the savagely shrunk Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments after a truncated and opaque public process in which the agency completely ignored public comment and the opinions of its own experts.

The proposed plan for what's left of Bears Ears would flatly fail to protect the cultural resources and sacred sites on the scant 15 percent of the original monument that remains. Those sites and resources were the primary reason for mon-

ument designation in the first place; the BLM's proposed plan would leave these irreplaceable "monument objects" more vulnerable than ever before.

In the proposed management plan for Grand Staircase-Escalante, both the lands still within the monument and those illegally excised from it would see their pristine scientific, paleontological, and cultural resources degraded. Specifically, the plans put paleontological and other scientific resources at risk from energy development and leasing while setting the stage for rampant chaining of pinyon pine and juniper forests and unbridled off-road vehicle abuse—completely undoing existing protections that have been in place for over two decades.

Both of the management plans are the result of a rushed and closed-door process and would usher in appalling and illegal new standards for the management of all national monuments. However, once these new plans are signed into final effect (as early as the end of this year), the Trump administration can finally begin to make the "on the

“

Both of these plans are the result of a rushed and closed-door process and would usher in appalling and illegal new standards for the management of all national monuments.”

ground” changes it sought when attempting to reduce both monuments in 2017. This is why these plans were rushed through, even as the overall legality of Trump’s actions under the Antiquities Act are being litigated.

SUWA has filed formal protests against both management plans. More importantly, we believe our litigation over Trump’s original gutting of the monuments will prevail (see article below) and these terrible—and ultimately illegitimate—plans will come to nothing.

—Kya Marienfeld

GOOD NEWS

MONUMENT LAWSUITS CLEARED TO PROCEED

We are quickly approaching the two-year mark for President Trump’s shameful attempt to dismantle Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears national monuments, and our work to undo these unlawful acts continues unabated.

First, the good news. In early October the federal judge in Washington, DC who is handling these cases denied the United States’ motion to dismiss our lawsuits. At the same

time, she directed the various plaintiffs to file amended complaints that update her on how Trump’s 2017 orders and soon-to-be released monument (and former monument lands) management plans harm our interests. We’ll be doing that by November 7th and then will work to keep the cases moving along as quickly as we can to get a ruling from the court striking down Trump’s orders as beyond any president’s authority under the Antiquities Act.

In the meantime, the judge has reiterated her order that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) promptly tell us if any mining or road building activities are proposed within the original monument boundaries. Those notices from the BLM, combined with keeping our ears to the ground, help to make sure we know about possible problems before they happen.

To be clear, our bottom line hasn’t changed: SUWA is committed to doing everything it can to preserve the outstanding public lands and the antiquities, fossils, and other monument “objects” that Presidents Clinton and Obama protected with their proclamations establishing these monuments. It’s going to take longer than any of us wanted to undo President Trump’s unlawful acts but we’re confident that we will get there.

—Steve Bloch



THOUSANDS TURN OUT TO SUPPORT UTAH'S NATIONAL MONUMENTS AT THE STATE CAPITOL IN DECEMBER OF 2017, JUST TWO DAYS BEFORE PRESIDENT TRUMP EVISCERATED GRAND STAIRCASE-ESCALANTE AND BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENTS. © DIANE KELLY/SUWA



BEARS EARS BUTTES. © HAL MYERS

ALL PUEBLO COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS REAFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR BEARS EARS

The All Pueblo Council of Governors (APCG) represents the collective voice of its members, the 20 sovereign Pueblo nations of New Mexico and Texas. In October, the council convened in Bears Ears and affirmed its commitment “to protect the precious and vulnerable sacred sites within the Bears Ears cultural landscape,” according to an APCG news release.

At their two-day meeting, the council members were accompanied by Pueblo Historic Preservation officers and cultural resource protection leaders from the 20 Pueblos, and traveled throughout the Bears Ears landscape for a series of field visits to ancestral kivas, great houses, cliff dwellings, petroglyph and pictograph panels, and other sites.

SUWA staff members Landon Newell and Oliver Wood joined the field tours along with representatives from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, Utah Diné Bikéyah, Friends of Cedar Mesa, the National Parks Conservation Association, Indian Nations Conservation Alliance, and The Wilderness Society, among others.

The council addressed a series of resolutions to support increased protection of sacred sites and cultural resources in the culturally rich lands between Bears Ears and Canyons of the Ancients national monuments.

Formal action was taken to request an immediate moratorium on BLM oil and gas leasing in southeastern San Juan County until the agency

works with Pueblos to conduct an ethnographic study of the landscape and fulfill federal statutes requiring tribal consultation on proposed development. Among congressional legislation formally supported by the council were Representative Deb Haaland’s BEARS Act and Senator Tom Udall’s ANTIQUITIES Act of 2019, which aim to restore and expand protections for the original monument boundary designation.

The council also adopted stances to request the rescinding and revision of a number of the State of Utah’s and San Juan County’s associated administrative land planning documents, including the county’s Master Plan and Resources Management Plan to include meaningful tribal consultation with Pueblos.



SUWA SUCCESSFULLY APPEALED THE BLM'S DECISION TO REMOVE MORE THAN 30,000 ACRES OF PINYON-JUNIPER FOREST AND SAGEBRUSH ON SKUTUMPAH TERRACE, PICTURED HERE JUST ABOVE THE WHITE CLIFFS IN GRAND STAIRCASE-ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENT. © RAY BLOXHAM/SUWA

GOOD NEWS ADMINISTRATIVE COURT OVERTURNS MASSIVE DEVEGETATION PROJECT

In an exciting turn of events, this fall the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) set aside a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) decision to remove more than 30,000 acres of pinyon pine and juniper forest and sagebrush in the Skutumpah Terrace area within Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

SUWA and our conservation partners appealed this disastrous project this past spring. Our appeal charged that the agency failed to consider a variety of environmental factors and also failed to follow existing regulations regarding vegetation management in the monument.

The IBLA ruled that the BLM erred because it failed to take a hard look at the project's cumulative impacts on migratory birds under the National Environmental Policy Act and because it authorized using non-native seed to replace the vegetation it planned to remove—contrary to its clear direc-

tion in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Management Plan.

The BLM's plan would have rid the area of pinyon pine and juniper trees by mastication, an intensively surface-disturbing method of vegetation removal that involves shredding trees where they stand with a wood chipper/mulcher mounted to a large front-end loader, which is driven cross-country throughout a project area. The plan also authorized the destruction of sagebrush by chaining, the practice of ripping vegetation from the ground by dragging large chains between two bulldozers. Many of these disturbed areas would have then been reseeded with non-native species preferred not by native wildlife but by livestock.

This victory is a huge win, not only for these particular 30,000 acres of forested uplands in Grand Staircase-Escalante, but for our efforts to force the BLM to recognize that its program of large-scale vegetation removal is often illegal, unscientific, and hastily executed. The program is in dire need of reform and this decision is a major step forward.

—Kya Marienfeld

GOOD NEWS

CLIMATE LAWSUIT FORCES BLM TO PULL 130 LEASES

In early September, SUWA and our conservation partners filed a massive lawsuit in the United States District Court in Utah challenging 130 oil and gas leases the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) offered for development on approximately 175,000 acres of public land. The lawsuit sought to force the agency to take the necessary “hard look” at how its reckless oil and gas leasing program is contributing to the climate crisis while also sacrificing some of the most wild, scenic, and culturally significant public lands in America.

Recognizing the strength of our lawsuit, the BLM quickly moved to suspend the oil and gas leases at issue. We designed the lawsuit to build on a series of significant legal victories that have forced the BLM to fully analyze and disclose the climate change impacts of its oil and gas leasing and development decisions. A federal judge in Washington, DC ruled in March that the BLM had violated federal law when it failed to fully analyze all reasonably foreseeable greenhouse gas emissions and climate change impacts of certain oil and gas leasing decisions for BLM-managed lands in Wyoming. The court’s decision has had broad ramifications across the United States, including in Utah.

In response to the court’s decision, and following several legal and administrative challenges brought by SUWA, the Utah BLM has on three previous occasions been forced to recognize that the climate change analysis it had prepared to justify certain oil and gas leasing decisions, if it did one at all, violated federal law. In each instance, the BLM had to return to the drawing board to do what it should have done in the first place: analyze and disclose to the public the true extent of the BLM’s role in—and contribution to—the ongoing climate crisis in its leasing and development decisions.

The BLM is now back at the drawing board for the fourth time. Just as before, the agency failed to fully analyze and disclose all reasonably foreseeable greenhouse gas emissions and the accompanying climate change impacts before it offered the 130 challenged leases. In total, because of challenges brought by SUWA and its conservation partners, the BLM this year alone has been forced to pull back more than 225 leases covering more than 300,000 acres of public land. The majority of these leases are on lands proposed for wilderness designation and are also rich in cultural resources.

(Continued next page)



© DIANE KELLY/SUWA

SUWA STRIKES FOR CLIMATE ACTION

SUWA cosponsored the first Global Climate Strike in Salt Lake City this September. Ours was one of hundreds held internationally, all calling for a regenerative future in which reliance on fossil fuels is a thing of the past. Over 1,000 people participated.

All the fastest-warming cities in the US are in the Southwest, and Utah ranks fifth among the fastest-warming states according to an April 2019 Climate Central report. Many of the same activities that drive or exacerbate climate change—fossil fuel extraction and off-road vehicle abuse, for example—also threaten the nine million acres of proposed wilderness in Utah.

As climate change transforms our lives, it impacts our landscapes and biotic communities. The more wilderness we can preserve in its natural state, the more effectively our planet can sequester carbon from the atmosphere, maintain healthy hydrology systems, and provide habitat for wildlife that must adapt to climatic changes. Immediate damage results from energy extraction; wilderness prevents this and promotes long-term ecological stability.

ENERGY SUMMIT DRAWS HUNDREDS

More than 200 Utahns gathered on September 21st in Salt Lake City for the second annual People’s Energy Summit, cosponsored by SUWA. The day included a series of workshops, skills training sessions, and inspirational speakers. It culminated in a “collective visioning assembly” where activists and allies refined a direct response to Governor Herbert’s “all-of-the-above” Energy Plan that would commit Utah to years of continued reliance on boom-and-bust economics and climate destruction.

The agency's uninformed rush to be part of the Trump administration's oil and gas "energy dominance" agenda has repeatedly—and unsurprisingly—backfired as the agency has tripped over itself in its haste. This is a legal mess of the BLM's own making.

—Landon Newell

MERELY A LAND EXCHANGE, OR SOMETHING MORE?

In early September, SUWA—along with WildEarth Guardians and Center for Biological Diversity—submitted comments raising concerns about the Utah Test and Training Range (UTTR) Land Exchange.

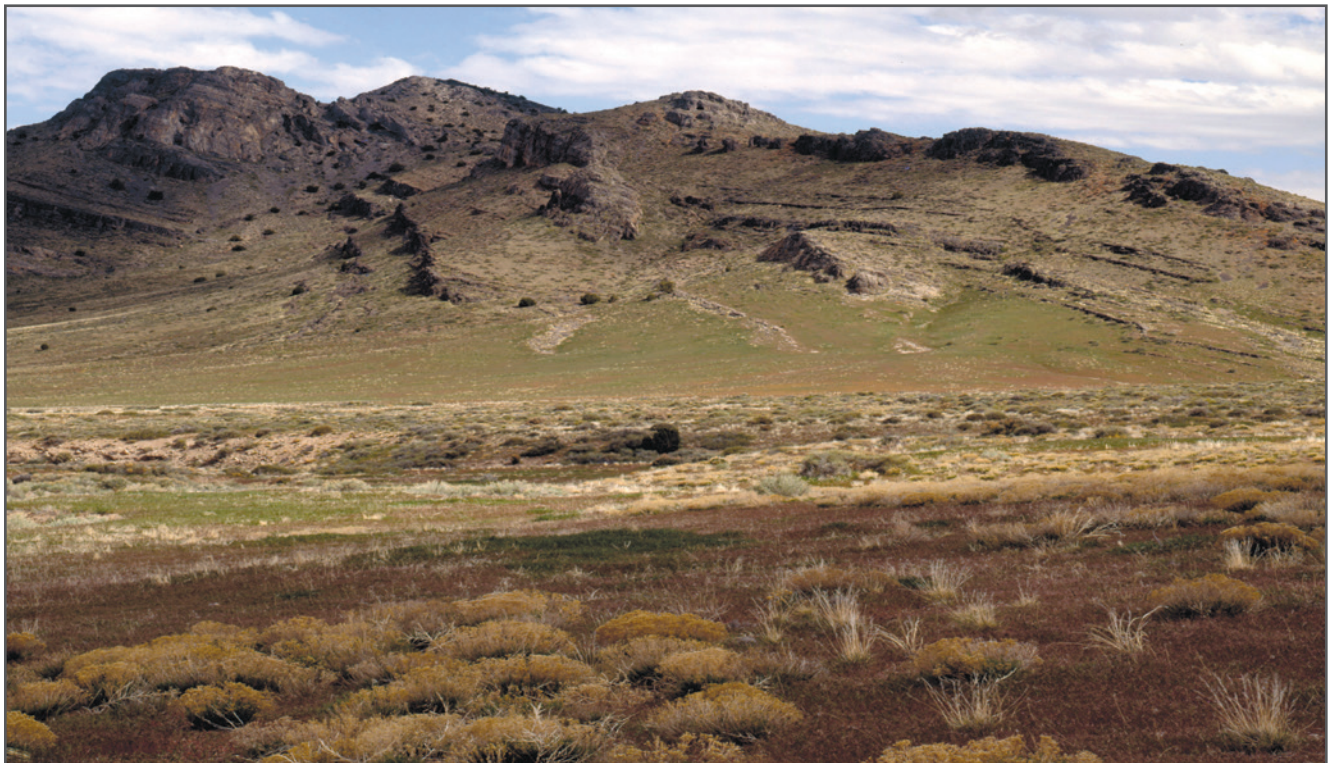
The National Defense Authorization Act of 2017 authorized this sweeping federal-state land swap. It would result in the transfer of roughly 94,700 acres of federal public lands to the State of Utah. In return, the federal government would receive roughly 70,000 acres of state land managed by the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA). The ostensible purpose of the exchange in Utah's

rugged West Desert is to expand the training range to allow for new military aircraft and weapons testing. Despite a decade-long battle by SUWA to keep these lands out of SITLA's hands, we are on the verge of losing thousands of acres of wilderness-quality lands in the remote Drum and Cricket Mountains.

We are concerned about the lack of transparency that has occurred with this land exchange and the damage that will inevitably occur when federal public land is transferred to SITLA ownership. And we are all the more wary after three years of what passes for truth in the Trump administration.

While the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) calls this a title swap—merely the same land with different owners—the truth is another matter. For example, when it analyzed the environmental impact of transferring federal land in the Cricket Mountains to SITLA, the BLM noted that it would not consider the possibility of subsequent mineral development because it was "speculative."

However, a little digging unearthed the fact that SITLA and Graymont Western US, Inc. have already signed a letter of intent to transfer the former-BLM land directly to the mining company. As if that weren't enough, many of the BLM



PORTIONS OF THE WILD AND REMOTE CRICKET MOUNTAINS (ABOVE) IN UTAH'S WEST DESERT COULD END UP IN THE HANDS OF A MINING COMPANY IF THE UTAH TEST AND TRAINING RANGE LAND EXCHANGE GOES THROUGH AS PLANNED. © JEFF GARTON

parcels to be transferred to SITLA are located immediately adjacent to current mining districts. Once these lands end up in SITLA's ownership, they are no longer subject to the National Environmental Policy Act, leaving them wide open for worst that agency can cook up.

We will continue to work to stop the potential devastating environmental impacts that will result from SITLA ownership of wilderness-quality public lands. We will report as we learn more.

—*Oliver Wood*

SUWA APPEALS 5-YEAR ATV JAMBOREE PERMIT

SUWA has appealed the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) approval of a five-year permit for Beaver County to stage up to three all-terrain vehicle (ATV) gatherings a year in Utah's West Desert, each involving up to 500 ATVs and utility task vehicles (UTVs).

The permit, issued by the agency's Cedar City office, would allow travel over 836 miles of BLM routes for four to seven days at a time. These unmaintained and infrequently used routes run through hundreds of archaeological sites and traverse wilderness-quality lands.

At the heart of our appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals is the fact that the BLM's approval of the five-year permit failed to adequately consider the impacts of concentrated motorized use on cultural resources in and near the approved routes. Though the BLM's previous cultural resource inventories only cover 16 percent of the routes at issue, the agency discovered 388 archaeological sites within the project area (168 of which are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places), with routes going directly through 222 of those sites.

What's more, the agency determined that there was a "moderate to high amount" of cultural resources expected in and near the 84 percent of routes that have never been inventoried on the ground. Even though the BLM acknowledged the potential for adverse impacts to cultural resources as a result of the approved events, the agency ultimately determined that the events would have "no adverse effect" on cultural resources.

We'll keep you up to date as the appeal moves forward.

—*Oliver Wood*

RS 2477 "BELLWETHER" TRIAL RESCHEDULED

Revised Statute (RS) 2477 is a one-sentence provision granting rights-of-way to early settlers to build highways across public lands. Congress repealed the obscure and antiquated law in 1976, but the State of Utah and its counties have worked for decades to exploit it, most recently by filing more than 20 lawsuits between 2010 and 2012 in an attempt to secure title to rights-of-way over roughly 14,000 dirt paths and stream bottoms (totaling more than 35,000 miles). Their chief goal? To disqualify millions of acres of proposed wilderness.

A key element of wilderness is its roadlessness. Riddle pristine country with roads and there is no wilderness. This dispute is NOT about legitimate transportation needs; more than 80 percent of the claims are faded two-tracks and unmaintained paths in the desert. While SUWA has skirmished with the state and several counties on this issue over the years the stakes are much higher now.

One of the most anticipated events in this saga is the RS 2477 "bellwether" trial concerning 15 claimed rights-of-way in Kane County, Utah. As its name suggests, this trial is intended to provide a framework of jurisdictional and evidentiary standards to help guide the evaluation and eventual resolution of the remaining thousands of state and county claims.

Last June, the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals issued a ruling granting SUWA greater rights to participate in and defend our preservation interests in a related RS 2477 lawsuit. Just weeks before the bellwether trial was scheduled to begin in August, the parties agreed to postpone the trial until February 2020 to allow for time to address the effects of the Tenth Circuit's ruling.

However, the state, Kane County, and United States have since asked the Tenth Circuit to reconsider its June ruling by seeking an uncommon remedy known as "en banc" review of that decision. If the request is granted, the appeal will be reheard by a 13-judge panel of Tenth Circuit judges, rather than the ordinary three-judge panel. We have urged the court to deny this extraordinary request, but in the meantime SUWA's role at the bellwether trial is very much up in the air. We expect the dust to settle over the coming months.

—*Michelle White*

A FOND FAREWELL TO LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATE ADRIENNE CARTER

It is bittersweet to announce the departure of our legislative advocate, Adrienne Carter, who in July took a new job as communications associate with the International Budget Partnership.

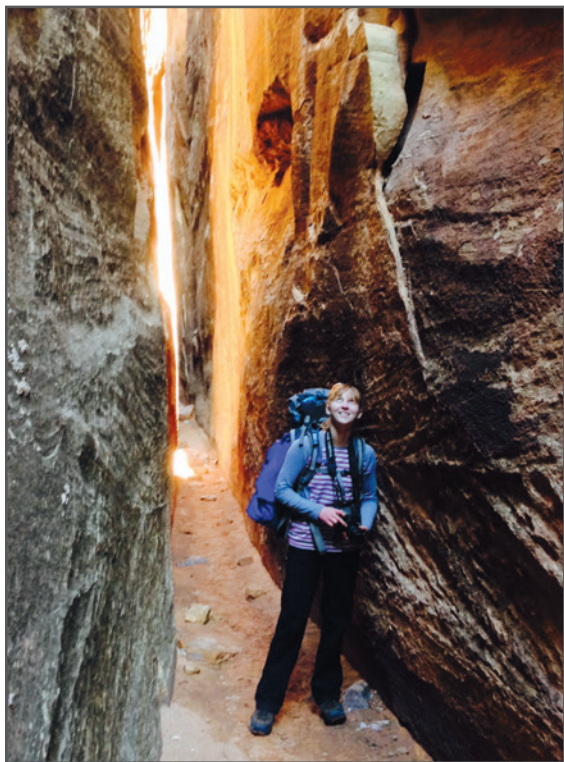
Adrienne's tenure at SUWA included some of the highs and lows of the Trump administration. Her first major action when she came on board was planning our protest in front of the White House the day Trump illegally repealed huge sections of Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears national monuments.

Toward the end of her time with us, she helped to get the largest Bureau of Land Management wilderness bill Utah has ever seen over the finish line, permanently protecting wild landscapes in Emery County, Utah—coincidentally, the place where she grew up. We'll miss Adrienne's energy and silliness, and we wish her the best in her new endeavor!



ADRIENNE IN ONE OF HER FAVORITE PLACES BESIDES UTAH WILDERNESS: THE BALLPARK.

KATHERINE INDERMAUR IS SUWA'S NEW DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE



KATHERINE IN CANYONLANDS NATIONAL PARK.

Katherine Indermaur joined SUWA as our development associate in June to oversee fundraising and membership programs. We are pleased to welcome her.

Katherine comes to us from Colorado, where she earned a graduate degree in creative writing at Colorado State University (CSU). While there, she also worked as an assistant editor for *Alpinist* magazine and as the managing editor for CSU's Center for Literary Publishing, where she oversaw operations and helped to publish several poetry collections. She also has professional experience in finance administration. She earned her undergraduate degree in English from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Protecting wilderness has been important to Katherine ever since she was certified a junior park ranger at the age of eight. As a student, she traveled to Bosnia and Herzegovina to volunteer at Sutjeska National Park, building and repairing facilities for park visitors.

When not chatting with SUWA members at the Salt Lake City office, she can be found exploring new trails with her shelter mutt, hand-jamming up a pristine sandstone crack, doing yoga, cooking, or reworking one of her poems. Welcome, Katherine. We're excited to have you on board!

OLIVER WOOD JOINS WILDLANDS TEAM IN MOAB

Oliver Wood, a Washington State native and recent Montana resident, joined SUWA in July as a new Wildlands Attorney in the Moab office. We are so excited to have him as the newest member of our “do it all” Wildlands team.

Oliver earned his law degree in May from the University of Montana, where he focused on environmental law and policy studies. While in law school, Oliver served as co-editor-in-chief of the school’s *Public Land & Resources Law Review*. He also found time to both experience and advocate for the public lands and wild places of the Mountain West while completing his studies.

Oliver has more energy than any two ordinary mortals. Since coming to Moab and SUWA in July, he has passed the Bar Exam (hooray!), conducted fieldwork all over the state, jumped head-first into complicat-

ed legal research, and hiked many backcountry mountain ranges of the Four Corners region with his trusty sidekick, Huck the talking Husky. We can’t wait to see all the great things Oliver will bring to the SUWA crew!

WELCOME BACK, JOE BUSHYHEAD!

We’re pleased to report that Joe Bushyhead has rejoined SUWA’s legal team after completing a year-long clerkship at Utah’s federal district court.

Joe came to SUWA in 2012 and for the next five years focused much of his work on the long-running effort by the State of Utah and its counties to leverage a single sentence in an 1866 mining law—commonly referred to as RS 2477—to turn cow paths and faded two-tracks into highways. Now on his second tour at SUWA, Joe has broadened his docket to also include off-road vehicles, mining, and oil and gas.

It’s great to have Joe and his lovable mutt Mackay back at the office!



OLIVER AND HUCK.



JOE AND MACKAY.



THANKS TO SUMMER INTERN MADDIE HEALY!

Our summer grassroots organizing intern, Maddie Healy, was the recipient of the Dr. Norman Weissman Internship for Preservation of Wild & Scenic Utah, a generous gift made possible by his family.

Maddie is a California transplant to Provo, Utah and will graduate with a degree in biology from Brigham Young University this coming spring. She intends to pursue a masters degree in sustainability.

Maddie says her SUWA internship “immersed her in the world of wilderness conservation” and gave her an outlet to share her voice with the surrounding community. She especially valued the chance to “work within the Latter Day Saints community to help bridge the gap between spirituality and conservation.”

As if a summer of grassroots advocacy was not enough to keep her busy, during her internship she organized another small event . . . she got married! We wish Maddie the best and thank her for all her help!

DC INTERN KADEN MCARTHUR MOVES DOWN THE HALL

In June, a familiar face came through the doors of SUWA's DC office. Kaden McArthur, by then a graduate of Utah State University, had joined the DC team once again as our summer intern (that's two summers in a row!).

When Adrienne, our legislative advocate, moved on to a new job, Kaden took up the reins and assisted the legislative team in all our DC work. From sending the daily news round-up to scheduling slideshow events for our grassroots team to entering copious amounts of information into our databases, Kaden rocked it.

After completing his internship with SUWA, Kaden is now a legislative coordinator at the Alaska Wilderness League (just down the hall). We are proud of his accomplishments and grateful for his friendship.

Best of luck, Kaden, and thanks for your hard work! Reward yourself with your favorite: a Diet Coke.



ACTIVISTS LEARN THE FINER POINTS OF THE RS 2477 ISSUE DURING THE 2019 GRASSROOTS LEADERS RETREAT.
© TERRI MARTIN/SUWA

RED ROCK ACTIVISTS RENEWED AND ENERGIZED AT LEADERS RETREAT

It's hard to choose the best part of SUWA's 2019 grassroots leaders retreat: the explosion of rich connections and exciting exchanges, the deep learning from each other and the land, or the renewed inspiration and fortitude to move ahead. And then there was simply waking up together each morning to the golden glow of sunlight illuminating the Straight Cliffs on the Kaiparowits Plateau.

SUWA hosts the retreat each year to deepen understanding of the campaign to Protect Wild Utah, enhance advocacy skills, and build community. This year the retreat brought together over 30 activists from Utah and 14 other states at a site just outside Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

At camp, we studied our successes, discussed current challenges, and practiced advocacy skills (such as writing persuasive letters-to-the-editor and educating members of Congress). On an excursion across the Burr Trail, we took a first-hand look at Trump's unlawful reduction of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, what's at stake in the battle over RS 2477 rights-of-way, and the degradation wrought by grazing and chaining.

We also spent time around the campfire talking with local residents about what it's like to be an advocate on the ground for our monuments and wild places in southern Utah. And, of course, we walked through wild lands together, up canyons and across slabs of slickrock, letting the beauty of the place and the company of like-minded activists restore our spirits. SUWA thanks everyone who came and we look forward to joining with more of you in the future.

SUWA'S SEASONAL FIELD TEAM ADDS EYES ON THE GROUND

We welcome Andrew Kooyman, Nick McEachern, and Samuel Bey as the latest additions to SUWA's growing seasonal field team. This remarkable trio started earlier this year and they've been traveling extensively through southern Utah performing inventories of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) potential motorized route system.

Because our work on the ground is necessarily seasonal, all three have other irons in the fire. Andrew works throughout the winter season at Brighton ski area as its content manager. Nick continues to work for Outward Bound as the organization's rafting and mountaineering instructor. And Samuel is currently obtaining majors in geography and environmental and sustainability studies with an emphasis in land management, resource conservation, and place at the University of Utah (he's also one of our most well-rounded interns, handling a range of tasks around our Salt Lake City office).

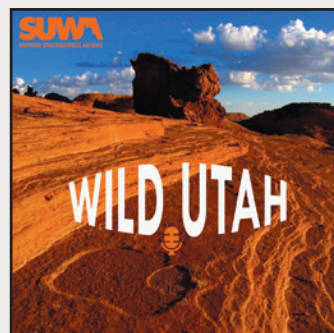
SUWA's seasonal field role is demanding, tiring, and not for the faint of heart. Each of these desert rats has shown creativity and skill in getting the inventory work done. In particular, they handily danced around this year's unprecedented early season thunderstorms and dramatic weather to get where they needed to be.

The route inventory work has already shown its value as SUWA has been able to document all prospective vehicle routes in the San Rafael Desert and Henry Mountains travel management planning areas. We have also done considerable route work in Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in the interest of making sure no damage occurs while our lawsuit against Trump's rollback is pending.

In the long term, the work of Andrew, Nick, and Samuel will help us protect wilderness and get the best possible travel plans from the BLM.



LEFT TO RIGHT: ANDREW KOOYMAN, NICK MCEACHERN, AND SAMUEL BEY.



SUBSCRIBE TO OUR PODCAST

Did you know SUWA has a podcast?

Our campaign to Protect Wild Utah encompasses policy analysis, legal strategy, grassroots activism, and ground-truthing by field staff. Our new podcast, WILD UTAH, shines a light on these efforts and gives the land a voice. In order to preserve the unique natural quiet of southern Utah, we're gonna have to make some noise!

Recent episodes range from a discussion of the Trump administration's new management plans for the reduced Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments, to SUWA's successful field volunteer program, to the intersection between climate justice and grassroots efforts to protect Utah's remaining wild lands.

Find our WILD UTAH podcast at www.suwa.org/podcast; under the News tab on our home page; or search for it on Spotify, iTunes, and other popular podcast apps.

SUWA HOSTS SECOND WILDERNESS STEWARDSHIP TRAINING IN SLC

Over a weekend in August, SUWA's Stewardship Program organized a Wilderness Stewardship Training in Salt Lake City. Forty trainees attended the Saturday session, twenty-four of whom then took part in a training hike on Sunday to practice their monitoring skills on a portion of Stansbury Island (Great Salt Lake) that's proposed for wilderness protection under America's Red Rock Wilderness Act. Volunteers committed a total of 429 hours of their time over two days.

Born of a partnership with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Washington County, SUWA's recently expanded Stewardship Training recruits individuals to monitor for impacts to wilderness-quality public lands during their time hiking and exploring Utah's great outdoors. Stewards report back to SUWA with photo-tagged geospatial data and written reports assessing on-the-ground conditions. The training equips volunteers with the tools and technology to perform these monitoring tasks while fostering a growing, hands-on stewardship community in Utah. Cumulatively, the stewards' work informs



WILDERNESS STEWARDS STUDY A MAP OF UTAH'S PROPOSED AND PROTECTED WILDERNESS AREAS. © JEREMY LYNCH/SUWA

SUWA's approach to proposing and executing service work on public lands across the state.

Our Salt Lake City-based initiative was co-sponsored by the BLM state office, which provided staff to present on the need for volunteers and public partnerships on Utah's public lands. We hope future trainings will engage agency field offices across the state in the effort to collect and provide data to better manage Utah's diverse wilderness lands.

To learn more about our Stewardship Program, visit suwa.org/fieldvolunteers.



WILDERNESS STEWARDS PUT THEIR MONITORING TRAINING TO THE TEST ON A HIKE IN THE STANSBURY ISLAND PROPOSED WILDERNESS. © JEREMY LYNCH/SUWA

MAKE A LONG-TERM INVESTMENT IN UTAH WILDERNESS

JOIN OUR MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM

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

Is protecting the redrock worth \$5 or \$10 a month to you? That's only \$60 or \$120 a year and goes a long way to helping keep your public lands wild.

Already a sustaining member? For just \$5 or \$10 more a month, you can make an even greater impact and provide SUWA with a reliable funding source to keep fighting in defense of your public wild lands during these very challenging times.

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

LEAVE A LEGACY FOR THE REDROCK

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

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

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

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

GET A FREE SUWA BEANIE WITH YEAR-END GIFT MEMBERSHIP PURCHASES!

'Tis the season for SUWA gift memberships. Purchase a \$25 gift membership during the month of November or December and your gift recipient will receive a free SUWA beanie in their welcome packet, along with a newsletter and yellow "Protect Wild Utah" sticker! You can even buy a gift membership for yourself (we won't tell anyone). Purchase gift memberships on our website at suwa.org/giftmemberships (order by Dec. 7th to guarantee delivery in time for Christmas).



© MICHELLE MARTINEAU/SUWA

FIND MORE GREAT GIFTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS IN OUR ONLINE STORE

Looking for the perfect holiday gift for that wilderness lover on your list? Our online store has you covered. Check out our newest T-shirts sporting the orange SUWA logo, available in multiple fits and sizes for just \$25. Other SUWA swag options include our bandanas for your or your pets' outdoor adventures, dry bags for your river rat friends, our ever-popular trucker hats and, of course, "Protect Bears Ears" T-shirts and tank tops. Visit our website at suwa.org/goodies or click 'SHOP' at the top of our home page to get started.



SOUTHERN UTAH WILDERNESS ALLIANCE

425 East 100 South
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
S.L.C., UT
PERMIT No. 474



GRAND STAIRCASE-ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENT. © JEFF FOOTT

“Wilderness is the source of what we can imagine and what we cannot—the taproot of consciousness.”

~Terry Tempest Williams