

# REDROCK

## WILDERNESS

The Newsletter of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance

VOLUME 38, NUMBER 3 • AUTUMN/WINTER 2021

**GRAND STAIRCASE-ESCALANTE AND BEARS EARS  
NATIONAL MONUMENTS RESTORED!**



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.

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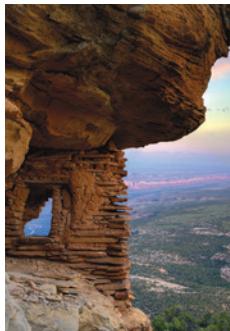
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## AMERICA'S RED ROCK WILDERNESS ACT REFERENCE MAP

This issue of *Redrock Wilderness* was written by the following staff and outside contributors: Steve Bloch, Judi Brawer, Neal Clark, Clayton Daughenbaugh, Scott Groene, Katherine Indermaur, Olivia Juarez, Diane Kelly, Jeremy Lynch, Kya Marienfeld, Creed Murdock, Landon Newell, Dave Pacheco, Laura Peterson, Chris Richardson, Jen Ujifusa, and Michelle White. It was edited by Darrell Knuffke and laid out by Diane Kelly. Newsletter design by Amy Westberg.

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

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## THE GOOD FIGHT CONTINUES

As we celebrate the recent restoration of the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments, we recognize that woven through this victory are the threads of SUWA's history and the efforts of thousands of advocates over some three decades. The work to protect the canyon country requires endurance, fitting for a landscape formed through hundreds of millions of years of geologic process.

President Biden's reversal of Trump's malfeasance returns White Canyon, Lockhart Basin, Cedar Mesa, the Abajo Mountains, and portions of the Kaiparowits Plateau and the Escalante River canyons to monument status. And it raises back to 5.5 million acres the lands within America's Red Rock Wilderness Act that enjoy some level of protection.

Yet we must continue to defend these lands, mostly against Utah's Governor Cox and the state's congressional delegation led by Senator Mitt Romney and Representative John Curtis, who have vowed, over the objections of the Tribes and locally elected officials, to again take down the monuments.

Governor Cox has promised to use public money to challenge the restored monuments. Even though the State of Utah has already tried and lost this case against Grand Staircase-Escalante years ago. But then Cox's administration also bears responsibility for the state's continuing, multi-year RS 2477 litigation. That lunacy has wasted millions of taxpayer dollars for little return, but it appeases the fringe. With the combination of Cox and our congressional delegation, Utah may be the most politically hostile state towards America's public lands.

The lands restored to the monuments are now withdrawn from new energy leases and mining claims, but Bears Ears remains threatened by off-road vehicle use and exploding visitation. Grand Staircase-Escalante, under the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) control, had fallen on hard times as the agency cut funding and staff, refused to enforce its existing travel plan, and generally treated the monument as no such thing. There is much work to be done to make the designations meaningful.

Now we're back to where things stood at the end of the Obama administration, though in some ways better off. The Biden administration has made addressing climate change a top priority and recognizes the importance of public lands in meeting that challenge. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland shares his view and will help ensure that the BLM, under her department, will share it as well. This administration recognizes that to mitigate climate change, prevent extinctions, and create a healthy environment for all creatures here, we need to protect 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030.

Achieving that 30x30 goal will be as difficult as it is essential, especially with a divided Congress and the likes of the Utah congressional delegation trolling the political landscape. In the face of this adversity, the administration must avoid the temptation to dilute the meaning of "protection," as some are already advocating, to enable claims of progress.

For our part, defending and protecting the redrock country is a solid step towards the goal of 30x30. Regaining the monuments impels us in the right direction.

For the Redrock,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Scott Groene".

Scott Groene  
Executive Director

**GOOD NEWS**

# GRAND STAIRCASE-ESCALANTE AND BEARS EARS RESTORED!

In a White House ceremony on October 8th, President Biden—surrounded by Tribal and conservation leaders, congressional stalwarts, and members of his cabinet—exercised the authority given to him by Congress under the Antiquities Act and signed proclamations restoring Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears National Monuments to their full and original glory.

The president described his decision to do so as “the easiest thing” he’d done in his first year in office. With his signatures, he kept the faith with Native American Tribes and conservationists that restoration would be a priority for this administration. We think it’s appropriate to take a moment, celebrate the work that once again protected these monuments and the sacred sites, fossils, unique ecosystems, and wildness within them—then look to what lies ahead.

## HOW IT ALL BEGAN

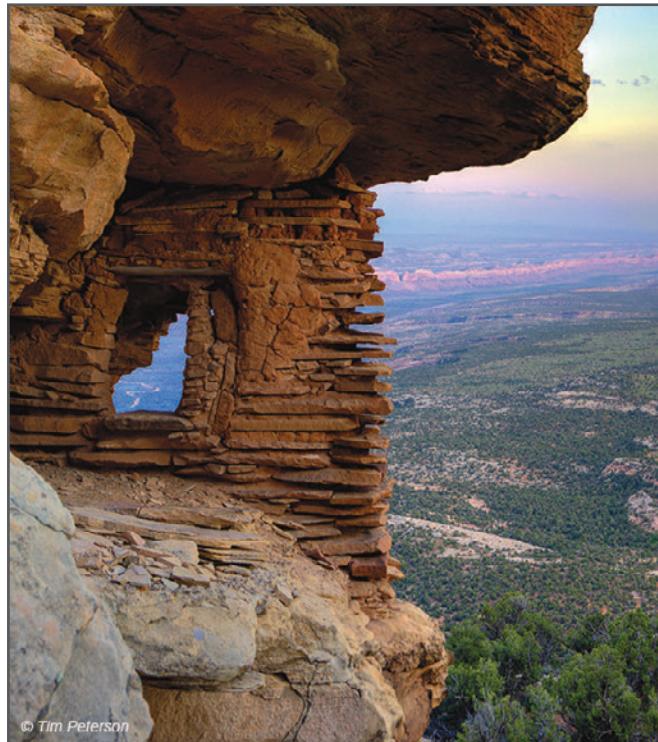
On a bleak December day in 2017, President Trump flew into Salt Lake City for his first and only trip to Utah during his term in office. In his few hours on the ground, Trump—with the temerity characteristic of his entire presidency—did what no other president in modern times had done:

he dismantled established national monuments, reducing Grand Staircase-Escalante by roughly 900,000 acres and Bears Ears by a shocking 1.1 million acres. It was widely reviled as the largest assault on public lands in the nation’s history.

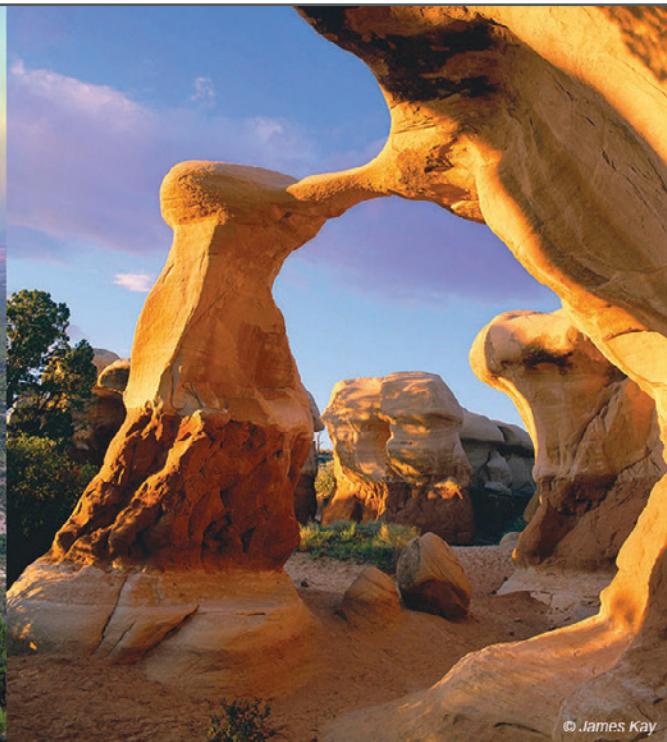
And for what? Did he buy the self-pitying nonsense from the Utah delegation that the monuments were “federal overreach?” Did he owe Senator Orrin Hatch a favor? Or did his Interior Secretary, Ryan Zinke—who met privately and repeatedly with monument opponents—fill Trump’s head with greedy fantasies about “really great” uranium and coal mines that would follow disestablishment. In any case, the damage was done and the protections that had been in place for more than 20 years in the case of Grand Staircase, and sought for even longer in the case of Bears Ears, were scrapped.

## COURT BATTLES, MINING CLAIMS, MANAGEMENT PLANS, AND CONFUSION

Before he even left Utah’s airspace SUWA, Native American Tribes, and a coalition of conservation groups and businesses had challenged Trump’s illegal decisions in federal



© Tim Peterson



© James Kay



DEVIL'S GARDEN AND THE STRAIGHT CLIFFS, GRAND STAIRCASE-ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENT. © JEFF FOOTT

court in Washington, DC. Over the next three-and-a-half years we successfully teed up the central legal questions the court needed to resolve. First, did Trump's actions violate the Antiquities Act, which gives presidents the power to establish, but not dismantle, national monuments? Second, did Congress ratify Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument through several deliberate acts, including the exchange of all Utah school trust lands out of the monument? Disappointingly, the court never issued a decision.

An immediate impact of Trump's assault was that in early February 2018 all the lands he cut from the monuments were open to the location of new hardrock mining claims. This included claims for uranium, lithium, and alabaster (but not oil, gas, or coal which are "leasable" minerals and go through a different sale process). Over the next three-and-a-half years, dozens of new mining claims were located and recorded in the excised lands, and by October 2021 more than 15 remained. One claim in each monument has been developed. The "Creamsicle" claim in Grand Staircase-Escalante was mined briefly for alabaster but has since been reclaimed. And in Bears Ears, the "Easy Peasy" claim continues to produce uranium ore. A few other claimants have submitted plans of development and we're keeping a sharp eye on those.

In the meantime, Trump's Interior Department raced ahead to complete new management plans for the remnants of

Bears Ears—what Trump referred to as the Indian Creek and Shash Jaa' units—and the remaining monument lands and excluded lands of Grand Staircase-Escalante. The plans were completed in February 2020 and are pretty much what you'd expect from the Trump administration: frameworks that drove management to the lowest common denominator. The planning documents themselves recognized that their implementation would result in the degradation, if not outright destruction, of the very monument objects Presidents Clinton and Obama had protected. While the plans went into immediate effect, their implementation has been slow. SUWA, along with many of our partners, are closely watchdogging what happens on the ground.

Maybe the most damning legacy of Trump's actions has been public confusion about what activities were permitted within the original monument boundaries and what those boundaries actually were. For example, almost immediately we saw illegal motorized use (whether deliberate or unintentional). Visitors told BLM law enforcement officers they thought Trump's proclamations meant they were allowed to drive anywhere in the monuments.

And while visitors continued to come to the monuments, particularly during the pandemic, they were left without clear information about how to respectfully appreciate sacred sites and fossils or where to drive, camp, bike, or hike.

## MONUMENTAL RESTORATION

In the lead-up to October's monument restoration, Interior Secretary Deb Haaland held nation-to-nation meetings with Native American Tribes, met with members of Utah's congressional delegation as well as state and local leaders, and heard from local communities and stakeholders. In April, Secretary Haaland also came to Utah for three days and toured Bears Ears with many of these same people, held stakeholder meetings in Blanding and Kanab, and called on visitor centers in Bluff and Kanab. In June, following those meetings and site visits, the Interior Department transmitted to the president the secretary's report and recommendations regarding the fate of the monuments. They supported full restoration of Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears.

At that point, all that was left to do was wait . . . and hope that President Biden would come through and take his place among presidents of both parties who, since 1906, have used the Antiquities Act to protect many of the nation's most fragile and threatened objects and landscapes as national monuments.

Our hopes were well placed and on October 8th the President restored the two monuments. The proclamations go into great detail about the objects found within the monuments, the threats they face, and—in accordance with Congress's direction under the Antiquities Act—how the restored monuments are the smallest size necessary to accomplish that goal.

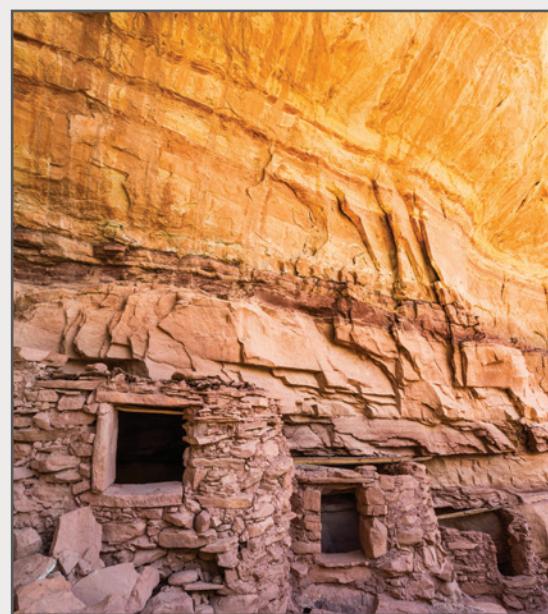
With regard to Grand Staircase-Escalante, President Biden compared the landscape to a nesting doll of objects of historic and scientific interest: "The landscape as a whole is an important object that provides context for each of its constituent parts. Within the whole are distinct and unique areas, which are themselves objects qualifying for protection. In turn, each of those areas contain innumerable individual fossils, archaeological sites, rare species and other objects that are independently of historic or scientific interest and require protection under the Antiquities Act."

As for Bears Ears, the President stated that "[f]ew national monuments more clearly meet the Antiquities Act's criteria for protection than the Bears Ears Buttes and surrounding areas," with its "unique density of significant cultural, historical, and archaeological artifacts spanning thousands of years." And he noted that "[f]or more than 100 years, and sometimes predating the enactment of the Antiquities Act, Presidents, Members of Congress, Secretaries of the Interior, Tribal Nations, State and local governments, scien-

"Our songs, our languages, and our cultures are strong, and many people from many Indian tribes have sung and spoken in unison to protect this sacred place. Bears Ears is a living landscape. When I've been there, I've felt the warmth and joy of ancestors who've cared for this special place since time immemorial. It's a place where you can stand in the doorway of a home where a family who lived thousands of years ago left behind a legacy of love and conservation for a place that sustained them for countless generations. Stories of existence, celebration, survival, and reverence are etched into the sandstone canyon walls. Sacred sites are dotted across the desert mesas.

"Cultural heritage in the form of ancient pots, arrowheads, clothing, seeds, and evidence of lives well lived are as inseparable from Bears Ears as the air we breathe at this moment. Today, children learn and sustain from their parents and elders the songs, traditions, and ceremonies that have been passed down from generation to generation at Bears Ears. This is a place that must be protected in perpetuity for every American and every child of the world."

*—Interior Secretary Deb Haaland's remarks on the restoration of Bears Ears National Monument, Oct. 8, 2021*



BEARS EARS CULTURAL SITE. © SCOTT SMITH



ESCALANTE RIVER. © TIM PETERSON

"Remarkably, given its size, in the 25 years since its designation, Grand Staircase-Escalante has fulfilled the vision of an outdoor laboratory with great potential for diverse and significant scientific discoveries. During this period, hundreds of scientific studies and projects have been conducted within the monument, including investigating how the monument's geology provides insight into the hydrology of Mars; discovering many previously unknown species of dinosaurs, some of which have become household names; unearthing some of the oldest marsupial fossils ever identified . . . [and] conducting extensive inventories of invertebrates, including the identification of more than 600 species of bees, some of which likely exist nowhere else on Earth . . .

" . . . Despite being the last place in the contiguous United States to be mapped and remaining a remote and primitive landscape to this day, the Grand Staircase-Escalante area has a long and dignified human history. The landscape teems with evidence of the efforts expended by both indigenous people and early Anglo pioneers to carve existences into an arid and unforgiving region.

" . . . Protection of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument will preserve its cultural, prehistoric, and historic legacy and maintain its diverse array of natural and scientific resources, ensuring that the prehistoric, historic, and scientific values of this area remain for the benefit of all Americans."

*—Presidential Proclamation on Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Oct. 8, 2021*

tists, and local conservationists have understood and championed the need to protect the Bears Ears area."

In addition to engaging in extensive nation-to-nation consultation in the lead-up to restoring Bears Ears, President Biden honored "the expertise and traditional and historical knowledge of the Tribal Nations." To ensure that monument management decisions reflect and benefit from that wisdom and knowledge, the president re-established the Bears Ears Commission President Obama created in his original 2016 proclamation. The commission is charged with providing "guidance and recommendations on the development and implementation of management plans and on management of the entire monument."

We're grateful President Biden elevated Native voices through the Bears Ears Commission and are eager to help the commission succeed.

## STAGE SET FOR BEARS EARS LAND EXCHANGE

By law, President Biden's restoration of Bears Ears National Monument affected only the federal public lands within the monument's exterior boundaries. Nestled within those boundaries are roughly 113,000 acres of scattered land Utah received at statehood to help fund state schools and institutions. Today, these so-called "state trust lands" are managed by the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA).

Biden's Bears Ears proclamation directs Interior Secretary Deb Haaland to "explore entering into a memorandum of understanding with the State of Utah that would set forth terms . . . for an exchange of lands owned by the State of Utah and administered by [SITLA] within the boundary of the monument for land of approximately equal value managed by BLM outside" the monument.

There is precedent for this kind of an exchange. Two years after President Clinton established Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Congress passed the "Utah Schools and Land Exchange Act of 1998" which exchanged out all SITLA-managed lands from the monument (and other scattered holdings) for federal lands elsewhere in Utah and also gave the state a \$50 million check for its trouble. The 1998 Act was widely heralded as a milestone for Utah's trust lands program.

We're looking forward to working with SITLA, the BLM, and the Interior Department to get this land exchange started and then promptly across the finish line.

## WHAT COMES NEXT?

In many ways, our hardest work lies ahead. We must make sure that the BLM's management of Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears respects and fulfills the promise of Biden's proclamations. There will be new management plans, but not for at least 18 to 24 months. Meanwhile, Trump's wretched management plans remain in effect and will inevitably conflict with Biden's new standards.

We will be watching several things in particular. First, the proclamation directs the BLM to meaningfully involve Native American Tribes from the outset, with a particular emphasis on Bears Ears. We will encourage the BLM to deliver on this commitment. Second, we will try to ensure that the new plans close the door on largescale vegetation removal through mechanical treatments like "chaining" and that the BLM only uses native seeds when it rehabilitates lands from wildfire. Third, we will work to reduce the miles of streambeds, two-tracks, and cow paths in Bears Ears that are open to motorized travel in the agency's new travel plan. That should reduce vandalism and looting.

Finally, the BLM—working closely with Native American Tribes, state and local governments and non-profits—must tackle increasing visitation and its impacts. If you've been to either monument recently you know that some of the most popular places are literally being loved to death: defacement or damage to irreplaceable cultural sites, sprawling infor-



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mal campsites with toilet paper in the bushes, and a maze of user-created trails (hiking and biking as well as motorized)—sometimes all in the same place.

## THE WORK GOES ON

When President Biden finished signing the proclamations we felt a deep sense of elation and gratitude and enjoyed an afternoon of celebration. In the coming months there will be much work to do and we'll be calling on SUWA members early and often to make sure the BLM gets it right and manages Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears as the crown jewels they clearly are.

In the meantime, turn to this issue's center spread for a photographic celebration of this monumental victory.

—Steve Bloch

## LITIGATION ON THE HORIZON

To no one's very great surprise, the state of Utah and others have made clear they intend to sue President Biden over establishment of Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears National Monuments. As the governor is surely aware, no court has overturned a president's use of his authority under the Antiquities Act to create national monuments. Courts have rejected claims that monuments are "too big," as well as the argument that protecting objects such as ecosystems and geology is outside the scope of the act. Utah and others tried this same approach regarding President Clinton's establishment of Grand Staircase in 1996—and lost.

And yet it appears a virtual certainty that Utah will soon file suit. In mid-October, the state issued a "Request for Proposal to Provide Legal Services to Assist the Office of the Attorney General" to challenge Biden's proclamation, meaning it is soliciting bids from private law firms (that will be paid by Utah taxpayers) to pursue these cases. It's hard to imagine the total bill for this fool's errand will be less than \$10 million dollars.

That's \$10 million dollars Utah won't spend on stewardship projects, highlighting for visitors how to respectfully appreciate fragile cultural sites and fossils, \$10 million it won't spend to support local communities and partners as they work to make the most out of the monument designations, and \$10 million dollars that it will fritter away at the behest of a few insular politicians whose views are out of touch with the majority of Utahns. Disappointing, to say the least.

# TRACY STONE MANNING CONFIRMED AS BLM CHIEF

After a lengthy delay, the Senate at the end of September confirmed Montana-based environmentalist Tracy Stone Manning to be the head of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Stone Manning is a long-time environmental advocate and former staffer of Sen. Jon Tester with roots at the National Wildlife Federation. She was vehemently opposed by Republicans who dredged up her activism in college and accused her of being in league with eco-terrorists. The confirmation came on a party-line vote.

The rough treatment during her confirmation process should steel Stone Manning for the difficult road in front of her as head of an agency left in shambles by the Trump administration, whose governing philosophy was to dismantle the workings of government. (In fact, for the four years under Trump, the BLM never had a Senate-confirmed director at all.) One of her first orders of business will be implementing a promise by Interior Secretary Deb Haaland to reverse Trump's relocation of the BLM headquarters from Washington, DC to Grand Junction, Colorado. That destructive decision led to an exodus of federal employees



INTERIOR SECRETARY DEB HAALAND (RIGHT) SWEARS IN TRACY STONE MANNING AS NATIONAL BLM DIRECTOR. PUBLIC DOMAIN PHOTO

who didn't want to uproot their lives and their families for the move. Grand Junction will remain a Western BLM hub.

Stone Manning will also be tasked with overseeing a correction of Trump's fossil-fuel-heavy agenda while turning the focus of the agency to conservation and the Biden administration's goal of protecting 30 percent of American lands and waters by 2030. We wish her luck and look forward to working with her.

*—Jen Ujifusa*

## RED ROCK BILL COSPONSORS ARE CENTRAL IN WILD LANDS BATTLE

America's Red Rock Wilderness Act is the legislative embodiment of the citizens' proposal for Utah wilderness. Taken together, the two documents define the turf of the Utah wilderness debate.

New research shows that America's Red Rock Wilderness Act makes a significant contribution to mitigating climate change. Protecting these wild landscapes would keep a significant amount of fossil fuels in the ground, accounting for 5.7 percent of the carbon mitigation needed to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Fortunately, there is broad and deep support across the country for protecting wild Utah in all its 8.4-million-acre glory; it's important that congressional support mirror that public support. That congressional embrace will bring us closer to eventual protection of all the lands in the Red Rock bill. It can also help drive smaller interim enactments, such as the three wilderness bills and two national monuments Utah gained over the past 25 years. These mark the steady march of progress toward comprehensive redrock protection.

As you can see from the list (opposite page), we're doing well on the cosponsor front. We can always do better and we must. If your senators and/or representative are on the list, please thank them. If any of them are not, please ask them to cosponsor America's Red Rock Wilderness Act (S.1535 in the Senate and H.R.3780 in the House).

**You can contact your members of Congress by going to [suwa.org/cosponsor](http://suwa.org/cosponsor) or by texting ARRWA to 52886.**

As always, our sincerest gratitude goes out to the bill's chief sponsors, Senator Richard Durbin and Representative Alan Lowenthal.



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## COSPONSOR SPOTLIGHT: CORI BUSH



Congresswoman Cori Bush is many things, all of them exceptional: a registered nurse, community activist, organizer, single mother, ordained minister and pastor, and cosponsor of America's Red Rock Wilderness Act.

Bush is in her first term in the House of Representatives serving eastern Missouri's 1st congressional district, an area that includes all of St. Louis City. She took the seat by defeating 10-term incumbent Lacy Clay in 2020. Having Representative Bush cosponsor the Red Rock bill in her first term of office is a wonderfully heartening statement about the importance of wilderness to members of Congress who fight for environmental quality.

Rep. Bush is the first black woman and first nurse to represent Missouri. "As an organizer working for clean energy and environmental justice in St. Louis my work is centered around supporting women, especially women of color, to take back their power," she says. "These could be investments in cleaning up pollution, expanding access to clean energy and public transportation, and making homes

more affordable and energy efficient." She has taken strong public stands for renewable energy, for rebuilding the Environmental Protection Agency, and for securing environmental justice for all communities.

As a young woman, Bush became a preschool teacher and worked her way to assistant director of the school. But after losing her job, she was evicted and was homeless for several months. Her quest for stability in her children's lives led her to nursing school.

This politician's daughter swore she would never go into politics. But that changed in 2014, when a Ferguson, MO police officer shot and killed a young black man, Michael Brown. Now she is committed to helping those who need it most and protecting the environment by fighting for legislation that benefits us all.

*—Chris Richardson*

## COSPONSOR SPOTLIGHT: BEN RAY LUJÁN



For over a decade, U.S. Senator Ben Ray Luján has been a champion for protecting wilderness, honoring Tribal lands, and fighting climate change. Elected in 2008 to represent the 3rd

district of New Mexico in the House of Representatives, Luján first cosponsored America's Red Rock Wilderness Act in 2011. He was sworn into office in 2021 as New Mexico's junior U.S. Senator. As a freshman senator he once again cosponsored the Red Rock bill.

Luján grew up in Nambé, a small farming community north of Santa Fe, bordered by the Nambé and Pojoaque Pueblos. His father, Ben Luján Sr., who served in the New Mexico legislature from 1975 until his passing in 2012, had a very large influence on his life, including his political ambitions and views.

Senator Luján has been a leading voice in the fight for environmental protection and against climate change. He has developed bold, comprehensive legislation to put the United States on a path to net-zero carbon emissions to combat the climate crisis and stimulate the economy. His visionary plan has earned praise from climate experts, environmental advocates, and labor groups.

During the Obama administration, Luján helped lead the effort to establish the Rio Grande del Norte National Conservation Area and the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument, preserving some of New Mexico's greatest treasures and premier tourist destinations. In addition, he helped lead the effort to protect the greater Chaco Canyon region from harmful oil and gas drilling and dangerous methane emissions.

"I've always made it a priority to stand up for our land, water, and wildlife corridors, and in the Senate, I'll continue fighting to preserve our precious natural resources for future generations," says Luján.

*—Chris Richardson*

# SUWA URGES BLM TO TAKE FORWARD-LOOKING APPROACH TO WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT

In 2019, the Emery County Public Land Management Act designated 663,000 acres of Utah's San Rafael Swell and Desolation and Labyrinth Canyons as wilderness. That designation is meant to protect these places forever from the blight of mining, oil and gas development, and off-road vehicles.

But resource extraction and motors aren't the only threats to wilderness. The many values wilderness provides, such as opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation and the presence of rare natural and cultural resources, must be actively guarded. Protection of these things calls for careful, informed management.

We recently submitted extensive comments opposing the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) proposal to more than double the number of commercial recreation permits and increase group size limits for these newly designated wilderness areas. That proposal would allow up to 25 people per commercial guided group in popular and already overcrowded areas such as Little Wildhorse Canyon in the San Rafael Reef. We visited this canyon recently and cannot imagine encountering a group of 25 people there. This would not only seriously diminish the wilderness experience but would pose significant safety risks in narrow slot canyons.

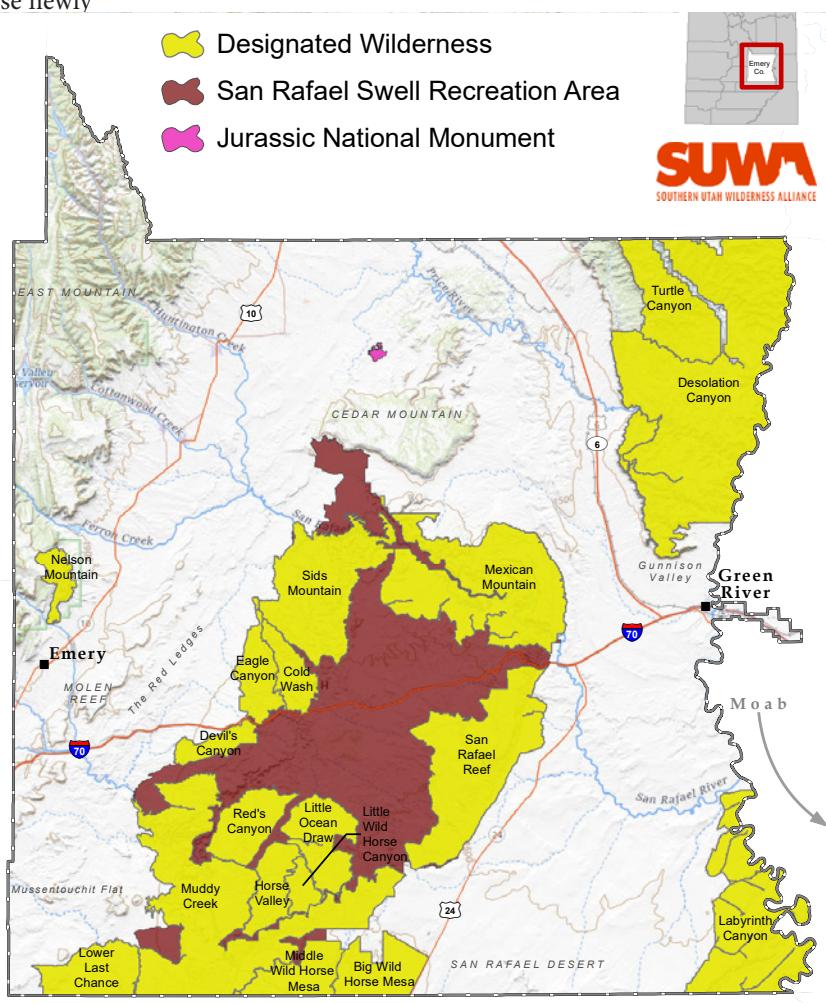
While the Wilderness Act prohibits commercial use in wilderness areas—including commercial recreation such as guided hiking, climbing, hunting, and backpacking trips—a narrow exception exists “to the extent necessary for activities which are proper for realizing the recreational or other wilderness purposes of the areas.” But the need to accommodate recreation does not override the bedrock requirement to preserve wilderness qualities such as naturalness and solitude.

To determine whether increased commercial recreation use in these newly designated wilderness areas is necessary and appropriate, and to what extent, the

BLM must first complete wilderness management plans to gain a comprehensive, landscape-level picture of all pertinent issues and management considerations, and to the extent it is knowable, what the future may hold. No such plan exists.

As our recently released recreation report shows (see article on page 16), recreational use is straining the BLM's management and enforcement capabilities, posing safety issues and causing damage to natural and cultural resources. Accordingly, SUWA will continue to push the BLM to embrace management strategies that protect sensitive wilderness values before they are overwhelmed by burgeoning recreational use.

—Judi Brawer

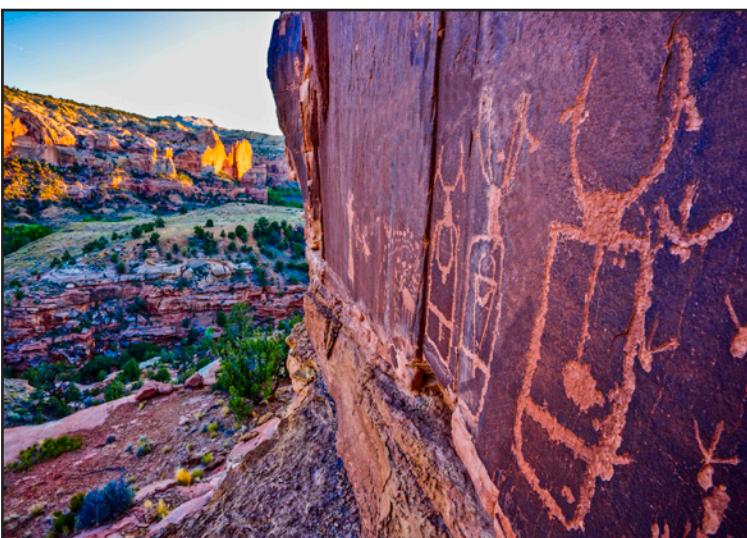


# GRAND STAIRCASE-ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENT

(RESTORED OCTOBER 2015)



CAPROCKS ON THE RIM OF ESCALANTE CANYON, GRAND STAIRCASE-ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENT.  
© JACK DYKINGA



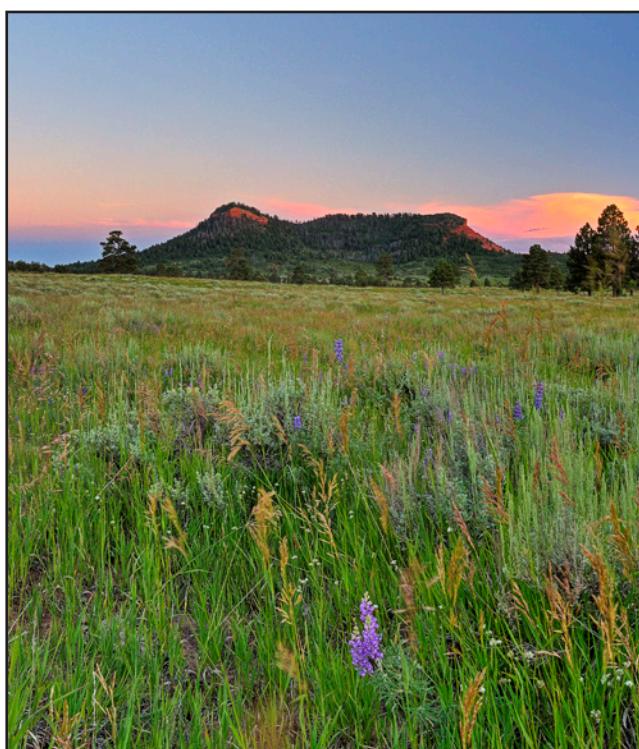
PETROGLYPH IN GRAND STAIRCASE-ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENT. © TOM TILL



STRAIGHT CLIFFS, GRAND STAIRCASE-ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENT. © JEFF FOOTT



CIRCLE CLIFFS, GRAND STAIRCASE-ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENT. © JACK DYKINGA



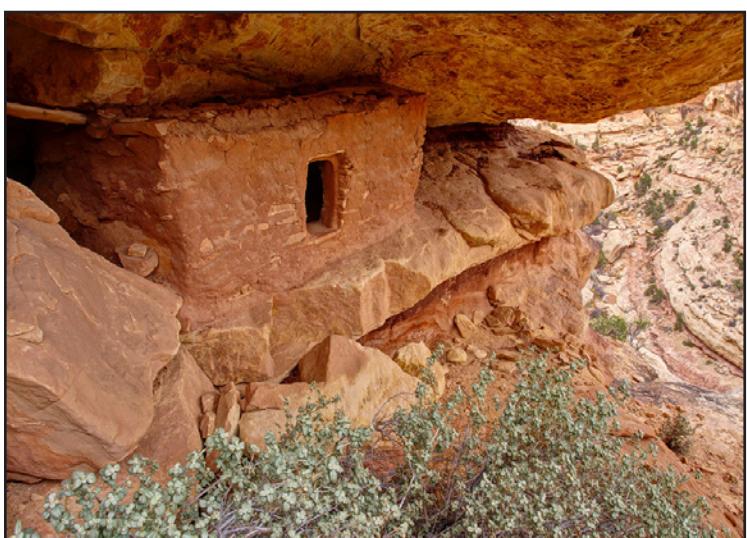
BEAR'S EARS BUTTES, BEAR'S EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT. © TIM PETERSON

# CALANTE & BEARS EARS MONUMENTS

(OCTOBER 8, 2021)



VALLEY OF THE GODS, BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT. © SCOTT SMITH



CULTURAL SITE IN BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT. © RICHARD BULLOUGH



BUTLER WASH ALCOVE, BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT. © TIM PETERSON



CAREFUL PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT ARE ESSENTIAL AS PUBLIC LANDS IN UTAH EXPERIENCE RAPIDLY GROWING RECREATIONAL PRESSURES. © MELANI/ADOBESTOCK

## NEW REPORT HIGHLIGHTS GROWING IMPACTS OF HUMAN-POWERED RECREATION

SUWA and more than a dozen local and regional conservation organizations have asked the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to create a new working group to develop tools and strategies to deal with the rapid growth of non-motorized recreation and visitation on federal public lands in Utah.

The groups' request relies heavily on a just-released report prepared for SUWA by Utah State University professor and recreation ecologist Dr. Christopher Monz. The report, *Outdoor Recreation and Ecological Disturbance, A Review of Research and Implications for Management of the Colorado Plateau Province*, synthesizes more than 60 years of published scientific research.

The history of the BLM's recreation management has been one of reaction, not advanced planning and preparedness. That failure to look ahead has left serious damage in its wake. The report identifies the lasting environmental impacts of rapidly expanding human-powered recreation such as hiking, mountain biking, backpacking, camping, hunting, and horseback riding on the Colorado Plateau.

The report also stresses the need to plan for recreation growth as opposed to the agency's current and historical reactive strategy that's causing a proliferation of damaged

areas. The impacts of non-motorized recreation can be substantial and long-lasting, including:

- Soil compaction and erosion, and destruction of crypto-biotic soil crusts
- Destruction of vegetation and spread of noxious weeds
- Destruction of cultural artifacts and landscapes
- Disturbance and displacement of wildlife and habitat fragmentation
- Degradation of streams and riparian areas
- Water, air, noise, and light pollution

To minimize these impacts while also meeting increasing recreation demand, the report recommends that land management agencies such as the BLM focus growth and expansion of recreation use in frontcountry areas where trails and facilities are already developed, and protect and minimize development of less-impacted backcountry areas.

Because the majority of impacts occur as a consequence of initial use, further use, even at high levels, results in minimal additional harm. As the report states, "unused locations are the most precious and fragile, and thus should be intensively protected and managed to avoid the proliferation of impacts."

You can help! Sign our petition calling on the Utah BLM to establish a working group of experts to develop science-based management tools and strategies to address this growing problem. Go to [suwa.org/recreationpetition](http://suwa.org/recreationpetition) to add your name.

—Judi Brawer

## MANTI-LA SAL FOREST PLANNING UNDERWAY

The Manti-La Sal National Forest, which includes distinct forest units in the La Sal Mountains outside of Moab as well as the Abajo Mountains and a portion of Bears Ears National Monument in San Juan County, is revising its management plan for the first time in 35 years.

The Manti-La Sal is a spectacular and exceptionally diverse region. Its aspen groves, alpine lakes, stands of giant ponderosa pine, and rocky crags perch high above Utah's canyon country. This is one of the few places where you can stand in a snowy forest of pine and spruce while looking out for hundreds of miles across valleys, canyons, and red-rock desert fins. There's more here, though, than beauty: the forest is a critical watershed on the Colorado Plateau,

sustaining life in the surrounding redrock canyon country. Now that climate change and drought have become the new realities in the West, protecting watersheds fed by mountain snowpack is more important than ever.

Anticipating this plan revision process, SUWA has been working with our partners for many years on a comprehensive "conservation alternative" that we believe should be fully analyzed and considered in the Forest Service's development of the new plan. The conservation alternative is a comprehensive proposal for managing all aspects of the Manti-La Sal National Forest. This alternative considers the limits imposed by climate change as well as imperatives for conservation of water, native plants, and wildlife. It also addresses the need to accommodate tribal interests and to ensure responsiveness to the public in future forest management decisions.

The first public comment period, known as "scoping," closed in October. This was the first of many steps in a long process, and hundreds of SUWA members participated to let the Forest Service know what issues, resources, and conservation measures mattered to them. We'll keep you informed as the planning process progresses.

—Kya Marienfeld



MANTI-LA SAL NATIONAL FOREST. © TIM PETERSON



RED CLIFFS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA. © BOB WICK

## SUWA, PARTNERS SUE TO BLOCK NORTHERN CORRIDOR HIGHWAY

Congress set aside the ecologically-rich Red Cliffs National Conservation Area (NCA) near St. George, Utah in 2009 specifically for conservation purposes—most importantly, to protect habitat for 20 species of sensitive and threatened wildlife, including the iconic Mojave desert tortoise.

But that crystal-clear intent didn't stop the Trump administration's last-gasp decision in January 2021 to permit the construction of a four-lane highway through the NCA. If completed, the project, known as the "Northern Corridor Highway," would set a terrifying precedent for conservation lands. If federal public lands with a clear, congressionally-established intent for preservation of natural resource values and imperiled wildlife habitat can be paved over on a whim, what areas will be left?

In June, SUWA, along with many regional and national conservation partners, filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Department of the Interior, which authorized the project. Our lawsuit alleges that the highway authorization violates

the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act that established the NCA in 2009, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act.

Paving over a protected, sensitive, and scenic desert landscape surely violates bedrock environmental and cultural resource protection laws. We'll keep you posted as we move forward with our lawsuit.

—Kya Marienfeld

## BOOK CLIFFS HIGHWAY PROPOSAL RETURNS

The 30-year threat to gouge a highway through Utah's remote Book Cliffs region, a particularly large and unspoiled part of America's Red Rock Wilderness Act, is once again back from the dead.

After starting, and then withdrawing, a right-of-way application to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in 2020, the Seven County Infrastructure Coalition (SCIC) has put the proposal back on its active project list. It has allocated \$3.2 million of taxpayer money for an environ-

mental impact study. The SCIC is hungrily eyeing the Biden administration's "Invest in America" infrastructure funding and believes it can tap into it to fund this monumentally bad idea, despite the fact that the highway's major purpose is to subsidize and enable the fossil fuel industry. Grand County, where the road would be located, is adamantly opposed to the highway.

SUWA is working with a coalition of conservation organizations, local government officials, and local landowners to stop this nonsensical project. Together, we've launched the "Save the Book Cliffs" campaign and an associated petition. We are also working to raise public awareness of this threat and continue to pressure state and federal legislators and BLM officials in Washington, DC not to move this right-of-way application forward. To sign the petition, visit [savethebookcliffs.com](http://savethebookcliffs.com).

—Kya Marienfeld

## GOOD NEWS **SUWA WINS LAW-SUIT OVER BRIDGE PROJECT**

On July 29th, SUWA achieved an important legal win in our fight against the state of Utah and many of its counties' long-running attempt to gain control over thousands of miles of public lands through use of an arcane law known as Revised Statute (RS) 2477 (see sidebar).

Our lawsuit challenged the BLM's decision to allow Kane County to install an industrial steel and concrete bridge over the Bull Valley Gorge on the Skutumpah Road. The bridge is within the boundaries of Grand Staircase-

### WHAT IS RS 2477?

An obscure legal provision, Revised Statute (RS) 2477 was passed in 1866 as part of the Mining Act and granted "highway" rights-of-way across public lands. Although the statute was repealed by Congress in 1976, Utah's politicians seized on it in the 1990s and early 2000s as a means of preventing wilderness designation and asserting local control over federal public lands. In 2012, the Utah attorney general filed lawsuits in federal district court claiming roughly 14,000 RS 2477 rights-of-way across 22 counties.

Escalante National Monument and at the threshold of the Paria-Hackberry Wilderness Study Area. Despite the wilderness character of the surrounding lands, the BLM argued that because the Skutumpah Road was previously declared an RS 2477 right-of-way by a federal court, the agency did not have any legal authority to regulate the bridge or analyze the impacts to the surrounding lands.

The judge agreed with SUWA and found that the BLM's decision violated the agency's land management duties under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the National Environmental Policy Act.

The road to resolving RS 2477 claims in Utah has been slow and tortuous to say the least, but victories like this help shape the future of wilderness-quality lands throughout Utah.

—Michelle White

### DRAFT MOTORIZED TRAVEL PLANS DUE IN COMING MONTHS

The BLM continues to move forward with its travel management planning across eastern and southern Utah. These plans will determine where motorized vehicles will be allowed to operate on more than 6 million acres of Utah public land.

We expect to see drafts of at least three travel management plans in the upcoming months: Trail Canyon (Kanab field office), Dinosaur North (Vernal field office) and Labyrinth Rims/Gemini Bridges (Moab field office).

SUWA is working to ensure that these plans institute balance in off-road vehicle management and do justice to Utah's incredible wild landscapes and cultural sites. Stay informed and learn how you can make a difference at [suwa.org/travelplans](http://suwa.org/travelplans).

## FIELD TEAM SURVEYS HUNDREDS OF MILES OF MOTORIZED ROUTES IN UTAH

SUWA's seasonal field team has earned our deepest thanks for its remarkable work in 2021. Nick McEachern and Samuel Bey, both in their third season in the field for us, and Brandi O'Brien, in her first year on the team, gathered an impressive amount of valuable information through their fieldwork this year.

Since early spring our work has focused on collecting on-the-ground photo documentation and geospatial data for motorized routes subject to the Bureau of Land Management's travel planning revisions throughout Utah. The work is far from easy. The team dealt with extreme heat and torrential rains to inventory an astounding 1,300 miles of routes in areas including the San Rafael Swell, San Rafael Desert, Book Cliffs, and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. We are grateful for their motivation and positive attitudes throughout the year, and we hope to have them back to continue this important work in 2022.

## INTERIOR SCRUTINIZES LEASING PROGRAM, POLLUTERS PITCH A FIT

Soon after taking office, the Biden administration ordered the Interior Department to start a comprehensive review of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) outdated and broken oil and gas leasing program. The administration explained that the review was necessary to respond to the "profound climate crisis" and the imperative to "restore balance on America's public lands . . . to benefit current and future generations."

In stressing the review's urgency the administration emphasized that the BLM's oil and gas activities are major drivers of the climate crisis: nearly a quarter of all U.S. carbon emissions come from fossil fuels extracted from our federal public lands. The Interior Department also recognized that the current oil and gas program suffers from systemic problems. Among them are the fact that it "fail[s] to adequately incorporate consideration of climate impacts into leasing decisions." In other words, the comprehensive review is much needed and long overdue.

To address this, President Biden ordered a pause on all new oil and gas leasing pending completion of the review. Unsurprisingly, pro-pollution groups, including the State of Utah, filed lawsuits challenging the leasing pause. In June, a federal judge in Louisiana ruled that the leasing pause violated the law and instructed the administration to resume a leasing process. To comply with that ruling, the BLM is preparing to hold new lease sales, currently scheduled to take place in early 2022. In Utah, the agency is proposing to sell six parcels for oil and gas development, some of which

are on lands adjacent to the Green River in the Uinta Basin and near the San Rafael Reef Wilderness just north of the entrance to Goblin Valley State Park.

The Biden administration has appealed the judge's decision, and in the meantime the Interior Department is moving forward with its comprehensive review. The Department will detail its findings and recommendations for fixing the antiquated leasing program in a report to be released this fall. The report should be the crucial first step toward winding down this legacy program.

The heatwaves, wildfires, and extreme drought conditions wreaking havoc across Utah and the West are harbingers of even more grief if the administration fails to overhaul a program whose time is well and truly past.

*—Landon Newell*

## SUWA STEWARDSHIP TEAM WRAPS UP SIXTH GREAT YEAR

Our stewardship program closes its 2021 season in November with projects to address off-road vehicle (ORV) impacts near Labyrinth Canyon and in the Canaan Mountain Wilderness. As we round out our sixth year of operations, we assess where we've been and where we're headed.

Over the past half decade, our nearly 1,000 stewardship volunteers have committed well over 11,000 hours of direct service on Utah's public lands. If we include the travel time our volunteers have invested, this number nearly doubles.

This is the equivalent of providing two full-time positions working exclusively on wilderness protection in Utah since the inception of our stewardship program. No other federal, state, or nonprofit conservation program in Utah measures up. And none can claim our sharp focus on the preservation and restoration of designated wilderness and wilderness-quality lands.

Over the past two years, pandemic notwithstanding, we have adapted our program to ease the workload of public land managers. We've committed to the legwork of on-the-ground monitoring of public lands across the state. We've developed comprehensive work proposals designed to protect wilderness through existing management frameworks. And we've provided the materials and service hours required to make it all happen.

This year alone, in partnership with BLM field offices, our crews have blocked access to nearly 14 miles of illegal ORV routes, rehabilitated over 6,500 linear feet of ground surface, restored over 60 illegal campsites and removed more than 80 fire rings on wilderness-quality lands, carried out nearly 150 pounds of trash from wild places, surveyed over 230 acres for cultural resources, monitored 17 river miles for refuse and camping compliance, and installed dozens of wilderness signs identifying protected lands in Utah. Our major emphasis this year has been the important work of implementing congressional wilderness protections in and

around the San Rafael Swell—work that we will continue to support in 2022 and beyond.

Of course, none of this would be possible without your service. As our staff spends the winter developing work proposals for the season ahead, we invite you to register today and join the ranks of our committed stewardship volunteers at [suwa.org/apply](http://suwa.org/apply). Hope to see you out there next season!



UNIVERSITY OF UTAH FIRST-YEAR DIVERSITY SCHOLARS HARD AT WORK IN THE SCORPION WILDERNESS STUDY AREA JUST DAYS AFTER ITS RESTORATION TO PROTECTED STATUS AS PART OF GRAND STAIRCASE-ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENT. © LISA DOUGLAS



AS PART OF OUR YEARLONG EFFORT TO IMPLEMENT WILDERNESS PROTECTIONS IN EMERY COUNTY, UNIVERSITY OF UTAH FIRST GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS SPENT A SNOWY AND RAINY DAY MANAGING TRAVEL VIOLATIONS IN THE MEXICAN MOUNTAIN AND SIDS MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS AREAS. © JEREMY LYNCH/SUWA



THANKS FOR ALL THE SMILES, MADDIE. WE'LL SEE YOU ON THE TRAILS (AND RIVERS)!

## THANKS AND FAREWELL TO MADDIE HAYES!

In August, we said goodbye to SUWA membership coordinator Hayes when she joined the enrollment office of nearby Westminster College. Born and raised in Utah, Maddie first got involved with SUWA as an activist lobbying for America's Red Rock Wilderness Act on Capitol Hill as part of our annual Wilderness Week event. In 2015, she joined SUWA as our legislative intern, helping recruit congressional cosponsors and coordinate our DC activism.

Soon enough the redrock called her home, and Maddie moved back to Utah, where she became our membership coordinator in 2017. Over the next four years, Maddie answered members' questions, maintained all our donation recordkeeping, filled online store orders, helped plan member events, and kept our entire membership program in tip-top shape.

Maddie claims her favorite moments at SUWA were talking to members about their best redrock getaways and adventure stories, but we know her actual favorite moments were indulging in office birthday treats and hanging out with all the office dogs, including her addition to the pack, a spirited mutt named Goose. We'll miss overhearing her Harry Potter audiobooks while she assembled mailings, her enthusiasm for Harmon's brownies, and her infectious sense of humor. We wish Maddie all the best in her new endeavors!

## SUWA WELCOMES POLICY FELLOW KELSEY CRUICKSHANK

We are pleased to welcome Kelsey Cruickshank to the SUWA team as our new policy fellow. Kelsey will be using her policy chops and experience working with land management agencies to influence the BLM's continuing travel management planning.

Originally from New England, Kelsey studied economics at SUNY Albany and international law at the Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies (SAIS). Her diverse resume includes volunteering with the Peace Corps in South Africa, river raft guiding on the Monongahela River, working in maritime counter-piracy, and working in state and private forestry.

Like many, Kelsey originally moved out West to work at a ski resort in Colorado before deciding to make the move permanent. She recently relocated to Salt Lake City from Georgetown, Colorado, and has jumped right into work. Her pup Scout has quickly become an office favorite. We are excited to have her on board.



KELSEY AND HER CANINE COMPANION, SCOUT.



SUWA IS GRATEFUL FOR MARK'S WORK ON BEHALF OF BEARS EARS AND THE REST OF UTAH'S WILD REDROCK COUNTRY.

## MARK MARYBOY LEAVES SUWA BOARD ON A HIGH NOTE

Mark Maryboy stepped down from the SUWA board of directors shortly after President Biden restored Bears Ears National Monument, a celebrated event that capped off Mark's decades-long effort to protect this extraordinary landscape. We are grateful for his perseverance and enormously gratified to see it pay off.

Mark began advocating for the protection of Bears Ears as far back as 1986, while serving as education director of the Utah Navajo Development Council. Nearly 30 years later, he was one of the founding members of Utah Diné Bikéyah, the Navajo organization that originally proposed the monument. In the years leading up to the monument's designation in 2016, Mark traveled hundreds of miles to visit Navajo elders living in remote hogans, gathering stories of the region's cultural significance. When the monument was unlawfully dismantled by Trump in 2017, he redoubled his efforts in its defense.

During his 4-year tenure on SUWA's board, Mark also advocated for the protection of Utah wilderness more broadly and served as an ambassador for America's Red Rock Wilderness Act in meetings with members of the Navajo Nation chapters, Navajo Utah Commission, and

the Navajo Nation Council. Because of Mark's hard work and commitment to protecting the Colorado Plateau and confronting climate change, the Navajo Nation approved a resolution supporting the Red Rock bill.

Mark grew up in a traditional Navajo household on the reservation across the San Juan River from Bluff, Utah. After attending the University of Utah, he returned to his community and was elected to the Navajo Nation Council, a seat he held for 16 years. He was also the first member of the Navajo Nation elected to the San Juan County Commission.

Though we will miss Mark's unique insights and expertise, we know our friendship and shared work to protect Utah's natural and cultural heritage will keep us in close contact. In the meantime, we offer a heartfelt ahéhee' (thank you) to Mark for his invaluable contributions to the cause.



SUWA MAPPING WIZARD MICHAEL MASON.

## SUWA RECOGNIZED AT ESRI WORLDWIDE USER CONFERENCE

SUWA is fortunate to have so many amazing employees who are passionate about protecting Utah's redrock country. So when they get recognized at a worldwide conference for their talent and hard work, we don't hesitate to toot our own horn—and theirs.

Michael Mason, one of SUWA's computer mapping (GIS) wizards, received two awards at this year's annual ESRI Conference. ESRI is a company that supplies computer

## ANDIE MADSEN TAKES ON MITT ROMNEY

After finishing her (virtual) freshman year at Columbia University, Salt Lake City's Andie Madsen became this year's recipient of the Dr. Norman Weissman Internship for Preservation of Wild & Scenic Utah, a position made possible by a generous gift from the Weismann family.

Andie has been organizing a group of student climate activists from campuses across Utah to meet with Senator Mitt Romney's staff. Their goal: to propose climate solutions in the form of public wild land protections, starting right here in Utah.

Of her experience at SUWA Andie says, "Fighting on the ground level for land protection has been so incredibly fulfilling and provided an essential background for my education moving forward to become an environmental lawyer."

Onward and upward, Andie. Thanks for all your hard work!



mapping and spatial analysis software and hosts the largest GIS conference in the world.

Michael won in two categories: a first place award in the thematic maps category as well as an "excellence" award in the cartography special interest group (an award given to three maps). His winning map depicts the wild lands in America's Red Rock Wilderness Act and their relationship to the theme of 30x30 (protection of 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030).

Michael has been with SUWA since 2018. His technical ability and his eye for map aesthetics have been essential elements in advancing SUWA's GIS efforts to help protect the redrock. Congratulations, Michael!

## SPANISH LANGUAGE ON THE UTAH MAP

As a wilderness advocate, you likely enjoy poring over maps of redrock country. So do we. The many place names in the region are fascinating. But they are not static. Bears Ears, for example, has different names according to the various languages of Tribes in the region (interestingly, they are all names that translate to "Bears Ears" in English).

Before the English language was uttered on the Colorado Plateau, rivers, mountains, valleys, passes, and other features were only known by the names indigenous people gave them. The first time a non-native language was uttered on the plateau, that language was Spanish. Spaniards first made their way onto Utah's part of the Colorado Plateau in 1765 during the Rivera Expedition. These explorers walked through what is now San Juan and Grand Counties. The next time Europeans made their way into the territory was during the Dominguez-Escalante Expedition of 1776. The territory was then being colonized at the behest of the Spanish throne as part of México.

Fast-forward through the heyday of the Old Spanish Trail, the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo, the Homestead Act, and other events that brought the U.S. border westward, and what you have is a history of Hispanic and Latino influence in America's redrock wilderness. Today's place names tell that story. Here are a few to look out for on the map:

- Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument
- Mexican Mountain
- La Sal Mountains
- Virgin River (called el Río de la Virgen by Spaniards)
- Green River (referred to as el Río Verde by Spaniards)
- San Rafael Swell
- San Juan River

Interested in learning more? Text **Utah Silvestre** to the number **52886** to receive news and information on Hispanic heritage in Utah and Latinx community organizing in support of public land protection.

# MAKE A LONG-TERM INVESTMENT IN UTAH WILDERNESS

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.

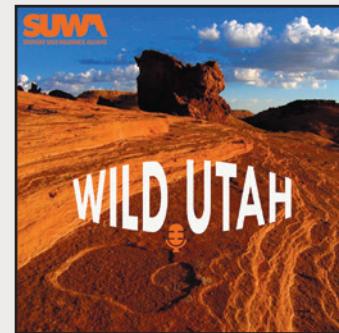
A gift to SUWA from your estate, whatever the amount, is entirely free from federal estate taxes. This means we are able to use the full amount of the bequest to protect the redrock. Also, bequests generally are not subject to state inheritance or estate taxes. You can also create a bequest so that the 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](http://suwa.org/plannedgiving).



© JEFF FOOTT



## SUBSCRIBE TO ONE (OR BOTH!) OF OUR PODCASTS

Did you know SUWA has more than one podcast?

Our original podcast, *Wild Utah*, now in its third year, explores issues central to the Utah wilderness movement through interviews with staff experts and special guests. Recent episodes have focused on "reimagining recreation," Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, and America's Red Rock Wilderness Act. A special series, "Utah Silvestre," will explore the Latinx connection to redrock country. Listen on your favorite podcast service or at [suwa.org/podcast](http://suwa.org/podcast).

For something of a more contemplative nature, check out our *Bristlecone Firesides* podcast, hosted by SUWA Faith Community Organizer Madison Daniels and featuring casual conversations around a virtual fireside about faith, the Earth, the universe, and everything. Look for it on Spotify, iTunes, and other popular podcast apps.

## GIVE THE GIFT OF THE REDROCK THIS SEASON

### 'TIS THE SEASON FOR SUWA GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

A \$25 gift membership to SUWA is the perfect local, ethical, and environmentally friendly gift for all the conscientious consumers on your list. Your gift recipient will receive a welcome packet that includes a newsletter and a yellow "Protect Wild Utah" sticker. Purchase gift memberships for friends and family at [suwa.org/giftmemberships](http://suwa.org/giftmemberships). (Please order by December 6th for delivery in time for Christmas.)

### A TRULY SPECIAL GIFT: MONUMENTS RESTORATION!

Looking for that special something for the wilderness lover on your list? Our online store has you covered. Check out our limited-edition collection celebrating the restoration of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments. We've turned the designs of local Utah artist Josh Scheuerman into colorful stickers, magnets, and a unisex T-shirt featuring these incredible redrock landscapes (see images below). We won't be ordering more of these, so buy them now before they're gone!

Other gift options include our SUWA logo T-shirts in both men's and women's sizes, cozy winter beanies, and the

ever-popular "Protect Wild Utah" trucker hats. Find them all at [suwa.org/goodies](http://suwa.org/goodies) or click SHOP at the top of our home page.

### RESOLVE TO DEFEND THE REDROCK EVERY MONTH OF THE YEAR

Whether your New Year's resolutions in 2022 include doing more for the redrock, stepping up your charitable giving game, or simply streamlining your finances, our monthly giving program is for you! Monthly giving of any amount is easy and secure. It includes all the benefits of membership, and your sustaining support provides SUWA with reliable, year-round funding to fight current and future threats to our redrock wilderness.

Is protecting the redrock worth \$5 or \$10 a month to you? That adds up to \$60 or \$120 a year, which goes a long way to helping keep your public lands wild.

Already a sustaining member of SUWA? 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.

For more details on joining SUWA as a sustaining member, please visit our website at [suwa.org/monthly](http://suwa.org/monthly).

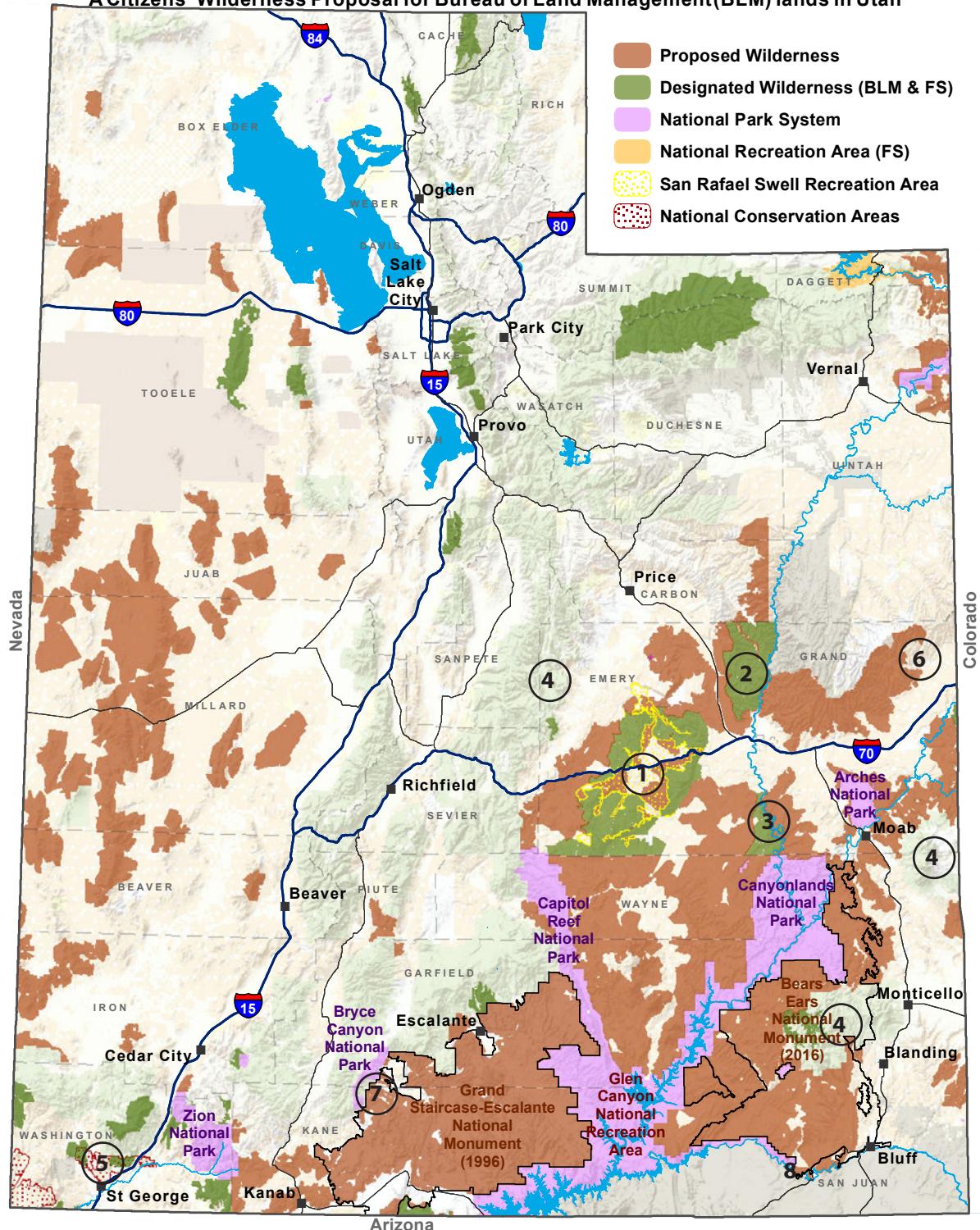
**LIMITED EDITION**

## MONUMENTS RESTORED

SEE THE COLLECTION AT [SUWA.ORG](http://SUWA.ORG)

# America's Red Rock Wilderness Act

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



**1** San Rafael Swell (p. 15)

**2** Desolation Canyon (p. 15)

**3** Labyrinth Canyon (p. 15)

**4** Manti-La Sal Nat'l Forest (p. 17)  
(multiple districts)

**5** Red Cliffs NCA (p. 18)

**6** Book Cliffs (p. 18)

**7** Bull Valley Gorge (p. 19)



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GRAND STAIRCASE-ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENT. © JACK DYKINGA

“If we have open space then we have open time to breathe, to dream, to dare, to play, to pray to move freely, so freely, in a world our minds have forgotten, but our bodies remember.”

~Terry Tempest Williams



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