

# REDROCK

## W I L D E R N E S S

The Newsletter of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance  
Volume 25, Number 3 • Autumn/Winter 2008

The Post-Election Outlook for  
Utah Wilderness



**Cover Photo:** Autumn's soft light and golden hues illuminate Bobby's Hole Canyon in the Harts Point proposed wilderness east of Canyonlands National Park. Copyright Tom Till ([www.tomtill.com](http://www.tomtill.com)).



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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## Redrock Wilderness • Volume 25, Number 3 • Autumn/Winter 2008

This issue of *Redrock Wilderness* was written by the following staff and outside contributors: Justin Allegro, Steve Bloch, Barry Bonifas, Thomas Burke, Jackie Feinberg, David Garbett, Scott Groene, Diane Kelly, Darrell Knuffke, Heidi McIntosh, Richard Peterson-Cremer, Deeda Seed, and Liz Thomas. It was edited by Darrell Knuffke and laid out by Diane Kelly.

Newsletter design by Leslie Scopes Garcia.

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 with SASE to Editor, SUWA, 425 East 100 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84111.

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## wilderness notes

### Changes and Opportunities

You ordinarily find the wisdom of our executive director, Scott Groene, in this space and you will again in the next issue. We will use Wild Notes this time to report some changes on SUWA's board of directors.

We have been fortunate over the years to have strong, effective board leadership in this organization. But few have done so much for SUWA as Hansjoerg Wyss, our chairman for the last eleven years, and Ted Wilson, our vice-chairman during that same period. Both are stepping down from their leadership posts but I am delighted to report that both remain on the board. We shall continue to benefit from their wisdom.

The currency of generosity is varied, and Mr. Wyss has been generous to SUWA in every way that matters: financially, intellectually and personally, as a leader. Ted Wilson, former mayor of Salt Lake City, brings unmatched political instincts and a demeanor that induces civility and calm, even among passionate, opinionated wilderness advocates.

The skill and the stature of Hansjoerg Wyss and Ted Wilson were never more evident, never more welcome, than over the last year as we worked with Sen. Robert Bennett on a lands bill for Washington County in the southeastern part of the state. Sen. Bennett introduced a much-improved version of his 2006 bill and it had real promise. Hansjoerg and Ted committed enormous time and energy to the effort—not remote quarter-backing, but close, personal involvement. In the end, we couldn't quite agree, but we laid a promising foundation. We look forward to working again with Sen. Bennett in the new Congress.

Our new vice chair is Richard Ingebretson, a Utahn born and raised, a long-time environmental activist, and an emergency room physician. Rich earned his PhD in Biophysics and an MD degree from the University of Utah and is on the faculty there—a professor in the Department of Physics and an instructor of medicine in the School of Medicine where he created the wilderness medicine program in 1996.

He founded the Glen Canyon Institute in 1995 and is president of its board of trustees. Rich loves to run rivers and to hike in the mountains and canyons of southern Utah.

The new board chair is Darrell Knuffke and that's me. My wife Barbara and I live in Mancos, CO. I joined the board in the mid-80s when I covered Utah and Colorado from the Denver office of The Wilderness Society and represented the Society on the steering committee of the Utah Wilderness Coalition. I am a native Coloradoan, attended the University of Denver, newspapered around the state, served in Washington as press secretary for a Colorado senator and also worked in the Carter Interior Department. I retired from The Wilderness Society in 2005.

SUWA is strong and its staff is unparalleled. We are well positioned to take full advantage of opportunities in the next Congress to protect wild Utah. (Our lead story in this issue explores what the changed political landscape might mean for the wilderness landscape.)

The SUWA board and staff extend its sincerest thanks to Hansjoerg Wyss and Ted Wilson for their years of service to SUWA and to the American wilderness movement. There could be no better thanks to that remarkable pair than to achieve protection for the canyon country they love so much. That's our goal. With you on our side, we can do it.

Darrell Knuffke  
SUWA Board Chairman



## features

### Election 2008: What It Means for Redrock Wilderness

For eight years, anti-wilderness forces have held all the cards, but the November elections may have dealt wild country a pretty good hand. There is much to do, and success seems tantalizingly possible—even as we recognize there is much to undo from the Bush administration’s ghastly environmental legacy. For Utah, that first means scrapping the Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM’s) six disastrous land use management plans which we examine elsewhere in this newsletter (see page 12).

The Bush administration isn’t finished and almost certainly plans much more last-minute environmental grief. Still, we are about to enter what may be the best political climate for wilderness in SUWA’s 25-year history.

#### President Barack Obama

Although the president-elect does not have a well-defined public lands record, he’s heard about our issues. SUWA staffer Clayton Daughenbaugh has been organizing full time in Mr. Obama’s home state, and a very strong grassroots contingent, the Illinois Utah Wilderness Task Force, is committed to Redrock protection. We’re confident Barack Obama will be far more sympathetic to our issues than his predecessor. It is significant that Sen. Obama’s Illinois colleague, Dick Durbin, is the Redrock’s principal Senate champion.

The veto power is one of the president’s greatest influences over public lands. For eight years, when the Utah delegation introduced bad legislation, we had to stop it in the Congress. That remains the first line of defense, but now we can look to the prospect of a veto. For those same eight years, we’ve known that President Bush would veto any legislation too wilderness-friendly for the Utah congressional delegation. No more.

An Obama presidency promises a welcome change in the leadership of key public land agencies, particularly the Interior Department. The Interior Secretary oversees the BLM, which has management authority over southern Utah’s redrock wilderness; the National Park Service, which controls seven parks integral to our wilderness proposal; and the Bureau of Reclamation, which runs federal



*Knotted Rope Canyon in the San Rafael Swell.*

© Diane Kelly/SUWA

dams in the West, such as the Glen Canyon Dam which perversely drowned its namesake.

Until we learn more about Obama cabinet selections, we are left with more hope than knowledge about how wilderness-quality lands will fare in the new administration. If the president surrounds himself with appointees who resonate to wild country, wildlife, healthy landscapes, and a fit planet for our children, wilderness should do well.

#### Early Priorities

We will encourage the new Interior Secretary to take several actions early on:

- **Review all the Bush administration’s last-minute decisions**, such as the six Utah resource management plans, for legal violations. If the plans stand, they’ll open millions of acres of redrock wilderness to oil and gas leasing and off-road vehicles.
- **Launch reform of the BLM.** This agency manages more of America’s spectacular western public lands than any other. Its professionals have caved, not just promptly but enthusiastically, under pressure from Bush appointees. The agency’s leadership must be weeded out and its structure recast. Today it is a collection of state-by-state fiefdoms,

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each exceptionally (and intentionally) vulnerable to the demands of congressional offices and local governments. The agency should be restructured on the basis of ecological regions.

- **Give meaningful protection to the Redrock.**

This will require:

- ▶ Clarifying that the “no-wild” backroom deal Bush struck with then-Utah Gov. Michael Leavitt, which eliminated the BLM’s authority to protect wilderness lands, is dead;
- ▶ Re-instating the planning process, born under President Clinton and strangled in its crib by President Bush, to provide wilderness study area protection to the Utah wilderness lands the BLM has re-inventoried; and,
- ▶ Reviving the “take care” policy, which under Clinton gave interim protection to proposed Redrock wilderness.

### Hope . . . and a Dash of Reality

The election offers hope for the redrock. But when friendlier faces move into new jobs in the Obama administration it will be difficult for them to accomplish all that needs to be done. Hostile western senators and representatives and the dirty fuels industry will dog every step and every decision. It will be our job to support the administration when we can and to push it when we must.

Wilderness designation is a resoundingly political enterprise and politics won’t drift away in the face of this fresh breeze. Political appointees will be concerned with building congressional support for their priorities, protecting the congressional majority and getting re-elected in four years. Our single-minded focus is to protect the redrock. We’ll succeed by making our priority their priority.

After President Clinton appointed him Interior Secretary, Bruce Babbitt cautioned environmentalists, “You cannot count on us to get these things done for you. You have to be the barbarians at the gate.” That is good advice and we mean to follow it.

### The New Congress

As George W. Bush said shortly before winning the presidency in 2000, “One of the common denominators I have found is that expectations rise above that which is expected.”

To the extent we can possibly fathom the meaning of that statement, it may be worth thinking about in the wake of an election that has buoyed the hopes of conservationists who after eight dismal years are entitled to some optimism. Still, we need to keep our expectations within what is . . . well, “expected.”

President-elect Obama will enjoy the same sort of congressional margins as Bill Clinton when he became president—a 56 to 40 seat advantage in the Senate, a 254-173 edge in the House (at our newsletter deadline, some races remained undecided). Though wilderness is and has always been a bipartisan matter, the inescapable fact is that protection of pristine wild places has tended to fare better under one party than the other in recent times and that party is in the driver’s seat.

We are given a prescription for hope. But it is worth remembering that the Clinton administration foundered somewhat in the early going, then engendered the backlash that returned control of the Congress to the other party. And while we greeted passage of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act in 1976 as deliverance, there is fair evidence that it gave rise to the Sagebrush Rebellion, that weird army of pinyon-juniper lunatics who disputed the very existence of such a thing as public land. (Their successors continue to dominate county commissions in Utah and elsewhere across the West.)

Recent history, then, should moderate overly ambitious expectations for the 111th Congress. Regardless of the popular support, the size of the majority, or the passion behind the cause, it’s never easy to actually enact legislation—much easier, indeed, to stop it. SUWA has been on that side of the ball for most of its history.

The obstacles are significant. The protection of Utah’s wild places must compete for time and attention with an economic crisis, a pair of wars, a clamor for health care reform, and the challenge of other high-profile environmental issues such as global warming. Add to this the Utah congressional delegation which, while apparently resigned to redrock wilderness designation, still does not love it and has yet to make it a priority. The delegation has stoutly opposed America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act and we must reconcile that with congressional leaders and committee chairs.

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**features**

That is the cautionary note and more than enough of it. Beyond question, there is real and perhaps unprecedented opportunity for legislation that permanently protects our cherished canyon country. All 20 Senate cosponsors of America's Red Rock Wilderness Act will return for the 111th Congress, and over 150 of our House cosponsors are heading back to Washington, D.C. At least 40 new Members of Congress are likely prospects to cosponsor the bill. We'll work to enlist them and we will need your help to do so.

Victorious pro-wilderness candidates can boost congressional support for Utah wilderness legislation. So can the departure of members who are less supportive. Voters replaced several of those in Colorado, New Mexico, Oregon, Virginia and New Hampshire. We are also optimistic about the support of those who will succeed Sens. Barack Obama and Joe Biden as they move to the White House.

Western congressmen from Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Idaho, Wyoming and Nevada who long opposed America's Red Rock Wilderness Act—and who were leaders in the relevant public land committees—will not return. Wider margins in both chambers will likely grant the majority party a larger allocation of committee seats. That in turn could open the door for serious oversight hearings and legislation to overturn the pro-drilling, anti-protection actions of the 108th and 109th Congresses.

Land conservationists are entitled to treat the election result as a seismic shock, one that has surely cracked the dam. Will that lead to a flood of long-overdue protection for one of our nation's greatest natural treasures—the redrock country? Or will it merely seep, slowly draining away a reservoir of enormous promise? That is pretty much up to us—all of us.

In November 2004, days after the Bush re-election, Dr. Clarissa Pinkola Estes urged a dejected audience of social activists to take heart. "We were made for this time," she said, "We were made for this time!" That is a splendid rallying cry for us: a jubilant audience with a clear goal and an equally clear view of what we must do to take best advantage of a wonderful opportunity.

—Scott Groene and Justin Allegro

## How Is Wild Utah Faring after Eight Years of Bush?

The Bush administration has been relentless in its drive to gut the nation's environmental laws and regulations since it came to Washington. But very soon, a new president will take office. This is a good time to count the casualties from eight years of systematic mismanagement of Utah wild lands.

The situation is something of a mixed bag—worse than it ought to be but not nearly as bad as it might have been. Overall, the wilderness landscape in Utah remains healthy and surprisingly intact.

America's Red Rock Wilderness Act is smaller today than it was in 2000 by 105,000 acres. Over 100,000 acres are out of the bill for the best possible reason: in 2005 they were designated as the Cedar Mountains Wilderness west of Salt Lake City. The other 5,000 acres fell to destruction from energy development near the White River.

Throughout the Bush administration, SUWA litigated with considerable success to prevent drilling on other lands the Clinton administration identified as having wilderness character. And to this day, thanks again to the work of SUWA and our conservation partners, there are still no valid, substantiated R.S. 2477 road claims on BLM land in Utah. Those campaigns have been costly, but well worth it.

Left unchallenged, two other Bush administration actions would have long term ramifications for Utah's wild public lands. A 2003 legal settlement between the BLM and the State of Utah prevents the BLM from designating lands as wilderness study areas during its land-use planning, though it previously enjoyed ample legal authority to do so—and should again. And the six long-term resource management and travel plans for the Colorado Plateau could savage the candidate wilderness areas in America's Red Rock Wilderness Act by designating thousands of miles of ORV routes through proposed wilderness areas and throwing these lands open to oil and gas leasing (see article on page 12). We mean to prevent that.

SUWA's work to protect redrock country from the Bush administration's depredations will continue well into the next administration. We have, on balance, fared pretty well—not accidentally, but by dint of a lot of hard work by SUWA staff and our exceptional members and activists across the country. Much of the credit is yours!

—Justin Allegro

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**f e a t u r e s**

## Double the Impact of Your Year-End Donation

Here's a chance to double the impact of your investment in the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance's work. And we need your help more than ever! **A donor has agreed to match your donation made before the end of 2008, up to a total of \$100,000** (this has happened only once before in SUWA's 25-year history, in 2005).

There are two reasons we need additional financial support to protect Utah's Redrock country:

**1. We must block the unprecedented attacks by the Bush administration on our public lands.**

The Bush administration's political appointees are in their last days, but these are proving to be the most dangerous time yet for our public lands, just as we feared.

As the *New York Times* recently editorialized, "Exhibit A [for the last-minute Bush shenanigans] is a set of six resource management plans covering 11 million acres of federal land in Utah" which would "open millions of acres to oil and gas drilling and off-road vehicles, risking priceless cultural artifacts and some of the most breathtaking open spaces in America."

Unless we stop them. This will require 12 separate legal challenges: one each for the six plans themselves that control dirty fuels leasing and six more for the accompanying ORV travel plans. Generations to come will lament the BLM's reprehensible work if those plans are allowed to stand. But with your support, we can make sure they don't.

**2. We have an unprecedented chance to move Redrock protection forward in the Obama administration and a new Congress.**

The election has brought sweeping changes to the White House and to the Congress. SUWA and key trusted friends are already working to take advantage of those changes. Even as we must challenge the Bush legacy, we're in what is perhaps the best political climate for Redrock wilderness legislation in SUWA's 25-year history.

And with a new Secretary of the Interior we can finally get deserved, long-overdue protection for the nearly three million additional acres the BLM itself now recognizes as roadless, thanks to SUWA's past work.

None of this is automatic, though. We'll fulfill the promise of this golden opportunity only through bold action and harder work than ever. Our opponents—the dirty fuels industry and the off-road vehicle advocates—are not going away. But with your help, we will win.

You can't make a better choice with your money than supporting SUWA now when your donation will be doubled. We are on the cusp of real progress in safeguarding Utah's wild public lands. Whether it becomes the resounding success that we, our children and the land deserve, or a sadly missed opportunity depends simply on this: working together with all the energy, commitment and resources we can muster. We are confident that the Redrock's wilderness day in Washington has come. With your support, SUWA will be there on your behalf to take full advantage of it!

Make a special end-of-the year investment in SUWA's efforts to protect the Redrock and your donation will be matched! Please use the envelope in the middle of this newsletter (or visit **[www.suwa.org/donate](http://www.suwa.org/donate)**) and consider a larger gift than you made last year, or a new gift if you are not yet a donor.



## DC news

### Drill, Maybe, Chill . . .

Gasoline prices and other energy fears dominated congressional activity over the summer. For the public lands of the Interior West, already under siege from runaway energy development, a new/old threat emerged, thanks in large part to the Utah congressional delegation: oil shale leasing.

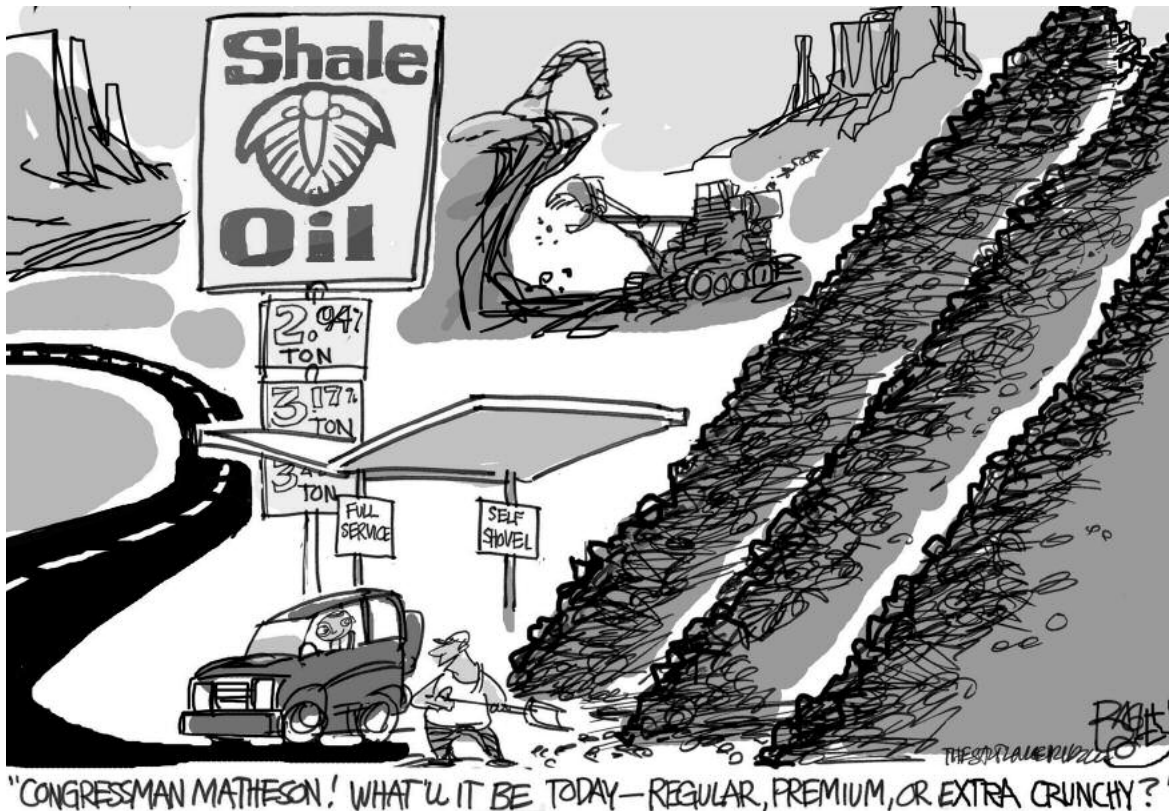
Millions of public acres in Utah, Colorado and Wyoming are underlain by vast oil shale deposits. Though the industry turned its back on oil shale development 30 years ago—economically impractical then, even with lavish federal subsidies—recent energy price increases have the industry again clamoring for federal leases.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has developed regulations and plans to sell shale leases, even though no company has demonstrated an economically viable process. Many people, some in Congress, question the wisdom of rushing ahead with development. They worry about the impacts on the region's air quality. They wonder where an

always arid, drier-than-ever West will find water for thirsty shale oil production.

Last year, members of the Colorado congressional delegation took the lead to hold the BLM accountable on oil shale leasing by limiting funds for one year. Most thought the Congress would renew the moratorium this year in the absence of any proven economical process to use it. But this didn't stop Utah congressmen and the Bush administration. They demanded the moratorium be lifted—posturing, threatening even to shut down the government by stalling appropriations measures. In the end—and in the face of \$4 a gallon gas—the Congress capitulated and lifted the moratorium.

Now over two million acres of BLM land in Utah, Colorado and Wyoming may be leased for oil shale development. Areas at risk include several in Utah with outstanding wilderness character, such as large swaths of the remote Book Cliffs and lands adjacent to the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, which also contain large tar sands deposits.



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It's not over yet. Falling gas prices have eased the panic and members of the Colorado delegation have promised to revisit the issue and make sure that oil shale leasing occurs in a reasonable, prudent fashion. The Coloradoans know what they are talking about: their state bore the worst of the economic devastation after the last shale boomers locked their gates.

—Richard Peterson-Cremer

## Dr. No: Strangling New Wilderness Bills in the Senate

Conservationists eagerly anticipated passage of several long-awaited wilderness bills when the 110th Congress began. As it ends, they may be facing another disappointment.

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committees reported out 14 wilderness bills. Procedural maneuvers, partisan rancor, energy and economic concerns have combined to stop them dead in their tracks. The Senate's biggest fiscal hawk, Sen. Tom Coburn (R-OK), a physician, placed a hold on every bill reported out of the Energy Committee. That earned him the unloving nickname, "Dr. No." His hold stands unless he lifts it or the closely divided Senate can muster 60 votes to overcome it.

Senate leaders have rolled more than 150 lands bills into a single omnibus package in an effort to attract enough votes to elude Dr. No. The package enjoys support among conservationists and most Members of Congress because the outsized number of bills it contains will have an impact on nearly every state.

The Utah Recreational Land Exchange Act, sponsored by Sen. Robert Bennett and Rep. Jim Matheson and strongly supported by SUWA, will likely be included but that must wait until the Congressional Budget Office releases its report on how much the bill will cost.

The Senate did not act on the omnibus package before the election recess. As of our newsletter deadline, several things remain uncertain, starting with whether there will even be a lame duck session in which the omnibus bill could be considered; and, if it is, whether it can command the requisite 60 votes to overcome the Coburn holds. The pack-

age contains some provisions conservationists strongly oppose and that complicates things further. It is maddening to see an entire year's worth of committee work throttled by a single senator's intractable, ideological opposition to public lands protection. Sanity lies in optimism that the next Congress will be more supportive of wilderness—in Utah and elsewhere—and more likely to provide 60 votes against obstructionism.

—Richard Peterson-Cremer

## Zion-Mojave Bill Likely Pushed to Next Congress

The Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance spent much of the 2008 Congressional session tracking and working to improve Sen. Robert Bennett's wilderness proposal for Washington County in the southwestern corner of Utah.

Sen. Bennett introduced his bill in April. While considerably better than the 2006 version, the bill still lacked wilderness protection for some critical areas that are part of America's Red Rock Wilderness Act. It also proposed the sale of public lands under a formula that would send 10 percent of the proceeds to local governments—as much as \$100 million by some estimates.

(As noted in previous newsletters, we believe selling off the public estate and enriching local governments in exchange for their agreeing to the barest minimum of wilderness protection sets a dangerous precedent.)

The measure quickly received a hearing in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee but stalled nearly as quickly afterwards. Among other reasons, Committee Chairman Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) has his own reservations about public land disposal in exchange for wilderness. We continued discussions with Sen. Bennett, but prospects for full Senate consideration of the Washington County bill dimmed considerably.

In the final days of the regular congressional session and with the election looming, the Congress was focused on legislation it had to pass before adjourning. At the top of that list were continuing appropriations resolutions to temporarily fund government in the absence of an approved budget. Lawmakers

## DC news

often try to attach controversial proposals to these “must pass” vehicles. With the legislative clock ticking, substantive debate is a good deal less likely and the Congress often simply accepts them.

Sen. Bennett pressed hard to add the Washington County language to a “must pass” bill. In the end, issues of time, substance and fairness prevented it. Senate leaders resisted controversial additions that could impede necessary bills. Some Senate leaders still have reservations about Sen. Bennett’s Washington County legislation. Beyond that, congressional leaders decided it would be unfair to move Sen. Bennett’s bill while dozens of committee-supported wilderness bills languished.

At press time there was still a slim chance of legislation moving during a “lame duck” session, however, barring significant changes we do not expect to see the Washington County bill advance over previous objections. With a new Congress set to convene in January, SUWA will continue to seek further opportunities to work with the Utah delegation on a final product worthy of wild Utah.

—Richard Peterson-Cremer

## Activists Make Local Action Month a Big Success

Most every summer Members of Congress break for an “in-district work period” of a month or so to spend time with their constituents. This year, we decided to take advantage of this opportunity with an event we call “Wild Utah Local Action Month.”

Throughout the summer, SUWA’s grassroots staff worked with activists across the country to schedule meetings in their senators’ and representatives’ local offices. Activists focused on requests that the member cosponsor America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act and help us improve the Washington County Growth and Conservation Act. They also worked to educate members on the impact the current energy debate is having on Utah’s wild lands.

The effort resulted in over 30 in-district contacts, including 21 meetings with congressional staff and 5 meetings with elected representatives themselves, a tally that greatly exceeded our expectations for the first time out.

The SUWA grassroots staff extends a huge thanks to the over 60 activists who participated. We’ve received very positive reports from all of the meetings, and hope to expand the event next year. To see where local meetings occurred and to read reports from activists, please see [www.suwa.org/localaction](http://www.suwa.org/localaction).

—Jackie Feinberg

### Activist Spotlight

**Arnaud Dumont** coordinated and attended meetings with many Colorado congressional delegation members and their staffs.



“I was extremely impressed by the enthusiasm of those who volunteered for Local Action Month. They sent a clear message to Colorado’s representatives that we expect better management of our public lands.”



**Anne McKibbin** coordinated and attended meetings at Chicago-area congressional offices, including both Illinois senators and a member meeting with Rep. Mark Kirk (R-IL).

“Our in-district meeting experience was great. Several members of the Illinois delegation have a personal connection to the Redrock, and I always love to learn which special places made them ardent supporters of America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act. We also had several new volunteers join us for the in district meetings. Each commented that the meetings weren’t as difficult as they’d imagined, and were eager to join us again.”



## canyon country updates

### Bush BLM Leaves a Destructive Legacy in Utah's Canyon Country

After enduring the Bureau of Land Management's zealous dereliction for nearly eight years, we had steeled ourselves for the agency's new round of Utah resource management plans and the travel plans that accompany them. We never expected them to be anything short of wretched. But even that resignation did not prepare us for the abysmal reality.

These plans will dictate the management of 11 million acres managed by six BLM offices in Utah's canyon country for the next two decades. The agency spent millions of dollars in third-party contracts over the seven-year gestation period of the plans . . . and delivered a misbegotten litter of monsters.

It is always difficult to know where to begin to describe a thoroughgoing disaster, but here are some of the most egregious provisions.



© Ray Bloxham/SUWA

*Six abysmal resource management plans for Utah—consisting of multiple volumes for each draft and final version (pictured above)—were ultra fast-tracked during the last year of the Bush administration. Many of our staff, including new hires Morgan and Tiffany, worked overtime on SUWA's 100+ page official comments and protests for each RMP.*

- **Wilderness—going, going, gone.** The BLM confirmed that 2.8 million acres of the 11 million acres under review have wilderness character (and thus should have been designated wilderness study areas nearly 30 years ago when the agency conducted its first wilderness inventory in Utah). Yet the BLM arbitrarily proposed protections—limited protections—for only 16 percent of these roadless lands. It surrendered 84 percent, over 2.3 million acres, as a gift to the oil and gas industry, and as moto-cross playgrounds for jeeps, four-wheelers and dirt bikes.

If the plans stick, they will guarantee that places that should already be protected as wilderness study areas are pillaged and plundered to the point that they will no longer qualify for permanent wilderness protection.

- **Drill, baby, drill.** The new plans declare that 80 percent of the 11 million acres will be available to oil and gas development. Had the BLM protected all of the roadless lands the agency itself identified, 86 percent of the proposed oil and gas wells could still be drilled. Eighty-six percent, it seems, will not satisfy the administration's oil-patch apologists.

- **Existing protections? Gone!** Although the BLM is required to prioritize Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) it has declared war on them and removed existing protections from almost a half million acres of ACECs. One of the most prominent victims is the Cedar Mesa ACEC that has been managed to protect thousands of irreplaceable ancestral Puebloan sites, the majority of which have not been inventoried and recorded yet.

#### Dust Bowl in the Making: 20,000 Miles of Dirt Routes

**Question:** If the BLM's visitor survey data indicate that motorized recreationists (such as all-terrain vehicle riders, dirt bikers, jeepers) account for about 7 percent of the total visitors to public lands, what proportion of public lands should be managed to accommodate motorized recreation?

## canyon country updates

**Possible Answers:**

a) 7 percent; b) 50 percent; c) 81 percent

If you answered 81 percent, you're probably qualified for a job as recreation planner at the Moab BLM office. If you thought it should be even more—90, 95 or 96 percent—you are a shoo-in for a recreation planner's post at the Richfield, Kanab, or Vernal BLM offices respectively. No one will pester you with intrusive questions about principle, the rule of law, common sense or, heaven forbid, a lurking land ethic.

Although the Moab office is the only Utah BLM office that conducted an actual survey of visitors' activities on public lands, visitors to BLM lands across the state would probably express similar preferences. That puts the new BLM travel plans monumentally out of whack with reality. They cater overwhelmingly to a very small percentage of visitors—those driving loud, knobby-tired machines, sometimes recklessly, nearly always at the expense of visitors who seek quiet recreation.

The BLM travel plans throw statutory protections to the wind and legitimize every track visible on the ground, including streambeds, abandoned mining trails, old energy exploration tracks, and user-created trails criss-crossing the landscape. The BLM's so-called "travel planning process" was not the careful environmental analysis its title suggests and that the land deserves. It became instead a cynical rubber-stamping of any trail that counties and off-road vehicle user groups demanded. The new route designations will funnel ORVs into remote areas where quiet and naturalness now prevail. The dense maze of routes will also put cultural resources at serious risk: research shows that increased motorized access leads to increased vandalism, looting and inadvertent damage. No big surprise there.

The BLM says that ORVs will be limited to "designated routes" rather than the cross-country demolition derby now allowed. That's a good sound bite. However, the six plans will designate 20,000 miles of motorized routes, making 85 percent of the 11 million acres available for ORV use. Insane. The BLM should, at a minimum, designate no routes in roadless areas. This common sense step would protect roadless areas and still leave 91 percent of the proposed routes open to the usual mayhem. The flaw in this proposal, of course, is that the Utah BLM has never met a roadless area that it liked and wanted to protect.

## Editorials Blast Utah RMPs

The following excerpts are from recent newspaper editorials. To read them (and others) in their entirety, go to [www.suwa.org/rmp](http://www.suwa.org/rmp).

In Utah, the Bureau of Land Management has worked feverishly to get six new management plans in place that will open up millions of acres, including thousands of acres of wilderness-quality public land, to drilling and off-road-vehicle use.

The hurried-up plans, five of which were released last week, are an eleventh-hour effort of Bush's BLM to eliminate federal protections for Utah's redrock treasures and give extraction industries and motorized recreationists a virtual free hand.

—"Bush legacy: Last-ditch rules hurt environment." Editorial, *Salt Lake Tribune*, Nov. 7, 2008

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[Utah's six resource management plans] would open millions of acres to oil and gas drilling and off-road vehicles, risking priceless cultural artifacts and some of the most breathtaking open spaces in America. The plans, each more than 1,000 pages, were dumped on an unsuspecting public in the last few weeks by the Bureau of Land Management.

. . . Why the rush? The agency says it had to wrap things up before it ran out of planning money. What we are really seeing, though, is the last gasp of the Cheney drill-now, drill-everywhere energy strategy; one last favor to the oil and gas drillers and the off-road vehicle enthusiasts before a more conservation-minded president (both Senators Barack Obama and John McCain have far better records than Mr. Bush) comes to town.

—"Last-Minute Mischief." Editorial, *New York Times*, Oct. 17, 2008

\*\*\*

It's an off-roader's dream: a federal management plan making nearly 2 million acres of public land a playground for off-highway vehicles.

The Bureau of Land Management's proposal for the BLM lands in six Utah counties is also a gift tied with a big red ribbon and handed to oil and gas developers.

But it can hardly be called "management" . . . By opening up 90 percent of the area to OHV use and 80 percent to drilling, the plan effectively excludes quiet recreation—mountain biking, hiking and backpacking—and sacrifices scenic vistas, wildlife habitat, and cultural treasures including archaeological ruins, relics and rock art.

—"No management plan: BLM makes gift of land to off-roaders, drillers." Editorial, *Salt Lake Tribune*, Aug. 11, 2008

## canyon country updates

The *Salt Lake Tribune* said it best when it concluded that these public lands will be “taken over by noisy, exhaust-spewing OHVs and greedy energy developers, eliminating the possibility that their wilderness qualities could be preserved for future generations. To them, we’ll be known as the idiot generation.” (“No management plan: BLM makes gift of land to off-roaders, drillers.” Editorial, *Salt Lake Tribune*, Aug. 11, 2008.)

SUWA has submitted protest letters to the BLM for all six plans, and preparations are underway to challenge the management plans and travel plans administratively or through litigation. We extend special thanks to our friends Nada Culver and Phil Hanceford at The Wilderness Society for their invaluable assistance during this long process.

More information, plus photos, editorials, and congressional letters relating to these six resource management plans can be found on our website at [www.suwa.org/rmp](http://www.suwa.org/rmp).

—Liz Thomas

Good  
News!

## Litigation Victory in Arch Canyon

A federal judge sitting in Utah ruled in October that SUWA and its partner, Great Old Broads for Wilderness, can sue the Bureau of Land Management over its decision to leave Arch Canyon—an archaeological and scenic marvel—open to destructive off-road vehicle (ORV) use. SUWA, the Broads, the Navajo Utah Commission and local outfitters petitioned the BLM two years ago to close the canyon to ORVs. We cited two studies showing that such use damaged archaeological sites, crushed native plants, eroded stream banks, polluted the water and devastated habitat for the rare, native flannelmouth sucker. The BLM summarily rejected the request and the two conservation groups sued.

The 8.5 mile-long Arch Canyon lies just west of spectacular Comb Ridge. Jeeps with bloated, knobby tires grind across the canyon-bottom stream 120 times during their rides to the boundary of the





## canyon country updates

Manti-La Sal National Forest and back. They leave crumbling banks, struggling vegetation, water pollution and ugly scars.

Arch Canyon also enfold a rich collection of archaeological sites, only a fraction of which have been surveyed by the BLM. A noted archaeologist concluded that ORV use was destructive to the 1,000 year-old sites, in part due to the “direct relationship between unrestricted vehicular access and site vandalism.” He predicted further deterioration of the sites unless vehicular access is limited.

Until recently, Arch Canyon was also the site of the controversial Jeep Jamboree, during which dozens of jeeps rode the canyon in a pack. The event’s sponsors say they don’t want to hold future events there, but there is nothing to stop them if they change their mind. And BLM still allows ORVs to grind through the canyon during the infamous Easter Jeep Safari.

What next? In short, the ruling opens the door to a full judicial review of the BLM’s neglect of Arch Canyon. And it may pit the county’s R.S. 2477 claim, based on occasional jeep use, against the magnificence of one of southern Utah’s most cherished canyons.

To view the petition, photos, and supporting studies, go to [www.suwa.org/ArchCanyon](http://www.suwa.org/ArchCanyon).

—Heidi McIntosh

## R.S. 2477: Kane County Hews to the Low Road

Kane County has lavished hundreds of thousands of dollars on the high-flying international law firm of Holme Roberts and Owen to try to breathe legal significance into random dirt tracks and stream beds. The county hasn’t much to show for it. Except for legal bills stretching as far as the eye can see. And fewer library books and medical services for county residents seething over eye-popping property tax hikes.

Instead of taking a much-needed gut check, or at least checking in with their concerned constituents, county leaders have plunged into yet another lawsuit as if they were printing money in the county



© Liz Thomas

*Does this look like a highway? Kane County continues to spend public money pursuing rights-of-way like this one, a rough and sandy trail currently closed to vehicles in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (the county-owned truck pictured here is actually stuck in the sand).*

building’s basement. In its latest legal lob, the county has trained its sights on sandy, truck-eating trails in an area west of Kanab known as the Kitchen Corral. These are routes, including the North Swag trail, that the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Management Plan closed and which the BLM has already determined are not valid R.S. 2477 rights-of-way in earlier R.S. 2477 litigation.

This is also beautiful, lonely country, dominated by quiet and solitude, with an enormous land mass known as No Man’s Mesa—for obvious reasons. During a site visit with SUWA, the Sierra Club, and the BLM in the 1990s, county officials vigorously sought to convince the BLM that these tracks were highways. In mid-pitch, a lightning bolt struck a juniper not 100 yards from where we stood, igniting it like a torch.

Later, a desert deluge stranded us all on the wrong side of the flash flood that completely washed out the route. Hours passed until someone with a shovel finally dug a path through the now-muddy wash so we could rumble back into Kanab for the night.

A highway? We echo the portent of flaming tree and raging flood: Don’t even think about it!

—Heidi McIntosh

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**c a n y o n c o u n t r y u p d a t e s**

## They Said What? A Utah Wilderness and ORV Quotation Quiz

(Not that there's anything trivial about ORVs, you understand.)

**1. On the ugly impacts of ORV abuse and how to control it: "It's an abomination, it's an embarrassment . . . You penalize them . . . You give them tickets, you charge them, you fine them."**

Who said it?

- Utah State ORV Coordinator Fred Hayes
- Utah Governor Jon Huntsman
- BLM Director Jim Caswell
- Former Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt

Cue the "Jeopardy" theme . . . Got it in your head now? Give yourself a few minutes . . . Time! Now you can give yourself a pat on the back if you chose Utah Governor and motocross rider Jon Huntsman. As reported in the *Salt Lake Tribune* on Oct. 2, 2008, the gov was outraged at the mess he saw on a recent trip to the Moab area. "I wanted to get a sense of what the concern was, and it became a concern to me," he said. (It's a concern to a lot of other Utahns as well. About 1,000 wrote to the gov to applaud his remarks. We applaud them too. Heartily!)

**2. "I am also fully convinced that we need to do whatever we can to further the good work that USA-ALL [Utah's own ORV rabble-rousers] has been involved in, and they have done some absolutely awesome things over the years. We absolutely have to have a statewide organization that is in the trenches fighting the battles that allow you and I and our families to enjoy OHV recreation in Utah at the levels that we currently enjoy. We have it good . . ." [The riding's good; the grammar . . . not so much.]**

Who said it?

- Director of USA-ALL
- Utah BLM State Director Selma Sierra
- Donny Osmond
- Fred Hayes, Utah State ORV Program Coordinator

If you guessed "d," you win! While the governor rightly blasts off-roaders when they abuse the land, his own ORV program coordinator is shilling on the Internet for the very off-roaders who criticized the governor for his statement and said they couldn't promise to follow rules with which they disagree. Will heads roll?

**3. "I hope that there is some way we could outlaw all off-road vehicles, including snowmobiles, motorcycles, etc., which are doing more damage to our forests and deserts than anything man has ever created. I don't think the Forest Service should encourage the use of these vehicles by even suggesting areas they can travel in . . . I have often felt these vehicles have been Japan's way of getting even with us."**

Who said it?

- Dave Foreman, Earth First! co-founder, author and wilderness advocate
- Barry Goldwater, former Republican senator from Arizona
- Mo Udall, former congressman from Arizona
- Former President Bill Clinton, who designated the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

This is a tough one . . . and the answer is "b!" Barry Goldwater, former Arizona senator and conservative 1964 Republican presidential candidate. He made this statement in 1973. It appears in the beginning of a governmental report on the impacts of ORVs. Interestingly, his seat is now held by Republican nominee John McCain, whose vice presidential running mate is famous for skidding around Alaska on one of these damned machines.

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**canyon country updates**

## BLM to Hold Christmas Oil and Gas Lease Fire Sale

We knew that the Bush administration and its minions in Utah would do everything in their power before leaving office to compromise our state and its remarkable wilderness landscapes. We were right.

Just as this newsletter was going to press, the BLM issued “records of decision” marking final approval for all six resource management plans (RMPs) just in time for the Bush administration to scurry out of office. It has been hard to read or listen to the nonsense that has come from Utah state director Selma Sierra—herself a close friend of former Interior Secretary Gale Norton—about the burning “need” to get these plans finished “on schedule.”

As lobbyist Bob Weidner told a collection of county and state officials in 2006—with BLM officials and industry representatives looking on approvingly—that’s doublespeak for “striking while the iron is hot” to “fix” these RMPs, “an opportunity that may never come again.” The BLM met industry expectations, leaving us with a sorry collection of illegal plans that throw the door wide open for rampant off-road vehicle damage and energy leasing and development.

Here’s one of the first waves to break: the Utah BLM recently announced that it is delaying previously scheduled quarterly oil and gas lease sales from November 18 to December 19. Why the delay? Because the BLM can only sell these leases after it has approved the above-mentioned RMPs with pro forma records of decision. No records of decision, no lease sales. BLM officials have openly admitted to us that they switched the date to allow them to begin selling leases in some of the state’s most wild and remote public lands—lands that had been blocked from leasing by a landmark SUWA legal victory in 2006 and several administrative appeals board decisions that followed.

Why would the BLM do such a thing? Quite simply because industry asked (read: told) the agency to do so. There is certainly no shortage of public lands in Utah already under lease but not in production. As of the end of fiscal year 2006, there were over 4.6 million acres of BLM managed land under lease but less than 1 million acres in production. Bottom line, industry wants to get leases while the getting is good. While that may make sense for a

private company’s bottom line, it’s no way to manage Utah’s redrock country.

Wilderness-quality landscapes on the chopping block at this lease sale include Desolation Canyon, the White River, the greater Nine Mile Canyon region, Bourdette Draw and other remarkable lands ringing Dinosaur National Monument, plus a collection of lease tracts adjacent to Arches National Park and very close to Canyonlands National Park.

With your support, we will fight this lease sale, as we have so many other deplorable actions that the BLM has undertaken these past eight years.

—Steve Bloch

## Protecting Nine Mile Canyon from the Dreaded “CX”

Over the years, SUWA members have become familiar with a litany of acronyms necessary for understanding the machinations of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM, speaking of acronyms) and public lands. We have learned about environmental impact statements (EISs), off-road vehicles (ORVs), and wilderness study areas (WSAs), just to name a few. Well, let us introduce a new one: the “CX” or categorical exclusion.

In a nutshell, a CX is something that replaces an environmental impact statement or an environmental assessment. It allows the BLM to approve certain types of projects without analyzing the potential environmental impact that such a project might have on the assumption that these types of projects have minimal effect on the environment and thus needn’t be analyzed. For example, a federal agency might use a CX to mow the lawn at a visitor center and few would quarrel with that.

But to the BLM, anything worth using is worth abusing. The agency has recently begun approving natural gas wells in the Nine Mile Canyon area using CXs. The development of these wells results in countless truck trips each day up and down Nine Mile Canyon, a canyon frequently referred to as “the world’s longest art gallery.” Nine Mile Canyon is home to innumerable cultural artifacts including what the BLM itself describes as the “greatest abundance of well-preserved rock art” in the West.



## canyon country updates

As a result, SUWA has teamed up with the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition and The Wilderness Society to bring a legal challenge to the BLM's use of these CXs here. The complaint filed by SUWA alleges, among other things, that the BLM is overlooking serious impacts from fugitive dust created by these truck trips on rock art and air quality in the canyon.

—David Garbett

## Makin' Whoopee at the MMS

Every few weeks some new story breaks about misbehavior by our public servants in the Bush Interior Department. We don't think we are naïve: watching the department's Bureau of Land Management write the six long-term resource management plans for the Colorado Plateau has left us ever so painfully aware of the energy industry's bloated thumb on the scale of agency decision-making. Still, this latest one surprised even us—not just for the venality and bacchic excess of it all but for the dull-witted belief that such behavior might go unremarked.

In September, Earl E. Davaney, the Interior Department's Inspector General, issued a report

highlighting inappropriate relationships between employees of the Minerals Management Service's (MMS) royalty-in-kind program and energy industry representatives. The royalty-in-kind program allows energy companies with leases on federal public lands to pay royalties to American taxpayers with oil or natural gas instead of cash.

Davaney's report details a tawdry range of improprieties by some MMS staff in their dealings with the oil and gas industry. At the low end, the report says MMS staff accepted meals, ski trips, sports tickets and golf outings from the industry. At the even lower end (there's no high end), the Inspector General says MMS employees steered contracts to favored industry clients and engaged in drug use and illicit sexual encounters with industry representatives.

The report alleges that representatives from Shell, Chevron, Hess, and Gary-Williams Energy hosted social outings for MMS employees lubricated by alcohol, cocaine, and marijuana. It all sounds like a heck of a party while it lasted. Let's hope there are duller days ahead for our public land managers.

—Justin Allegro



## inside SUWA

### Welcome New SUWA Legal Staff

We're pleased to welcome two new members to our legal staff and to the larger SUWA family. Morgan Wyenn and Tiffany Bartz started this summer in our Salt Lake City office and share an office with a prime (some say the best) view of the Wasatch Mountains. We hired Morgan as a staff attorney and Tiffany as our southwest field attorney (in the past we've filled this position in the St. George or Cedar City area but decided to staff it this time in Salt Lake). Both will be taking the Utah bar examination in February.

Morgan is a recent graduate of Lewis and Clark Law School in Portland, Oregon. While in law school she clerked for the Pacific Environmental Advocacy Center and Natural Resources Defense Council. She was also the Editor in Chief of *Environmental Law*, Lewis and Clark's highly regarded law review. Hailing from southern California, Morgan says that she is "unabashedly passionate" about protecting Utah's wild places.

Tiffany is a recent graduate of the University of Arizona Rogers College of Law and during law school clerked for the Center for Biological Diversity, Trustees for Alaska and Midwest Environmental Advocates. A Colorado Springs native, Tiffany describes her position at SUWA as the "perfect fit" for her passion for the environment and love of wild places.

#### And . . . Staff Attorney David Garbett Stays With SUWA for One More Year

We're thrilled to announce that David Garbett—formerly a legal fellow and now a staff attorney—has agreed to stay with SUWA for one more year. David came to SUWA in the summer of 2006 after graduating from Harvard Law School with plans to do a one year fellowship and then head off to New York City where the international law firm Mayer Brown was holding a spot for him. Two years later, Mayer Brown continues to hold this spot and we have benefited tremendously from David's hard work and unflagging devotion to protecting Utah's redrock country. Since coming to SUWA, David has focused on energy development and, in particu-



© Heidi McIntosh

*New legal staffers Morgan and Tiffany on a field trip to San Juan County.*

lar, the Clean Air Act. Along the way he has become a key part of our legal team. We're deeply indebted to Mayer Brown for allowing David to work with us through the summer of 2009.

### SUWA Brings On New Western Regional Organizer

SUWA welcomes Barbara Eubanks as our new western regional organizer. Organizing is not new to Barbara and neither is organizing in Utah. It reaches all the way back to 1991 when she worked on the 1991 congressional campaign of Wayne Owens who was the first sponsor of America's Red Rock Wilderness Act.

Barbara was born in the Amarillo, Texas, suburb of Canadian in the state's Panhandle. She lived in West Palm Beach, Florida for a time and returned to Utah to be closer to her family when her nephew, Christopher, was born.

Since then she has worked on a number of political campaigns and causes, in addition to developing her own computer training business. Barbara says she's "thrilled to be working for SUWA because it feels like I've come home—or am now where I should have always been. And the people are absolutely wonderful."

## inside SUWA

Barbara's background in training, community outreach, volunteer coordination and organizing, makes her a valuable addition to SUWA's grassroots team!

## New Development Manager Joins Staff

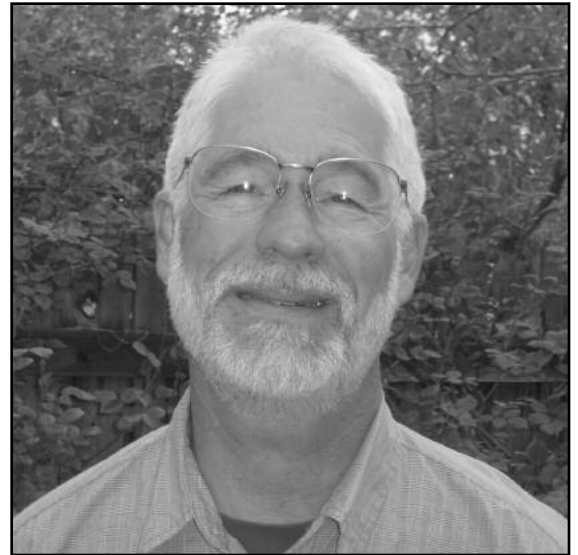
The Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance is pleased to welcome Thomas Burke as our new development manager. Thomas is responsible for business membership development and foundation requests as we seek additional opportunities, resources and partners to advance our mission.

Thomas hails from South Carolina. After receiving a degree in communications and management from the University of South Carolina in 1990, he took a trip around the country and knew he had found "The Place" when he made it to southern Utah. He moved to Utah with a particular eye to pursuing two of his favorite pastimes, skiing and rock climbing.

Thomas has been working in nonprofit development for the past 17 years and will be an excellent addition to the SUWA team. If you would like to learn more about how your business can become involved with SUWA and protecting our beloved redrock country, give Thomas a call and he'll be happy to explore the possibilities with you. His direct number in Salt Lake is (801) 236-3763 and his email address is [thomas@suwa.org](mailto:thomas@suwa.org).



Thomas Burke and Barbara Eubanks (with Barbara's dog, Ginger).



"Slideshow Bob" Brister brought the Utah wilderness campaign to citizens across the country.

## Thanks, "Slideshow Bob"

The SUWA staff would like to thank "Slideshow Bob" Brister for seven years of tireless grassroots outreach on behalf of Utah wilderness. Bob recently moved on from SUWA, but we'll always remember and appreciate his years of heartfelt dedication to the cause.

Bob joined the Salt Lake City staff in early 2001 and immediately set to work building what would become an extensive network of activists, allies, and potential members across the country. Starting with cumbersome old-school slide projectors, which he later exchanged for a laptop system, Bob traveled far and wide to present our slideshow, *Wild Utah: America's Redrock Wilderness*, to audiences from the Pacific Northwest to the Deep South and everywhere in between (he even took the show to Hawaii once). He also spent many a summer weekend manning our SUWA outreach table at summer fairs and festivals across Utah.

In a world that increasingly relies on electronic communication, Bob carried on the venerable tradition of face-to-face relationship building he learned from a long career of organizing for peace, social justice, and the environment. Bob estimates that during his tenure at SUWA, he gave about 350 slideshow presentations and lived on the road for a total of roughly 3 years. Upwards of 9,000 people saw his presentations and they produced thousands



**i n s i d e S U W A**

of activist postcards to key decision makers. Not bad for a one-man show.

A born activist with a deep commitment to making the world a better place, we know Bob will continue to pour his heart into noble causes, making a difference wherever he can. We wish him the best of luck!

## Help Protect Wild Utah— Join a State Activist Network

For the last eight years, SUWA's staff, members and activists have worked to protect Utah's cherished wilderness landscapes from the damaging policies of the Bush administration. We've succeeded most when we've worked together best.

The election gives us a chance to shift from defense to offense. How fruitful that opportunity will be depends on us and how well we prepare ourselves. We can't assume that the new administration will automatically champion wilderness protection or even listen to us the first time we ask for help. We will be one of a welter of voices seeking redress; ours must be clear and loud.

We must make a persuasive case for the importance of protecting Utah's wild lands and demonstrate broad, deep grassroots support for it in Utah and across the nation. That's where we need your help. We are asking wilderness supporters from across the country to become members of our Wild Utah State Activist Network.

We'll connect you with other people in your state who are working to protect Utah's redrock wilderness. You will have opportunities to meet with members of your state's congressional delegation and to communicate with them by letter, email and phone. SUWA's grassroots team will provide organizing support to state teams and help your network develop materials to recruit other Utah wilderness activists. And we'll help organize slideshow presentations and other outreach events to build support for Utah wilderness. We'll also let you know what activists in other states are doing.

A small commitment of your time can result in big gains for wilderness protection in Utah! To become a member of the Wild Utah State Activist Network go to [www.suwa.org/statenetworks](http://www.suwa.org/statenetworks) or contact Deeda at (801) 428-3971 or [deeda@suwa.org](mailto:deeda@suwa.org).

## Women Protecting Wilderness Launches "Quilt" Campaign

The Women Protecting Wilderness "Quilt" Campaign makes its debut on Nov. 18, 2008, at the Salt Lake City Main Library, with an exhibit and outreach project.

Women Protecting Wilderness (WPW) is a network of women from all walks and ways of life, who share a common love for Utah's wild landscapes and want to see them protected now and for the future. Our vision is to use our voices, stories and diverse life experiences to celebrate our love of wild lands and call for their protection.

The Wilderness "Quilt" itself is composed of over 100 pictures, printed on fabric, of women in their favorite natural landscape along with a short testimonial about why Utah's wild land heritage is important to them. The purpose of the campaign is to encourage people to think and talk about why wilderness matters and what we can do to protect it. During the exhibit's run in the library's main atrium through Dec. 2, 2008, women from the WPW network will be taking pictures and collecting wilderness testimonials from people who visit the exhibit. We will add these wilderness testimonials to the quilt, helping it to grow into an even richer expression of love for Utah's wild landscapes.

If you would like to help expand the quilt, send us your name, the city and state where you live, a brief description of who you are and what you do, your picture, and a testimonial of 50 words or so about why wilderness is important to you. You can email this to [deeda@suwa.org](mailto:deeda@suwa.org), or mail to Deeda Seed, SUWA, 425 East 100 South, SLC, Utah, 84111. For more information about the quilt project and to read the testimonials go to [www.womenprotectingwilderness.org](http://www.womenprotectingwilderness.org).

**inside SUWA****Wanted: Your Used Car**

SUWA is in need of two vehicles our staff can use for conducting fieldwork and traveling throughout the state. We'd like something with low miles (say under 75K) and in good shape. Please consider donating your used vehicle to help us save money. We're looking for:

1. An all-wheel drive car that is relatively fuel efficient and can carry four adults. Imagine something suitable for traveling down an icy I-15 for a meeting in Cedar City. Say a Subaru Outback or Forester, or a Toyota Rav4.
2. A four-wheel drive similar to a Jeep Cherokee or Toyota 4Runner. Something with more passenger capacity than a pickup, and in good enough condition to handle difficult four-wheel drive roads.

If you're able to donate one of these vehicles, please contact Ray Bloxam at (801) 428-3982 or [ray@suwa.org](mailto:ray@suwa.org). Thanks!

**Gift Memberships and Other Goodies Available Online!**

SUWA still offers posters, hats, *Wild Utah* DVDs, gift memberships, and a limited selection of t-shirts for purchase—all of which make great holiday gifts. To view our product catalogue, go to [www.suwa.org/goodies](http://www.suwa.org/goodies).

Also, CDs of singer-songwriter Greg Brown's performance at Utah Wilderness Day are still included with any \$50 new membership, renewal, or gift membership purchase! See our donation page at [www.suwa.org/donate](http://www.suwa.org/donate).

*To ensure Christmas delivery, please place your order by December 15th.*

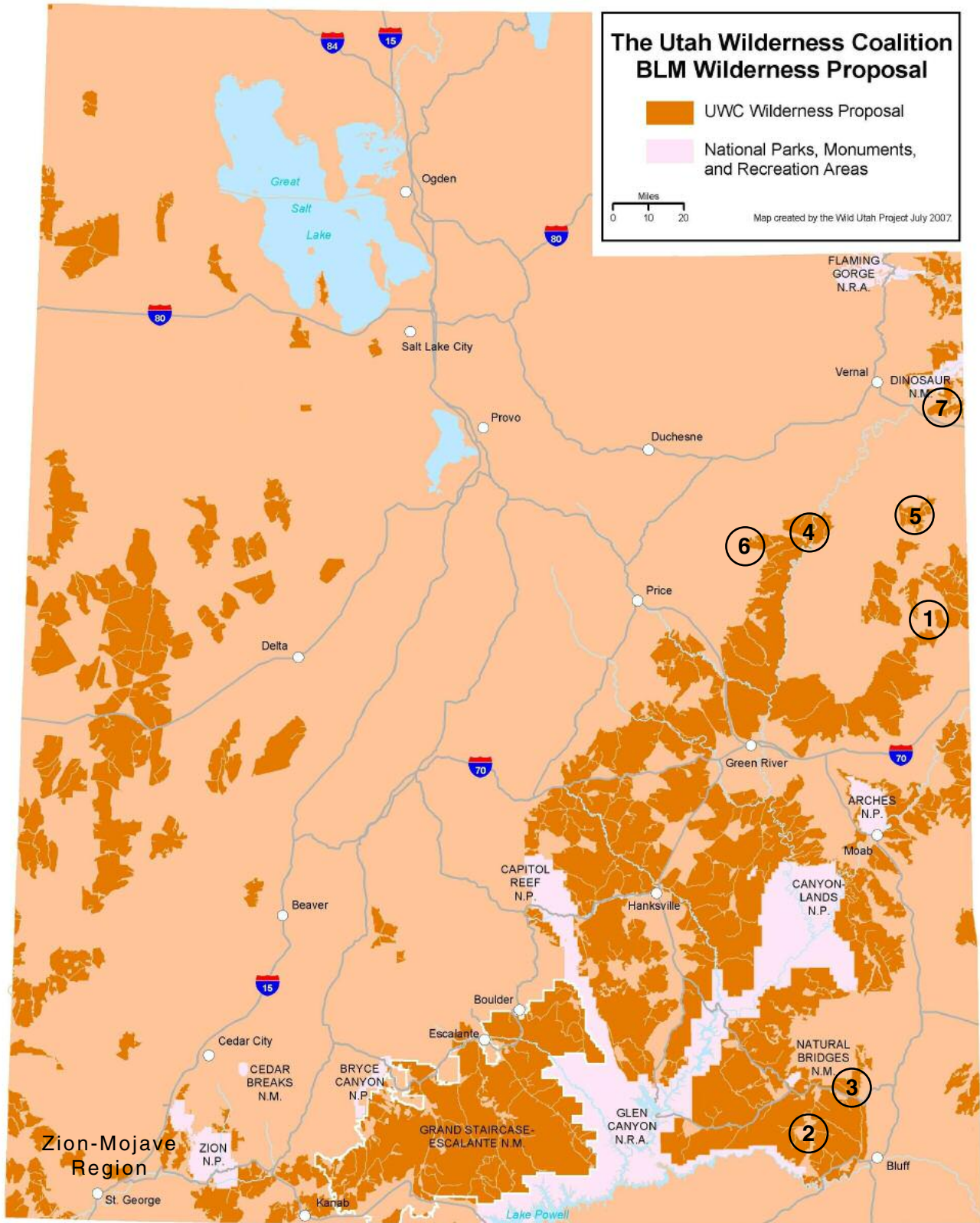
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SUWA would like to thank Earth Friends Wildlife Foundation for four years of support in our efforts to protect the Redrock wilderness

EFWF supports over 100 groups with annual grants for conservation of wildlife and habitat.

You can support Earth Friends at: [www.earthfriends.com](http://www.earthfriends.com)



**Reference Map for Articles in this Issue**

- ① Book Cliffs (p. 9)

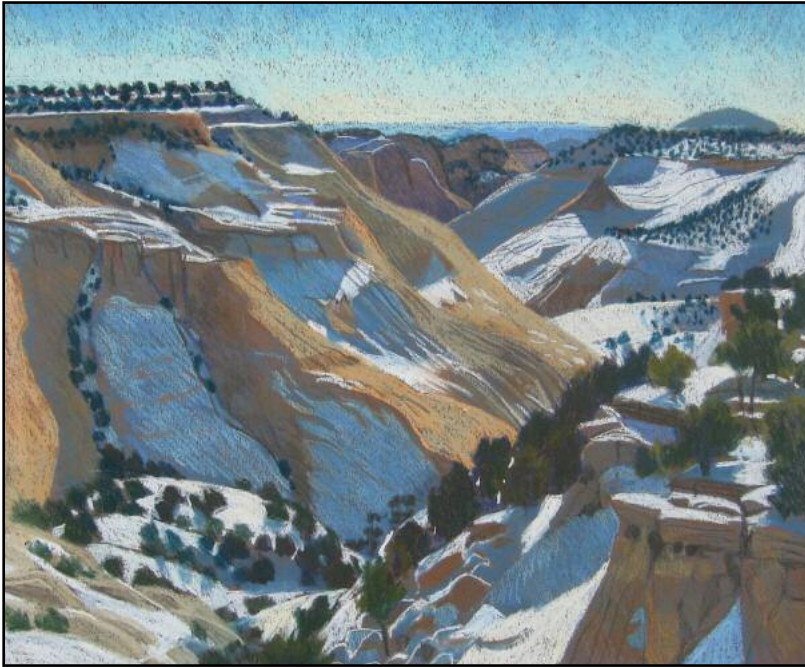
② Cedar Mesa ACEC (p. 12)

③ Arch Canyon (p. 14)
- ④ Upper Desolation Canyon (p. 17)

⑤ White River (p. 17)

⑥ Nine Mile Canyon (p. 17)
- ⑦ Bourdette Draw (p. 17)






"Dry Hollow, January." Artwork by Scotty Mitchell ([www.scottymitchell.com](http://www.scottymitchell.com))

"The battle for conservation cannot be limited to the winning of new conquests. Like liberty itself, conservation must be fought for unceasingly to protect earlier victories."

~President Harry S. Truman, at the dedication of Everglades National Park

"We are the most dangerous species of life on the planet, and every other species, even the earth itself, has cause to fear our power to exterminate. But we are also the only species which, when it chooses to do so, will go to great effort to save what it might destroy."

~Wallace Stegner

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