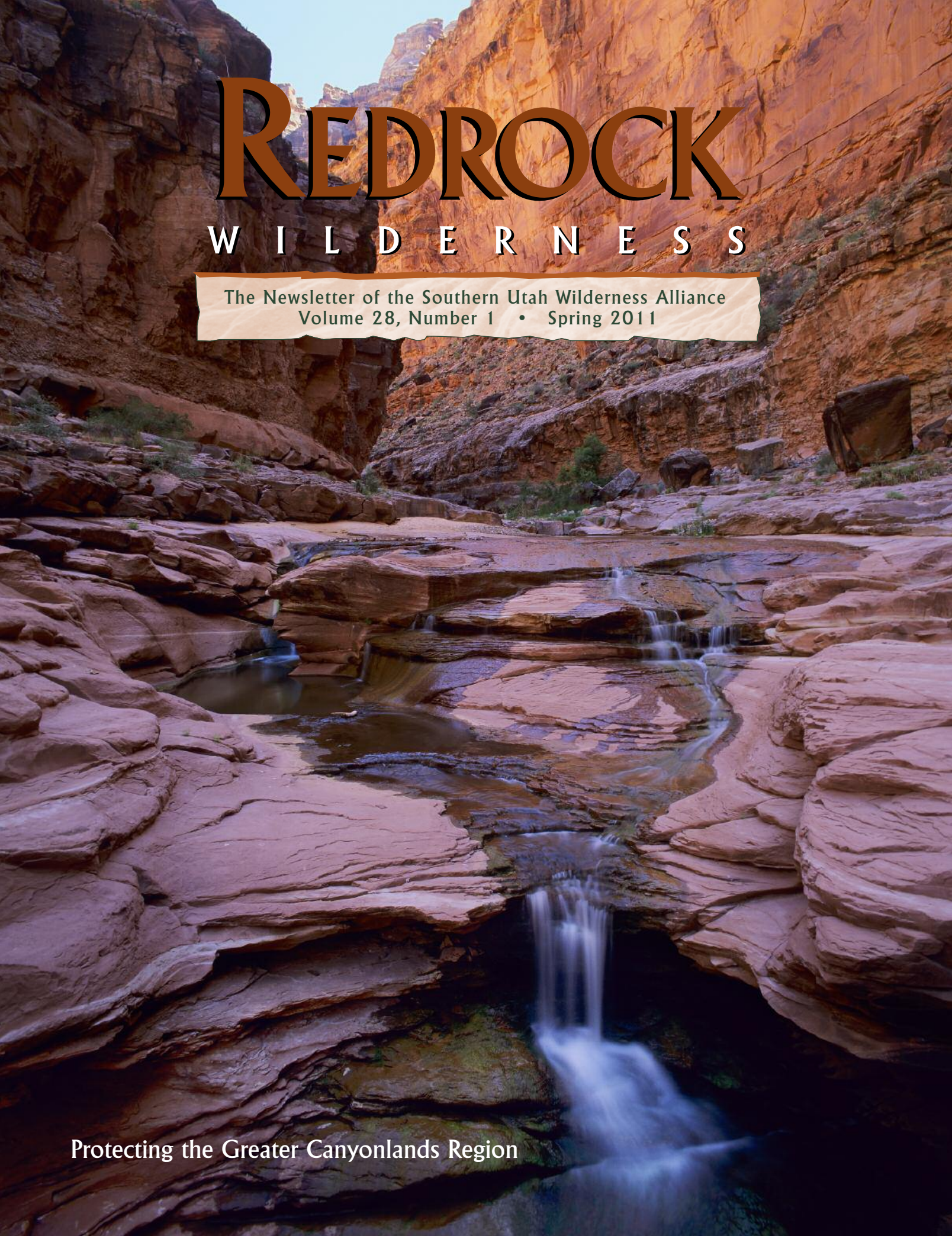


REDROCK WILDERNESS

The Newsletter of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
Volume 28, Number 1 • Spring 2011

Protecting the Greater Canyonlands Region

Cover Photo: *The Dark Canyon proposed wilderness, one of many spectacular landscapes that comprise Utah's Greater Canyonlands region. Photo copyright James W. Kay (www.jameskay.com).*

southern utah wilderness alliance

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.

Staff

Kathlene Audette, *Membership Coordinator*
Jen Beasley, *Legislative Advocate*
Steve Bloch, *Attorney/Energy Program Director*
Ray Bloxham, *Field Inventory Specialist*
Scott Braden, *Associate Director*
Clayton Daughenbaugh, *Midwest Field Organizer*
Jackie Feinberg, *National Grassroots Organizer*
David Garbett, *Staff Attorney*
Scott Groene, *Executive Director*
Mathew Gross, *Media Director*
Diane Kelly, *Communications Specialist*
Terri Martin, *Western Regional Organizer*
Heidi McIntosh, *Associate Director*
Richard Peterson-Cremer, *Legislative Director*
Gina Riggs, *Administrative Associate*
Deeda Seed, *Grassroots Outreach Director*
Liz Thomas, *Field Attorney*
Anne Williams, *Administrative Director*
Brooke Williams, *Field Advocate*

Offices

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

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

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

Email: info@suwa.org
Website: www.suwa.org

Internet services donated by XMission

Board of Directors

Darrell Knuffke, *Chair*
Mancos, CO

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

Rusty Schmit, *Treasurer*
Sandia Park, NM

Jim Baca
Albuquerque, NM

Bill Hedden
Castle Valley, UT

Tom Kenworthy
Golden, CO

Anne Milliken
Salt Lake City, UT

Guy Saperstein
Piedmont, CA

Cindy Shogan
Silver Spring, MD

Johanna Wald
San Francisco, CA

Terry Tempest Williams
Castle Valley, UT

Hansjoerg Wyss
Malvern, PA

Advisory Committee

Steve Allen (Boulder, CO), **Bruce Berger** (Aspen, CO), **Harvey Halpern** (Cambridge, MA), **Ginger Harmon** (Carmel, CA), **Dale and Frandee Johnson** (Boulder, CO), **Bill Lockhart** (Salt Lake City, UT), **Roderick Nash** (Santa Barbara, CA), **Ed Norton Jr.** (Washington, DC), **Ken Sleight** (Moab, UT), **Susan Tixier** (Santa Fe, NM), **James Udall** (Carbondale, CO)

In this issue:

page 12

page 14

page 22

Redrock Wilderness • Volume 28, Number 1 • Spring 2011

This issue of ***Redrock Wilderness*** was written by the following staff and outside contributors: Tiffany Bartz, Jen Beasley, Steve Bloch, Scott Braden, Jackie Feinberg, David Garbett, Scott Groene, 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.

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

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

wilderness notes

A Clear Indication We're Making Real Progress

The SUWA staff's regular reports in *Redrock Wilderness* give members a pretty good look at what we are doing on your behalf to defend the redrock.

There is another way to gauge our effectiveness and that is from the ravings of those who disagree with us. The nominal trigger for the latest outbursts is Interior Secretary Ken Salazar's new Wild Lands policy. To hear it characterized in official Utah as "land grab," "usurpation," and "a noose around the necks of hard-working rural folk," you'd think it was a monumental shift and a novel twist in national wilderness policy. In fact, it is little more than a return—almost—to the world as it was before Bush Interior Secretary Gale Norton dealt away the department's congressionally created authority in her squalid "no more wilderness" deal with Utah's governor.

The Norton policy was ill-gotten gains in the first place for the western commodity and off-road vehicle interests that celebrated it so enthusiastically. The outrage then is not so much that of the victim (a role some Utah politicians have honed to perfection) as of the caught red-handed: "We stole it fair and square and somebody took it!" That somebody would be Mr. Salazar, who recovered the political loot for the American people who own these lands.

With the political arena littered with tea bags, the lemming rush to the right is on. The stampede tramples accuracy, intellectual integrity and civility. Enter Utah's senior U.S. senator, Orrin Hatch. As the *New York Times* explained it in a story about the senator's visit to Teabagger Central, "Hatch, who is up for re-election in 2012, saw fellow Senate veteran Bob Bennett defeated in Utah's GOP primary last year by tea party-backed Mike Lee." Indeed.

Sen. Hatch recently attacked SUWA before a state legislative gathering where the wilderness policy was a topic. It is a rule of sorts in politics that if you proclaim yourself savior, you must name a demon. Else from what will you save us? Mr. Hatch has chosen SUWA.

In attacking SUWA, the senator has recognized, certainly without quite intending to, that we are an organization of unshakeable principle with a mission of defending all that remains wild in the redrock. That's good enough for us. Had he praised us, we'd be depressed beyond measure.

So we are flattered, even honored, by Sen. Hatch's attention. It is possible to judge our effectiveness every bit as much by our harshest critics as by our friends.

For the Redrock,

Darrell R. Knuffke

Darrell Knuffke
Board Chair

features

The Greater Canyonlands Region: Wild, Rugged, Remote and Seriously at Risk

There are few enough places left in the lower 48 where we can truly lose ourselves, stand alone and bask in creation's splendor. One of them is the Greater Canyonlands region, a stretch of matchless country in southern Utah at the heart of which is Canyonlands National Park.

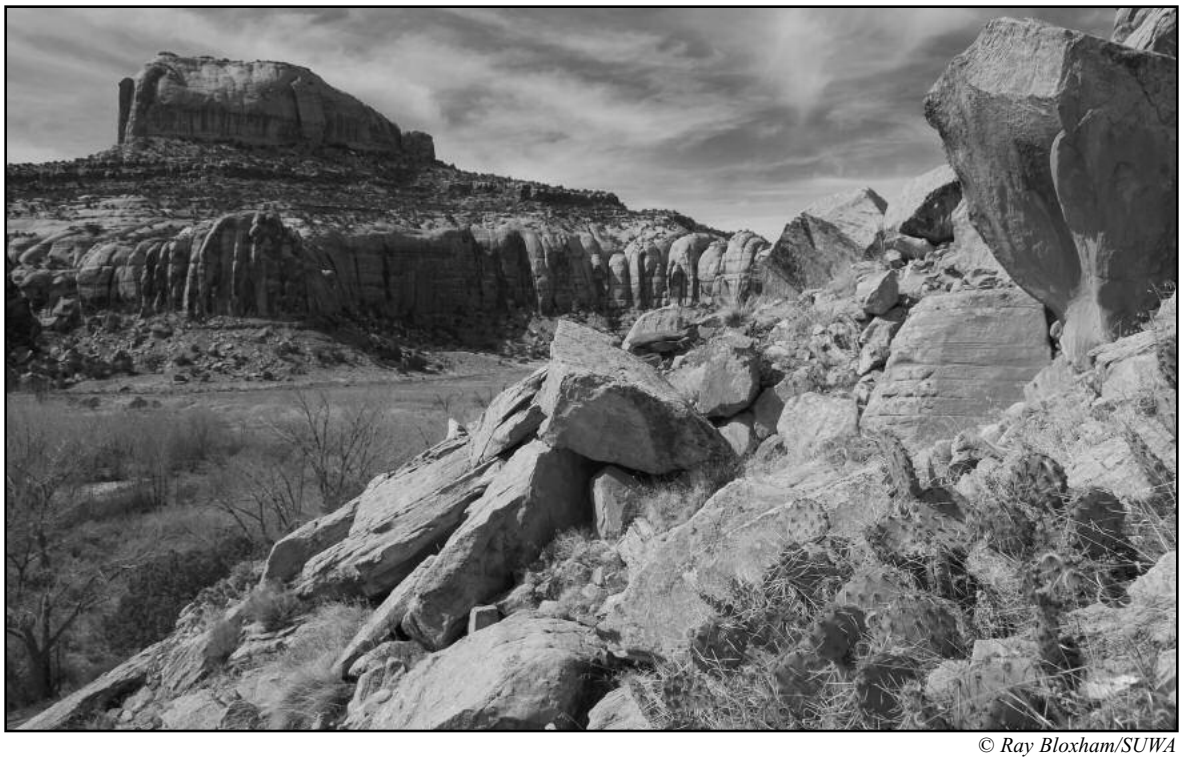
The Greater Canyonlands region, though lacking official protection, remains one of the last untouched frontiers of the West and one of the largest roadless areas in the lower 48. On a sun-warmed cliff west of the park, gazing across Happy Canyon and the valley where the Pinnacle rises red and sudden from the desert floor, the realization is inescapable: this is a place apart. But it is fragile country, for all its size and ruggedness. And it is ours to save or lose.

That is not an idle consideration. For where we see natural magnificence that has endured all that geologic time could throw at it, others see mines, off-road vehicle routes and a multitude of ways to scratch at it for meager economic gain.

This is a place of cliff, canyon and valley, of spire and castle, of lush and improbable hanging gardens, of echoing alcoves and amphitheaters. It is also one of the Colorado Plateau's most critical watersheds. Through it the Green, Dirty Devil, and San Rafael Rivers wind south to meet the Colorado. Along the way they nourish some 960 species of desert flora and a rich array of wildlife, from black bears in the Abajo Mountains, to mountain lions and desert bighorn sheep at Hatch Point, to peregrine falcons in Labyrinth Canyon. Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid once sought refuge there. Seven endangered or threatened species find refuge there today and perhaps nowhere else.

A 12,000-Year Human Record

Mind-bending as the geologic record is, the archaeological record may be even more exceptional. In a



The Harts Point proposed wilderness in the Greater Canyonlands region.

features

report on the cultural resources of the Greater Canyonlands region, noted Southwest archaeologist Jerry Spangler called it "a largely untapped library of 12,000 years of human history." There remain here well-preserved Ice Age hunting camps as well as artifacts of later agrarian civilizations. Taken together, according to Spangler, these constitute "some of the most scientifically important cultural resources in North America, each with evidence that could help unravel secrets into our collective human past."

Tucked in cool side canyons are archaeological remnants of the Basketmaker people, telling the details of life in an ancient civilization. Ingeniously built cliff dwellings still cling to shady canyon walls, much as the Ancestral Puebloans left them. Often nearby are granaries that held their last stores of corn a millennium ago. Rock art panels depict hunting scenes and village life along with symbols whose meanings are mysterious.

The Greater Canyonlands region is large, but its size is no defense against the threats it faces. Proposed oil and gas drilling, tar sands exploration, and potash development would carve up this wild landscape, harming its air and water quality, wildlife habitat, and viewsheds both within and outside Canyonlands National Park. The Bush era's disastrous management plans designated ghost trails as motorized routes, some to the very boundaries of the park. This has led to illegal off-road vehicle (ORV) use inside the park and a proliferating network of trails. Rider abuse has damaged riparian areas, ecological resources, and priceless cultural artifacts.

Management Mish-Mash

Adding to the problem is a crazy quilt of management jurisdictions across the region: it is managed by the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land

(Continued on page 8)

SUWA Files Petition Asking Administration to Protect Greater Canyonlands

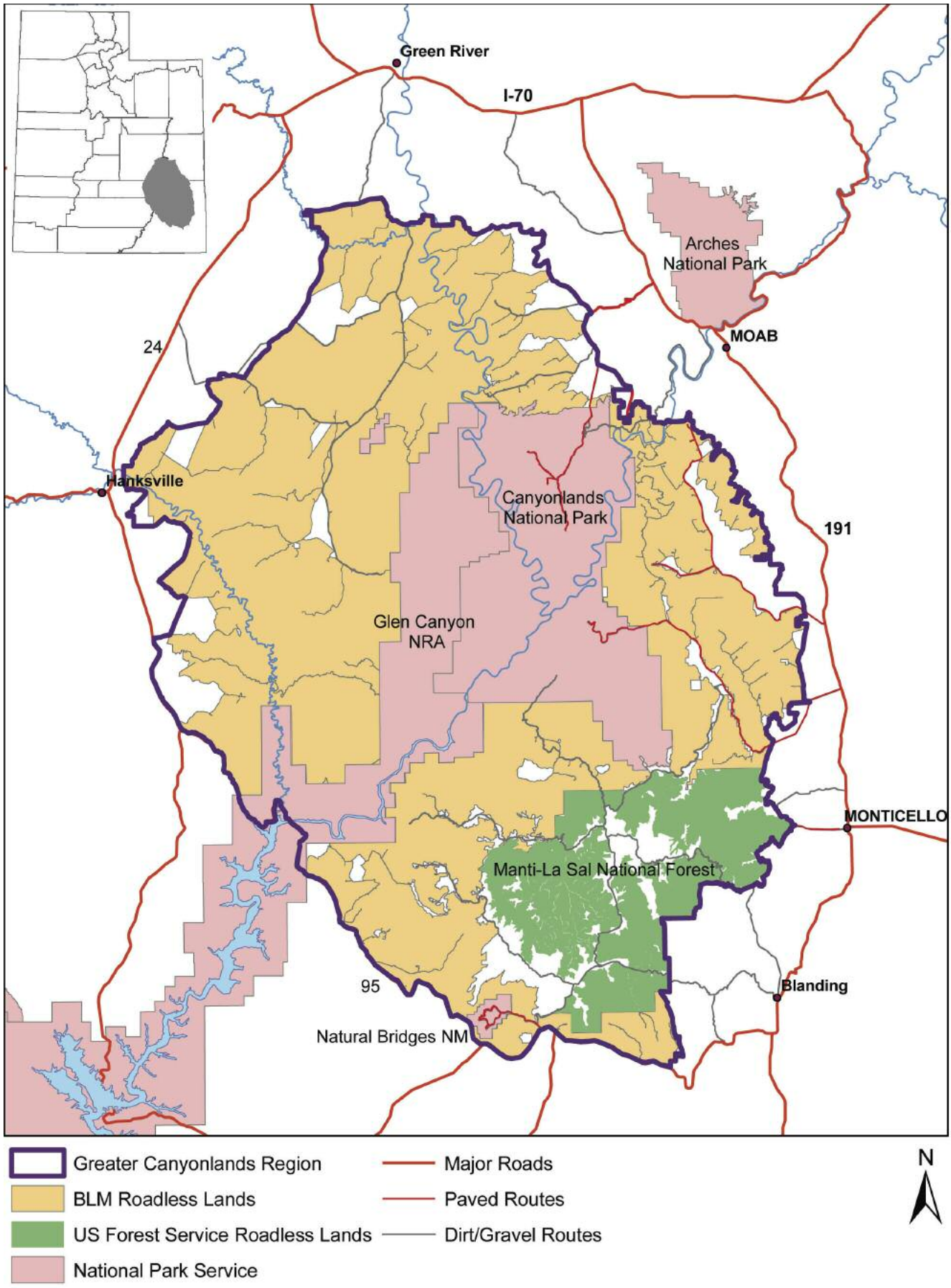
The Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance recently filed a formal petition asking the Interior Department to protect the Greater Canyonlands region by restricting off-road travel within it. (The region falls within a rough circle the northern boundary of which is Interstate 70 from Green River to Crescent Junction, along U.S. Highway 191 through Moab, La Sal Junction and Monticello to Bluff, north and northwest to Hanksville, then back to I-70 on U.S. Highway 24. See map, opposite.)

One of the largest roadless expanses in the U.S., the area is full of precious and fragile wild landscapes. Among them are Labyrinth Canyon, Lockhart Basin, Fiddler Butte and the Dirty Devil. As noted in the accompanying story, the region is a treasure trove of cultural resources dating back 12,000 years. Rampant off-road vehicle (ORV) use is damaging many of them. That off-road use worsened after the Bush administration completed resource management plans for the area which legitimized thousands of miles of ORV "routes" that were often little more than dry washes and grown-over, user-created tracks to begin with.

Our petition is an administrative effort to fight off some of these destructive routes. We are literally petitioning our government for a redress of grievances, as the First Amendment would put it. Included in our argument are scientific studies, photos, reports on the biological and archaeological resources of the Greater Canyonlands region, and evidence as to how needless routes to nowhere are causing significant damage to these resources.

The government is required to respond to our petition and the information it includes. If the petition is successful, the BLM will have to reassess some of the routes it allowed within the region, then close them and/or prevent future development of destructive routes. We will keep you posted as the process unfolds.

A Look at the Greater Canyonlands Region



features

Management (BLM), and the National Park Service. Scattered within those jurisdictions are school trust lands and other state lands. The result is a welter of management priorities and decisions that are at best inconsistent, too often contradictory and incompatible. (The BLM portions alone are managed by four separate field offices, each operating as something of a fiefdom, all without any sort of coherent guiding principle.)

The federal government has identified the Greater Canyonlands region as one of the areas most vulnerable to climate change. Thus, mitigation of human disturbance here is all the more important, and a clear, unified management plan essential. It is apparent that even when measured against the vastness of geologic time, we are at a turning point.

Against this urgent backdrop, consider the November elections. They ushered in a new wave of congressional hostility to environmental and land protection. Many new members are more given to bombast and anti-federal rhetoric than to science. Rep. Rob Bishop of Utah, not new but newly influential and an avowed opponent of wilderness, now serves as chair of the House Public Lands Subcommittee. Meanwhile, Sen. Mike Lee, who is newly elected, chose as his first order of business in the Senate an attack on the new Wild Lands policy Interior Secretary Ken Salazar issued in December. In this environment, passing wilderness bills for Utah—or anywhere else—during the 112th Congress is going to be extremely difficult.

Protection Tools Exist

The good news is that even with a hostile Congress there are many tools available to protect the Greater Canyonlands region. Secretary Salazar's new Wild Lands policy (see article on page 11) is a very good first step. It restored the BLM's ability to inventory and administratively protect worthy wild lands from development until Congress considers them for permanent wilderness protection. We welcome the Obama administration's action. Certainly, its effectiveness will depend on its implementation and we will do what we can to help shape it.

In the meantime, the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance is seeking protection for Greater Canyonlands through a petition asking the Interior Department to restrict ORV travel in the region (see sidebar on page 6) and through legal challenges to the damaging resource management plans issued in the waning days of the Bush administration. If suc-

National Monument Designation: An Old Idea That's Still Popular

President Obama unveiled the "America's Great Outdoors" report on Feb. 16. The report, nearly a year in the making, synthesizes ideas the administration heard in listening sessions across the country.

One that caught SUWA's ear as we try to protect the Greater Canyonlands region is this one: "During listening sessions, strong support was voiced for the designation of unique places as national monuments as an important way to preserve critical elements of the American landscape and cultural heritage."

A subsequent action item in the report calls for implementation of a "transparent and open approach to new national monument designations tailored to engaging local, state, and national interests." It explains that "Any recommendations should focus on historic and natural features and cultural sites on federal lands that deserve protection under the 1906 Antiquities Act."

Those who oppose public land protection have long railed against the President's authority to use the Antiquities Act for just such purposes. But in February, the House of Representatives wisely defeated an attack on that authority.

cessful, either of these efforts could help curtail the rampant ORV damage that is shredding the region and its resources.

Finally, the Obama administration can protect the Greater Canyonlands region under the authority of the Antiquities Act, employed when a president seeks to protect a place of national historic and scientific value. It is hard to imagine a likelier candidate for national monument protection than the Greater Canyonlands region, with its unparalleled collection of Fremont and Puebloan archeological artifacts, as well as its ecological resources.

Antiquities Act: Time-Honored, Effective

Presidents of both parties have used the Antiquities Act in Utah frequently and successfully. In 1909, President William Howard Taft proclaimed a monument in what is now Zion National Park. Bryce Canyon, Arches and Capitol Reef National Parks were all national monuments before they became national parks.

Not a single power line traverses the untamed landscape of Greater Canyonlands, and little of human manufacture mars it. It serves, in an increasingly urbanized West, as a key migration corridor for birds, mountain lions, pronghorn antelope and desert bighorn sheep. It is a riparian wonderland in a thirsty landscape. It is a source of quiet renewal for backpackers, of pristine darkness for stargazers, of untold wonder for river runners and of economic vitality for southern Utah. It is a window in time to the cultures that came before us. It is, for any of these reasons (and surely for all of them) a place worth preserving. It has come to us remarkably intact and we can make that gift to those who follow us.

SUWA is committed to that goal. And you can help. Please write to Nancy Sutley, the Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, and ask that President Obama extend the highest level of protection to the Greater Canyonlands region (see page 10 for her contact information, and to learn what other steps you can take to help save this magnificent landscape).

—Jen Beasley

Labyrinth Canyon *© Ray Bloxham/SUWA*

Greater Canyonlands Region by the Numbers

Total number of acres — **2.4 million**

Number of acres managed by the National Park Service — **578,500**

Number of acres of wilderness-quality land (BLM, USFS, SITLA) — **1.5 million** (compared to the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument — 1.7 million)

Number of years of human history (from Ice Age hunters to ancient farmers) — **12,000**

Number of different plant species — **960** (57 percent of all plants known to the Colorado Plateau)

Number of wildlife species on the federal Threatened/Endangered/Candidate Species list — **7**

Number of wildlife species on Utah's Sensitive Species list — **27**

Number of feet from lowest to highest elevation — **6,570 (from 3,790 to 10,360 feet)**

Number of miles of perennial watercourses, most of which support perennial riparian vegetation — **750** (includes Arch Canyon, Tenmile Wash, Dark Canyon and over 300 miles of the Colorado, Dirty Devil and Green Rivers)

Number of perennial springs — **nearly 300**

Inches of topsoil in which the majority of soil nutrients such as nitrogen and carbon are stored — **Just 1**. (Cryptobiotic soil, a combination of cyanobacteria, lichens, and mosses, reduce both wind and water erosion and enhance soil fertility.)

features

Bridger Jack Mesa *© Ray Bloxham/SUWA*

Five Easy Ways to Help Save Greater Canyonlands

Here are five things YOU can do to help protect wild lands in the Greater Canyonlands region:

1. Write a letter to President Obama asking him and members of his administration to protect the wild lands in this area. Tell him why these lands are important to you, and if you've visited them, describe your experience.

Send your letter to:
Ms. Nancy Sutley, Chair
White House Council on Environmental Quality
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20050
Email: chair@ceq.eop.gov

2. If you've visited the Greater Canyonlands region, send us your testimonial, in 50 or fewer words, about why it's important to protect it. We'll post it to our "Save Greater Canyonlands" web page. Email your testimonial, with your name and city of residence to **canyonstory@suwa.org**. (Include a photo if you have one.)

3. Join the Greater Canyonlands region protection team by sending an email to **savecanyonlands@suwa.org**. By signing up for this team, you'll receive special messages about what you can do, and the latest information about the campaign.

4. Support the work of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance by going to **www.suwa.org** and becoming a member (if you're not already) or making an additional gift.

5. Spread the word. Share information about this campaign with your family and friends and ask them to help too!

www.facebook.com/SouthernUtahWildernessAlliance
www.twitter.com/SouthernUTWild

DC news

Good News!

New Wild Lands Policy: Conservationists Delighted, Industry Unhinged

Conservationists, sportsmen, the outdoor industry and many others have hailed Interior Secretary Ken Salazar's December announcement of a policy that reinstates the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) authority to inventory for and protect wilderness characteristics on lands it manages.

The policy may not go as far as we at SUWA might have wished, but it is a long stride in the right direction after eight years of complete disregard for our public lands' wilderness values. The Salazar policy does not fully restore the BLM's authority to designate wilderness study areas (WSAs)—an authority Bush Interior Secretary Gale Norton surrendered in her "no more wilderness" deal with the State of Utah. But it directs BLM staff to identify and protect "wild lands." Those steps can afford WSA-like protections to these special places.

Wilderness foes and their congressional allies have queued up to vilify this much-needed course correction as, well, pretty much the end of the world (for more on this, see page 17). They term the policy a usurpation of congressional authority to designate wilderness. This is, of course, rank spin without an honest leg to stand on. In the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, Congress specifically authorizes the BLM to keep and update inventories of all values, including wilderness.

Anti-wilderness forces have never scrupled over facts or laws in pursuit of their interests and they don't now. The litany of complaints runs the gamut from "job-killing" to "unconstitutional." Among other things, they ignore the fact that the authority Secretary Salazar relies upon in his Wild Lands policy (formally Secretarial Order 3310) has been used by every administration since President Gerald

"STUCK HERE FOR DAYS...I GROW WEARY OF OBAMA'S SOCIALIST 'PARADISE'... I'M CONTEMPLATING DRASTIC MEASURES..."

DC news

© Ray Bloxham/SUWA

SUWA's Heidi McIntosh addresses members of the press as Utahns rally in support of the Wild Lands policy at Utah's state capitol.

Ford. Federal judges, even those hostile to wilderness, have recognized the authority as valid.

Thankfully, congressional friends of wilderness have stood strong, firing off a sign-on letter to Sec. Salazar thanking him for the policy and defending it on the floor of the House as some have tried to block the policy. We will continue to work with these champions and the Interior Department to defend this important authority and ensure that lands with wilderness character are recognized and appropriately managed.

Please contact your members of Congress today and tell them why the Wild Lands policy is important to you! (See sidebar on page 13 for contact info.)

—Richard Peterson-Cremer

Committee Assignments Pose Challenge to the Redrock

The November election resulted in a massive swing of seats, particularly in the House, towards the Republican side of the aisle. Yet overall, the redrock lost only a handful of supporters in November. But equally important to the places we care about is the matter of who will chair committees with jurisdiction over these lands.

In the House, Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT) and Rep. Mike Simpson (R-ID) are perched atop the subcommittees most relevant to at least the short-term future of wild places. Precisely to the extent that they prevail is the future of wilderness in jeopardy. These western members' agendas include gutting federal authority to protect and manage our special places, zeroing out budgets for important federal land management programs, and generally prioritizing industrial over public and conservation uses of our public lands.

The recent fight over the continuing appropriations resolution (which funds the government while an actual budget is written) left little doubt about what these members are up to. They sought to block implementation of the Interior Department's Wild Lands policy—an anathema to their anti-government, anti-public-lands theology—remove all funding for the National Landscape Conservation System, and prevent the President's use of his authority under the century-old Antiquities Act.

Fortunately, there remain committed wilderness champions in both the House and Senate. We look

to them to stand up to attacks on important programs, designations, and conservation funding. In the House, we are glad to see previous redrock cosponsors Rep. Ed Markey (D-MA), Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ) and Rep. Jim Moran (D-VA) as ranking members of key committees. And previous redrock cosponsor Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI) is the new chairman of the Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee. As always, America's Red Rock Wilderness Act sponsors Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) and Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL) stand ready to defend the canyon country.

We are fortunate to have friends such as these in Congress. We will need them more than ever in the months ahead. Please thank them today!

—Richard Peterson-Cremer

(Red)Rockin' Congress in 2011

The Utah Wilderness Coalition sponsors a Wilderness Week at the beginning of each new Congress in anticipation of the introduction of America's Red Rock Wilderness Act. Twenty activists—half of them from Utah—came to Washington, DC for this year's event from Feb. 26 to March 2.

After spending a day learning about the redrock bill and policies that affect Utah wilderness, two-person teams hit the Hill. For the next three days, each team met with 10 to 15 congressional offices to urge members to become original cosponsors of America's Red Rock Wilderness Act in the 112th Congress. Some lucky teams were able to meet with senators or representatives in person while others met with staff members.

The activists explained to members and staff the importance of both the Interior Department's new Wild Lands policy and the 1906 Antiquities Act as tools for protecting wild places. Utah activists also held group meetings with the members of the Utah delegation and with Interior Department and Council on Environmental Quality officials to discuss ways in which the Obama administration can help protect the redrock.

Wilderness Weeks are hard work—but not all work. The activists were able to see the sights, spend some time getting to know their fellow redrock supporters and the SUWA grassroots and DC staff, and even dine at a popular Washington brewpub.

For all the planning and preparation Wilderness Week entails, it is one of the highlights of our work. We can never thank all the participants enough for their help. It is in large part because of all those who have been part of Wilderness Week through the years that we have been able to maintain such an impressive number of cosponsors for America's Red Rock Wilderness Act in both the House and the Senate. Thank you, from all of us at SUWA and the Utah Wilderness Coalition!

—Jackie Feinberg

Help Us Build Congressional Support for America's Red Rock Wilderness Act!

Write Your Legislators at:

The Honorable [Representative's name]
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable [Senator's name]
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Or call your legislators at (202) 224-3121 (ask to be connected to the appropriate office)

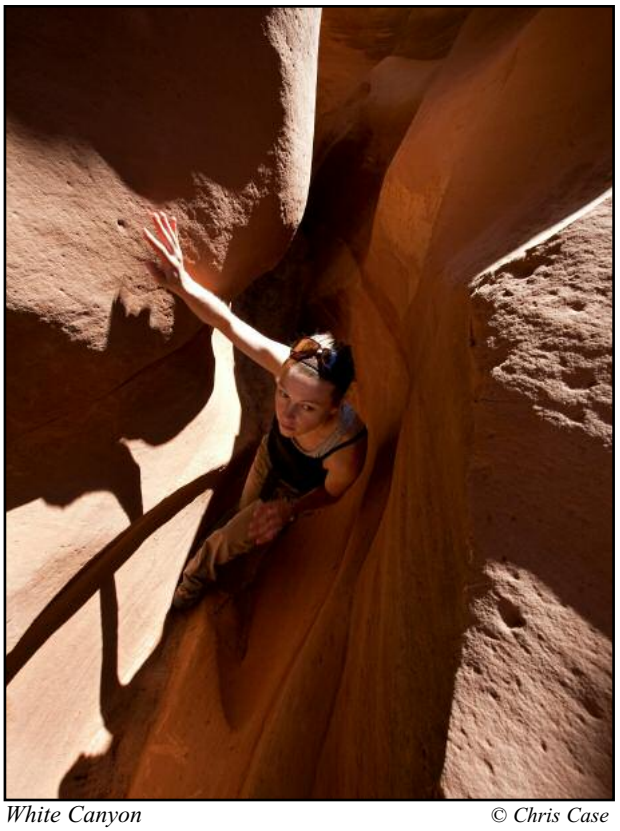
Learn more at **www.suwa.org/ARRWA**
Look up your members of Congress at **www.suwa.org/findrep**

Photos of the Greater

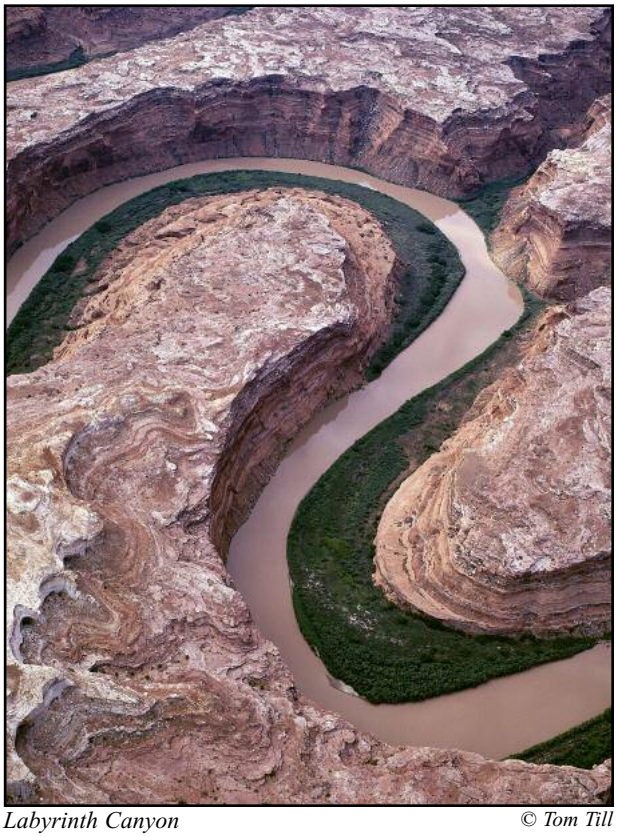
Lockhart Basin *© Scott Braden/SUWA*

Labyrinth Canyon *© Ray Bloxham/SUWA*

Dirty Devil *© Ray Bloxham/SUWA*



White Canyon *© Chris Case*



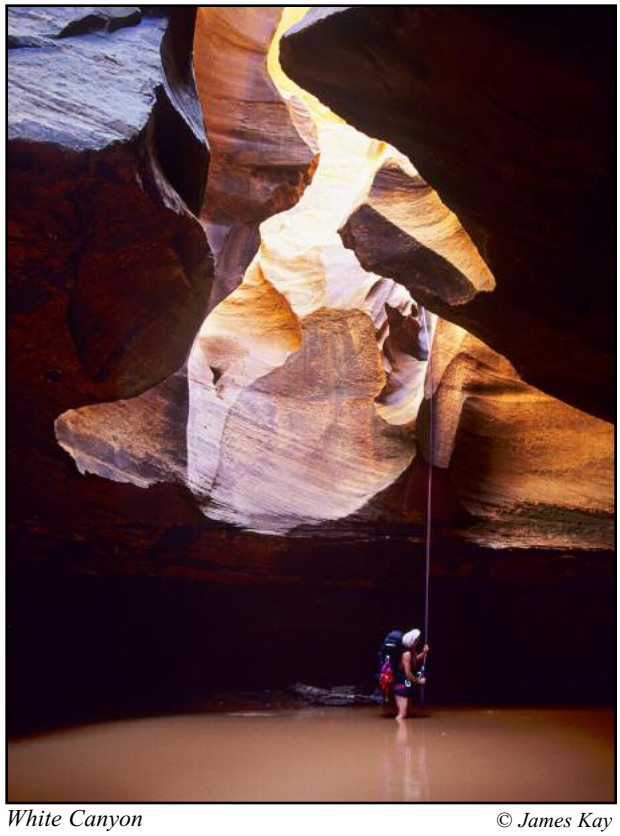
Labyrinth Canyon *© Tom Till*

Canyonlands Region

Gooseneck *© Ray Bloxham/SUWA*

Arch Canyon *© Liz Thomas/SUWA*

Fiddler Butte *© Ray Bloxham/SUWA*



White Canyon *© James Kay*

Shay Mountain *© Ray Bloxham/SUWA*

canyon country updates

Kane County RS 2477 Case Heads to Trial

© Liz Thomas/SUWA

The North Swag RS 2477 claim: county highway or sand trap?

Here's some good news: Kane County commissioners are no longer ripping up BLM signs that mark closed vehicle routes in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, and they are no longer posting county signs inviting off-road vehicle (ORV) use where the BLM determined that it posed a risk to natural, cultural and fossil resources.

Kane County also rescinded a local ordinance that approved ORV use on a spider web of primitive trails throughout the monument, in areas proposed for wilderness, and in the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. At the same time—and this is not to be sneezed at—the county has decided to take the high road by dropping its vigilante efforts. It has finally decided to take its right-of-way claims to court where they can be decided without putting land, water, wildlife, fossils, archaeological sites, and solitude at risk in the meantime.

In pursuit of these rights-of-way, Kane County has invoked a legal loophole from 1866 known as Revised Statute 2477 (or RS 2477)—a favorite anti-wilderness tactic. The first Kane County RS 2477 case up for trial will begin on June 7. Originally encompassing about a dozen major and minor routes, it has now been pared to three (depending on how you count them): North Swag and Swallow Park/Park Wash. If they sound familiar, it's because we litigated these routes for years in a case that ultimately went to the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals. That case, SUWA v. BLM, holds that the counties and state bear the burden to prove the validity of their RS 2477 claims, and that Utah law requiring 10 years of continuous use is the governing rule. Exactly what this means is less than crystal clear, but we know that occasional or sporadic wandering in the desert is not enough.

The stakes here are high. But regardless of the outcome the case is likely to be appealed (although not by us; the court ruled last year that we could not intervene because the federal government "adequately represented our interests"). The three routes still at issue in the case are impossible to drive in large part even with a four-wheel drive vehicle. And you can forget it completely with a standard passenger vehicle. Like many sporadically used trails across public lands throughout the West, these tracks have been used occasionally by hunters, ranchers and random wanderers. Does that make them a highway beyond the regulatory reach of the BLM?

As for the remainder of the routes, these were either two-lane paved highways, like the Yellowjacket/Sand Dune road bordering the Moquith Mountain WSA, or otherwise regularly maintained routes that no one had tried to close, like the Skutumpah Road. After the BLM agreed to the RS 2477 status of these roads, the court entered a judgment for the county. This doesn't create any heartburn for us, but the issue of the scope of the roads—the width and surface—remain to be decided. And the bordering wilderness study areas have to be protected.

This is not the end of the road in Kane County, though. Last summer it filed another case, voluntarily dismissed it, then refiled late last year. This one includes nearly 60 routes in all, and it should be ready for trial in a couple of years.

Meanwhile, there has been no decision yet on San Juan County's RS 2477 claim in Salt Creek, which lies in Canyonlands National Park and is the only perennial source of water there besides the Green and Colorado Rivers. Stay tuned.

—Heidi McIntosh

Defending Salazar Policies against County and Industry Lawsuits

SUWA and several of our conservation partners have recently moved to intervene on behalf of the Interior Department in two lawsuits challenging some of Secretary Ken Salazar's most important policies: the Secretary's Wild Lands policy and his oil and gas leasing reforms.

The first case is a lawsuit brought by Uintah County challenging the Secretary's Wild Lands policy and its implementing guidance (see article on page 11). The Utah county alleges that the Wild Lands policy goes above and beyond the powers given to the secretary by Congress and complains that the policy breaks "promises" the Interior Department made to the state and counties in a 2003 settlement between then-Interior Secretary Gale Norton and former Utah Governor Mike Leavitt.

The county's claims are entirely unfounded. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) directs the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to manage some of the public lands in their "natural condition," which is precisely what the Wild Lands policy provides for. Not only did the back-room Norton-Leavitt agreement arrive at an arbitrary and unfounded interpretation of FLPMA—among other things, prohibiting the BLM from designating new wilderness study areas—but by its own terms the deal stated that the agreement could not bind future administrations.

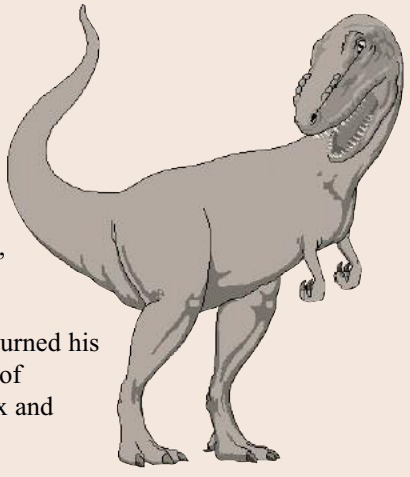
We expect other Utah counties and perhaps the State of Utah and the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration to join Uintah County. This is a quixotic quest to bring back the "good old days" of Interior Secretary Gale Norton's "drill here, drill now" policies. This case will be heard in federal district court in Salt Lake City.

The second case is a lawsuit brought by Western Energy Alliance—an oil and gas trade association, formerly the Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States—and a handful of small companies. The suit challenges Secretary Salazar's oil and gas leasing reforms. Specifically, the plaintiffs are upset that when BLM sells an oil and gas lease it will not actually issue the lease until any administrative protests have been resolved. That "resolution" involves the possibility that BLM could grant the protest and decide not to issue the lease. The companies prefer the "lease first, think later" policy that plagued the BLM and our public lands for years.

Our motion to intervene has already been granted and this case will be heard in federal district court in Cheyenne, WY.

—*Steve Bloch*

Goofus Gigantosaurus on Canis Lupus



Through history, wolves have stirred irrational reactions in humans. Still, partway through 2011, we've treasured the hope that people judged bright enough to hold responsible public office have evolved past that. Alas, history lives in full, loopy cry here in the American West.

On Feb. 8, Utah's Natural Resources Director Michael Styler turned his learned attention to the subject of wolves in Utah. The return of wolves, he intoned, is comparable to "the resurrection of T. rex and turning him loose on the landscape."

Round up the kids, Ma, and pen them hens! Wolves is back and T. rex is right behind 'em! Or, more simply, "Flee!"

canyon country updates

ORV Management? Utah BLM Flunks

Public lands in southern Utah suffer mightily from improper off-road vehicle (ORV) use that damages natural systems and drives quiet-seeking visitors to distraction. SUWA recently looked at the BLM's record of compliance with federal law, and documented it in our 2010 ORV Report Card. The report card assessed the BLM's ORV management on 11 million acres in southern Utah for which the agency has recently issued ORV plans.

Although the plans put a dreadfully overdue end to the free-for-all cross-country ORV travel of the past few decades, the BLM designated a dense network of 20,000 miles of ORV routes——the equivalent of seven trips between New York City and Los Angeles. The plans failed to provide even minimum protection to the most sensitive areas, including streambeds and wildlife habitat, archaeological sites, and wild lands.

The agency's own survey shows that less than 10 percent of visitors to public lands use ORVs. As a sentient being, you would expect the agency's ORV plans to reflect these use preferences. You would, of course, be wrong. The agency turned the numbers upside down, closing a pitiful 15 percent of the lands to ORV use, leaving 85 percent open—and leaving non-motorized recreationists out in the noisy cold.

Not surprisingly, the BLM earned failing and very low grades for most categories. To improve its grades, the BLM should immediately close ORV trails in streambeds and wild lands and in areas with significant cultural resources as scientists recommend. This would leave 17,000 miles of ORV trails in southern Utah, scarcely a shortage of motorized access.

To see the complete report card, go to: **www.suwa.org/2010ReportCard**.

—Liz Thomas

Snapshot of the ORV Report Card

Shows Progress: the BLM's shift from unlimited cross-country use to designated routes is a step in the right direction.	**B**
Protects the Environment from ORV Damage: the BLM did little to protect desert streams, wildlife habitat, and roadless areas.	**D**
Understands and Appreciates History: the BLM designated ORV trails directly through cultural sites eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.	**F**
Understands and Applies Scientific Findings: the BLM ignored scientific data indicating that ORV use contributes to the effects of climate change by degrading water sources, spreading invasive and flammable weeds, eroding soils, and contributing to dust storms that blanket the southern Rockies with dust.	**D**
Follows Directions: the BLM ignored its mandate to protect the "scientific, scenic, historical, ecological, environmental, air, water and archaeological" values of public lands.	**F**
Does Quality Homework: the BLM merely copied and incorporated counties' wish lists of routes without doing its own homework to determine if the routes actually exist on the ground and are appropriate for ORV use (thus earning an "Incomplete").	**I**

Will BLM Reward the Assault on Recapture Canyon?

Just outside Blanding, Utah, is Recapture Canyon. Its cool, flowing stream provides year-round water, lush vegetation, and a haven for wildlife. It was likely just this set of circumstances that drew Ancestral Puebloans to settle in the canyon nearly 2,000 years ago.

Exceptional remnants of their 1,000-odd years of occupancy have been preserved through the centuries along the stream banks and tucked into high alcoves in this quiet canyon in southeastern Utah. The silence was broken in 2005, when a 20-mile illegal off-road vehicle (ORV) trail was built directly over ancient archaeological sites, damaging the artifacts and increasing the potential for future vandalism and looting.

Two Blanding residents were charged with illegally building the trail and damaging federal property. In late January, a federal magistrate convicted the pair and fined them $35,000. After carefully investigating the outrage, filing charges and ultimately prevailing in the criminal case, surely the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will keep the illegal trail closed to ORV use? Not if San Juan County gets its way.

Although the BLM closed the illegal trail to ORV use, the county is now pressuring the agency to grant a right-of-way for the illegal trail. We're not the only ones who think this is a truly insane idea. The *Salt Lake Tribune* roundly criticized the notion in a recent editorial (see sidebar).

There is no shortage of ORV trails in San Juan County. There are over 5,000 miles of them on BLM lands and more on national forest lands. The BLM should do the right thing, and the only sensible thing: deny the right-of-way request and keep the illegal trail closed to protect the irreplaceable cultural artifacts in Recapture Canyon.

For more information, please go to **www.suwa.org/recapture**.

—Liz Thomas

"Too many ATV users, the trail-busters being two good examples, believe the outdoors belong only to them and they have a right to do anything they please once they climb aboard their motorized vandals. Reopening an illegal trail to take even more riders of these potentially destructive vehicles closer to ancient dwellings and relics is simply asking for trouble. With its limited enforcement abilities, BLM would not be able to monitor use and restrict it to responsible users . . .

. . . Making this trail that leads to ancient Ancestral Puebloan cliff dwellings and relics a federally accepted trail would do irreversible damage to the environment in two ways. It would allow ATV users easy access to these particular ruins and put the artifacts at risk. And it would send an unmistakable message to other renegade ATVers: Hack an illegal trail on public land and there's a good chance that trail will get the blessing of the BLM."

— from "An Illegal Trail," *Salt Lake Tribune* editorial, Feb. 15, 2011 (read the complete editorial at **www.suwa.org/recapture**)

© Liz Thomas/SUWA

Old-growth juniper trees were cut to build the illegal trail in Recapture Canyon.

canyon country updates

Glen Canyon NRA Off-Road Vehicle Plan Underway

The National Park Service is developing an off-road vehicle (ORV) plan for the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (GCNRA) which encompasses a significant portion of the redrock country in southern Utah.

Authorized in 1972, the GCNRA extends across 1.25 million acres of remote and wild canyon country. Surrounding this magnificent landscape are equally impressive lands in Canyonlands and Capitol Reef National Parks, the Vermilion Cliffs and the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments, BLM-managed wilderness-quality lands, and the Navajo Nation.

Although the primary feature of the GCNRA is Lake Powell, the remaining 87 percent of this area is undeveloped. It contains prehistoric cultural sites and is rich in wildlife habitat and outstanding opportunities for a pure wilderness experience. The Park Service has recommended nearly one-half of the lands in the GCNRA for wilderness designation.

Most units of the National Park System prohibit the use of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), as do the adjacent Canyonlands and Capitol Reef National Parks. Yet ATVs are currently allowed on all the dirt trails in the GCNRA—more than 300 miles of them. The Park Service proposes to continue to allow ATV and other motor vehicle use in the GCNRA. But some of the ATV trails the agency would leave open lead to closed trails in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and Canyonlands National Park, and to adjacent BLM lands proposed for wilderness.

SUWA is participating in this planning process and has urged the Park Service to comply with Executive Order No.11644 which governs ORV use in parks and on public lands. The order directs land managers to protect the natural resources and public lands from ORV impacts; promote public safety of all users; minimize impacts to natural resources and conflicts among various users; and allow ATV and other ORV use on trails and in "open areas" only after the agency has determined that such use will not affect the natural, aesthetic, or scenic values of the areas in which the trails or "open" areas are located.

—Liz Thomas

Little Action on County Wilderness Bills

Emery County, which covers the San Rafael Swell and the west sides of Desolation and Labyrinth Canyons, is the last county still actively pursuing a wilderness bill after Sen. Robert Bennett was dethroned a year ago.

We dropped out of discussions there after the county, facing pressure from off-road vehicle advocates, reneged on its agreement to split the cost of a facilitator with us in an effort to move the process forward. We figured that if Emery County officials couldn't stick with that deal, there was little hope for resolving the contentious issue of wilderness. We've told the county that, once their proposal is final, we're still willing to see if it's possible to bridge the gap between our proposal and theirs.

—Scott Groene

Organizing Rule No. 1: Know Your Constituents

We came across this item in January on the website of USA-ALL (a name that fairly expresses the motorized group's territorial ambitions). It urged off-roaders to attend a citizens' meeting in Moab for people to vent about route closures on public lands. It concluded with this reminder: "Bring your family and friends. I hate to have to say this but from past meeting experience I must mention that coming sober and polite will be very helpful."

Helpful, maybe, but not nearly so much fun . . .

© Ray Bloxham/SUWA

The Pink Cliffs of the Paunsaugunt Plateau rise above Alton Coal's strip mining operations near Bryce Canyon National Park.

Construction Begins on Coal Strip Mine near Bryce

Over the past year, SUWA, the Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and the National Parks Conservation Association have challenged the State of Utah's approval of plans to strip-mine coal just 10 miles outside of Bryce Canyon National Park.

The mine would have serious negative effects on the environment, local residents, and southwestern Utah's tourism-based economy. And it comes at a time when our country should be moving toward a cleaner energy future.

The state initially granted Alton Coal Development, LLC, a permit to strip-mine coal on private land in October 2009. Soon after, SUWA and our partners brought an appeal before the Utah Board of Oil, Gas and Mining to block the mine. A year later the board issued its final approval, ignoring our scientific experts' testimony that spelled out serious problems with the mining plan.

When SUWA and our partners discovered at the end of 2010 that Alton Coal had begun to prepare the site for mining, we immediately filed a petition for emergency relief with the Utah Supreme Court. Our goal was to stop all surface operations until serious defects with the mining permit were addressed. Unfortunately, the court denied our emergency petition in January, though it has not yet ruled on the merits of the case. In the coming months, we will work hard to convince the court that the permit is fatally flawed.

Bad as the initial mine proposal is, it could be just the beginning with worse to follow. The BLM's Kanab field office is now analyzing another proposal by Alton Coal to strip-mine approximately 3,500 acres of adjacent public lands. That massive expansion would compound climate change problems, degrade the air quality and pristine night skies around Bryce Canyon National Park, and diminish local residents' quality of life.

We expect the draft environmental impact statement for the expansion proposal to be released for public comment this spring. We will need your help submitting comments, attending meetings, and urging the BLM not to approve the mine. Stay tuned.

—Tiffany Bartz

canyon country updates

Massive Oil and Gas Development Plan Threatens Desolation Canyon Area

In a throwback to the Bush administration, the Utah Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recently announced a large oil and gas development plan that would impact the upper portion of the proposed Desolation Canyon wilderness. Fortunately, our members' quick action and the Environmental Protection Agency's careful oversight have provided some hope of reshaping the project.

The Desolation Canyon proposed wilderness is one of the largest unprotected roadless complexes in the lower 48 states. It is an area of spectacular solitude, endless vistas, and remoteness. The upper portion of the proposed Desolation Canyon wilderness includes gentle stretches of the Green River, wild horses, rock art, and beautiful rolling hills. These values appear to have been lost on the BLM, which resurrected from the dustbin a project proposed during the Bush administration that was long thought to be dead.

Last fall, the Utah BLM unveiled for public comment the Gasco Energy, Inc., Uinta Basin Natural Gas Development Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). It was a real stinker. The Gasco Draft EIS had an "agency preferred alternative" that was the same as the company's proposed action—one that would authorize nearly 1,500 new natural gas wells including 222 wells in the Desolation Canyon proposed wilderness.

The BLM supported this "alternative" despite the fact that the draft EIS also considered alternatives that would have protected the proposed wilderness and done more to safeguard wildlife, the Green River, and nearby Nine Mile Canyon. The BLM's support also came despite the fact that the project would result in significant ground-level ozone pollution. The target area may already have the nation's worst wintertime ozone levels (and may even rival summer ozone levels in places like Los Angeles).

Responding to a SUWA alert, our members submitted thousands of comments to the BLM. At the same time, the Environmental Protection Agency—which Congress has charged with reviewing environmental impact statements—gave the Gasco Draft EIS a failing grade for its inadequate analysis. These developments are good signs; but whether they are enough to persuade the BLM to do the right thing is uncertain. We will keep you in the loop.

—David Garbett

© Ray Bloxham/SUWA

Every alternative in the Gasco Draft EIS proposed gas wells that would have appeared in this photo of the Green River in upper Desolation Canyon.

How Does the BLM Treat Vegetation? Savagely!

They go by a variety of names, all designed to mislead: "stewardship project," "habitat improvement," "vegetation treatment," "rehabilitation," "maintenance." These are all euphemisms for deforestation projects.

The projects rely on large, tree-eating machines that turn a forest into piles of mulch and powdery, erosion-prone soils. One of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) favorite tools, the bull hog (pictured at right), reduces old-growth juniper and pinyon trees to pulp in a matter of minutes. These projects certainly impact wilderness values: it doesn't take a trained biologist to conclude that there's nothing very natural about a landscape reduced to splinters.

© *Utah Division of Wildlife Resources*

A "bull hog" at work deforesting the desert landscape.

Science plainly documents the fact that forests capture carbon in their trees and soils, helping to offset some effects of climate change. So any reduction in the total biomass of forests can release carbon into the atmosphere, exacerbating that change. So why would the BLM propose to eliminate healthy forests? The agency's rationalizations include improving wildlife habitat, range, and watershed conditions; improving riparian ecosystems; and reducing wildfire risk.

This is closer to the truth: the agency has a big wad of wildland-urban interface fire money that it has to use or lose. No matter that the BLM is lavishing money on projects nowhere near a wildland-urban interface.

Removing domestic livestock from public lands stressed to the breaking point from drought and decades of overgrazing would accomplish most of the stated goals of the projects. But that wouldn't spend down the pot of money.

In the past year, the BLM has proposed deforestation projects on hundreds of thousands of acres throughout Utah. SUWA has successfully fought back several of these projects and is working on several others.

The BLM's Cedar City office proposes to "treat" over 400,000 acres in the basin and range country of western Utah in the Hamlin Valley project that would deforest wilderness-quality lands. SUWA has requested that the BLM modify the proposal. On the opposite side of the state, the agency's Vernal office recently approved two projects that reach into the proposed Seep Canyon and Bitter Creek wilderness areas. SUWA has formally opposed both. Unfortunately, the agency denied our appeal in Seep Canyon; the Bitter Creek appeal is pending.

—Tiffany Bartz, Liz Thomas

Cedar City Land Use Planning Process Underway

Near the end of last year, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) began work on yet another Resource Management Plan (RMP)—this time for two million acres of public lands it manages in the Cedar City planning area in the basin and range country of southwestern Utah.

RMPs don't sound particularly exciting but they are very important documents. Once in place, they guide the BLM's management of resources for the next 15-20 years. Wild lands, wildlife habitat, soils and vegetation, and activities such as off-road vehicle use, oil, gas and renewable energy development,

livestock grazing, and deforestation projects are all at stake in these plans. So SUWA devotes considerable time and energy to making them as responsible as possible.

The Cedar City planning area does not confront oil and gas development to the same extent that northeastern Utah does. And it is not yet the four-wheeling magnet that the Moab area is. But a growing number of off-road vehicle routes into remote areas looms as a challenge.

The area is also recognized for its renewable energy potential. In comments we submitted in late December, SUWA recommended renewable energy zones to channel the development of renewable energy to lands that do not qualify for wilderness designation and away from lands proposed for wilderness in America's Red Rock Wilderness Act. Employing a similar zoning concept, we recommended that certain areas be managed for primitive types of recreation, and that motorized recreation be concentrated in other areas. This zoned approach will make management of the ecologically critical lands in the Cedar City planning area more straightforward.

We expect the draft plan to be available for public comment this spring or summer. We will post that information on SUWA's website and let you know how you can help. If you're not on our email alert list, be sure to sign up at **www.suwa.org**.

—Tiffany Bartz

Large-Scale Solar Development: Can the BLM Do It Right?

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is now working on a solar energy programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS) for six western states, including Utah, to identify lands for solar leasing and development. We were optimistic that this PEIS would propose a smart process that we could support. Perhaps we aimed too high.

The BLM's "preferred alternative" in the PEIS proposes to make over 21 million acres available for solar leasing, including over two million acres in Utah's West Desert and redrock country. A significant part of that two million acres conflicts with America's Red Rock Wilderness Act in places such as King Top, the Dirty Devil, the San Juan River, Wild Horse Mesa, and Tule Valley. This is the same sort of "lease now, think later" approach that the agency has used for years in its oil and gas leasing program, an approach that has meant considerable uncertainty for the energy industry because of protests, appeals, and litigation. Recent reforms call for more comprehensive reviews in advance of oil and gas leasing and promise better results. We have every right to expect that same careful approach with solar development on public lands.

SUWA recommends that the BLM adopt the "solar zone" alternative which would focus on a handful of specific areas in each of the six states and intensively review the prospects for and impacts from development in advance of leasing. This alternative would give the solar industry and its investors more certainty that development will be allowed to proceed in these carefully scrutinized locations.

The PEIS identifies three such sites in Utah: Milford Flats, Escalante Valley, and Wah Wah Valley. Of these, we have encouraged the BLM to focus on the Milford Flats site because of its proximity to existing development (wind and livestock) and existing transmission facilities, and because it poses fewer environmental conflicts. The Escalante Valley site also looks promising. We do not support the Wah Wah Valley location because of wildlife conflicts, impacts on the viewshed, and other environmental conflicts.

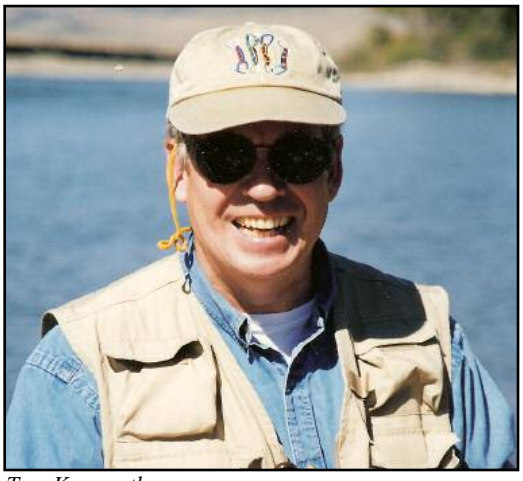
The public comment period closed in mid-March and we expect a BLM decision in the next year.

SUWA Gains Two Exceptional Board Members

Over time, SUWA has attracted remarkable people to its work and its board of directors. We've had the pleasure of working with noted writers, a former Utah congressman, a pair of former big-city mayors, and a variety of people from the worlds of business and environmental advocacy who put their time, resources, and energy where their hearts are: the cause of redrock wilderness protection.

The two latest additions, Anne Milliken of Salt Lake City and Tom Kenworthy of Golden, CO, continue that tradition.

Anne Milliken



Tom Kenworthy

Anne Milliken was born in Paris, raised in Washington, DC, and lived in New York City (with a brief stint in Gary, Indiana). Anne is a world traveler, who with her husband, John, settled in Utah in 1985.

In 1972, Anne completed a three-week course with the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS). NOLS, she says, changed her life, giving her a sense of competence outdoors and a deep love for wild places. Her life in Utah has been filled with hiking, river running, civic and political activism, and raising four daughters (who also attended NOLS).

She's had a career in journalism, working with the Public Broadcasting System in Washington and locally for Salt Lake City's National Public Radio station, KUER, as the producer of RadioWest. She was part of the leadership team that helped elect Karen Shepherd of Utah to Congress in 1992. Anne has also been instrumental in the development of a new Utah Museum of Natural History, slated to open in Salt Lake City in a few months.

Of wilderness and her love of hiking in Utah's backcountry, Anne says "the land is my cathedral."

Tom Kenworthy comes to SUWA after a long and distinguished journalism career with the *Washington Post* and *USA Today*. He is now a senior fellow on the Energy and Environment Team at the Center for American Progress, where he posts incisive and engaging essays on wilderness and other western issues.

Although Tom has traveled the country covering big stories on subjects ranging from criminal investigations to congressional scandals, his favorite stories have focused on the landscapes of the West and the people who feel so strongly about their future. He's covered the Arizona and Colorado wildfires of the early 2000s, forest controversies in California, and salmon health in the Northwest.

It was his experience on the ground with westerners that first grabbed his interest and never relinquished it. On Utah, Tom says, "Through these trips, I began to realize how fragile the desert is, and how important it is to protect it. SUWA has always been one of my favorite organizations because it understands this, and because SUWA is in this fight for the long haul."

We are. And Tom and Anne will be important in that work. We welcome them both.

inside SUWA

Thanks and So Long to Tiffany Bartz

Field attorney Tiffany Bartz, who defended wild lands in the southwestern part of Utah, has left SUWA to join her partner Shane in Boston.

SUWA wishes Tiffany the best of luck in Boston.

Tiffany put in many late-night hours working on the Alton coal mine issue, writing resource management plan comments, researching scientific studies and reports on vegetation deforestation projects, and learning how to create GIS maps. But she most enjoyed (as we all do) the opportunity to get out in the field and become familiar with wild lands in southern and western Utah.

Tiffany is relentlessly upbeat. She needed to be. We'll remember her: On a rain-soaked route in the Book Cliffs, covered tip to toe in mud as she helped dig out a truck another SUWA staffer had buried up to the axles in muck; in the San Rafael Desert doing archaeological field work in 110-degree heat, sand burning through the soles of her shoes as she tried to coax her dog Sirius into the shade of a cottonwood stand; and driving in the badlands surrounding Factory Butte to monitor for ORV compliance, with her insistent, 100-pound dog sitting on her lap the entire day. Then there's the picture of a drenched Tiffany trying to drape a tarp over her sopping sleeping bag . . . after staff veterans had solemnly assured her that "it won't rain" during a field work campout in southern Utah.

Tiffany wasn't with us nearly long enough. We miss her, wish her the best, and hope to see her back in the redrock country soon.

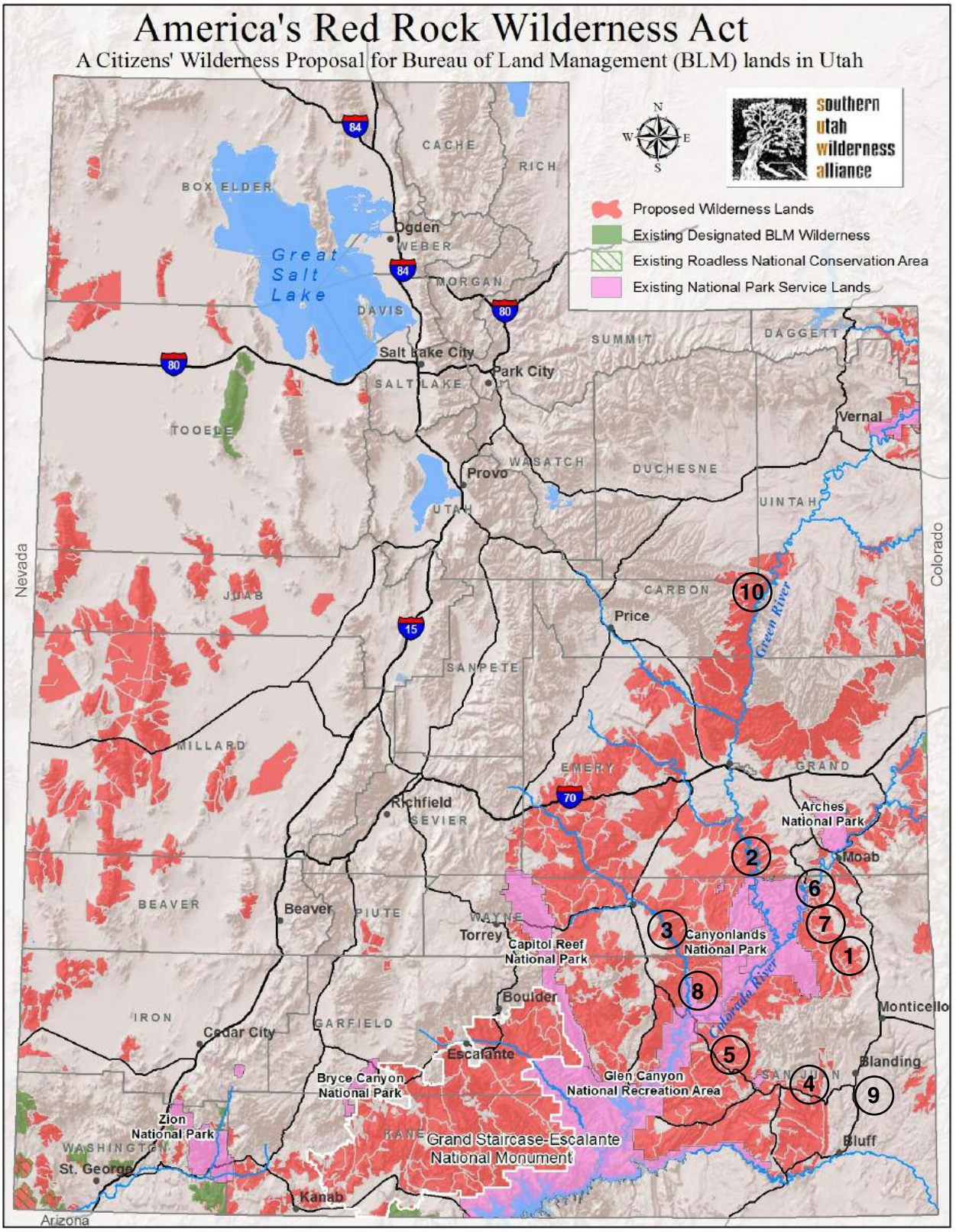
Planned Giving: A Legacy of Support for the Redrock

SUWA has always valued the strength and dedication of our greatest asset: our members. The majority of our funding comes from individual supporters, many of whom have been with us since SUWA was founded in 1983. Year after year, SUWA members—people like you—have continued to put their hearts and financial resources into the effort to permanently protect America's redrock wilderness.

A number of our supporters have made an enduring commitment to SUWA by including SUWA in their estate plans. This type of commitment, known as "planned giving," refers to the designation of assets given upon death to a charitable organization of one's choice.

Planned giving is an important part of SUWA's long-term financial picture. Legacy gifts from our members help to ensure sound financial footing and stability as our work moves forward from one generation to the next. Securing permanent protection for all of Utah's remaining wilderness will take time and resources.

For more information on planned giving, please visit our website at **www.suwa.org/plannedgiving**. Planned gifts can be a great vehicle to gain tax advantages for your estate and heirs. We recommend that you meet with your estate attorney or financial advisor to decide which plan is best for you and your family. If you'd like to make a planned gift to SUWA or have already named SUWA in your will or other estate gift, please contact Scott Braden at braden@suwa.org or (801) 428-3970.



Reference Map for Articles in this Issue

1. Harts Point (p. 5)
2. Labyrinth Canyon (pp. 10 & 14)
3. Dirty Devil (p. 14)
4. Arch Canyon (p. 15)
5. White Canyon (pp. 14 & 15)
6. Gooseneck (p. 15)
7. Lockhart Basin (p. 14)
8. Fiddler Butte (p. 15)
9. Recapture Canyon (p. 19)
10. Desolation Canyon (p. 22)

southern utah wilderness alliance

425 East 100 South
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
S.L.C., UT
Permit No. 474

Your Support Makes a Huge Difference – Thank You!

A big thank-you to all of you who gave generously and made our 2010 year-end match such a success!

SUWA especially thanks the anonymous donor whose extraordinary challenge gift of $100,000 was fully realized because of your tremendous generosity. Matching gifts like this help to make your donations go farther, which is critically important since 80 percent of our funding comes from individuals like you.

While the match may be over, the fight to protect the redrock is not. Please consider a 2011 gift to SUWA today—just visit us online at **www.suwa.org/donate**.

Join Us for the SUWA Roundup this September

Mark your calendar for SUWA's 2011 membership gathering at Hidden Splendor, **September 23-25.**

Held in the heart of the San Rafael Swell, the SUWA Roundup offers our members and staff the opportunity to meet one another and to enjoy the beautiful Indian summer of redrock country with fellow desert rats from Utah and other states. Activities include a discussion of Utah wilderness issues with SUWA staff and board members, a potluck dinner, evening music around the campfire, and—best of all—guided day-hikes in our Muddy Creek proposed wilderness area. Sunday morning you'll awake to freshly brewed coffee followed by a deluxe continental breakfast prepared by the SUWA staff in thanks for all your support and dedication.

© *Terri Martin/SUWA*

Hikers explore Mud Canyon at the 2010 SUWA Roundup.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Deeda Seed at (801) 428-3971 or deeda@suwa.org. Further details and driving instructions will be posted at **www.suwa.org/roundup2011**.

Printed on recycled paper using soy-based ink.