

# REDROCK

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

The Newsletter of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance  
Volume 26, Number 2 • Summer 2009

Climate Change and Wilderness

**Cover Photo:** *Mary Jane Canyon (east of Moab) has been recognized by the BLM for its wilderness character and is included in America's Red Rock Wilderness Act, a bill before the U.S. Congress (see page 8). Copyright Ray Bloxham/SUWA.*



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.

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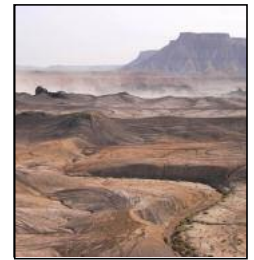
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## Redrock Wilderness • Volume 26, Number 2 • Summer 2009

This issue of *Redrock Wilderness* was written by the following staff and outside contributors: Tiffany Bartz, Steve Bloch, Scott Braden, David Garbett, Scott Groene, Diane Kelly, Terri Martin, Heidi McIntosh, Richard Peterson-Cremer, Deeda Seed, Liz Thomas, and Morgan Wyenn. 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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**Moving? Please send your change of address to:  
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## wilderness notes

### Dreaming Big

*Dream no small dreams for they have no power to move the hearts of men.*

~Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe

America's Red Rock Wilderness Act is no small dream. And we Redrock activists who have toiled year in, year out to move it through Congress needn't ask why we do it. We know. Others, though, occasionally do ask why.

The central reason is that we hope that one day America's Red Rock Wilderness Act (ARRWA) will become law. A lot of hardened congressional mechanics say it can't be done. But many of them also warned us we could never stop bad wilderness legislation if a unified Utah delegation was behind it. No one ever had. But we did and we have done it thirteen times. That hard work, that diligent building of support, has also put us in a position to pass good Utah wilderness legislation twice in the past three years. And this year, we anticipate that a House committee will give America's Red Rock Wilderness Act its first congressional hearing, an important milestone. Despite one of the most wilderness-hostile political climates anywhere, the Utah wilderness campaign has achieved "impossible" victories. "Politically impossible" means only that nobody's done it yet.

The bill stands as a vision around which we've built a national grassroots network. That translates into congressional support that gets stronger in every Congress. Led by Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) and Sen. Richard Durbin (D-IL), ARRWA cosponsors have several times saved the Redrock by blocking bad legislation and influencing administrative actions. Alaska is the only other state whose public lands boast a national constituency sufficient to block its own delegation's worst impulses.

If America's Red Rock Wilderness is a dream, it is a dream with practical, measurable impacts. Among other things, its boundaries have gained legitimacy within the BLM. Recall that after the original wilderness inventory 25 years ago, the agency determined that a mere 3.2 million Utah BLM acres qualified as wilderness. Where once the agency scoffed, it now agrees with us that approximately 7 million acres of Utah BLM land have wilderness characteristics. (The remaining discrepancy between the agency's numbers and ours exists largely because the BLM has not yet inventoried our entire proposal.) So drastic a change has occurred in no other state, though the early inventories were badly flawed elsewhere, too. The difference is the Red Rock bill. During the Clinton administration the BLM extended special consideration to the lands within the legislation. We are hopeful the Obama BLM will do likewise.

The ARRWA proposal keeps us focused. We don't drift between issues because of changing media or foundation interest. We'll work on the Redrock until it's protected. The proposal also keeps us honest. When we're faced with compromises such as arose with the Cedar Mountains or Washington County legislation, we ask ourselves whether the compromises are consistent with the vision. (In both cases the answer was yes). When we are weary or the going gets particularly difficult, the vision of ARRWA—vast, undiminished, protected landscapes—is both tonic and armor.

Many of you have played important roles in the long and increasingly successful Utah wilderness campaign, empowered by a dream big enough to move our hearts. Those who follow us will be grateful. Thank you!

For the Redrock,



Scott Groene  
Executive Director

## features

### Climate Change and Wilderness: Reaching a Boiling Point?

Hot enough for you? Just wait, it'll get hotter. At least that's the message climate scientists from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the U.S. Climate Change Science Project, and the U.S. Geological Survey convey in reports released in the past few years (See [www.suwa.org/ScienceDaily](http://www.suwa.org/ScienceDaily) for a recent article on the subject).

Climate change has seized the attention of the media, the public, and policy makers. To date, though, most of the focus has centered on the need to reduce carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions; the benefits of a cap and trade regime to limit the emission of greenhouse gases; how much sea level rise will displace human populations; and the effects that a warmer and drier world will have on food and water supplies.

But there's another aspect to the problem, and it goes to the very heart of the future ecological viability of Utah's spectacular wildlands. With a hotter, drier climate, the science tells us, we can expect more and hotter wildfires, shrinking water supplies, less native vegetation, shifting and dwindling wildlife habitat, and more dust storms which blow east to blanket the snowy white slopes of Colorado's Rockies. Clean snow reflects more sunlight than snow coated in a layer of red dust. Dirty snow melts faster than it should and earlier, complicating management of already-scarce water supplies and leaving late summer plants, wildlife, and crops parched. This is profoundly disturbing news, to say the least.

#### Shrinking Margin for Survival

According to the U.S. Climate Change Science Program report released on Sept. 11, 2007, climate change will have substantial ramifications for high desert ecosystems like the Colorado Plateau's, where native plants and animals are already at the limits of their tolerance for temperature and water stress. As a result, even slight changes in climate and resulting loss of water and habitat would have significant impacts. There is little, if any, margin for survival in the desert.

The U.S. Geological Survey predicts that by 2050, soil conditions on the Colorado Plateau will be



© Ray Bloxham/SUWA

*A dust storm caused by extensive ORV use in the Factory Butte area near Hanksville, Utah.*

worse than those typical of the Dust Bowl era, and that water runoff will decrease by up to 30 percent during the 21st Century. That will be due partly to the early warming effect of Utah's red dust on Colorado's life-sustaining snow-pack, and partly to the hard-packed, impermeable ground, loss of protective native plant cover, and water channelization caused by off-road vehicle (ORV) damage. Soil-churning ORVs, dirt roads, and scraped-off oil and gas pads simply mean a lot more dust in the air, and less water for native plants and animals, agriculture, and human consumption.

While these findings are dramatic, the report doesn't stop there, further noting that "[i]t is likely that these changes will increase over the next several decades in both frequency and magnitude, and it is possible that they will accelerate."

For all the Bush administration's nay-saying about climate change, even some in the Bush Interior Department understood the consequences of warming on public lands. On April 26, 2007, Interior Deputy Secretary Lynn Scarlet testified before the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee that global climate change could dramatically reshape America's public lands with increased species extinctions and wildfire. Ron Huntsinger, BLM's own science coordinator, said, "[w]e can anticipate

## features

### From the U.S. Geological Survey:

“Soil disturbing activities, including grazing, energy exploration/development, and recreation, are increasing dramatically on the Colorado Plateau. These uses reduce or remove the natural components that stabilize desert soils (live and dead plant materials, physical and biological soil crusts, rocks). This increases soil loss through wind and water erosion . . . Surface disturbance also enhances the invasion of exotic annual grasses.”

further reductions in the level of allowable uses on public lands due to the loss of productivity and capacity. . . . The results are more fragile ecosystems, a greater susceptibility to the outbreaks of attacks by parasites and disease, increased vulnerability to wildland fire and erosion and an overall reduction in the carrying capacity of the land.”

To his credit, former Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne also convened an inter-agency climate change task force which released a draft report and a menu of possible actions late in 2008 (some of which are good, none of which have been adopted). The Task Force Report and other relevant information are available at [www.usgs.gov/global\\_change/doi\\_task\\_force.asp](http://www.usgs.gov/global_change/doi_task_force.asp).

### Options for the Future

If we want to preserve the ecological viability of wilderness landscapes—and the thrill of spotting healthy bighorn sheep, bear, mountain lions, and other denizens of the wild, or of standing on a mesa top and witnessing the breathtaking, verdant sweep of a pinyon-juniper forest under a cerulean sky—we must act now, not later. Later is too late. Fortunately, there are things to be done that will enhance the likelihood that Utah’s wilderness lands will withstand climate change, or at least have the best possible chance of meeting the challenges of climate change without suffering ecological collapse.

Here are three things that Congress, the BLM, and the Interior Department must do to heighten the resilience of public lands to the effects of climate change:

1) Congress should pass America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act as soon as possible. This will

ensure that large blocks of undisturbed lands remain healthy as a refuge for wildlife and native plants and as a reservoir of native species if relocation becomes necessary. An EPA report (“Global Change Research Program, Science in Action: Building a Scientific Foundation for Sound Environmental Decisions”) recommended just such a strategy—protecting large blocks of public land from human development—to give lands and ecosystems a better chance of survival.

Additional strategies include identifying and protecting key ecosystem features and restoring intact ecosystems that serve important functions, such as wetlands and riparian areas which buffer flooding and provide irreplaceable habitat for most native plants and wildlife. The Red Rock bill includes just such ecosystems.

2) The BLM must revise the disastrous land use plans the Bush administration issued late in 2008 so that they better protect wilderness landscapes and increase the land’s resilience to climate change. Incredibly, the draft plans the Utah BLM issued for 11 million acres in the eastern half of the state failed

even to mention climate change or how land management decisions should respond to the threat.

Though the final plans contained a cursory genuflection to the reality of climate change, and an inane and uneducated claim that there isn’t enough science to steer the agency towards better management, even that tepid addition appeared only after SUWA and its conservation partners forced the BLM to address the issue. To do the job right, the BLM must revise its land use management plans to protect large blocks of land, conserve and protect water resources, promote soil stability, and give



© Tom Till

*A desert bighorn kneels for a drink in Utah’s canyon country.*

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**features**

wildlife a fighting chance by protecting habitat and identifying places where wildlife will need to relocate in response to changing conditions (see RMP article on page 11).

The agency should also take every possible step to keep the land clear of non-native invasive plant species which fuel hotter, larger fires. This means fewer roads and ORV trails which provide access for seed-dispersing vehicles that simultaneously leave in their wake disturbed ground where weeds thrive. And it means fewer oil and gas fields on unstable soils and in places where water resources are stretched thin. As the BLM's science coordinator told Congress two years ago, the BLM has to reduce the level of impact on its sensitive landscapes.

3) Secretary Salazar must make absolutely clear to all Interior Department managers that climate change is to be considered in every decision about public land use, especially in planning and in decisions about uses which cause soil disturbance and loss of riparian and other key habitats. In that regard, a threshold question: Given that climate change already stresses riparian resources, soil integrity, and native plants, are the 20,000 miles of newly-designated ORV trails in the 2008 land use plans in any conceivable way justifiable?

Former Secretary Bruce Babbitt issued Secretarial Order 3226 which mandated just this kind of review. But his successor never implemented it and the BLM simply ignored it. (Oddly, given the department's eight years of antipathy toward the directive, Secretary Kempthorne amended the order and reissued it in the last days of the Bush administration. Still, the Utah BLM has yet to issue an environmental assessment which seriously considers climate change.)

The bottom line is that climate change will require land managers to conserve and protect natural resources, including big blocks of undeveloped public lands, as never before. The Interior Department should ensure that the BLM, our largest public land manager, lives up to this responsibility. But Congress also has a key role to play. By enacting America's Red Rock Wilderness Act, Congress can give Utah's spectacular canyon country and desert ecosystems their best chance for long-term survival in an overheated world.

—Heidi McIntosh



© Liz Thomas

*Protecting rare desert wetlands is critical to climate change mitigation on the Colorado Plateau. Alarmingly, the BLM currently allows ORVs to travel through this wetland and riparian area in Tenmile Canyon.*

## Climate Change Legislation

Congress is increasingly focused on climate change, including its impacts on public lands. There are two bills now pending before the U.S. House of Representatives that would require land managers such as the BLM to consider the impacts of climate change on federal public lands. To read the full text of these bills, go to [www.thomas.loc.gov](http://www.thomas.loc.gov) and search on the bill number.

- ▶ Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ) introduced the **Climate Change Safeguards for Natural Resources Conservation Act, H.R. 2192**, in late April after a series of compelling witnesses testified about the impacts of climate change and the necessary solutions. The bill does not offer immediate protection to any public lands, but it would create new scientific entities to study the problem and require the Interior Department to conduct studies of the impacts of climate change on natural resources and public lands.
- ▶ The better-known legislation is the **American Clean Energy and Security Act, H.R. 2454**, sponsored by Rep. Edward Markey (D-MA) and Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA). The measure recently made headlines when the House Committee on Energy and Commerce approved it with its cap and trade system to control greenhouse gas emissions. Important but less-publicized provisions of the bill would establish a new scientific panel to consider how to enhance the ability of natural resources to adapt to climate change and would require federal agencies to develop natural resource adaptation plans.

## DC news

Good  
News!

### Washington County Wilderness Becomes Law!

After months of procedural ping-pong in the Congress, Utah Sen. Robert Bennett's Washington County Wilderness bill became law as part of the Omnibus Public Lands Act of 2009.

The final version of the legislation for the Zion-Mojave wilderness protects 140,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) wilderness and also places another 50,000 acres in the Beaver Dam Wash National Conservation Area (NCA) under strong, restrictive management.

Working with our partners to cure the deficiencies in the legislation, we not only achieved a wilderness bill we can be proud of but perhaps also established a model for future Utah wilderness legislation without the harmful precedent of selling public land to finance local development projects in exchange for wilderness designation.

None of this would have been possible without Sen. Bennett's willingness to craft a balanced, conserva-

tion-minded bill and we thank him. The legislation goes well beyond previous protections provided for wilderness study areas. The boundaries of individual wilderness areas take into account important wildlife corridors and water resources. Places such as Doc's Pass and Black Ridge will remain quiet and undisturbed in perpetuity.

The Beaver Dam Wash NCA provision struck an appropriate balance, allowing the BLM to manage the area for desert tortoise habitat while protecting the place from damaging off-road vehicle use and the staking of mining claims. The legislation also protects as wilderness many natural extensions of Zion National Park and provides the additional protection of a wilderness designation to another 125,000 acres within the park itself.

We achieved this success through the committed advocacy of SUWA members and the willing help of our congressional champions: Sens. Dick Durbin (IL), Russ Feingold (WI), Maria Cantwell (WA), and Rep. Maurice Hinchey (NY). Thanks to them, we now have our second designated BLM wilderness in Utah! (See photo spread on pages 14-15 of this issue!)

—Richard Peterson-Cremer



Photo by Mike Matz

President Obama signs the Omnibus Public Lands Act of 2009, which includes legislation designating 140,000 acres of wilderness in Utah's Zion-Mojave region and protecting another 50,000 acres through a National Conservation Area designation.

### America's Red Rock Wilderness Act Turns 20

On April 2, America's Red Rock Wilderness Act (ARRWA) was re-introduced for its 20th anniversary in the 111th Congress. Sen. Richard Durbin of Illinois introduced the bill (S. 799) in the Senate with 15 original cosponsors. Rep. Maurice Hinchey of New York introduced the companion bill in the House of Representatives (H.R. 1925) with 113 original cosponsors.

ARRWA will permanently protect Utah's redrock landscape—designating about 9 million acres as federally protected wilderness. Utah Rep. Wayne Owens first introduced ARRWA in the House in 1989, then proposing 5.3 million acres as wilderness. More recent and more comprehensive citizen and agency inventories expanded the Act to include 9.4 million acres of wilderness-quality lands. In



1996, Sen. Durbin first introduced ARROW in the Senate.

Why do we exert so much effort to gain cosponsors? Because broad national support for the Redrock holds the Utah congressional delegation accountable to a large national constituency of Americans who cherish these lands. This political pressure helps to improve marginal bills (See Washington County Wilderness article, previous page) and to derail bad ones.

Thanks to the hard work of activists across the U.S., the Red Rock bill has gained cosponsors in each successive Congress. This work continues to pay dividends. Since the April introduction, ARROW now enjoys the support of 19 Senate cosponsors and 124 members of the House of Representatives.

—Scott Braden

## Interior Gets Makeover . . . and None Too Soon

Barack Obama's inauguration augured change of a dozen kinds—none more eagerly sought by conservationists than at the U.S. Department of the Interior of which the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is a part.

For eight solid years, the BLM mismanaged much of wild Utah. Obama's pick for Interior Secretary, former Colorado Senator Ken Salazar, promised an end to it and moved quickly to fulfill the promise. Within days of his confirmation, he set aside 77 controversial Utah oil and gas leases that were rushed through in the waning hours of the Bush administration, leases that were either close to national parks or on wilderness-quality lands (see article on page 11).

Sec. Salazar's decision earned him praise from conservationists and the enmity of Utah Senator Robert Bennett. Bennett placed a hold on the nomination of David Hayes as Deputy Secretary and demanded a review of the cancellations. Bennett's hold, of course, denied Secretary Salazar one of the key people he needed to get anything done—including meeting Bennett's demands.

### Ask Your Members of Congress to Support America's Red Rock Wilderness Act

(see next page for a list of current cosponsors)

#### Write to:

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:

(202) 224-3121 and ask to be connected to the appropriate office

The impasse is over and the Senate confirmed Hayes on May 20. Hayes is an environmental lawyer, served as deputy Interior Secretary in the Clinton administration, and headed the Obama transition team for natural resources.

Rhea Suh has been confirmed as the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget—overseeing programmatic policy and administrative matters. Suh worked in conservation grant-making and earlier as an aide to former Colorado Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell. But the Salazar team is far from being in place as other nominees face roadblocks in the Senate.

The nomination of Hilary Tomkins as the Interior Solicitor, the department's chief legal officer, is pending in the Senate but has run afoul of outlandish political tactics that have nothing whatever to do with her qualifications, by all accounts exceptional. She formerly served as Chief Counsel for New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson.

We are hopeful that the Senate will allow Secretary Salazar to complete his staffing soon. If he is to reverse the most egregious of the Bush administration's land management policies, he will need all the help he can get.

—Scott Braden

**H.R. 1925, Sponsored by  
Rep. Maurice Hinchey  
(D-NY22)  
124 House Cosponsors**

## America's Red Rock Wilderness Act Cosponsors in the 111th Congress

(as of June 16, 2009)

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George Miller, D-07  
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Jackie Speier, D-12  
Pete Stark, D-13  
Anna Eshoo, D-14  
Mike Honda, D-15  
Zoe Lofgren, D-16  
Sam Farr, D-17  
Lois Capps, D-23  
Brad Sherman, D-27  
Howard Berman, D-28  
Adam Schiff, D-29  
Henry Waxman, D-30  
Jane Harman, D-36  
Grace Napolitano, D-38  
Bob Filner, D-51  
Susan Davis, D-53

### Colorado

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### Connecticut

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Rosa DeLauro, D-03  
Chris Murphy, D-05

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Robert Wexler, D-19  
Debbie Wasserman-Schultz, D-20  
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Dan Lipinski, D-03

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Mike Quigley, D-05  
Jan Schakowsky, D-09  
Mark Kirk, R-10  
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Judy Biggert, R-13  
Tim Johnson, R-15  
Phil Hare, D-17

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Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick, D-13  
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Betty Sutton, D-13  
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### Wisconsin

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**S. 799, Sponsored by  
Sen. Richard Durbin (D-IL)  
19 Senate Cosponsors**

Barbara Boxer, D-CA  
Mark Udall, D-CO  
Joseph Lieberman, D-CT  
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Tom Harkin, D-IA  
Benjamin Cardin, D-MD  
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Patrick Leahy, D-VT  
Bernie Sanders, D-VT  
Maria Cantwell, D-WA  
Russell Feingold, D-WI

Don't see your Members of Congress on this list? Please ask them to become cosponsors (see page 9).

To find out who your elected officials are, go to [www.congress.org](http://www.congress.org)

To learn more about America's Red Rock Wilderness Act, go to [www.suwa.org/arrwa](http://www.suwa.org/arrwa)

## canyon country updates

### RMPs and Leasing: Cleaning Up the Bush Administration's Mess

SUWA and its conservation partners are forging ahead in our lawsuit challenging the Bush administration's last-minute issuance of new resource management plans (RMPs) for the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Moab, Price, and Vernal field offices.

These plans attempted to cement the Bush administration's efforts to prioritize oil and gas leasing and development and off-road vehicle damage above all other uses of the public lands. Together they cover nearly 7 million acres, including Desolation Canyon, Labyrinth Canyon, and the Fisher Towers, a few of Utah's wilderness crown jewels.

Initially, our lawsuit challenged both the Utah BLM's December 2008 oil and gas lease auction—and in particular the sale of 77 of the most controversial leases—and the Moab, Price, and Vernal RMPs that made the sale possible. Federal district court judge Ricardo Urbina said that we were likely to win on the merits of our arguments that the RMPs and the BLM's decision approving the sale violated the law. He granted our motion for a temporary restraining order and blocked the BLM from issuing the 77 leases. A few weeks later, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar ordered the BLM to withdraw the 77 leases and refund the high bidders' money.

The decisions on the leases allow us to focus our case squarely on the three RMPs and to expand the case to challenge the many egregious mistakes the agency made in its rush to issue the plans before the new administration took office.

We now have a schedule in place to get the case briefed and argued before Judge Urbina, though the state of Utah and several counties have asked the court to transfer the case from Washington, DC, back to Utah. We expect a ruling on that motion in the coming weeks. While we certainly hope and expect that the case will stay in Washington, we are confident that we'll succeed in either venue.



© Ray Bloxham/SUWA

*Left unchallenged, the Bush administration's resource management plan for Vernal could turn the wild landscape of Upper Desolation Canyon into an industrialized zone.*

Meanwhile, three Utah counties and a group of disappointed high bidders from the December sale have filed three lawsuits in federal district court in Utah seeking to overturn Secretary Salazar's decision to withdraw the 77 leases. We intend to intervene in each case to defend the Secretary's decision.

—Steve Bloch

Good  
News!

### SUWA Win Forces BLM to Obey Cultural Protection Law

The Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) recently told the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) that it cannot move forward with 11 oil and gas leases without following federal cultural preservation law and consulting with concerned Native American tribes.

SUWA appealed a leasing decision to the IBLA, the Interior Department's administrative court, arguing that the BLM had failed to follow all the specific requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The IBLA agreed with SUWA that the BLM still needs to consult with two concerned tribes.

*(Continued next page)*

## canyon country updates

This was SUWA's second trip to the IBLA to challenge these leases that the BLM sold in 2003. They are located in the Bad Land Cliffs between the Ashley National Forest and the Desbrough Canyon unit of the Utah Wilderness Coalition's wilderness proposal. The leases are also extremely close to Nine Mile Canyon, world famous for its remarkable concentration of rock art sites and other cultural resources. Because of that proximity, we were concerned about how these leases would impact cultural resources in the area.

The IBLA agreed with us in 2007 that the BLM violated the law by failing to perform all the required analysis and consultation with affected tribes. The BLM suspended the leases as it took steps to comply, but we believed its second attempt

was also deficient and again appealed the leases to the IBLA.

In an April 2009 decision the IBLA agreed with SUWA that the BLM had still not followed the law. The NHPA requires the BLM to consult with all Native American tribes that attach religious and cultural significance to an area proposed for leasing. While the BLM consulted with several tribes, it did not consult with either the Hopi Tribe or the Laguna Pueblo, though it knew both are concerned about the areas involved. The IBLA told the BLM that it must consult with them before the leases can move forward.

—Morgan Wyenn



## Wind Energy Catches On in Southwestern Utah

The strengthening—and welcome—push for renewable energy production has led to proposals for several wind energy projects on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands in Utah, mainly in the southwestern part of the state.

Most wind energy projects in southwestern Utah are in earlier stages. An exception is the 203-megawatt Milford Wind Corridor Project, now in the full-field construction phase. This 97-turbine project is located about 10 miles northeast of Milford, and lies entirely outside of areas proposed for wilderness protection in America's Red Rock Wilderness Act (ARRWA).

The BLM typically grants a proponent a three-year right-of-way to install a small number of meteorological towers equipped with anemometers to record wind speed and direction. If the data suggest a chosen location is viable, the proponent begins the permitting process for full-field development of a wind farm.

Most of the proposed anemometer tower locations now approved are outside of areas proposed for wilderness. These include a proposal by Wasatch Wind in the Harmony Mountains west of Cedar City, and another by Mormon Mesa Power Partners on lands the BLM's Cedar City field office manages. Mormon Mesa also proposes to place anemometer towers on lands under the Fillmore field office's jurisdiction, and six of these proposed towers would be in areas identified for protection in ARRWA.

SUWA is keeping track of all of the wind energy proposals in Utah and is talking with industry proponents to help them understand proposed wilderness area boundaries. While SUWA is excited to see the move towards renewable energy, we remain committed to keeping proposed wilderness areas free of development.

—Tiffany Bartz

## canyon country updates

## Record High Prices Feed New Uranium Fever

Record high uranium prices in late 2007 and early 2008 brought uranium fever back to southern Utah, sparking the filing of thousands of new claims in county recorders' offices and renewed interest in old mines. Claim stakes now dot the backcountry of southern Utah and western Colorado. There was even talk of gun-toting, threats and claim-jumping in the hinterlands.

When the price of uranium fell in 2008 we hoped the boomlet would dissipate and that the claims would remain mostly paper transactions. Unfortunately, exploration companies are betting that prices will rise and are starting to mine for the ore.

One such operation, the Daneros Mine, is planned for an area west of Natural Bridges National Monument, deep in the heart of proposed wilderness. The proposed mine location is technically excluded from the citizen-proposed Red Rock Plateau wilderness area because it is located on an old abandoned uranium mine. But proposed wilderness literally surrounds it and the mining operation has the potential to significantly affect proposed wilderness as well as a much larger swath of southern Utah.

The Bureau of Land Management has just released its decision to approve the Daneros operation using only a very minimal environmental assessment to analyze it. SUWA contended that the potential impacts of a uranium mine are quite significant and warrant a much more rigorous analysis. Among the issues we believe the BLM should have given greater consideration are:

- Cumulative impacts of this mine and others proposed in the Four Corners region;
- Impacts of the proposed mine on air and water quality;
- Impacts on the health and safety of citizens in southeastern Utah; and,
- Important cultural resource concerns the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe raised.

SUWA is reviewing the decision and administrative record and assessing appeal issues.

—Liz Thomas



© Scott Braden/SUWA

*The Daneros Mine proposal threatens the quiet and solitude of Upper Red Canyon.*

Good  
News!

## SUWA, Equity Oil Reach Agreement on San Juan Co. Leases

SUWA and the Equity Oil Co. reached an agreement in late May regarding oil and gas leases Equity holds in San Juan County, Utah. The agreement resolves procedural issues SUWA raised regarding Equity's petition to reinstate three oil and gas leases within the citizen-proposed Hatch Point wilderness area.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approved Equity's petition to reinstate the leases in the Hatch Point area in January 2009. SUWA challenged that decision in an appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals. SUWA and Equity agreed that the Board should defer a ruling on SUWA's challenge to give the parties time to see if they could reach an agreement. After several weeks of negotiations, SUWA and Equity notified the Board that we had reached an agreement and SUWA withdrew its challenge of the BLM's reinstatement decision.

The agreement gives SUWA certainty that oil and gas development in an important part of the Hatch Point proposed wilderness area will be subject to the existing Moab Resource Management Plan and additional restrictions. The BLM had initially reinstated the leases subject only to the less protective terms and conditions of the 1985 Grand Resource

*(Continued on page 16)*

# New Wilderness and National Conservation



*Red Butte Wilderness*

© Ray Bloxham/SUWA



*Beaver Dam Wash NCA*

© Ray Bloxham/SUWA



*Beaver Dam Wash NCA*

© Ray Bloxham/SUWA



*Black Ridge Wilderness*

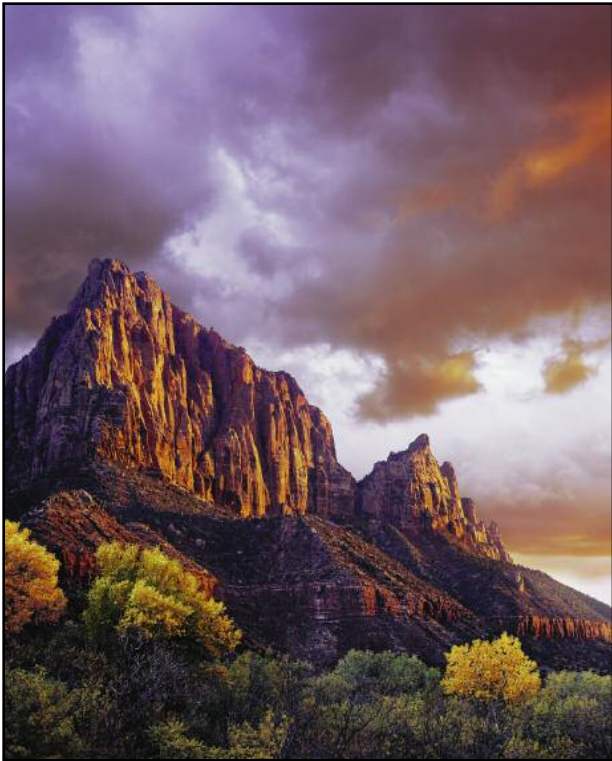
© Ray Bloxham/SUWA



*Slaughter Creek Wilderness*

© Ray Bloxham/SUWA

# Areas in Utah's Zion-Mojave Region (see page 8)



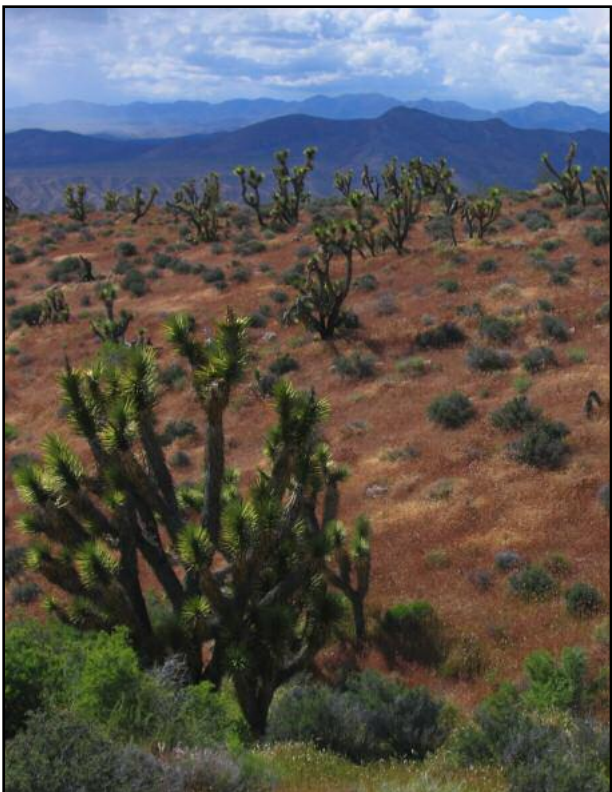
*The Watchman Wilderness  
(Zion National Park addition)*

© David Pettit



*Doc's Pass Wilderness*

© Ray Bloxham/SUWA



*Beaver Dam Wash NCA*

© Ray Bloxham/SUWA



*Red Butte Wilderness*

© Ray Bloxham/SUWA



*Canaan Mountain Wilderness*

© Ray Bloxham/SUWA

## canyon country updates

Management Plan. We appreciate that Equity was willing to sit down with us and negotiate an agreement that protects an important public landscape. Two of the three leases are located near impressive overlooks into Canyonlands National Park and this agreement means that those vistas will be protected from sight and sound of development.

—Steve Bloch and Morgan Wyenn

### Up the Paria by ATV: ‘Hole in the Head’ Gang Rides Again

In an early-May fit of motorized mass dementia, several hundred off-road vehicle riders illegally drove their machines up the Paria River in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

They called it a “protest” ride. Quoting straight from an old movie, Kane County Commissioner Mark Habbeshaw provided the “ATV potatoes” (as one newspaper called them) their rallying cry: “We’re mad as hell and aren’t going to take it anymore.”



SUWA photo

Protesters drive their ATVs, motorcycles and jeeps illegally up the Paria River canyon.



SUWA photo

Lawbreaking jeepers make no secret of their contempt for SUWA's conservation efforts.

What were they mad as hell about this time? Pretty much the same thing that Kane County commissioners have been mad about for the past couple of decades and on which they've squandered millions of dollars of taxpayer money along the way: the federal government's ownership and management of public lands in southern Utah. (Note: the *Salt Lake Tribune* reports that rural Utah counties have spent \$8.5 million of taxpayers' money on frivolous lawsuits seeking to make their discredited point).

Although there are nearly 1000 miles of motor vehicle routes in the monument's 10-year old travel plan, the Paria River is not one of them. Why? Well, the name itself offers a useful clue: it's a river, not a road. It's also in the Paria-Hackberry Wilderness Study Area, and the BLM has determined that it qualifies for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System. There are few places less appropriate for ATVs and jeeps. For eight years, the Bush Administration's BLM did not carefully, or even casually, enforce the travel plan. In a triumph of spinelessness over duty, BLM relied on “voluntary compliance” for the Paria River even though the agency had documented that impacts from illegal motor vehicle use were “increasing significantly” in the Paria and its remote side canyons.

### Circuit Court Ends Any Doubt

Recently, though, the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals issued a decision telling Kane County that the Monument plan is, in effect, the law of the land, that if the county wants to squabble and claim spe-



## canyon country updates

cific routes as “county roads” it will have to file a specific lawsuit to do so, and that the county cannot bully the BLM into doing it’s bidding. Word got out that the BLM, bolstered by a clear circuit court opinion, might actually start doing its job and protect the Paria River from the damage caused by machines plowing through the flowing water and ripping up the stream banks. One protest blogger reckoned that the BLM “would rather legally fight Kane County than SUWA.” That sort of muttering spawned the illegal ride.

Because the organizers trumpeted the ride, even the BLM knew it was coming. One might reasonably have expected that a forewarned BLM would exercise its authority and notify the organizers that riders would not be allowed to go up the Paria River. To no one’s very great surprise, that didn’t happen. Yes, BLM staff were at the illegal ride . . . greeting drivers, telling them to “tread lightly,” and handing out maps.

The BLM was essentially a welcoming committee. (Welcome to the bank; the vault’s open and here are some sacks for the loot . . .) The agency did not issue citations and has taken no action against the organizers or participants in the illegal ride. One organizer, noting that BLM officials were taking photos of license plates, was quoted in the *Salt Lake Tribune*: “We thought we were living in a communist country.” Hard to beat that for clear thinking, eh? (To read media coverage of the event, visit [www.suwa.org/PariaProtest](http://www.suwa.org/PariaProtest).)

SUWA is urging the Obama administration to start protecting the “spectacular array of scientific and historic resources” that were highlighted in the presidential proclamation that set aside the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument’s impressive landscapes for protection in the first place.

—Liz Thomas

### Urge Protection of the Paria River and Grand Staircase-Escalante by writing to:

Secretary Ken Salazar  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 “C” Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

## Irresponsible ORV Use, Product Advertising: Any Connection?

It’s a rare issue of *Redrock Wilderness* that doesn’t have a hefty dose of stories about destructive ORV use on the public lands and the vigilante tactics of those who claim a right to that use everywhere.

We’ve often wondered, as you probably have, whether the way ORVs are advertised influences how they are used.

Responsible Trails America (RTA) has performed a valuable public service by digging into the question. The non-profit organization describes itself as working “to give a voice to private property owners, sportsmen, ranchers, law enforcement officials, responsible ORV riders, and other outdoors users who support common-sense off-road vehicle law enforcement and management practices.”

RTA analyzed five years of televised ads for Arctic Cat, Bombardier, Polaris and Suzuki ORVs. Its report found that the companies spent upwards of \$46 million on televised ads, much on what RTA termed “aggressive” product advertising.

Another section of the RTA report is titled, “The Blue Ribbon Coalition—22 years of Extreme Rhetoric.” The RTA looked at all 22 years of the coalition’s newsletters (our hearts quail!) as well as other materials. It concludes that the Blue Ribbon Coalition “has a long history of comparing people who try to protect lands from reckless ORV riding to hate groups, bigots, terrorists, ‘jihadists’ and ‘Nazis.’”

The report continues: “as with the commercials we found troubling parallels between the rhetoric and the reckless—even violent—behavior taking place on off-road vehicles throughout the country.”

You can find the RTA report, complete with examples of such behavior and the organization’s recommendations, at [www.responsibletrails.org/Ads\\_Rhetoric\\_Behavior.pdf](http://www.responsibletrails.org/Ads_Rhetoric_Behavior.pdf)

(**Note:** After reading the report, we did some additional poking around. Three of the four companies—Arctic Cat, Suzuki and Polaris (whose ads RTA found “the most aggressive”) are members of Tread Lightly, which the U.S. Forest Service launched in 1985. It has since become a non-profit organization. All the federal land management agencies are members. It says its mission is promoting “responsible outdoor recreation through ethics education and stewardship.” If ORV ads are any example, Tread Lightly may be the most cynical corporate greenwashing scheme ever.)

## canyon country updates

### Recapturing Recapture Canyon

We reported several newsletters back that the Utah Bureau of Land Management (BLM) was mindlessly plowing ahead to officially sanction the illegally constructed off-road vehicle (ORV) trail in Recapture Canyon in southeastern Utah.

Several years ago, ORV riders built an illegal trail through Recapture Canyon, important not only for its significant prehistoric artifacts, but also for the lushly vegetated stream punctuated with occasional beaver dams and ponds. The canyon is narrow and rough, and the illegal trail crosses the stream several times and is built directly on several cultural sites. In a sane world, when the BLM learned of the trail construction, it would have closed the trail immediately and prosecuted the guilty parties. Not in the dark netherworld of the Utah BLM: the agency decided to entertain San Juan County's request for a right-of-way for the illegal trail.

Although the agency eventually closed the canyon, temporarily, to motor vehicles, it continues to process San Juan County's right-of-way application. If things run true to regrettable form, the illegal trail could be opened to public use as a county right-of-way.

Federal regulations mandate that the BLM's closure remain in effect until the adverse effects have been eliminated, but there's no realistic way to do that other than by keeping the ORVs out. The Hopi Tribe has repeatedly asked the BLM to protect cultural artifacts and keep Recapture Canyon closed to vehicles. Further, BLM can only grant a right-of-way to San Juan County if it determines that the grant serves the public interest. It's hard to conceive how the public interest is served by converting an illegal ORV route through an artifact-rich riparian canyon to a county right-of-way.

The BLM has long let rural Utah counties bully it into submission. The Recapture Canyon matter begins to smell like more of the same. While the new administration gives us hope that change might reach even the ossified Utah BLM, it hasn't happened yet. Until it does, we work with what we have.

—Liz Thomas

Please urge the BLM to keep Recapture Canyon free of ORVs and not to surrender public lands for a county right-of-way. **Send your emails to:**

Monticello BLM Manager, Thomas Heinlein:  
Thomas\_Heinlein@blm.gov

Utah State BLM Director, Selma Sierra:  
Selma\_Sierra@blm.gov

### Specter of Paved Highway Again Haunts Book Cliffs

As SUWA board member and former Grand County councilman Bill Hedden once noted, the periodic reemergence of the Book Cliffs highway is “proof that no truly terrible idea ever goes away.” The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Vernal field office cobbled together a grossly inadequate analysis of a proposal to pave and expand the Seep Ridge Road, the main path for most of the Book Cliffs highway, then gave the public almost no time to comment—fewer than 20 days.

The Seep Ridge Road Paving Project Environmental Analysis considered Uintah County's proposal to pave the Seep Ridge Road for 45 miles from the Grand County line north to the historic boundary of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation. The county proposes widening the right-of-way to 150 feet, adding passing lanes, and boosting the speed limit to 55 mph. It is possible that the BLM is rushing through this very brief environmental analysis to allow Uintah County to qualify for federal stimulus money.

The Book Cliffs highway is a ghostly, ghastly, specter that returns at intervals to haunt Utah's remote Book Cliffs. In essence, it is a proposal to create a paved highway running from I-70 near Crescent Junction (the turn-off to Moab) all the way up to Vernal. Although numerous dirt roads exist in the area, the Book Cliffs remain one of the largest expanses in the lower 48 without a paved highway. Such a thoroughfare would dramatically increase energy development levels, splinter some of the most productive wildlife habitat in the nation, and adversely impact nearby wilderness-quality lands.

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## canyon country updates

Uintah County and others have made no secret of their desire to pave this road all the way to I-70. Despite such public statements, the BLM, in violation of the National Environmental Policy Act, is only looking at one segment of this project. SUWA, in conjunction with other environmental partners, submitted comments on the proposal, asking the BLM to do the responsible—and legally required—thing and prepare a full-blown environmental impact statement to thoroughly consider all the significant impacts a paved highway would bring to a remote, wildlife-rich region. We will keep you posted.

—David Garbett

## R.S. 2477 Update: BLM Shamelessly Capitulates to Counties

It's not news that some southern Utah counties, and the State of Utah itself, are committed to aggressively claiming that dirt tracks and primitive trails are actually "highways" under an old law known as R.S. 2477.

That law, which Congress passed in 1866 and repealed 110 years later, provides that, "the right of way for the construction of highways across public lands, not reserved for public uses, is hereby granted." Over the past 20 years, in case after case, a body of law has gradually evolved which elaborates on the bare-bones statute. Generally speaking, those who claim a highway have to prove their claim is valid. In Utah that means, more or less,

that a route has to have been used continually for traditional purposes for a period of at least 10 years prior to 1976 when the law was repealed. As a county attorney recently told the 10th Circuit judges, that's a lot of work. It is. And it ought to be. An R.S. 2477 highway cannot simply be established by waving a dead cat over a trail and chanting "county highway, county highway" ad nauseam. Don't believe anyone who tells you otherwise.

On the other hand, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has very real, legally specific obligations to, among other things, protect the public lands from unnecessary and undue degradation. In the case of wilderness study areas (WSAs), the agency cannot permit an activity if it would impair the very things that qualified the area for WSA status to begin with. The BLM's management obligations even supersede valid R.S. 2477 claims; in other words, the BLM can manage to protect a federal resource even if that management impinges on a valid highway claim.

### Guess Again

You might expect then, that the BLM would carry out its management and planning obligations in accordance with its own mandates and not worry too much about R.S. 2477 claims until the counties prove them. You would be wrong.

When the BLM issued its now-notorious land use plans (resource management plans, or "RMPs") for the eastern half of Utah in late 2008—a parting and lasting gift from the Bush administration—it not only gave away the store to the oil industry, it also gave away the roads to the counties. In all, BLM designated, for the first time, approximately 20,000

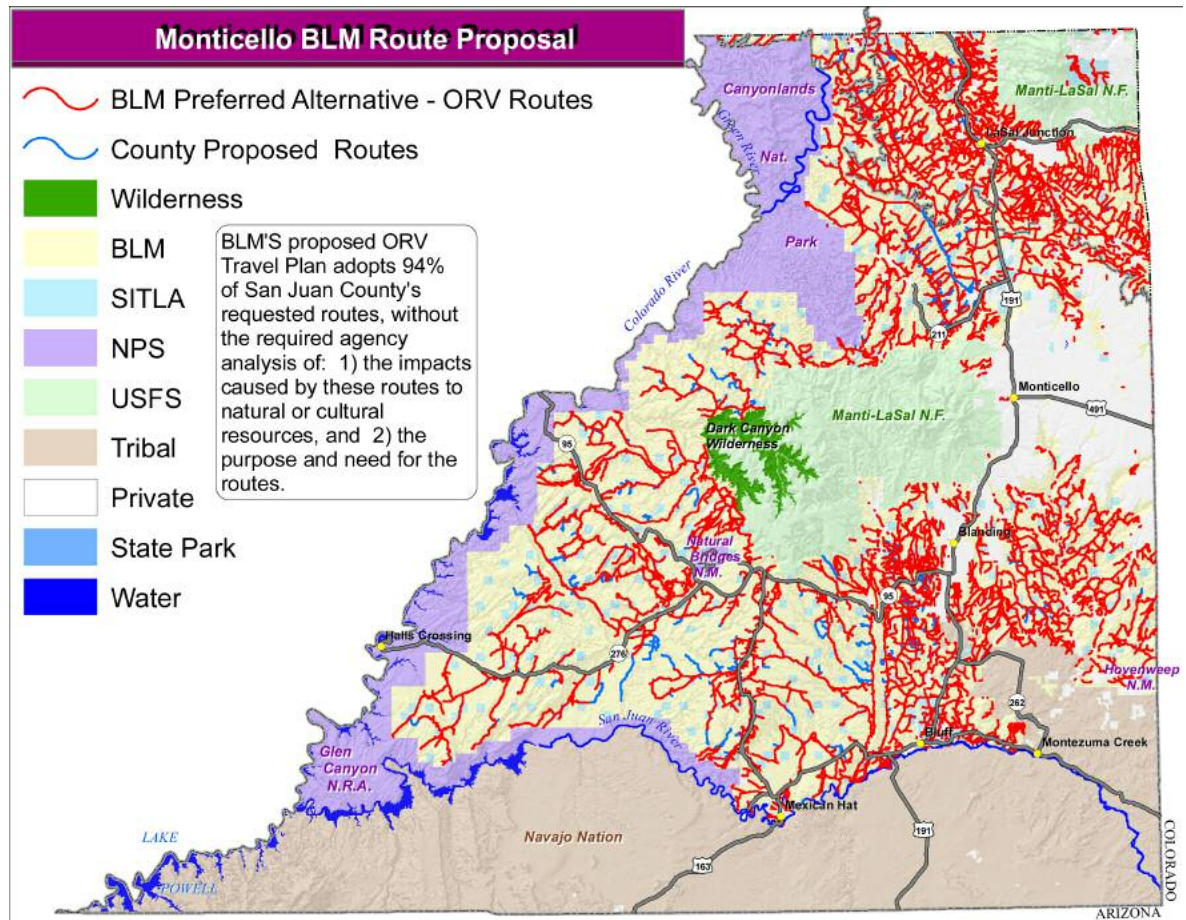
## BLM's "Collaborative" Process

**MYTH:** "The RAC [Resource Advisory Council] has been an excellent way to keep citizens engaged in the resource issues facing the public lands in Utah . . . BLM managers look forward to having more Utahans become involved in this collaborative process, bringing fresh ideas to the table."

—Utah State BLM Director Selma Sierra

**REALITY:** When this newsletter went to press, Utah State BLM Director Selma Sierra had not held a RAC meeting since August 2008—that's 10 months (Selma herself hasn't been to one in over a year and a half).

## canyon country updates



miles of ORV trails and roads. That's a lot mileage crammed into half a state; the entire Interstate Highway system totals only around 47,000 miles.

How did the BLM get to this result? Simple. They largely adopted the county's R.S. 2477 maps even where those routes would degrade critical habitat and water resources in stream beds and washes. For example, compare the Monticello BLM's routes with the county's routes on the above map. There is an amazing level of correspondence, to say the least. And it happened again and again with every county.

### Massive Bureaucratic Thumb on the Scale

The BLM has really caved in and done the counties' work for them by simply opening these routes to ORV and other motorized use. And we wilderness advocates, instead of focusing any kind of judicial review on whether the counties met the rigorous R.S. 2477 legal standards, can only attack the BLM's decisions to include these routes on

their plans. There are plenty of legal problems with the BLM decisions, to be sure, and we'll point them out every chance we get. But the BLM should not be in cahoots with the counties, opening to destructive roads and ORVs broad tracts of land which the agency itself had recently determined to have wilderness character ( i.e., they are roadless ).

This issue is before a federal court in Washington, DC where a judge will hear our challenge to the RMPs, including their faulty approach to route designations. But in the meantime, the administration can (and should) rewrite these plans to take a much more balanced approach to motorized use, and to protect the wilderness character of the lands within America's Red Rock Wilderness Act. Keeping these areas free from ORVs would enhance the lands' resilience to climate change, and protect their beauty, solitude and ecological health.

—Heidi McIntosh

## inside SUWA

### Faith Groups Call for Utah Wilderness Protection

An extraordinary and powerful new voice for wilderness preservation emerged this spring in Utah. United by a shared belief in the spiritual value of wilderness, representatives of 10 different faith communities released an interfaith statement calling for “wilderness stewardship.”

At an April 21 press conference in downtown Salt Lake City, the group urged the state’s elected leaders to recognize Utah’s wilderness lands as places of deep spiritual meaning that are worthy of protection. They also encouraged other faith communities to join the conversation about the need for protective stewardship of Utah’s wild places.

The interfaith statement was distilled from “Faith and the Land” discussions held over the last year. More than 230 people took part from Roman Catholic, Episcopalian, Islamic, Jewish, Latter-day Saints, Methodist, Presbyterian, Quaker, Unitarian Universalist and United Church of Christ communities. Participants found that though their religious practices might vary, they stood on common ground in respect for creation and the natural world. George Handley, a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, reflected that people discovered “our beliefs may be different, but our values are harmonious.”

SUWA initiated the “Faith and the Land” project because support for the protection of Utah’s wild lands is too often portrayed as coming only from “outsiders” or “extremists” who do not represent local concerns and values. The interfaith statement is eloquent and powerful testimony to the fact that Utahns from all walks of life—including people



© Barbara Eubanks/SUWA

*Representatives of 10 different faith communities held a press conference in Salt Lake City to announce the release of an interfaith statement supporting wilderness protection.*

from an impressive diversity of faith traditions—care deeply about the future of Utah’s wild places and want to see them protected. As Stephen Trimble, who is Jewish, noted, “The word ‘wilderness’ has been demonized. This is a really powerful way to bring us back to common ground.”

After the press conference, the group delivered their interfaith statement to the offices of Utah’s congressional delegation and asked to meet with members in the near future. “The interfaith statement is a call to action,” said the Rev. Erin Gilmore of the Holladay United Church of Christ. “We will be asking our elected leaders to recognize the profound spiritual importance of Utah’s wild places and to act now to help ensure their protection.”

To read the interfaith statement or learn more about the “Faith and the Land” initiative, go to: [www.suwa.org/faithandtheland](http://www.suwa.org/faithandtheland).

#### From the Interfaith Statement:

“Despite differences in beliefs and practices that define our traditions, we share a common experience and conviction that wilderness is a place of spiritual inspiration, renewal, connection and nourishment. The astounding beauty, utter vastness and enveloping silence of wild places awaken our sense of awe and connect us to something larger than ourselves—God, Allah, the Divine, spirit, the unnameable mystery of life . . . We call on the leaders of our community to join us in recognizing the spiritual importance of Utah’s wild landscapes and act now to ensure their protection.”

**inside SUWA****SUWA Bids Farewell to Justin Allegro; Welcomes Scott Braden to DC Office**

*Justin enjoying one of his annual trips to redrock country.*

Justin Allegro, our legislative director for the past four years, had never set foot in Utah and had only traveled west of the Mississippi a handful of times when he came to SUWA. But he brought with him a new affection for the West's magnificent open spaces—an affection earned the hard way: on a bicycle trip across the U.S. If he was unfamiliar with southern Utah, Justin did not lack for splendid political instincts and a commitment to a healthy environment.

He left his mark on SUWA and the wilderness movement more broadly, capping his tenure with the improvement and eventual passage of the Washington County Wilderness bill. That bill will likely serve as a template for future wilderness bills in Utah. And SUWA, as it tends to do, surely leaves its mark on Justin, introducing him to a place that he had only encountered in pictures and steeping him in environmental policy and politics. That will all serve him well in his new job with our friends at the National Wildlife Federation.

As former Legislative Assistant Richard Peterson-Cremer steps into Justin's shoes, Scott Braden—our former field advocate in Moab—has moved to Washington, DC to round out our legislative team. A former Outward Bound instructor in southern Utah, he is intimately familiar with the spectacular places that comprise America's Red Rock Wilderness Act (ARRWA). Scott joined SUWA two years ago and has a knack for using his passion for and knowledge of the redrock to turn everyone he meets into an activist. In Washington, he will work to inform Members of Congress and their staffs about the issues facing the redrock, why those issues matter and how they can help. He has already begun to forge productive relationships with a number of ARRWA cosponsors.

With so many opportunities facing SUWA over the next several years, Scott has chosen an exciting time to embrace the politics of wilderness protection. SUWA will most certainly see the benefit of it.

## **SUWA Seeks Used Vehicles for Travel and Fieldwork**

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!

**inside SUWA**

## Summer Interns Join SUWA Legal Team



We have been blessed with a long series of talented legal interns at SUWA and are pleased to have two more in our Salt Lake City office this summer: Louisa Yanes and Alex Logemann.

Louisa is currently pursuing both a law degree and a master's degree in environmental law and policy at Vermont Law School. Originally from Ohio, Louisa fell in love with Utah's redrock country during a family vacation a few years ago and welcomes the chance to help SUWA protect it. She hopes to learn much about the day-to-day work of a non-profit attorney and an environmental advocacy group.



Alex is thrilled to return to the West for the summer after finishing his first year at Harvard Law School. Originally from Colorado, he has mountain biked, hiked and camped throughout Colorado and Utah and along the way acquired a strong appreciation of the importance of maintaining pristine public lands. His work with SUWA will help advance that protection so others may enjoy the same formative experiences he has had.

Good legal interns are an enormous help to our staff attorneys and in the course of their stays with us usually teach us as much as we teach them. Welcome, Louisa and Alex!

## Environmental Community Loses Longtime Activist and Friend

It is with great sadness that SUWA says goodbye to longtime activist and dedicated volunteer, Bill Corkle. Bill passed away in April at the age of 81 after a short illness. He was well-known in Salt Lake City's environmental community, having volunteered for both SUWA and the Sierra Club for many years.

Bill and his wife, Vi, both retired educators, moved from Delaware to Utah in 1989, mainly for the great skiing. While hiking with the Sierra Club, they heard about SUWA's R.S. 2477 project and volunteered to document county road claims in southern Utah. Years of camping and hiking in Utah's redrock country followed. Bill never failed to be amazed by the vastness of Utah's wild landscapes. "My God, Vi," he would say to his wife, "We could drop Delaware in here and we'd never find it!"

Bill had an abiding love for all things wild, even after being chased several times by forest fires and having his knapsack stolen by a ringtail cat during a service trip in Capitol Reef National Park. Among his favorite places in Utah were the San Rafael Swell and Nine Mile Canyon (where he was once lucky enough to witness—and survive—a flash flood).

*(Continued next page)*



*Photo courtesy of Vi Corkle*

### **A special note from Bill's wife and son:**

*We want to thank the numerous environmentalists, conservationists and outdoor friends who remembered Bill. He would have replied humbly and would have been very flattered.*

*~Devotedly, Vi and Michael*

## inside SUWA

Over the years, whenever SUWA held an event or needed volunteer help of any kind, Bill and Vi were right there. Whether it was staffing an information table, making phone calls, or distributing newsletters, we could always count on their enthusiastic help. The two of them became so much a part of the organization that they are even featured in our traveling *Wild Utah* slideshow.

Though Bill is no longer with us, we will fondly remember his passion, his sense of humor, and his commitment to protecting Utah's wild places. He was a true redrock advocate and a dear friend who will be greatly missed.

## Join Us for the SUWA Roundup this September

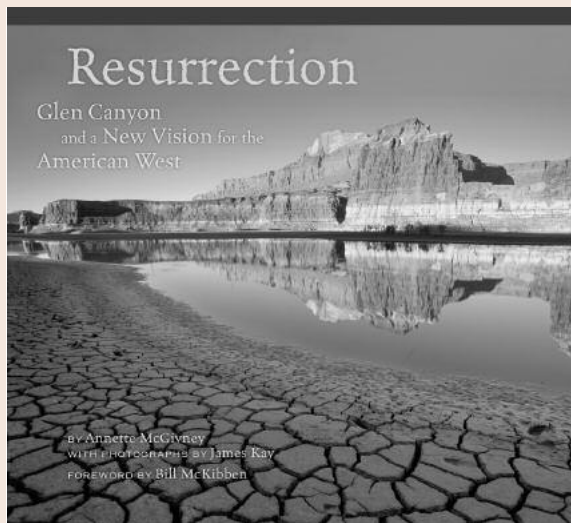
Mark your calendar for SUWA's 2009 membership gathering at Hidden Splendor Sept. 18-20. Last year's attendees enjoyed perfect fall hiking weather and we're hoping for more of the same this year.

Held in the heart of the San Rafael Swell, the SUWA Roundup offers our members and SUWA

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.

If you plan to attend this year's Roundup, here's what you should bring: a potluck dish serving five people for Saturday evening (if you plan to eat with the group), your own food for Friday evening and Saturday breakfast and lunch, camping gear, plenty of drinking water (none is available on site), utensils, folding chairs, and, if you have them, lanterns and tables to share with the crowd. Feel free to bring your own musical instruments and favorite libations, too. For more information or to RSVP and sign up for Saturday's guided hikes, contact Deeda Seed at (801) 428-3971 or [deeda@suwa.org](mailto:deeda@suwa.org). Information and driving instructions will be posted at [www.suwa.org/roundup2009](http://www.suwa.org/roundup2009).

## New Book Finds Hope in the Healing of Glen Canyon



Exploring the controversy and the history of water politics in the American Southwest, journalist Annett McGivney takes the reappearance of Glen Canyon as a sign of hope for the future of our natural environment. In *Resurrection: Glen Canyon and a New Vision for the American West* (Braided River, Paperback, \$29.95) McGivney shares journal excerpts that personalize the Glen Canyon story, accompanied by stunning images of the region taken by landscape photographer and longtime SUWA supporter James Kay. This is a good read for anyone interested in the history of Glen Canyon and the future of the American West. Includes hiking suggestions at the back of the book.

To learn more about this book, go to: [www.glencanyon.org](http://www.glencanyon.org)



## Give Two Gift Memberships and Save \$10!

If you share a love of the outdoors with your friends, why not share your activism too? Gift memberships make wonderful gifts for birthdays and holidays. Simply mail in this order form with **\$50 for two memberships** (a \$10 savings) or **\$30 for one membership** and get your pals involved in the wilderness cause!

### Gift Membership #1

From: \_\_\_\_\_  
(your name)

To: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

### Gift Membership #2

From: \_\_\_\_\_  
(your name)

To: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to SUWA or include credit card information below (VISA, MC, or AMEX):

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ CVC# \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. date: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form with payment to:

**SUWA, 425 E. 100 S.  
Salt Lake City, UT 84111**



## WANTED: BUSINESS OWNERS



SUWA needs the support of **business owners** like you, who care about the future of America's redrock wilderness, to come forward and stand proud. The support of business owners is vital to show that protecting wilderness matters to everyone and directly affects the livelihoods of many. There are currently 120 business leaders who have joined SUWA and taken a stand against the destruction of some of America's most iconic landscapes. Join their ranks today and help protect our cherished public lands. To learn more about SUWA's **Business Membership Program**, please visit our website or contact Thomas at 801-236-3763 or [thomas@suwa.org](mailto:thomas@suwa.org).

### SUWA business members have helped to:

**Protect** 380,000 acres of public lands in Utah;

**Overcome** 13 bad wilderness bills in the past 8 years;

**Safeguard** ancient cultural sites found on Utah's public lands;



*Become a business member today and receive this 2009 window decal.*

**Keep** special interests from asserting bogus road claims across proposed wilderness;

**Stop** outlaw ORV users from destroying Utah's most fragile landscapes;

**Prevent** destructive oil and gas development on sensitive, wilderness-quality lands.

**inside SUWA****Get a Copy of SUWA's *Wild Utah* Video on DVD**

SUWA's popular multi-media slideshow, *Wild Utah! America's Redrock Wilderness* includes video interviews, stunning photos, and compelling narration by longtime wilderness activist Robert Redford. These DVDs make great gifts and educational tools!

Please send \_\_\_\_\_ copies of the ***Wild Utah* DVD** at \$10 each (includes shipping).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

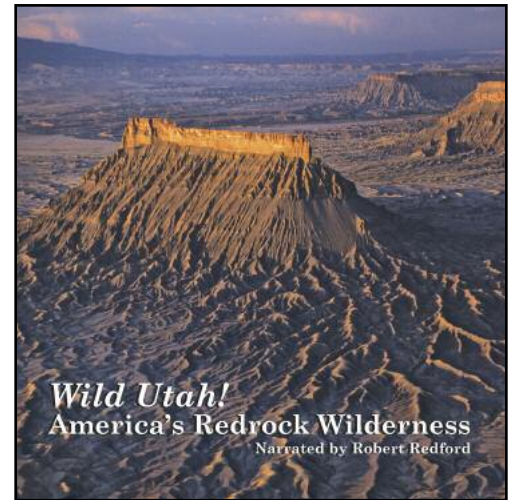
Please make your check payable to SUWA or include credit card information (VISA, MC, AMEX):

CC#: \_\_\_\_\_ CVC# \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. date: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form with payment to:

**SUWA, 425 E. 100 S. Salt Lake City, UT 84111**



*Wild Utah* DVDs can also be ordered online at [www.suwa.org/goodies](http://www.suwa.org/goodies).

## Planned Giving: A Legacy of Support for America's Redrock Wilderness

Many of us are unable to make major donations to the causes we love during our lifetimes. A planned gift gives us an additional opportunity to make a difference. It is not necessary to make a huge gift. Even a modest percentage of an estate can have a major impact on protecting the redrock. What is important is to make a gift that reflects the values you cherish. Your legacy gift to SUWA will enable us to accomplish your goal of permanent preservation and protection for these lands.

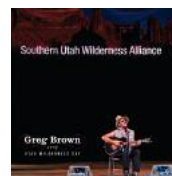
If you are interested in making a planned gift to SUWA, or have already included SUWA in your will, trust, retirement plan, life insurance policy, or other estate gift, please contact Thomas Burke at [thomas@suwa.org](mailto:thomas@suwa.org) or (801) 236-3763, or learn more at [www.suwa.org/plannedgiving](http://www.suwa.org/plannedgiving). We would love to recognize your deep commitment by welcoming you to SUWA's Redrock Society as a legacy donor, joining the 150 individuals and couples who have taken that important step.

## Gift Memberships and Other Goodies Available Online!

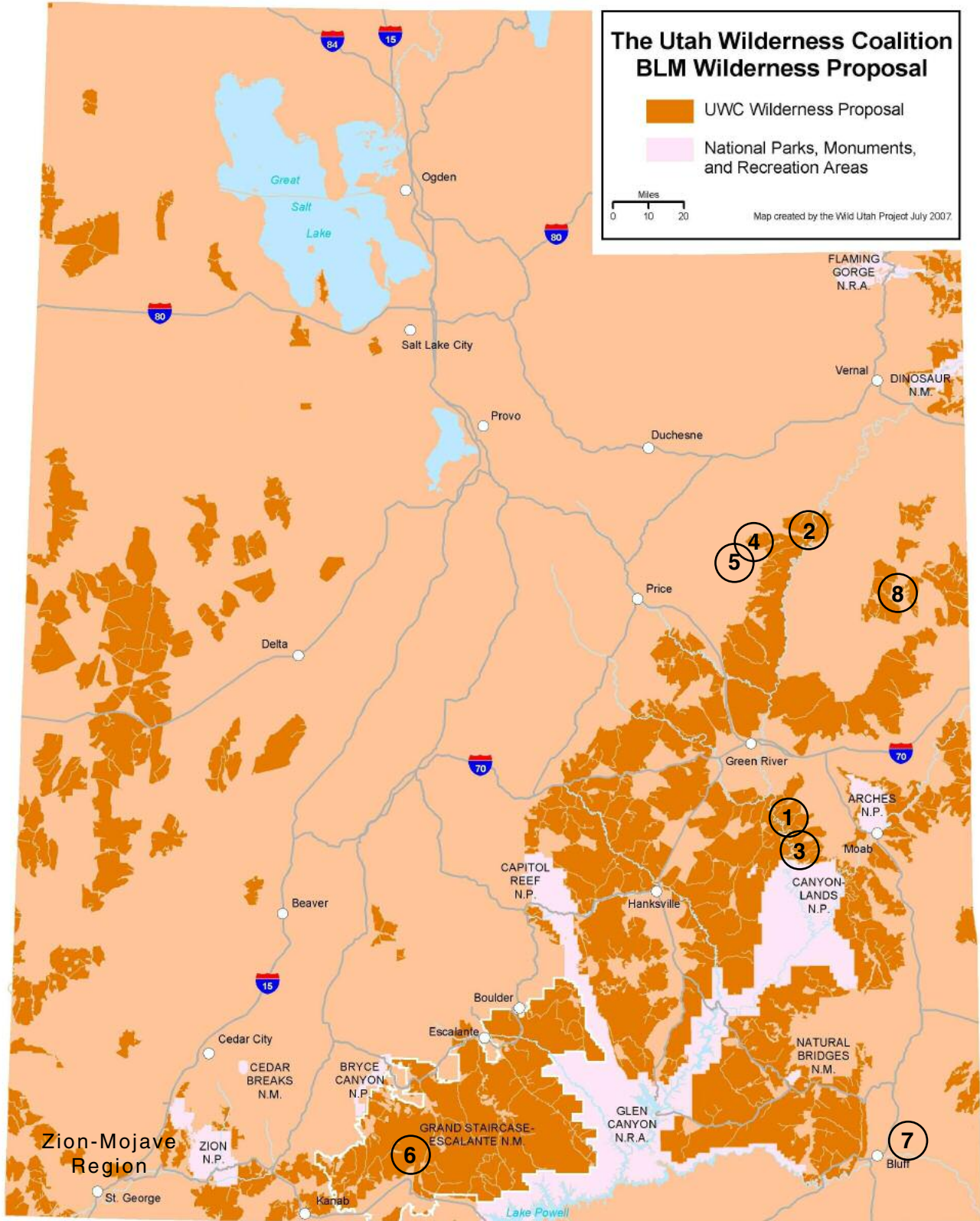
SUWA still offers posters, hats, *Wild Utah* DVDs, gift memberships, and a limited selection of t-shirts for purchase—all of which make great gifts for friends or family. To view our product catalogue, go to [www.suwa.org/goodies](http://www.suwa.org/goodies).



*New hat colors to choose from!*



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).



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| ① Tenmile Canyon (p. 7)           | ④ Desbrough Canyon (p. 12) | ⑦ Recapture Canyon (p. 18) |
| ② Upper Desolation Canyon (p. 11) | ⑤ Nine Mile Canyon (p. 12) | ⑧ Book Cliffs (p. 18)      |
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In May, SUWA grassroots leaders and activists from around the country met at the Canyonlands Field Institute near Moab, Utah to plan and strategize ways to protect Utah's redrock wilderness.

**Back row:** Denise Sobieski, Terri Martin, Vicki Allen, Hasen Cone, Miles Farland, Paul Lindfors, Deeda Seed and Joe. **Middle row:** Collin Weller, Arnaud Dumont, Sarah Grant, John Kashwick, Johnathan Wall, Peter Cole, Jackie Feinberg. **Front row:** Clayton Daughenbaugh, Brad O'Grosky, Sallie Shatz, Deborah Trumphold, Kathryn Fitzgerald, CJ and Anne Whittaker. **Kneeling:** Diane Ackerman and Barbara Eubanks.

If we were logical, the future would be bleak indeed. But we are more than logical.  
We are human beings, and we have faith, and we have hope, and we can work.

~Jacques Cousteau