



## AMERICA'S RED ROCK WILDERNESS ACT

America's Red Rock Wilderness Act would designate roughly 9.4 million acres of Bureau of Land Management Land (BLM) public land in Utah as wilderness under the Wilderness Act of 1964. The legislation would protect well known landscapes, like the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument, as well as lesser known places like those BLM lands outside Zion National Park, Canyonlands National Park, and Arches National Park. There is no landscape on earth like Utah's canyon country and deserts – and nowhere else in the lower 48 can such intact desert wilderness be found. The wilderness proposal in America's Red Rock Wilderness Act was developed over the past two decades by citizens, volunteers, and conservationists and has been extensively researched, field checked, and documented.

### • National and Regional Support •

The legislation is supported by the Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society, the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, the Wasatch Mountain Club and more than 230 other national and regional conservation groups, which together comprise the Utah Wilderness Coalition.

### • The Economy and Utah Wilderness •

Support for Utah wilderness within Utah's business community is robust. Sixty-three Utah-based businesses, including outdoor equipment makers, outdoor retailers, bed and breakfast owners, restaurant owners, guides, and professional photographers are active supporters of Utah wilderness.

### • Recreation and Utah Wilderness •

Last year, thirty-one prominent outdoor industry related companies, signed a letter supporting Utah wilderness. Many outdoor retailers have a particular interest in preserving Utah's public lands due to the spectacular beauty and recreation opportunities these public lands provide.

### • Minimal Oil and Gas Potential •

The amount of potential oil and gas reserves in the proposed wilderness is negligible. Recent government figures show that "technically recoverable" (but not necessarily economically recoverable) undiscovered natural gas and oil resources on lands within America's Red Rock Wilderness Act amount to less than four weeks of natural gas and roughly four days of oil at current national consumption levels.

### • Protecting Archeology •

The Colorado Plateau contains one of the greatest concentrations of prehistoric ruins and rock art in the world. America's Red Rock Wilderness Act would preserve the landscape where much of Utah's prehistoric artifacts can be found. The Utah Professional Archaeological Council endorsed America's Red Rock Wilderness Act in 1995. Representatives from the Hopi Tribe and the Navajo Tribe have urged the BLM to protect places of special significance that would be protected by America's Red Rock Wilderness Act, such as Arch Canyon near Canyonlands National Park.

• **Most public lands are unprotected by the BLM from motorized damage** •

Roughly seventy-five percent, or 17 million acres out of 23 million acres, of BLM lands in Utah still lack any real protection (including designated routes, maps, trail signs, and other tools to ensure that these natural areas are protected) from ORV damage.

• **Support in Congress** •

In the 109th Congress, America's Red Rock Wilderness Act was sponsored/cosponsored by 161 Members of Congress and 16 Senators. The chief sponsors are Rep. Maurice Hinchey (NY) and Senator Richard Durbin (IL).

**Write your Senators and Representative and:**

- ask them to cosponsor ARWA.
- tell them in two brief paragraphs why you believe it is important to protect the special places in Utah's redrock canyonlands.

U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

U. S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Congressional switchboard: 202-224-3121

