

# REDROCK

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

The Newsletter of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance  
Volume 24, Number 3 • Autumn/Winter 2007

A man with a beard and glasses, wearing a red vest over a white shirt, is sitting on a rocky bank in the bottom left corner, looking towards a river. The river flows through a canyon with layered red rock walls. The water is turbulent, creating white rapids. Large boulders are scattered in the river. The sky is blue with some clouds.

Utah's Resource Management Plans:  
One Step Forward, Two Steps Back



**Cover Photo:** *Three Fords Rapid in Desolation Canyon of the Green River—a classic river run and spectacular landscape proposed for wilderness designation under America's Red Rock Wilderness Act. Photo by Jeremy Christensen.*



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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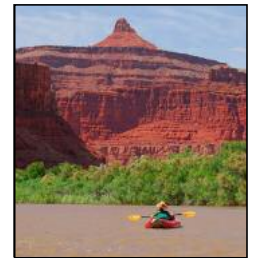
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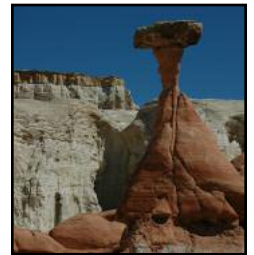
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## Redrock Wilderness • Volume 24, Number 3 • Autumn/Winter 2007

This issue of *Redrock Wilderness* was written by the following staff and outside contributors: Justin Allegro, Steve Bloch, Ray Bloxham, Barry Bonifas, Clayton Daughenbaugh, Jackie Feinberg, Scott Groene, Carolyn Hopper, Darrell Knuffke, Heidi McIntosh, Richard Peterson-Cremer, Deeda Seed, Liz Thomas, and Anne Williams. 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:  
SUWA, 425 East 100 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84111**

**wilderness notes**

## Another Bite at the APPLE: Isn't the Sagebrush Rebellion Dead Already?

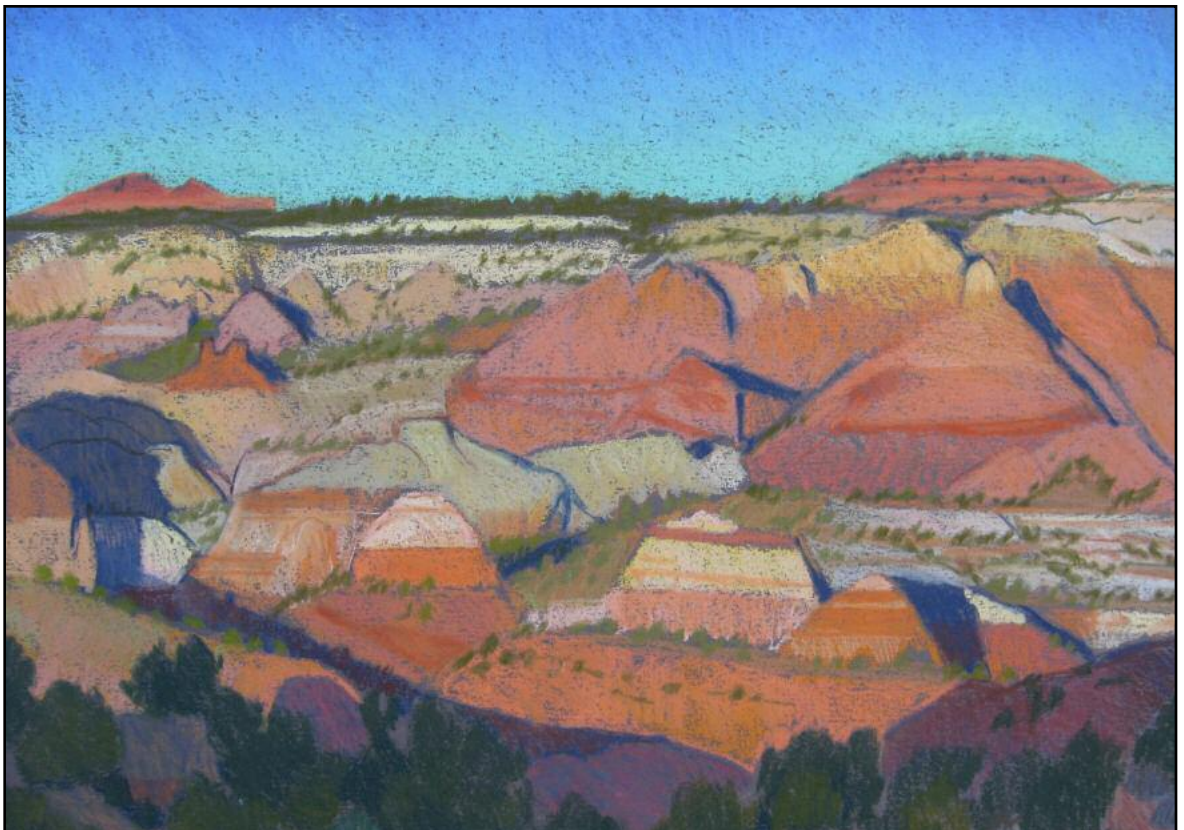
Among the mostly welcome autumnal certainties—harvests, turning leaves, cooling temperatures—is a less savory one: yet another scheme to peddle the putrid fruit of the Sagebrush Rebellion. More than anything else, this recurrent spasm reflects the refusal of elected officials to acknowledge that the great wealth of the West is the simple existence of its public lands, not their relentless exploitation for commodity production.

The latest product of this thinking is a bill that Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) and Rep. Rob Bishop (R-Utah) introduced in September under the acronym APPLE. It stands for the Action Plan for Public Land and Education Act of 2007. According to a press release, the intent of this legislation is to help Utah and other Western states address public education funding shortages by allowing them to select and take control of 5 percent of the federal lands within their boundaries.

Schemes such as this one to “take back” control of federal lands generally rely on the same tattered myths about public lands in the West. Let's compare reality against a myth or two (okay: make it three).

**Myth #1:** “The APPLE Act would allow Western states to select and take back control of 5 percent of federal public lands within their boundaries...”

**Reality:** There is nothing to “take back”—take, maybe, but not take back. To paraphrase Utah historian Thomas Alexander, this sort of Sagebrush Rebel language ignores the fact that these federal public lands have



*“Late November Sun.” Artwork by Scotty Mitchell ([www.scottymitchell.com](http://www.scottymitchell.com))*



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**wilderness notes**

always belonged to the federal government. In Utah, the argument founders even further because it ignores the indisputable reality that the state constitution forever renounced all title to any federal land. A deal is only a deal, apparently, until greed finds a way to weasel out of it.

**Myth #2:** “We need more control of our lands so we can use them to better fund our education system.”

**Reality:** This myth is mostly based on an alleged paucity of a property tax base—that is, Utah has so much untaxable federal land it can’t collect enough revenue to fund schools. However, per capita Utah has more non-federal land than most other states, about 8.8 acres per person. For comparison, New York has 1.6 acres of non-federal land per person, Massachusetts 0.8 acres, and Illinois 2.7 acres. Yet all these somehow manage to fund education at a higher per-pupil rate than Utah.

This argument also rests on the unsupported assumption that taking ownership of federal lands will automatically lead to wealth unfathomable. At statehood the United States granted the State of Utah 5.8 million acres of land for the express purpose of funding education. That’s over 10 percent of the state’s total land base, outright and free. But far from producing sacks of money for schools, income from these school trust lands contributes less than one percent of the yearly budget for Utah’s public schools.

**Myth #3:** “We have a lot of [federal] land for which we provide a lot of services and for which we receive no financial benefit.”

**Reality:** In addition to a welcome-to-the-union gift of nearly 6 million acres, we Utahns also receive enormous subsidies for the public lands in our state, directly and indirectly. First, Utah receives payments in lieu of taxes as compensation for the federal lands it can’t tax. This amounted to a little over \$20 million in 2006. The federal government also hands over a portion of receipts it collects for oil, gas, and grazing activity that occurs on federal land in Utah. From the BLM alone this amounted to another \$70 million in direct payments to Utah in 2004 (the most recent year we found)

The federal agencies also provide thousands of the best-paying, most secure jobs in the state, especially in small towns such as Moab or Monticello. The United States provides free fire control and suppression. (Do you know many private land owners who do that?) Last year, a U.S. Forest Service audit concluded that the federal agency has been spending up to \$1 billion a year in the West—as much as 95 percent of the expense of fighting some big fires—to protect homes and other structures.

And, of course, the spectacular federal lands themselves form the basis of a thriving tourist economy. Consider the economic value of Arches National Park for Moab, or Zion National Park for Springdale. Or the value of the Wasatch National Forest which protects the Salt Lake City watershed, all while the United States picks up the tab for management.

By all means, worry about our under-funded school children. They deserve it. But do it for the right reason: not because the United States has cruelly turned its back on them but because Utah officials have elected not to adequately fund education. Sen. Hatch’s APPLE-a-day isn’t intended to keep the doctor away but to keep the truth at bay. As Adam and Eve learned to their eternal sorrow, you swallow such fruit at your peril.

For the Redrock,



Scott Groene  
Executive Director

## features

# Assault on Public Lands New Plans Could Cement Disastrous Policies for Decades to Come

**What:** Six land use plans affecting 11 million acres of BLM lands in Utah.

**When:** Public comments on four of the six draft plans (Moab, Price, Vernal, and Kanab) are due this fall/winter (see chart on following page). The remaining two draft plans (Richfield and Monticello) are expected to be released this fall.

**What's at stake:** Whether, for the next two decades, the BLM will treat our public lands as oil fields and off-road vehicle playgrounds OR with a balanced approach that protects the magnificent landscapes of America's redrock wilderness.

Where were you in 1985? Ronald Reagan was president, Madonna and Wham! topped the billboard charts, “Cheers,” “LA Law” and “Miami Vice” ruled TV. People were buying new, cutting-edge stereo components called “CD players.”

And the Moab office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) released its last land use plan—yup, the same one it's still using as a blueprint for the management of lands in this globally famous scenic wonderland of sandstone arches and 1000-foot sheer cliffs.

Remember 1975? True, all the fashions are back—hip huggers and platform shoes—but what else about the 70s would we really want to resurrect today? Well, the Kanab office of the BLM thinks so fondly of the 70s that it has been operating with the same land use plan ever since then. That's true for BLM lands nearly everywhere else in Utah.

Certainly, BLM land use plans are in dire need of an update. Visitor numbers to Utah's public lands have skyrocketed, including those 4x4, twin-cab diesel trucks towing 20-foot trailers loaded with

multiple all-terrain-vehicles, dirt bikes and rock crawlers. And the oil and gas industry continues to hound—with remarkable success—its friends in the Bush administration for the keys to the most prized and spectacular scenic lands. Development pressures swell like a balloon stretched over a fire hydrant.

Now, and with uncharacteristic alacrity, the BLM is all too happy to draft new land use plans. “You bet,” says the Bush administration. “Let's do them now, and finish them quickly, before the clock runs out on us. And let's dump all these plans' thousands of pages on the public pretty much simultaneously. Then we'll give them 90-day public comment periods. Folks won't know what hit 'em!”

What's about to hit us isn't good. The draft plans released so far point to a dismal result: little wilderness protection and tangles of roads and all-terrain-vehicle (ATV) trails, even on lands the BLM found to have wilderness character in its 1999 Utah study.

To “dismal” you can add downright deceptive and anti-democratic.

*Photos from left: Fisher Towers, © Tom Till; Jeep Safari, photo by Liz Thomas; Gooseneck proposed wilderness, photo by Ray Bloxham; ATV in Tenmile Canyon, photo by Liz Thomas.*



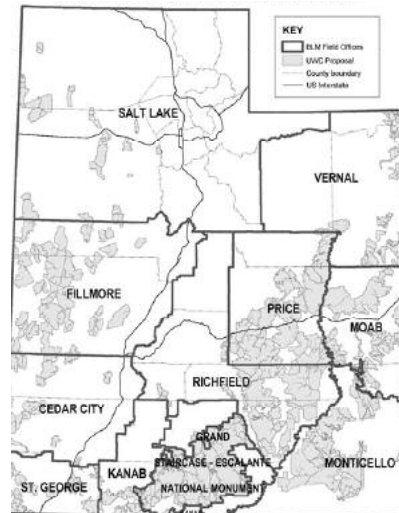
**Resource Management Plan (RMP) Timeline**

Moab	Price	Vernal	Kanab
<b>Draft 08/24/07</b>	<b>Draft 09/14/07</b>	<b>Draft 10/05/07</b>	<b>Draft 10/12/07</b>
<b>Public Comment Period Ends 11/30/07</b>	<b>Public Comment Period Ends 12/13/07</b>	<b>Public Comment Period Ends 01/03/07</b>	<b>Public Comment Period Ends 01/10/07</b>
<b>Final* May '08</b>	<b>Final* June '08</b>	<b>Final* July '08</b>	<b>Final* August '08</b>

\*BLM estimate

Richfield	Monticello
<b>Draft expected late 10/07</b>	<b>Draft expected early 11/07</b>

**Map of BLM Field Office Areas  
(marked by dark black borders)**



While outrage is easy enough to come by, surprise is a bit more elusive. This is, after all, the work of an administration that secretly let the oil and gas industry write our nation’s energy strategy, sought to give away the Interior Department’s authority to identify and protect wrongfully overlooked wilderness-quality landscapes, and put in place policies that grease the giveaway of roads to anti-wilderness counties.

What makes this latest chapter in Bush’s anti-environment record so unusually dangerous is that these plans could be in effect for another 20 years. Any toddlers in your house will be out of college by the time the BLM gets around to updating the plans now in the works. What will be left of the awe-inspiring for them? It’s the Bush administration’s way of ensuring itself life after death—a neat trick if you pull it off.

**Boot camp: A Primer on Land Use Plans**

Here’s the dry-ish background, as quick, as painless as we can make it. In 1976, Congress turned its attention to the vast public lands orphaned after creation of the National Forest and National Park Systems. It decided once and for all that these lands embodied an important legacy that defined the American experience and refreshed the American soul. Largely used up to then for grazing

and mining, these lands would henceforth be retained in public ownership and recognized for the full range of historic, prehistoric, recreational and wilderness values . . . in addition, of course, to those hallowed cows and coal mines. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) would be the constitution for the BLM—the agency that manages this largest hunk of the federal estate.

Preservation became an important value for the very first time. FLPMA required the BLM to survey the lands under its dominion and identify those that still qualified for wilderness protection: areas of 5,000 acres or larger and, in the poetic words of the Wilderness Act, “an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. . . retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man’s work substantially unnoticeable.”

But more to the point here, Congress also wanted to make sure the BLM embraced the new conserva-

## features

tion values described in FLPMA and to recognize and respect the increasing demand for a more balanced approach to public lands management that included protection and preservation, not just development. It did that by requiring the BLM to create and to periodically revise “resource management plans” based on continually updated inventories of the various resources and values of the land. And the BLM is supposed to develop these plans largely in response to what its clients—that would be us, the American public—have to say.

### Utah’s New Land Use Plans

The BLM is releasing a flurry of new and draft plans (six in all) in a span of several weeks this fall. Though it has taken the agency years to put these plans together, the public will have a scant 90 days to comment on them. If you don’t think you can review, absorb and intelligently comment on 5,000 pages of text and hundreds of maps and graphs in that length of time, be sure to let the BLM know and ask for more time. The agency is betting that we all wither under the combined weight of these plans. It will stick steadfastly to its murderously truncated comment period unless the public blow-back forces it to agree to give us a fair chance to participate.

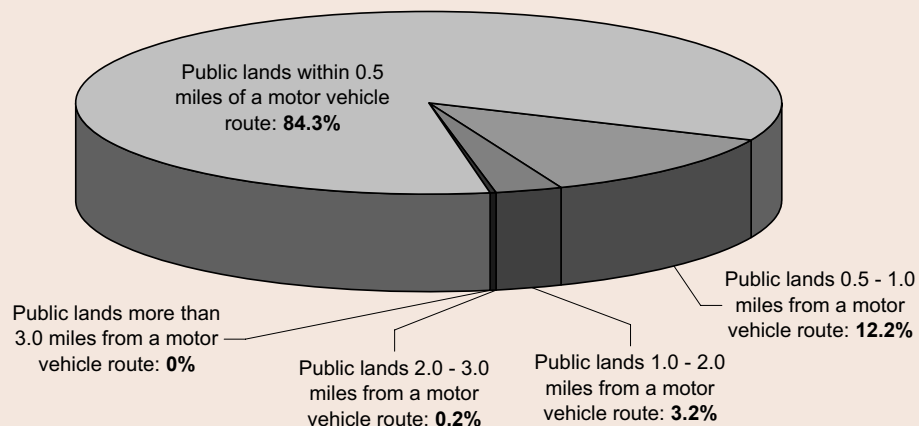
### Roads to Everywhere and Nowhere

Released on August 24, 2007, the draft plan for the Moab area is a bracing portent of what’s in store for us in the upcoming plans for the rest of eastern Utah. The barest facts of the plan are stunningly pro-road, slavishly anti-wilderness.

- As many of you know, the law requires the BLM to maintain the pristine character of the wilderness study areas (WSAs) the agency identified in the early 1980s. But the BLM refuses to protect the breathtaking scenery that lies just outside these relatively limited WSAs. Of the 464,777 acres of non-WSA lands that qualify as wilderness, all of which are included in America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act, the BLM proposes to protect just 47,761 acres. That’s 10 percent.
- Inexplicably, the BLM ceases to recognize 82 percent of the lands the agency itself determined to have wilderness character in its own recent reviews. Lost to development, roads and ATVs would be Labyrinth Canyon, Dome Plateau next to Arches National Park, Goldbar Rim, Hatch Canyon, Hideout Canyon, Mexico Point, and large portions of Fisher Towers.

## BLM’s Plan for Moab: Stunningly Out of Balance

In the BLM’s preferred plan, less than 4% of the scenic redrock canyon country in the Moab area (i.e., public lands south of I-70) will be farther than 1 mile from an off-road vehicle (ORV) route. BLM’s proposal would eliminate nearly all opportunities to escape the sights and sounds of ORV use.



With minor adjustments, roadless areas that provide quiet, natural backcountry experiences for traditional non-motorized users can be protected (see [www.suwa.org/rmp](http://www.suwa.org/rmp)).



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**features**

- Under the new proposed plan, wilderness landscapes will, in large measure, become off-road-vehicle (ORV) sacrifice zones. The BLM proposes to designate 2,642 miles of ORV routes, many across lands within America's Red Rock Wilderness Act and lands which the BLM previously recognized for their wilderness (i.e., roadless) character. Damage from ORV use will be widespread. Peace and quiet will be extremely difficult to find. Eighty-four percent of public lands near Moab (those south of I-70 which attract most of the area's visitors) will be within a half mile of a designated ORV route.

- At the same time, the BLM has done no site-specific studies to determine the impact of these routes on Native American cultural sites or other natural resources such as riparian areas or wildlife habitat. Science to support the ORV route designations is nonexistent.

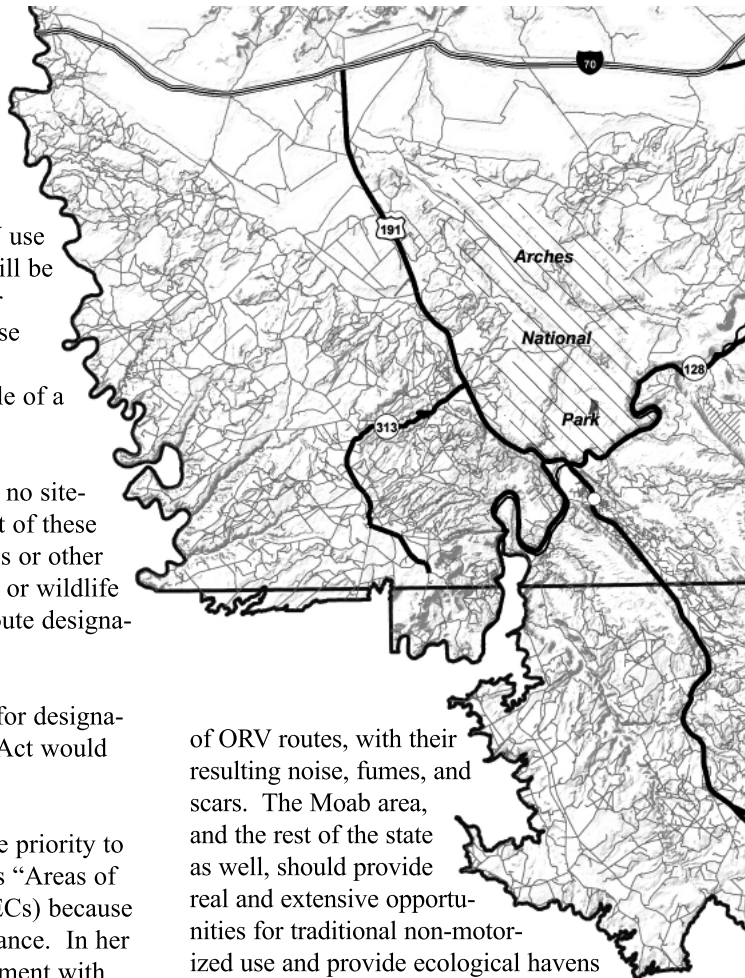
- More than half of the rivers eligible for designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act would not receive protection under the plan.

- Federal law requires the BLM to give priority to the protection of lands which qualify as "Areas of Critical Environmental Concern" (ACECs) because of scenic, cultural or ecological importance. In her effort to defend the ill-conceived agreement with Utah in 2003 which abandoned the Interior Department's responsibility to identify and protect new wilderness study areas, former Secretary Gale Norton said she'd use ACECs as an alternative tool to protect these wilderness-quality lands. It was a hollow promise. The Moab plan would fail to protect 90 percent of the 613,077 acres which qualify for ACEC designation.

- The plan fails to protect world-renowned scenic places from oil and gas development, places such as Fisher Towers, Goldbar Rim, Labyrinth Canyon, and areas surrounding Arches and Canyonlands National Parks. In many other states, these areas would have long since been protected as natural wonders; here the BLM would turn them into oil fields.

The BLM can and should do much better. It won't unless it hears from all of us about the need to revise its plans to reduce the destructive and redundant web

### Proposed Density of Routes South of I-70 (for more maps, visit [www.suwa.org/rmp](http://www.suwa.org/rmp))



of ORV routes, with their resulting noise, fumes, and scars. The Moab area, and the rest of the state as well, should provide real and extensive opportunities for traditional non-motorized use and provide ecological havens for the long-term health of the land, wildlife, water and other natural and cultural resources. Most importantly, the BLM must hear from you about the importance of protecting all lands within America's Red Rock Wilderness Act. 🐾

—Heidi McIntosh

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### Get Involved

To learn how you can help now, see **page 10**.

You can view the Utah BLM's resource management plans and schedules at:  
[www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/prog/planning.1.html](http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/prog/planning.1.html)

SUWA's website has more information about these plans and the citizens' conservation alternatives at:  
[www.suwa.org/rmp](http://www.suwa.org/rmp).

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

## Your Support Helps SUWA Defend the Redrock!

Even a quick glance at this newsletter will tell you how very much work SUWA has ahead of it to protect our Redrock wilderness during the last year of the Bush administration. Your support—and it is more vital than ever—will help us get it done. We are either enmeshed in or preparing for major battles concerning BLM's woefully inadequate Resource Management Plans, oil & gas leasing, county road claims and bad wilderness bills. These threats could permanently alter the landscape of redrock country and make vast parts of it no longer eligible for wilderness designation.

Your support in the past has paid huge dividends in helping SUWA protect these lands, and we all want to continue the progress we have made through working together. We are confident that the Redrock's wilderness day in Congress will come, but it will likely have to wait until after the 2008 elections when a new administration more friendly to the environment takes office.

There are also several ways to make your contribution and membership go even farther, for the Redrock, for SUWA, and for yourself:

- ▶ **Take action to improve BLM's Resource Management Plans by extending the opportunity for public input.** Simply go to [www.suwa.org](http://www.suwa.org), click on *Take Action*, and send your message from our online action center.
- ▶ **Make a special end of the year investment in SUWA's efforts to protect the Redrock.** Use the envelope in the middle of this newsletter and please consider a larger gift than you made last year, or a new gift if you are not yet a donor.
- ▶ Ask your employer if they have an **employee matching gift program** that will increase the amount SUWA receives from your contribution. If they do, just send us the forms and we'll take care of the rest.
- ▶ Consider the **monthly donor option** as a painless and convenient way to increase your support to SUWA. We can set up a monthly charge to your bank account or credit card for any amount you choose. Is protecting the Redrock worth \$1 a day to you? That's only \$30.42 a month and it gives you a \$365 deduction when tax time comes.
- ▶ Several SUWA members have already taken advantage of a **tax provision that allows contributions from IRA accounts to become charitable deductions.** If you are at least 70½ years young, talk to your tax preparer or accountant about this option
- ▶ **Help us grow our membership!** To gather the momentum we need for success in Congress, SUWA has set a goal of 10,000 new members from across the country by the end of 2009. Give a gift membership or two (see page 25) and talk to your friends, neighbors and relatives about why you belong to SUWA and why they should join too.
- ▶ **Increase the impact of your contribution.** Any new or increased contribution you make will help SUWA generate matching funds from Earth Friends Wildlife Foundation!



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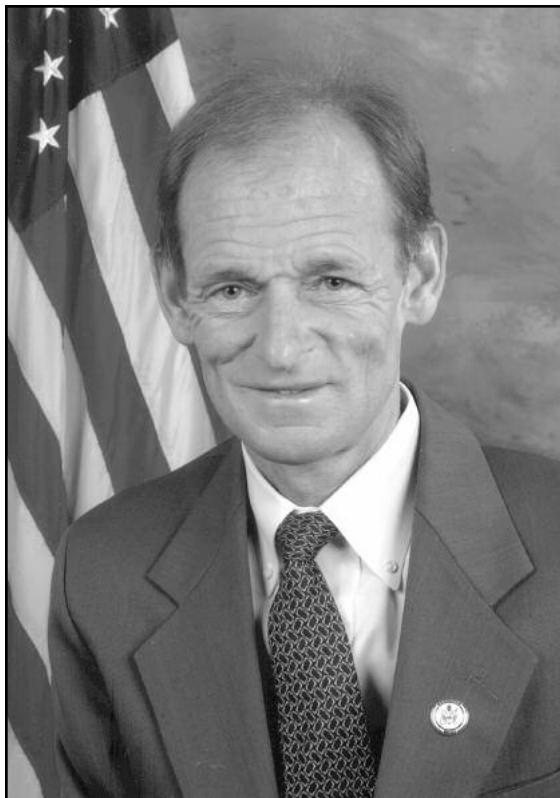
## DC news

### Bipartisan Support for Redrock Wilderness Builds

Following an August meeting with six representatives of Illinois Clergy and Laity for Utah Wilderness, Rep. Tim Johnson (R-IL) said he would take the lead in an effort to persuade other House members to sign a letter to the Interior Department urging it not designate off-road vehicle trails on lands the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has found to have wilderness character.

Rep. Johnson also agreed to join Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) to encourage more House Republicans to cosponsor America's Red Rock Wilderness Act.

We thank Rep. Johnson, who has been a friend of Utah wilderness for some time. He has considerable support from his constituents after years of organizing by the Illinois Task Force for Utah Wilderness, SUWA, and the Sierra Club's Illinois



*Rep Tim Johnson (R-IL)—A friend of Utah wilderness.*

Chapter. SUWA also thanks the United Methodists of Illinois Clergy and Laity for Utah Wilderness.

We urge SUWA members to thank Rep. Johnson with a note to his Washington office or a call to his district office (in John Wesley Powell's former hometown!) at (309) 663-7049.

—Clayton Daughenbaugh

### Congress Gets the Message on ORVs

As the Utah Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) new travel plans propose to further litter the wild landscape with off-road vehicle (ORV) routes, the role of Congress becomes more and more important. It is time for Congress to call the BLM to task for its abysmal failure to protect Utah's roadless areas from motorized assault.

With that goal in mind, 11 of our most dedicated and knowledgeable activists, including a former BLM director, several former agency employees, and local business owners, traveled to Washington this fall. Specifically, our activists sought signatures on a letter that Reps. Maurice Hinchey (D-NY), Tim Johnson (R-IL), and Mark Kirk (R-IL) initiated. The congressmen are asking Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne to keep Utah's inventoried roadless areas and cultural resources (many of which are uninventoried) off limits to ORVs.

We formed six two-person teams with a Utahn on each and in all met with over 70 House offices representing all regions of the U.S. The teams concentrated on important committee members and western representatives, explaining the serious and growing threat to our wild lands and cultural heritage.

Congressional offices were very supportive and several pledged immediate help. ORV management is not the sort of issue Congress ordinarily concerns itself with or even hears much about. We have taken a significant step toward changing that. We couldn't have done it without our loyal members and supporters and we are grateful to them.

We are stilling awaiting a response from Secretary Kempthorne, but some of our most influential

**DC news**

friends in Congress have sent a loud message of concern. We are optimistic that Congress will undertake more oversight on ORV management in the year ahead. Public discussion of the natural and cultural resource damage from unmanaged motorized recreation could help constrain this administration during its final year.

—*Jackie Feinberg*

## Congress Weighs Hardrock Mining Reform

House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Nick Rahall (D-WV) has turned his attention to an overhaul of the 1872 Mining Law. This anachronistic 135-year-old law, the last of the 19th Century land disposal statutes, has stubbornly resisted reform attempts and remains in unhappy force today.

Congress passed the law to encourage westward expansion and to supply mineral resources. Since then, the world has changed drastically, the mining law not at all.

Under its antiquarian auspices, we are seeing a surge in uranium claims in Utah and the Colorado Plateau because of interest in nuclear energy as a “carbon free” alternative to coal-fired power generation. Claims have doubled in three years with hundreds more filed every week. The 1872 act allows anyone to file a claim on our public lands unless the lands are specifically withdrawn from mineral entry. Most aren’t. All it takes is a claim that mineral resources are present.

Many of the recent claims staked in Utah are directly adjacent to the state’s national parks and within lands proposed for wilderness designation in America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act. There is no requirement under the law for a determination of the suitability of a particular place for mining and essentially no environmental standards for mining. And the public receives no return—no royalty—from public minerals recovered.

Rep. Rahall’s bill would focus considerably more scrutiny on the process of establishing claims and development. Agencies would be forced to consider impacts on the land, water and air quality in advance of proposed mining. The measure also includes guidelines for reclamation—an important step as many of the West’s worst Superfund sites are old hardrock mining enterprises.

Rep. Rahall would permanently bar several classifications of land from mining claims, including wilderness study areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and sites sacred to Native Americans. Most importantly, the bill will give the agencies the authority to deny claims based on environmental concerns, even when land lacks any kind of official protective designation. The reform measure would impose royalties on minerals extracted from public lands, much as royalties are now charged for oil and gas pumped from these lands. Royalty provisions have engendered the strongest opposition from industry, but it also opposes the bill’s environmental protection provisions as written.

—*Richard Peterson-Cremer*

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

**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

See next page for a list of current cosponsors.

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



**H.R. 1919, Sponsored by  
Rep. Maurice Hinchey  
(D-NY22)  
152 House Cosponsors**

# America's Red Rock Wilderness Act Cosponsors in the 110th Congress

(as of October 29, 2007)

Darlene Hooley, D-05

## **Pennsylvania**

Robert Brady, D-01  
Joe Sestak, D-07  
Allyson Schwartz, D-13  
Mike Doyle, D-14

## **Rhode Island**

Patrick Kennedy, D-01  
James Langevin, D-02

## **South Carolina**

John Spratt, D-05

## **Tennessee**

Stephen Cohen, D-09

## **Texas**

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Sheila Jackson-Lee, D-18  
Charles A. Gonzalez, D-20  
Lloyd Doggett, D-25  
Gene Green, D-29  
Eddie Bernice Johnson, D-30

## **Vermont**

Peter Welch, D-AL

## **Virginia**

James Moran, D-08

## **Virgin Islands**

Donna Christensen, D-AL

## **Washington**

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Brian Baird, D-03  
Norm Dicks, D-06  
Jim McDermott, D-07  
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## **Wisconsin**

Tammy Baldwin, D-02  
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Richard Durbin, D-IL  
Evan Bayh, D-IN  
Tom Harkin, D-IA  
Benjamin Cardin, D-MD  
Edward Kennedy, D-MA  
John Kerry, D-MA  
Deborah Stabenow, D-MI  
Frank Lautenberg, D-NJ  
Robert Menendez, D-NJ  
Charles Schumer, D-NY  
Hillary Clinton, D-NY  
Sherrod Brown, D-OH  
Jack Reed, D-RI  
Sheldon Whitehouse, D-RI  
Patrick Leahy, D-VT  
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Raul Grijalva, D-07

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Tom Lantos, D-12  
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Zoe Lofgren, D-16  
Sam Farr, D-17  
Lois Capps, D-23  
Brad Sherman, D-27  
Howard L. Berman, D-28  
Adam B. Schiff, D-29  
Henry A. Waxman, D-30  
Xavier Becerra, D-30  
Hilda L. Solis, D-32  
Lucille Roybal-Allard, D-34  
Maxine Waters, D-35  
Jane Harman, D-36  
Juanita Millender-McDonald, D-37  
Grace F. Napolitano, D-38  
Linda T. Sanchez, D-39  
Loretta Sanchez, D-47  
Bob Filner, D-51  
Susan A. Davis, D-53

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Mark Udall, D-02  
Ed Perlmutter, D-07

## **Connecticut**

John Larson, D-01  
Joseph Courtney, D-02  
Rosa DeLauro, D-03  
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## **District of Columbia**

Eleanor Holmes Norton, D-DC

## **Florida**

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Robert Wexler, D-19  
Alcee Hastings, D-23

## **Georgia**

Hank Johnson, D-04  
John Lewis, D-05  
Jim Marshall, D-08  
David Scott, D-13

## **Hawaii**

Mazie Hirono, D-02

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Daniel Lipinski, D-03  
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Janice D. Schakowsky, D-09  
Mark Steven Kirk, R-10  
Jerry F. Costello, D-12  
Judy Biggert, R-13  
Timothy V. Johnson, R-15  
Phil Hare, D-17  
Ray LaHood, R-18

## **Indiana**

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## **Kentucky**

John Yarmuth, D-03

## **Louisiana**

William Jefferson, D-02

## **Maine**

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Sander Levin, D-12  
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Collin Peterson, D-07

## **Missouri**

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Emanuel Cleaver, D-05

## **Nevada**

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Joseph Crowley, D-07  
Jerrold Nadler, D-08  
Anthony D. Weiner, D-09  
Edolphus Towns, D-10  
Carolyn B. Maloney, D-14  
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Jose E. Serrano, D-16  
Eliot L. Engel, D-17  
Nita Lowey, D-18  
John Hall, D-19  
Michael R. McNulty, D-21  
Maurice Hinchey, D-22  
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Louise McIntosh Slaughter, D-28

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Brad Miller, D-13

## **Ohio**

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Dennis J. Kucinich, D-10  
Betty Sutton, D-13

## **Oregon**

David Wu, D-01  
Earl Blumenauer, D-03  
Peter DeFazio, D-04

## canyon country updates

Good  
News!

### Recapture Canyon's Archaeological Sites Protected, at Least for Now

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has issued long-overdue off-road vehicle (ORV) restrictions for Recapture Canyon. In September, the BLM temporarily closed the canyon to motorized vehicles based on its determination that ORV use in the canyon was causing, and would likely continue to cause, damage to the extensive cultural resources located there.

ORV supporters illegally built a 30-mile-long route through this little-known canyon in southeastern Utah. More recently, vandals struck and possibly looted a large and significant prehistoric cultural site through which the illegal route was cut. The BLM's response is as welcome as it is tragically late: the agency should have taken action *before* the recent vandalism and it had ample knowledge and authority to do so.

The BLM's own archaeological survey of the illegal ORV route is public information and it is damning. It identifies 14 new sites and several areas of isolated artifacts in addition to 17 sites previously recorded directly in the illegal route or within just a few feet of it. And all 31 sites are deemed to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The *Salt Lake Tribune* editorialized on the issue in:

"Saving treasures: ATV trails at ancient sites should be closed." (*Salt Lake Tribune* July 13, 2007).

The relief may only be temporary. Though it beggars belief, the BLM continues to process an application from San Juan County to provide a legal right-of-way for this illegal route—essentially rewarding blatantly illegal activity by subsequently terming it legal and handing the route over to the county. The BLM proceeds even in the face of its own archaeological report that says that the ORV route is causing direct and indirect damage to cultural resources.

These archaeological sites are not minor: the BLM's limited survey along the ORV route found several larger than football fields. In a narrow canyon chock full of sites, any move to re-route the trail around the surface artifacts would likely put the route on top of other significant artifacts buried only inches below the surface. Ruts and churning tires would soon pulverize them, making impossible future scientific study.

The BLM is bending to pressures from the county and local ORV activists, rather than protecting the cultural resources as federal law mandates that it do. The agency should immediately stop work on San Juan County's right-of-way application and deny the request. To continue to process the application is a misuse of taxpayer dollars and a waste of time.

Please take a moment to thank the BLM for finally taking appropriate action to protect the cultural resources in Recapture. You might also urge the BLM to keep the canyon off-limits to motorized vehicles to protect its significant cultural resources.

—Liz Thomas



Liz Thomas

Recapture Canyon: cultural artifacts such as pottery sherds (inset) are seriously threatened by illegal ORV routes like the one above.

#### Please send your emails to:

Monticello Acting Manager, Nick Sandberg:  
Nick\_Sandberg@blm.gov

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



## canyon country updates

Good  
News!

## SUWA Wins Battle in Salt Creek Fight

The fight for Salt Creek, a meandering stream in Canyonlands National Park which San Juan County and the State of Utah say is actually a “highway” under RS 2477, has been in court for over 10 years. Its most recent incarnation was when the state and county filed a federal lawsuit in 2004 to gain title to the streambed after that same court upheld the National Park Service’s decision to close Salt Creek to vehicle use because of the pollution, soil erosion, loss of native plants, and other harm caused by jeeps.

In the three years since, the state and county have done nothing but try to prevent SUWA (and The Wilderness Society) from participating in the lawsuit. Their argument? We just didn’t have enough interest in the case; this despite the 10 years SUWA has spent in litigation and other means to finally protect Salt Creek. (Early on we obtained an injunction against jeep use.) It is a private property dispute, they argued, and the public has no role here. “Go away,” they said.

In 2004, the district court in Salt Lake City denied our request to intervene. Later, a three-judge panel of the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals overturned that ruling. Finally, on October 2, 2007, a full complement of the court—13 judges—came out with a decision vindicating our argument that SUWA does have a sufficient interest to participate in the suit.

There’s a hitch though: the court also thought that the federal government is at present adequately representing our interest so we can’t participate as full parties yet. However, we’re confident we’ll be able to participate at the first sign the federal government is wavering in its defense of the places under attack from RS 2477 claims.

—Heidi McIntosh

## Too Clever by Half: Moab BLM Outfoxes Itself

The Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) has set aside a decision by the Moab Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to renew the 5-year permit for the Easter Jeep Safari, an annual event that draws



Liz Thomas

*A rock crawling contest at Moab’s 2007 Jeep Safari. The BLM has stubbornly refused to alter a few miles of route to protect proposed wilderness.*

thousands of souped-up jeeps, rock-crawlers, and monster trucks to the Moab area.

Many of them are vying for the right to brag that by dint of sheer horsepower, an astonishing dearth of good sense and as much money as it takes, they can conquer all obstacles: slickrock ledges, streambeds, boulders, and pretty much anything else that happens to lie in their path. It’s a testosterone-fueled, full-scale assault on the area’s scenic public lands. Needless to say, though the BLM authorizes this event it doesn’t bother much with oversight.

The Moab BLM renewed the Jeep Safari’s 5-year permit in spring 2006, ignoring SUWA’s proposal that the agency delete a few miles (approximately 8 percent) from the planned 630-mile route. The few routes that SUWA asked be removed from the route permit are in proposed wilderness areas such as Labyrinth Canyon and Goldbar Canyon. This seemed a reasonable compromise to us. But the Moab BLM is not prone compromise when it comes to a free hand for motorized users, even on the world-famous landscape entrusted to the agency’s care.

SUWA appealed BLM’s decision to the IBLA. After the appeal, and wanting to avoid the inconvenience of notifying the general public, the BLM tried to modify a couple of the routes because of private property and cultural resource conflicts—not by informing the general public, but by merely telling the IBLA it was doing so. “Not so fast,” said the

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**canyon country updates**

## Gone with the Rain?

There are, as the saying goes, lies, damned lies and statistics. One of the most damnable lies in the off-road-vehicle (ORV) debate (and the principle pitch for letting ORVs prey where they may) is this one: “It’s just dirt! You can’t destroy dirt!” Well, yes, you can, and yes, they do.

This lame effort to contest a sizeable and growing body of evidence showing that off-road vehicles are irreparably damaging our public lands is often followed by this equally specious declaration: “Besides...the tracks are washed away the very next time it rains!” In an effort to put this tired argument out to pasture, two SUWA staffers went on a special photo expedition.

On Oct. 6, 2006, the heavens opened to unleash what could only be characterized as a flood of biblical proportions in the upper Colorado River Basin. Those who experienced this deluge firsthand were stunned by how much water fell that afternoon and evening, creating thunderous waterfalls and roaring rivers in what were typically dry washes. The Fremont River, like other waterways in the basin, leapt its banks and flooded the town of Hanksville. As the torrent found its way into the Fremont, it had undoubtedly traveled over and through the tangled mess of cross country ORV tracks surrounding Factory Butte, a centerpiece of the debate over ORV destruction.

So we had our rainstorm—a real doozy—and, if the apologists were right, there shouldn’t have been an ORV track to be found. To no one’s very great surprise, what the staff saw around Factory Butte after the storm looked pretty much as it did before the storm: a snarl of off-road-vehicle tracks. The pictorial evidence follows, taken at Factory Butte the day after the epic floods.



*Ray Bloxham*

IBLA, reminding the Moab BLM that it must first solicit public comment. Then, and only then, can it reissue the decision, just as federal law requires. And with that, the IBLA set aside the BLM’s decision, invalidating the Jeep Safari permit.

The BLM sought to quietly and quickly modify the Jeep Safari route after SUWA challenged the permit. The ploy backfired royally. While we can relish a minor victory, there’s no question that the agency will reissue the permit. This time, though, the public will be allowed to participate. Who knows, maybe the agency will sprout a conscience and do the right thing this time around by not allowing the Jeep Safari to invade proposed wilderness? Expect to see flying pigs at roughly the same instant.

—*Liz Thomas*

## Family Values Gone Wild!

Off-road vehicle (ORV) groups that clamor for unrestricted access to public lands often tout their sport as wholesome, family-friendly fun and that’s reason enough to let them go wherever they please.

Take the director’s column in the spring 2005 newsletter of the Utah Shared Access Alliance for one example: “Families that play together stay together,” the director wrote, then bemoaned the efforts of conservationists to restrict motorized access. He goes on to claim that environmentalists are the same liberals who promote a whole range of insidious things antithetical to family values.

Some of those family values were on display over Easter weekend this year when upwards of 35,000 people gathered at the Little Sahara off-road vehicle recreation area. Two melees broke out during this holiest time in the Christian calendar, involving up to 1,000 people each. The Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) report described them as “near riot” conditions.

The BLM reported that in one incident, “Groups of partyers (not our spelling) were blocking an area and forcing women to bare their breasts in order to leave, along with numerous incidents of unwanted fondling of women.” Surely these fun-loving family-values folks calmed right down when the police showed up, right? Well, not even sorta. “When law officers took action, the crowd became unruly

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**canyon country updates**

(became unruly?), throwing objects at the officers. A Utah Highway Patrolman was struck in the head and sustained minor injuries.”

Probably this was an anomaly in the values-laden tradition of family ORVing? Well, here’s how Juab County Sheriff Alden Orme characterized it: “There are always going to be incidents, and this year was no exception. We had a couple of incidents, and they were serious, but to us they were not out of the ordinary.”

Not out of the ordinary. The sheriff’s statement is two things: absolutely accurate and profoundly depressing.

—Liz Thomas

## Court Turns Back Challenge to Ill-Conceived Project

Utah’s San Rafael Desert is a remote and sublime landscape, home to pronghorn antelope and reclusive species such as the kit fox and the burrowing owl. It also contains hundreds, if not thousands, of important archaeological sites.

In May 2007, the Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) Price field office approved a 39,000-acre seismic project in the San Rafael Desert, located east of state Highway 24 between I-70 and Hanksville and west of the Green River. The so-called ‘San Rafael Saddle’ seismic project authorizes 64,000-pound “vibroseis” trucks to travel cross-country throughout the 61-square-mile project area. The seismic or “thumper” trucks will pound their way over a total of 685 miles, the distance from Salt Lake City to Los Angeles, during a project that will take three to four months to complete.

The BLM okayed the project, even though it recognizes most of the project area—over 32,000 acres—as wilderness quality. The Sweetwater Reef and San Rafael River “wilderness character areas” (WCAs—a new BLM acronym) are proposed for wilderness designation in America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act. Visitors to this region can experience profound solitude in a unique and intact desert and sand dune ecosystem where there is little sign of human impact or development.

**At least the war on the environment is going well . . .**

(From a bumper sticker seen in Moab)

Within days of the project’s approval, SUWA challenged the BLM’s decision in court as having violated the National Environmental Policy Act. These cases are notoriously hard to win. SUWA successfully challenged the BLM’s so-called ‘Yellow Cat’ seismic project east of Arches National Park in 2002 but has lost others in between. Still, we believed that this was an important case and that the project could wreak serious, long-term damage to this important landscape.

Unfortunately, the federal district court recently ruled against SUWA, holding that the BLM had done the bare minimum necessary to have its decision upheld. SUWA immediately appealed that decision and has asked the district court judge to order the BLM not to allow the project to proceed on the ground until our appeal is heard. We’ll keep you posted on how things progress before the Tenth Circuit.

—Steve Bloch

## Lila Canyon Mine: Update from the (Two) Fronts

SUWA recently went into federal district court in Salt Lake City to open a second front against the proposed Lila Canyon coal mine on the west slope of the Book Cliffs, partly within both the Turtle Canyon wilderness study area the Desolation Canyon wilderness inventory area.

As we reported in the last edition of *Redrock Wilderness* (Summer 2007 issue, p. 19), the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGM) had capitulated to pressure from Utah American Energy, Inc. (UEI) and issued the mining company a permit to mine at Lila Canyon. SUWA has challenged DOGM’s permitting decision before the state Board of Oil, Gas and Mining. That case is moving along and we expect a hearing before the



## canyon country updates

board early in 2008. In 2001, SUWA fought (and won) a similar battle before the board to block coal mining at Lila.

Meanwhile, SUWA has challenged decisions by the federal Office of Surface Mining and the Bureau of Land Management that gave the federal green light for mining operations to begin at Lila. The federal case is just getting underway. We'll keep you posted.

—*Steve Bloch*

## Utah Wild Lands Anchor Sierra Club Report, Campaign

With a just-released report, “America’s Wild Legacy,” the Sierra Club has announced a new wilderness protection campaign and Utah’s redrock wilderness is a central part of it.

The Club, America’s largest and oldest conservation organization, identifies 52 “places that need to be saved—one in each state as well as Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia” and has set itself the goal of achieving that protection over the next decade. Utah’s entry is the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. In addition to the state-by-state list of threatened places, the Club highlights six areas “that define our nation’s outdoor heritage—places that face immediate threat.” The redrock country of Utah is one of the six.

The effort can only boost prospects for permanent protection for redrock wilderness, said Scott Groene, SUWA executive director. “Over the years, the Sierra Club has been an important partner in Utah and beyond. Across the country, local Sierra Club chapters have been mainstays in the effort to raise national public awareness of what’s at risk here.”

—*Darrell Knuffke*

## The Pinpoint Precision of Modern Mining

Ed Abbey once wrote that “nature is mainly a good place to throw beer cans on Sunday afternoons.” He kids, he kids. But alternately, if you are in the uranium mining business, it would seem that nature is also a good place to throw claim stakes out of a helicopter.

Incredibly enough, this was the case the weekend of the Young Democrats retreat on the rim of Hell Roaring Canyon in the Labyrinth Canyon proposed wilderness (see article on page 23). On both Saturday and Sunday, the Young Dems and SUWA staff endured the constant thump of low-level helicopter overflights, courtesy of a Las Vegas-based energy company that was staking uranium claims in the proposed wilderness by tossing wooden claim stakes from the helicopter. The stakes displayed the following:

*Notice of Location*

*Know All Persons By These Presents That  
Wave Uranium Holding  
5248 Vegas Drive, Suite 228  
Las Vegas, Nevada, 89108*

*Hereby Claims This Ground As A Lode Mining Claim*

It’s good to know, that the next uranium boom in Southern Utah is being orchestrated as efficiently as possible. What would have taken an old-timey prospector years to accomplish, Wave Uranium Holding was able to hammer out in a weekend.

Ain’t progress grand?

## inside SUWA

### Richard Peterson-Cremer Joins DC Staff

SUWA is pleased to welcome Richard Peterson-Cremer as our new legislative assistant in the Washington, DC, office. Richard has quickly shown himself to be a skilled and passionate wilderness advocate and has already played an important role in SUWA's work on Capitol Hill.

Richard grew up just outside DC in a Virginia suburb. While it may seem quite natural for him to now be working with Congress, those of us who know Richard know that his heart is in the West. After graduating with a degree in political science from Colorado College in early 2005, Richard spent nearly two years in Crested Butte, CO, taking full advantage of the abundant recreational opportunities on western public land in that area. He is an advanced rock climber and backcountry skier, and he especially appreciates southern Utah's wild places. He also became familiar with land management issues.

On the mend from a climbing accident, Richard came east to serve an internship with SUWA in January of this year. He quickly displayed a natu-

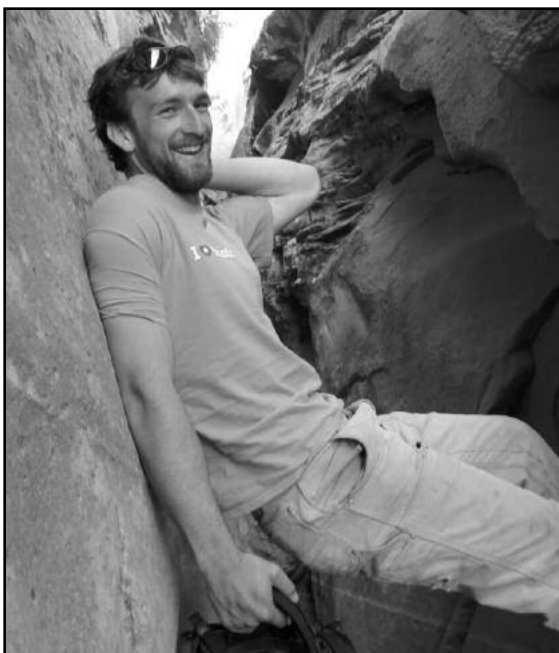
ral affinity for legislative work and helped to organize what became the Utah Wilderness Coalition's largest and most successful Wilderness Week in several years. Since beginning as legislative assistant, Richard has led the charge in acquiring a record number of Senate cosponsorships of America's Red Rock Wilderness Act, and in lobbying for the protection of public lands in Utah from energy development.

We're glad to count Richard's passion for and experience with redrock country among our legislative resources. His presence makes our future legislative success even more likely.

### Welcome Scott Braden, Field Advocate

The newest addition to SUWA's Moab office is Scott Braden, who comes to us after nearly seven years with Outward Bound Wilderness in Utah. There, he worked variously as a field instructor, logistics supervisor, and course director. It was that work that gave Scott his love for Utah wilderness.

Originally from Georgia, Scott's first wilderness experience was backpacking with other teens in the



*Richard Peterson-Cremer: At home among the redrock.*



*Scott Braden couldn't be happier to be at SUWA.*

## inside SUWA

Joyce Kilmer Wilderness in western North Carolina. Scott says he was impressed with the virgin stands of forest and realized how important it is to leave some places to their own natural processes. After earning a degree in religion, with a minor in history, he landed in Utah working for Outward Bound.

While still with Outward Bound, Scott volunteered to go to Washington DC to participate in one of the Utah Wilderness Coalition's activist weeks, where he visited congressional offices to educate lawmakers about America's Red Rock Wilderness Act. Scott says that he learned much that week about SUWA and about how politics and government operate.

SUWA snagged Scott in March of this year, after he returned from a Grand Canyon trip. His first office at SUWA also doubled as our storage (read: junk) room. He's settled into an office of his own now, which he's outfitted with some dandy thrift-shop furniture to accent the map-covered walls.

Scott enjoys traveling and has backpacked in Patagonia and Guatemala, and scuba dived in the Bay Islands of Honduras. He now lives in Moab with Newton, a trusty lab-golden retriever wonder dog. When not poring over scintillating Draft Resource Management Plans, he enjoys movies,

rafting, kayaking, and hiking. Scott reports that he, but not Newton, has a great enthusiasm for good beer (perhaps that's the best antidote to arid land management plans). Drop by Scott's office and meet him if you're in the Moab area.

## SUWA Co-Hosts Faith-Based Conversation on Wilderness

As part of its effort to add new voices and new advocates to the campaign to protect Utah's redrock wilderness, SUWA co-hosted an event with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in June.

Twenty-five people from a variety of faith backgrounds, and some with no such background, participated in the two-hour conversation led by two people from different faith perspectives. Staff from the church's Utah Community Relations Department provided space for our meeting and dinner for those in attendance. SUWA organized facilitation and invitations.

After discussion, participants reviewed and solidified important themes that emerged from the conversation, then considered next steps. This session



Tenneson Woolf

*People of diverse religious (and non-religious) backgrounds discuss the value of wilderness at an interfaith meeting in Salt Lake City.*



## inside SUWA

taught us several important things. People bring their own emotional, spiritual and creative connections to their feelings about wilderness and express them in a variety of ways. There is often, even among people of very diverse backgrounds, a common core of affection for wild places—for “Creation”—even though it is articulated in different words than we are sometimes used to hearing. And words are just one way of expressing our love for wild places. Advocacy, art, education and literature also have much to add and our discussion groups dig into these as well.

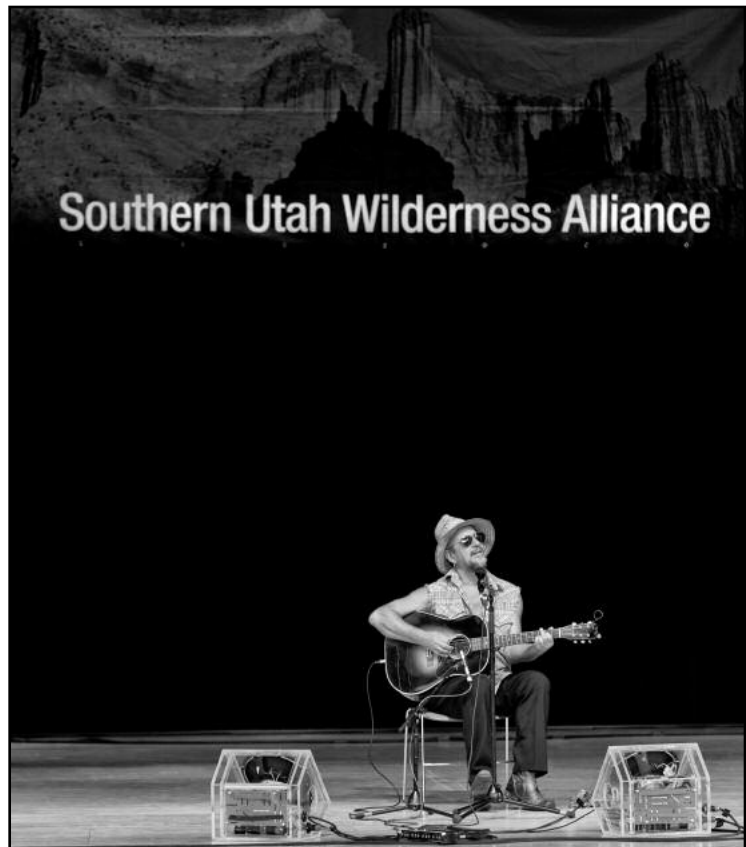
SUWA has planned similar discussions elsewhere in Utah, including one that was held at Salt Lake City’s main library in October, just as this newsletter was going to press. We will sponsor additional conversations in Logan, Cedar City, Price, St. George, Provo and Moab. If you are interested in participating in one of these discussions, please contact Deeda Seed at [deeda@suwa.org](mailto:deeda@suwa.org). Learn more online at [www.suwa.org/FaithGroups](http://www.suwa.org/FaithGroups).

## Utah Wilderness Day Celebration a WILD Success

SUWA threw itself a birthday party in August and it was a dandy. Utah Wilderness Day in Salt Lake City more than lived up to its billing: an enthusiastic celebration of SUWA’s 25 years of work to preserve and protect Utah’s wild lands.

A party isn’t much of a party without guests and we had over 1,300 of them, 600 of whom joined SUWA to become our newest supporters. The celebration included a rousing speech from Salt Lake City Mayor Rocky Anderson about the importance of Utah’s wilderness. The crowd also heard from Salt Lake County Mayor Peter Corroon and Gayle McKeachnie, Gov. Jon Huntsman’s rural affairs coordinator. (The governor had planned to attend but was unable to because of the Crandall mine disaster).

The event served as an opportunity to welcome the Conservation Alliance and KEEN Hybrid.Pedal cyclists who had just completed their 1,000-mile trip from KEEN headquarters in Portland, OR, to raise public awareness of wild land protection efforts. In addition to learning about SUWA’s work, Utah Wilderness Day celebrants were able to get up-to-



© Ben Moon

*Singer-songwriter Greg Brown entertains wilderness fans at SUWA’s 25th anniversary celebration in August.*



© Ben Moon

*A crowd of more than 1,300 turned out to hear good music, socialize, and celebrate Utah’s wild places at Utah Wilderness Day 2007.*

## inside SUWA

the-minute information about the work of many of our conservation partners including, Save Our Canyons, the Utah Wilderness Coalition, the Sierra Club, Utah Backcountry Volunteers, The Wilderness Society, HEAL Utah, the Winter Wildlands Alliance, and the Utah Rivers Council.

The bluegrass band Chatham County Line, Utah singer-song writer Kate MacLeod, and virtuoso singer-song writer Greg Brown provided entertainment. The terrific people at Squatters Brewery were event co-sponsors, and they generously donated profits from brisk beer sales to SUWA. Other co-sponsors included radio stations KRCL, KCPW and KUER, and Salt Lake City's independent newspaper, the *City Weekly*.

Thanks to everyone who helped make Utah Wilderness Day such a big success!

### Coming soon: CD of Greg Brown's performance at Utah Wilderness Day

If you didn't attend Utah Wilderness Day, or perhaps even more if you DID, you'll want this one-of-a-kind, limited-edition CD of Greg Brown's performance. Greg, a nationally known singer-songwriter, is in particularly fine form here, with stories and songs that remind us of why we care for the land. With a \$50 dollar donation to SUWA, this very special music CD can be yours.

The CD will be available in December 2007. Check our website for details.

## Wild Utah Slideshow Heads to South, Midwest

As many of us dig out our fall sweaters and start thinking about skiing and other winter pursuits, "Slideshow Bob" Brister is preparing to take *Wild Utah: America's Redrock Wilderness* to the more temperate south-central states. The nationally-acclaimed multi-media slideshow heads to Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri and Arkansas during January, February and March.

At the same time, SUWA's Midwest Field Organizer, Clayton Daughenbaugh, is touring the show through decidedly cooler climes in America's Heartland. His stops include Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa, Ohio, and Indiana.

*Wild Utah* was recently updated with new interviews, stunning photos and video, and compelling narration by longtime wilderness activist Robert Redford. Audiences will walk away with a better understanding of the issues affecting Utah wilderness and what they can do to make a difference.

The complete slideshow schedule is posted at [www.suwa.org/slideshowtour](http://www.suwa.org/slideshowtour). To schedule a presentation in your area, contact Clayton ([clayton@suwa.org](mailto:clayton@suwa.org)) if you live in the midwest, Bob

([bob@suwa.org](mailto:bob@suwa.org)) if you live in the West or South, and Jackie ([jackie@suwa.org](mailto:jackie@suwa.org)) if you live along the East Coast.

## SUWA Seeks Eyes in the Sky

Over the years, volunteer pilots have greatly enhanced SUWA's work to protect Utah wilderness and we are always looking for more of them.

These pilots have made it possible to acquire aerial photography of proposed wilderness areas for mapping and for the assessment of impacts and encroachments from motorized users and oil and gas development. Volunteer pilots have also flown media representatives and decision makers and their staffs. A short flight over this country helps convey both the sweep of deserving wilderness in the state and threats to these spectacular wild places—something difficult to convey from the ground during short field trips.

SUWA is seeking additional pilots with their own planes to expand this important work. Utah-based pilots are particularly welcome, as they can respond quickly to flight needs as they arise.

If you are a plane-owning pilot and would like to help us save the redrock wilderness, please contact Ray Bloxham at (801) 428-3982 or [ray@suwa.org](mailto:ray@suwa.org).

## Honor Roll

The Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance recognizes the following individuals for their honor or memorial donations given in the name of friends and family during 2007. If you are interested in making a tribute donation to SUWA, visit our website at [www.suwa.org/tributes](http://www.suwa.org/tributes) or contact Anne Williams at (801) 428-3972 or [anne@suwa.org](mailto:anne@suwa.org).

*In memory of Marc Allred*

Marcia P. Hank  
Donald Garner  
Thomas W. Clixby

*In memory of Cheves Walling*

Robert Vickery  
Margaret A. Shaw  
Bradley F. Skinner  
Carol Ann Wilshusen

*In memory of Brian E. Peterson*

Maverick Capital Charities  
SOS Staffing  
Medimpact Healthcare Systems, Inc.  
JSA Healthcare Corp.

*In honor of Janet Muir and David Suehsdorf*

Susan Chandler

*In honor of Jack Miller and Julie Navarro*

Evelyn Woodruff  
Brown Bag Farms

*In honor of Thomas G. McCourt*

Lisa Ranalli  
Sean McCourt

*In honor of Jennifer Jackson and William Cooper*

Casey Mickelson

*In honor of Howard D. Hoffman*

Evelyn Male

## SUWA Teams Up with the Young Democrats of Utah

When the Young Democrats of Utah approached SUWA and asked if we'd be willing to help facilitate a retreat in Southern Utah focused on environmental issues on public lands, we jumped at the chance. The result was a stimulating weekend in late September that combined education and public service.

The group camped on the rim of Hell Roaring Canyon, one of the stunning side canyons to Green River in the heart of the Labyrinth Canyon proposed wilderness. Discussions covered wilderness in Utah, the history and the future of the wilderness movement, and the just-released Moab Draft Resource Management Plan and its potential effects on proposed wilderness. The Young Dems also helped with a service project on Saturday, reclaiming several illegal user-created, off-road-vehicle routes in the Labyrinth Canyon proposed wilderness.

We offer a special thanks to the Young Dems of Utah for their service on the ground and for thinking to include SUWA in their weekend retreat.



*Jeremy Christensen*



## wilderness spotlight

### Restoration

I sit inside a cool sandstone cave. Outside the cave, the canopy of saturated azure blue is the stage for a Red-tailed hawk. His long haunting cry signals a hunt. The chimera rising off sand and rock nearly obscures him in the middle of the day. I lean back against the wall of tan and ochre.

Around me, in even the smallest of hand holds, there are castles. Castles like I used to make at the beach, pouring wet sand through my hand until it mounded up into make-believe palaces. It has not rained for two days. The castles are dry, protected from the wind. How did they get there? If water seeped through the rock, carrying the sand with it, why did it just stay on the ledges? There are footprints in the cave. Perhaps the hikers seeking this cool space as we have trampled other castles.

Cool silence. Only now the sound of ants walking across the sand, carrying away crumbs from our lunch. Only the occasional soft click of the shutters from our cameras as we attempt to capture the souls of the lopsided “toadstools” outside the cave interrupt reverie.

The dry riverbed and slickrock marked with cairns that lead us to the garden of red hatted hoodoos give away a few signs of an earlier rain: a shiny surface of gray jade, now cracked, wave ripples caught in mud, hieroglyphics of four footed desert dwellers—the black-tailed jackrabbit, the pack rat.

A breeze blows through the sage and probes nostrils dried by hot red rock. It is easy to sense the uplifted, slipping and sliding rock, eroded into a science fiction fantasy, breathing. The cryptogamic material around us, weaving lichen, moss, fungi and bacteria together into a mat that gathers rain and holds the loose sand beneath it, breathes life into scarlet penstemon, bottlebush, yucca.

Our place on this staircase across Utah and into Arizona is part of our lungs, breathing apparatus, as much as a SCUBA tank is for a diver. If we drive across our chests, our lungs will be crushed and we will no longer be able to breathe. When the hawk and the creatures he hunts are gone there will be no sound other than a decaying wind. When the flowers are gone, and the rock shaken apart, there will be no color, no refuge from the blaze of our day’s star. Once a body is torn apart, there is little that can be done to restore or replenish its life forces. How much energy will it take then once the resources are gone from beneath the ground to learn to live?

In quiet, in the wild, in wilderness, the rock, the sand and the sky are the preservation of the world. This is our refuge, our shelter from the storm of cities, lights, horns. When we look to the stars, to the moon at night we see the other worlds. Let’s remember that we are not alone in the night. The presence that walks with us during the day and night is always there. We were given eyes to see and hearts to remember the gift. Let’s not lay waste to it.

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**Carolyn Hopper** is a SUWA member who lives in Bozeman, MT. In addition to exploring the “magic colors and stories” of redrock country, she enjoys photographing the wildflowers, mountains, and creeks near home.



*Carolyn Hopper*

*“Toadstool” formation in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.*

### Gift Memberships for the Holidays!

Looking for that perfect non-commercial, non-toxic, non-fattening, environmentally friendly gift-that-keeps-on-giving? A SUWA gift membership could be just the thing! Give **two for \$50** (a \$10 savings) or **one for \$30** and get your friends 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 #: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Mail form with payment in enclosed envelope to:

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

### Fine Art Posters by David Muench

Please send \_\_\_\_\_ White Canyon or \_\_\_\_\_ Cedar Mesa fine art posters at \$20 each (including shipping).

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

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

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

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

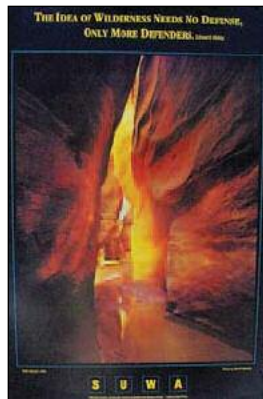
CC# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form with payment using enclosed envelope.

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

White Canyon



Cedar Mesa

These 24" x 36" posters feature full-color images of southern Utah by world-renowned wilderness photographer David Muench. The White Canyon poster (on black) features Edward Abbey's words, "The idea of wilderness needs no defense, only more defenders." The Cedar Mesa poster (on natural fiber ivory) includes a quote by late SUWA board member Wallace Stegner: "...the spiritual can be saved..."

## SUWA T-Shirts and Hats For Sale!

**T-shirts** are 100% organic cotton “Beneficial Ts” from Patagonia. Choose from several colors and styles, including a special women’s cut. Strikethrough indicates sizes that are currently out of stock. **NOTE:** White short sleeve Ts run very large. **Hats** include a baseball cap with SUWA logo (in four colors), plus a floppy hat and sun visor printed with the slogan “Protect Wild Utah.”

### SUWA T-Shirts

Circle Choice(s)

Short Sleeve White, \$15	S	M	<del>L</del>	XL	Qty	_____
Short Sleeve Black, \$15	S	<del>M</del>	<del>L</del>	<del>XL</del>	Qty	_____
Women’s Cut White, \$15	S	<del>M</del>	L		Qty	_____
Long Sleeve White, \$20	S	<del>M</del>	L	<del>XL</del>	Qty	_____
Long Sleeve Black, \$20	S	M	<del>L</del>	<del>XL</del>	Qty	_____

### SUWA Hats

Please Note Quantity

Baseball Cap, \$25	Sage	_____	Chamois	_____
	Sandstone	_____	Dusk	_____
Floppy Hat, \$20	Bright Yellow	_____		
Sun Visor, \$15	Bright Yellow	_____		

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

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

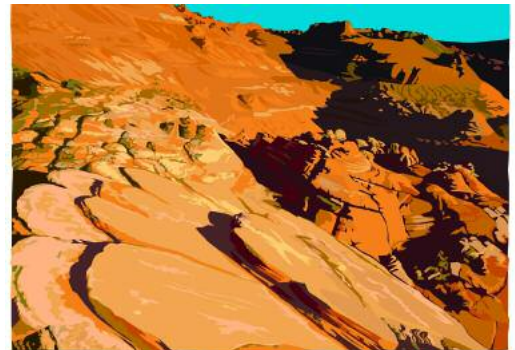
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to SUWA or include credit card information (VISA, MC, AMEX). Prices include shipping & handling.

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

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

Mail form with payment in enclosed envelope to:  
**SUWA, 425 E. 100 S., Salt Lake City, UT 84111**



southern utah wilderness alliance

Artwork on back of short sleeve and long sleeve T-shirts. “SUWA” is printed in small lettering on front.



Organic cotton t-shirts are available in long sleeve, short sleeve, and women’s cut (with a smaller image on the front instead of back).



Floppy hats are available only in Yellow.

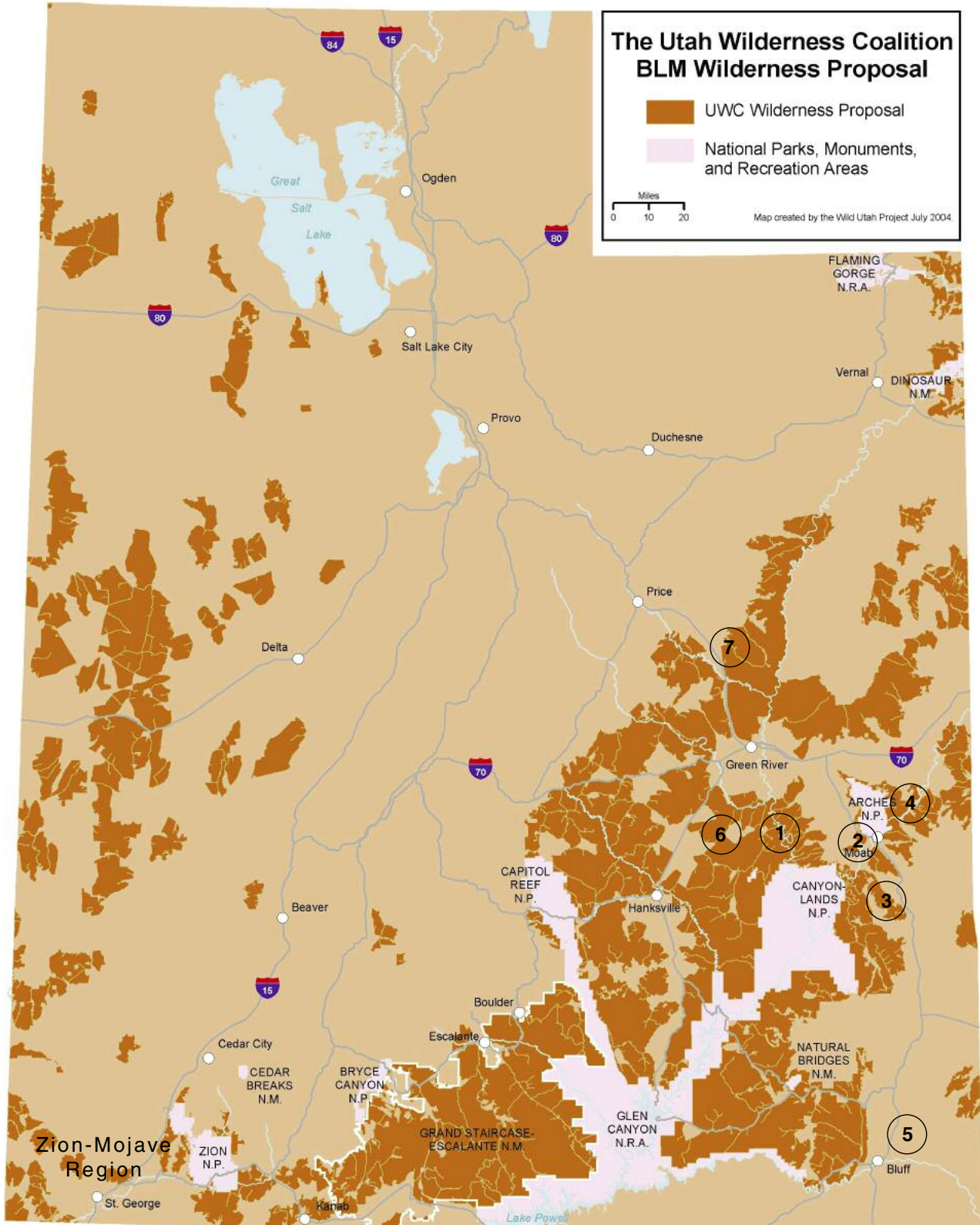


Baseball caps come in Sandstone, Dusk, Chamois and Sage (clockwise from lower left).



Sun visors are available only in Yellow.





**Reference Map for Articles in this Issue**

- ① Labyrinth Canyon (pp. 8, 9, 15)

② Goldbar Rim (pp. 8, 9, 15)

③ Hatch Canyon (p. 8)
- ④ Dome Plateau and Fisher Towers (pp. 8, 9)

⑤ Recapture Canyon (p. 14)

⑥ San Rafael Desert (p. 17)
- ⑦ Lila Canyon (p. 17)






*"North Facing Snow." Artwork by Scotty Mitchell (www.scottymitchell.com)*

## Fieldwork Vehicles Needed

SUWA is still seeking two 4x4 vehicles in good condition for the purpose of conducting fieldwork in remote areas. The perfect vehicle would be a 1998 or newer small or mid-sized pick-up or SUV with decent clearance. If you are able to donate such a tax-deductible vehicle, please contact Barry Bonifas at (801) 428-3970 or [barry@suwa.org](mailto:barry@suwa.org).

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