

# REDROCK

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

The Newsletter of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance  
Volume 19, Number 3 • Winter 2002-2003

Grassroots Democracy in Action

**Cover Photo:** Desert sunshine illuminates the red-gold sandstone of a wind sculpted arch in the Goldbar proposed wilderness near Moab. Framed by the arch is a view of the snow-blanketed La Sal Mountains.

**Photo by Tom Till (www.tomtill.com).**



southern  
utah  
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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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[**Note:** The rock art images on pages 14-15 of the Autumn 2002 issue should have been credited to Stewart Aitchison, Ray Bloxham, Bruce Hucko, and Leslie Scopes.]



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## Redrock Wilderness • Volume 19, Number 3 • Winter 2002-2003

This issue of *Redrock Wilderness* was written by the following staff and outside contributors: Steve Bloch, Bob Brister, Margi Hoffman, Gail Hoskisson, Herb McHarg, Lindsey Oswald, Dave Pacheco, Gerry Vanderbeek, and Larry Young. It was laid out and edited by Diane Kelly and it was proofread by Lindsey Oswald.

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, 1471 South 1100 East, Salt Lake City, UT 84105.

*Redrock Wilderness* is published quarterly. Articles may be reprinted with credit given both to the author(s) and to the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance.

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## wilderness notes

### Looking Ahead to 2003

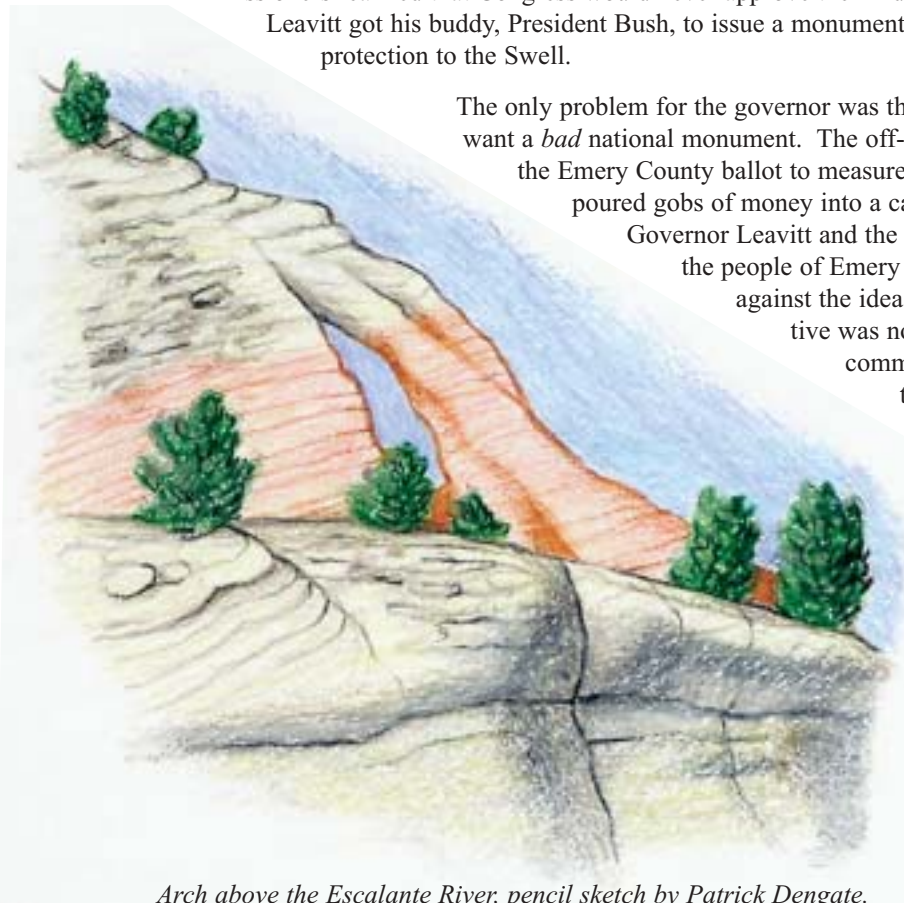
I've been asked by more than one SUWA member how the recent election results will impact our efforts to protect America's redrock wilderness. While we can't know for certain what the coming months will bring, let's take a look at some significant political developments and their implications for the Utah wilderness campaign.

Good news first. The elections and new Congress provide a small silver lining for Utah's redrock country: no more Representative Jim Hansen (R-UT). Long the architect of bad wilderness legislation, Hansen's position as chairman of the House Resources Committee has afforded him great influence in the public lands debate. Fortunately, that power has seldom translated into legislative success, as wilderness activists have invested significant resources to block his numerous bad proposals. Now, with his retirement fast approaching at the end of the 107th Congress, we can celebrate the fact that we've outlasted his political efforts to shortchange Utah's redrock country.

Another election outcome of interest this November was Emery County's ballot initiative on the San Rafael Swell National Monument proposal. On this one, Utah's Governor Mike Leavitt was handed a stinging defeat. You may recall that Leavitt joined forces with Emery County officials in early 2002 to craft a national monument proposal for the San Rafael Swell. Though seemingly innocuous, the proposal was an attempt to circumvent Congress, which had previously defeated two bad National Conservation Area (NCA) proposals for the Swell that were supported by Leavitt and the county commissioners. Leavitt and the commissioners realized that Congress would never approve the kind of bad NCA proposal they really wanted, so Leavitt got his buddy, President Bush, to issue a monument proclamation that offered weak conservation protection to the Swell.

The only problem for the governor was that the people of Emery County didn't even want a *bad* national monument. The off-road vehicle crowd placed an initiative on the Emery County ballot to measure support for the monument idea and then poured gobs of money into a campaign to defeat the initiative. Even with Governor Leavitt and the county campaigning aggressively for the bill, the people of Emery County sided with the ATV crowd and voted against the idea of a national monument. Though the initiative was non-binding, Governor Leavitt and the county commissioners have said that they would live by the results of the county vote.

SUWA's position has always been a skeptical willingness to be involved in the monument planning process. We know that national monuments, when designated in the true spirit of the Antiquities Act, can provide enhanced protection for national treasures like the San Rafael Swell. In this case, however, it was all too clear that the Governor's vision emphasized local control and motorized access in wilderness areas over true resource protection. With the initiative soundly defeated, we can now stop worrying about whether Leavitt and Bush will gut the intent of the Antiquities Act



*Arch above the Escalante River, pencil sketch by Patrick Dengate.*

**Good News!**

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and thrust a lousy national monument proposal onto the American public...at least in the foreseeable future.

The most critical aspect of the recent election for redrock country is how the shift of power in the Senate will impact our efforts. Though the Republicans have regained control of the Senate, our overall legislative strategy remains much the same: over the short run, we will likely continue to see harmful legislative proposals that threaten Utah’s remaining wildlands. Local counties and the Governor will likely initiate these proposals and most members of the Utah delegation will be willing to carry these proposals forward in Congress. A good example in the last Congress was the willingness of Congressmen Cannon and Matheson to support a truly awful San Rafael Swell Land Exchange bill.

As in the past, we will have to rely on bipartisan efforts in both the House and Senate to stop these bad proposals. The current situation largely reflects the congressional landscape we faced from 1995 through 2000, when the Republicans controlled both the House and the Senate. The only difference is that we can’t count on a White House veto if a bad bill clears both chambers of Congress.

The good news is that we didn’t need the presidential veto during the six years when the Republicans controlled both the House and the Senate. In fact, on two occasions, we stood up against the Republican controlled House and Senate as well as the Democratic Department of Interior when Bruce Babbitt cut bad deals with the Utah delegation (an inadequate Basin and Range wilderness bill in 1999 and a bad San Rafael Swell NCA bill in 2000). In both instances we stopped the bills, thanks in large part to strong grassroots support from SUWA members who helped us build a bipartisan coalition of Representatives and Senators who demanded real wilderness protection for these areas.

Whatever legislative difficulties we encounter over the next two years will be augmented by the continued efforts of the Bush/Cheney/Norton team to transform the Department of Interior and Bureau of Land Management into entities that subordinate the long-term protection of America’s redrock wilderness to the pursuit of short-term economic gain (particularly in the form of oil and gas development). Come what may, SUWA’s staff and board are ready as ever to defend the wilderness integrity of lands within America’s Redrock Wilderness Act. We are also confident that we can count on you—our loyal members—to come through when we need you the most. Given the current political landscape, we’ll need you to raise your voices even more when threats to redrock country become imminent.

The staff at SUWA has long been aware that our effectiveness rests upon the grassroots commitment of our members, and SUWA’s history demonstrates that individual citizens really can—and do—make a difference when it comes to public policy debate and the management of our public lands. That’s why we’ve chosen to dedicate this issue of *Redrock Wilderness* to SUWA’s grassroots outreach campaign and the extraordinary activists who make it tick. We hope the following pages illustrate just how heavily we rely on our members and activists, and why your continued involvement really matters. Thanks again for all you do on behalf of Utah wilderness—we’ll need your help more than ever in 2003.

Let’s keep it wild!

—Larry Young

## wilderness 101

# The Biological Value of America's Redrock Wilderness

### The Scientists' Consensus

In 1995, a group of 31 botanists, zoologists, and ecologists presented to Utah's Governor a series of biological guidelines for designating Bureau of Land Management (BLM) wilderness areas in the state. Their Utah-based Committee for Biological Commentary on Utah Wilderness Issues argues that the conservation of biological diversity—the variety of life in a given area—is the most important goal of wilderness preservation. The scientists' recommended conservation strategy, later published in *The Great Basin Naturalist*, advocates the protection of large contiguous wilderness areas to preserve Utah's plant and wildlife species in their native habitats. According to the committee, "Large areas with minimal human intrusion and natural processes reasonably intact are critical elements of an in situ conservation strategy; they provide protection for fragile habitats, like easily eroded soils, and preserve habitat for reclusive species. Moreover, wilderness areas offer natural ecosystems some protection from the biological invasions that have devastated many communities, especially plant communities, across Utah."

### What's at Stake

The lands proposed for wilderness in Utah are home to at least two dozen endangered or sensitive wildlife species that require specialized desert habitats. These include the Gila monster, chuckwalla, and desert tortoise in the hot southwestern corner of Utah, and the bald eagle, peregrine falcon, and endangered native fishes of the Colorado and Green Rivers. An unusually large number of endemic species (those found nowhere else) also occur throughout Utah. This is due to the region's great diversity of habitats

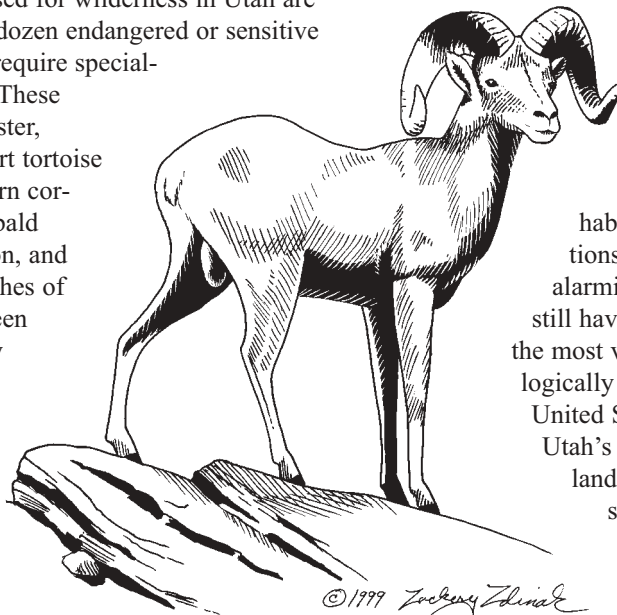
which range from rivers, rocky cliffs, and isolated mesas to sand dunes, upland forests, and alpine tundra. Utah's Great Basin mountains, isolated by salt flats and ancient glacial lakes, are home to numerous endemic species including the Bonneville cutthroat trout.

Wilderness designation helps protect these "at risk" species as well as animals that are sensitive to human disturbance. Many bird and mammal species found in wilderness are intolerant of excessive human intrusion, especially during nesting, birthing, and denning times. Wilderness provides a safe haven for large mammals such as the bighorn sheep, elk, bison, mountain lion, and antelope, all of which are found on Utah's BLM lands.

Scientists estimate that 180 of Utah's plant species are currently classified by federal or state agencies as endangered, threatened, or sensitive. A majority of these "definitely or probably" occur on BLM lands and many are narrow endemics. Livestock grazing and irresponsible off-road vehicle use can have especially devastating effects on plant communities. Although wilderness designation does not reduce existing levels of livestock grazing, the restrictions it places on road construction, mining, forest chaining, and off-road vehicle use provide critical protection to Utah's native flora.

### The Big Picture

In recent decades, global habitat loss and species extinctions have accelerated at an alarming rate. Here in Utah, we still have a chance to preserve one of the most visually spectacular and biologically important regions in the United States. Federal protection of Utah's remaining BLM wilderness lands can play a crucial role in safeguarding sensitive species and preserving Utah's unique biological heritage for generations to come.



## features

# Rallying the Troops Wilderness Activism and the Art of Grassroots Organizing

### grass roots

pl. n. (used with a sing. or pl. verb) 1: People or society at a local level rather than at the center of major political activity; 2: The groundwork or source of something.

Each issue of *Redrock Wilderness* highlights a central theme in the work we do here at SUWA. Typically, it's a critical threat we're fighting, such as mining, oil & gas development, or off-road vehicle abuse; other times, it's an important wilderness value, such as the preservation of open space or the protection of cultural resources. Regardless of the theme, every issue includes a section we call "Grassroots Network," which showcases the work of our grassroots staff and the citizen activists at the heart of our wilderness campaign. Recognizing that grassroots outreach and activism are, and always have been, the very foundation of SUWA's work, we've chosen to dedicate the feature section of this issue to our multi-faceted grassroots program. As a complement to our summer 2000 issue on individual activists, this edition focuses on our network of citizen activists in Utah and across the country, providing an in-depth look at the vital role of the grassroots in SUWA's ongoing efforts to protect Utah wilderness.

### WHAT IS THE GRASSROOTS?

In simple terms, the grassroots are *you*, the people, the base of support in a movement for social or environmental change. As SUWA seeks permanent protection for America's redrock wilderness, it is you—the grassroots—who are the bridge between that vision and its eventual reality.

Permanent protection of Utah's spectacular desert wild lands is best achieved through passage of America's Redrock Wilderness Act, a bill to designate over 9 million acres in Utah as federal Wilderness. As we make strides toward this long-term vision, we are constantly battling development projects that threaten the integrity and naturalness of these areas. At the same time, we must also fend off legislation that seeks to undermine, lessen, or lowball language set forth in America's Redrock Wilderness Act and the original Wilderness Act of

1964. In all of these efforts, grassroots involvement is essential.

As many of you know, grassroots work is far from glamorous and the rewards are rarely immediate. History has shown time and time again that the key factors in a successful grassroots campaign are passion and persistence—and the more of each, the better. It took activists in the women's suffrage movement seven decades to ratify the Nineteenth Amendment, giving women the right to vote. Today, who would deny that their historic achievement was well worth the arduous, uphill battle?

Thankfully, it doesn't take decades to win significant incremental victories in the Utah wilderness debate. Over the years, citizens like you have been key in preventing wanton (or in some cases unwitting) destruction of wild lands as you have spoken out against various development projects reviewed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). And, of course, our old nemesis Rep. Jim Hansen (R-UT) and other Utah politicians have made a career out of pushing various "wilder-less" bills on their colleagues in Congress. Let there be no doubt about it: you have been instrumental in preventing their precedent-setting lousy proposals from becoming law (see page 18 for the latest example).

### TURNING THE TIDE

We feel the Utah wilderness movement is at a significant crossroads in terms of gathering national political steam, and this offers us a truly unique grassroots opportunity. For the last eight years, Rep. Hansen has controlled key committees with jurisdiction on wilderness issues in the U.S. House of Representatives. Consequently, he has not allowed debate on America's Redrock Wilderness Act, instead holding the bill hostage while promoting his own anti-wilderness agenda. Now that Hansen is retiring, he'll no longer be a roadblock in

## features

the Utah wilderness campaign. More than ever before, this is the perfect time for those of you who've been supportive of our cause, but have not been involved in grassroots activism, to get involved. Without the deflective barrier of Mr. Hansen in place, your voice will have a greater impact in the halls of Congress.

### OUR GRASSROOTS STAFF AND WHAT WE DO

SUWA employs three full time staff whose main duty is to educate our members and the general public about issues concerning Utah wilderness. In our Salt Lake City office, Outreach Associates Bob Brister and Margi Hoffmann undertake day-to-day organizing tasks on many fronts. In our Washington, DC office, National Outreach Director Dave Pacheco supervises grassroots outreach efforts and directs the activities of our small team. These three organizers, with help from our Utah Wilderness Coalition (UWC) partner, Ken Venables, carry out the myriad tasks outlined below and detailed in subsequent sections.



Margi Hoffmann

**Margi Hoffmann** came to SUWA after graduating from Lewis & Clark College in late 2001. Having already served a Washington, DC internship with SUWA in 1999, she had a proven record by the time we hired her full-time. Margi coordinates student education and outreach programs, often teaming up with campus environmental organizations to cultivate the next generation of Utah wilderness activists. Among her current projects, Margi is coordinating an upcoming National Day of Action for Utah wilderness on Earth Day 2003, working closely with allies in the Sierra Student Coalition, staffing campus tables along with Utah Wilderness Coalition (UWC) partner groups, and matching student groups with our touring slideshow program. Margi also oversees newsletter distribution to local and out-of-state businesses, and she is our lead phone bank coordinator, our lead coordinator of Utah-based organizing, and our Utah outreach event coordinator. On top of all that, she's now taking lead on keeping SUWA's web activism tools updated and accurate. Margi's short time with SUWA has already proven her invaluable! She can be reached at (801) 486-7639 x20 or [margi@suwa.org](mailto:margi@suwa.org).

**Bob Brister** has worked on environmental campaigns, as well as peace and social justice campaigns, for well over 20 years. Having worked on

public lands conservation campaigns in California and Arizona, he brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our staff. Bob's primary mission has been to take our travelling slideshow program, *Wild Utah: America's Redrock Wilderness*, to a new level. Since Bob's arrival in the winter of 2001, he's done an outstanding job of bringing our message to citizens in over 20 states all across the country. While on the road (roughly 50-75 percent of the time), Bob educates the masses, recruits new activists and organizations into the Utah wilderness movement, coordinates with UWC partner groups in Utah and state activist groups nationwide, and instigates letter writing campaigns in key areas.



Bob Brister

When Bob's not on the road, he has been integral in managing our phone bank efforts, coordinating grassroots events in Utah, managing day-to-day activities of the canvass, recruiting activists and volunteers at various public events throughout Utah, and, of course, scheduling and promoting his own upcoming tours. To find out if Bob will be visiting your area with our *Wild Utah* program, go to [www.suwa.org](http://www.suwa.org) and click on Events/Slideshow Tour. Contact Bob at (801) 486-7639 x12 or [bob@suwa.org](mailto:bob@suwa.org) to find out if a show can be scheduled in your area.

**Dave Pacheco's** role with SUWA has evolved over time. A native of Salt Lake City, Dave started up SUWA's canvassing program in 1994 and developed it into a major public outreach campaign. Over the years, he has coordinated Utah outreach and activist events, SUWA's slideshow tours, and various national activist events. Currently, Dave works closely with the UWC organizer and UWC partner groups to coordinate the volunteer work of our nationwide state activist group network. He also assists SUWA's Washington Representative, supervises outreach staff activities, writes and edits



Dave Pacheco



## features

SUWA email alerts, and budgets and plans yearly outreach and education strategy. Dave can be reached at (202) 546-2215 or [dave@suwa.org](mailto:dave@suwa.org).

Another key player in our grassroots efforts is **Ken Venables** of the Utah Wilderness Coalition. Ken is the sole staff person of the UWC and performs a variety of functions pertaining to its mission of protecting wilderness values on Utah's BLM lands. The coalition itself functions as the primary mechanism for communication and consensus building among its 240+ member organizations. It also fulfills an organizing role when activities transcend the available resources of an individual member organization. The UWC is a vehicle through which citizens and established groups can organize themselves towards their greater goal of

protecting redrock wilderness. Specifically, Ken coordinates the volunteer work of our nationwide state activist group network, recruits new member organizations to the coalition, fosters communication within and between coalition partner groups, organizes coalition level events and grassroots activities, and manages a myriad of related day-to-day interactions with the interested public.

On the following pages we offer you a more in-depth look at each of the grassroots activities mentioned above together with information on how you can get involved. Along the way, you'll come to know some of the extraordinary grassroots activists who have really made a difference in the campaign to save America's redrock wilderness!



**N**othing is more powerful than an individual acting out their conscience, thus helping bring the collective conscience to life.

—Norman Cousins

#### WILDERNESS WEEK

Once or twice a year, SUWA and its Utah Wilderness Coalition partners host an activist training event in Washington, DC, known as Wilderness Week. Citizens from Utah and across the country spend several days away from their jobs and families to learn more about Utah wilderness issues, meet their elected officials in Congress, and engage in the democratic process. After a full-day training session, these volunteer activists visit congressional offices to educate legislators about America's Redrock Wilderness Act. The event offers a wonderful learning experience and, for many, it is an important stepping stone to becoming more politically active and personally engaged in the wilderness cause.

Wilderness Week directly aids the movement by raising awareness of Utah wilderness on Capitol Hill and demonstrating wide public support for its protection. On issues like this one, ordinary citizens speaking intelligently from personal experience and genuinely from the heart are more powerful and effective than a herd of paid lobbyists. And because participants are each given a bright yellow "Protect Wild Utah" button to wear during the week, the group leaves a lasting impression on Capitol Hill. Comments like "Those yellow button

people are back, there must be hundreds of them," have been overheard in the halls of Congress.

Two shining examples of these "yellow button people" are Dave and Peggy Peterson who reside in Layton, Utah. Typical of the kinds of people we



*Dave and Peggy Peterson in Crack Canyon WSA.*

## features

recruit for Wilderness Week, Dave and Peggy came to DC in March of 2002 as long-time lovers of redrock canyon country. Though they supported our cause whole-heartedly, they weren't particularly activist-oriented. An energetic midlife couple with long Utah roots, Dave and Peggy honeymooned in redrock country 13 years ago and were instantly hooked. While Peggy works as a Registered Nurse delivering babies at a northern Utah hospital, Dave is enjoying retirement after a long career in sales and marketing. Interestingly, they were also next door neighbors to Utah's notoriously anti-wilderness congressman, Jim Hansen, for 15 years! When our Wilderness Week entourage stepped into his office, the look on Mr. Hansen's face was nothing short of astonishment. "Dave my old friend," he said, "What are you doing here?" With a firm handshake, Dave replied, "I'm fighting for wilderness, Jim." Dave and Peggy Peterson really stepped up to the plate for Utah wilderness that day, and they remain active supporters of the cause.

We usually conduct Wilderness Week once in late February and again in mid-September. If you're interested in participating and would like more details, please contact Dave Pacheco at (202) 546-2215 or [dave@suwa.org](mailto:dave@suwa.org).

### STATE ACTIVIST GROUPS

SUWA works closely with our Utah Wilderness Coalition partners to organize grassroots support for protecting Utah's spectacular wild lands. One very effective example of this grassroots support is our growing network of state activist groups.

Based on the premise that "all politics is local," several years ago three Utah wilderness fans in California founded a group called Californians for Utah Wilderness (a.k.a. CalUWild) so they could offer a unified volunteer voice for redrock country in their state. Similar efforts have now been launched in 24 other states across the nation. From Maine to California, these independent organizations urge their members of Congress to both co-sponsor America's Redrock Wilderness Act and to fight off bad legislation that would adversely affect Utah wilderness.



*Mike Painter, wilderness activist extraordinaire and co-founder of Californians for Utah Wilderness.*

While legislators in other states do not have to pay particular attention to the interests of Utah conservationists, they do care about what their own constituents think. That's precisely the value of the state activist groups—they demonstrate that people all across the country care about America's redrock wilderness and want to see it permanently protected.

Though there are many stars among our network of state activist groups, Mike Painter stands out as a champion advocate and state activist pioneer. Mike first fell in love with redrock country when he visited Utah in 1986 while waiting for his bar exam results. Many years later, at an event for the California Wilderness Coalition, Mike ran into Keith Hammond, a fellow desert rat and Utah wilderness activist whom he recognized from a recent BLM open house on the management of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. Recognizing their shared passion, Mike and Keith (who was later hired for a two-year term as SUWA's Washington, DC director) teamed up with San Francisco activist Vicky Hoover, and the three of them formed CalUWild in 1996.

Knowing that many Californians regularly visit southern Utah for escape and solitude, they were sure a little organizing in their state could make a big difference in the fight to protect Utah wilderness. They were right: CalUWild hit pay-dirt early in its campaign when Senator Diane Feinstein responded to relentless letter writing and office visits by cosponsoring America's Redrock Wilderness

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

Act in the 106th Congress. To date, the bill has 27 cosponsors in the California delegation.

Six years after co-founding CalUWild, Mike remains at the helm of the organization and has taken on wilderness issues West-wide. When he's not writing comments on proposed projects, Mike spends his time manning information tables on Utah wilderness at California events and conferences, writing letters to the editor, dogging decision-makers at town hall meetings, travelling to Washington, DC at least once a year, and of course, hiking in southern Utah whenever he gets the chance.

Under Mike's leadership, CalUWild has grown into a great example of how successful state activist groups can be. Now, Florida Friends of Utah Wilderness, Mainers for Utah Wilderness, Michigan Friends of the Redrocks, and many others are joining forces across the country. These affiliations of like-minded people forming ad hoc groups have been extremely helpful in nationalizing the Utah wilderness issue. All but one of the state groups are strictly volunteer organizations that don't take regular dues but could use your help as an occasional volunteer.

To find out if there is a state activist group up and running in your state, go to <http://www.uwcoalition.org/getinvolved/grassroots/groups.html#contact>. To get involved in your state activist group, or to get one started, contact Ken Venables at the Utah Wilderness Coalition: (801) 486-2872 or [wildutah@xmission.com](mailto:wildutah@xmission.com).

### SLIDESHOW TOUR

Each time SUWA's inimitable Bob Brister rolls into a far away town, folks may ask themselves, "Why is this guy with a southern accent here in the Midwest talking about Utah wilderness?" Bob works on the road a lot, bringing the good word about Utah wilderness to far off corners of the country with our travelling slideshow, *Wild Utah: America's Redrock Wilderness*. You may have wondered why he goes to places like the Olympic Peninsula of Washington State, the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, or the Gulf Coast of Mississippi. Actually, there is reason behind the seemingly scattered pattern of our slideshow presentations.

SUWA and other members of the Utah Wilderness Coalition (UWC) hope to one day witness congressional passage of America's Redrock Wilderness Act. In the meantime, we work hard to protect Utah's remaining wilderness lands from agency mismanagement and anti-wilderness legislation proffered by the likes of Rep. Hansen. To meet these challenges, SUWA continues to nationalize the fight for wild Utah by taking our slideshow to targeted congressional districts around the country, identifying and educating individuals who are interested in the issue, and teaching them how to take action. Generally, we look for districts where the member of Congress is not yet a cosponsor of America's Redrock Wilderness Act, but could be persuaded by requests from constituents. These legislators span the political spectrum and include Republicans, Democrats and Independents.

## State Activist Training

To keep things on the exciting side, every year the Utah Wilderness Coalition (UWC) brings together leaders of the various state activist groups so they can spend some time in our proposed wilderness areas and learn new organizing skills. This past August, the UWC brought a dozen state activist group leaders from around the country to the Escalante region of Utah for a week of hiking and activist training workshops. At our campsite by Posey Lake in the Dixie National Forest, we helped activists develop work plans, discussed organizing ideas and obstacles, and got in some fantastic hiking along rivers and in nearly impassable slot canyons. Who says grassroots training has to be all drudgery?

Special thanks go out to Ken Venables of the UWC for pulling the week together, and to Wild Hare Expeditions for their excellent catering of the event. We anticipate holding a similar event next summer, so stay tuned!

## features

### An Open Letter to SUWA's Executive Director:

Dear Larry,

Last night Bob Brister presented the *Wild Utah* program at our regular Sierra Club monthly meeting in Ann Arbor. In the 12 years I've been the chair of this Sierra Club group we've had many excellent programs including ones featuring a charismatic member of Congress, prestigious University of Michigan faculty, and several terrific speakers doing national tours on topics equivalent to Wild Utah. Of these 140 or so programs, Bob's was one of the very best.

The slideshow is excellent. Bob added a well-designed program and an excellent stage presence. The postcard mailing to local residents to promote the meetings yielded quite a few people. We typically get 50 to 70 people at our weekday evening events—Bob drew at the top end of this range. My sample of audience feedback was very positive. I saw a thick stack of yellow SUWA sign-up cards returned, and another thick stack (I'm told about 75) of postcards addressed to our targeted political representatives. Your Wild Utah article that we're about to print in our newsletter, mailed to over 3,000 members, will generate some more.

We're glad to have hosted Bob and *Wild Utah*. From our point of view, the program was a great success. If you plan a tour our way again in future years, I'd be pleased to hear from you.

Doug Cowherd  
Co-chair, Sierra Club-Huron Valley Group  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Most often we ask a local Sierra Club group, Audubon Society chapter, campus environmental group, or nature center to host the slideshow. Typically, our audiences are already interested in environmental issues, but they just don't know the details of the Utah wilderness debate or what they can do to help. By identifying potential activists at tour stops, we build local support in communities across the country.

At every slideshow event, we add interested citizens to the UWC action alert mailing list and ask them to write postcards to their member of Congress, requesting cosponsorship of America's Redrock Wilderness Act. We also encourage Utah wilderness enthusiasts to join a state activist group or start one in their local area.

We've taken our slideshow around the country since 1993, and we'll continue to take the good word about Utah wilderness to the far reaches of our land for the foreseeable future. If you would like to host or help organize the slideshow tour should we come through your area, contact Bob Brister at [bob@suwa.org](mailto:bob@suwa.org) or Dave Pacheco at [dave@suwa.org](mailto:dave@suwa.org). To see if your town is on our current tour schedule, go to [www.suwa.org](http://www.suwa.org), and click on Events/Slideshow Tour.

### EMAIL ALERT

Many SUWA members are also subscribers to our periodic email alerts. Originally used back in 1996 to keep a handful of activists up-to-date on important issues, the electronic alerts are now distributed to around 9,000 subscribers worldwide and have become an indispensable part of our grass-roots outreach program.

The purpose of the alert has always remained the same: we aim to keep you informed in a timely manner, to educate you on important issues pertaining to Utah wilderness, and to provide you with an avenue for action when necessary. Email alerts also save us the tremendous costs and resources associated with sending paper alerts through the regular mail system.

We understand that many of you have busy lives and crowded inboxes, so we try to keep our postings to a minimum. Subscribers can expect roughly 2-4 messages a month. If you have an email address and are not already a subscriber, simply send a message to [subscribeme@suwa.org](mailto:subscribeme@suwa.org) from the address you want subscribed. It's easy, it's free, and we don't sell or trade our email lists to anyone!

## features

### STUDENT ACTIVISTS

In the last six months, we have worked hard to network with Utah wilderness warriors on college and high school campuses nationwide. Student group leaders and activists range anywhere from 15 to 22 years old, providing energy, creativity, and new strategies for protecting wilderness (and continuing to teach us old dogs new tricks). This has proven vital to all of our campaigns, from on-the-ground threats here in Utah to the legislative front in Congress.

Student activism also brings the immense ability to mobilize a huge number of people in a single day. Students on high school and college campuses have access to common areas, quads, cafeterias, dorms, and other highly trafficked areas where they can set up tables and generate hundreds upon hundreds of phone calls and letters to Congress at the drop of a hat (or, more precisely, at the drop of a bad piece of wilderness legislation). While it once took us a couple of days to put together a phone bank, it now takes just a couple of phone calls to get the ball rolling here in Utah and across the country!



*Student activist Chaitna Sinha got involved in Utah wilderness issues as an undergraduate and still fits grassroots organizing into her busy law school schedule.*

Working in tandem with grassroots activists in Salt Lake and Washington, DC, as well as Utah Wilderness Coalition state activist groups, students have helped push the Utah wilderness movement to the next level. SUWA commends them for their tireless efforts, which never cease to amaze and inspire our grassroots team. Although we don't have the space to highlight every student who has worked hard on the Utah wilderness campaign, we include here several outstanding examples, both in and out of state.

Lewis and Clark students Kyra Stehwein-Smith (undergraduate and new Utah wilderness warrior) and Chaitna Sinha (Law School student, veteran activist, and native of Utah) are responsible for reigniting the Wild Utah fire in Oregon. Since September 1, 2002, they have recruited upwards of 250 activists (networking three colleges and one high school in their state) and helped organize America's Redrock Wilderness National Day of Action, establishing a constant voice of advocacy for Utah wilderness in the state of Oregon. Somehow, they've managed to squeeze campaign planning sessions in between Kyra's long hours of painting in the studio and Chaitna's late-nights pouring over NEPA and contract law.

When we asked Kyra why she spends her free time fighting for wildlands in a faraway state, she explained, "Redrock land is land that needs attention and devotion, and since I am in a position where I can teach people, I'm doing so. Creating active awareness about environmental issues is today's justice revolution."

If you live in Oregon and would like to get involved with Oregonians for Utah Wilderness, contact Kyra at [kms@lclark.edu](mailto:kms@lclark.edu) or Chaitna at [chaitnasinha@hotmail.com](mailto:chaitnasinha@hotmail.com).

Here in Utah, Ross Peterson, co-president of the University of Utah's student environmental group, Terra Firma, has worked extremely hard to bring the Utah wilderness campaign back to Utah schools this year. His tireless efforts drafting cam-



*Between her Art and Literature classes, Kyra Stehwein-Smith helps spearhead the successful state activist group, Oregonians for Utah Wilderness.*

## features



*A student in Urban Planning at the University of Utah, Ross Peterson spreads his enthusiasm for redrock wilderness—and his activist zeal—to campuses statewide.*

paign plans, recruiting student activists, and organizing National Days of Action (including activities such as pounding 600 stakes in the shape of Utah into the university's Free Speech Zone, and generating hundreds of phone calls and letters to Utah Representative Jim Matheson) have really raised awareness of our cause.

Ross has stepped up not only as a leader on his own campus, but also as a voice calling for statewide student involvement in the Utah wilderness movement. As to what motivates his hard work, Ross says, "I am beginning to realize that my role in our community is dynamic: everything that I do effects change in one way or another. Why not put all my efforts—orient my entire life—toward the kind of change that I want to see?" If you're a Utah student and would like to get more involved in Utah wilderness issues on your campus, contact Ross via email a [trcp4@utah.edu](mailto:trcp4@utah.edu).

### NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

About four times a year, we fill the women's bathroom in our Salt Lake City office with stacks of white boxes containing thousands of copies of the latest newsletter edition. These are the copies reserved for our devoted newsletter distributors who help us get the word out to non-members throughout the state and across the country.

Within a week of receiving the newsletter shipment, we label roughly thirty boxes for our Salt Lake City-based superstar volunteers, who promptly pick up their boxes and deliver *Redrock Wilderness* to all the coffee houses, public libraries, outdoor stores, and other receptive locations along the Wasatch Front. We also box up and ship out another couple thousand newsletters to businesses and individual volunteers across the country who disseminate copies of *Redrock Wilderness* in their local areas.

Why is newsletter distribution so vital to SUWA's grassroots efforts? Consider the story of a California man who spotted our newsletter in a free periodicals rack at a local convenience store. Sometime later, we got a letter in the mail with a check from a new member in California. The same man had taken the time to read through our newsletter, was inspired by what he read, and not only joined SUWA but took the time to write us a personal letter.

SUWA's newsletter distribution program is critical to reaching new people and expanding our circle of support. Once again, our network of dedicated grassroots activists helps us accomplish a feat we could not do alone.

### PARK TABLING

Every few summers, when resources and staff time allow, SUWA conducts an outreach project that targets an important subset of the general public—the southern Utah tourist. Each year, millions of visitors travel to Utah's world renowned national parks—most notably Arches, Canyonlands, and Zion—providing us an opportunity to educate and organize interested citizens just as they are personally experiencing the magic of these unique redrock landscapes.

Unbeknownst to most parks visitors, many of the stunning vistas they see are not included within the park's boundaries. These lands are managed

instead by the BLM—an agency with a much less stringent mandate for resource protection. What this means, unfortunately, is that the photogenic backdrops of Utah's most beloved national parks are extremely vulnerable to both commercial development and the ravages of motorized recreation. In fact, ORV use is at an all-time high in Utah's backcountry and the BLM is handing out oil and gas leases faster than ever before.

That's where grassroots outreach comes in. SUWA places an information table at the park visitor's centers to educate and organize those citizens who are concerned about protecting the spectacular BLM lands surrounding and linking their favorite parks. By designating these lands as wilderness, we can protect Utah's world-class scenic vistas and create large, unbroken corridors of wildlife habitat that extend far beyond arbitrary boundary lines on a map.

The next time you're visiting Utah's national parks, look for one of our information tables, pick up a Wild Utah button, and help us spread the word!

#### SERVICE PROJECTS

Over the past few years, SUWA and the Utah Wilderness Coalition (UWC) have literally taken land management matters into their own hands by providing the BLM with weekend volunteers to help control irresponsible off-road vehicle (ORV) use on Utah's public lands. Projects generally involve erecting fences or natural barriers to limit ORV traffic to established routes, and to prevent trail braiding and the proliferation of spur routes across sensitive lands.

In each case, SUWA's Wilderness Inventory Coordinator, Ray Bloxham, helps the BLM identify problem areas where ORV users are pioneering new trails and harming fragile desert soils, plants, and animals. Volunteers are then recruited for each selected site, and BLM field offices provide the materials and supervisory staff. It's a model of cooperation between the agency and concerned public that transcends bureaucratic excuses (mainly budget and staffing limitations) to get an important job done.

Best of all, the finished barriers have proven quite effective at communicating to ORV users exactly where they can and cannot ride their machines in Utah's backcountry—a clarification

## Building a Movement

Utah wilderness activists have always gone the extra mile when it comes to protecting the unparalleled landscapes of America's redrock wilderness. In the early days, two massive undertakings had hundreds of activists lacing up their boots, pulling out their cameras, and sharpening their pencils and their map reading skills. Their collective efforts helped shape the future of the Utah wilderness movement by building a national grassroots campaign quite literally from the ground up.



Outraged by an abysmal Utah wilderness inventory released by the BLM in 1980, citizen activists took on the enormous task of inventorying all of Utah's remaining BLM wilderness lands themselves. In 1990, their findings were published in a document entitled *Wilderness at the Edge: A Citizen Proposal to Protect Utah's Canyons and Deserts*. Several years later, with more time and resources at their disposal, Utah wilderness activists re-evaluated the inventory, made boundary adjustments based on new impacts, and added newly identified wilderness-quality lands to their citizens' proposal. In the end, more than 500 volunteers had taken over 50,000 photographs and spent thousands of hours in the field to produce the most comprehensive inventory of BLM lands ever conducted (for more on this history, see Autumn 2002 issue, p. 6). Their laborious efforts are now embodied in America's Redrock Wilderness Act, a bill before the U.S. House and Senate.

While the second citizens' inventory was underway, more than 400 volunteers simultaneously donated over 20,000 hours of their time to field-check and document spurious R.S. 2477 road claims asserted by anti-wilderness interests in an attempt to disqualify lands from wilderness consideration. After long hours of meticulous fieldwork, volunteers developed photographs at their own expense and wrote up detailed field notes on the condition of claimed routes. The fieldwork was then collated into sixty thick binders that document a preponderance of bogus claims—many of them nothing more than cow paths, streambeds, or overgrown two-tracks leading nowhere. This documentation has proved invaluable in R.S. 2477 cases against southern Utah counties, including our pivotal win in the U.S. District Court on June 25, 2001 (see Autumn 2001 issue, p. 19).

SUWA and the Utah Wilderness Coalition (UWC) are indebted to the citizen conservationists who laid the groundwork for America's Redrock Wilderness Act. Indeed, it is the extraordinary energy and commitment of our activist community that continue to make our work possible.

## features



*Volunteer activities, like this fence-building project in the San Rafael Swell, provide a model of cooperation between citizen activists and land management agencies.*

welcomed by responsible riders. On one particular project, organized ORV groups actually worked side-by-side with us to erect the fences. As ironic as it sounds, we learned that building fences together is sometimes what it takes to break down the barriers between opposing groups.

So far, projects have been limited mainly to the San Rafael Swell region, which currently suffers some of the most severe ORV pressures.

**The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.**  
—Martin Luther King Jr.

These projects have been located in Temple Wash, Farnsworth Canyon, Iron Wash, Straight Wash, and Old Woman Wash. Once the BLM formally adopts a Route Designation Plan, which specifies the location of all official ORV routes, our work will really be cut out for us! Keep your eye out for future project announcements.

In addition to helping organize UWC service projects, SUWA staff members occasionally team up with Wilderness Volunteers, a non-profit organization created in 1997 “to organize and promote volunteer service to America’s wild lands.” Wilderness Volunteers is a shining example of how

public involvement can help agencies struggling with huge projects on limited budgets. In Utah each year, Wilderness Volunteers offers trips in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, and the Grand Gulch Primitive Area (see page 29 for information on 2003 trips). These trips are high quality, yet affordable. To learn more about this organization, visit [www.wildernessvolunteers.org](http://www.wildernessvolunteers.org).

### PHONE BANKING

Many of you have joined us for a Salt Lake City phone bank. You come into the office around 6pm, grab a ruler and phone script, sit through a brief update of the issues we are fighting, and then you are off to the races! At around 9pm you turn in your phone sheets and head out the door, never really knowing exactly how effective and invaluable your night of phone banking was. Well, let us tell you an exciting story about phone banking to pat you on the back for a job well done!

Earlier this year we were phone banking to fight Representative Hansen’s Title XIV, the anti-wilderness provision he attached to the Defense Authorization Act. We hit the ground running with an eight week phone bank, filling Sunday through Thursday nights with volunteers dedicated to stopping Hansen in his tracks. We phoned SUWA members all across the country, asking them to call key senators and representatives and tell them, “Just say no to Title XIV!”

One day, our Washington, DC representative, Gail Hoskisson, went to meet with Senator Bingaman’s (D-NM) staff to discuss not only Title XIV, but all of the anti-environmental inclusions in the Defense Appropriations bill. Gail was seated around a table with Senator Bingaman’s legislative aide in charge of environmental and defense issues, as well as staffers from Defenders of Wildlife, the National Wildlife Federation, and other large national organizations.

At the beginning of the meeting, Senator Bingaman’s legislative aide asked everyone if it would be alright if the Senator’s legislative corre-



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

spondent (the staffer who answers all of his constituent's phone calls and letters) could sit in on the meeting with them. His legislative correspondent needed to be briefed on the issues at hand so she would be able to correctly answer constituent mail. At this point, someone asked her what issues she had been hearing about. She responded without hesitation: "Representative Hansen's Title XIV.!"

Later on, Senator Bingaman sat in a conference committee meeting for an hour and a half, waiting for his chance to speak (senators very rarely sit anywhere for an hour and a half, unless they absolutely feel that they have to). When it was finally his turn, he stood up and told members of the Defense Conference Committee that Representative Hansen's Title XIV should receive a proper hearing in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, where it rightly belonged as a public lands issue.

What led Senator Bingaman himself speak so emphatically on the subject of Title XIV? The answer is simple: earlier in the week, phone bank

volunteers in SUWA's Salt Lake City office, together with a sizable number of our members who are always ready and willing to express their opinions to Congress, generated well over 800 phone calls to Senator Bingaman's office. In the face of such public interest, he could hardly ignore the matter.

Phone banking is one of the most effective components of SUWA's grassroots campaign, as it gives us the ability to reach our members at critical times when their voices are needed the most. It is also the quickest way for our volunteers to reach out to members across the country, creating an effective network of Utah wilderness warriors all fighting a single issue at the same time. We thank our dedicated phone bank volunteers as well as our steadfast members who always call their legislators when we ask them to!

Remember, SUWA never calls its members for fundraising purposes; if you get a call from us, it's always concerning an urgent Utah wilderness issue or upcoming grassroots event.

## CANVASS TURNS A CORNER

Long-time SUWA members may recall that we started our door-to-door community outreach canvass program back in 1994. Every summer since, for about three months a year, we've sent waves of enthusiastic young activists through neighborhoods along the Wasatch Front to organize local support for Utah wilderness. While the canvass continues to function as an outreach, education, activism, and membership building tool, 2003 will see a new twist to this tried and true activity.

Having worked successfully for several years with our partners at the Fund for Public Interest Research, SUWA is bringing management of the canvass operation back under our own roof. By running the operation ourselves, we expect the program to be more cost-effective, more flexible, and operational year-round.

One of the big advantages of this change is that we'll now be able to send our small crew of dedicated canvassers to more locations around the Intermountain West, expanding our outreach to a greater number of communities where Utah wilderness enthusiasts live. What this means is that we'll be coming through towns in western Colorado, northern Arizona, northern New Mexico, southern Nevada, southern Idaho, and southern Utah. And, of course, we'll continue to make our annual rounds through Wasatch Front communities as well.

To keep costs down, we'll be seeking floor space, a spare room, an empty house, or just about any living arrangement for around a week at a time that will prevent us from having to pay for motel rooms. If you live in these areas and are in a position to help out in this way (or if you have a friend who can help), please contact Dave Pacheco at (202) 546-2215, [dave@suwa.org](mailto:dave@suwa.org) or Margi Hoffman at (801) 486-7639 x20, [margi@suwa.org](mailto:margi@suwa.org). Hope to see you at your doorstep soon!

## DC news

Good  
News!

# Title XIV Goes Down in Congress!

Congratulations Utah wilderness activists! At about 7pm on November 12th, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to approve the Defense Authorization Conference Report in full—minus the offending Title XIV provision! Debate was heard on the conference report, including a speech from retiring Utah Representative Jim Hansen (R), in which he confirmed that his controversial anti-wilderness provision was not in the final version approved by the conferees. While still awaiting final Senate approval and the President's signature, Title XIV is effectively dead.

### Background

As reported in the last issue of *Redrock Wilderness*, Mr. Hansen broke all committee protocol and quietly slipped Title XIV, an anti-wilderness provision targeting western Utah, into the massive (and entirely unrelated) Defense Authorization Act. Hansen justified this unorthodox action by claiming that environmental encroachment by wilderness designation was the single biggest threat to the ongoing operations of Hill Air Force Base and the Utah Test and Training Range (UTTR). "Fact sheets" provided by the congressman conveniently omit the simple truth that Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) have existed under UTTR airspace for 20 years without conflict.

Although Title XIV would have designated almost 500,000 acres of so-called wilderness, it also gave the Defense Department unprecedented authority to construct new and unrestricted on-the-ground facilities in designated wilderness areas and to unilaterally close public access to these lands. On top of that, Title XIV explicitly denied a federal water right necessary to protect wildlife and other natural resources, and it released hundreds of thousands of acres from the BLM's Wilderness Study Area evaluation process. Touted unconvincingly as a matter of national security, Title XIV was really nothing more than an attempt to minimize wilderness in Utah's Great Basin and to weaken protections provided by the 1964 Wilderness Act.

Despite these egregious problems, the House of Representatives passed its version of the

Defense Authorization Act—Title XIV and all—in the wee hours of the morning on May 10, 2002 (for more detail on how Title XIV found its way into the House version, see Autumn 2002 issue, page 20). The Senate passed its version, which did not contain the anti-wilderness UTTR provision, on June 27, 2002. From there, both versions of the bill moved to a joint House-Senate Conference, where differences between the bills could be resolved. Since Jim Hansen is the third ranking member of the House Armed Services Committee, Title XIV looked like a slam-dunk.

Fortunately, pressure from SUWA members and our partner groups in the Utah Wilderness Coalition prevented the UTTR provision from slipping quietly through the conference committee, unnoticed amidst talk of new stealth aircraft and missile defense issues. In fact, quite the opposite occurred: Title XIV became so controversial that it was one of only two provisions in the Defense Authorization Act that remained unresolved when Congress recessed for elections in late October.

### A Shared Victory

SUWA extends sincere thanks to all our members who helped expose Title XIV for what it really was—an unprecedented and unnecessary attack on the Wilderness Act, and on Utah wilderness in particular. Each and every one of you helped make this victory possible. Your rounds of phone calls, your emails, your letters, your financial support, and your vigilance are what made this obscure provision such a controversial issue in Congress.

Additional kudos go out to Utah Wilderness Coalition members and groups, especially our UWC partners at the Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society, and the Natural Resources Defense Council. Our heartfelt gratitude also goes out to the various groups, most notably Daily Communications, who participated in the campaign, making lists available and sharing the workload to thwart this terrible bill.

Last but not least, we thank the congressional heroes who helped defeat Title XIV, many of whom were angered by Hansen's overreaching provision

and underhanded tactics. Sometimes represented in the Utah press as "brilliant" and "sneaky," these very tactics made so many enemies on both the House and Senate sides that the Conference Committee ultimately could not swallow this poison pill. Conferees like Ranking Armed Services Committee Representative Ike Skelton (D-MO) maintained until the very end that this provision was inserted unfairly in committee mark-up. Equally miffed, Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) asserted his jurisdiction over wilderness issues, demanding that Title XIV receive a proper hearing in his Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. Hansen will undoubtedly try to place the blame for Title XIV's demise on conservationists, claiming that we dashed an opportunity to block a nuclear waste shipping route. In truth, Hansen might have saved the bill by simply removing the unnecessary language giving the Secretary of Defense the final word on BLM decisions and allowing Great Basin wilderness to be riddled with military development. That language bogged down what could have been a reasonable bill to designate some real wilderness in the Cedar Mountains, effectively preventing the waste transportation rail spur from being constructed. Instead, the provision died of its own weight—along with opposition from a myriad of interests—and we all go back to the drawing board to start anew in the 108th Congress.

This brings to an end the year's biggest threat to Utah wilderness. Once again, we thank you all for a tremendous community-wide effort to defend Utah wilderness and the integrity of the 1964 Wilderness Act!

## More Problems for the San Rafael Land Exchange

An ill-crafted proposal to exchange state-owned lands in the San Rafael Swell for federal parcels elsewhere has been waylaid by evidence of possible legal infractions (for background, see Autumn 2002 issue, p. 22). This fall, an internal investigation by the Office of Special Council yielded serious and significant concerns about the valuation process upon which the proposal was based. As part of the investigation, the Inspector General's office began confiscating BLM records and even the computers used by the BLM negotiator of the land exchange.

It all began on September 30, 2002, when the Appraisal Foundation issued a report commissioned by the BLM to evaluate its appraisal organization and methodology. This report found significant problems within the BLM and recommended a moratorium of all pending exchanges, including the proposed Federal-Utah State Lands Consolidation Act (H.R. 4968) affecting the San Rafael Swell. The report also recommended that the Department of Justice investigate violations of law occurring in BLM land exchanges.

Aside from possible valuation fraud, the San Rafael Swell land exchange bill contains additional flaws of grave concern to the conservation community. The proposal would give the State of Utah control over lands within the Molen Reef unit of America's Redrock Wilderness Act and sensitive wildlife habitat within two roadless areas in the Book Cliffs region. The Molen Reef unit would be slated for development as a private wildlife hunting preserve (a prime breeding ground for wasting disease) and the Book Cliffs units would be targeted for oil and gas development.

Rep. Jim Hansen (R-UT) moved this controversial bill through the House of Representatives on October 1st with lightning speed after suspending House Rules (typically, only legislation that is non-controversial is brought up on suspension). After a one-hour debate on Johnny Unitas' contribution to football, Mr. Hansen brought H.R. 4968 to the House floor out of the expected sequence. Representatives Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) and George Miller (D-CA) were prepared to object to the bill but could not make it to the floor in the four minutes it took to bring the legislation out of committee and pass it on a voice vote.

On October 15th, companion bill S. 2745, sponsored by Utah Senators Bennett and Hatch, was placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar. Meanwhile, over at the BLM, two top officials involved in the land exchange program were quietly removed from their Washington, DC offices, and Kathleen Clarke, former director of the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and current director of the BLM, recused herself from all Utah issues.

As the Senate wraps up its final few days of business in the 107th Congress, the land exchange bill appears to be going nowhere. We'll update you on any changes in the next issue of *Redrock Wilderness*. In the meantime, check [www.suwa.org](http://www.suwa.org) for the latest developments.

## canyon country updates

Good  
News!

### Conservationists Win Big in 10th Circuit

In an important ruling, the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals held on August 29, 2002 that the BLM can be held accountable for its failure to prevent off-road vehicle (ORV) impairment to Wilderness Study Areas. Though this decision may seem imminently sensible (it is!), it took over three years of procedural wrangling in federal courts to establish that SUWA can pursue its claims against the BLM. In addition, the Tenth Circuit Court's decision clears the way for SUWA to pursue claims that the BLM is not following the plain terms of its management plans and that the agency's plans are woefully inadequate and outdated in their approach to ORV management.

This case was filed by a broad coalition of conservation organizations, including SUWA, The Wilderness Society, the Sierra Club, the Utah Council of Trout Unlimited, American Lands Alliance, Great Old Broads for Wilderness, and Redrock Forests. The coalition is represented by SUWA's own Heidi McIntosh and Steve Bloch, and by Jim Angell of Earthjustice in Denver, Colorado. Jim argued the case before the Tenth Circuit and did an absolutely outstanding job. A press release on the ruling and a copy of the Tenth Circuit Court's decision are posted on SUWA's webpage at [www.suwa.org](http://www.suwa.org).

Good  
News!

### Park Service Bans Vehicles in Salt Creek

Seven years after SUWA first challenged the National Park Service's decision to leave Salt Creek Canyon in Canyonlands National Park open to jeeps and SUVs, the NPS finally got it right (see Autumn 2002 newsletter, p. 31). On September 26, 2002, the Park Service issued its decision record for the Middle Salt Creek Canyon Environmental Assessment (EA), and adopted the "preferred alternative"—no motorized vehicle use in Salt Creek Canyon from Peekaboo Springs to Angel Arch. The agency's decision, which was supported by over 7,300 comments submitted by SUWA members and other like-minded conservationists, will ensure that this spectacular public resource is pro-

tected from vehicle damage and impairment.

But even with this outstanding decision, we're not quite out of the woods yet. We expect that the Park Service decision will be challenged by off-road vehicle groups, and possibly by the State of Utah and San Juan County. In addition, the State and San Juan County allege that the Salt Creek Canyon streambed is an R.S. 2477 right-of-way—in other words, a constructed "highway." It will take some time to sort these issues out, but we are confident that the Park Service made the right call and SUWA will be there in court to back up this landmark decision.

Thanks to everyone who submitted comments urging the Park Service to protect Salt Creek Canyon, including The Wilderness Society and the National Parks Conservation Association, who posted information about the Salt Creek Environmental Assessment on their webpages. Big thanks also go out to the Park Service staff for their hard work and thorough analysis. Copies of the Park Service decision record and Salt Creek EA are posted on the Canyonlands National Park webpage at [www.nps.gov/cany](http://www.nps.gov/cany).

### Seismic Exploration Update

[Editor's Note: See Autumn 2002 issue, p. 26, for background on these and other pending seismic projects.]

#### Yellow Cat Project Stopped (For Now)

Following a disappointing decision from the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) that authorized the Yellow Cat seismic project to re-start operations, SUWA, The Wilderness Society, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and the Sierra Club filed a lawsuit in federal district court in Washington, D.C. to block the project from proceeding. The lawsuit challenges the IBLA's ruling and argues that no new surface disturbing activities should take place without a new Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or substantially revised Environmental Assessment (EA).

On October 30th, Judge James Robertson granted our motion for a Preliminary Injunction, once again putting the brakes on this ill-conceived project until the merits of SUWA's case could be

## canyon country updates

fully briefed and heard by the court. In granting the Preliminary Injunction, Judge Robertson specifically pointed to the risk of “irreparable” environmental damage from 60,000-pound seismic “thumper” trucks. Oral argument is set for December 13th on SUWA’s motion for summary judgment and we expect a ruling shortly thereafter.

### Conservationists Challenge Utah BLM’s Largest Seismic Project Ever

When the BLM’s Vernal field office approved the largest seismic project in Utah’s history on October 4, 2002, SUWA, The Wilderness Society, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and the Sierra Club immediately sued the BLM and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in federal district court in Salt Lake City. SUWA and its conservation partners allege that these two federal agencies, in their rush to approve this significant and damaging project, violated numerous important federal environmental laws. The project is scheduled to take roughly two years to complete as it covers over 2 million acres in Utah’s wild and remote Book Cliffs region, including many public lands proposed for wilderness designation by the Utah Wilderness Coalition. We’ll keep you updated as this case progresses.

### Horse Point Project Rolls Forward

On September 25, 2002 the BLM released an Environmental Assessment (EA) for WesternGeco’s Horse Point 3-D seismic exploration project. The company proposes to drill nearly 2,000 holes to a depth of sixty feet and detonate 10 pounds of explosives in each hole throughout a 31 square-mile area (about 20,000 acres) in the southern Book Cliffs region. Affected wilderness lands include the Winter Ridge WSA, the Hideout Canyon and Mexico Point proposed wilderness areas, and other roadless units known as Seep Ridge and Cliff Dweller Canyon.

The Horse Point project falls within the richest patch of black bear habitat in the region (the focus of a long-term bear study by Brigham Young University) and includes critical ranges for mule deer and elk as well as three known greater sage grouse leks (breeding grounds). Also potentially occurring within the area are the Mexican Spotted Owl (a federally listed threatened species), the Repand twinpod plant (state listed as rare), the northern flying squirrel, the big free-tailed bat, the Brazilian free-tailed bat, and the Graham’s twinpod.

## Conservation Groups File Emergency Petition to Protect Rare Utah Native Wildflower

On October 8th, five local and regional conservation and botanical organizations filed a petition asking the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to immediately list Graham’s penstemon, a strikingly beautiful wildflower found only in Utah and Colorado, as an endangered species. This status would give it protection under the Endangered Species Act.

Graham’s penstemon is only found in northeastern Utah and northwestern Colorado. SUWA filed the emergency petition along with the Center for Native Ecosystems, the Utah Native Plant Society, the Colorado Native Plant Society, and American Lands Alliance.



*Sue Martin*

The primary, immediate threat to the future survival of the wildflower is the dramatic increase in oil and gas exploration and development which destroys plants and degrades their habitat. The 3,000 square mile “Veritas 2-D” seismic exploration project, approved by the Utah BLM on October 4th, is the most recent example of the kind of development that has pushed the species to the brink of extinction. “The federal agencies have neglected Graham’s penstemon for decades,” said Erin Robertson, staff biologist for the Center for Native Ecosystems. “The Fish and Wildlife Service proposed Endangered listing for this plant 26 years ago and still hasn’t acted, even though the threats to its continued existence have mounted to a crisis level.”

Bill King of the Utah Native Plant Society stated that “Graham’s penstemon is one of the most beautiful plants in Utah, but its very existence is threatened by many factors, including oil and gas development and off-road vehicle use, that all seem to be intensifying at the same time. Immediate action is called for if we are going to save this species.”

Graham’s penstemon is a member of the snapdragon family and produces from 2 to 18 spectacular lavender flowers. A complete copy of the emergency listing petition is currently available on the Center for Native Ecosystems’ website at [www.nativeecosystems.org](http://www.nativeecosystems.org).

## canyon country updates

In light of the region's wild character, the critical wildlife resources it sustains, and public concern over proposed seismic exploration (over 25,000 comment letters were submitted for the Veritas II project alone), 12 conservation groups representing over one million members asked the Vernal BLM field manager to extend the public comment period. His response was a flat, bureaucratic "No."

SUWA submitted comments on October 24, 2002. The BLM also received strong letters against the project from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the BYU professor in charge of the Book Cliffs bear studies. Despite overwhelming controversy and significant resource concerns, the BLM scurried to approve the project in an embarrassingly expedited fashion. The agency worked late on a Friday night and all day Saturday in order to accommodate the company's desire to begin work over Veteran's Day weekend. Field Manager Dave Howell signed the decision to approve the project Saturday evening, November 9th, and WesternGeco began drilling shot-holes on public land that Sunday.

SUWA worked all weekend too, and on Tuesday, November 12th, filed an "immediate stay" before the Interior Board of Land Appeals, requesting that the Board halt the project in order to protect black bears already struggling to prepare for winter hibernation. SUWA also alleged that additional valuable resources stood to be harmed, and that the BLM had violated various federal laws and regulations. Hopefully, the Board will rule as expeditiously as the BLM approved the action.

## Lila Canyon Update

As reported in the last issue of *Redrock Wilderness*, the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining denied UtahAmerican Energy's latest application to construct a coal mine at the mouth of Lila Canyon, located in the Desolation Canyon proposed wilderness. The Division's order listed well over one hundred deficiencies in the application, and gave the company until October 2002 to respond. At the company's request, the Division recently extended the response deadline until December of 2002—an unrealistic timeline, we contend, since it is not feasible to collect the necessary two years' worth of baseline data in less than one year. Hopefully, the Division will hold the company's feet to the fire and uphold the law.

## More Plumbing in the Book Cliffs

Carbon Energy Corporation has requested a right-of-way to construct, operate, and maintain a 22 mile-long natural gas pipeline that would connect five existing wells to the larger Questar transmission pipeline and establish infrastructure for future development. As proposed, the new pipeline would intrude into the Winter Ridge Wilderness Study Area (WSA), across the "Wolf Point" roadless unit, and through Willow Creek—a perennial stream important to wildlife.

Several golden eagle nests have been observed in Willow Creek alone, along with two sage grouse leks (mating grounds), two prairie falcon nests, and one red-tailed hawk nest. The proposed pipeline would also cross critical mule deer winter range and yearlong elk habitat as well as habitat for the locally threatened ferruginous hawk and two BLM species of concern: the sage grouse and the thirteen-lined ground squirrel. If the pipeline runs along Willow Creek, a rupture could adversely affect the endangered Colorado pikeminnow and razorback sucker.

In terms of native flora, fourteen threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species may exist along the proposed route, though no formal survey has been conducted. In addition to the significant impacts to wilderness and wildlife species, the proposed pipeline route crosses through important cultural sites, especially within Willow Creek Canyon—an ancient transportation corridor between the Tavaputs Plateau and the Uinta Basin.

SUWA submitted comments on October 29, 2002, including a proposed alternative route that would avoid the Winter Ridge WSA, the Wolf Point wilderness lands, and Willow Creek, by following an existing county road. Will the company and the BLM adopt the less environmentally harmful alternative presented by SUWA? The jury is still out.



*Courtesy of the Colorado Division of Wildlife  
The federally endangered razorback sucker.*

## inside SUWA

### Special Thanks to Bruce Gordon and EcoFlight

Bruce Gordon and his dependable Cessna 210 have flown over 12 missions for SUWA over the last six months, helping us to monitor and publicize the continuing assault on our wilderness heritage by the oil and gas industry. Bruce previously spent 17 years at LightHawk, a pioneer in helping environmental organizations identify, publicize and solve environmental problems.

Flying with Bruce over Utah's wild country is the ultimate high. The ability to soar over breathtaking redrock canyon country, swooping in to observe the impacts of oil fields and thumper trucks, gives us and our guests from the media and Congress an unforgettable vision of the landscapes at stake. And Bruce is a terrific host—entertaining, fun, articulate and full of stories about Utah's wildlands. With his commitment to land preservation and his long history fighting for Utah wilderness, he has been an invaluable resource for us.

SUWA would like to thank Bruce Gordon and wish him great success with his new endeavor, EcoFlight. For more information about EcoFlight, contact Bruce at (970) 429-1110.

### SUWA Thanks DC Intern Kristen Clarke-Kellems

This Fall, SUWA's Washington, DC office was blessed with the helpful skills and cheerful presence of Kristen Clarke-Kellems. Kristen served a SUWA internship through Brigham Young University's Washington Seminar program for three months from September to December.

While at SUWA, Kristen was instrumental in creating a daily press clip distribution program for all SUWA staff, board, and key coalition partners. This new program allows us to electronically circulate all news stories relevant to Utah wilderness from twenty newspapers around the country. Kristen also pulled together the most comprehensive "Letters to the Editor" contact information we've ever compiled on newspapers throughout the



*DC intern Kristen Clarke-Kellems and her husband, Ryan.*

country. This list aids wilderness activists everywhere in quickly writing and submitting letters to their local papers (we'll endeavor to have this list available on the SUWA website soon). All this work with media coverage—in addition to the daily tasks of answering phones, getting postcard mailings out the door, and generally keeping Gail and Dave on their toes every day—made Kristen an indispensable assistant.

A native of Orem, Utah, Kristen is now completing her senior year at BYU. While attending school, Kristen fulfilled a two-year LDS mission and met her new husband Ryan Kellems. Interestingly, Kristen and Ryan decided to come to DC at the same time to serve their internships together. Being an avid kayaker, Ryan interned for the American Whitewater Association and had the pleasure of paddling the rugged West Virginia riverways.

An English major and Conservation Biology minor, Kristen came to SUWA with super credentials. For two years prior to her internship with us, she worked at the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument doing insect surveys in the vast wild country of south-central Utah. A competent, intelligent and hard working fireball, Kristen proved a great asset to our DC office. Thanks for all your help, Kristen, and best of luck in your final year of college!

**inside SUWA**

## Your Membership Matters!

SUWA's membership is our lifeblood. Since 1983, when SUWA was founded by a handful of people committed to protecting Utah's incomparable wild places, our members have been our greatest asset. Nearly 15,000 concerned citizens from every state in the nation, and even other countries, have joined SUWA's hard-hitting, grassroots commitment to save Utah's magnificent canyon country. These public lands belong to all of us, and it is both our right and our responsibility to speak out for their protection.

**75% of our funding comes from membership dues and donations from individuals like you.**

SUWA truly is a membership-driven organization. While we receive important contributions from private foundations, this money is often allocated for work on a specific issue or activity. The strong financial support that SUWA receives from individual members gives us the freedom and flexibility to focus on those issues that pose the most immediate threats to redrock country. Our ability to tackle the multitude of administrative, legislative, and on-the-ground threats to Utah wilderness is only possible through the continued generosity of our members.

**There is strength in numbers.**

An active, nationwide membership demonstrates to decision-makers on Capitol Hill the broad base of support that exists for protecting America's redrock wilderness. SUWA members from around the country attend hearings, make phone calls, write letters, travel to Washington DC to meet with their congressional representatives, submit letters to the editor, organize slide shows, participate in phone banks, and help spread the word about Utah wilderness to their friends and family.

**Protecting America's redrock wilderness is a full-time job.**

We know that you're busy. Even the most dedicated desert rats don't always have the time and energy to stay on top of all of the issues affecting Utah's remaining wild places. That's why we're here: to work full-time on behalf of Utah's spectacular redrock wilderness. As a member of SUWA, you can rest assured

that someone is always staying on top of the issues and doing whatever it takes to protect the wilderness lands that you love. At the same time, we make every effort to keep our members up-to-date on the latest threats—through email alerts, action bulletins, phone banking, and our quarterly newsletter—so that you can stay informed and involved.

If you are already a member of SUWA, we thank you for your support! If you are not yet a member, please join today. Annual dues are just \$30, and, of course, additional donations are welcome and appreciated! All contributions to SUWA are tax-deductible.

### Yes! I want to join SUWA

Check one: New member: \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal: \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed: \$30 Annual dues \_\_\_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Contributions to SUWA are tax-deductible. Please make your check payable to SUWA or include credit card information (VISA, MC, AMEX):

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp.date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form with payment to:  
SUWA  
1471 South 1100 East  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84105-2423

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

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

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Three Ways to Join:**

**Online:** [www.suwa.org](http://www.suwa.org)

**By Phone:** (801) 486-3161

**By Mail:** SUWA, 1471 S. 1100 E.  
Salt Lake City, UT 84105



## **2002 Year-End Donation Ideas**

For those of you who have already contributed your 2002 membership dues, we hope you'll consider making an additional year-end donation to SUWA. Your year-end donation will help us gear up for the many challenges facing America's redrock wilderness in 2003.

Your year-end donation to SUWA can also significantly reduce your income taxes. No matter what your income, if you itemize, you can almost always lower your income taxes through charitable giving.

### **Gifts of Cash**

The easiest and most common way to support SUWA's efforts – and garner a tax deduction for 2002 – is to simply write us a check! As long as your envelope is postmarked by December 31, your contribution will qualify as a 2002 gift. Donations of cash are fully deductible – up to a maximum of 50% of your adjusted gross income.

Some employers will match your donation to SUWA, doubling the amount of support you can give to Utah wilderness. If your company or firm has a matching gift program, simply enclose the form along with your check.

### **Gifts of Stock**

Year-end 2002 may be one of the best times to consider donating stock to SUWA. Giving long-term appreciated stock offers you a two-fold savings. First, you avoid paying any capital gains tax on the increase in value of your stock. In addition, you receive a tax deduction for the full fair market value of the stock at the time of the gift. Gifts of appreciated stock are fully deductible – up to a maximum of 30% of adjusted gross income. **IMPORTANT:** please contact SUWA with the details of your transfer (your name and contact information, intended date of transfer, type of stock, and number of shares), so that we may promptly process and acknowledge your generous gift.

### **Gifts of Life Insurance**

Consider making a year-end gift to SUWA of a life insurance policy that is no longer needed. To receive a charitable deduction, name us as both the owner and beneficiary of that policy. If the policy has a cash value, you can take a charitable deduction approximately equal to the cash value at the time of the gift. In addition, if annual premiums still need to be made and you continue to pay them, those premiums will be tax deductible each year.

### **Bequests**

While you're considering your 2002 income tax savings, we hope you will also consider a charitable bequest to SUWA in your will. This type of gift will save you estate tax dollars while also making a meaningful difference in SUWA's ability to secure permanent protection for Utah's redrock wilderness lands.

### **Life Income Gifts**

A will is not the only way to leave a legacy for Utah wilderness. Other giving options include charitable trusts and remainder trusts, which can provide you with life income and tax breaks while setting aside the remainder for SUWA.

To learn more about supporting SUWA's efforts in a way that makes sense for you, please visit our website at [www.suwa.org](http://www.suwa.org) or contact Lindsey Oswald, SUWA Membership Services Director, at 801-486-7639 ext. 11 or [lindsey@suwa.org](mailto:lindsey@suwa.org).

## Thank You SUWA Business Members!

Listed here are businesses that endorse America's Redrock Wilderness Act and have joined SUWA's business member program. We encourage SUWA members around the country (over 14,000 people nationwide!) to reward these businesses with their patronage. For business member contact information, please visit our website at [www.suwa.org](http://www.suwa.org), click on "Links," then "SUWA Business Supporters." If you own a business and care deeply about protecting Utah's remaining wilderness lands, please consider joining our business member program. For more information, contact Christy at SUWA, (801) 496-7639 ext. 17 or [christy@suwa.org](mailto:christy@suwa.org). Thanks for your support!

### SUWA Business Members in Utah...

AK Consulting, SLC  
 ATC Automation Consultant, Sandy  
 Alpine Medical Group, SLC  
 Alta Lodge, Alta  
 Alta Ski Lifts Co., Alta  
 Avalanche Properties, Park City  
 Back of Beyond Books, Moab  
 Bangkok Thai, SLC  
 Basin Hydrology, Park City  
 Black Diamond Equipment Ltd., SLC  
 Booth Dental, Ogden  
 Boulder Mountain Lodge, Boulder  
 Brad M. King Associates Inc.,  
 Snowbird  
 Breathe Day Spa, SLC  
 Bruce Hucko Photography, Moab  
 Buffalo Java, Panguitch  
 C.C. Wilson Construction, SLC  
 Cage Application Co., SLC  
 Canyon Country Zephyr, Moab  
 Capitol Reef Inn & Café, Torrey  
 Carpathia Financial LC, SLC  
 Catalyst, SLC  
 Chris Noble Photography Inc., SLC  
 City Dry Cleaners, SLC  
 City Weekly, SLC  
 Colorado River & Trail, SLC  
 Cow Canyon Trading Post, Bluff  
 Dammeron Corporation, Dammeron  
 Valley  
 Dancing Crane Studios, SLC  
 Derek's Lawn Care, Park City  
 Desert Glass, Moab  
 Desert Highlights, Moab  
 Desert Quest, Tooele  
 Discriminating Traveler, SLC  
 Ecotracs, SLC  
 Larry Eichner, Technical Marketing  
 Services, Park City  
 Eiffel Tower Fine Catering, SLC  
 Evolution Ski Company, SLC  
 Faceplant, Heber City  
 Far Out Expeditions, Bluff  
 Fiddlesticks Celtic Folk Band, Orem  
 Fix-a-Fax, SLC  
 Floorshows Inc., SLC  
 Forsey Furniture Co., SLC  
 Four Corners School of Outdoor  
 Education, Monticello

Great Basin Chiropractic, SLC  
 Green River Boaters, Vernal  
 Heindselmans Knit & Weaving, Provo  
 Hell's Backbone Grill, Boulder  
 Holiday Expeditions, SLC  
 Horseshoe Mountain Pottery,  
 Spring City  
 Willamarie Huelskamp, Artist, SLC  
 Eleanor Inskip, SLC  
 Ivy Foods Incorporated, SLC  
 James Kay Photography, SLC  
 Craig Jenkins, Photographer, Park City  
 JessGilesWallace Design, SLC  
 John O. Johnson CFP, Sandy  
 KP2 Architects, SLC  
 Kappus Landscape, SLC  
 Ken Sanders' Rare Books, SLC  
 Lazy Lizard International Hostel, Moab  
 Maack Art & Frame Inc., SLC  
 Mama Lia's Pizza, Vernal  
 Marzec & Associates Inc., SLC  
 Matis Dermatology, SLC  
 Mazza, SLC  
 The Metropolitan, SLC  
 Scotty Mitchell, Artist, Boulder  
 Muley Twist Inn B&B, Teasdale  
 Northern Electric Co., SLC  
 Oasis Café, SLC  
 Papineau Builders Inc., Park City  
 Kevin Parson, Parson Pottery, Eden  
 Passage to Utah, SLC  
 The Patagonia Outlet, SLC  
 Larry Pattis Acoustic Guitar Music,  
 Holladay  
 Peery Hotel, SLC  
 Performance Audio, SLC  
 Petzl America, Clearfield  
 Phil Triolo & Associates, SLC  
 Piñon Market & Café, SLC  
 Pioneer House Inn/Bluff Expeditions,  
 Bluff  
 Poison Spider Bikes/Nichols  
 Expeditions, Moab  
 Premier Dining Services, SLC  
 REI, SLC  
 Red Rock Bakery, Moab  
 Red Rock Brewing Co., SLC  
 Rob's Independent Subaru Specialists,  
 Provo

Deanna L. Rosen LCSW, SLC  
 S.W. Gadd Construction Inc., Kaysville  
 Salt Lake Roasting Co., SLC  
 Schneider Auto Karosserie Inc., SLC  
 Scott Smith, Photographer, Logan  
 Snow County Limousine Inc., Park City  
 Page Speiser, LCSW PC, Provo  
 Spring Lake Publishing, Payson  
 Squirrel Brothers Ice Cream, SLC  
 Sundance Institute, SLC  
 Sundance Resort, Sundance  
 Suzanne Storer Ceramic Forms, Ogden  
 Tesch, Vance & Miller LLC, Park City  
 Tie Lines LLC, Park City  
 Tom Till Gallery Inc., Moab  
 Trent Alvey Design, Salt Lake City  
 Stephen Trimble, Writer/Photographer,  
 SLC  
 Valley of the Gods B&B, Mexican Hat  
 Voilé Equipment Inc., West Valley City  
 WabiSabi Inc., Moab  
 Walkabout Travel Gear, Moab  
 Wasatch Frame Shop, SLC  
 Wasatch Publishers, SLC  
 Wasatch Touring, SLC  
 Webb Audio Visual, SLC  
 White Tree Design, SLC  
 Wild Earth Images, SLC  
 Wild Hare Expeditions, Torrey  
 Workingman's Data & Graphics, Moab  
 Wydah Corporation, Park City

### ...And Across the Country

A5 Adventures, Flagstaff, AZ  
 Admiralty Audubon Society, Port  
 Townsend, WA  
 Adventure Travel West, Idledale, CO  
 The Agave, Henderson, NV  
 Angelo's CDs and More, Aurora, CO  
 R.D. Antiel DDS, Alamosa, CO  
 Arizona Raft Adventures, Flagstaff, AZ  
 Baked in Telluride, Telluride, CO  
 Basin Hydrology, Steamboat Springs, CO  
 Beer Makers of America, San Jose, CA  
 Jeffrey Berlant MD, Boise, ID  
 Berry & Associates, Boulder, CO

Biological Photo Service, Moss Beach, CA  
 Blake Jewelry, Fort Collins, CO  
 Brown Bag Farms, Petaluma, CA  
 CC&C Construction, Denver, CO  
 CK Originals, Brevard, NC  
 CRA Inc., Valley Forge, PA  
 Evan Cantor, Artist, Boulder, CO  
 Capitola Book Café, Santa Cruz, CA  
 Carl Will Masonry Restoration, Denver, CO  
 Centerline Alfa Romeo, Boulder, CO  
 Chaco Sandals, Paonia, CO  
 Robert D. Cheyne, Photographer, Farmington Hills, MI  
 City Service Paving, Placentia, CA  
 Condor Advisors LLC, Mammoth Lakes, CA  
 DAK Consulting, Fort Collins, CO  
 Patrick Dengate, Artist, Ferndale, MI  
 Earth 'N Light, Loyaltan, CA  
 Edward Riggs Investment Council, Waterville, ME  
 Entrance Mountain Naturopathic Clinic, Orcas Island, WA  
 Richard J. Farrell, CPA, Canoga Park, CA  
 Dottie Fox, Artist, Snowmass, CO  
 Fuller Therapeutics Inc., Boulder, CO  
 Arthur T. Giese MD, Roseville, CA  
 Steve Gilsdorf CPA, Tucson, AZ  
 Gordon Anderson Photography, Colorado Springs, CO  
 Graft Inc. Marketing Service, Orlando, FL  
 Thomas L. Grams DDS, Durango, CO  
 Bruce Grubbs, Outdoor Writer/Photographer, Flagstaff, AZ  
 J. Edward Hansford DDS, Buena Vista, CO  
 Harvey Halpern Wilderness Photography, Cambridge, MA  
 Haymaker Construction, El Cajon, CA  
 High Country News, Paonia, CO  
 Joan Hoffmann, Artist, Petaluma, CA  
 Hohum Conco, Sebastopol, CA  
 IMDEC Inc., Woodland, CA  
 JPD Communications, Berkeley, CA  
 Jack Dykinga Photography, Tucson, AZ  
 Janitorial Geniuses, Beaverton, OR  
 Jenner & Block LLC, Washington, DC  
 Joe Myers Design, Seattle, WA  
 Kachemak Bay Wild Lodge, Homer, AK  
 Michael Kuten DMD, St. Louis, MO  
 La Frontera Adventures, Santa Fe, NM  
 Dr. Richard Lane, Prescott, AZ  
 Law Office of Bruce Plenk, Lawrence, KS  
 Law Office of David Gibans, Denver, CO  
 Don Lipmanson, Attorney, Navarro, CA  
 Steve Mann, Professor of Finance, Fort Worth, TX

Marathon Power Wash, Harrison, MI  
 Michael Paoli & Associates, Fresno, CA  
 Jack E. Miller MD, Petaluma, CA  
 Mountain Hardware, Richmond, CA  
 David Muench, Photographer, Corrales, NM  
 Marc Muench, Photographer, Goleta, CA  
 Nature's Own, Nederland, CO  
 New Moon Visions, Lorane, OR  
 New Wave Rafting Company, Santa Fe, NM  
 Ody Brook Enterprises, Cedar Springs, MI  
 Osprey Packs Inc., Cortez, CO  
 Ottertrack Productions, Joseph, OR  
 Pack Rat Outdoor Center, Fayetteville, AR  
 Paradigm Ventures Inc., Santa Fe, NM  
 Patagoniahoney.com, Chandler Heights, AZ  
 Paul Wright Carpentry, West Roxbury, MA  
 Purple Dragon Ventures, Lawrenceburg, IN  
 Ritter Associates, Sunnyvale, CA  
 Rock Creek Lakes Resort, Bishop, CA  
 Rod Planck Photography, Paradise, MI  
 Rupestrian Cyber Services, Flagstaff, AZ  
 SJM Biological Consultants, San Diego, CA  
 SNEWS Inc., Bend, OR  
 Naomi Scher and Tom Jacobson, Jamaica Plain, MA  
 Richard Seeley, Landscape Gardener, La Crescenta, CA  
 Select Stone Inc., Bozeman, MT  
 Septic Sense, Port Townsend, WA

Marc Sherson, Artist, Albuquerque, NM  
 Slater Management, Royal Oak, MI  
 Soquel Chiropractic, Soquel, CA  
 Southwest Emergency Physicians, Durango, CO  
 Southwest Planning and Marketing, Santa Fe, NM  
 Spirit Wind Adventures, Eldorado, CO  
 Stockbridge Animal Clinic, Stockbridge, MI  
 Summit Canyon Mountaineering, Glenwood Springs, CO  
 The Territory Ahead, Santa Barbara, CA  
 Trailhead Ventures, Buena Vista, CO  
 Larry Ulrich, Photographer, Trinidad, CA  
 Utility Management Services Inc., Paonia, CO  
 Christina Varwig DDS, Palos Verdes Estates  
 Watercolors by Jan Wright, Coyote, NM  
 Web Feat Communications, Issaquah, WA  
 White Water Dental Seminars, Ketchum, ID  
 Wild Wind Records, Big Sky, MT  
 William Stone Photography, Albuquerque, NM  
 Williams Tree Farm, Meridian, ID  
 Willis Greiner Photography, Conifer, CO  
 Wilson's Eastside Sports, Bishop, CA  
 WindWriter Software Inc., Portland, OR  
 Michael A. Wolk, Physical Therapist, Portland, OR  
 Writers and Photography, Boulder, CO  
 ZAK Construction, Manzanita, OR  
 Zumiez, Snohomish, WA

**Yes! I want to join SUWA as a business supporter.**

I have enclosed \$100 for a one-year business membership (includes a special wall plaque announcing my business' support of SUWA).

Name of business: \_\_\_\_\_

Business owner's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Business address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Website (for link on SUWA website): \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please do not list my business' name in the SUWA newsletter or website.

*Please return this form with check or credit card number to:  
 SUWA, 1471 S. 1100 E., Salt Lake City, UT 84105*

## wilderness spotlight

### Dark Canyon Journal

**April 30th.** The warm rays of the sun wake me after a night under the stars on Dry Mesa, about 10 desert miles east of Hite Crossing. I try to shake off the cobwebs, pouring ice water from the cooler over my head (the price for too much good beer-talk the night before). I look around and catch a glorious view of the Henry Mountains shimmering in the west. North and east, the pinyon pine and juniper of Dry Mesa stretch out into the horizon. Today's the day!

My hiking partner Tom and I, accompanied by my trusty Beagle, Nicky, arrived at the Sundance trailhead last night after hiking all day from the high mesa at North Long Point above Canyonlands National Park. After breakfast, Tom insists that I drink two full quarts of water and take another three quarts in canteens—two for me and one for Beagle Nick. The first water source along today's route is at least four tough hiking hours away. It is now 9 a.m. and the desert starts heating up. Time to go! As I load up my pack, I'm suddenly filled with panic. Of all things, I've left my hiking boots at home and only have Teva sandals. Despite these tense moments, everything eventually works itself out: Tom has to head home (unfortunately) due to a family emergency, so he offers me his brand new running shoes. I gratefully put them on, not worrying about whether they fit, and Nick and I bid farewell to barefooted Tom!

I first discovered Utah's redrock wonders while living in Salt Lake City from 1978 to 1984. My wife Marja and I, along with our sons, had moved to the American West ten years earlier from the rainy lowlands of Holland. Nothing had prepared us for the land and sky-scapes of Utah's redrock country: the visual drama of color contrasts, dazzling blue skies, and magically beautiful canyons and rock formations. We thought ourselves rich beyond fantasy. Surely these wonders would remain forever for all to enjoy—an unending inspiration and renewal of life's energies.

Now, twenty years later, the preservation of this wild country is in doubt. Oil, gas, and mining interests are crashing the gates of paradise all over the western U.S. Under the shadow of such powerful forces, how can one person make a stand for preserving wild nature? Where could I find hope and inspiration? The answer came as Tom and I enjoyed a drink after skiing last February. "Have you ever been to Utah's Dark Canyon?" he asked me. Before I could say no, he announced that we'd hike it in the spring.

Nick and I move quickly, picking our route over Dry Mesa. I am anxious to get down into the canyon to escape the blazing mid-day sun. Suddenly, the landscape opens up before us. Like a prehistoric serpent carving its way through the earth's crust, Dark Canyon stretches into the distance. Towards the horizon, I see a thin reflection of water—good news, since I am down to one quart! We work our way downward, following a steep line of decent as fast as our legs will carry us. Two hours later, we reach the shade of the canyon bottom, still at least an hour away from precious water. We stop, rest, and share our remaining water. Nick lounges happily in the shade.

When we finally hit water by 3 p.m., our troubles seem to be over. The water runs shallow but fast and crystal clear. I decide it is pure enough to drink. Such luxury: shade, water and solitude. Re-energized, we move on, following the limestone-rimmed creek. After an hour, the creek bed abruptly drops below its limestone bed, carving a narrow cleft.

We hike up the creek, sloshing through the shallow water until, suddenly, we find ourselves boxed in by a 15-foot waterfall. I had declared victory too soon! I secure my pack on a small ledge, tie Nick to the pack, and scramble up the ledge leading to the top of the waterfall. What could I do about Nick? Beagles aren't equipped to climb waterfalls! Following the limestone ledge, I backtrack down the creek until the vertical drop is only 10 feet. I jump down and build a 5-foot ramp, using flat rocks. Retrieving my pack and an



*Gerry Vanderbeek*

*Dark Canyon's rugged descent.*



*Gerry Vanderbeek*

*Nicky, the desert beagle.*

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**wilderness spotlight**

anxious Nicky, I hoist pack and dog up the ledge and we're on our way again.

Come 6 p.m., we decide to call it a day and make camp in a perfect spot where the creek meanders through a rare and narrow meadow. I put my MSR stove to work, preparing a delicious meal of Ramen noodles with fresh broccoli and dried sausage for the two of us. Life is good!

Early the next morning, we make our way to Young's Canyon. We come upon a spectacular pool alive with tadpoles and frogs. Hearing voices, we look up to see several hikers headed down the canyon. It's the Police hiking club from Holland, Michigan, coming down Woodenshoe and Dark Canyon to the Sundance terminus. Wilderness creates an instant bond and we begin swapping stories about our respective Hollands! They tell me that the creek will run dry one mile further up. It's time to drink up and refill the canteens. I won't reach more water for about ten miles, at a rock seep 2 miles up from the crossing with the Woodenshoe trail.

We keep moving until about 8 p.m. By now we are hiking through fine sand, which fills my borrowed running shoes and painfully packs my feet tighter than a mummy! Although there's still no

water in sight, Nick and I bed down for the night, exhausted. When we start out again at first light the next morning, I switch to my Tevas—better for hiking in the sand. Within half an hour, we reach the crossing with Woodenshoe Canyon. I stash my pack, then Nick and I share all our remaining water and start running up Woodenshoe in search of more. Two miles up we're overjoyed to see the rock seep about 20 feet up the slope from the trail. I clamber up and slowly fill our canteens.

We rush back to get the pack and hike another 6 miles to the crossing with Trail Canyon, our exit route. It is still early and we make great time, stopping occasionally for water, snacks, and incredible views! The last four miles up Trail Canyon are brutal and steep, but Nick and I hold a steady pace. I feel exhilaration at realizing my dream and discovering the true wild heart of Dark Canyon. We make it to the car by 8 p.m., exhausted but happy.

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Originally from the Netherlands, SUWA member **Gerry Vanderbeek** has been living in the western U.S. since 1972 and currently resides in Glenwood Springs, CO.

## Wilderness Volunteers: Utah Service Trips for 2003

Wilderness Volunteers, a non-profit organization that promotes volunteer service in backcountry settings, offers the following Utah service trips in 2003. For more information, contact Wilderness Volunteers toll free at (888) 737-2888 or visit their website at [www.wildernessvolunteers.org](http://www.wildernessvolunteers.org).

### May 4-10: Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument

Various wilderness restoration projects, including cleanup and rehabilitation.

Grade: Strenuous

Accommodations: Tent camping near cars

Leaders: John Sherman & Dave Pacheco

Trip Fee: \$198

### May 18-24: Arches National Park

Invasive plant removal, revegetation.

Grade: Strenuous (because of the work)

Accommodations: Tent camping near cars

Leaders: Curt Mobley & Eric Anderson

Trip Fee: \$198

### September 7-13: Glen Canyon National Recreation Area

Invasive plant removal.

Grade: Strenuous (Canyon backpacking, no pack support)

Accommodations: Backpack camping

Leaders: Deborah Northcutt & Misha Kokotovic

Trip Fee: \$198

### October 11-18: Grand Gulch

Various wilderness restoration projects.

Grade: Strenuous (6 miles, 1,000' el.)

Accommodations: Backpack camping

Leaders: John Sherman & Cheryl Walczak

Trip Fee: \$198

### Give 2 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 2 memberships) 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 enclose check, payable to SUWA, or write credit card information below (VISA, MC, or AMEX accepted)

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form with payment to:  
 SUWA, 1471 S. 1100 E.,  
 Salt Lake City, UT 84105-2423

### SUWA T-Shirts

Please send \_\_\_ SUWA t-shirts at \$15 each.

Circle color and size choice:

Natural      L  
 Sage          M L

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose check, payable to SUWA, or write credit card information (VISA, MC, AMEX) below:

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form with payment to:  
 Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance,  
 1471 S. 1100 E., Salt Lake City, UT 84105

### Get Your Own SUWA Logo T-Shirt

Shirts are 100% organic cotton (they will shrink somewhat), with a black and sandstone-red logo on either a natural or sage green background.



Front and back view

**Fine Art Posters  
by David Muench**

Please send \_\_\_ White Canyon or \_\_\_ Cedar Mesa fine art posters at \$20 each. (\$100 each for posters autographed by David Muench.)

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

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

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

Please enclose check, payable to SUWA, or write credit card information (VISA, MC or AMEX) here:

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

Prices include shipping and handling.  
Mail form with payment to:

SUWA, 1471 S. 1100 E.,  
Salt Lake City, UT 84105-2423

White Canyon

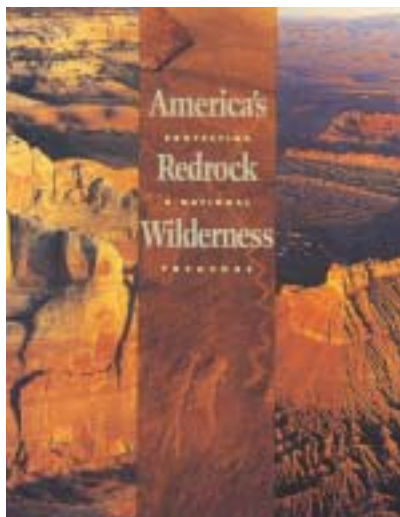


Cedar Mesa

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 ..."

**Order a Copy of *America's Redrock Wilderness***

The first major publication by the Utah conservation community since *Wilderness at the Edge*, SUWA's latest book features the most extensive color photography ever published of Utah's threatened BLM wilderness lands. The periodically updated black-and-white insert presents the key issues of Utah BLM wilderness protection, and is an indispensable resource for activists. An afterword by noted Utah author Terry Tempest Williams affirms the deep meaning this landscape has in our hearts. This book is available only from SUWA and a few selected bookstores.



*America's Redrock Wilderness*: 104 pages (56 pages color, 48 pages B/W); 9"x12," soft cover.

Please send me \_\_\_ copies of *America's Redrock Wilderness*. Enclosed is \$18 per copy, which includes postage and handling.

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

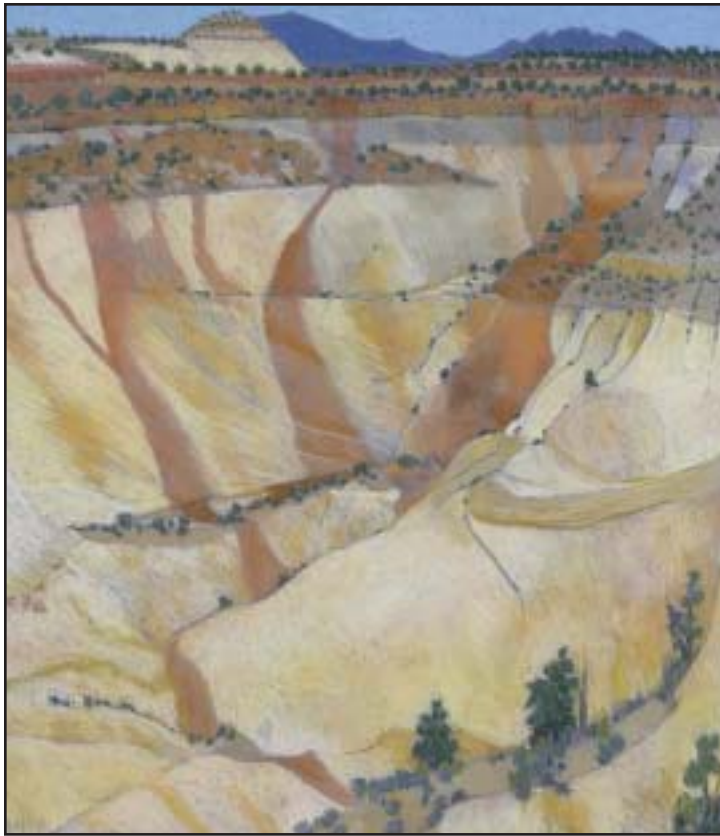
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Prices include shipping and handling.

Mail form with payment to:  
SUWA, 1471 S. 1100 E.,  
Salt Lake City, UT 84105-2423



*Dry Hollow Runoffs, pastel by Scotty Mitchell  
(www.scottymitchell.com).*

## Parting Thoughts:

**“Baseball serves as a good model for democracy in action: Every player is equally important and each has a chance to be a hero.”**


**—Ed Abbey**

**“Conservation is like freedom. It can only be maintained by constant vigilance.”**

**—Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh**

**“Find your place on the planet. Dig in, and take responsibility from there.”**

**—Gary Snyder**

 Printed on recycled paper using soy-based ink.

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