TO: Grand County Council
Attn: Lynn Jackson
FROM: Supporters for Balance development
435 259 - 2574

Total Pgs = 10

4/15/ 2014

Hon. Rob Bishop
1017 Federal Building
324 25th St
Ogden, UT 84401

Cc: Grand County Council
Re: Grand County Public Lands Designation

Dear Congressman,

In reference to the Grand County Public Lands Working Committee's set of proposals, under the auspices of your Public Lands Initiative, I support Alternative 1, which provides what I and many in the County believe is the right mix of protection and development. This Alternative allows for oil and gas exploration and production to continue to occur in our County, and respects valid lease rights, as opposed to the other two alternatives which would arbitrarily cancel many of those rights and preclude development of our natural resources

Critical to the decision making process here is an appreciation of the importance of these resources to the region, state, and nation. We are seeing how oil and gas production brings jobs, income, and growth to our community, and how beneficial the royalty and tax payments are to the provision of government services and projects. It is important to look at the bigger picture as well. Our nation's economy runs on oil and natural gas. Just think of all the ways petroleum is used for instance; to fuel the car to drive to work or take the kids to school, or the helicopter to transport a critical patient to medical care at a specialized facility, or the tractors and combines that are used to help feed our nation and much of the world, or the trucks, trains, ships, and airplanes that transport goods across the country and around the world – and that is only one use of fossil fuel. Petroleum is a crucial component in thousands of products we use every day; natural gas cleanly produces a growing percentage of the electricity the nation runs on; it also keeps our homes warm in the winter and helps grow the crops that those tractors and combines plant and harvest.

As you have pointed out with your public lands initiative, all of this does not have to come at the cost of our environment. We can preserve our special areas without completely shutting down the economy; we only have to put some rational thought into what areas to protect and where development needs to occur. Alternative 1 represents this kind of clear-headed, rational thought, and presents an option which will allow us as a community to reap the benefits of the natural resources we are so lucky to have access to, and also preserve forever the incredible vistas and terrain that make us a prime destination for tourists.

We are truly blessed to live in Grand County, and Alternative 1 allows us to take full advantage of all that our region has to offer us and our nation, now and for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Jacob Cresswell

17 W Four wheel Dr
Moab Ut 84532

April 14, 2014

Rep. Rob Bishop
1017 Federal Building
324 25th St
Ogden, UT 84401

Cc: Grand County Council
125 E. Center St,
Moab, UT 84532

Reference: Grand County Public Lands Initiative

Dear Representative Bishop,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your Public Lands Initiative as it applies to Grand County. Our county is home to a number of natural resources, including oil and gas, as well as some of the most amazing natural terrain in the world. It is a false dichotomy to pretend that we need to choose one over the other.

I consider myself a conservationist – I believe in preserving as much of our natural environment for future generations as we can. I firmly believe that we are to be responsible stewards of our land, water, air, and resources, that these are natural inheritances that we are entrusted with, and that we have a duty to pass on to our descendants. But that does not mean that I believe the land should be kept under lock and key; we also have a duty to develop our resources for the benefit of our neighbors. The trick is to balance preservation and wise use. I think this is the essence of your Public Lands Initiative, and is well represented in Alternative I of the Grand County public land designation proposals.

We should feel just as lucky to have important petroleum resources at our disposal, as I am sure we all do when we gaze upon the unbelievable beauty of our county. Some places here need to be protected, yes. But other places contain the energy that keeps lights on all across the county and allows everything from food, to medicine, to bicycles, to electronics to be transported thousands of miles. As a matter of fact, these places contain the feedstock for the fuel that allows people to come from all over the country and the world to share in the natural wonders of our region. Without the production of oil, we would not have a tourism industry.

Alternative I is the alternative that is best able to manage responsible economic development of our resources alongside preservation of our most special areas. I thank you for your great work in this area, and encourage you to continue to spread the message that Americans do not need to settle on false choices.

Yours Sincerely,

Belinda McKinney
650 Battle Ln.
Moab, Ut 84532

April 14, 2014

Hon. Rob Bishop
1017 Federal Building
324 25th St
Ogden, UT 84401

Cc: Grand County Council
125 E. Center St,
Moab, UT 84532

ATTN: Public Lands Initiative – Grand County

Dear Congressman Bishop,

I believe that the approach you are taking towards public lands management is the correct one: conservation and development *can* go haud-in-hand, and decisions concerning land management are best made at the local level. I support Alternative 1 in the Grand County public lands management plan because it does the best job of applying those principles.

Alternative 1 places a reasonable amount of local public land off limits to development, while also making sure that lands with considerable resource potential, and those with valid existing lease rights, are kept open for responsible development. The remaining Alternatives do not as accurately reflect the vision that you have laid out for a balanced approach. Alternative 2, for instance, closes off a large amount of acreage that contains valid leases, thereby denying the lease holder access to their legally held property, as well as denying the public the benefits derived from developing the resources located in those leases. Alternative 3 takes that even further, essentially prohibiting any responsible development in the planning area.

It is important to remember the benefits that development of oil and natural gas resources bring to the people of Grand County. This development brings good, respectable, well-paying jobs, both directly and indirectly. The increase in jobs leads to an increase in small business activity in local communities as the added income is spent locally at gas stations, restaurants, supermarkets, main street shops, and other places. Let's also remember the additional revenue that is reaped by local and state governments both from direct taxes paid by the producers and from the widening tax base of employed people who pay income taxes on their higher wages, sales taxes on the things they buy, and property taxes on the homes they purchase. These revenues go to a myriad of things that improve the quality of life in Grand County, from routine government services like public safety, infrastructure, etc., to community amenities such as senior centers, parks, and the like. Schools also benefit as revenue generated by resource development finds its way to K-12 education budgets.

In the past we have often been presented a false choice by opponents of development who claimed that all this would come at the expense of conservation. Your efforts, Congressman, show how that is not the case, and Alternative 1 of the Grand County plan does a very good job of encapsulating your vision of a balanced approach.

Sincerely,

Derick Eddy
Derick Eddy
1381 spanish valley dr moab ut 84532

April 14, 2014

Hon. Rob Bishop
1017 Federal Building
324 25th St
Ogden, UT 84401

Cc: Grand County Council

Re: Grand County Public Lands

Dear Congressman Bishop,

Oil and gas development represents a huge opportunity for the people and communities of eastern Utah. While we are justifiably proud of our tourism industry, and the unique and breathtaking landscape that we are blessed with, most of us realize that tourism alone cannot sustain the region. A successful economy needs a base industry to provide wealth from which the income to support tourism comes, and from where the government revenue comes to pay for infrastructure improvements, schools, public services, and public amenities. We also realize that this development can occur side by side with the tourism and recreation industries, and need not supplant them.

For these reasons, I support Alternative 1 in the public lands designation options being presented to Grand County. Alternative 1 is the most balanced and flexible of the proposed alternatives and does a good job of protecting vast areas from further development activity, while allowing our economy the room to grow.

The remaining alternatives appear too restrictive and encompassing to be able to accomplish this critical balancing act effectively. Alternative 2, for instance, while possibly workable for some, would unnecessarily restrict or deny the rights of other leaseholders and developers. Please keep in mind that it is not just big companies that are hurt by such actions – it is the working families of our region who rely on the jobs that a robust energy economy provides to put food on the table, make the mortgage payment, and put a little away for the kids' education.

For the past several years, Grand County has been striving to achieve the right balance of conservation and growth, and I think we are doing a pretty good job. Tilting the scales against oil and gas development would put those efforts back years and create greater unemployment and hardship in the meantime.

All of us are interested in preserving the awesome majesty of our local landscape. Most of us are also concerned about providing a solid economic opportunity for our communities and our children. I support Alternative 1 because I count myself among those who realize we are smart enough to do both.

Yours Truly,

Kyle Allred
2450 Spanish Valley Dr.
Moab Utah

April 15, 2014

Hon. Rob Bishop
1017 Federal Building
324 25th St
Ogden, UT 84401

Cc: Grand County Council
125 E. Center St,
Moab, UT 84532

Re: Grand County Public Lands

Dear Congressman,

In reviewing the proposals put forth by the Grand County Public Lands Working Committee, I find that Alternative 1 is the only option presented that fully encapsulates your vision of coexistence of conservation and economic development.

The National Recreation Area proposed in Alternative 1 protects the most unique and sensitive terrain in the County. At the same time, it is not so extensive as to preclude reasonable oil and gas development, or to eliminate valid existing lease rights, as Alternatives 2 and 3 do. These leases are legally binding contracts, and retroactively eliminating those amounts to a breach of contract.

In many ways, our two biggest industries in the region – tourism and oil and gas development – are natural fits. Not only are wells located, drilled, and completed in such a way as to minimize impacts, but the tourist industry relies heavily on oil and gas for its own survival. By definition, tourists come from elsewhere; to get here, they need to fly or drive. Once here, they use products, such as camping equipment, that very likely contains petroleum products – and in any case was delivered to the store from which they purchased it by means of transport that runs on fossil fuel.

This does not mean that we should open the entire county up to unregulated development. No one – including the oil and gas companies that operate or seek to operate here – are asking for that. Some areas do need to be set aside for strictly recreational purposes. But these areas must be carefully chosen. Our oil and gas resources are located where they are and access to them needs to be considered. Blanket wilderness designations, or unreasonably wide NRA boundaries (like those delineated in Alternatives 2 and 3) will needlessly eliminate economic development that otherwise could be utilized to maintain the economic health and prosperity of our county.

You are absolutely correct in saying that conservation and economic development can coexist. Alternative 1 lays out a plan for this to occur in Grand County by making public land designations that set aside land where needed, permits development, and respects valid lease rights, and should be adopted.

Thank you for your efforts, and for accepting my comments.

Sincerely,

R. T. Rockwell
975 S. 400 E.
Moab UT.

Apr. 15, 2015

To: Congressman Rob Bishop
1017 Federal Building
324 25th St
Ogden, UT 84401

Cc: Grand County Council
125 E. Center St,
Moab, UT 84532

Re: Public Lands Initiative -- Grand County Proposals

Dear Congressman,

I am writing in regards to the proposals put out for designations of public lands in Grand County because I support the idea that economic development can coincide with conservation. As a Grand County resident, I do not wish for any industrial development to come at the cost of our natural heritage. At the same time, I recognize that oil and gas exploration and production in this country is done in a manner that is respectful of the land, air, water and wildlife. On top of that, I also recognize just how important that development is to our economic survival.

Alternative 1 is most in line with the way I look at the issue. It sets aside land for recreation, but doesn't squeeze out energy development altogether.

The other two alternatives are far more lopsided in that the land designations are too restrictive. Alternative 3 would pretty much eliminate the possibility of new development, and potentially even restrict current production. Alternative 2 is a little better, but the extent of the proposed National Recreation Area would envelop existing legally valid leases. This does not seem right to me, and could cause a great deal of economic disruption.

Both energy development and tourism are integral to Grand County's economy. We need both industries if we are to survive, grow, and prosper as a community. We now have an energy company that has opened an office in Moab and that is actively creating jobs in the region, jobs that pay well above the average for our county. Their work supports hundreds of other jobs in Moab as well. And while the tourism industry is, and always will be, deeply important to Grand County, it is largely seasonal. The energy industry helps even out some of the ebbs and flows of tourism and makes for a more diversified economy.

Alternative 1 is the only option presented that fosters this economic diversity, which is a key aim of your Public Lands initiative. I ask you to join me in support of this most reasonable Alternative.

Signed,

Pete Terwilleger

Pete Terwilleger
2450 Spanish Valley Dr
Moab, UT

Hon. Rob Bishop
1017 Federal Building
324 25th St
Ogden, UT 84401

Cc: Grand County Council

Re: Grand County Public Lands

Dear Congressman Bishop,

Alternative one of the draft plans forwarded for the long-term designation of public lands within Grand County is an outstanding piece of effort on behalf of the Grand County Public Lands Working Committee. This Alternative achieves that widely sought out balance between protecting the landscape and developing the mineral wealth that exists within our borders. It is hard to overstate the need for such balance. Eastern Utah sports some of the most unique and beautiful landscape on the planet. But, our region also contains a storehouse of energy that will benefit not only us, but the nation in general. Locking up huge swaths of land is therefore not the most prudent management technique.

Utah's oil and gas industry knows how to extract their target resource without doing great harm to the environment. The people who make up the oil and gas industry live here and love the county as much as any of us. They are our neighbors, family, and friends, and most of them enjoy hiking in our outdoors as much as any of the rest of us. They are in the business of providing energy for their fellow citizens, not despoiling our landscape.

It needs to be remembered just how far the economic benefits of oil and gas reach into our communities. We all know that the industry provides good jobs and supports small businesses; it also generates a considerable amount of revenue, enough to allow our county to provide amenities that otherwise might be beyond our financial grasp. For example, a recent $2 million injection of Federal Mineral Lease money allowed the County to keep the Senior Home open without raising taxes.

With these benefits in mind, it is prudent to adopt the Alternative that offers the most flexibility and that is the least restrictive towards mineral development. The remaining Alternatives would, to varying degrees, deny the rights of businesses seeking to develop their leases, and by extension, deny the local communities the revenue that would be otherwise generated. I therefore wholeheartedly support Alternative one and urge you to do the same.

Best regards,

Jim V-Taylor
Jim Taylor
2971 Desert Rd
Moab UT. 84532

April 14, 2014

Hon. Rob Bishop
1017 Federal Building
324 25th St
Ogden, UT 84401

Cc: Grand County Council
125 E. Center St,
Moab, UT 84532

Re: Grand County Public Lands

Dear Congressman Bishop,

I am wholly supportive of Alternative 1 as presented by the Grand County Public Lands Working Committee. This Alternative offers the best mix of conservation and development, something that is important to many Grand County families.

Like virtually everyone who lives here, I appreciate the natural beauty that surrounds us. However, to suggest that it cannot be preserved without eliminating oil and gas development is patently absurd. Oil and gas production has been occurring here for many years without causing great environmental damage. In fact, more damage to the natural features that dot our region has come at the hands of careless tourists than the oil and gas producers. I wholeheartedly support our vital tourism industry, but it alone cannot sustain a growing community. Oil and gas is an equally important part of our local culture, and one that can provide the local wealth to allow our County to be everything we wish it to be for ourselves and our children.

Furthermore, oil and natural gas are critically important commodities to our nation. I would much rather have our energy developed right here than have to rely on countries which may not have our best interests at heart to provide it for us. Increasing domestic energy supply also keeps energy costs down, which is important to young families trying to make ends meet.

This is the reason why part of the BLM's mandate is to manage public lands in such a way as to ensure multiple uses – including the development of valuable resources which ultimately benefit the entire nation.

Alternative 1 is the only alternative presented that will accomplish everything we ask for in a public land management plan: it conserves sensitive areas, allows for prudent and responsible economic development, and allows for the multiple use of our lands. These are the reasons I am so enthusiastic in my support of Alternative 1.

Best regards,

Tyrel H. Todd
410 Jefferson St.

April 14, 2014

Hon. Rob Bishop
1017 Federal Building
324 25th St
Ogden, UT 84401

Grand County Council
125 E. Center St,
Moab, UT 84532

Re: Grand County Public Lands Designation

Dear Congressman Bishop, Commissioners;

I wish first to extend my gratitude for your good work in respect to public land policy in our state. With so much of Utah being covered by federal land, and the seemingly incompatible ends of conservation and economic development constantly competing with one another, it is an important, if not simple, issue.

I say "seemingly," because I truly feel that there is no reason that conservation and mineral development should be at opposing ends. It is high time that we realize that the two can naturally go together, and that our state and county will be better off once we accept that.

Oil and gas development has taken place not only in Grand County, but in several places throughout the nation, without damaging the environment. The fact of the matter is that the industry has learned over the past decades how to do their jobs in an environmentally benign way. The result has been prosperity for local communities that are blessed enough to have those mineral resources located nearby, while simultaneously protecting the natural heritage of those same areas.

Alternative 1 of the proposed Grand County public lands designation is the only proffered alternative that adequately strikes that crucial balance. It protects certain areas that sport an ecology or terrain that is sensitive enough to warrant the extra protection, while leaving enough public lands open to multiple use (including economic development of mineral resources) to support the local economy, and to make the best possible use of the resources contained within.

Alternative 1 represents the best efforts of many bright, dedicated people to formulate a cooperative agreement that achieves both ends at once. For the sake of our economy, and of our natural heritage, I would urge the adoption of Alternative 1.

Sincerely,

Joshua Shumway
48 N. McElhaney Ln
Moab UT 84532

April 14, 2014

4/14/14

Grand County Council,

Please look @ more than what is on the table. You NEED to Dramatically improve Alternatives.

Help protect our public lands from more roads, oil rigs and pipelines. There's more to life than money and economics. We NEED protected space!

Thank you,

Allison Vanderkhuyzen

LYNDA SMIRZ
60 West Kane Canyon Drive | Moab, UT 84532

April 15, 2014

RECEIVED
APR 22 2014
BY:

Grand County Council
125 E Center Street
Moab, UT 84532

Dear council members,

My husband and I took a bus tour of parks of the Southwestern United States in 2000. This was the first time we had ever seen Moab, Arches and Canyonlands. We fell in love with the spectacular outdoor scenery and were hooked. In 2001 we bought our first piece of land planning to retire in Moab. In 2008 we bought our second piece and completed our dream home in Moab in 2012.

It is with great concern that we have watched a juggernaut of oil and gas drilling overtake the area. We naively believed preservation of the land was the job of BLM. We are hoping the Grand County Council will assume that role. My home state is Ohio where geologists have recently linked earthquakes deep under the Appalachians with hydraulic fracking. This has led Ohio to issue strict new permit conditions on April 12, 2014.

I want Moab to be prosperous and have a bright future but the protection of irreplaceable resources must take priority. The damage to the land, water and scenery cannot be undone if sacrificed to short sighted decision making. Setting up zones for resource extraction is synonymous with sacrificing thousands of acres of incredible beauty for short term profit. And letting the BLM take the lead on this is strongly favoring resource extraction.

Alternative 3 is the least offensive of the proposed alternatives before you, but even alternative 3 needs significant improvement to protect the Moab watershed, Labyrinth Canyon and Grand County's wilderness from oil, gas and potash development.

Thank you for the work you do and the difficult decisions you have to make.

Sincerely,

Lynda Smirz MD MBA

April 24/14

Grand County Commissioners

RECEIVED
APR 24 2014
BY: lw

Please be aware I am a resident of Grand County and am opposed to the BLM and federal control of Utah lands.

I feel the road through the Book Cliffs connecting to the north and Vernal will become an asset to the whole county. The road will also save millions of gallons of fuel over its lifetime.

Grand County should use but not abuse our lands

I love the desert but do not feel a small organized group of environmentalists represent the true needs or wants of the region.

Glen Broughton
Po Box 1272
Moab Utah
84532
flspectrum@gmail.ca

29 April 2014

RECEIVED
APR 29 2014
BY: VW

Grand County Council
125 East Center St.
Moab. UT 84532

MOAB
SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

re: land use proposals

After review of the three land use proposals,
the Moab Sportsman's Club ***CAN NOT*** support any of them.

The proposals do not take into consideration the aging population dynamics within this country.

The "Greatest Generation" and the "Baby Boom" generation are the fastest growing aging segment of our population, with the "Boomers" now the largest portion of our society. Few if any of the "Greatest Generation" are able to hike & negotiate the wilderness back countries on their own, and fewer & fewer "Boomers" are even able to participate in physically challenging activities due to their advancing age and associated maladies.

A cavalier & selfish minority of a younger and more fit population wants to limit the use of our natural beauty & resources to the the above mentioned population demographics.

Hunting was, and continues to be a popular, and viable form of family recreation, enjoyment & source of protein to a large portion of Utah society. Not to mention a preferred method of game management for the Department of Wildlife Resources. To limit access to a select fit few would be wrong, and viewed as nothing short of a travesty.

As sportsmen, we also view the use of ATV's, UTV's and other ORV's as acceptable use, when properly utilized on the existing roads & trails of our pubic lands. Again, if a select few of physically fit elitist object to hearing motors running while hiking, we say "sorry", as we too have a right to enjoy our public lands every bit as much as they do.

In conclusion, if a compromise has to made, with one of the three proposals accepted, then we, the Moab Sportsman's Club would be in favor of the least amount of additional wildness, and that would be Proposal #1, but that doesn't mean we fully support that proposal, only as the lessor of three evils. We feel all three proposals should be abandoned.

Thank-you for your time and consideration,

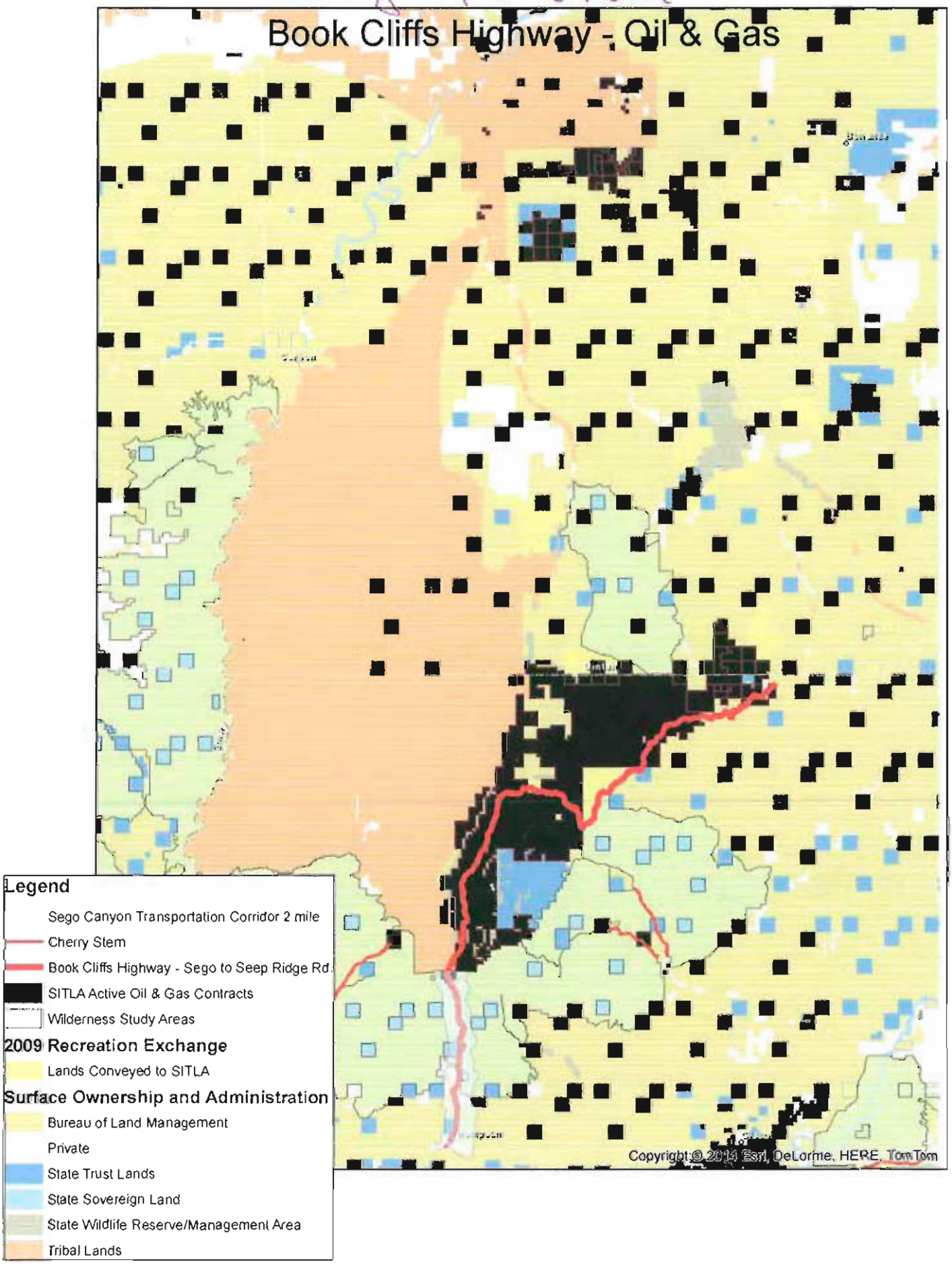
Frank B Darcey III

Frank B. Darcey, President, Moab Sportsmen's Club

cc: Honorable Jason Chaffetz, Utah Congressional Dist. 3

P.O. Box 539 • Moab, UT 84532

Maps provided at the public Lands meeting by a citizen



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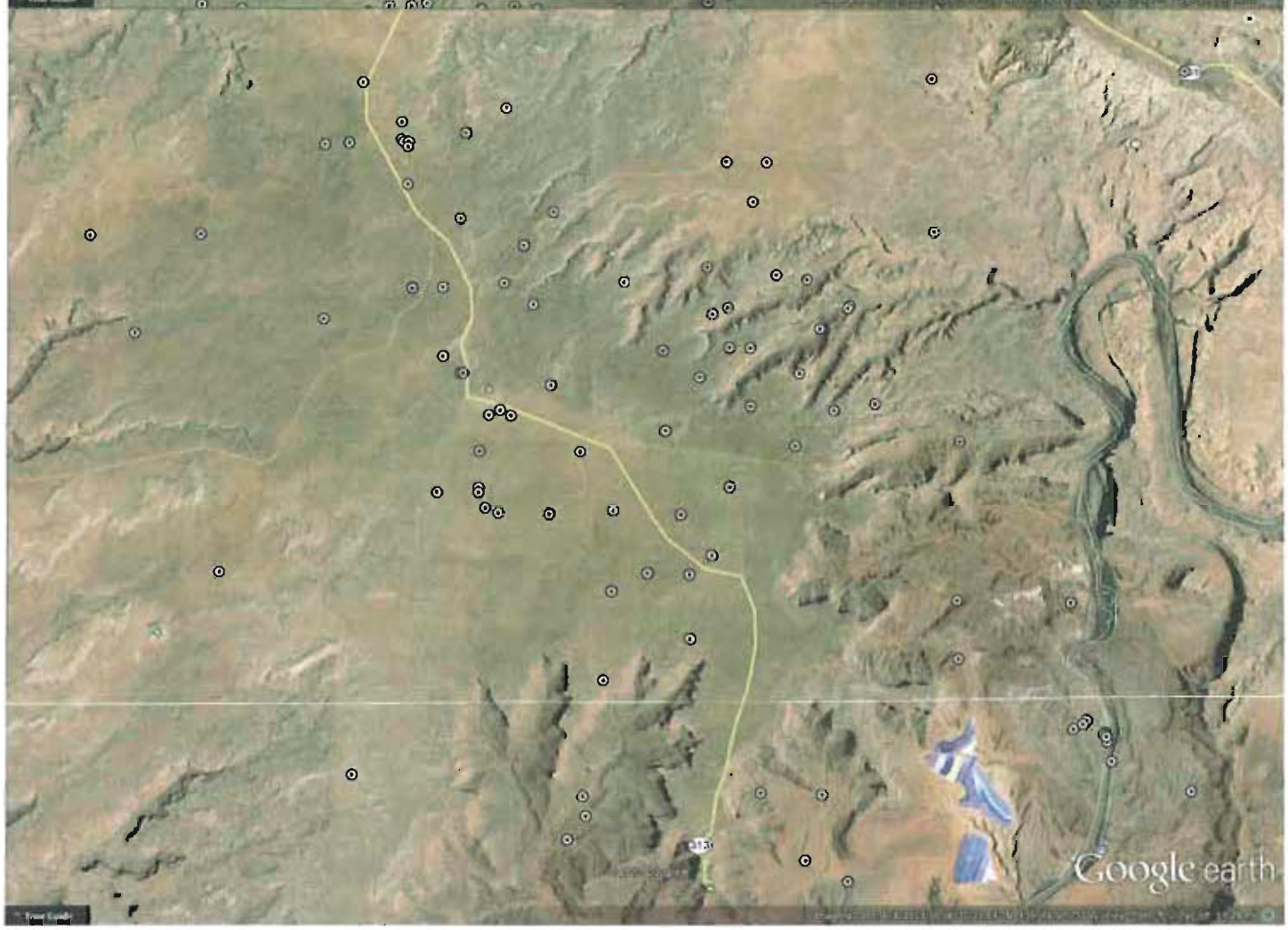
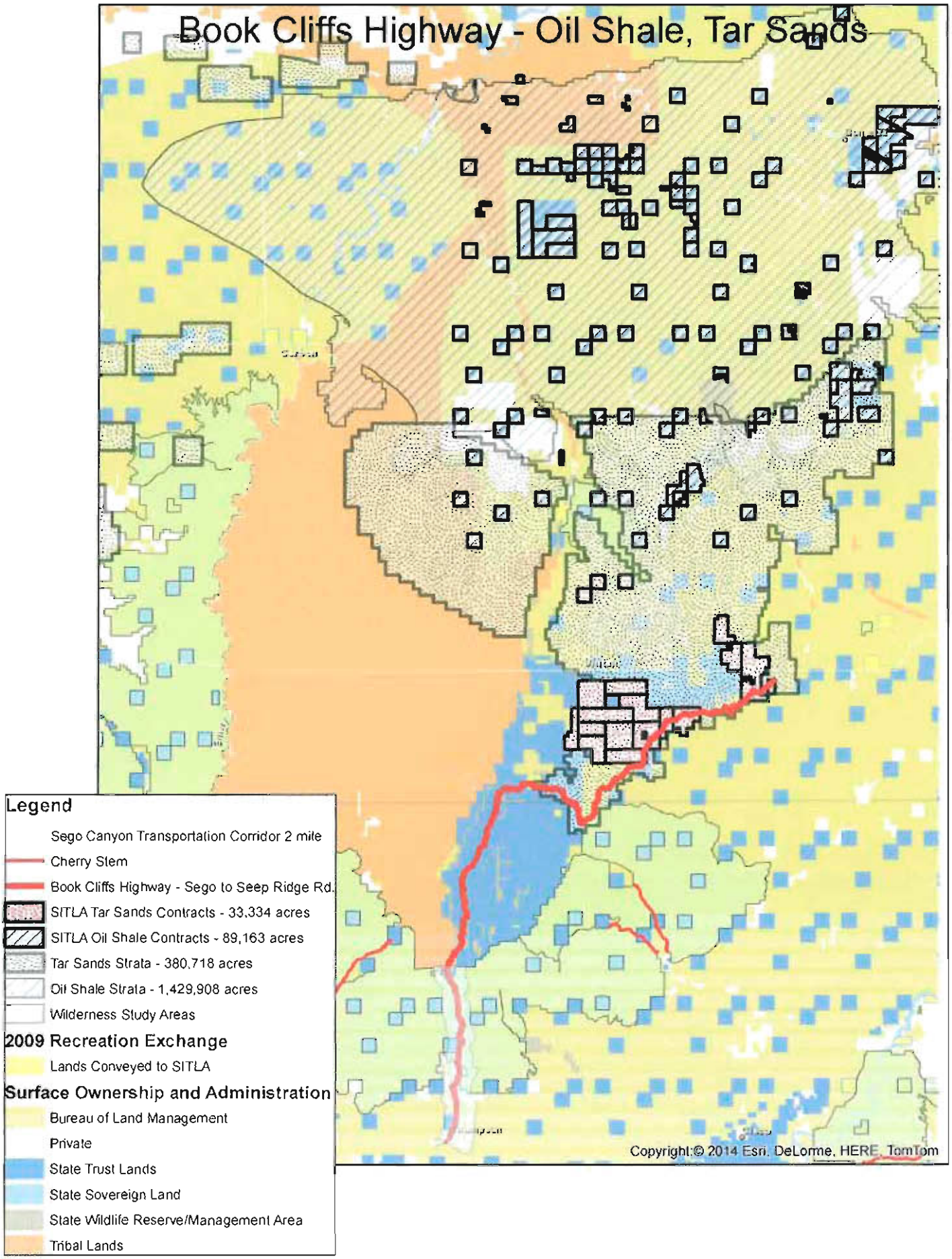

Google earth


Book Cliffs Highway - Oil Shale, Tar Sands
Legend
Sego Canyon Transportation Corridor 2 mile
Cherry Stem
Book Cliffs Highway - Sego to Seep Ridge Rd.
SITLA Tar Sands Contracts - 33,334 acres
SITLA Oil Shale Contracts - 89,163 acres
Tar Sands Strata - 380,718 acres
Oil Shale Strata - 1,429,908 acres
Wilderness Study Areas
2009 Recreation Exchange
Lands Conveyed to SITLA
Surface Ownership and Administration
Bureau of Land Management
Private
State Trust Lands
State Sovereign Land
State Wildlife Reserve/Management Area
Tribal Lands
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RECEIVED
APR 28
BY:

Dma International, Inc.

Box 189
Moab, Utah 84532

1-800-842-6622
(435) 259-5693
Cell (435) 260-1824
Fax (435) 259-5930

April 28, 2014

Grand County Council
125 E Center Street
Moab, Utah 84532

Fred Ferguson, Legislative Director
U.S. Congressman Rob Bishop
123 Cannon Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Bishop Lands Bill Alternatives

Dear Council and Congressman Bishop:

First, I would like to express my appreciation for all the hard work that has been put forth by the Subcommittee. Based on the public hearing last week, it is obviously a 'no win' situation.

I strongly feel that the three proposals are leaning toward the wrong direction! Currently, Grand County ranks second in the State in public lands with over 97% of our county in federal and state control. Wilderness areas just for the sake that it can be done, is totally ludicrous and hypocritical. At the public hearing, it was asked how many rode a bike or walked to the meeting. Two hands went up out of the hundreds there! I personally feel that most, if not all, of the speakers supporting 'more wilderness' have never been to the actual wilderness areas. Further, I believe that if the wilderness areas were to be deleted, they would remain in that state for decades, if not forever!

I strongly support trucking by the development of a transportation corridor from I-70 through Sego Canyon. Ownership of the corridor would be transferred to Grand County under RS 2477. However, that road HAS TO BE VERY CAREFULLY engineered and designed to protect the antiquities in the area. The area must be totally protected from the road impact.

I support the oil and gas development. Fracking is very dangerous, but done with extreme professional oversight, it can be done safely. This being said, I am totally against tar sands development. It is an extremely 'dirty' energy consuming almost 90% of its energy value in the refining process. We are blessed with extensive clean gas energy which can be harvested with minimal surface and environmental impact. I would like to recognize Fidelity as a company leading the way in showing how it can be done in Grand County.

SUBSIDIARIES: Glo Germ Company™ Sore No More™
La Sal Escrow Company
Castle Valley River Ranchos Avalanche Rescue System

Potash development has shown that it is a clean and acceptable mineral extraction industry here in Grand and San Juan counties. Even in the 'view shed' of Dead Horse Point visitors comment on how pretty it is and take multiple pictures from the Park. Hydraulic extraction without re-using the water would have to be carefully reviewed. However, underground mining would have very limited impact to the environment, if any at all.

Quoting Mr. Joe Day, "As of a 2004 figure, the State of Utah ranked 3rd in the Nation for federally owned acreage in the amount of 57%; behind Alaska 2nd at 69%; and Nevada 1st at 84%. If you compare that to Texas at 1.86% and New York State at 0.76%; you have to believe that Utah has sacrificed its fair share!!" I have to agree. And Grand County leads that sacrifice along with San Juan in the State of Utah.

Food for thought: in today's environment it would be totally impossible for my company to have developed Castle Valley River Ranchos!! It is now the Town of Castle Valley. It is where several of the people demanding more wilderness, live and commute twenty miles one way, to Moab for employment! And they are against oil and gas development. Go figure!

In closing, I strongly recommend prudent, carefully planned, balanced development which would lead to long term healthy, stable, growth of our economy and wellbeing with fewer lands set aside.

Sincerely

Joe D Kingsley

Joe D Kingsley
President

RECEIVED
APR 28 2014
BY:

Grand County Council and the Land Use Study Committee

Thank you to the Committee for including many of the popular mountain bike areas in your proposed Land Use Alternatives, like the Magnificent Seven trails in the Gemini Bridges Area, Amasa Back and the Bar M-Moab Brands trails.

Attached are maps showing some of the BLM Mt. Bike Focus Areas that will help identify areas that the County Council may also want to include in your final Grand County Land Use proposal to Rep. Bishop.

Maps:

** Especially helpful to the committee, and the Council, will be the Moab Area Non-Motorized Recreation **Overview Map** which shows the BLM Mt Bike Focus Areas as well as other areas where trails are concentrated.

** **Klondike** was mentioned in the Land Use Alternatives, and the large northern portion of the Klondike Bluff Mt. Bike Area is depicted in the Klondike Bluff map. This area includes 52 miles of Mt. Bike Trails. The large Klondike area was not included in your land use maps, but was intended to be shown on the final proposal. The Klondike Bluff area certainly qualifies as an intensively used recreation area.

** **Klondike South** or as we have named it, **"Klonzo"** is a long rectangle detached unit of the BLM Klondike Mt. Bike Focus area. (Klonzo is already included in all your Alternatives).

** **"The Whole Enchilada"** is a 25 mile long trail starting high in the Mts. on Burro Pass, and continuing down to the River Road. Half of the trail is located on Forest Service land. The trail segments of the Whole Enchilada on BlM managed land include the **"LPS" and "Porcupine Rim"** trail segments. This is considered an "epic ride" and a world class trail that brings thousands of people to Moab. These trails should receive a high priority to be included in the Land Use proposal sent to Rep. Bishop.

** **Mill Canyon/Upper Courthouse Mt.– Monitor and Merrimac This** BlM Mt. Bike Focus Area is definitely a multi use recreation area. It includes two Jeep Safari Routes, a designated ATV route, plus some traditional Mt. Bike trails and possibly soon to be proposed new Mt. Bike trails.

** **Bartlett Slickrock Mt. Bike Free Ride and Tusher Slickrock Mt. Bike areas.** They are on each side of the Bartlett Canyon. Bartlett is a great slickrock area with many fun domes to ride, likewise, Tusher/Jedi. Surrounding the Mountain Focus areas are the very popular motorized 3D Jeep Safari route and two popular 4x4 routes, the Pickle & Mashed Potatoes and the Gravy Bowl. Bartlett Canyon is also a very popular ATV and motorcycle route.

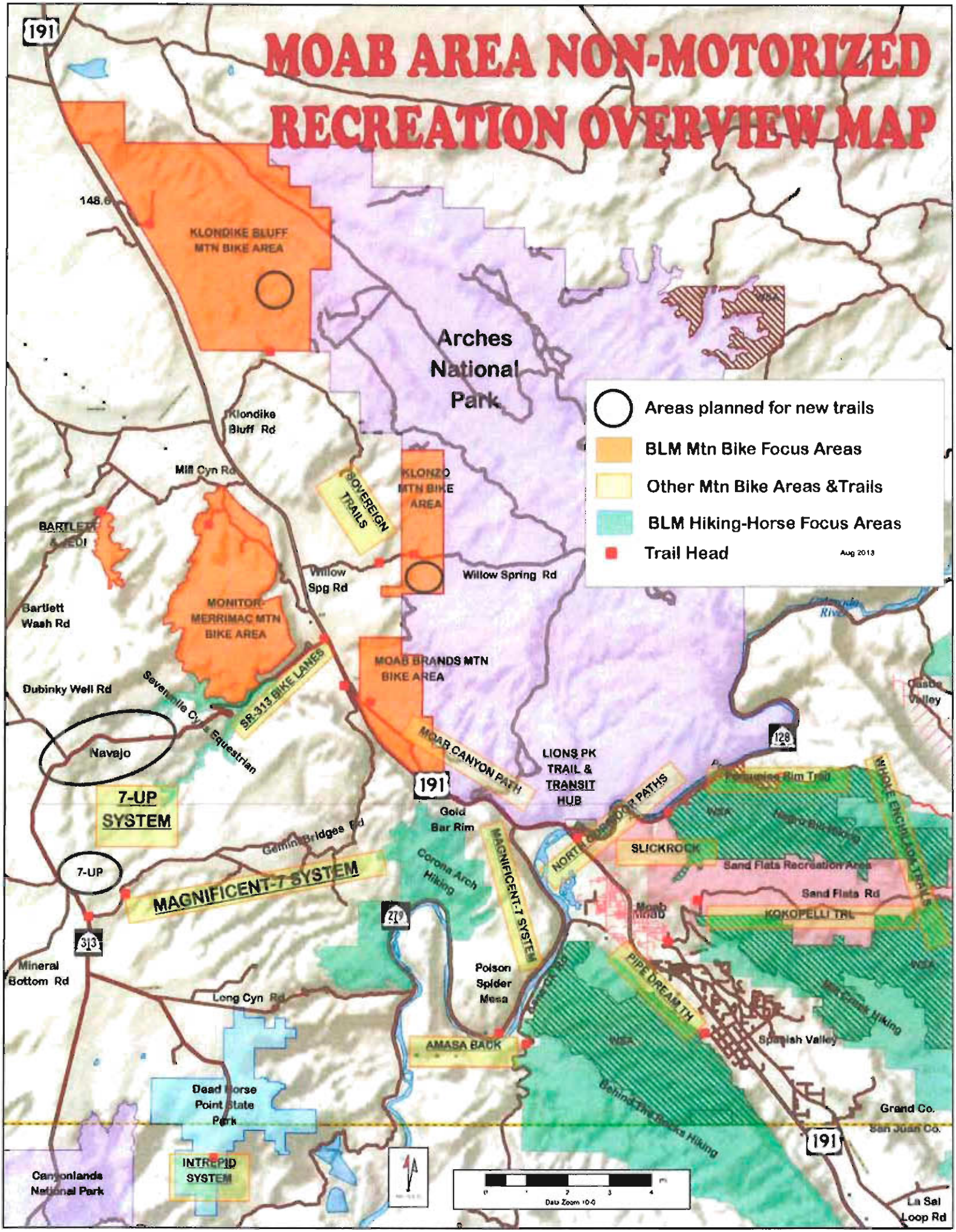
Thank you for considering mountain bike Trails in your Recreation portion of the Land Use proposal. Recreation is a combination of motorized and non- motorized users, and mountain bike trails are an important component of any recreation and economic plan for the County.

Thank you, and hope the maps are helpful.

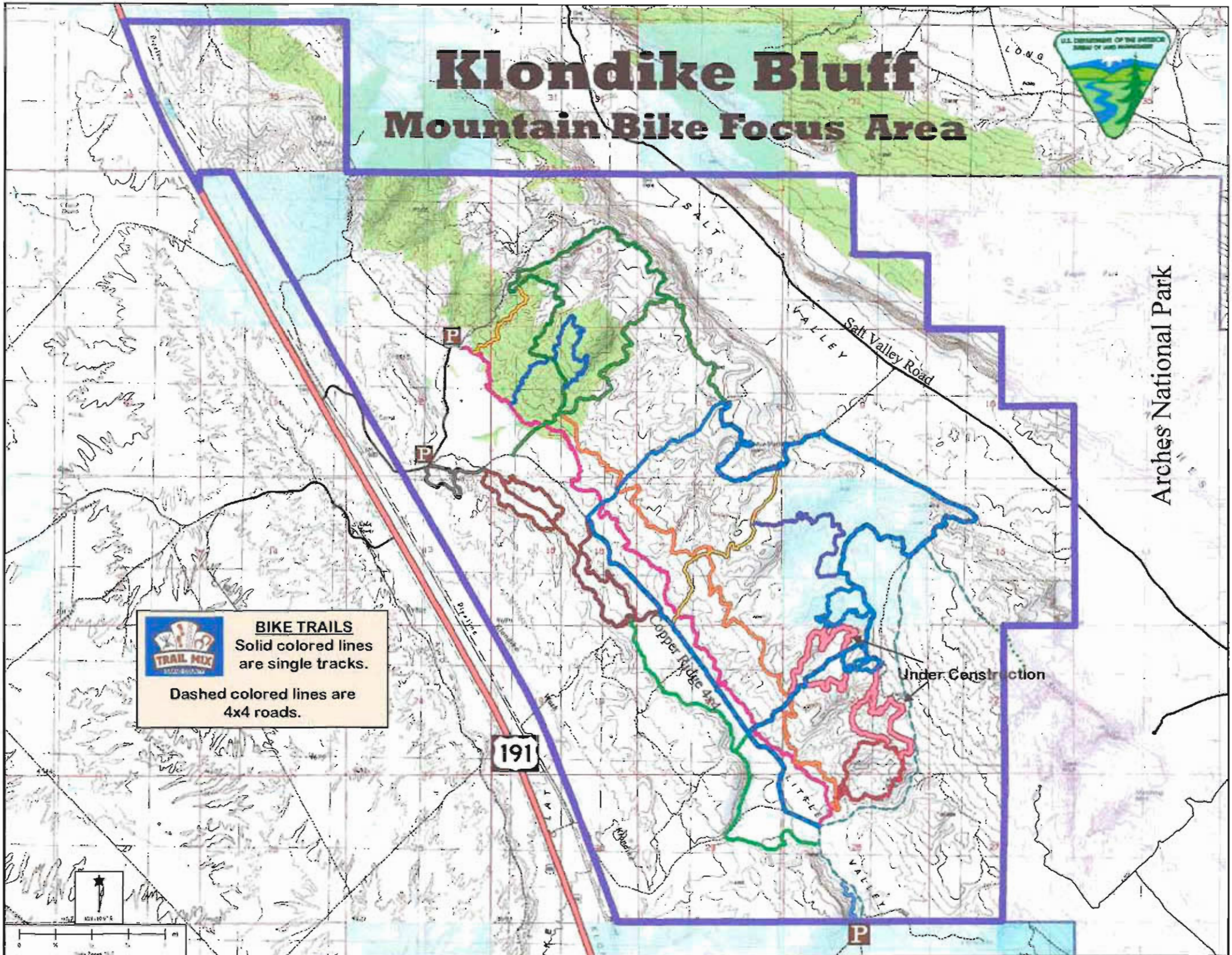
Sandy Freethey 4/28/14

Sandy Freethey

MOAB AREA NON-MOTORIZED RECREATION OVERVIEW MAP

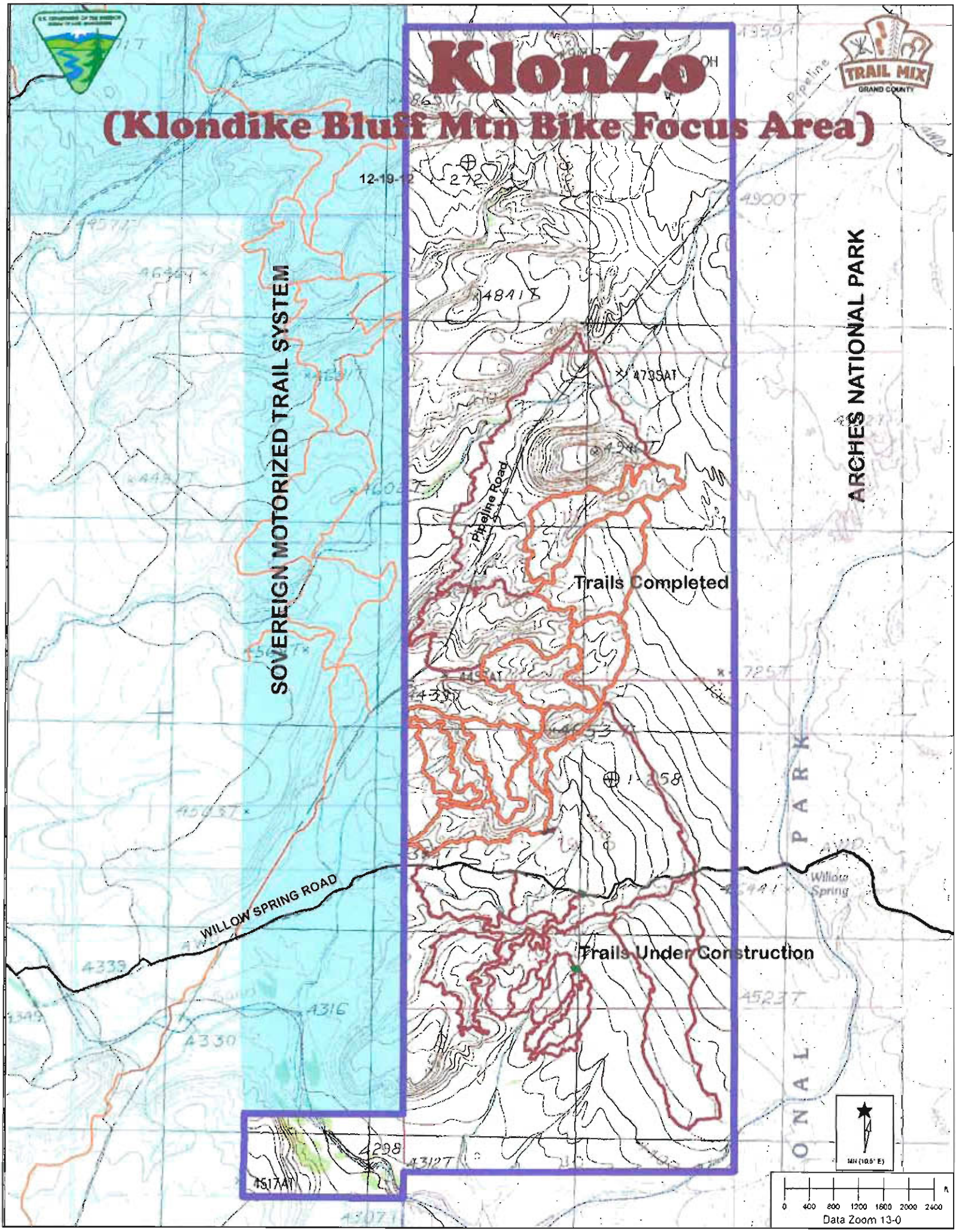


Klondike Bluff
Mountain Bike Focus Area

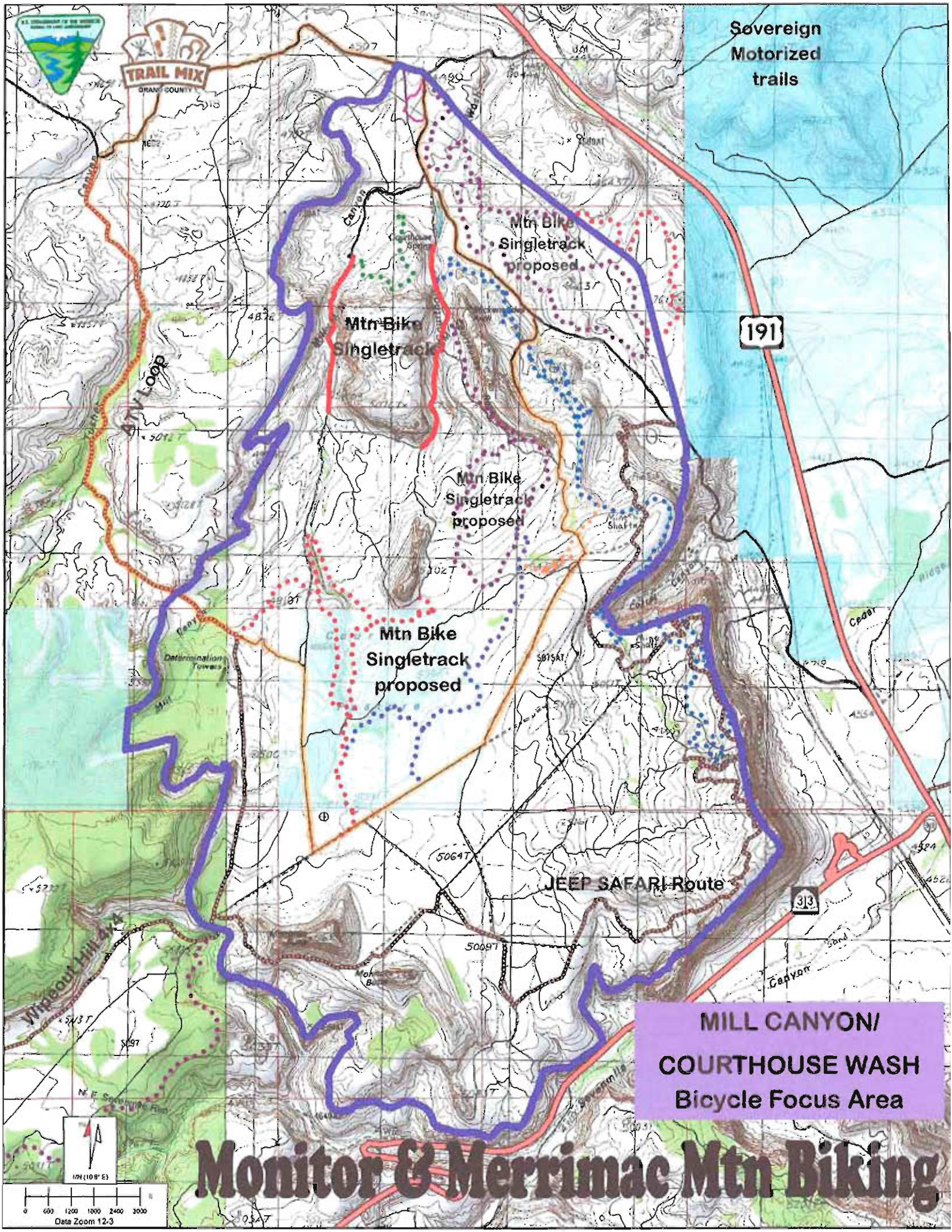


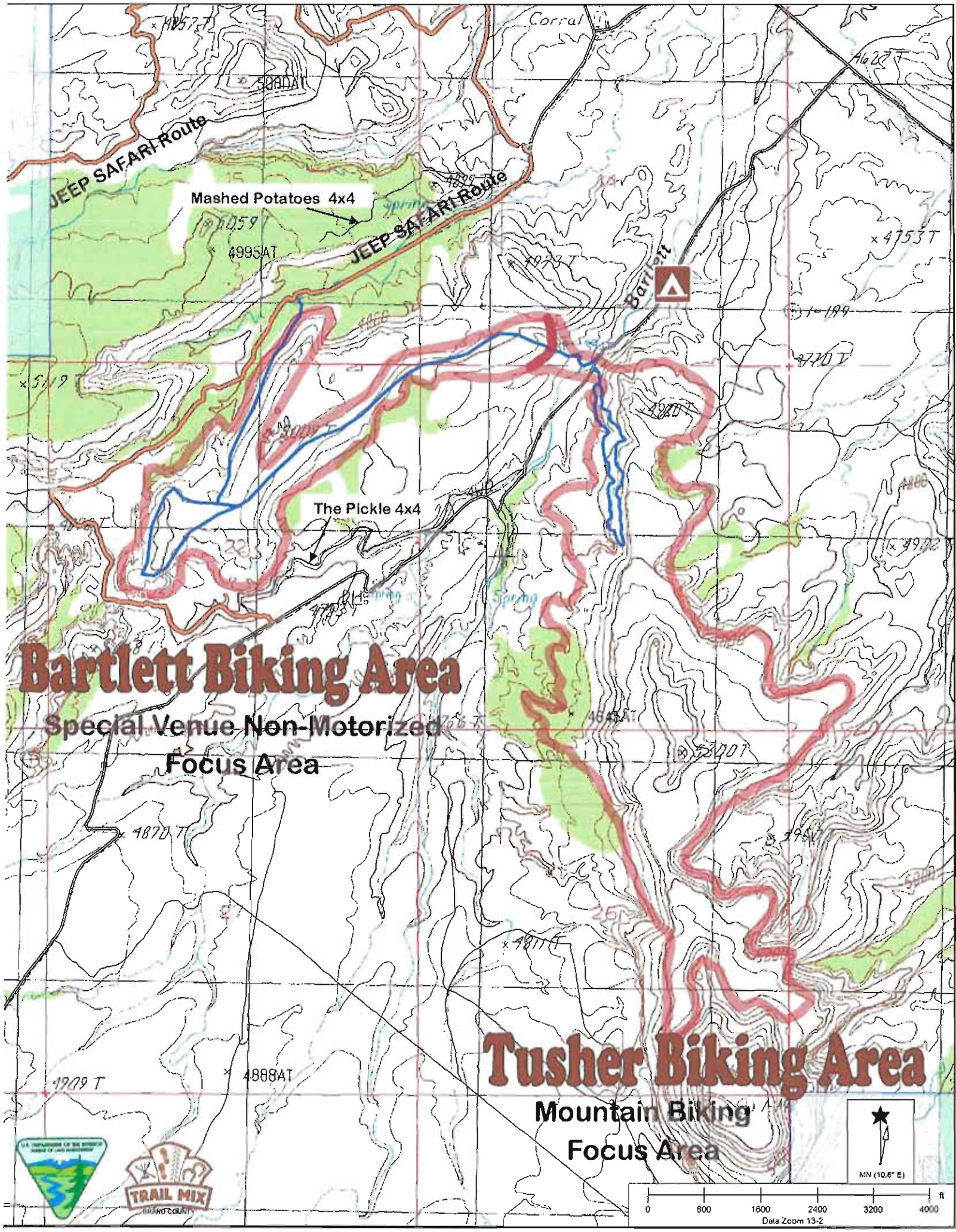
KlonZo

(Klondike Bluff Mtn Bike Focus Area)



THE WHOLE ENCHILADA
CASTLE VALLEY
Porcupine Rim
LPS
UPS
Kokopelli
Hazzard Co.
Burro Pass
MOAB
Sand Flats Road
Kokopelli Trl
Kokopelli Trail
MANTI - LA SAL NATIONAL FOREST
Trans-La Sal
Miners Basin
Warner Lake
Dry Frk-Beaver
Shumway Gulch
Clark
Moonlight Mdws
Geyser Pass Rd
La Sal Loop Rd
Fisher Mesa
128
191
GRAND CO.
SAN JUAN CO.
Natural Resources
TRAIL MIX
0 1 2 3 mi
Data Zoom 10-8


TRAIL MIX
GRAND COUNTY
Sovereign Motorized trails
Mtn Bike Singletrack proposed
Mtn Bike Singletrack
191
ATV Loop
Mtn Bike Singletrack proposed
Mtn Bike Singletrack proposed
JEEP SAFARI Route
313
Wipeout Hill 4x4
MILL CANYON/
COURTHOUSE WASH
Bicycle Focus Area
Monitor & Merrimac Mtn Biking
Data Zoom 12-3


Corral
JEEP SAFARI Route
JEEP SAFARI Route
Mashed Potatoes 4x4
The Pickle 4x4
Bartlett
Bartlett Biking Area
Special Venue Non-Motorized
Focus Area
Tusher Biking Area
Mountain Biking
Focus Area
TRAIL MIX
MN (10.6° E)
0
800
1600
2400
3200
4000
ft
Data Zoom 13-2

RECEIVED
APR 29 2014
BY: KW

4-28-14

Grand County Council
Moab, UT 84532

Dear Council Members:

Re: **Land Use**

Thank you for your work to date in defining a Land Use Plan for the County.

I attended last week's public forum and was struck by the extremism of those who said that none of the three proposed options goes anywhere near far enough. Such extreme positions leave no room for negotiation or compromise, thereby negating the validity of the positions of those folks.

Hearing the comments such as "if mining is allowed in the Sego Canyon area we will have the worst air pollution in the entire nation" obviously are ludicrous. One only needs to visit a heavily populated metropolitan area to realize what real air pollution is. Another comment that bordered on being funny because it was so ridiculous came from the fellow who had to flee Grand County to San Juan County because Moab "is overrun by development and tourists".

I am admittedly an avid Jeep enthusiast and enjoy the trails surrounding Moab, for which I offer no apology. I have never gone beyond the limits of established trails and never will.

While I share the legitimate concerns of every desert dweller about the future of our water supply, I would be perfectly content to not add and additional wilderness areas.

While option 1 does not perfectly match my opinions, it is the best of the three offered and I support that plan.

Please do not allow the extremist voices to rule just because they are the most vocal.

Sincerely,

Glen E. Richardson
Moab, UT

RECEIVED
APR 29 2014
BY: KW

Jane M. Whitworth
995 Dunlora Drive
Charlottesville, VA 22901

April 21, 2014

Grand County Council
125 E. Center Street
Moab, UT 84532

Dear Council Members:

Please! Please! Please, reconsider Alternative 3 as it is written! If Alternative 3 is the best that can be considered, I dread reading Alternatives 1 & 2. You are blessed with an area under consideration that is treasured not only by Grand County residents, but the entire world.

I visit the area fairly regularly and just revisited it on my computer and was just "blown away" with the rock formations, the Arches National Park, the desert areas. Mining, drilling, roads will change all of that. Off road vehicle use of any kind will destroy fragile ecosystems.

If the Moab watershed is not protected, what will happen downstream? Has that even been seriously discussed?

What is the local reaction to this proposal? I understand that you received letters from Grand County residents and business owners that favored strong wilderness and public lands protection. Who is pushing for all this development in these beautiful areas.

Please protect it! Once you let roads be developed and areas mined, transportation corridors to be developed that land cannot be taken back and returned to its original beauty.

Most sincerely,

Jane M Whitworth

Jane M. Whitworth

Pamela & Quentin Baker
1950 Roadrunner Hill
Moab, UT 84532
April 25, 2014

RECEIVED
APR 29 2014
BY: VW

Grand County Council
125 East Center Street
Moab, UT 84532

Dear Grand County Council Members,

After reviewing the three alternatives suggested for submission as a recommendation for the Bishop Public Lands Bill, we feel strongly that the future of our environment and community is not being scrutinized carefully enough. We have many questions to which no one seems to have answers, and yet the process is proceeding as if we had thoroughly studied these issues.

Air Quality
What baseline data do we have about our air quality? What has happened in similar communities when tar sands and/or oil shale have occurred on the potential scale available in Eastern Utah? We understand monitoring has been suggested, but dismissed as too expensive. We need to breathe.

Water Quantity and Quality
What do we know about our water resources? What has happened in similar communities with tar sands and/or oil shale extraction? Once again, aquifer studies have not yet been done. We need to drink.

Cultural Resources
Have cultural resource inventories been completed in the areas being made more accessible under each of the alternatives? As volunteers actively working to document cultural resources in Grand County, we are especially concerned with the impact of the proposed road through the Book Cliffs on the little understood cultural resources in that area.

Flora and Fauna
What will the impact be on each of these biological resources with each alternative?

Noise
What impact will there be on the noise levels in Grand County under each alternative?

Viewshed
What will the impact be on the viewshed from our existing National Parks under each alternative?

Crime Rate
What has happened to rates of crime (robbery, prostitution, drug use, etc.) in similar communities with energy extraction booms? Have you checked out what has happened to towns in North Dakota, for example?

Economic Impacts
What is the impact on Moab of the implementation of each alternative? Much of our current economy is based on tourists. What attracts tourists and what will be the impact of visitation under each proposal? How do we generate new sustainable, livable employment for the citizens of Grand County without destroying the current economic base?

Housing
What happens to local housing costs and availability with a boom economy? How does this impact local property taxes?

Infrastructure
What has happened in similar communities when sudden influxes of workers strain local roads, sewage capacity (we already know we have some issues here), fire departments, etc.?

Most alarming of all is the list of "assumptions" at the top of each alternative (not even an alternative list of assumptions is given....). All three alternatives would try to get enforcement of the Antiquities Act nullified in Grand County in the future. Since it has provided us with such a positive outcome in the past with the establishment of Arches and Canyonlands National Monuments (which later became parks), we should be fighting to preserve it. Local citizens did not establish either of these protected areas and yet they currently provide the economic basis of our community. Any one doubting this need look no farther than the response to the recent government shutdown.

We urge the County Council to promote neither the destruction nor development of our public lands without much more deliberation. None of the alternatives is desirable.

In short, BLM management plans are forced to consider these sorts of impacts and take years to complete. We feel it is unrealistic to push for a plan that is ill conceived because it is hurried. Even Bishop has proposed legislation that would force lands nominated by the president for monument status under the Antiquities Act to undergo environmental review. Why shouldn't the Bishop Land Plan for SE Utah have this same environmental review process?

Sincerely,

Pamela Baker

Pamela Baker

Quentin Baker

Quentin Baker

cc: Fred Ferguson

564 Byrd Avenue
Moab, Utah
April 27, 2014

RECEIVED
APR 29 2014
BY: VW

Grand County Council
125 E. Center Street
Moab, Utah 84532

Greetings:

We are writing to express our feelings regarding the Grand County Land Plan. Neither of the three proposals sufficiently take into account the importance of this wonderful area for future generations. In the words of Edward Albey: " Wilderness is not a luxury but a necessity." Can we forget his legacy? We are the guardians of the future. We must take this seriously. When one flies across the country and sits in a window seat, one can see that there is very little wilderness land left. Most of our land is used for agriculture, towns, cities, and roads.

We need more designated wilderness areas. For example, the proposed oil and gas drilling east of Arches and near the rim of Labyrinth Canyon would be a disservice to the tourism industry, which is so much a part of the fabric of our county. People have suggested that we need to diversify our economy. Will the oil and gas drilling really benefit our economy or will it only provide a short lived boom that will leave Grand County to deal with illnesses and expenses for many generations? How can this industry actually provide long term jobs when our people depend on unspoiled natural beauty to attract thousands of tourists? The nature that surrounds us is what makes Moab unique and builds our economy.

Sincerely,
Gail Jennings-Peterson
Gail Jennings-Peterson
Jack Peterson
Jack B. Peterson

Grand County Council
125 East Center Street
Moab, Utah 84532

RECEIVED
APR 29 2014
BY: VW

Grand County Land Plan

As lifelong residents of Grand County we feel deeply about the issues considered by the County Council. We attended the meeting on land use this last week. We were sickened by some of the remarks made by the so called "Moab Implants" who know very little about what they are talking about.

We are against:

The closure of any public land because it is PUBLIC

Closure would be discrimination against the elderly and handicap persons in our county

People making a wilderness out of places they have never been

Closure of any land that closes off oil, gas or any mining development. Yes, we are allowed to keep the mining claims, but you can't develop them...what good would that be?

We are for:

All public lands to be used as multiple use!

All roads in this county to remain open and maintained!

We need less government intrusion in our county not more. That's why we live in America, It's the land of the free! No land in America should be reserved for only one group of people who may have a different idea of land use. We owe this to every citizen in America, and especially we owe it to the citizens of Grand County, our senior citizens and handicap persons.

Map #1 would be acceptable if the recreation corridor were omitted, or leave things like they are. DO NOT CLOSE OUR ACCESS TO OUR LANDS!

Ruth Westwood
241 Tusher St.
Moab, Utah 84532

RECEIVED
APR 29 2008
BY: W

Grand County Council
125 East Center Street
Moab, Utah 84532

Grand County Land Plan

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Map #1 would be acceptable if the recreation corridor were omitted, or leave things like they are. DO NOT CLOSE OUR ACCESS TO OUR LANDS!

James R. "Bob" Westwood
241 Tusher St.
Moab, Utah 84532

RECEIVED
APR 29 2014
BY: JW

Grand County Council
125 E Center Street
Moab, UT 84532

To Whom it May Concern:

In regard to protecting wilderness areas in Grand County, it's obvious that the piece meal approach proposed by the county doesn't go nearly far enough.

Of 182 letters received by the council from concerned citizens earlier this year, nearly 9 out of 10 favored strict protection; however, typical of those eager to let the extractive industries drill here drill now mentality, they were largely ignored. Moreover, alternative 3, considered to be the best of the worst, would appropriate a paltry 58% of the proposed wilderness areas in Grand County and allow ORV trails to snake through this supposedly protected area. Even worse, some of my favorite places to visit like Fisher Towers, Mary Jane Canyon, and many others are considered unworthy of wilderness designation. This is absurd and an insult to any person who visits these areas to enjoy unmarred vistas and sweeping panoramas.

In addition, all proposals include the hydrocarbon highway that would travel through Sego Canyon where fossil fuels atop the Book Cliffs can be exploited to the further detriment of world climate change. This one to two mile corridor would pass through Ute tribal lands, forever marring the historical value of the region. This has already occurred in Nine Mile Canyon and it shouldn't happen again.

Even worse, Grand County wants to limit the president's power to use the Antiquities Act to designate unique wilderness as national monuments. Some myopic congressmen, who could care less about wilderness value and are only concerned with catering to the extractive industries in order to stuff more money into their bloated campaign coffers, are attempting to limit the president's power which Congress, through bipartisan effort, gave him the authority to do so.

Further disturbing, is the fact that the east view from Arches National Park would be littered with gas wells arising from the red desert sands like weeds in a spring garden. Does Grand County believe that people who

travel from all over the country and world to view the vista from Delicate Arch will not take offense to the hydrocarbon development littering the landscape? One only need look at the gas wells and development when traveling to Dead Horse Point to see what the future of Grand County will look like.

Oil and gas drilling as well as Potash mining would be allowed atop Labyrinth Canyon; when traveling to these areas people don't want to see development that distracts from the scenic beauty that they came to appreciate and are actually attempting to escape from the very same scenario. To make matters worse, a massive number of roads throughout the county without any NEPA process would be permitted. The transportation plan, already under appeal, is a facsimile of one overturned recently by the BLM Resource Management Plan.

Grand County specifically states that no Wild & Scenic River designations are proposed. Ironically, a W&S designation for the Colorado and Green Rivers would aid river managers in terms of water issues facing all communities in the Colorado River Basin. Proposals also affect Moab's watershed while permitting no wilderness areas on forest service land within the La Sal mountains.

Every Grand County proposal is a direct contradiction for protecting the true value of wilderness designation. Grand should be a beacon for other rural counties to follow by promoting wilderness for the enjoyment of future generations and advocating for complete protection of all its unique geological and scenic wonders. People from all over the world should come to enjoy an area devoid of hydrocarbon development that, if allowed to proceed, will destroy this region for all time and eternity denying the best of a wilderness experience to millions who want to escape from the very development being advocated. Moreover, Grand should be working to lessen its carbon footprint which ultimately will aid climate change and insure that the myriad flora and fauna who call this region home will not be extirpated or destroyed within their native range.

Protecting this region is in the best interests of Utah, the country, and world. Follow your conscience and do what's right for Grand County and give this area the true wilderness protection it deserves.

Sincerely,

Allen Livingston
Box 419
Huntington, Utah
84528

To: Grand County Council

cc: Fred Ferguson

Legislative Director, Rep. Rob Bishop

RECEIVED
APR 29 2014
BY: WW

From: David McLean, Moab

Date: 28 April, 2014

Subject: Comments re Land Use Subcommittee Drafts

To me numerous parts of all three alternative plans for Grand County Land Use are troubling. While taunted as long term land use plans for the future of Grand County, they focus on near term issues driven by greed and the desire for short term tax revenue. All three plans should be scuttled and a plan developed by a citizen's committee involving the existing County Planning Commission.

My biggest concern is that all three plans stipulate that the Antiquities Act shall no long apply to Grand County. None of the plans should include this requirement. First of all, it is an attempt to circumvent federal legislation and is an underhanded way to accomplish that. Secondly, it is contrary to the desires of the citizens of Grand County as evidenced by an overwhelming number of letters and comments at the open forum. If indeed our county should be exempt from the Antiquities Act, it at least deserves the benefit of a county referendum to determine if that is truly the desire of the community.

A second major concern is that all three plans include a road and/or pipeline through Sego Canyon to transport dirty oil that research indicates will not even be marketable in a few years. A road/pipeline will feed the destruction of the Bookclifts to beyond recognition. All for nothing but short term gain. Scientific data makes it clear that our dependence on fossil fuel is waning. Why do we want to sacrifice the Bookclifts as well as Sego Canyon along with its numerous archeological sites with no long term potential for gain?

My third concern is that the subcommittee chose to ignore the La Sal Mountains and their significant impact on our water resources. You say that it is in the "too-hard" pile because it is already well managed and borders another county. Yet the Bookclifts border another county and it was not in the too hard pile.

Let's get real. The three draft plans are miserable attempts by a minority at managing our lands in the future. Perhaps you see this as a legacy for your term of office, and surely it will be. But not one you will be proud of in the future. Let's dump these three plans in the trash, start over, and develop a realistic plan that takes into consideration scientific data, long term assets, and preserves Grand County for future generations.

David McLean
777 Mountain View Dr
Moab, UT 84532

April 24, 2014

RECEIVED
APR 29 2014
BY: JW

Grand County Council

125 East Center Street

Moab, Utah 84532

Attn: Public Lands Bill

Dear Council,

First I want to thank you for your efforts to put together a lands bill. As a member of the Emery County Public Lands Council for four years, I know the time and effort it takes to develop a lands bill. I spent many days in meetings and traveling on field trips to familiarize myself with areas I did not have a personal knowledge of to be best prepared to make input on the bill we came up with in Emery County.

I have looked at the three map options you have online and would like to put my support to alternate number one. In support of multiple uses of public lands, I believe alternative one provides for wilderness designation, but does so in a legitimate means. Public lands with multiple uses to all citizens are a goal that needs to be addressed.

As a resident of Green River, Utah for the past twenty-four years I have a vested interest in the Bookcliffs and the Bookcliffs is a major reason I have chose to live in Green River. I have spent as much time as nearly anyone on the Bookcliffs during these twenty-four years. I have ridden mules and hiked nearly every canyon on the south side of the Bookcliffs. I hunt year round and am a permitted hunting outfitter on the Bookcliffs. There is rarely a week that goes by year round that I'm not in the Bookcliffs at least one day a week, with many weeks seeing two to four days spent on the Bookcliffs. I believe I have an intimate knowledge of the Bookcliffs.

I firmly believe the allure of the Bookcliffs can be best achieved with alternative number one. A limited amount of acreage deemed wilderness can and will best serve the citizens. Wildlife numbers will remain the same, whether open for access or closed for wilderness. I see no distinct difference in the quality or quantity of wildlife in the areas of the Bookcliffs closed currently under WSA designation and those areas open for vehicle access. As a hunting outfitter, if I thought more wilderness would make for better wildlife opportunities I would support such, but I have not seen any difference.

The closure the BLM has made in the past has not helped wildlife and has only made it harder to access much of the southern Bookcliff drainage areas. For instance, Cottonwood Canyon used to have a road with vehicle access traveling twelve miles past the current BLM closure, but has recently been closed to ATV traffic. I have spent countless days and weeks in Cottonwood Canyon and have not

seen the wildlife improve whatsoever. All the closure has done it make the area unusable for most as not everyone has access to horses or mules and the hike is beyond most hikers ability. The wildlife used to flock to the road as a travel route and now the route has grown in so thick that access even by mule is poor.

There are numerous other canyons that have seen the same BLM closures and all it has done is prevent people from accessing areas they once enjoyed. I am disturbed by those who say we need to close areas due to harm caused by ATV's. I spent one day on a field trip and was joined by several members of SUWA on the field trip. We were discussing the Elliot Plateau and the road up onto the plateau. The SUWA members were strongly arguing for the closure of the cherry stemmed road. They argued the solitude was ruined by ATV traffic. I then asked them, when and how had their trips onto the Elliot had been ruined. I was then told not one of them had ever been up onto the Elliot. I find this trend disturbing. How can a person who has no knowledge of an area be so determined to close an area they have never ventured into. I feel this is very common with those who fight for closures. I also was told by another member of a conservation group that people don't need to be able to access all areas. He felt that some places needed no human access. I found this fundamentally wrong. If he chooses not to access an area, he has the ability not to go, but he should not dictate what I feel is a right for each individual to make.

I do not have knowledge of the areas in Grand County beyond the Bookcliffs and have no feelings on what alternative best serves the areas south of Interstate 70. I do though have a strong interest in the Bookcliffs and believe I am a stakeholder with a direct consequence in future land distinctions on the Bookcliffs. I am firmly of the opinion the least amount of Wilderness on the Bookcliffs best serves all citizens. There will be plenty of areas a person can get away and spend peaceful solitude without overdoing the areas closed for access. ATV, UTV, equestrian riders, hikers, hunters, four wheel driver enthusiasts, all deserve equal treatment.

In closing, please ensure you look at alternate number one as the best designation for the Bookcliffs. I would also like to extend an invitation for anyone who has questions about any area on the Bookcliffs to contact me direct and I will provide any knowledge and information about the area in question.

Sincerely,

Guy Webster

Box 73

Green River, Utah 84525

435-564-8256

April 27, 2014

Larry Witt

580 Pack Creek Rd

Moab, Utah

RECEIVED
APR 29 2014
BY: VM

Grand County Council
125 E Center Street
Moab, UT 84532

After listening to the overwhelming support for protection at the Meeting this week, I as an advocate for backcountry and a Grand County ATV rider, have to speak in support of a Stronger Option 4 from the Council.

Several important points were raised from my perspective:

1. The extraction corridor thru Sego Canyon will never pay off, and it will do irreparable harm. The US will become a net energy exporter soon, without the severely damaging, dirty, acquirer disturbing, technologies associated with tar sands and oil shale. These sources will become uneconomical lame ducks in the energy equation of the near future. Not to mention the incredibly inappropriate location of this industrialization in the most remote country in the lower US. Anyone who has gone to float the Green has witnessed what harm has come to the land of the oil and gas fields. Let's leave that mess to the other County.
2. The Antiquities Act has benefited all, when other processes for protection drag on. You can't go back after development has occurred. Economic benefits are obvious. It shouldn't (and hopefully can't) be prohibited.
3. These three options don't cover the range of wilderness options that have been widely proposed by all parties, at barely more than half of the long standing RRW proposal, and less even than the BLM identified wilderness study areas. This is the most wild, scenic and diverse country in the world. And the world comes to see it. Most visitors would be stunned to hear what developments are contemplated.
4. No protection for the La Sal forest watershed is lamely excused by difficulty in execution. Remember, this County proposal doesn't require us to do anything but submit it.
5. With thousands of miles of ATV routes available to me in SE UT, we need to strike a better balance with greater land protections.
6. Existing oil and gas giveaways are grossly underutilized; we don't need more. And not in areas adjacent to our National Parks.

Please take the input you have received to heart. After listening to the Committee members prior to and during the meeting, it did not appear that the committee membership represented the spectrum of opinions expressed by the interested public.

Sincerely,

Larry Witt

(Sorry for the chicken scratch printer was out of ink & this had to be done..)

RECEIVED
APR 29 2014
BY: VW

April 26/2014

Dear Grand County Council,

How are you? My name is Carl Voorhees and I'm writing in regards to my grave concerns of public lands being taken away from my future generations, and I.

I understand the special interest groups' concerns because I share the same. Wilderness needs to be protected. Abstinence and quarantine are not our best option.

I grew up in a resort town, Breckenridge, and I'm more than aware of what overcrowding does to a sacred, beautiful place.. I can hardly stomach returning there now to visit friends & family.

With that being said, I believe the answer lies within management of the resources, not within prohibition or abolishment. Limited access not ZERO access. Prohibition always fails.

In Colorado we had to limit hunters to when, where and how to hunt to avoid resource depletion / extinction. This same system will work for Wilderness Protection, as it did for wildlife.

→ over

Please :)

In life you can't just take the toy away from the bad Kid. You must teach and show them the value of preservation. This is the problem with today's society. No one is willing to take the time to educate and lead by example. Actions speak louder than words.

So PLEASE lead by example! And be the positive contribution to society we need by not letting special interest groups take **OUR** land like the White Man did to the natives.

Nothing Changes If Nothing Changes...

Thank you very much for your time and consideration!! Have a great day!

Special Interest took our JOBS
don't let em take our Land Too!!
pretty please!!!!!

Sincerely,

Carl Voorhees
20460 Taurus Way
Montrose, CO 81403
carlvoorhees@Hotmail.com

RECEIVED
APR 29 2014
BY: VW

APRIL 29, 2014

GRAND COUNTY COUNCIL:

IT IS IN MY OPINION THAT WE ALREADY HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH WILDERNESS AND RESTRICTED PLACES IN GRAND COUNTY. I TRULY BELIEVE WE SHOULD HAVE LESS RESTRICTION ON THE LAND FOR OIL, GAS AND POTASH EXPLORATION. THESE ARE GOOD PAYING JOBS AND IMPROVE THE TAX BASE FOR THE COUNTY. I ALSO STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT STATES AND NOT THE FEDERAL GOVERMENT SHOULD BE IN CHARGE OF THERE LANDS.

TERRY N LANCE
MOAB
435 259-2957

April 28, 2014

RECEIVED
APR 30 2014
BY:

Grand County Council
125 E Center Street
Moab, UT 84532

Dear Council Members:

I wish to comment on the Grand County Council Public Lands Working Committee's three alternatives. I find all three of them unacceptable. They make a mockery of the public input provided to the Committee. While Alternatives 1 and 2 are beyond the pale, Alternative 3 is little better. Over 90% of the public comments submitted in January 2014 strongly supported expansive wilderness and strong protection for public lands; these comments have been disregarded in all three Alternatives.

The following are the principal failings of Alternative 3:

- Barely half of the proposed wilderness in the County is protected.
- Much of what wilderness is protected is punched through with ORV routes.
- What wilderness is proposed along the Green River is in the river bottoms, leaving much vulnerable land open to hydrocarbon exploitation
- The Sego Canyon transportation corridor severs one of the largest roadless areas in the Lower 48 in two.
- The proposed Sego Canyon transportation corridor compromises one of the richest archeological repositories in the Southwest.
- The purpose of the Sego Canyon is to facilitate (and make money from) hydrocarbon extraction in the form of fracking and tar sands mining. These are two enormously destructive industries that will dramatically worsen human-induced climate change.
- The omission of any Forest Service lands from any of the Alternatives is unforgivable. To have a County Commissioner say in public that such an omission was necessary because it "would be too hard and complicated" is a damning indictment of the Committee. They were elected to understand and master complex issues. Would you accept a doctor telling you that they will only treat the cancer in your lungs but will ignore the brain tumor on the grounds that the brain is "too complicated?" Watersheds and biosystems are not constrained by the organizational lines we humans have drawn; I am troubled that the Committee was so constrained. It speaks of a genuine and deeply flawed approach of these elected officials.
- It is unacceptable to limit the President's use of the Antiquities Act in Grand County. The Antiquities Act is a vehicle that has been used by many Presidents to good effect. In Grand County, we owe the existence of what is now Arches National Park to this Act. The Committee's proposal is a usurpation of the power We The People, through our Congress, have given to the President. This proposal is nothing but an end run around the Act.

Finally, there is a meta issue that this process has brought into the glaring light of reality. A few weeks ago there was a well-researched study showing that when a great majority of the public want one thing and the oligarchy wants something else, the oligarchy almost always wins. This study was at the national level and looked and the national oligarchy. What I have seen in recent months is that we have our local oligarchy who expect to get their way even though the great majority of Grand County citizens do not share their rapacious vision.

I urge the County Council to reject all three Alternatives and to begin again, this time respecting and involving the public in a meaningful way.

Sincerely,

Richard Schwartz
Castleton, Grand County

April 26, 2014

RECEIVED
APR 30 2014
BY:

Dear Council Members,

I write to you today to recognize that the people of this community all have the same interests and common goals. I do not know a single person who would like to cause their family harm or create a dangerous situation for the ones they love. The different industries that are in the Grand County Area at this time are very different from one another and there needs to be a clear understanding that Tarsands mining is much different than the traditional methods of oil extraction.

The people that live near the Tarsands mine in Canada have cancer rates that have spiked from the air, water and food that has been affected by this kind of mining. The doctors have advised them to look elsewhere for sustenance as water they used to drink and the food they used to hunt now have shown to provide cancer for their families and loved ones. It is documented that the off gassing from the Tarsands pit in Canada will burn your throat from 25 miles away and the smell is inescapable. Moab sits 60 miles away from the current Tarsands pit in the Bookcliffs and Green River is even closer.

Please do not show support in any form for the Tarsands mine and protect our families for generations to come. The proposed road through Sego Canyon would ensure the end to clean air, water & land. Supporting that road will permanently pave our future for harmful resource extraction and in the end will drive people out of this area. It is astounding that the Public Land Initiative does not protect the watersheds that supply the Moab area and Green River communities. These Watersheds must be protected above all else for the good of every family is this region.

The designation of wilderness through out the alternatives is appealing, however I would rather share the land with all users and not see this harmful industry come to our region. I find it unfair that we cannot protect land against dirty industry without designating it "Wilderness". Why can't we allow recreation on more lands as well as condemning resource extraction that is detrimental to our health and the resources we rely on. This creates an unnecessary division between parties that actually want the same thing.

The longer we support this type of energy extraction the longer it will take for other means to become available. We must show support for clean energy extraction and promote the shift towards it. We must make a stand against industry that is harmful to families, our resources, and ourselves we need to simply survive. Air may not yet be considered a huge resource everywhere, especially in rural settings where we have never had to worry about air quality. That time is over; we must protect our air and water above all else. At the end of the day with loads of money in our pockets and no air to breathe or clean water to drink, there will be nothing to spend it on.

The health of our families and your communities is in your hands; I hope you tend to it responsibly.

Thank you so much for your time.

Sincerely,

Jason Matz

April 26, 2014

RECEIVED
APR 30 2014
BY:

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Thank you so much for your time.

Sincerely,

Alison Fuller

James H. Ward
16 Bobcat lane
Moab, Ut.

RECEIVED
APR 30 2014
BY: VW

First I want to say that we are all Environmentalists. But there are those that want to shut our lands down for their own use and nobody else. I don't support giving any more of our land as wilderness they have already taken too much.
These people that want more wilderness complain that developing our resources will pollute the land, they forget about the vehicles that they drive in here by the droves on oil highways, and the pollution they cause, in my opinion we can develop our resources and still protect the land. I worked in the oil field business and have seen things restored to its natural condition and had no impact on wildlife at all. I never heard one thing said about the handicap and the elderly in the meeting I'm 65 years old and I love this country. If it is made into wilderness that shuts myself and other older people out. Also there are a lot of the handicap who like to see the beauty of our land and won't be able to, We spend millions of dollars in our cities and towns making them accessible for the elderly and the handicap, but want to make it impossible for them to enjoy the beauty of our land, I think it is pretty selfish to make it accessible only to the fittest. I believe our lands should be accessible to all people as much as possible. Not to mention the fact that we need more jobs that pay more in our county. The cost of living in Grand county is high and a lot of people have a hard time making it here. I urge you to consider these things in making your decision in this matter, I know a lot of people in Moab and most are against anymore wilderness thank you. James Ward and otbers.

Velda Ward - 16 E Bobcat Ln MOAB ut 84532
Darlyne Ward - PO Box 1084 Moab, Ut 84532
Shane Ward - 3920 Heaven Ave Moab Ut. 84532

James H. Ward
16 Bobcat lane
Moab, Ut.

RECEIVED
APR 30 2014
BY:

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Velda Ward - 16 E Bobcat Ln MOAB ut 84532
Darlyne Ward - PO Box 1084 Moab, Ut 84532
Richard M. Ellsworth 2475 S. Hwy 191 MOAB Ut 84532

James H. Ward
16 Bobcat lane
Moab, Ut.

RECEIVED
APR 30 2014
BY:

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Velda Ward - 16 E Bobcat Ln MOAB ut 84532
Darlyne Ward - PO Box 1084 Moab, Ut 84532
Scott Horton 933 Chinle Moab UT 84532

RECEIVED
APR 30 2014
BY: KW

James H. Ward
16 Bobcat lane
Moab, Ut.

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Velda Ward - 16 E Bobcat Ln MOAB ut 84532
Darlyne Ward - PO Box 1084 Moab, Ut 84532
Brian Flanders 1449 Huntcreek Dr. Moab UT

RECEIVED
APR 30 2014
BY: KW

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16 Bobcat lane
Moab, Ut.

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Velda Ward - 16 E Bobcat Ln MOAB ut 84532
Darlene Ward - PO Box 1084 Moab, Ut 84532
James Beggs Pack Creek, 84532. MOAB.

James H. Ward
16 Bobcat lane
Moab, Ut.

RECEIVED
APR 30 2014
BY:

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Velda Ward - 16 E Bobcat Ln MOAB ut 84532
Darlyne Ward · PO Box 1084 Moab, Ut 84532
Dustin McElhaney 2475 S. Hwy 191 Moab Ut 84532

RECEIVED
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16 Bobcat lane
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Velda Ward - 16 E Bobcat Ln MOAB ut 84532
Darlyne Ward - PO Box 1084 Moab, Ut 84532
Gerald T Ward [illegible] 3950 S, Hoover

RECEIVED
APR 30 2014
BY: KW

James H. Ward
16 Bobcat lane
Moab, Ut.

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Velda Ward - 16 E Bobcat Ln MOAB ut 84532
Darlene Ward · PO Box 1087 Moab, Ut 84532
Kenneth J Bodson 149 W. Rio Grande MOAB Ut 84532

RECEIVED
APR 30 2014
BY: KW

Grand County Council

125 East Center Street

Moab, Utah 84532

Regarding: Grand County Land Use Plan

I am a part of the public that has reached elderly status. I have been and will continue to be a good steward of the land in Grand County and surrounding areas. I grew up in an area where recreation, oil, gas and mining worked hand in hand to make life better for all of the public. My recreation has always been in the open, free, unrestricted land that surrounds us. I do not want to see that changed.

I hope that those making decisions on any change would always consider that this land should be used as multiple use wherever possible. I would also hope that when you are considering closure of any land to the public it would be the last thing on your list. Do not let special interests take over the "public's" land.

Thank you for listening.

Glenda Ciarus

Glenda Ciarus

450 Walker Street

Moab, Utah 84532

Grand County Council

125 East Center Street

Moab. Utah 84532

April 29, 2014

RECEIVED
APR 30 2014
BY: kw

As a resident of Grand County raised here and schooled here I am saddened to see what newcomers are wanting to change in our area.

We need oil and gas exploration and drilling to sustain families to live comfortably in our community. Why buy all from overseas?

I propose Initative # 1 or no change at all. Why change rural enjoyment when we can get out and see the country that we live in.

If you consider all vehicles, bikes etc. that use petroleum products we need resources to replace useage.

Please take into consideration the people who still want to get out and about but can't walk miles anymore.

Please don't take away Grand Counties TRUE and LOVED PRIDE.

We still want to be known as TRIED and TRUE LOCAL residents of Grand County.

Thanks for your time and consideration:

Jan MCPherson Mefret

525 Sundial Drive

Moab, Utah 84532

Grand County Council April 29-2014

125 East Center Street

Moab, Utah 84532

RECEIVED
APR 30 2014
BY: KW

Born and raised in Moab as a kid I enjoyed lots of farm and ranch land, uranium mining, oil and gas, lots of jobs and some tourists.

We have some of the most beautiful parks, Federal and State lands.

I propose initative # 1 or none.

Lots of new people now own businesses in Moab, and want more tourists and less open lands Which makes more of an impact in a smaller area.

These people are depriving the older people of this community , the wounded military (That protected American and made it free). The handicapped from enjoying these lands that you want to lock up. (For the few). By not allowing 4x4s, ATVs.

More tourists means more water use , overflowing at the sewer plant, and less farm lands.

I know you folks get your food at City Market , and your gas from a pump , not out of the ground.

Thanks for listening.

Sincerely

Mike Brown

Mike Brown

100 South Pittman Lane (Willow Basin)

P.O. Box 915

Moab, Utah 84532

Rita Rumrill
255 Park Drive
Moab, UT 84532

RECEIVED
APR 30 2014
BY: VW

Grand County Council
125 E. Center Street
Moab, UT 84532

Grand County Council,

In response to the three proposals for Grand County's submission to the Bishop's Public Lands Bill, I request you to amend the third proposal with the following:

eliminate the Sego Canyon road

eliminate the wording re: the Antiquities Act

add concrete wording which will fund the current and future monitoring of air and water quality in Grand County

add concrete wording which will allow for the funding to enforce regulations to preserve air and water quality (this would have to include Grand County's full watershed).

In addition I request a review of communities which have either embraced tourism or extractive industries and to compare overall quality of life issues such as health, wages, community safety, how the community fares long-term (5, 10, 15 years) and what, if any, taxpayer money is needed to remediate issues if the boom ends.

Thank you for hosting the meeting last Wednesday night. It helped remind me that we all really must live together, despite sometimes emotionally charged, conflicting opinions. Continued respectful and sincerely attentive discourse is imperative to our community moving through the changes which are multifaceted and not 100 percent within our control. Such is life and human history.

Thank you,
Rita Rumrill
Rita Rumrill

Robyn Johnson

1660 Kalina Ht.
Moab, Utah 84532
Phone: 435-260-1905
E-Mail: robylyn@etv.net

RECEIVED
APR 30 2014
BY: KO

April 24, 2014

Grand County Council Member
Grand County Court House
125 E Center St.
Moab, Utah 84532

Dear County Council Member,
Thank you for taking the time to allow Grand County citizens to voice their opinions regarding how our public lands are designated and managed. You have the arduous task of looking for a "balanced" recommendation for the Bishop Public Lands Initiative and I do not envy what you now have to do.

I am a Grand County Educator, a Grand County High School Graduate and a first generation college graduate. I have lived in Moab for over 40 years. This community is my home and the home of my children, who are now 2nd generation college graduates. I care immensely what happens here in Moab. I am an outdoor enthusiast; I hunt and hike, ride ATV's, camp and fish, and love the pristine beauty of my back yard. I value nature and our beautiful Moab Valley as much as anyone.

I know that your job is to listen to my comments and the comments of anyone who chooses to share them with you. Then you must make a wise decision. I wish my views were the only ones that matter, but I know that they are only a piece of the puzzle. This is why I refuse to water them down and pretend that one of the proposals would be OK with me. You are going to have to make a recommendation and I hope you can do so wisely. Please remember that many people are going to be telling you what they can live with while others are going to tell you what where they honestly stand. I beg you to recognize which is which as you consider all the comments.

I DO NOT SUPPORT any more Wildernesses for the State of Utah, nor Grand County. I do not wish to incorporate areas into Wilderness that will prevent Economic opportunities for Moab. I do not want you to come to the aide of any organization that will prevent Economic growth for our community. I ABSOLUTELY DO NOT want any more roads closed off to motorized access just so someone can have a "Zen like" experience in the wild. Their experience is of no more importance than mine is. I value the freedom to use the roads with my family to see the beauty, travel to our favorite spots, see all that our backyard has to offer... from our ATV's. It is unthinkable that we might be losing that freedom.

Boom and bust has been associated to all mineral exploration endeavors, but boom and bust can come from anything that is not sustainable. Mining and oil exploration is not the only way economies fall into the boom and bust noose. Healthy economies are how we weather the storms. Tourism is just as fragile as mining if we are relying on either for Economic stability. Your recommendations to Representative Bishop should be one that allows Moab to move towards Economic Stability and a balance of accountability for any development that may be on the table.

I lived through the good times and the poor times here in Moab. As a child the school system provided tons of opportunities for me because we had a tax base that supported the needs of our families. I've lost my home due to the Uranium layoffs. I've seen my children and their friends move away to find jobs that pay enough for them to attend college. In my job I see teachers move to and then move away from Moab, because they cannot afford to live here. I've seen para-educators in our schools struggle with two and three jobs in order to pay their bills. Making sure of our Economic stability is part of your job. I hope you remember this as you make your recommendations.

I also hope that you consider the opinions of ALL of your constituents and not just the ones who write letters. At the meeting last night, there were many, many different passionate contributors to the conversation; Many of who have not and will not write you a letter. But as I looked around, it didn't take a rocket scientist to see that 90% of the crowd WAS NOT FOR more wilderness. In fact it would be hard to identify who the majority was. It seemed, as always; an equal division, on opposite ends. In fact, some of the speakers were not even Grand County residents even though they claimed to be. Just remember...

The loudest voice is not always the majority and the loudest voice is not always the right voice.

Robyn Johnson
1660 Kalina Ht
Moab, Utah 84532

435-260-1905
robylyn@etv.net

Sincerely,

Robyn Johnson

Robyn Johnson
Concerned Citizen

RECEIVED
APR 30 2014
BY: KW

To: GRAND COUNTY COUNCIL

Concerned Grand County citizen's opposition to BISHOP LAND USE PLAN

4/30/2014

To Whom It May Concern:

Just to be brief I will again state that;

1. There is not enough wilderness set aside in either of the three plans thus proposed.

2. I support the antiquities act.

3. I am against any study or action taken to open the Book Cliff road to aid energy development.

4. I strongly oppose all three alternatives and feel that local input has not been represented.

Sincerely,

Joe Sorensen.

RECEIVED
APR 30 2014
BY:

THE SLOAN LAW FIRM, PLLC

Christina R. Sloan
sloan@thesloanlawfirm.com
www.thesloanlawfirm.com
** licensed in UT and CO*

76 S. Main Street, Ste. 1
Moab, UT 84532
435.259.9940

April 25, 2014

Grand County Council
Public Lands Working Committee
Lynn Jackson, Chair
125 E. Center Street
Moab, UT 84532

Re. Public Comments – Congressman Bishop's Proposed Public Lands Bill

Dear Council,

Thank you to Rory Paxman, Jim Nyland, and especially Lynn Jackson, Chair of the Public Lands Working Committee, for investing considerable time and effort to develop a preferred alternate for inclusion in Congressman Bishop's Public Lands Bill for Eastern Utah.

All three Members of the Grand County Council Public Lands Working Committee directly represent me. I live in Rory Paxman's district, and Lynn Jackson and Jim Nyland are my at-large representatives. I hope that each of you will consider carefully my comments herein.

I am also a small business owner in Moab, as is my husband, and we are happily raising our two small children here. I estimate 44% of my local clients own businesses directly related to tourism in the Moab-area; the other 56% of my local clients are small businesses owners, professionals, municipalities, non-profit organizations, and individuals who make their living locally in other ways.

I write this letter because I cannot support any of the alternatives proposed to date as representative of community opinion. My great concern with the maps and alternatives that the Working Committee has produced is the lack of deliberation and process. Accordingly, unless the Working Committee works to address the procedural flaws more particularly discussed herein, I will urge Congressman Bishop's office to reject the Council's "preferred alternative."

First, by including the Sego Canyon Transportation Corridor in all three alternatives, the Working Committee expanded the scope of the project, which necessitates an additional public comment period and re-visioning of the alternatives to integrate additional public comment. The original request for written comments in the press release dated December 13, 2013 states: "Submissions must be focused on Grand County and may include recommended designations for a specific geographical area, land management prescriptions, concerns, and general suggestions for the future of public lands in our county." The Sego Canyon Transportation Corridor was not

proposed at that time, and citizens were not invited to comment on it. Nevertheless, all three proposed alternative include this divisive and destructive option. In doing so, the Working Committee has expanded the scope of the project and analysis. It must now extend the process to include a second publication of alternatives that integrate public comment on the Sego Canyon Transportation Corridor.

This proposed Corridor is one to two miles wide, which is a widening of the current road by 5,220 to 10,560 linear feet. This is an expansion of impact by 87% and 176%, respectively. The inclusion of the Sego Canyon Transportation Corridor in every single alternative is not reasonable given the public comments to date. Further, the expansion of the current right-of-way by up to 176% in two of the alternatives, and by 87% in the third alternative, is outrageous. Not surprisingly, the single most controversial issue at the April 23 public hearing on the proposed alternatives was the Transportation Corridor. If the Working Committee chooses not to slow this process down and develop a fourth alternative without the Transportation Corridor, then the County's stated "commit[ment] to public participation of the citizens of Grand County" is denigrated.

Second, the Working Committee failed to integrate the written public comments received this winter in developing the three proposed alternatives. I read most of the written public comments submitted prior to publication of the alternatives, and it is clear that a large majority of those citizens voicing an opinion support extensive protection of wilderness areas, with dozens of letters specifically requesting protection of the Book Cliffs. Even though the public did not have the opportunity to comment on the Sego Canyon Transportation Corridor, because it was not given notice of the same, there was clear written support for protection of the Book Cliffs. The Working Committee, though, did not offer a single alternative that truly protects the Book Cliffs.

The Sego Canyon Transportation Corridor, bisects all three wilderness proposals and, by itself, threatens the Book Cliffs and the surrounding wild areas. In addition, a review of relevant additional maps reveals that the purpose of the Transportation Corridor is to allow for the later development of an energy highway to facilitate the development of Anadarko's Tar Sands project to the north, the economic feasibility of which requires movement of resources through the Book Cliffs to future refineries or Green River or Grand Junction, or via pipeline to distant refineries. Again, the overwhelming majority of the written comments received up to the Working Committee's publication of the three alternatives favor protection of the Moab area's wild lands for solitude as well as recreation, spectacular viewsheds, and air and water quality over the uncertain economic benefits and likely negative environmental impacts from resource extraction. In some areas, with some limited oil and gas development, these qualities may co-exist.

However, tar sands development is heavily extractive and destructive to the surrounding landscape and ecosystems. Tar sands development and tourism do not co-exist, and my Clients have expressed great concern to me regarding the impact of the Transportation Corridor on their businesses. In addition, a large segment of the community, as demonstrated by the spoken public comments at the April 23 public hearing, opposes the Sego Canyon Transportation Corridor because it will likely destroy the area's wild lands, facilitate tar sands development, and diminish

the very qualities that make the Moab area as unique a landscape as any in the entire world. Despite the promise of the friction fee, a huge segment of Grand County citizens do not support the Sego Canyon Transportation Corridor or facilitation of tar sands development.

The Working Committee's failure to offer an alternative without the Sego Canyon Transportation Corridor is proof that it has not integrated community input. I urge the Working Committee to expand this current phase regarding future designations of our public lands and redevelop new alternatives, one of which must include protection of the Book Cliffs without the Transportation Corridor.

Third, the Working Committee cannot make good and representative determinations regarding our public lands under such a short timeframe. I realize that the Working Committee is under pressure from Congressman Bishop's office to produce a preferred alternative by a date certain, but the potential impact of his proposed public lands bill is enormous and lasting. Three months, with only one County entity and only one prior comment period, is simply insufficient to create a "preferred alternative" that integrates the will of Grand County. This process is being fast-tracked, and procedure has broken down as a result. Again, I urge the Working Committee to extend this current phase of this process to a) expand the Committee to include Members representing the whole of the community, as discussed below; and b) create at least one alternative that integrates the desires of at least a plurality of the citizens who have voiced their opinion to date by eliminating the Sego Canyon Transportation Corridor while protecting a balance of wilderness and recreation areas. Any other action undermines the process.

Fourth, the alternatives represent a piece-meal approach to legislation, which is ineffective. One issue is the fact that all three alternatives exclude Forest Service ("FS") lands. The Working Committee, at the start of the April 23 public hearing, explained that, at least in part, the current designations and recommendations on Forest Service lands are too complicated to integrate into the County's recommendation to Congressman Bishop. By extending the current phase of this process and expanding the Working Committee, the County can gain the expertise and assistance required to include FS lands. And, while I understand that it's not uncommon to exclude FS lands when making local recommendations on public lands bills, it is very important here because protection of the La Sal Mountains, managed largely by USFS, is integral to protecting the Moab's area's watershed and sole source aquifer.

The second issue is that all three alternatives include a prohibition against Antiquities Act designations in Grand County in the future. As an attorney, I always advocate against piece-mealing amendments to legislation because comprehensive and informed discussion and decision-making leads to the soundest legislation for the greatest benefit. The proper means to amend the Antiquities Act is by amending the Act itself. A piece-meal amendment in the context of an unrelated bill is not the proper place to hide this issue.

In addition, at the April 23 public hearing, the Working Committee justified this prohibition against future Antiquities Act designations in every alternative by explaining that federal involvement will be unnecessary because this community process will result in a preferred alternative representing the will of Grand County residents. As demonstrated herein, the

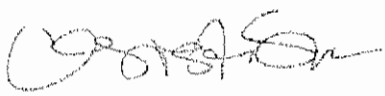
County's flawed procedure has resulted in published alternatives that do not representative the interests of a large segment, and arguably a majority, of Grand County residents. As a result, the prohibition against Antiquities Act designations is an improper erosion of existing legislation, which Grand County should not support.

Fifth, I find the composition of the Working Committee problematic. The Working Committee, the sole decision-maker in this process at the local level, is made up of only three Council Members. There is no Castle Valley representative, no Planning Commission Member, no small business owner, no recreation representative, and no federal agency representative. The Working Committee is simply not representative of the Moab-area community, much less the Grand County Council. Due process is denied where the view of one perspective alone makes decisions for the entire County, as is the case here.

In summary, if the Grand County Council truly wants to avoid a National Monument designation, it must produce a legitimate "preferred alternative" that is supported by proper process and formal public comments on the record. This requires creating a new alternative that eliminates the Sego Canyon Transportation Corridor and strikes a balance in protecting wilderness and other recreation interests. Any other action undermines this project and the resulting "preferred alternative."

Sincerely,

THE SLOAN LAW FIRM, PLLC



Christina R. Sloan

CRS/
cc: Congressman Rob Bishop

1889 Plateau Circle
Moab, UT 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 01 2014
BY: JW

May 1, 2014

Grand County Council
125 E. Center Street
Moab, UT 84532

Re. Public Comments – Congressman Bishop's Proposed Public Lands Bill

Dear Grand County Council Members,

At the public hearing on Wednesday, April 23rd, you were able to gather input from some of the community members on the three alternatives that you are considering presenting to Rep. Bishop for his possible Utah Public Lands bill. I don't think that you should consider this input a numbers game, but rather consider the strength of each argument. I have been following this effort closely and would like to put forward some of my thoughts on both the alternatives presented by Chairman Lynn Jackson and on the process of the meeting itself.

Regarding the alternatives offered by the group of three council members, I would like to make the following points:

1. I agree with the 25 or so speakers who expressed their view that even Alternative 3 does not go far enough in protecting our wilderness. Therefore, despite the considerable time spent by the Public Lands working committee, I urge the County Council members to reject any of the alternatives as currently proposed.

2. I oppose the inclusion of the Sego Canyon Transportation Corridor for the numerous reasons expressed, and because it makes it possible for a hydro-carbon highway to go through Sego Canyon.

3. I do not want to see the Antiquities Act eliminated from consideration in Grand County.

4. I agree with Mary Beth Fitzburgh who pointed out that none of the alternatives included wilderness proposals for the La Sal Mountains on U.S. Forest Service land and protection of our watershed. Water is our future, and not only do we need to protect our watershed, we also need to protect the rivers through our county by allowing potential Wild and Scenic River designations for the Colorado and the Green Rivers

5. I question the rosy picture of monies flowing into the county if the lands bill successfully included any of the three alternatives – all of which depend upon the inclusion of the road through the Book Cliffs. I wonder how carefully Lynn Jackson, Gene Ciarus and Rory Paxman have researched just what kind of and how many jobs would be likely to come to Grand County from any of the extraction industries they wish to woo here. Right now we have conventional drilling and I am curious to know how many jobs that industry has brought to the county. Surely tar sands or oil shale strip mining or oil and gas fracking would be more likely to bring people in from Price or Vernal, or out of state, where there are more likely to be people with the skills to fill those jobs. At the public meeting, there were emotional appeals to consider the needs of local low income people and their children. Do the low income people who were cited have the skills to fill jobs in extractive industries? Do the young people who are leaving Grand County for jobs elsewhere have the kinds of skills they could use in these industries if they stayed? I certainly agree that the county needs more and better jobs for our community members, but I think both the tourist industry and the new college being planned would be more likely to bring in the kind of employment needed here.

6. I am impressed with the work that some of our young people in the county are doing to keep this terrible new industry from our Colorado Plateau. To quote Sarah Stock in the Moab Sun News,

   "Tar sands are different than traditional oil and gas. They are more toxic, economically risky, involve mountaintop-removal strip-mining, and emit even more greenhouse gas emissions than traditional crude oil. Opening the door to tar sands isn't a continuation of the legacy of energy development that has past characterized Grand County. It would move us into an experimental realm of extreme energy extraction with extreme consequences."

7. It saddens me that Lynn Jackson was anxious to reintroduce the issue of the road through Sego Canyon as the answer to marketing hydrocarbons to the West Coast and probably on to China or other countries. He

knew this has been a divisive issue in the county and was willing to recreate that division all over again, which it certainly has. I also resent his constant reference to "extreme environmentalists" as though that is a designation of which one should be ashamed. I think that his position of encouraging such radical energy development – his disregard for the kind of destruction this means for the planet - is the extreme one.

8. Therefore I agree with Darcey Brown who wrote a letter to the Moab Times Independent stating that she would like to see an Alternative 4. Her letter was excellent and expressed my views exactly. To quote her letter.
"I urge the Grand County Council to add a fourth alternative to the mapping options for Grand County – i.e. America's Red Rock Wilderness Act. This option would truly represent the views of the majority who commented on the Bishop plan.
The three alternatives proposed not only do not address concerns expressed by the non-motorized recreation industry, they completely exclude and ignore those locals and Americans who would like to see greater protection for the air, water, and soil crust on their national lands.
The entire county is already riddled with roads every few miles, making it impossible to escape from the growing roar and destruction of OHV's, dirt bikes, and jeeps. Heavy truck traffic has made riding to Dead Horse Point unpleasant at best, and camping with gas flares is not exactly a Walden Pond experience.
One has to only read last week's paper to see what lies ahead if any of the alternatives proposed are passed: graffiti, vandalism, raunchy homosexual personal ads in the man camps, sky-rocketing rents, earthquakes from fracking, letters of concern from tourists and so on.
Is this the future we want for Grand County, and more importantly, is this what the rest of the U.S. wants for their lands?
What about our county council's obligation to the rest of America?"

I would just add, what is the obligation for all of us to future generations of human beings and the planet?!

Regarding the meeting, I was relieved to have Mr. Jackson introduce the facilitator at the beginning of the session who then introduced the ground rules. For perhaps the first half hour of the meeting, speakers certainly complied with those rules. It seemed that each speaker came forward with carefully thought-through perspectives and concerns. However, once Mr. Tibbetts spoke, I was extremely disappointed that the facilitator did not immediately stop the proceedings when loud clapping ensued. At that point the facilitator seemed to be giving the more emotionally charged offerings carte blanche to cheer, clap and catcall. The rest of the meeting became clearly polarized with the rational speakers following the rules and the angrier, more emotional speakers seemingly free to clap and cheer. It certainly gave the impression of bias on the part of the facilitator. I noticed that most of the speakers who wanted either total lack of wilderness or spoke approvingly of Alternative 1, were more likely to speak in a condescending way to the rest of the audience and became emotionally angry in their tone, whereas, although I am sure that those wishing for more wilderness protection were also feeling very emotional about the issue, they didn't, for the most part, speak in a way that disparaged any in the audience.

The other aspect of the meeting that concerned me was the fact that at the end of the meeting, several persons were allowed to speak without having filled out cards and that the final speaker was allowed to choose to go last. That decision was inappropriate and the haranguing that ensued left me weary and frustrated.

Thank you for at least considering some of these points and I hope that each of you as representatives of the people of Grand County, and not of the huge outside industrial giants, will make your decision regarding these alternatives very thoughtfully and carefully.

Marcia Tendick

Marcia Tendick

RECEIVED
MAY 01 2014
BY:

Cindy Pickett
4146 Lippizan Jump
Moab, UT 84532
P.O. Box 30, Moab

Grand County Council
125 E Center Street
Moab, UT 84532

Fred Ferguson
Legislative Director, Rep. Rob Bishop

Members of the Grand County Planning Commission,

Grand County, from the time before written word, from the genesis of civilization, has been a place where one belongs. *Belonging;* to be a part of, to attach, to have a kindred tie that goes beyond necessity. From the ancients to the teams of traders passing through, finding their reason to leave their itinerant lives behind and put down settlements, to the western settlers who knew in their soul that this was a place to farm, raise families and invest in their future. And now to a new wave of emigrants finding their home in a land that answers the call of the spirit and soul. One does not become a member of Grand County lightly. This is not a lazy landscape. The land demands respect, hard work, adventurous spirit, strength and endurance that is not found in the cities and suburbs of America. We belong. This is a marriage where the integrity of the human spirit rises above other demands of life.

Anyone who comes to Moab, be it the first time tourist, adventure junkie or person in need of community always comes back. Stop and talk to people on the street; this is not their first or last time to be drawn to Grand County. Our resources, whether the splendor of the natural wilderness and watershed or the tourist industry which organizes world class events are not found any where else in the world. The community of Moab has come together crossing all sorts of cultural barriers to provide an incredible experience to all walks of life. It is respect, the preservation and glory of the landscape that calls to anyone within our borders.

It is a lie, an untruth to say that opening the County to greater oil and gas exploration and extraction would not bruise and affect the spirit of our place. This will be sanctioned rape of a land. A land whose only defense is our agreement of public lands protection. Learn from history. Look back on the expansion of the west; the gold rush, the land rush, the boom times of economic expansion. Every natural feature was tossed aside, without respect, for the riches on the surface. What lingers, what is left behind is a land unable to heal. It's defense broken by greed, erosion, pollution and ignorant abuse. Look to the oil fields of Nebraska and the Dakotas. Learn from history.

The Grand County Public Lands Working Committee's efforts to designate which areas to protect, which lands to open to mining development fail on a number of issues.

1. Porcupine Rim, Mary Jane Canyon, Fisher Towers, Gold Bar Rim, the Colorado River corridor and plateaus and canyons (Labyrinth, Mineral Hell Roaring, Spring and Ten mile) are sites to absolutely dig in our heels and defend from oil and gas development. Not only are they wild life corridors, view sheds, back country superstars, they also feed into and impact the Colorado River watershed. Millions of people down stream, (17 million just in Southern California alone) would be seriously compromised if the river's quality is challenged. Even today they can identify the radioactive isotopes in Southern California water from the debris pile on the corner of Hwy 191 and Potash Rd. It took the California Representatives in Washington, D.C. to force the federal government to pay for the clean up. Once water quality rights are given away there is no going back. The attitude with the drilling industry is to ask for forgiveness rather than permission. Only this Commission has the power to reverse the approach to eventual accidents.
2. The Antiquities Act was created to protect ancient sites from destruction and intrusion. Allowing a road through Sego Canyon violates the word and intent of the Act. Visitors and all their dollars come to Moab because of our ancient relationships with early people. There are already existing roads to connect with the drilling sites in the Book Cliff area. Do not pretend that a road will not destroy the area of antiquity.
3. Any new road created to support the drilling industry must have full NEPA process and evaluation. Do not rely on the industry to police their access.
4. There is no mention of protection of Moab's watershed. Now is the time to create parameters to insure the quality of our water.
5. The La Sal mountains will need a Wilderness Designation to prevent incursion by the oil industry. Now is the time to build this fence.
6. Provisions need to be defined as to which agency, which industry is responsible for clean up.. It took 60 years to get the debris pile on Hwy 191 removed.We are not to be saddled with the mining industry's history of disappearing overnight from the incident. If bonding or money is to be impounded it needs to remain in a pool untouched by other county needs.
7. Social needs; housing, education, medical and family explode during these times of expansion. Money needs to be received from the industry before the demand is prevalent.

Our very process of the Commission is a difficult and timely effort. Don't let the 'rush' of the mining industry force a vote that ignores the needs of our County. Please heed the voice of the people of Moab.

Sincerely, Cindy Pickett

Cindy Pickett

Grand County Council
125 East Center Street
Moab, Utah 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 01 2014
BY: KW

Subject: Grand County Land Plan

I came to Utah at the age of six. I remember the better days in life before there were Governmental entities that have now turned against the American Citizens. What has happened to "we the people of the United States of America"?

My husband and I feel deeply about the issues being considered by the Grand County Council. We are sickened by the nature of new incoming residents to Moab and the surrounding area that come in here and want to change the once good life that we were raised to respect and enjoy. Rather than wanting to learn how to enjoy our freedoms these people want to take our freedom from us. We citizens elect people from local, state and government levels to protect our rights. I urge our local elected to take a stand with us citizens and stop these closures of public lands.

We are against the closure of any public land. It is Public Lands and discriminates against "We the People" and especially the handicapped and elderly people who are unable to walk and will no longer be able to go into Public Lands and enjoy this beautiful country".

Closure of any land that closes off oil, gas or mining developments is making the U.S. dependent on foreign sources. You can't trust foreign countries to sell energy products to the U.S.? It's not going to be there when needed the worst. The majority of our world oil comes from Arab Countries. Our Government agencies will tell you, if you hold oil leases or mining claims on Public Lands, you may keep them. However, when it comes to issuing permits to begin operations, these permits are withheld. Don't be blindsided.

We need less government intrusion in our state and county governments. We need our elected to do their jobs and manage our own state and local land and their usages. Do not let anyone close access to our Public Lands. We owe this to every citizen in America, and especially, we owe it to the citizens of Grand County.

Respectably

Thea Pittman

Thea Pittman
4631 So. Pueblo Verde Drive
Moab, Utah 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 01
BY: KW

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this letter in response to the Grand County Commissioners "Bishop Lands Recommendations".

I find that the three proposal options brought forth by the Grand County Commissioners are unacceptable. They are far reaching and unnecessary. I'm tired of compromising and giving into special interest groups that are unwilling compromise and have no tolerance for anyone's opinion other than their own.

As of a February 8, 2012 in a Congressional Research Service Report, Utah State ranks 2nd in the Nation for Federally Owned Acreage by State at 66.5%, behind Nevada 1st at 81.1% and just ahead of Alaska 3rd at 61.8%. If you compare that to Texas at 1.80%, Iowa at 0.30%, and New York State at 0.70%...Utah has done its fair share!! How much will be enough? We have done too much compromising. Enough is enough and it's time for the silent majority to stand up and be heard.

Let's look at a few more numbers here. According to the same Congressional Research Service Report from 2012 here is the brake down of Federally controlled land within the state of Utah by agency and acreage: Bureau of Land Management 22,854,937 acres, United States Forest Service 8,207,415 acres, National Park Service 2,097,106 acres, Department of Defense 1,766,260 acres, and Fish & Wildlife Services 107,885 acres. That's a total of 35,033,603 acres in a state of 52,696,960 acres. Compare that to the state of Texas with a total of 2,977,950 acres of Federally controlled land in a state with 168,217,600 acres of total land mass. In the same report it was stated that from 1990 to 2010 there was a 4.3% increase of federally owned land within our state...that is an additional 1,451,025 acres grabbed by the Feds within a ten year period.

In a separate report produced by Utah Governor Gary R. Herbert's Office of Planning and Budget...it was stated that of the nearly 85,000 sq. miles of surface area in Utah 17,884 sq. miles are in private ownership...only 21% of the State of Utah is privately owned by its citizens. That is outrageous. Why are we even considering handing over more land?

When you begin to take a closer look at the numbers it becomes very apparent that there is a vast imbalance in the area of land ownership. The state of Utah has far exceeded it's responsibility in land management. Therefore I believe that we as a State must begin demanding that the federal government begin looking at viable ways to start the process of returning the land back to the state of Utah and it's citizens.

For 116 years, we've been reduced to less than 30 percent of our land, making it tough to support our education system which relies on property tax. Federal and Native American lands, which occupy 70 percent of our state, are not taxable. For example, Grand County has only four percent privately-owned land to help fund schools. Compare that to eastern states which have little or no public lands and highly funded schools. It's time for us to begin using a common sense approach to these issues. There is gross poverty in our community and a true lack of economic diversity. Our families and our children should have the economic opportunity to live and work here year around. I approve the development of a diversified industry allowing a stronger economy and tax base for our struggling community.

I support leaving a portion of our public lands open to energy development along with other portions being managed for recreational activities. I support the recommendations to create a new transportation corridor through Sego Canyon and designate the 2 mile wide (18,145 acres) transportation corridor on federal lands from State block to I-70 and transferring it to Grand County under RS 2477 allowing another form of tax revenue and added tourism. I also support oil and gas exploration and drilling, along with mining on our local public lands.

It was more than clear to see in the last County Commissioners meeting for "Bishop Lands Recommendations" that there was an overwhelming majority of County Residents opposed to any new land being handed over to the Federal Government. All of the 300 plus in attendance may not have gotten up and spoke but you heard the overwhelming positive response to the residents opposing the land grab.

So in conclusion you can consider me as one of the many Grand County Residents opposed to any of the three recommendations and request that you take action in addressing the Federal imbalance within our county and immediately start the process of getting our land back. Enough is enough!!

I will be paying close attention to this matter and other issues being heard before the County Commissioners and other elected officials. If I feel you do not represent me and my best interests I will be voting accordingly in the future. I will no longer be part of the silent majority.

Sincerely, Robert M. Irish

2511 Red cliff Rd 3F
Moab, Ut. 84532

Local Moab/Grand County Resident

RECEIVED
MAY 01 2014
BY:

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Sincerely,

Kathryn Wilberg

Local Moab/Grand County Resident

RECEIVED
MAY 01 2014
BY: KW

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For 116 years, we've been reduced to less than 30 percent of our land, making it tough to support our education system which relies on property tax. Federal and Native American lands, which occupy 70 percent of our state, are not taxable. For example, Grand County has only four percent privately-owned land to help fund schools. Compare that to eastern states which have little or no public lands and highly funded schools. It's time for us to begin using a common sense approach to these issues. There is gross poverty in our community and a true lack of economic diversity. Our families and our children should have the economic opportunity to live and work here year around. I approve the development of a diversified industry allowing a stronger economy and tax base for our struggling community.

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Sincerely,

1101 A-Ave Moab UT 84532

Local Moab/Grand County Resident

RECEIVED
MAY 01 2014
BY: KW

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Let's look at a few more numbers here. According to the same Congressional Research Service Report from 2012 here is the brake down of Federally controlled land within the state of Utah by agency and acreage: Bureau of Land Management 22,854,937 acres, United States Forest Service 8,207,415 acres, National Park Service 2,097,106 acres, Department of Defense 1,766,260 acres, and Fish & Wildlife Services 107,885 acres. That's a total of 35,033,603 acres in a state of 52,696,960 acres. Compare that to the state of Texas with a total of 2,977,950 acres of Federally controlled land in a state with 168,217,600 acres of total land mass. In the same report it was stated that from 1990 to 2010 there was a 4.3% increase of federally owned land within our state...that is an additional 1,451,025 acres grabbed by the Feds within a ten year period.

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Sincerely,

Owner of Tic Tac Tow

Local Moab/Grand County Business and Resident

Grand County Council
125 E Center Street
Moab, UT 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 01 2014
BY:

Fred Ferguson
Legislative Director, Rep. Rob Bishop
123 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Council and Representative:

After reading about your preliminary proposals for Rep. Bishop's land use legislation, I want to let the Council know that they need to go much further in recommending lands for permanent protection.

None of your proposals go nearly far enough in protecting our wilderness-quality lands. 58% is not sufficient. Far more land is paved and cowed than is to be left as God and nature intended.

Too much of the county is crisscrossed with tire tracks from jeeps and 4-wheelers disobeying any sort of decorum and the law (many of the desecrated places have been tracked while protected by "wilderness closure."). Lengthy family residence is neither a reason nor an excuse for mistreatment of this land, which is the heritage of all Americans! Over time some of these scars will heal, but there is no need to add to them by leaving lands unprotected.

As to proposed development of natural resources, I'd like to see how you justify the costs of making roads, housing the extra workers, dealing with increases in crime and family dysfunction that usually accompany these developments. My view of most of this development is that a few people make a lot of money, while the rest of us suffer a lowered quality of life.

I understand that the plan would designate a massive number of roads throughout the county. Will there be any NEPA process. There is a proposed transportation plan which is already under appeal it is very much like the one that was recently overturned in an appeal of the Richfield BLM Resource Management Plan. If god wanted roads he would have put them there in the beginning!

Why no Wild & Scenic River designations are are proposed. Water management is an issue that affects all Western states and you propose to take away one of the prime sources of clean water and recreation. Who is to benefit from this?

Why no wilderness in the LaSals? The forest Service was established to protect our water. No development will do that more efficiently than nature. Who is to benefit from this?

I also read of the analysis of the feedback you received from citizens before you wrote your own plan. Why is the input of 90% of the citizenry who cared to comment being ignored? Are you out of step with us? Who is to benefit from this?

Sego Canyon!?! What are you thinking? We have a world-class archeological site and you want to build a road through it so we can haul out some minerals that will pollute our air and make some corporation rich?

And why do you want to tie the President's hand by barring the use of the Antiquities Act? It has already saved the grand Staircase from being ruined by a Canadian corporation. What might it be needed to save in Grand County.

Please, back to the drawing board and, this time; pay more than lip-service to what your constituents are telling you!

Fritz Bachman

Fritz Bachman

150 E. Center

Moab, UT 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 01 2014
BY: KW

Grand County Council
125 East Center Street
Moab, Utah 84532

Subject: Grand County Land Plan

I was born and raised in Moab, long before there were such Governmental entities that have now turned against the normal citizens. What has happened to "we the people of the United States of America"?

My wife of 51 years and myself approaching 72 years of age feel deeply about the issues considered by the Grand County Council. We are sickened by the nature of new incoming residents to Moab and the surrounding area that come in here and want to change the once good life that we were raised to respect and enjoy. Rather than wanting to learn and enjoy freedom these people want to take our freedom from us. We citizens elect people from local, state and government levels to protect our rights. I urge our local elected to take a stand with us citizens and stop these closures of public lands.

We are against the closure of any public land. It is Public Lands and discriminates against "We the People".

Closure of any land that closes off oil, gas or mining developments is making the U.S. dependent on foreign sources. Do you trust foreign countries to sell energy products to the U.S.? Over 90% of our world oil comes from Arab Countries. Oh yes, our Government agencies will tell you, if you hold oil leases or mining leases they may keep them. However, when it comes to permits to begin operations, these permits are withheld. Don't be blindsided.

We need less government intrusion in our state and county governments. We need elected to do their jobs and let's manage our own state and local land uses. Do not let anyone close access to our Public Lands. We owe this to every citizen in America, and especially, we owe it to the citizens of Grand County.

Respectably

Evert Pittman

Evert Pittman
4631 So. Pueblo Verde Drive
Moab, Utah 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 01
BY:

To: Grand County Council
125 East Center
Moab, Utah 84532

April 29, 2014

Dear Grand County Council Members,

I appreciate the opportunity to provide input to Grand County's Public Lands Use Proposal, as part of Congressman Rob Bishop's Public Lands Bill Initiative. As a resident of Grand County for over 40 years, I feel I bring a perspective shared by most residents who have lived here from the heydays of mining, through the lean times in the 1980s, into the current tourist-based, seasonal economy. Grand County has been blessed with both a wealth of visual wonders, and deposits of valuable resources. And yet, it remains one of the poorer counties in Utah due to the LARGE amount of federally-managed land in the county. Congressman Bishop's Public Lands Bill is an opportunity for this county to improve its lot by ensuring multiple uses of our public lands with the establishment clear boundaries of wilderness, recreation area, and areas open for resource extraction. The collaborative and open process your council has used in developing the County's input to Congressman Bishop's office is not only commendable, but is very much appreciated by community members.

I am a supporter of Alternative #2, for a variety of reasons:

A. It keeps the language barring any further use of the Antiquities Act to lock up land in the county as "wilderness." One need look no further than the town of Kanab to see why this irresponsible use by the President should be blocked. Kanab was on the verge of being a prosperous town with the development of coal reserves on the Kaiparowits Plateau, but was forever relegated to the status of a tiny town dependent almost entirely on the seasonal economy of tourism. The majority of young people graduating from high school in Kanab have no choice but to leave the area to find gainful employment, or remain in poverty their entire lives. It would be tragic to doom Moab to that same fate.

B. This alternative designates nearly 400,000 acres (391,072 to be exact) of land as wilderness – the amount included in the County's 1999 plan. Grand County has vast areas of spectacularly rugged land that is a great candidate for wilderness area. Some wilderness is necessary to allow native plants and animals an area to exist without undue influence or harm from people. By designating a rather large amount of land as wilderness, this option likely has a better chance of passing through congress than Alternative 1 since it represents a compromise between purely environmental interests and the more economic-minded interests. However, as wilderness, ALL types of activity (including hiking and mountain biking) should be limited in these areas to avoid damage by the throngs of people who always flock to such areas. Many local ecosystems and archeological treasures that were left untouched by mining and ranching activities in the past have been damaged or destroyed by the sea of humanity that descends on Grand County every tourist season. Such damage would surely also take place in the wilderness areas unless some controls are put in place to limit the amount of human activity.

C. This alternative sets aside 309,940 acres as a National Recreation Area, which would be managed for ALL forms of recreation and still allow responsible resource extraction to take place on existing leases. Much of the designated area is already criss-crossed with hiking, mountain biking and motorized travel trails and keeping it open to all forms of recreation makes perfect sense. Since the majority of the current local economy depends on tourism, limiting access to this area for only certain groups or types of recreation would not only be the ultimate folly, but could open the county and BLM to lawsuits based on the Americans With Disabilities Act. People with physical disabilities still work and pay taxes, so they have

as much right to recreate on public lands as everyone else. Barring motorized recreation would effectively close off these scenic public lands to an entire segment of the population.

D. Alternative 2 sets forth some guidelines for keeping many access roads open to the motoring public, again assuring access to all citizens – including those with physical disabilities or poor health. Most of these roads have been in use for over 60 years by Grand County residents and visitors, and keeping them open and available just makes sense. Alternative 2 also allows for the transportation corridor from I-70 north to the Uintah Basin area, which would allow the county to benefit from the resource extraction activities already leased on SITLA land. Many residents discovered a few years ago when the Grand County School District was in financial trouble that locally-collected sales and transient room taxes (aka "tourist money") go to the State of Utah, who then parcels it out to counties based on population – not based on where the money is generated. In contrast, minerals extraction fees go to the county where the activity takes place. There WILL be a road built to bring extracted materials to I-70, whether Grand County participates or not, so it would be ridiculous to squander the opportunity to bring additional money into Grand County.

E. Finally, Alternative 2 contains the same protection of the Colorado, Green and Dolores rivers as Alternative 3, which shows compromise, while also protecting the river corridors from potentially toxic resource extraction activities. The river management plan proposed would ensure both motorized and non-motorized recreation use of the rivers, allowing for more diverse economic activity for many Moab businesses. It also withdraws the rivers from the far more restrictive designation as "Wild and Scenic," which would severely limit commercially-operated recreation activity on the rivers.

F. Alternative 2 leaves the most amount of land and options open to take advantage of the underground natural resources in Grand County, which will allow for much more robust economic development. The current tourist-based economy, with its low paying, part-time and seasonal jobs has led to a high percentage of poverty in Grand County, and with it family violence, drug abuse, teen pregnancy and ill health. The hardest-hit sector of the population is not the many transient young adults who come here to work a little and play a little each season, but rather Moab's permanent resident families. Over 40% of students in Grand County Schools are on the financial-need-based free/reduced school lunch program. Our tourist-based economy has resulted in a VERY high cost of living in Moab, and the majority of individually-owned housing is financially out of reach of most residents. One can't pay the mortgage on a $200,000+ (average cost in Moab) home, along with utilities, food, gasoline, health and dental care if they are making $10 per hour for 30 hours per week and only 9 months per year. Median income in Moab is only 2/3 what it is in the rest of Utah, due to the county's overwhelming dependence on the tourist economy. Jobs in the minerals extraction industry pay well, are full time, and provide benefits. Those jobs are what Grand County needs.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my opinion. If you ask people on the job in Moab how they feel about locking away more land as wilderness and increasing reliance on tourism versus multiple use and allowing more minerals extraction activities and bringing in the much higher-paying jobs that come with it, you will find a CLEAR MAJORITY who support diversifying our economy with the better paying jobs. These are the people who don't have time to sit and write letters like this, and can't attend public meetings because they are working 2 jobs just trying to make ends meet. I myself had to sacrifice time from other duties so I could write this to you.

Respectfully,

Mary Walker-Irvin

Mary Walker-Irvin

RECEIVED
MAY 01
BY:

Dear County Council Members,

I urge you to use rational logic and thought for our future when making a proposal to Bishop about his land process. As the citizens of Grand County have pointed out over and over, there are serious risks that come with full bore development of the energy sector. Our health, tourist economy, and way of life are at risk if you allocate land in the County for the Bookcliffs Highway and ensuing tar sands mining and refining.

In your proposals there are some basic mistakes and oversights (i.e. acreage designated as NRA is over calculated because it also includes WSA acreage, advocating closing off-road routes that even SUWA is not asking to close). These mistakes illustrate that this is a complicated process, vast landscape, and shouldn't be taken on in such a short time frame by so few just to satisfy the state and its mandate to sap any and all money from our public lands. Redraw your proposals with more folks at the table. I urge you to go beyond Alternative 3, protect more lands in the form of wilderness, especially Forest Service land where water infiltrates our aquifer, protect the land above and around Castle Valley and Fisher Towers from oil and gas development, protect more land around Labyrinth Canyon, and take out the Antiquities Act exemption. I also urge you to stand with Sportsmen organizing against the big Anadarko lease and block the Bookcliffs Highway from going right through some of the most world renowned roadless hunting grounds in the nation. This isn't a partisan issue. Ranchers, landowners, hunters, even oil and gas workers in the Uintah Basin have told me that developing tar sands is going too far.

Will you stand on the side of science, thinking about the long term prosperity of Grand County and the health of the people, or will you stand with the reactionary sentiments of the Sage Brush Rebels, holding onto deep seated prejudices, disregarding facts, and allowing the continued exploitation of our public lands by the biggest, richest corporations in the world?

Sarah Stock
Sage Grouse Rebels!
Moab, UT

April 29, 2014

RECEIVED
MAY 01
BY:

RE: Bishop Lands Recommendations

TO: Fred Ferguson Legislative Director, Rep. Rob Bishop

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As of February 2, 2012 in a Congressional Research Service Report, Utah State ranks 2nd in the Nation for Federally Owned Acreage by State at 66.5%, behind Nevada 1st at 81.1% and just ahead of Alaska 3rd at 61.8%. If you compare that to Texas at 1.80%, Iowa at 0.30%, and New York State at 0.70%...Utah has done its fair share!! How much will be enough? We have done too much compromising. Enough is enough and it is time for the silent majority to stand up and be heard.

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Sincerely,

Rodney K Dalton

Constituent

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April 29, 2014

RECEIVED
MAY 01 2014
BY: KW

Grand County Council
Attn: Public Lands Bill
125 E. Center Street
Moab, UT 84532

We appreciate the opportunity to again express our opinion on the public lands in the County which are administered by the Bureau of Land Management. Our letter In January asked for wilderness designation of Fisher Towers and Mary Jane Canyon, in particular, and for all areas identified by the BLM as Non-Wilderness Study Area (WSA) Lands with Wilderness Characteristics. It is our belief that wilderness should be the ***first*** consideration—the highest and best use, and that additional uses be prescribed only for lands outside wilderness.

None of the three alternatives developed by the Grand County Council's three-person Committee provides adequate protection for these lands. In addition, all of the three alternatives contain two provisions which we regard as Non-starters. These "poison pills" are rejection of the Antiquities Act to designate any new national monuments and paving a road through Sego Canyon in the Book Cliffs. In your upcoming workshop May 16, 2014, we implore the County Council to develop and adopt a fourth alternative, one which **would protect** as wilderness most, if not all, of the lands included in the Red Rock Wilderness Act and **should not** include mention of either the Antiquities Act or a Book Cliffs highway.

We refer you to Item G on your Agenda of November 19, 2013, in which it was stated: "The following process is intended to allow Grand County *and its residents* (emphasis is ours) to make a formal proposal for consideration in the legislation." The letters received in January—whether 170 or 182 as conflicting reports assert, were reportedly strongly pro-wilderness; 130/170 according to Chairman A. Lynn Jackson or almost 90% of 182 according to a citizen tally of the letters. The input provided by "residents" clearly was not considered by the Committee in developing its alternatives.

Similarly, the professional facilitator hired by the County to conduct the Public Hearing April 23 should have been unbiased in his conduct of the meeting, but he did not enforce his own ground rules, and he permitted repeated clapping by anti-wilderness attendees. According to my records, 27 of the 46 residents who spoke either rejected all three alternatives or urged that Alternative 3 be amended to include a fairer balance of preservation over development. Please hear these voices.

Sincerely yours,

Michael L Binyon
Jean W Binyon

Michael & Jean Binyon
3057 E. Coyote, Moab

cc: Fred Ferguson, Legislative Director for Rep. Rob Bishop

April 29, 2014

RECEIVED
MAY 01 2014
BY: [illegible]

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Sincerely,

Suzan Woodward

Constituent Suzan Woodward

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Dear Grand County Council

If you would simply take the time to run the numbers on 40 years of tourism vs. 10-20 years mineral extraction and the consequent degradation of the viewshed and loss of tourism, with the accompanying pollution that inevitably happens despite best management practices, you will see wilderness protection is the best option.

You can only sacrifice the land once. After that, it's screwed up for our lifetimes. I choose to not make that mistake.

RECEIVED
MAY 01 2014
BY: VW

Dave Focardi
4905 Sunny Acres Lane
Moab 84532
435-260-1975

I am writing this from working on a 2600 acre solar farm going in on pristine BLM mojave desert. The right choice was not made here.

RECEIVED
MAY 01 2014
BY: VW

April 29, 2014

Dear Grand County Council,

I attended the recent public hearing for the county's proposed alternatives for wilderness. While I find alternative 3 somewhat better than the other two alternatives, all three alternatives are unacceptable. The primary reason is that all three alternatives contain a wide corridor for a road through the Book Cliffs. I believe building an oil shale-tar sands haul road would be a huge detriment to the community of Moab, and would contribute to unacceptable complete destruction of landscapes and to the fast acceleration of destroying the climate of the planet.

But I will focus here on one issue that I do not believe was addressed fully in the comments during the public hearing. While current poverty rates of children in Moab were addressed as a reason to promote energy extraction industries, I would argue that if you are concerned about the well-being of children, you should argue against any energy boom. Child poverty needs to be addressed in this community (and most communities in our nation), but an energy boom will not solve the problem.

Numerous studies and abundant anecdotal evidence document that rural towns experiencing energy booms also experience rapid increases in alcohol and drug abuse, violent crime, and child and wife abuse. Increasing mental depression and suicide rates have also been documented. Many studies examined socioeconomic effects of the western US energy boom of the late 1970s. Two such studies that I found documented skyrocketing child abuse rates in the coal and oil boomtowns of Converse and Campbell counties of northeastern Wyoming; another described very high rates of violence against women and children in the 1970s boomtowns of Farmington, New Mexico; Rawlins, Wyoming and Craig, Colorado. More recently, in 2010, Dr. Joel Berger of the University of Montana documented that "the absolute and relative frequency of registered sexual offenders grew faster in areas reliant on energy extraction." In 2013, the Montana legislature passed legislation to increase education of the public and of law enforcement officials about human trafficking, due to concerns of child and adult sex trafficking suspected among the current boomtowns in the North Dakota- eastern Montana Bakken oil fields.

The studies often go on to say that many of these symptoms are among new and often temporary residents of the boomtowns, who generally experience feelings of isolation and a lack of connection to any community. A partner in Berger's study attributed the rise in sexual predation to "the dramatic social upheaval caused when a large influx of people are attracted to energy boomtowns due to high rates of employment and high salaries."

If an energy boom happens in Moab, many of the workers will move in from elsewhere, and some will bring families. Others will not bring families, and this latter generally younger, predominantly male group will be the root of much of the increased crime. None of this is good for our community or for our kids, or the new kids that will be added to our schools. Slow economic growth allows infrastructure and community-building to keep up. Rapid growth has too many societal impacts.

Sincerely,

Mary Moran

Mary Moran
471 Loveridge Dr
Moab, UT 84532

Links to a few of the studies referenced in this letter:

http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/wy/programs/energy/coal/prb/coalreview/task1c.Par.7031.File.dat/sec3-11.pdf

http://books.google.com/books?id=bXbxAAAAMAAJ&pg=PR133&lpg=PR133&dq=rate+of+child+abuse+in+boom+towns&source=bl&ots=Fekmq9Ps5A&sig=sSzMTBfxSAGda0UwpArbnvwa19U&hl=en&sa=X&ei=wiBdU6i6MOmoyAGJ_oD4Ag&ved=0CEcQ6AEwAg#v=onepage&q&f=false

http://phys.org/news185777686.html#jCp

May 2, 2014

Grand County Council
125 East Center St.
Moab, UT 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 02
BY: W

Dear Members of the County Council,

I'll make this letter short and to the point.

Point One: I oppose the road through the Bookcliffs. It would destroy the scenic and historic value of Sego Canyon. Plus it would be costly to build and maintain.

Point Two: Our economy is dependent on tourists and if too many extractive industries pollute the landscape that brings them here, they will go elsewhere.

Point Three: Water is a precious and limited resource and we should use it wisely! Our culinary water was not intended to be trucked up to the oil wells off of 313. We are in a drought cycle and it should be kept in mind that in the west many communities are running out of water. The same thing could happen to us if we're not careful!

Thank you for reading this letter and giving it your full consideration.

Sincerely,

Marcia A. Hafner

Marcia A. Hafner

601 MILLCREEK DR
MOAB UT 84532-2843

RECEIVED
MAY 02 2014
BY: lw

April 23, 2014

GRAND COUNTY COUNCIL
125 E CENTER ST
MOAB UT 84532

Dear Council Members

COMMENTS, GRAND COUNTY COUNCIL ALTERNATIVES FOR DESIGNATION OF PUBLIC LANDS IN GRAND COUNTY

You have ignored the great preponderance of letters favoring strong wilderness and public lands protection. Alternative 3 three falls far short of adequate protections and the other two are worse.

You declare hostility to adequate protection with the arbitrary imposition of crippling ground rules. You would bar the President form using the Antiquities Act in Grand County. You do not propose any Wild and Scenic River designations. You include the "Hydrocarbon Highway" which jeopardizes the prehistoric and historic significance of Sego Canyon to facilitate the development of dirty energy. You designate a great number of roads without any NEPA process in a transportation plan already under appeal and similar to the plan recently overturned in an appeal of the Richfield BLM Resource Management Plan. You fail to protect Moab's watershed by proposing no wilderness for the La Sal Mountains on US Forest Service land. You riddle so-called protected wilderness with ORV routes.

You deny wilderness protection to Porcupine Rim, Mary Jane Canyon, Fisher Towers, Goldbar Rim, the Dome Plateau and most of Labyrinth including Mineral, Hell Roaring, Spring and Tenmile Canyons.

You leave the entire view shed east of Arches National Park open to oil and gas drilling.

You allow oil and gas drilling and potash mining on the rim of Labyrinth Canyon upstream from Spring Canyon.

These faults must be eliminated to make Alternative 3 viable.

On the whole, the comment period at the April 23 meeting was conducted more respectfully than that at the meeting called by Representatives Bishop and Chaffitz. Unfortunately, the presentation of the ground rules had already shown that the pro-wilderness view was getting short shrift.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Messenger

Thomas J. Messenger

cc: FRED FERGUSON, LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR, REP. ROB BISHOP

Grand County Council
Public Lands Working Committee
Lynn Jackson, Chair

RECEIVED
MAY 02 2014
BY:

125 East Center Street
Moab, Utah 84532

Re: County Proposed Public Lands Options

Dear Council,

One of the basic concepts of Congressman Bishop's Public Lands Bill is that the various contrary and competing interests for the uses of our public land in Utah engage in dialogue to find an agreed compromise. Fair enough. Nobody is going to get everything they want. The three proposals of the Grand County Public Lands Committee, while demonstrating diligence in preparation, do not represent the feelings of the majority of Grand County citizens and should not be presented Congressman Bishop as such.

As an example, the Sego Canyon Road has been a controversy in Grand County for many years and at times, I believe, was rejected by the citizens. If the feelings of the citizens are now in favor of the road corridor, I am not aware of it, especially now that the road would be a facility for a much more aggressive tar sands industry and problematic climate.

The three proposals support Congressman Bishop's dislike for the Antiquities Act which seems a very doubtful description of the "will of the people" since Arches National Park owes it's existents to the Act and is now a bedrock of the Moab economy. Any person who has viewed the Ken Burns documentary on our National Park System will recognize the "Wallace Berry syndrome". Mr. Berry who so strenuously opposed the Teton National Park before its creation, later, after the benefits started to roll in, apologized for being wrong-headed.

Please consider reviewing the proposals with a committee that includes a truly representative group of Grand County people.

Sincerely.

Bruce W. Browning

Bruce W. Browning

Grand County Council
Public Lands Working Committee
Lynn Jackson, Chair

RECEIVED
MAY 02 2011
BY: lw

125 East Center Street
Moab, Utah 84532

In Regard to the County Proposed Public Lands Options

Dear Council,

I am disappointed in the trio of options presented to the citizens of Grand County. I am surprised that you assume any of them will be acceptable to any group.

I propose that you abandon the current plans and expand the "Working Committee" to include a cross section of various groups: local business owners (both town and tourist/expedition), individuals from federal agencies, educators, someone from outlying districts, i.e. Castle Valley, and The League of Women Voters to create more of a variety of options.

For three persons (no matter how thoughtful or well-meaning) to create a template for Grand County's future seems a presumptuous challenge.

I cannot see evidence of response to letters nor public meetings.

I suggest that you inform Congressman Bishop that the complexities demand a further, expanded effort; this is too significant to settle for one alternative from an unsatisfactory trio of possibilities.

Sincerely,

Barbara G. Browning

Barbara G. Browning

RECEIVED
MAY 02 2014
BY:

Leta Vaughn

HC64 Box 2502
Castle Valley, UT 84532

May 2, 2014

Grand County Council

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to you regarding the proposed alternatives on the Bishop Public Land Initiative. There are way too many things wrong with the proposed plan to name, my preference would be for it to go away.

But if you insist on continuing this process I ask that you create a fourth alternative that does not include the proposed right of way for a haul road shown on all three of the other alternatives. Without knowing what the costs are to build or maintain this road the right of way should not even be pursued.

I think you should be following the Red Rock Wilderness act when it comes to wilderness acreage and boundaries.

Please designate proposed wilderness in the La Sal Mountains to protect Moab and Castle Valley's sole source aquifers

Take out the proposal that would prohibit the use of the Antiquities Act for Grand County. This Act is what has saved countless amazing places from certain destruction.

I am concerned that the Grand County Council is backing the destruction of thousands of acres of land by oil, gas, and tar sands extraction. Grand County is known worldwide as a place of beauty and a destination to be. People do not travel around the world to visit Vernal and certainly not now. If you go down the path of extraction it will destroy our tourism economy.

Requiring that comments only be submitted by US mail or hand delivery hinders public input. Please consider revising this policy.

Sincerely yours,

Leta Vaughn

RECEIVED
MAY 02 2014
BY:

Mary Beth Fitzburgh
HC64 Box 2502
Castle Valley, Utah 84532

May 2, 2014

Grand County Council
125 E. Center Street
Moab, UT 84532

Re. Public Comments – Congressman Bishop's Proposed Public Lands Bill

Dear County Council,

I would like to ask that the 3rd alternative be amended or that a 4th alternative be created to:

- Designate important scenic resources as wilderness
- Designate proposed wilderness in the La Sal Mountains to protect Moab and Castle Valley's sole source aquifers
- Allow wild and scenic river designations in Grand County
- Abandon any proposal that would prohibit the use of the Antiquities Act for Grand County
- Abandon any proposal for a transportation corridor through the Book Cliffs

Greater Wilderness Protection and Wild and Scenic River Designation

Porcupine Rim, Mary Jane Canyon, Fisher Towers, Goldbar Rim, the Dome Plateau, and most of Labyrinth, including Mineral, Hell Roaring, Spring, and Tenmile canyons deserve to be protected as wilderness for future generations. They are vital scenic resources, and their value is priceless.

Leaving the entire view shed east of Arches National Park, including the world-famous view from Delicate Arch, open to oil and gas drilling would be devastating.

I cannot stress enough the importance of protecting the unique and sensitive nature of the Colorado and Green River corridors. There are very few rivers in the country that offer such pristine and minimally developed natural beauty, providing a rare and extraordinary environment for rafters and boaters.

All the areas mentioned above are critical to the long-term success of Grand County's recreation-based economy.

Sole Source Aquifer Protection
Water is our most precious resource. Protecting the sole source aquifers in Grand County should be of highest priority. These are the sole sources of drinking water for residents and an irreplaceable resource. There is no reasonable alternative source of water available at an economical cost and contamination would pose a significant hazard to public health.

Antiquities Act
The working committee has justified prohibiting future Antiquities Act designations in Grand County, in perpetuity, on the basis that a community process will result in a more collaborative outcome and prevent a special interest-driven process. It is hard to believe this sentiment is genuine when all three alternatives fail to represent the interests of a majority of Grand County Residents. The working committee has thereby solidified the importance of The Antiquities Act as an effective form of existing legislation to be used to protect valuable and sensitive lands from outside interests looking for financial benefit.

Transportation Corridor
I do not support a transportation corridor of any kind through the Book Cliffs as it will endanger one of the most beautiful and largest tracts of wild lands in our County.

The proposed Sego Canyon Transportation Corridor was included in all of the alternatives as a way to foster future development of an energy transportation highway. This future road was prematurely and misleadingly characterized by Council Chairman Lynn Jackson, at the April 23 public hearing, as a potential way for the County to reap outrageously large amounts of revenue. No cost analysis has been conducted on such a haul road through the Book Cliffs and there has been no discussion or consideration of the indirect costs for County tax payers, yet it is being publicly promoted for its promising economic benefits. The working committee has included a transportation corridor in all three alternatives, effectively taking a definitive step towards the development of a highly speculative and controversial energy highway. Such a highway would have numerous negative impacts on our citizens, significantly deteriorate air quality, and destroy an irreplaceable archeological site.

The energy transportation highway has also been presented as a way to transport tar sands and oil shale extraction in the Book Cliffs to a possible refinery in Green River or to a rail line. Tar sands and oil shale extraction are extreme methods of extraction that will cause extensive disruption to the natural landscape and present greater economic and environmental risks than those associated with traditional oil and gas extraction operations in Grand County. I do not support using tax payer's money to help foot the bill on infrastructure for private fossil fuel companies, especially those using extreme and experimental methods of extraction. I am against the County offering any incentives or offsetting costs to make their operations more feasible. These companies will be loyal to their bottom line and will use whatever method is most profitable to get their products to market. They will not be looking out for our best interests.

I strongly oppose any steps towards the future goal of a haul road through the Book Cliffs.

Increased Resource Extraction

There has been a lot of misinformation and unanswered questions regarding the pros and cons of increased mineral extraction in our County.

How much money will likely go to our schools from increased extraction? SITLA money will still be distributed to schools based on the number of students in the district. Grand County would continue to see a small fraction of the total royalty revenues from SITLA lands.

Please spend the time to research what other fossil fuel boom towns are experiencing. Its well documented that residents from these towns experience increased crime rates, horrible air quality, and loss of their "old" and preferred way of life.

Significantly increasing fossil fuel extraction, such as that which will occur with future tar sands extraction in the Book Cliffs, will change the nature of life in Grand County. Our population will see an increase, but not in a way that will create lasting benefits for residents or attract new residents from the intended demographic that extraction proponents speak of. Most workers in the oil and gas industry are young, male, and without families. They typically don't put down roots or make long term plans to live in the communities in which they work.

The type of population growth we are likely to see will have a very different impact than that which we are currently familiar with from tourists coming here to recreate on our public lands, shop at our stores and eat at our restaurants. The oil and gas boom in Uintah County is creating a huge strain on its citizens and on their infrastructure. Many other communities experiencing an economic boom from fossil fuel extraction are struggling to effectively address these same kinds of strains.

In Closing

What do we want to be known for - our spectacular scenic beauty and small town charm or bad air quality, fossil fuel extraction, and tar sands strip mining?

Private resource extraction companies with deep pockets and significant political power will continue to exert pressure on Grand County residents and local government entities. I urge the County Council to use long-range thinking to help find lasting solutions to the economic challenges our County faces that preserve and protect our incredible scenic resources for all future County residents.

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Fitzburgh

Mary Beth Fitzburgh

RECEIVED
MAY 02 2014
BY: KW

Grand County Council
125 E. Center St.
MOAB, Utah 84532

April 28, 2014

To whom this may concern:

My family and I visit Green River/Grand County yearly for boating, biking & camping. Every year the mining & accompanying infrastructure grows. This year, I have a permit for Desolation - Gray River rafting & I am worried this might be our last. The wild river is no longer. Selling out to mining & energy companies will mean you lose tourism forever. Please re-think how best to keep your region's spectacular natural wonders alive. Mining is a one way street. Look at economies of Utah coal country. Boom + bust is the rule not the exception.

Thank you for listening.

— Beth Booton
1007 Sumac Drive
LOGAN, UT 84321
435-

Grand County Council
Moab, Utah 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 02 2014
BY:

April 30, 2014

Grand County Council:

It is my understanding that there are proposals being made to designate more of public land, specifically in Grand County, to use by the National Monuments and National Parks, and wilderness area. From all I've read, there is already a movement by elected officials to slow down or reverse the Federal land grab in our state to satisfy the specific wishes of our citizens.

I do not understand why the County council would consider pushing an issue that is already at odds with the wishes of most of the Grand County residents.

Very Sincerely,

Shauna Dickerson

Shauna C. Dickerson
1646 N. Highland
Moab, Utah, 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 02 2014
BY:

Verald T Dickerson
1646 N Highland Dr
Moab, Ut 84532

April 30, 2014

Grand County Council:

I am writing state my objection to the proposals being made designate more of our land to National Monuments, National Parks and wilderness areas.

Seems to me we have enough closed of to multiple use now.

Very truly yours
V T Dickerson

RECEIVED
MAY 02 2014
BY: KW

To whom it may concern,
I am writing to ask that you go beyond Alternative 3 of the Bishop Public Land Bill and back myself and other environmentally conscious Americans in the following manner:

I would like you to expand the areas and acres of public land that would be protected. I am amazed that even Alternative 3 only protects 60% of the proposed wilderness in Grand County.

Secondly, I would also like you to drop the idea of a "hydrocarbon highway" through the Book Cliffs, as it is one of the largest roadless areas in the lower 48 states.

Thirdly, I would like you to protect the viewshed of Arches National Park and the Labyrinth Canyon area from oil, gas, and potash development.

Fourth, I would like you to close redundant ORV routes and routes that impact natural and cultural resources in the National Recreation Area.

Fifth, I would like you to protect Moab's watershed by designating proposed wilderness in the La Sal Mountains.

I have lived in the Moab area for the last 18 years and work as a guide. I depend on tourism for my living. Recreating in the outdoors has also been important for my health – physically, mentally, and spiritually. I have raised my children with the same values. I think we must look at the long-term impacts of these alternatives and realize that the consequences are permanent. Our health and enjoyment of the resources we have been blessed with are something that you can not place a monetary value on. Be conservative! Future generations will thank you.

Sincerely,
Catherine Calhoun
HC 64 box 2206
Moab, UT 84532

Greg Child
HC 64 Box 3709
Castle Valley UT 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 02 2014
By: Yu

April 29, 2014

Grand County Council
125 E Center Street
Moab, UT 84532

Re: Grand County recommendations on Bishop Land Bill, and public meeting in Moab about the same.

Dear Council Members,

As a resident of Castle Valley and a resident of this county for 16 years, I feel great disappointment at the recommendations drafted by the council for submission to Representative Bishop for the lands bill under consideration. The three proposals may satisfy some county residents but they leave a great many other residents out in the cold, who feel that the council has ignored their desires, hopes and aspirations for this county's lands. The three proposals minimize the duty of preservation of the land, and maximize energy resource development. Once destroyed, these landscapes can never be rehabilitated.

I am especially disturbed by the enthusiasm and support of the council for the "hydrocarbon highway" through the Book Cliffs to facilitate oil and gas drilling and tar sands mining. This is one of the largest remaining roadless areas in the nation, and its destruction would be a terrible loss to Moab. I found it telling and alarming that not one of the three alternatives presented to county citizens included a future that did not include support for the Bookcliffs Highway. That indicates a lack of impartiality, or neutrality, right there.

I also support the need to protect the viewshed of Arches National Park and the lands in the Labyrinth Canyon free from the visual ugliness of oil, gas and potash development. Protecting viewsheds is not just for those Grand County residents who might be dismissed as 'treehuggers' but it is of benefit for the children of the future and the tourists we need for revenue. They want and need to be able to see natural

viewsheds free from the interruptions of industry. Grand County is one of the last places on earth where untrammeled viewsheds are possible.

I support closing redundant ORV routes and routes that impact natural and cultural resources in the National Recreation Area. Enough with the ripping apart of this county with the proliferation of motorized madness, I say! There is nowhere in this county that is not affected by ORV dust, degradation or noise. It didn't used to be like that. The council should support the viewpoint held by many of its residents who feel personally disturbed by the spread of new trails and ORV convoys into places where tranquility was once easily had - but no more.

I also am a resident of Castle Valley, and rely on the aquifer beneath me as my sole source of water. Protecting this watershed and Moab's watershed by designating proposed wilderness in the La Sal Mountains would be, I would consider, a duty of the council. I see little evidence so far that the council has taken on this task, but there is still time to remedy this omission.

In short, I wish that the county council in Moab would speak for all of us instead of speak for just some of us.

Sincerely

Greg Child

cc. Fred Ferguson, Legislative Director for Rep. Rob Bishop.

RECEIVED
MAY 02 2014
BY: lw

May 1, 2014

Public Lands Initiative / Alternatives

As a Resident of Grand County for the Past Twenty Five years I Support the Multiple use concept for our area.
Our Local Economy Depends upon Visitors being able to use our Back Country and to close more of it would be Harmful.
Not only to the Millions who Visit, it would Also Effect The Local Residents who Relocated to this Area for the Access to This Wonderful Region.

Stop The Land Grab!

Mike Sherman
4204 Spanish Valley Dr.
Moab, Ut. 84532

Date: April 30, 2014
To: Grand County Council

RECEIVED
MAY 02 2014
BY:

The discussion on how to determine land use in Grand County reveals honest differences of opinions amongst County residents. Can we really come to a consensus on such an omnibus approach to land-use decision making. I think the County needs to keep its focus as narrow as possible in order to do so.

- This is not the most expedient way to solve employment issues in Grand County. There is no guarantee how many mining/drilling jobs will go to current Grand County residents. Form a committee to identify a variety of suitable employment opportunities for Grand County and determine how to foster their development.
- This is not the best venue for making final determinations that will affect public health, land, air, and water quality. The concerns of residents about environmental and health impacts from mining and drilling activities do need to be recognized. Now is the time to start taking positive action to protect our air and water quality. **Do not pre-approve any activity before it is properly vetted by the public.**
- This is **not the place to approve construction** of an **industrial road** that has not yet been put to the test of a feasibility study. Be prepared to consider other views that are not just economically based.
- This is **not the fairest way to vote on the merits of the Antiquities Act**. Let that be a decision that the entire Nation makes through Congress.

The decisions made here should reflect the following important issues:

1. Land use should reflect incremental access to public lands: two-wheel drive vehicles have limited access; four-wheel drive vehicles, motorcycles, and bicycles have greater access; horseback riders and hikers have extended access. This doesn't mean that the grandest sites and best views are restricted only to hikers and horses. There should be a variety of destinations at each level, but **the experiences** and **toll on the land will differ.**
2. Preserve an excess of wilderness now so that future generations have a cushion for future needs unknown today. Demonstrate good will by **supporting the wilderness designation area proposed in America's Red Rock Wilderness Act.**
3. Support the current local recreational economy by protecting the viewsheds around Grand County **landmarks**, such as, Porcupine Rim, Mary Jane Canyon, Fisher Towers, Goldbar Rim, Dome Plateau, Labyrinth Canyon, and all national parks and monuments within Grand County. **Multi-use designations and economic development will be part of the plan but shouldn't create a blight on the unique landmarks** we all cherish.
4. Support local communities by providing **protection to local watersheds** in the LaSal Mountains and its surrounding mesas, such as, Dry, Wilson, South, Porcupine, Adobe, and Fisher.

The **highlights** above emphasize my primary suggestions to amending the 3rd Alternative to the Public Lands Initiative presented at the April 23, 2014, Public Hearing. I would like to add a statement as to why I am not pushing vigorously for more oil and gas drilling even though I agree with the speakers at the Public Hearing who asserted that we all probably drove to the Hearing and enjoy driving on some of the County's many dirt roads. I feel instead that our efforts should be put towards conservation, efficiency, reducing our carbon footprint, and alternative energy sources before expanding into ever dwindling and increasingly polluting petroleum mining. My husband and I drive a fuel efficient vehicle that we can use for probably 90%--if not more--of our driving needs. We live in a small energy efficient home designed so that it requires no air conditioning beyond natural air flow. We do try to live in a way that supports what we believe.

I agree with a recent opinion in the Moab Sun that states: "...why can't Moab take a stand on behalf of nature, of clean air and water, public health, incredible vistas, and a future that reduces the footprint of dirty energy?"

Faylene Roth

Faylene Roth
93 Bailey Lane
Castle Valley, Utah

Cc: Congressman Rob Bishop

May 1, 2014

RECEIVED
MAY 02 2014
BY: KW

Grand County
Attention: Public Lands
125 E. Center St.
Moab, UT 84532

Attn: Special Commission Members Lynn Jackson, Gene Ciarus, Rory Paxman

Gentlemen,
Regarding your proposed Alternatives Plans for submittal for the Bishop's Land Use Bill:

None of the Alternative Plans adequately addresses a few major points of contention. The 3rd alternative does not go far enough in protecting wilderness and our most valuable scenic resources or in protecting Moab and Castle Valley's sole source aquifers.

I oppose the Corridor for it's dramatic width (87% and 176% increase over the current alignment), it's location (directly bisecting the Book Cliffs and impacting the wilderness designations on both sides), and its potential link to/facilitation of damaging tar sands development to the north. I oppose the ROW as a first step in allowing the roadway to be built via a separate process.

I do not support using tax payer's money to help foot the bill on infrastructure for private fossil fuel companies. These companies will be loyal to their bottom line and will use whatever route is most profitable to get their product to market.

No cost analysis has been conducted on the proposed haul road through the Book Cliffs and there has been no discussion or consideration of the indirect costs for County tax payers.

Increased fossil fuel extraction is not a solution if it puts at risk our most prevalent jobs - those in the recreation industry.

One of the speakers at the April 23rd meeting had done research into the future expectations of energy costs. What I heard was that his research points to a potential 'bust' in the boom-bust cycle of the extraction industry perhaps sooner than later. In looking 10-20 years ahead to the future, have you considered what will happen to the City of Moab and to Grand County if you/ we finance the boondoggle and it goes bad? What happens if we tear up the land, create hydrocarbon highways, finance infrastructure changes to accommodate the people you want to move here from around the country and in 10 years the oil companies pull out? We will have lost a great percentage of the tourism economy and have NOTHING to fall back on.

Carol Mayer

Carol Mayer 444 Rosetree Lane Moab

cc: Fred Ferguson

May 1, 2014

County Council
Rob Bishopp,

RECEIVED
MAY 02
BY: KW

Regarding Grand County future we feel Option I is the best we don't really approve of any of the above but it is the best of the three.

The Government keeps acquiring more land and cant manage what they already have. For example - the wild horses - turtles - grouse and we dont need a Militia to control the citizens (Swat team)

Barbara Peterson

RECEIVED
MAY 02 2014
BY: Vw

Dear Grand County Council,

I am a resident of Grand County. I have examined the proposed land use plans for Grand County and would like to make a few points.

Extraction is just what is says it is - minerals are extracted and then they are gone, along with the money they might or might not bring into the community. This is not a sustainable path to economic prosperity, nor is it a path to an increased quality of life in Grand County.

As many have said before, Moab has experienced the boom and bust of mineral extraction before and it did not turn out well. Tourism and capitalizing on the natural beauty of our lands revitalized this town when every other industry had left it. Now there is a minority eager to run back to this abusive relationship with mineral extraction that has brought us one of the largest superfund sites in the US, and to an industry which has torn apart towns all across Nebraska and the Dakota's - flush with money that never makes it back to the town and cannot keep pace with all the aftershocks of large scale fossil fuel development - torn roads, drastically increased housing prices and school enrollments, etc. Oil money will not fix our town's problems, and will likely create new and more numerous ones.

If these proposals were in some other county, some other place, it would all seem more credible – I know this seems like another iteration of "not in my backyard," but our backyard isn't like everybody else's. It is a uniquely beautiful, one of a kind place in this world, where over 9/10 residents who have expressed an opinion on this issue favor preservation of these lands. Does this not make it clear that the majority of your constituents, the people who live in this town, and who have an opinion on this issue

Not only is this opinion shared among the residents of Grand County, but across the US, people value the canyon country and the national parks here. While they may not live here, they too have a vested interest in the preservation of our land, aquifers, and rivers. While I may never see or touch a blue whale say, I would give money and time to make sure they continue to exist in their natural state. So too, do people feel about the canyon country.

Listen to your constituents and begin the conversation about a proposal 4. Is Grand County going to be part of the problem or the solution as our country goes forward in its search for a sustainable economy?

Thank you for your time and effort !

Sincerely

Kyle Kaiser

1584 Hunt Creek Dr.
Moab, UT 84532

May 2, 2014

RECEIVED
MAY 05 2014
BY: KW

To: Grand County, Attention Public Lands
125 E. Center St.
Moab UT 84532

From: Jay and Tricia Ogilvy
419 Cliffview Drive
HC 64 Box 3008
Castle Valley UT 84532

Dear County Council,

I am writing to share my views on the proposed alternatives for the Bishop initiative. My views are guided not only by tracking the issue in the press and attending the public meeting on April 23. My views have also been shaped by a career in corporate consulting, much of it in the energy industry. My clients include major oil companies such as Exxon Mobil and Royal Dutch/Shell, and electric utilities like Pacific Gas & Electric and Southern California Edison. I am no enemy of industry or economic development.

Still, as I weigh the issues and listen to the voices on April 23, I'm inclined to believe that, as elected representatives, if you are listening to your constituents, you must reject each of the three proposed alternatives and opt for a fourth that does not include a road through the Book Cliffs.

I took close notes of the meeting (appended) and by my calculation, of the 46 who spoke, 27 spoke for more wilderness protection, only 16 for more economic development, and 3 unclear.

To those who spoke on behalf of more economic development, we have to be sympathetic. But in opting for more wilderness protection, we would not be opposing economic development. And here I speak as a pro bono high priced consultant appealing to the evidence.

From a 5/15/2013 report written for the Grand Canyon Trust by Tim Peterson, pp. 17-18:

> Only relatively recently quantified, the scale of the outdoor recreation economy is massive. Nationwide, recreation is directly responsible for 6.1 million American jobs (far surpassing the 2.1 million jobs provided by domestic oil and gas production), $646 billion in outdoor recreation spending each year, $39.9 billion in federal tax revenue and $39.7 billion in state/local tax revenue. Utah alone benefits from $12 billion in annual spending, 122,000 direct local jobs, $3.6 billion in wages and $856 million in state and local tax revenues related to outdoor recreation, 82% of Utah

> residents participate in outdoor recreational pursuits, and visitors and migrants alike are drawn by Utah's outstanding opportunities to recreate outdoors. . . .
>
> All this economic activity of course, depends on the "natural infrastructure" of protected lands, of which wilderness is an essential part. People don't travel great distances to mountain bike though a gas field, to jeep through clear cuts or to hike beside an open pit mine. . .
>
> Research has shown high correlations between protected lands such as National Parks, National Monuments, Wilderness and all common measures of economic vitality - employment, per capita income, total aggregate income and population growth.

This evidence suggests that opposition to wilderness protection that is based on arguments for economic development is strategically misguided.

If the citizens of Grand County and their elected representatives want to protect the economic future of Grand County (and not just the future of its natural environment), then the best strategy is to protect Grand County's greatest long term resource: its natural beauty. As several speakers said, "Once it's gone, it's gone."

Perhaps it is now time to recall the words of early environmentalist Bob Marshall who wrote in the *New York Times Magazine* in 1937:

> At present many of the States vie with one another in boasting the number of miles of improved roads which they possess. ... It seems worth suggesting that some of the States might well compete to discover which can maintain the finest examples of that glorious frontier which in many ways has been the most distinguishing feature of American history. Perhaps it may be a better boast for Utah that she still retains the largest roadless area remaining in the United States than that she has more miles of State road then Arizona or Wyoming. ...
> It all depends on the viewpoint, but there are multitudes of wilderness lovers and of taxpayers who would delight in being citizens of the States which take some pride in preserving the last vestiges of their frontier.

So the critical question is not (as it seemed to be on the 23rd) wilderness protection vs. economic development. The question is instead: Economic development via hydrocarbon extraction or economic development via wilderness protection. With Peterson's help, I've already made the case for economic development via wilderness protection. Now let's have a look at the case for economic development via hydrocarbon extraction.

IF a road through Sego Canyon is feasible, and IF Grand County can gain ownership of the corridor, and IF a "friction fee" can be negotiated, then it is possible that the

government of Grand County could receive millions of dollars over the coming decades.

BUT, these IFs are large and imponderable. And even if they were to come to pass, major potential downsides remain:

- Irreparable damage to the beauty of Sego Canyon
- Air and noise pollution from the truck traffic
- Would such funds, directed to the government, actually lead to increased wages and more economic vitality? First on the government's agenda are things like a new prison and social services. These are not great job producers.

So even though I am very sympathetic to the needs of the poor and the voices speaking for more economic development, and even though I know that many of the jobs in the tourism industry are not great jobs, on balance, and for the sake of greater economic development, I think you need to scrap your three alternatives and come up with a fourth that does not include a road through Sego Canyon.

Respectfully,

Jay Ogilvy
Husband of Tricia Ogilvy, formerly Tricia Marooney, anchorwoman for Moab's own TV news during the early 1990s, who also endorses the contents of this letter.

Tricia Ogilvy

Notes on 4/23 meeting in Moab on three alternatives re wilderness designations

Opening remarks by Lynn Jackson.

After tonight, there will be a two week comment period when we can submit written comments. Stresses the need for *balance* between economic interests and the interests of protecting wilderness.

Brief explanation of the three alternatives available on the web. We identified ten themes: wilderness designation, national monument, economic opps., mineral development, transportation corridor, protection of river corridors, etc.

1. Common themes: all 3, no Antiquities Act designations in the future. Under the Antiquities Act, not everyone gets a seat at the table
2. Why haven't we included US forest lands in proposal? Felt that adding forest service lands added too much complexity. Forest service has made no proposals for designating wilderness (as BLM has).
3. Sego Canyon corridor in all 3 alternatives. This bill would not make any decisions about building roads. There is an existing road in Sego Canyon. What would it cost to upgrade? We are going to work with Uinta County. We want to own the corridor so that we can charge a toll IF Anadarko mines and ships, and IF we can figure out the "friction fee". In alternatives 1 and 2 the corridor is about two mile wide; one mile wide in 3.

Designated wilderness areas: just under 300K in 1, we added more in 2, combining it with BLM to go up to 391K. In alternative 3, added another 100K.

Varied sizes of national recreation area: in 1, focused around primary area of Grand County; in 2, added large section up to NE 310K acres; in 3 added sections up the middle/north to a total of 400K or so.

1 about 336K acres of county protected [missed percentage #]
2 778K acres 33% of Grand County in some form of protection
3 962K acres 40% of the county in some form of protected designation.

Best guess is that we'll come up with some blend around 3.

The rest of the evening was given over to short statements—maximum 3 minutes each—by a series of 46 different speakers.

1. Ron Ervin from Moab: likes 1 because we need more financial base than just recreation and tourism. Now everything is tourist based. During the winter, everything dies.

2. Concern about King Springs development – air quality; water use; haze.

3. Logan Hanson: Alternative 3 doesn't go far enough. Would like to see more designation. Motors impact people who don't like motors. Don't want to see Sego canyon developed. Chipping away at the wilderness

4. Sarah Fields Don't see how you can put a road through that canyon without totally destroying that canyon. We should develop university rather than mining. The BLM fails to administer regs that are already on the books.

4. Mark Thomas: None of the alternatives replaces America's Red Rock wilderness Act. Alt. 3 is only one standing. Increase protection north of Spring Canyon. Eliminate Book Cliffs Highway. Tourism better model than extraction.

5. Jim Taylor; Moab was based on Uranium.

6. A jeeper says alt. 1 is best.

7. Jake Burnett. Dr. James Hansen could not be here tonight so I'll speak for him. He says that if we develop tar sands, it's game over. Jake disagrees. We've been through a series of extinctions. The earth will survive. But I'm totally against the fuel corridor. Extractive industries are, by definition, boom and bust.

8. Brian Merrill first came to Moab as a river guide. Western Living Expeditions has been doing both motorized and human. I praise the *balance.* I would encourage the county council encourage the Bishop process. Let's not throw the recreation baby out with the bathwater, but also don't close down the county to other income streams. *Balance.*

9. Sarah Stock. Family in rural Utah for 7 generations. Totally opposed to tar sands and fracking. No reclamation is possible. A refinery in Green River would pollute our air and our river. Worse for climate change.

10. Pam Hackley served on planning commission I can't support any of the alternatives you've presented. The key: no inclusion of national forest lands. Bring it through the planning commission. Protecting the LaSals we need.

11. Sandy Frisbee Hiker, mountain biker. In 2008 BLM set up focus areas set aside, primary use recreation. The National Recreation idea would be instead of that. The mineral leases will still be allowed to be developed according to

these alternatives. Some hiking areas are focus areas. Can't imagine a plan that doesn't protect Fisher Towers.

12. Mary Beth: amend 3 to include all wilderness under Red Rock. Against haul road through the Book Cliffs. Once it's gone, it's gone. It's irresponsible to include a haul road in all alternatives. Who wants to go biking in the smog. Let's protect who we ARE.

13. Joe Sorensen. I'm a business owner and an employer, an American. My duty to stand up and say I don't like what's going on with climate deniers. We need to take the time and say, "I've got this, but do I need to use it?" Let's be in the forefront and force our elected officials and bring the climate change argument to national prominence. Not 1, 2, or 3, but more wilderness.

14. Mike Brunilla: Let's take Moab out of the boom and bust column. During the sequester, we saw the importance of tourism. We need to protect our beautiful environment. Throw out all three alternatives.

15. Ashley We need perspective and we need facts. It's about the future of our county. We know that recreation jobs don't pay much. I'm worried about where a boom and bust truck driver is going to be in ten years. There's been a tendency to compare rec jobs with the mythical jobs of the 50s. It's all about having skills, which is why we need a university.

16. Mike Duncan, chair of the county planning commission. Don't want to preclude Antiquities Act designation. I'm not averse to oil and gas, but tar sands is a big, big deal.

17. Kelly Green. I reject the Red Rock Wilderness Act – goes too far. Want ability to travel on the land, ability to recreate. I would support a road through Book Cliffs if done properly. Paving that road would be better. *Balance.*

18. Catherine Jackson. My biggest fear: poverty. We have poor families in Grand County. I've seen wonderful young teachers leave because we are at the bottom of the barrel. My grandkids have asthma.

19. John Brewer. I believe 3 doesn't go far enough.

20. Deb Walter: I want to stress the danger that tar sands presents. Emissions from this mining would be catastrophic for our planet.

21. Christy Benson, I'm a business owner. Tourism *does* supply viable incomes for our residents.

22. Ray Tibbetts 82 I'm in favor of development. I'm in favor of oil and the extraction of resources. I'm not in favor of one wilderness up here, another

up there. They are already covered with roads. RS 2477 Spring Canyon? Ludicrous to call it wilderness because there are roads all over the place. [he want to see oil rigs, and he got big applause]

23. Emily Stock. All 3, nowhere near good enough. Only a small fraction of existing leases are being exercised. In exchange for royalties we want to give up our air, our water, our silence, our beauty? This is a global issue. We don't want boom and bust followed by toxic air and water. How dare you sell us out! Please change your proposals.

24. Cliff Cummings I'm representing off highway vehicles. NRA (National Recreation Area) should not just be ski trails or mountain bike trails, but also vehicle trails.

25. Donny Sinclair We should monitor our air quality. Cost 300K? We didn't want the Book Cliffs road 20 years ago, and we don't want it now. To go against the antiquities act flies in the face of a lot of hard work. Cf. Grand Canyon.

26. Mary Irvine *Balance* I like #2. Yes we want wilderness, but yes, we need economic development. Too many work part time. They're on unemployment when the tourist industry shuts down. I see too many poor children. Got to help the poor.

27. Chris Beard. #3 is probably closest to Bishop's vision. But I don't like the look of the Book Cliffs highway. Upper end of Sego Canyon is some of the finest hunting territory in the country.

28. Dan Kent. I'm moved by the incredible beauty of this place. Way against motorized recreation. I want to get away from industrial development. The 90s were beautiful, quieter. So I'm now on a farm down in San Juan County. This place is just too speedy and energetic for me now.

29. 4th gen Moab woman Yes there has to be a balance, but if we lose the land, it's all over. When uranium left town, a lot people had to leave with it. We need multiple use for our land. I promote tourism. I'm grateful for the people who come here. We have to take care of Moab. We're lucky we have Canyonlands and Arches. Last Fall, with the sequester, people were upset. But visitors were able to hike on public lands. We should not lock everything down.

30. Darrell Dalton lived here since 1944. Would like about half of #1. Get behind the Gov to get our land back from the federal govt. We need to take our lands back, get rid of the BLM and National Forests.

31. Dave . .. since 1947. Grateful to council for tackling this hard issue. In 1776 we fought for our independence . . . we need to do something similar now. We're in a trap. We built a lot of stuff like a hospital, and now we have to raise taxes. My parents have a tract on the highway with no buildings on it and their taxes jumped by 71%. We can't have 40% of our economy devoted to tourism.

32. Steve Nance The majority of people in Grand County work in the tourist industry. We've got the hikers, the mountain bikers, and the jeepers. We jeepers are not trying to get any more ground. The bikers are fine. We think that the wilderness area should remain the same. Too many people who rely on the recreational tourist industry.

33. Man representing SUWA. Wants a lot of wilderness designation. Alt 3 does not go far enough.

34. 70yr f. You can have both. We have a boom and bust every year in Moab with tourism. Let's have both and not tie up any more land.

35. 30yr m. I support #1. Once you declare a wilderness area, you get a lot more people. Our greatest asset in this county are our children, but we're losing our biggest asset because they can't find jobs.

36. Shade Smith My concern: I don't agree with any of the 3 proposals. Nor something in between. But I would not be comfortable with any of them. Grand County and State of Utah have more wilderness areas than elsewhere. The antiquities in past decades have been abused. I would like to see some of the proposals' numbers reduced.

37. 6th generation. Wants compromises with hard working people. He wants the money, chance to improve quality of life. We need to pay the bills. [Big applause.]

38. Kevin Walker. Southern Utah is like the last cookie. 92% of wilderness in this country is gone. This is a crazy place to have oil and gas drilling. Like drillers from Oklahoma who said it would be a crazy to drill here. Look at a place like Odessa Texas. I prefer Grand County. Balance? 98% of Grand County is already within a mile of a road.

39. Tracy Reed. My business employs 20 people. 4 own homes. I'm fearful of what further oil and gas development could do to Moab. I don't want to lose my business and I don't want my employees to lose their jobs. Once the damage is done, there's no turning back. Alt. 3 does not go far enough.

40. Bill Raugh 182 letters were submitted The 3 options do not represent the interests of our citizens. 90% were opposed to development that threatens the beauty of this land. Over half of all letter writers want no new extraction.

41. Dusty Wilson Many generations of my family here. Perseverance. I'm in the oil industry. We try hard to protect whatever we can. WE are environmentalists.

42. Nature Conservancy: Keep an open mind. This public lands bill is our opportunity to create our future. Left out of all 3 alts is protection of our rivers. River economy employs 32,000 people. Conservancy supports stronger protection for our rivers. Want 2008 BLM designations.

43. Support of sound business practices. By 2040, 60 million more people. Energy efficiency has grown. No sound business logic for developing tar sands, so I support #4 yet to be developed, that includes no road through the Book Cliffs.

44. Feylene from Castle Valley More wilderness Our watershed is important. We need to protect it.

45. Clay I work oil fields. We need petroleum hased products. We all drove here. Come to work. I'll show you. We're clean. This weekend, motel rooms will go to $350. My dad started the car show. If you're a business owner and gouging tourists, stop it. To think we're going to import oil from Saudi???? We need to develop our own fields.

46. Joe Day Resident of Grand County 5 generations. I get tired of little groups that say it's my interest. We don't need to shut it down for this group or shut it down for that group. I say [sarcastically] #3 doesn't go far enough. Moab is beautiful. Declare it all a wilderness area. Pack 'em up and move 'em out. Move 'em to Grand Junction and then bus 'em in to go hiking. An earlier speaker stands up, turns around, shouts, "Stop it! Stop it!" Shouting. It's getting wild. Screaming!! Pandemonium.

Meeting breaks up at 5 past 9.

April 29, 2014

RECEIVED
MAY 05 2014
BY: KW

RE: Bishop Lands Recommendations

TO: Grand County Council

I am writing this letter in response to the Grand County Commissioners "Bishop Lands Recommendations". I find that the three proposal options brought forth by the Commissioners are unacceptable. They are far reaching and unnecessary. I'm tired of compromising and giving into special interest groups that are unwilling to compromise and have no tolerance for anyone's opinion other than their own.

As of February 2, 2012 in a Congressional Research Service Report, Utah State ranks 2nd in the Nation for Federally Owned Acreage by State at 66.5%, behind Nevada 1st at 81.1% and just ahead of Alaska 3rd at 61.8%. If you compare that to Texas at 1.80%, Iowa at 0.30%, and New York State at 0.70%...Utah has done its fair share!! How much will be enough? We have done too much compromising. Enough is enough and it is time for the silent majority to stand up and be heard.

In a separate report produced by Utah Governor Gary R. Herbert's Office of Planning and Budget, it was stated that of the nearly 85,000 sq. miles of surface area in Utah 17,884 sq. miles are in private ownership, only 21% of the State of Utah is privately owned by its citizens. That is outrageous. Why are we even considering handing over more land?

For 116 years, we've been reduced to less than 30% of our land, making it tough to support our educational system which relies on property tax. Federal and Native American lands are not taxable. Grand County has only 4% privately owned land to help fund schools. It is time for us to begin using a common sense approach to these issues. There is gross poverty in our community and a true lack of economic diversity. Our families and our children should have the economic opportunity to live and work here year around. I approve the development of a diversified industry allowing a stronger economy and tax base for our struggling community. I support leaving a portion of our public lands open to energy development along with other portions being managed for recreational activities. I support the recommendations to create a new transportation corridor through Sego Canyon and designate the 2 mile wide (18,145) acres) transportation corridor on federal lands from State block to I-70 and transferring it to Grand County under RS 2477 allowing another form of tax revenue and added tourism. I also support oil and gas exploration and drilling, along with mining on our local public lands.

So in conclusion you can consider me as one of the many Grand County Residents opposed to any of the three recommendations and request that you take action in addressing the Federal imbalance within our county and immediately start the process of getting our land back. Enough is enough!!

I will be paying close attention to this matter and other issues being heard before the County Commission and other elected officials. If I feel you do not represent me and my best interests I will be voting accordingly in the future. I will no longer be part of the silent majority.

Sincerely,

Constituent

This letter in its entirety are excerpts taken from a letter written by Joe Day who gave we, the people, the permission to repeat in part or whole his personal writing.

RECEIVED
MAY 05 2014
BY:

May 3, 2014

Dear County Council members,

My husband and I are writing today regarding the Grand County Proposed Public Lands Plans.

We will be brief. The #1 reason so many people come to Moab is to immerse themselves in the one-of-a-kind scenery surrounding our town. This is why we moved here, and is likely why many of you have enjoyed living here. If you allow the proposed oil and gas drilling to continue with no regard to scenic viewsheds, we will end up looking like Rangely, CO. Not too many tourists going there to spend their vacation dollars.

The real treasure we have here does not lie beneath the red rock desert - it IS the red rock desert. When the oil is gone, the scars and the structures will remain as a testimony to shortsightedness.

We encourage you to start with proposal #3, and from there, limit further oil and gas development in Grand County. We've seen boom and bust here in Moab before and now this generation of residents has to deal with the spoils of a toxic tailings pile.

And please, do not make new OHV routes. These machines are the most destructive on our fragile desert landscape. If you spend any time near the routes they currently use, you will see that they do NOT stay on designated routes. They drive wherever they can, creating shortcuts and parallel trails, obliterating vegetation and biological soil crust. Anyone hauling an OHV into town should have to pay an entrance fee.

This small parcel of our planet is priceless. Lets show some respect and keep it this way; for future generations, and for its own special sake.

Sincerely,

Sarah Topp Bruce R Condie

Sarah Topp and Bruce Condie,

1449 Murphy Lane, Moab, UT

4100 Easy St.
Moab, UT 84532
May 1, 2014

RECEIVED
MAY 05 2014
BY:

Grand County Council
125 E. Center St.
Moab, UT 84532

It saddens me to see that none of the alternatives presented by the three person council committee has addressed the requests by those in Grand County who wrote letters on Rob Bishop's Public Lands Initiative. Citizens of Grand County have spoken loud and strong that they want protection for public lands here. 90% of the letters stated that. This council needs to take very seriously the task at hand of listening to what the community wants and acting on that. For the county to have support of their constituents and for Rob Bishop to have support from the people of Grand County, the process needs to actually include public opinion rather than the wishes of the oil, gas, and potash industries.

With the writing of 182 carefully written and heartfelt letters and the presentations of many speakers considering these lands issues, it is apparent the people of Grand County care deeply about the surrounding lands. Yet all of the alternatives are inadequate in the amount of land protected. Protection of Labyrinth Canyon was the area brought up more often than any other for protection, yet it is not protected in any Alternative. Forest Service lands in the La Sal Mountains were also brought up as needing protection to insure the health of our watershed. Neither is it protected in any Alternative.

Surprisingly the Alternatives also include two factors not included in the Public Lands Initiative, the negating of the use of the Antiquities Act in Grand County and the creation of a Right of Way in Sego Canyon to advance the building of a road through the Book Cliffs. To include these two proposals in all Alternatives is disingenuous to say the least. Comments for either of these proposals was never requested either by the County Council or by Representative Rob Bishop. There has been no gathering of public input on them from community members and through a community process, yet they appear in all alternatives.

The huge 1-2 mile Right of Way through the Book Cliffs would cut through an area with wilderness on either side, would cut through private property and through Native American lands, and would negatively affect irreplaceable rock art. It would open up a highway for the transportation of oil and gas from Vernal. It would also pave the way for future mining of tar sands and oil shale in the Book Cliffs. We do not want any more hydrocarbons being transported in Grand County. Air pollution created by the trucks as well as the mining and refining activities would negatively affect our air, our water, our health, and the well being of the tourist industry. The mining of tar sands and oil shales requires 5 barrels of water for every barrel of oil produced. The lands where tar sands and oil shale would be mined is the watershed for the White River flowing into the Green, affecting the water for millions of users downstream on the Colorado River.

The whole world is beginning to deal with the effects of climate change and global warming. Emissions from this mining would be catastrophic to our planet. The Sierra Club estimates that carbon released by mining only 10% of the Green River Oil Shale would amount to 48 billion tons. To put that into perspective, the emissions from all oil and gas fracking across the country comes in at 17.5 billion tons. We must not go down the path of mining the tar sands and oil shale.

If the county council ends up favoring any of these 3 alternatives, they will be listening only to special interests of industry, which stands to profit from taking the hydrocarbons and potash from our area. This is resource colonization of our rural community, giving us petty royalties or friction tolls in exchange for destruction of our irreplaceable lands. Citizens of Grand County have not agreed to this ROW.

The County Council needs to create a 4th Alternative that first includes protection of all the lands included in the Red Rock Wilderness Act and second that eliminates the add ons of a ROW in Sego Canyon as well as taking us out of jurisdiction of the Antiquities Act.

We hear many long time residents recollecting that their families have been here for many generations. Let's make sure there is something for those generations after us. We urge the council to be responsible stewards and approve a yet to be stated alternative that truly does protect our lands for future generations.

Thank you.

Deb Walter, Dick Walter

Sincerely,
Deb and Dick Walter

RECEIVED
MAY 05 2014
BY: [illegible]

Louie Nicol
1550 Spanish Valley
Moab, Utah 84532

Dear County Council Member,

I am writing this letter in response to the Grand County Commissioners "Bishop Lands Recommendations:"

I am not satisfied with any of the three proposal options that was brought forth by the Grand County Commissioners and giving into special interest groups that are unwilling compromise and have no tolerance for anyone's opinions but their own.

I am a retired uranium miner. I have lived in Moab for over 60 years and have loved this area and proud to call it my home. I lived in Moab before, during, and after the boom. I have lived in this area during good economic times and bad economic times. I care about what happens here in Moab. My wife and I love to be in the out of doors. We hunt, fish, ride our ATV, and camp in our beloved La Sal Mountains

For 116 years, we've been reduced to less than 30 percent of our land, making it tough to support our education system which relies on property tax. Federal and Native American lands, which occupy 70 percent of our state, are not taxable. For example, Grand County has only four percent privately-owned land to help fund schools. Compare that to eastern states which have little or now public lands and highly funded schools. It's time for us to begin using a common sense approach to these issues. There is gross poverty in our community and a true lack of economic diversity. Our families and our children should have the economic opportunity to live and work here year around. I approve the development of a diversified industry allowing a stronger economy and tax base for our struggling community.

I do not support any more wildernesses for the State of Utah, nor Grand County. I do not wish to incorporate areas into wilderness that will prevent economic opportunities for Moab. No more roads should be closed off to motorized access that excludes anyone from enjoying the beauty that surrounds Grand County. I want my children and grandchildren to enjoy what Moab has to offer either by hiking, biking or riding their ATVs on opened and accessible roads.

Thank you,

Louie Nicol

Louie Nicol

RECEIVED
MAY 05 2014
BY: TS

April 29, 2014

RE: Bishop Lands Recommendations

TO: Grand County Council

I am writing this letter in response to the Grand County Commissioners "Bishop Lands Recommendations". I find that the three proposal options brought forth by the Commissioners are unacceptable. They are far reaching and unnecessary. I'm tired of compromising and giving into special interest groups that are unwilling to compromise and have no tolerance for anyone's opinion other than their own.

As of February 2, 2012 in a Congressional Research Service Report, Utah State ranks 2nd in the Nation for Federally Owned Acreage by State at 66.5%, behind Nevada 1st at 81.1% and just ahead of Alaska 3rd at 61.8%. If you compare that to Texas at 1.80%, Iowa at 0.30%, and New York State at 0.70%...Utah has done its fair share!! How much will be enough? We have done too much compromising. Enough is enough and it is time for the silent majority to stand up and be heard.

In a separate report produced by Utah Governor Gary R. Herbert's Office of Planning and Budget, it was stated that of the nearly 85,000 sq. miles of surface area in Utah 17,884 sq. miles are in private ownership, only 21% of the State of Utah is privately owned by its citizens. That is outrageous. Why are we even considering handing over more land?

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So in conclusion you can consider me as one of the many Grand County Residents opposed to any of the three recommendations and request that you take action in addressing the Federal imbalance within our county and immediately start the process of getting our land back. Enough is enough!!

I will be paying close attention to this matter and other issues being heard before the County Commission and other elected officials. If I feel you do not represent me and my best interests I will be voting accordingly in the future. I will no longer be part of the silent majority.

Sincerely,

Terry Reach

Constituent

Moab, Utah 84532

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Sincerely,

Constituent

Moab, Utah

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Renee Scott

Constituent

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MOAB UT 84532

Constituent

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Constituent

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Sincerely,

Sherry Jackson

Constituent

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Lori Lamadrid

Constituent

PO Box 1691

Moab Ut 84532

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Parker Hassan

Constituent Charles C. Hassan

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I will be paying close attention to this matter and other issues being heard before the County Commission and other elected officials. If I feel you do not represent me and my best interests I will be voting accordingly in the future. I will no longer be part of the silent majority.

Sincerely,

Grant W Nielsen

Constituent

Moab Utah

This letter in its entirety are excerpts taken from a letter written by Joe Day who gave we, the people, the permission to repeat in part or whole his personal writing.

RECEIVED
MAY 05 2014
BY: lw

April 30, 2014

Dear Grand County Council,

Please review and go beyond Alternative #3 for Rob Bishops proposed land use bill for eastern Utah.

Even alternative #3 doesn't do enough to protect our land. I favor strong wilderness and public lands protection.

I favor keeping the Book Cliffs the largest area with no roads in the lower 48.

I favor Not ruining Arches view shed.

I am not in favor of oil drilling and gas drilling in this area.

HUNTER SHOTWELL

4/30/2014

RECEIVED
MAY 05 2014
BY: KW

April 30, 2014

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J. H. Shotwell

James H. Shotwell

RECEIVED
MAY 05 2014
BY: KW

April 30, 2014

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I favor keeping the Book Cliffs the largest area with no roads in the lower 48.

I favor Not ruining Arches view shed.

I am not in favor of oil drilling and gas drilling in this area.

Andrea P Shotwell
Castle Valley Utah

Andrea P Shotwell

May 5, 2014

RECEIVED
MAY 05 2014
BY:

To the Grand County Council:

I am not completely against the extraction industries. I drive a car and fly in airplanes, but if you cannot designate areas in Grand County for the extraction industries to do their extracting which is away from the frequently used tourist areas, I am going to push for President Obama to use the Antiquities Act and create a Greater Canyonlands National Monument.

The overwhelming majority of public input, in both public meetings and the letters of comment sent to you, are for conservation. Why are you representing the minority with your 3 proposals?
Also, a very small percentage of Grand County residents that spoke to you in letters and at the meetings, are in favor of the Sego Canyon road but it is included in all 3 of your proposals. Why?

And finally, I must comment on the 2 teachers speeches at the last meeting and their concerns of poverty in the community and kids being sent to school hungry ...ect... I was not born and raised in Moab and in fact have lived and had careers in 2 other cities in the US and 1 in Europe. The inability of some parent/s to properly take care of their kids never goes away no matter how many higher paying jobs that are introduced into a community. There will always be parent/s that send their kids to school hungry and don't make sure they have a meal at night time before going to bed, in Grand County and everywhere else. Some people just can't get their act together.

Thanks,

Drake Taylor
498 Rosetree Lane
Moab, Utah

Helene Boyer
498 Rosetree Lane
Moab, UT

RECEIVED
MAY 05 2014
BY:

Joan Gough
441 E. Center Street
Moab, UT 84532
5/5/14

Grand County Council
County Court House
Moab, UT 84532

Dear Council Members:

As we near the end of the comment period on the Bishop land proposal, I want to weigh in on the side of as little disturbance as possible to the wilderness of the Book Cliffs--not because I want to deny little old ladies access (I am a little old lady), not just to needlessly block access to development, but because our health, air that is good for us to suck into our lungs, depends on an oxygen sink of plants that pull the pollution out of the air. That is what the Book Cliffs is.

I was in Huntington, Utah this weekend and that area is rural and beautiful, but the air was thick enough with pollutants from the power plants to turn the San Rafael Swell to the east and even the plateau to the west into hazy blue-grey blobs. We have seen it here to a greater extent than ever before these last two winters since the drilling got under way.

Today's extraction industry is nothing like the uranium mining industry we knew in the 60's and 70's here. This industry is on such a scale that the haulers look like three story mechanical monsters out of a sci-fi movie. The money, hence the influence, will mean power to use us, our community, for corporate good, their short term gain while we get some jobs and huge clean up debts into the future.

We need another alternative to the three proposals before us.

We need you, the council, to look ahead at the worst case scenarios of extraction and put every law you can in place to protect this community from exploitation of the most damaging kind. Show us how to do it without destroying the place we live.

Thank you for your work on our behalf.

Sincerely,

Joan Gough

P.S. Lynn, I think your idea of letting the drillers take water from the river at the old mill and dump site could be a good one. Can you do it so that they pay for the

infrastructure, not the tax payer. In fact, we should get something else out of it besides, such as a refuge for water fowl which could be read "hunting".

Grand County Council Public Lands Working Committee
125 E. Center Street
Moab, UT 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 05 2014
BY:

May 1, 2014

Re: The Bishop Public Lands Initiative

To the Grand County Council:

I have felt from the beginning that this process is flawed. I suspected it would play into, if not encourage, what has been described as a "cultural divide" in Grand County, and that has sadly proven to be true.

I have been aware that the potential for a transportation corridor through the Book Cliffs was an element in ongoing talks regarding this proposal, even though that was not clearly articulated and was therefore not addressed during the initial comment period.

There is a built-in conundrum with the committee's insistence that the highway corridor through Sego Canyon is integral and non-negotiable.

This flies in the face of any potential for compromise and undermines the genuine and heartfelt concern this community has evidenced and expressed both in the letters and at the public meeting on April 23.

I attended that meeting and was dismayed by how divided we are as a community. I was also dismayed that the alternatives offered did not represent the comments submitted, the vast majority of which called for extensive protection of public lands, both general and specific, for all the reasons so eloquently stated in writing as requested. These findings have been clearly, comprehensively and carefully tabulated and are publicly available.

The emphasis on the Book Cliffs highway corridor in all three alternatives leads me to believe that fast tracking of resource mining is the focal point for this process. If built, a highway through the Book Cliffs will facilitate and arguably expand the industrial landscape that a conceivable majority of Grand County residents fervently wish to avoid.

I join those who are asking for a new preferred alternative that does not include the highway corridor and is supported by the public comments you received.

Thank you for your due diligence in this regard,

Sincerely yours,

Nancy Kurtz

cc: Fred Ferguson, by e-mail

Nancy Kurtz
139 Arches Drive
Moab

RECEIVED
MAY 05 2014
BY:

Grand County Council
125 E Center Street
Moab, Utah 84532

May 5, 2014

Dear Council;

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Congressman Bishop's Proposed Bill. It is, however, with frustration and disappointment that I do so.

I hope that you will take additional time to consider previous and current comments for incorporation into the final alternative. Your responsibilities are difficult and complicated in balancing various interests in order to come up with acceptable alternatives. However, I find that there is not a choice for me in the alternatives that have been presented. Even if the alternative I chose was not the recommended one, I would like to know there was something I could support. It seems key points the Council received in oral and written testimony have been ignored.

It disappoints me that the council would add to each alternative presented exclusion to the Antiquities Act for land in Grand County. Although the Grand County Council sent a letter in February, 2013, to President Obama not supporting using the Antiquities Act to designate a single-use for lands; isn't the procedure to receive that exclusion to amend the Act not simply say we disagree with the Act?

It is frustrating that there is talk about the "open process" but in the end, the alternatives seem to eliminate consideration of any expansion in wilderness protection as requested by so many commenters. I understand that the short timeframe at the end of this process is driven by the Congressman's office but preparation for this bill has been years in planning and not all of it has been open.

It is frustrating to hear various labels for all kinds of groups, but especially for people like me who may want just a bit more wilderness designation. Disrespectful behavior of *any group* is not a positive method to reach an outcome that can be supported by all.

In closing, I want to make three points:

1. Consider a fourth alternative, which increases the acreage of designated wilderness.

2. Remove the exclusion to the Antiquities Act and pursue an amendment to the Act if needed.

3. Include past and present comments making the final product acceptable to more people.

Thank you for consideration of my comments.

Suzanne Kirkham

Suzanne Kirkham
3195 Juniper Dr.
Moab, Utah 84532

CC: Fred Ferguson
Legislative Director, Representative Rob Bishop
123 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Gmail

RECEIVED MAY 05 2014 BY:

Sue deVall <sdev.cv@gmail.com>

Bishop lands bill

1 message

Sue deVall <sdev.cv@gmail.com> Sun, May 4, 2014 at 9:51 AM
To: Sue deVall <sdev.cv@gmail.com>

3 May 2014

To the members of Grand County Council,

After reviewing the proposals for the Bishop lands initiative I find that none of the committee's proposals are acceptable to me.

The Antiquities Act is the law of the entire land. It got us our National Parks, the mainstays of our economy. Please don't try to eliminate it in all three proposals.

Give us a choice that does not include the highway corridor through Sego Cyn.

I urge you to protect more of our precious lands, including our watersheds.

PLEASE give us a fourth option.

Respectfully,

Sue deVall

Sue deVall
HC 64 Box 1902
Castle Valley, Ut

435 259-3663

Grand County Council
125 E. Center St
Moab, UT 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 05 2014
BY:

Dear Members of the Grand County Council;

I urge you to reject all three alternatives in favor of more protection of our very precious but vanishing natural resources (ie water and soil crust). If wanting to breathe clean air, drink safe water, and avoid dangerous dust storms makes me an "extreme environmentalist" than I am one, and most of the serious, dedicated citizens I know are as well.

I also urge you to not allow the discussion between extraction and protection to be oversimplified and made into an either/or choice. A study should be conducted to look at the serious social, economic, and health side effects of the extraction industry (drugs, prostitution, violent crime, alcoholism...). My parents-in-law and ALL of their friends moved from Parachute as the drilling industry changed the whole fabric of their community. They no longer felt safe there, and their quiet lifestyles were threatened by rising crime, traffic, noise, and concerns about air, light and water pollution. Grand Junction (where almost all moved) tried to buy up drilling rights to protect the city water supply and were unable to do so. Cases abound across the country of the harmful effects of drilling. We don't have to look too far (i.e. Atlas) to see that what grandaddy did is not necessarily safe or desirable today. Longevity in the community confers no special status, right, or expertise and often is the antithesis. And good jobs don't necessarily a good community make (just ask North Dakota). As a landlord, I've experienced several meth drillers, and it is terrifying. I rented to a single mom whose boyfriend lived there when he wasn't out on the rigs. After she left, I was too afraid to even evict him for non payment and had to totally gut the house when he finally did leave. Do we want more of these kind of people moving here? At what cost personally and to the community as a whole?

I believe we should focus instead on a Living Wage for Moab and on educating tourists and employers about its importance relative to the overall health of the economy and the community. We can have a recreational economy AND a Living Wage. Advertising that a business provides a Living Wage could draw tourists rather than turn them away just as other communities have found when they ask tourists for support for Open Space or pay extra for Locally Grown food or Grass Fed Beef and other price add-ons.

If we start with a premise that we all want an opportunity for some solitude, and that we want safe and clean air, soil, and water, and make decisions based on that, we can work together to address the economic challenges. But producing sham constituent consensus proposals and conducting poorly facilitated public meetings only contributes to the divisiveness and doesn't further the process. I urge you to shift out of name-calling and move to a more positive position where lots of common ground can be found.

Darcey Brown 5-3-14

Darcey Brown
2931 E. Bench Rd
Moab, UT 84532
darcey@frontiernet.net

RECEIVED
MAY 0 5 2011
BY:

Dear County Council,

I am adamantly against all 3 of your proposals for public lands and consider your decisions extremely irresponsible and egregious to the public trust. I recently became aware of this issue, I am a health professional with expertise in environmental health, and I have spent the last week researching the ramifications of this proposal to the public health of Grand County and all of Utah. I will not go into details in this letter, but will go into detail in other arenas. But I want to mention my distain in that I have been denied a formal request to speak to the council about the public health. I submitted a formal request and with the county vice president on speaker phone, I was told (via Ruth Dillon Council Administrator) that I am denied my request to speak about my concerns with the public health in Grand County—denied to speak about this issue at the Grand County Council meetings indefinitely (because this is at discretion of the chair).

Not only does your proposal fail to protect hundreds of thousands of wilderness lands and open land in vicinity of our treasured national parks to drilling (impacting tourism and recreation resources) but opens the region to pollution from tar sands and oil shale development. Based on my research, development of the vast energy deposits in our region (oil shale and tar sands) threatens to significantly reduce human health and the quality of life for all citizens in Grand County, Moab, and the entire state of Utah.

As you may already know, recent United States Geological Service estimates show that there are billions of barrels of oil in Utah – the largest known deposits are in the Moab area region. The current technological process for developing oil shale and tar sands is highly polluting and I believe this proposal will directly endanger the health of Moab residents and their children and grandchildren. Significant and recent scientific research has shown that tar mining process is known to release toxic chemicals into the air and our water that are associated with cancer, heart disease and other human health impacts. In addition to human health impacts, the energy development process creates significant air and water pollution that endangers wildlife and the environment and would entail large infrastructure to pipe or truck unprocessed oil to refineries. Considering these aforementioned issues I want you to study these issues in detail before you endanger the public trust with your current proposals:

1. Did the county do a transportation assessment or consult an expert to determine the impacts to roads and traffic that would result from the 3 alternatives proposed? This would include impact to human health from potential accidents and spills that are known to result from a project as extensive as this would be.
2. Did the county consult an expert to determine the impacts to air quality (such as ozone, methane, particulates, and other air pollutants) from the 3 alternatives proposed?
3. Did the county consult an expert to determine the impacts to water QUANTITY and QUALITY from the 3 alternatives proposed?
4. Did the county consult a health expert to determine the impact of all the aforementioned carcinogens, hormone disruptors, and other pollutants would have on the human health?
5. To be a responsible leader I request that you allow mechanisms to inform the public about these issues and after educating the public your determination of use of public lands should be based on the public opinion before commencing with further alternatives. This has not been done and the fact that I have been denied a request to speak about these issues (aforementioned) leads me to suspect this is not an open process.

Teri Underwood
3110 Sunset
Moab, UT 84532

Teri Underwood

RECEIVED
MAY 06 2014
BY:

Grand County Council:

I can not be to the meeting 4/23/2014;however I would like to add my input as to more wilderness in Grand County.
There is thousands of acres in Grand County locked up in limbo waiting for the congress to vote these acres in or out of wilderness.
This process takes upwards of ten years once designated as such.
It seems obvious to those of us who have been involved with this battle, the movement towards wilderness in the Book Cliff Mountains is a means of stopping any development in that area of gas, oil and tar sands.
The Bakken oil and gas field in North Dakota/Montana is an indication of what can be in Grand County.
Those who argue that this is bad are not being honest with the citizens of Grand County.
The jobs and tax base could and would pick up the tab for home owner taxes and schools and other county costs.
North Dakota is a perfect example of what can be, a state who has no debt, and nine billion dollars in the bank against bad times.
Can you imagine the uproar one would expect from those same people who are trying to stop development in the Books if the potash operation tried to develop today.
Lets look at the positive, a beautiful black top road down river, thousands of visitors each year viewing a magnificent experience that would otherwise be unavailable to them; not to mention the employment of hundreds of moab citizens for the past fifty years. The employment there has sent our kids to college helped pay our taxes and furnished untold benefits to our community and county.
As a past county commissioner, I can't believe the council would consider more wilderness in a county with 3% deeded land.
Ron Steele
Moab Utah

Ron Steele

RECEIVED
MAY 06 2014
BY:

Grand County Council

I am going to keep this short and sweet. I have fought for many years, ever since the Sagebrush Rebellion for Multipal Use, so that all of the people can enjoy this beautiful land that we all love.

There are already 360,000 acreas locked up in wilderness studies. That could go on forever. We have 3% privately owned land in Grand County and 66% of federally owned land in Utah. Why do we have to fight continually for our God given rights to use our land. For people to make a living in diversified ways and be able to provide for their families. Tourism and recreations is wonderful but it doesn't subsidize the people who are raising families when everything closes down 2 to 3 months out of a year. We need some industry and I am all for drilling and exploration. That is quite simply very easy to understand what a treasure chest this would be for Grand County and helping with schools, hospitals, etc. It is imperative that this country becomes energy independent.

The Taylor Grazing Act was designed in 1935 by Congress and it allowed many uses on public lands. The 1872 mining act provided the people with the right to explore all of the natural resources on public land.

I do believe that most of you know how I feel about more wilderness areas and that also includes trying to enlarge Canyonlands. I was instrumental in establishing Canyonlands National Park and making that a monument is pure insanity. Creating more Wilderness denies the handicapped, our wounded warriors and the elderly from enjoying these areas. This also means No Roads, no recreation and no development of any kind. Only people who can walk in can enjoy it. Oh, and by the way I don't believe that it enhances tourism a darn bit.

I am 82 years old so I have seen lots of changes and I truly believe that Enough is Enough. We have plenty of Wilderness already and I believe that

Multiple Use is the most fair law for the majority of the people who love what I call God's Country.

Respectfully submitted,

RECEIVED
MAY 06 2014
BY:

Grand County Council

I decided when I started this letter that I was going to use the KISS principal.

We have been over this issue as far as Land Use so many times, I have lost track. Letters, public hearings, meetings, back to the drawing board, more meetings, more letters. What part of this that the powers to be don't understand? It seems to me that about the time that you think that you have done everything you possibly can, it resurfaces again and again.

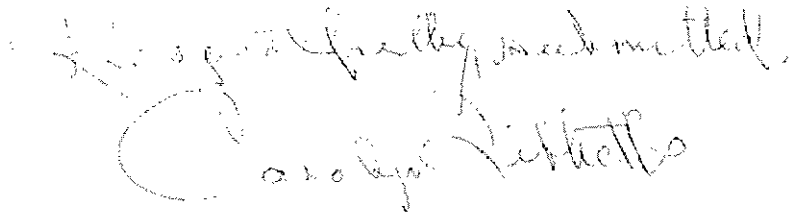
We now have over 360,000 acres in wilderness study that could go on forever. Grand County has 3% of privately owned land and there is 67% of federally owned land in the state of Utah.

Wilderness serves no one but a few that want to stop any drilling, recreation, or anything for that matter. It does not enhance tourism and denies the handicapped and the elderly from enjoying these areas. This also means no roads, no anything. Only people who can walk in can use it. Multiple use is the most fair law to service all of the peoples needs and with good management can provide many options for the people of Grand County.

I say Enough is Enough! There are plenty of Wilderness areas already. I am very much for Multiple Use. It is time that we stand up for what is right. If we don't stand for something, we will fall for anything. We have to stand up to the voices that think they know what is best for us.We have to be a little louder. It is worth the challenge. We have let them infiltrate into the schools, into our city and county government and onto the boards. Yes, we now GET IT.

The Silent Majority has surfaced. I am sure you will hear more from them.

When you speak passionately and from the heart, people listen.



Rosanne Nicol
1550 Spanish Valley
Moab, Utah 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 06 14
BY: KW

Dear County Council Member,

I am writing this letter in response to the Grand County Commissioners "Bishop Lands Recommendations:"

I am not satisfied with any of the three proposal options that was brought forth by the Grand County Commissioners and giving into special interest groups that are unwilling compromise and have no tolerance for anyone's opinions but their own.

I am a retired Grand County Educator. I have lived in Moab for 39 years and have loved this area and proud to call it my home. I care greatly about what happens here in Moab. My husband and I love to be in the out of doors. We hunt, fish, ride our ATV, and camp in our beloved La Sal Mountains. I have a keen fondness of our area.

For 116 years, we've been reduced to less than 30 percent of our land, making it tough to support our education system which relies on property tax. Federal and Native American lands, which occupy 70 percent of our state, are not taxable. For example, Grand County has only four percent privately-owned land to help fund schools. Compare that to eastern states which have little or now public lands and highly funded schools. It's time for us to begin using a common sense approach to these issues. There is gross poverty in our community and a true lack of economic diversity. Our families and our children should have the economic opportunity to live and work here year around. I approve the development of a diversified industry allowing a stronger economy and tax base for our struggling community.

I do not support any more wildernesses for the State of Utah, nor Grand County. I do not wish to incorporate areas into wilderness that will prevent economic opportunities for Moab. No more roads should be closed off to motorized access that excludes anyone from enjoying the beauty that surrounds Grand County. I want my children and grandchildren to enjoy what Moab has to offer either by hiking, biking or riding their ATVs on opened and accessible roads.

Thank you,

Rosanne Nicol

Rosanne Nicol

RECEIVED
MAY 06 2014
BY: lw

4/29/14

TO: GRAND COUNTY COMMISSION

REGARDING: PROPOSED FEDERAL LAND ALTERNATIVES

In reviewing the proposed Federal Land recommendations our choice would be the least restrictive recommendation without increased wilderness designation or that it be as limited as possible. We believe strongly in a multiple use approach in managing federal lands within Grand County's domain. We believe that any more restrictive measures and loss of control of these lands, would negatively impact funding for our trust lands that are used for county and state educational purposes. In addition, we believe that the increased expansion of the Westwater area for proposed wilderness would be a serious mistake. It is critical to have continued access for motorized travel within Westwater Canyon. Both private and commercial boaters have used motors to navigate that section of river for years even before it was proposed as a wilderness study area. Advantages are both economic and practical. Grand County needs to have the ability to quickly respond to emergencies within the canyon and other areas, and the elimination of motorized travel would be a great safety concern. Existing roads within proposed wilderness areas need to continue so as to maintain a permanent right of way for the management of trust lands for future economic development. Recreational uses for motorized travel should continue if there are clear and established roads within these lands as well.

Rather than send multiple letters about the proposals, we have included the names and address of those people who reside within Grand County who are in agreement with this opinion.

Respectfully Yours,

Kelly & Julie Green
427 E 100 N
Moab Utah 84532
Kelly McGrant Julie Green

Verle and Christa Green
451 Sundial
Moab Utah 84532
Christa Green

George and Tammy Johnson
425 E 100 N
Moab, Utah 84532
George P. Johnson Tamala Johnson

April Walker
278 Hobbs Street
Moab, Utah 84532

Marvelee Brewer
425 E 100 N
Moab, Utah 84532
Marvelee Brewer

Loren and Nancy Johnson
158 N 4th E
Moab, Utah 84532
Nancy Johnson
Loren H. Johnson Jr.

Austem Flight
1051 east Pack Creek Dr
Moab, Ut 84532
Austem Flight

1996 Highland Drive
Moab UT 84532
May 5, 2014

RECEIVED
MAY 06
BY:

Grand County Council
Attn: Public Lands Bill Committee
125 East Center Street
Moab UT 84532

Dear Committee Members:

As a Grand County resident and a United States citizen, I have looked at the proposals you have drawn up to take over U.S. property. I can't help but think that all three proposals look like a "Christmas gimme list" developed by supporters of oil and mineral extraction special interests. I see nothing about protecting the health and well being of our residents and our recreation based economy.

The proposals look like a quick buck scheme benefitting a few, and promising the rest of us much but delivering little except increased air and water pollution and overcrowding. Currently taxpayers are spending enormous sums of money cleaning up after the uranium industry. Will we all have to pay again to clean up after whatever mess comes out of the Bishop plan?

I believe in development that will provide for a healthy economy, not a toxic waste dump. This type of plan should not be made behind closed doors. I urge you to come up with a better proposal that takes into account the input and wishes of both local residents and the rest of the U.S. citizens who care deeply about this unique and spectacular place.

In the words of Theodore Roosevelt: "Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches or its romance."

Sincerely,

John S. Covey

John Covey

The Nature Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.

The Nature Conservancy
Moab Project Office
P.O. Box 1329
Moab, UT 84532

tel [435] 259-4629
fax [435] 259-2677

nature.org/utah

May 6, 2014

RECEIVED
MAY 06 2014
BY: KW

Grand County Council
125 East Center
Moab, UT 84532

ATTN: Public Lands Bill

Dear Grand County Council Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Grand County's three draft alternatives for the Eastern Utah Public Lands Initiative (the Initiative) being headed by Congressman Rob Bishop. From the alpine meadows in the La Sal Mountains to the sheer sandstone cliffs along the Colorado River, Grand County is one of the most beautiful places on earth. Our spectacular public lands give Grand County a natural competitive edge to enhance economic prosperity *and* conserve our lands and waters. The Initiative is our opportunity to map our future. We very much appreciate your leadership in moving this process forward, and the opportunity to share our views.

It is critical to the success of the Initiative that we all have a voice in the process -- everyone's views, values, perspectives, and insights are essential to resolving our long standing public lands issues. In order for this process to bear fruit, everyone involved will need to keep an open mind and be willing to consider differing points of view and at times, important concessions to create a viable solution to help balance the needs of people and nature.

The Nature Conservancy believes that a balanced approach with diverse designations and management prescriptions makes the most sense for Grand County. This approach is one that will support current and continued commercial and recreational uses of the public lands while conserving our natural heritage for future generations.

To that end, there appears to be a significant omission in all three alternatives, which is the protection of our water resources. Nowhere else is water so important or so beautiful as in the desert, for nowhere else is it so scarce. Protection of our water resources and the Colorado River should be paramount.

A recent economic study conducted by Southwick and associates illustrates the importance of the Colorado River to Utahns. The study indicated that:

- Utah's river economy employs over 34,000 Utahns. That is nearly three times greater than the Huntsman Corporation, which is the state's only Fortune 500 Company.

- Retail sales associated with the Colorado River in Utah are 45% greater than the value of the state's annual agricultural production.

- If people stopped using the Colorado River and its tributaries in Utah and did not spend their money elsewhere in the state, Utah's unemployment rates would increase by approximately 2.8%.

- The number of adults who use the Colorado River and its tributaries, for recreation is 5 times greater than the population of the Salt Lake City metropolitan area.

The Conservancy applauds the Council's recommendation for some river protection, especially the permanent withdrawal of lands along the Dolores, Colorado and Green from oil and gas leasing. However, the Conservancy supports stronger protections for our rivers. We believe there is a need for federal designation that advances management to protect, preserve and maintain the free flowing nature and outstanding remarkable values that provide for Utah's river economy and its biological values. The Conservancy would like to see a National Conservation Area for the entire Colorado River corridor from Westwater Canyon to Canyonlands National Park. Additionally we support inclusion of Wild and Scenic River recommendations per the BLM's 2008 Resource Management Plan into the Eastern Utah Public Lands Initiative, especially the protection for the lands and waters in Westwater Canyon.

In 1989, Utah Senator Jake Garn introduced SB.1719, referred to as "Colorado River Westwater Canyon Wild and Scenic River Addition Act." The Act was co-sponsored by Senator Orrin Hatch with support from Grand County Commissioners and business owners. This bill passed both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, but was never signed into law by the President. Nonetheless, the Eastern Utah Public Lands Initiative gives us an opportunity to finish what we started over three decades ago. The Wild and Scenic River Act of 1968 protects existing and valid water rights, including flow allocated to the State of Utah, interstate agreements and compacts, including the Upper Colorado River Compact. The Act ensures developments of such valid and existing rights will not be affected, yet such a designation will help us keep our water in Utah for the enjoyment and use of future generations.

In conclusion, we have been given an opportunity to resolve a range of public land issues and address both growth and conservation needs in Grand County. The success of the Initiative will depend on a commitment to collaboration, compromise and creativity by all stakeholders. The Nature Conservancy looks forward to being part of this process and is pleased to assist Grand County in any way.

Sincerely,

Sue Bellagamba

Sue Bellagamba
Canyonlands Regional Director

cc: Dave Livermore, TNC, Utah State Director

May 5, 2014

RECEIVED
MAY 06 2014
BY:

To: Grand County Council
Re: Land Use Proposals

Dear Grand County Council Members:

This letter is in regards to the three proposals regarding land use in Grand County.

I was born in Moab, and after attending college in Salt Lake City, I chose to return home to raise my family in our beautiful community. I well know and understand the many challenges we face living in rural communities. I appreciate your time and efforts in creating these proposals as well as the other work you must perform on our behalf.

Of the three proposals, I would most strongly agree with proposal #1, but I have some concerns that I will make known later in this letter. It is the least restrictive, and with 96% of our county "owned" by federal, state, or tribal governments, we must maximize our efforts to generate income to benefit our citizens as well as our public school system.

Like many long time area residents, I grew up during the uranium boom. I was also here for the subsequent crash; when many residents were forced to move to other areas in order to earn a living. I have seen the birth and maturation of the current tourism economy as well. This has been a blessing for many people and it continues to provide incomes to many wonderful people.

There is, however, a dark side to this type of economy. Business owners generally do well, but the employees, especially seasonal, must struggle; sometimes working two or three jobs just to make ends meet.

A healthy industrial sector would help with some of this disparity. Already new natural gas wells have added a tremendous amount of income to our county, and I think we should embrace this new income instead of trying to force them away.

The problem I have with proposal #1 is the designation of a National Recreation Area (NRA). This seems to eliminate mineral exploration and extraction for all time. New technology is constantly being developed; look at directional drilling and the progress it has made in just a few short years. A NRA would ignore mankind's ingenuity, and put these lands one small but significant step towards being designated true wilderness in the future.

I agree with the idea of some TRUE wilderness. As I have told Congressmen, State legislators, and the Governor: "God created wilderness, our job is simply to recognize where it already exists and protect it." I think nearly 220,000 acres is more than sufficient for wilderness designation.

The road and trail system is the life-blood of our current tourist economy, and it must be protected at all costs. Responsible expansion to the system should be considered, and efforts to eliminate the system should be rejected out of hand.

With a few minor changes, I could support and endorse proposal #1, but I fear the other two proposals go way, way to far.

Sincerely,

Jeramey McElhaney
Moab

RECEIVED
MAY 06 2014
BY: YW

May 5, 2014

To whom it may concern,

I would like to voice my concern about too much government controlled land in our area. I feel that this limits our options to earn a living in Moab and we already have more than our share of government controlled land. It should be our land for our use but that is not how it is. It is land that is taken from us and controlled against us.

My family has been ranchers and miners here for many generations and they have been good enough stewards of the land to still have people wanting to come to this area and enjoy its beauty. My uncle who was wounded in Viet Nam (now in a wheelchair) can enjoy many scenic places because of the roads that the miners and ranchers built.

I support the road to Vernal because our area is already inaccessible to many places and this would help us access other places and have allow places access to our area as well as new options and ways to make a living in our area.

People always talk of compromise but there is only one side doing the giving. The BLM does not compromise when it shuts down our roads. When are we getting more access? Never! It is always less access and more control. How is that compromise?

I would love it if we had an alternative, reasonable source of energy at this time but we do not and we have to function on what we have until that time comes. At one of the meetings I went to a lady told Chaffets that he needs to come up with an energy source that does not impact land or animals or air. If she thinks it is so easy, why doesn't she come up with it or one of the thousands of scientists that are working on it and have been for many years.

I have already been to several meetings on this and publicly voiced my opinion. When does it end? I cannot spend all of my time addressing these issues. I have to support my family.

Thank You for your consideration,

Rosanne Lewis

456 Wingate
Moab, Utah

May 2014

RECEIVED
MAY 06 2014
BY: KW

To Grand County Council:

I am writing in response to the discussion of land use in Southeastern Utah. Having grown up here and now raising a family, I have seen many changes. Gone are the days you could go into the hills and explore without meeting others from another state or country.

Today we have many more people out to see the same open space. They arrive in cars made of metal, use fuel to arrive and explore, and eat in the local restaurants. All these resources derive from land use.

They come for the many outdoor activities that many of us enjoy. They travel to many of our favorite places and create many of the same fun memories that we have created. Yet most of the areas we like were once places of exploration of oil, uranium, or copper. Land that had yielded a valuable resource is now visited for its splendor, openness, and access.

Limiting more of our land, which is already greatly limited by government control in the west, will only limit the space people come to enjoy and concentrate them into more confined areas; increasing the conflicts and magnifying the impact. Please keep the land open for people's enjoyment and for resources that can provide for the families that are trying to make a living here.

Looking at the big picture of what has been happening in our area over the years one would see that more people are coming to explore and see the country, but we have been closing more and more roads that have been used for year and now developing a myriad of new trails that are in places where ones had never previously existed. It would make one reason that if the government or concerned people are so worried about the impact we are having to the area, wouldn't we be also limiting and closing trails also--not building new ones into new areas? These trails are being built to access a resource people value—nature. We should also be willing to build roads to access some of its resources also.

The trails are permanent and impact the area where they are built. They provide for enjoyment for those that travel them, but only produce limited (seasonal), economic value. The road being considered to Vernal has the potential of providing more resources and businesses that can help sustain the local economy year round and provide some of the resources needed to allow people to explore and live in the Moab area.

Locking up lands is a lot like a person bent on keeping his car locked up in his garage so it will always be kept looking as when he bought it. Yes, it will look new and valuable but will provide no benefit to the man or his community other than to be admired for its looks.

Sincerely,

David Lewis
Moab, UT

Grand County Council
125 E. Center St.
Moab, UT 84532
May 5, 2014

RECEIVED
MAY 06 2014
BY: KW

RE: Comments on Public Lands Alternatives for Bishop Bill

To the Council –

It is commendable that the Council has generated alternatives as part of a public process for submission of a recommendation to Rep. Bishop in his "Grand Bargain," ostensibly intended to "break the public lands deadlock;" however, I do not believe that the alternatives offered come close to reflecting either public opinion or, more importantly, long-term economic, social and environmental needs and benefits.

Public comment on record leading up to the alternatives generated was overwhelmingly in favor of maximum protective efforts regarding public lands and resources, and a long-term view towards sustainability. None of the alternatives offered truly reflect the record, nor are they based upon any clearly articulated goals, needs or "benefits."

Additionally, the inclusion of the Book Cliffs transportation corridor was never even raised as a scoping issue, and yet there was no alternative without that option. The conceded omission of consideration of National Forest wilderness potential (and watershed protection) is also a fatal inconsistency and flaw in the process. The inclusion of a "prohibition" of executive/Presidential powers regarding any potential designation of a National Monument pursuant to the Antiquities Act is also abhorrent and likely unconstitutional.

These above factors unfortunately taint the entire process and implicate a top-down agenda, as opposed to a truly bottom-up, "local" process as professed by the Council.

The consideration and designation of public lands and uses is not simply a referendum of the loudest or most influential voices, as public opinion is one factor in a larger legal and political process. Proposed land uses and activities must be viewed and evaluated relative to rational, long-term goals, along with consideration of actual conditions and impacts. Proposals must also be consistent with existing legal and regulatory mandates, along with ecological needs and criteria. Failure to navigate such a rational and prudent approach will only lead to the significant degradation of land resources, environmental quality, air quality, water quality and quantity, public health, economic stability, viewsheds, community services, and quality of rural, community life for *all* citizens, regardless of any perceived short-term "benefits."

I therefore cannot support any of the offered alternatives, and submit that the spectrum of any alternatives must include a "no action" alternative, as a baseline metric, and a "preferred" alternative that is designed to provide long-term environmental integrity and

quality, and is consistent with precautionary principles and appropriate notions of community and watershed sustainability.

America's Redrock Wilderness bill is intended to identify and protect lands that physically and legally qualify as "wilderness." The Federal mandate of the Wilderness Act of 1964 requires no less than this, and the process cannot be compromised by mere public opinion regarding the extraction and development of natural resources or desires for unlimited motorized travel.

What is needed most is an objective and comprehensive Watershed Plan and regional baseline study, and a subsequent, inter-agency, cumulative and synergistic environmental review of all existing and proposed land uses and activities *before* any new development is authorized. A livable future for, and the well-being of *all* Grand County citizens rest upon such a prudent approach.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments, and a willingness to venture into creative territory to envision and articulate a preferable, more relevant process for prudent planning and long-term community sustainability.

Sincerely,

Robert Lippman
HC 64 Box 3208
Castle Valley, Grand County, Utah
84532

Becky Byrd

763 Palisade Dr

Moab, UT 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 06 2014
BY: KW

Grand County Council

125 E. Center Street

Moab, UT 84532

May 5, 2014

Dear Grand County Council,

I'm writing in regards to the Bishop Land Proposal. First of all why we have to write letters to you guys is beyond me. We voted you in and you should know what the people of this community want in regards to land use. Not the crowd that continues to harass you at the meetings. Secondly, I would like to see our lands OPEN. Our economy needs multiple uses to flourish. Designating too much wilderness will hurt our economy now and in the future. I love Moab and killing off mining, biking, hiking or four wheeling would be devastating to this town. We need all of these activities/opportunities to keep this town moving. Not to mention all of the schools, future schools, recreation centers, ball parks, roads, community parks, sidewalks ect that need continued maintenance and growth.

Thank you,

Becky Byrd

RECEIVED
MAY 06 2014
BY: KW

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this letter in response to the Grand County Commissioners "Bishop Lands Recommendations". This letter represents myself and my family. We will be submitting letters for each one of my family that are of voting age and are registered.

In the past two years since I have moved here...I haven't publicly expressed or made my opinions known on any subject concerning our community.

After attending the County Commissioners...I find that the three proposal options brought forth by the Grand County Commissioners are unacceptable. They are far reaching and unnecessary. I'm tired of compromising and giving into special interest groups that are unwilling to compromise their position and have no tolerance for anyone's opinion other than their own.

I witnessed this intolerance in the last County Commissioners meeting for the "Bishop Lands Recommendations". I went in open minded but left with a terrible taste in my mouth. I will now be very involved and in touch with the goings on of our local and state government. The commissioners meeting lit a fire under me and prompted me to begin to research our state as it pertained to Federally Controlled Lands within the state. The more I read the more astonished I became to the imbalance within this state.

As of a February 8, 2012 in a Congressional Research Service Report, Utah State ranks 2nd in the Nation for Federally Owned Acreage by State at 66.5%, behind Nevada 1st at 81.1% and just ahead of Alaska 3rd at 61.8%. If you compare that to Texas at 1.80%, Iowa at 0.30%, and New York State at 0.70%...Utah has done its fair share!! How much will be enough? We have done too much compromising. Enough is enough and it's time for the silent majority to stand up and be heard.

Let's look at a few more numbers here. According to the same Congressional Research Service Report from 2012 here is the brake down of Federally controlled land within the state of Utah by agency and acreage: Bureau of Land Management 22,854,937 acres, United States Forest Service 8,207,415 acres, National Park Service 2,097,106 acres, Department of Defense 1,766,260 acres, and Fish & Wildlife Services 107,885 acres. That's a total of 35,033,603 acres in a state of 52,696,960 acres. Compare that to the state of Texas with a total of 2,977,950 acres of Federally controlled land in a state with 168,217,600 acres of total land mass. In the same report it was stated that from 1990 to 2010 there was a 4.3% increase of federally owned land within our state...that is an additional 1,451,025 acres grabbed by the Feds within a ten year period.

In a separate report produced by Utah Governor Gary R. Herbert's Office of Planning and Budget...it was stated that of the nearly 85,000 sq. miles of surface area in Utah 17,884 sq. miles are in private ownership...only 21% of the State of Utah is privately owned by its citizens. That is outrageous. Why are we even considering handing over more land?

When you begin to take a closer look at the numbers it becomes very apparent that there is a vast imbalance in the area of land ownership. The state of Utah has far exceeded it's responsibility in land management. Therefore I believe that we as a State must begin demanding that the federal government and county commissioners begin looking at viable ways to start the process of returning the land back to the state of Utah and it's citizens.

Over the last 116 years, we've been reduced to less than 30 percent of our land, making it tough to support our education system which relies on property tax. Federal and Native American lands, which occupy 70 percent of our state, are not taxable. For example, Grand County has only four percent privately-owned land to help fund schools. Compare that to eastern states which have little or no public lands and highly funded schools. It's time for us to begin using a common sense approach to these issues. You may not notice it anymore...but after moving from another state and having an outside prospective I was shocked to see the level of gross poverty in our community and a true lack of economic diversity. There are many in our community that have last hope. What a shame!! Our local families and children should have the economic opportunity to live and work here year around. I approve of the local development of a diversified industry allowing a stronger economy and tax base for our struggling community.

I support leaving a portion of our public lands open to energy development along with other portions being managed for recreational activities. I support the recommendations to create a new transportation corridor through Sego Canyon and designate the 2 mile wide (18,145 acres) transportation corridor on federal lands from State block to I-70 and transferring it to Grand County under RS 2477 allowing another form of tax revenue and added tourism. I also support oil and gas exploration and drilling, along with mining on our local public lands. I do support commonsense over site of these industries and a balanced approach to their growth and development. However I will not support an over-reaching and unbalanced oversight...designed to unfairly restrict and detour the economic success of these companies.

It was clear to see in the last County Commissioners meeting for "Bishop Lands Recommendations" that there was an overwhelming majority of County Residents opposed to any new land being handed over to the Federal Government. All of the 300 plus in attendance may not have gotten up and spoke but you heard the overwhelming positive response to the residents opposing the land grab and in favor of new economic opportunities through development of our local natural resources.

So in conclusion you can consider my family and I as one of the many Grand County Residents opposed to any of the three recommendations and request that you take action in addressing the Federal imbalance within our County and immediately start the process of getting our lands back under our state and local control. Enough is enough!!

I will be paying close attention to this matter and other issues being heard before the County Commissioners and other elected officials. If I feel you do not represent me and my best interests I will be voting accordingly in the future. I will no longer be part of the silent majority.

Sincerely,

Cristina Day

Cristina Day
Your Constituency

RECEIVED
MAY 06 2014
BY: KW

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When you begin to take a closer look at the numbers it becomes very apparent that there is a vast imbalance in the area of land ownership. The state of Utah has far exceeded it's responsibility in land management. Therefore I believe that we as a State must begin demanding that the federal government begin looking at viable ways to start the process of returning the land back to the state of Utah and it's citizens. Another thought I had was why not equally share the Federal Lands between state...make each state contribute an equal share of their land. We all know that States like Iowa, Texas, and New York won't have anything to do with that. So why should Utah have to?

For 116 years, we've been reduced to less than 30 percent of our land, making it tough to support our education system which relies on property tax. Federal and Native American lands, which occupy 70 percent of our state, are not taxable. For example, Grand County has only four percent privately-owned land to help fund schools. Compare that to eastern states which have little or no public lands and highly funded schools. It's time for us to begin using a common sense approach to these issues. There is gross poverty in our community and a true lack of economic diversity. Our families and our children should have the economic opportunity to live

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Sincerely,

John D. Cowan

Cowan

Your Constituency

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Sincerely,

Dennis E Wells

Your Constituency

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I witnessed this intolerance in the last County Commissioners meeting for the "Bishop Lands Recommendations". I went in open minded but left with a terrible taste in my mouth. I will now be very involved and in touch with the goings on of our local and state government. The commissioners meeting lit a fire under me and prompted me to begin to research our state as it pertained to Federally Controlled Lands within the state. The more I read the more astonished I became to the imbalance within this state.

As of a February 8, 2012 in a Congressional Research Service Report, Utah State ranks 2nd in the Nation for Federally Owned Acreage by State at 66.5%, behind Nevada 1st at 81.1% and just ahead of Alaska 3rd at 61.8%. If you compare that to Texas at 1.80%, Iowa at 0.30%, and New York State at 0.70%...Utah has done its fair share!! How much will be enough? We have done too much compromising. Enough is enough and it's time for the silent majority to stand up and be heard.

Let's look at a few more numbers here. According to the same Congressional Research Service Report from 2012 here is the brake down of Federally controlled land within the state of Utah by agency and acreage: Bureau of Land Management 22,854,937 acres, United States Forest Service 8,207,415 acres, National Park Service 2,097,106 acres, Department of Defense 1,766,260 acres, and Fish & Wildlife Services 107,885 acres. That's a total of 35,033,603 acres in a state of 52,696,960 acres. Compare that to the state of Texas with a total of 2,977,950 acres of Federally controlled land in a state with 168,217,600 acres of total land mass. In the same report it was stated that from 1990 to 2010 there was a 4.3% increase of federally owned land within our state...that is an additional 1,451,025 acres grabbed by the Feds within a ten year period.

In a separate report produced by Utah Governor Gary R. Herbert's Office of Planning and Budget...it was stated that of the nearly 85,000 sq. miles of surface area in Utah 17,884 sq. miles are in private ownership...only 21% of the State of Utah is privately owned by its citizens. That is outrageous. Why are we even considering handing over more land?

When you begin to take a closer look at the numbers it becomes very apparent that there is a vast imbalance in the area of land ownership. The state of Utah has far exceeded it's responsibility in land management. Therefore I believe that we as a State must begin demanding that the federal government and county commissioners begin looking at viable ways to start the process of returning the land back to the state of Utah and it's citizens.

RECEIVED
MAY 06 2014
BY: KW

Over the last 116 years, we've been reduced to less than 30 percent of our land, making it tough to support our education system which relies on property tax. Federal and Native American lands, which occupy 70 percent of our state, are not taxable. For example, Grand County has only four percent privately-owned land to help fund schools. Compare that to eastern states which have little or no public lands and highly funded schools. It's time for us to begin using a common sense approach to these issues. You may not notice it anymore...but after moving from another state and having an outside prospective I was shocked to see the level of gross poverty in our community and a true lack of economic diversity. There are many in our community that have last hope. What a shame!! Our local families and children should have the economic opportunity to live and work here year around. I approve of the local development of a diversified industry allowing a stronger economy and tax base for our struggling community.

I support leaving a portion of our public lands open to energy development along with other portions being managed for recreational activities. I support the recommendations to create a new transportation corridor through Sego Canyon and designate the 2 mile wide (18,145 acres) transportation corridor on federal lands from State block to I-70 and transferring it to Grand County under RS 2477 allowing another form of tax revenue and added tourism. I also support oil and gas exploration and drilling, along with mining on our local public lands. I do support commonsense over site of these industries and a balanced approach to their growth and development. However I will not support an over-reaching and unbalanced oversight...designed to unfairly restrict and detour the economic success of these companies.

It was clear to see in the last County Commissioners meeting for "Bishop Lands Recommendations" that there was an overwhelming majority of County Residents opposed to any new land being handed over to the Federal Government. All of the 300 plus in attendance may not have gotten up and spoke but you heard the overwhelming positive response to the residents opposing the land grab and in favor of new economic opportunities through development of our local natural resources.

So in conclusion you can consider my family and I as one of the many Grand County Residents opposed to any of the three recommendations and request that you take action in addressing the Federal imbalance within our County and immediately start the process of getting our lands back under our state and local control. Enough is enough!!

I will be paying close attention to this matter and other issues being heard before the County Commissioners and other elected officials. If I feel you do not represent me and my best interests I will be voting accordingly in the future. I will no longer be part of the silent majority.

Sincerely,

Austin Day

Austin Day
Your Constituency

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this letter in response to the Grand County Commissioners "Bishop Lands Recommendations". This letter represents myself and my family. We will be submitting letters for each one of my family that are of voting age and are registered.

In the past two years since I have moved here...I haven't publicly expressed or made my opinions known on any subject concerning our community.

After attending the County Commissioners...I find that the three proposal options brought forth by the Grand County Commissioners are unacceptable. They are far reaching and unnecessary. I'm tired of compromising and giving into special interest groups that are unwilling to compromise their position and have no tolerance for anyone's opinion other than their own.

I witnessed this intolerance in the last County Commissioners meeting for the "Bishop Lands Recommendations". I went in open minded but left with a terrible taste in my mouth. I will now be very involved and in touch with the goings on of our local and state government. The commissioners meeting lit a fire under me and prompted me to begin to research our state as it pertained to Federally Controlled Lands within the state. The more I read the more astonished I became to the imbalance within this state.

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RECEIVED
MAY 06 2014
BY: KW

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I will be paying close attention to this matter and other issues being heard before the County Commissioners and other elected officials. If I feel you do not represent me and my best interests I will be voting accordingly in the future. I will no longer be part of the silent majority.

Sincerely,

Joe Day
Your Constituency

May 6, 2014

RECEIVED
MAY 06 2014
BY: KW

Dear Grand County Council and Public Lands Bill committee,

As a resident and property owner in Grand County I moved here because of the areas beauty and recreational opportunities. I also want to protect the area I love not just from environmental damage but also tourism damage and political damage. Like it or not tourism is just as damaging all be it in different ways than mineral extraction. Having working in both the tourism industry and the mineral extraction industries I have seen both good and bad in each. One industry paid enough for me to move here and the other one gave me a better appreciation of the area. Since the county's economy and tax base is tied to both we need to protect both.

I feel we need a moderate approach that is not in your 3 plans. We need to protect all forms of recreation. These plans do not go far enough in protecting the recreation use of the fisher towers area and the gemini bridges through the 3D and tusher tunnel area. I feel adding more wilderness areas is rash for politicians of all levels. Due to the closures of existing roads during emergencies such as fires, search and rescue or natural disasters. Also as technology's change the extractions industries are getting better. Why permanently closes off an area that could possibly hold something that we need in the future or as technology changes it is no longer harmful to extract. I think we should protect the areas you want to make wilderness but not through a wilderness designation.

I do support your no to the antiquities designation. No president from any party should have the singular power to form national monuments. This should be done through the people and our elected officials in local, state and federal offices. I also support your efforts in getting the Right of way to land in the state block. This is not just for the extraction industry it is also for the tourism industry. This route would cut travel times down for both industries and allow for necessary alternative routes due to interstate closures.

As elected officials you have hard choices to make. You need to look to future not just the present. As technology change we need the ability to extract needed minerals yet also protect our valuable natural wonders. We want to be able to use our public lands for recreation be it motorized or non-motorized. We need to be able to use existing roads during emergencies. We need a large tax base of both non-extraction and extraction industries and we need to protect the jobs of both industries.

Thanks for your efforts and allowing for public input. This is how things should be done, not through mandates, decrees and court orders.

Patrick Nickson

3882 Spanish Valley Dr.

Moab Utah, 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 06
BY:

Regarding: Public Lands Alternatives

May 4, 2014

Grand County Commissioners:

I have made my home in Moab since the late 1990s and I am one of the hundreds of people who did not speak at the meeting on April 23 because similar views to my own were expressed by others from our community.

My viewpoints are outlined briefly, below:

I am most adamantly opposed to developing a road and/or pipeline through **Sego Canyon**. The idea that the workers would use this corridor to commute to Moab is ludicrous. Moab doesn't stand to gain any advantage by ruining this area. The idea of charging a "per barrel" fee to transport petroleum products in this corridor is a shocking proposal coming from our deeply anti-tax leadership.

The idea that the **Antiquities Act** is out the window is crazy! This is what makes Grand County such a unique and popular place—if it weren't for the Antiquities Act, we wouldn't have a tourist industry.

I am one of hundreds of constituents who believe that **even option three falls far short** of what is needed to preserve our landscape.

What I find most disappointing about the "debate" is that of some of my neighbors are forced to frame pro-recreational motorized use as also to be pro-tar sands and pro-extraction, and, most alarmingly, anti-preservation. **Jeeps ripping up the land is child's play compared to this** compromised air quality and serious threat to our water supply.

The points made about our **low wages in Moab** will never be addressed by ruining our backcountry for a short-term gain by out-of-state corporations.

The teacher who expressed the idea that this exploitation of our backcountry would mean teachers could be paid more should think again: Moab is anti-tax, period. We could be the sheiks of Saudi Arabia and the schools wouldn't get a dime of our wealth. **Commissioner Jackson's quest for gift dollars from the oil companies** for our local good is misguided. At what cost? Give money to the hospital to deal with all the ailments caused by the bad air quality and poisoned water?

As a patriot, I believe that having an oil well out 313 should be the price we pay to not kill our soldiers needlessly for foreign oil, and it's an auspicious alternative to destroying entire countries. Everybody drives to enjoy the beauty; therefore, pulling some oil out is the price we pay. And yet, this threat is about 40 or more wells out 313, and about the greed of not being patient enough to build a safe pipeline to capture the gas and instead polluting the air. It's about the greed of exporting what is extracted. It's about drilling everything out in a big hurry and laying waste to our neighborhood. **We will be left in a shambles**, period.

Please protect our land.

Respectfully,

Eve Tallman / 261 East 200 South

RECEIVED
MAY 06 2014
BY: KW

May 5, 2014

Dear Grand County Council members;

With regard to the recent County lands initiative:

I want to see more wilderness included in any proposal. Alternative 3 does not include enough wilderness.
I do not support a road being built through Sego Canyon into the Bookcliffs area as I hike and camp in this area and value the solitude.
I do not support oil and gas or mineral development in Grand County.
I am a rock climber, cyclist, trail runner and hiker. It is important to me that Grand County maintain clean air and water. I live here because of the healthy lifestyle provided in a non-industrialized area.

Thank You

Ralph Ferrara
261 E. 200 S.
Moab, UT 84532

PS: Please allow comments via e-mail. This is a modern and conventional form of communication. If you do not want to hear what we citizens have to say then step aside from your position as commissioner.

TEI
THAYN ENTERPRISES INC.
Dba: Lube-It Express and Wash-It Express

655 S Main
Moab, Utah 84532
Business (435) 259-6435
Toll Free 877-897-2361
Fax (435) 259-2692
E-Mail tei@citlink.net
www.lubeitexpress.com

RECEIVED
MAY 06 2014
BY:

Grand County Council
Attention Land Inactive
125 E Center Street
Moab, Utah 84532

Dear Council,

I am writing this letter to express my views on the Congressman Rob Bishop's public land bill initiative.
I am personally not in favor of any of the Maps presented at the forum the other night I heard testimony from both sides and I feel we have given enough and we need not give anymore. Leave Moab the way it is, as far as the proposed pipeline through Sego Canyon I am in favor of the pipe line and the toll being placed on it, this could be a tremendous opportunity for Grand County.

Thank You.

Sincerely,

Mark A Thayn
Thayn Enterprises Inc

RECEIVED
MAY 06 2014
BY: KW

Grand County Commissioners and Representative Rob Bishop:

In response to the land use recommendations proposed by the County Commissioners, I would like to add my voice.

I think that all three proposals go too far in creating more mostly inaccessible land. The majority of visitors and residents of Grand County access public lands by means of motorized or mechanized transportation. Creating more wilderness just gives the Federal government the only key to the land. Land which will only be accessible to the most physically capable and will exclude many who by choice or circumstance cannot access those lands for their own wellbeing and/or enjoyment. The land supposedly being saved for future generations will never again be available to most visitors and residents.

There are some truly road-less and inaccessible lands in Grand County that support only foot or animal traffic. I agree that those should be designated as wilderness. Areas that have or are capable of road and trail access should remain accessible to all. Grand County has more than enough exclusionary land in its boundaries in the form of National Parks and wilderness areas. Most National Park and Monument systems regulate or discourage the use of their backcountry lands for anything but foot traffic and even that is likely confined to established trails. Those that do allow mechanized or motorized travel have their own established standards as to what is legal, regardless of what the State of Utah recognizes, for use on established roads. Licensed and insured ATV and UTVs, recognized for use on some state roads, cannot access some federally managed backcountry roads. I once had a NPS employee tell me that they had hiked across country from "point A to point B" within the park. When I asked why they could make this hike and the general public was denied or discouraged from doing the same I was told that "I know how to hike it without doing damage". I also have firsthand knowledge of management laying obstacles across roads and saying we can't officially close this road but when it grows over and we can establish a pattern of non-use then closing it will be possible. The point being that I don't want to see more county or state land tied up or managed in this way. The wilderness designations are even more restrictive and deny all mechanized access. It establishes what, in my opinion, is a private playground for a select few.

Wilderness also excludes the development of natural resources on these lands which is important in providing a diversified economic base for the county and school systems that benefit from those tax dollars collected. Mineral extraction and support services can provide income for many people, including locals who might desire to remain in the area and raise families. Look at the generations that have benefitted from the potash operations near Dead Horse Point. As far as I can tell it has not been a deterrent to Park visitation. I have been the benefactor of the mining industry and, good or bad, it has allowed me to remain in the here and raise my family. Even though the processes may have been mismanaged or lightly regulated in the past they have still provided jobs. The accountability for mineral extraction continually evolves and improves (just try to get permitted to establish a new mining operation) and, though maybe not ideal, it's better and will continue to improve. I am in support of gas and oil drilling along with mining and other mineral extraction processes. I support the Sego Canyon access corridor.

My preference is that no more wilderness, National Park expansion, National Monument designation or National Recreation areas be established on Grand County lands. If my only choice is one of the three proposals then #1 would be my selection.

I wouldn't want to be in your shoes and trying to develop a plan that would satisfy all parties. It's impossible and pretty damn thankless. I just hope you can go slow and not do things that can't be un-done. Please examine the use and determine what best suits the majority of the users. I think keeping public lands open and accessible will be the answer.

Thanks for your time and good luck:

John Johnson

1660 Kalina Heights Dr.

Moab, Utah

RECEIVED
MAY 06 2014
BY: KW

May 1, 2014

Dear Members of County Council:

As a citizen of Grand County for the last 14 years, a property owner for the last 20, I recommend the following for the Bishop initiative:

1. The phrase "No Wild and Scenic Rivers designation" defies ANY attempt to save this beautiful land in unspoiled condition for future generations. All three proposals need to be changed to state MORE wilderness lands need to be preserved.

2. I propose a FOURTH alternative that will preserve MORE wilderness land.

3. Preserve the Antiquities Act in Grand County.

I have great concern for the amount of water that will be extracted by the new industries, and also for the quality of AIR, which has shown observable change in recent years.

Marilyn Stolfa

Marilyn Stolfa
1180 N. Kayenta Dr.
Moab, UT 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 06 2014
BY: KW

May 1, 2014

County Council,

I would like to make several points about the recommendations for the Bishop initiative and express my views.

1. I believe we should not eliminate the Antiquities Act in Grand County. To call this a non-negotiable point is not the way to negotiate.

2. We should not say "No Wild and Scenic Rivers designations". This seems to be "non-negotiable" in all three designations.

3. We need an alternative 3.5 that goes beyond the alternative 3 toward the "Redrock Wilderness Act" that will preserve more wilderness land.

My reasons why:

1. In SE Utah San Juan county will opt for little or no wilderness, so you can't say there will be other wilderness nearby.

2. This drives a stake in the ground and says no more saving of land; extractive business can expand everywhere else in the county. i.e. if you're protecting 30% of the county then you are saying 70% is open to development and has no future recourse for protection. Because you are taking away any future method of recourse.

3. I don't want to have our county look like Uintah. Uintah County has serious air quality problems; it is losing any characteristics as a tourist destination.

4. Leasing of land for oil, gas, tar sands, and oil shale are speculative and way ahead of their actual development of these resources on the ground. If leases were actually developed, as they will be, we will look worse than present day Uintah County.

5. We haven't yet seen the devastation and water requirements of tar sand development, expanded fracking, and new potash mining when long range forecasts are for a hotter, drier southwest.

David Stolfa
1180 N Kayenta Drive
Moab, UT
259-1721

RECEIVED
MAY 06 2014
BY:

May 1, 2014

County Council
125 East Center St.
Moab, UT 84532

Dear Council Members,

This will not be a long letter; I think shorter and to the point is better, and may have a better chance of actually being read through.

My husband and I have lived in Moab for the past 57 years and have loved it. We have paid quite a bit of taxes, as we bought some land before my husband became paralyzed over 41 years ago. Taxes have gone up way too much in comparison to other commodities. One man had to tear down a perfectly good building last year on his property because he could not afford the taxes. One year I volunteered at the library once a week. I was shocked at the boxes of new books that were continually being unpacked, and some of the older, classics being thrown out or sold for nothing at book sales. I notice that at tax time the library pretty much always asks for more budget money, and I think it is ridiculous. They could also shorten their hours. Nobody needs to be at the library early in the morning. It is important to keep it open evenings for students doing homework, however.

The Federal government is making everyone's lives as miserable as they know how. The new health care tragedy comes with many hidden taxes, and less hours for families to be able to work for wages. Last week there were 344,000 new unemployment claims filed, much more than was expected. The week before it was 322,000. The GDP so far this year has been a ridiculous 0.1 percent. We do NOT want to add to these problems here in our county.

As to the land being considered to be added to the extreme amount already saved for the environmentalists, please do not give them one more inch. They contribute very little to the economy of the United States, the State of Utah, and Grand County. They fight every effort to start new businesses; they care nothing about people trying to make a living. They try to control all the trails families enjoy. Every year more property is fenced off. The Federal Government is slamming its powerful fist upon anyone daring to do anything to their own property, even if they have the proper permits and licenses.

I think we can live comfortably with the development of natural resources in our county, such as oil and gas wells, and such. I love to ride out by Dead Horse Point and see the oil wells pumping away, which does not detract from the scenery.

We are unable to get to all the public meetings on land, but we are pretty well informed of the conditions and rules to be voted on. Thanks so much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mary Jane Cozzens

Mary Jane Cozzens
909 E. Oak St.
Moab, UT 84532-2813
435-259-6701

May 1, 2014

RECEIVED
MAY 06 2014
BY: KW

Grand County Council
125 E Center St
Moab, UT 84532

Re: Public Comments - Rep. Bishop's Proposed Public Lands Bill

Dear Grand County Council Members,

We would like to point out that the alternatives of the working committee ignored the public input that the county received. 90% of residents and business owners favored strong wilderness and public lands protection.

- The 3rd alternative does not go far enough in protecting wilderness and our most valuable scenic resources or in protecting Moab and Castle Valley's sole source aquifers.
- A haul road through the Book Cliffs to support tar sands and oil shale extraction will destroy one of the most beautiful and wild areas in our County.
- I do not support using tax payer's money to help foot the bill on infrastructure for private fossil fuel companies. These companies will be loyal to their bottom line and will use whatever route is most profitable to get their product to market.
- No cost analysis has been conducted on the proposed haul road through the Book Cliffs and there has been no discussion or consideration of the indirect costs for County tax payers.
- Increased fossil fuel extraction is not a solution if it puts at risk our most prevalent jobs - those in the recreation industry.

Not including the La Sal Mountians in the proposal is a serious mistake. Just because it would be "hard" to get all parties to agree on a plan is not a reason to ignore the only source of water that we have in Grand County. Moab's watershed has to be addressed.

In addition we agree with Sarah Stock, quoted in the paper, ***"Tar sands are different than traditional oil and gas. They are more toxic, economically risky, involve mountaintop-removal strip-mining, and emit even more greenhouse gas emissions than traditional crude oil. Opening the door to tar sands isn't a continuation of the legacy of energy development that has past characterized Grand County. It would move us into an experimental realm of extreme energy extraction with extreme consequences."***

Hoping you will consider our comments,

Mary and Mike Suarez
PO Box 1186
Moab, UT 84532

Mary Suarez
Mike Suarez

GRAND COUNTY COUNCIL -
REGARDING THE BISHOPS LAND BILL.
NONE OF THE 3 ALTERNATIVES
GO FAR ENOUGH IN PROTECTING
THE LAND, AIR, WATER, WILDLIFE, &
HUMANS WHO CALL THIS REGION
HOME.

KILEY MILLER
PO BOX 835
MOAB UT
84532

RECEIVED
MAY 06 ...
BY: KW

Grand County Council
125 East Center St
Moab, Utah 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 06 2014
BY:

Subject: New Wilderness Proposals

Dear Council:

I don't want any more wildernesses in Grand County.

I have reviewed the maps and the three proposals for additional wilderness in Grand County. The highest suggestion was for approximately 40 percent of Grand County. That was hard to believe. Even the smallest was 14 percent.

We do not want any new wilderness designations. We have gone through this process at least twice in the last twenty or thirty years and designated additional wilderness areas and new wilderness study areas each time. We already have more than enough wilderness in Grand County, we don't need any more.

I do want a road from Interstate Highway 70, north to the Grand & Uinta County line. Whether it is through the Sego Canyon or a different canyon is not important to me but it should be through which ever canyon it will be most feasible to build and maintain a road. I do think the road should be paved.

We have one national park, part of another national park and a State Park in Grand County, also several large wilderness and wilderness study areas. That is enough.

Sincerely Yours,

Darrell Dalton Jr. dated 5-4-14

Grand County Citizen

Grand County Council
125 East Center St
Moab, Utah 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 06 2014
BY:

Subject: New Wilderness Proposals

Dear Council:

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I have reviewed the maps and the three proposals for additional wilderness in Grand County. The highest suggestion was for approximately 40 percent of Grand County. That was hard to believe. Even the smallest was 14 percent.

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I do want a road from Interstate Highway 70, north to the Grand & Uinta County line. Whether it is through the Sego Canyon or a different canyon is not important to me but it should be through which ever canyon it will be most feasible to build and maintain a road. I do think the road should be paved.

We have one national park, part of another national park and a State Park in Grand County, also several large wilderness and wilderness study areas. That is enough.

Sincerely Yours,

Roy L. Lathrom dated 5/6/14

Grand County Citizen

Grand County Council
125 East Center St
Moab, Utah 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 06 2014
BY:

Subject: New Wilderness Proposals

Dear Council:

I have reviewed the maps and the three proposals and I do not want any new wilderness designations. We have gone through this process at least twice in the last twenty or thirty years and designated additional wilderness areas and new wilderness study areas each time. We already have more than enough wilderness in Grand County, we don't need any more.

I don't want any more wilderness in Grand County.

I do want a road from Interstate Highway 70, north to the Grand & Uinta County line. Weather it is through the Sago Canyon or a different canyon is not important to me but it should be through which ever canyon it will be most feasible to build and maintain a road. I do think the road should be paved.

We also have two National Parks and a State Park in Grand County, and several large wilderness and wilderness study areas. That is enough.

Sincerely Yours,

dated 4/30/14

Grand County Council
125 East Center St
Moab, Utah 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 06 2014
BY:

Subject: New Wilderness Proposals

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We have one national park, part of another national park and a State Park in Grand County, also several large wilderness and wilderness study areas. That is enough.

Sincerely Yours,

Tony Mosher dated 5-1-14

Tony Mosher

Grand County Citizen

RECEIVED
MAY 06 2014
BY:

Grand County Council
125 East Center St
Moab, Utah 84532

Subject: New Wilderness Proposals

Dear Council:

I don't want any more wildernesses in Grand County.

I have reviewed the maps and the three proposals for additional wilderness in Grand County. The highest suggestion was for approximately 40 percent of Grand County. That was hard to believe. Even the smallest was 14 percent.

We do not want any new wilderness designations. We have gone through this process at least twice in the last twenty or thirty years and designated additional wilderness areas and new wilderness study areas each time. We already have more than enough wilderness in Grand County, we don't need any more.

I do want a road from Interstate Highway 70, north to the Grand & Uinta County line. Whether it is through the Sego Canyon or a different canyon is not important to me but it should be through which ever canyon it will be most feasible to build and maintain a road. I do think the road should be paved.

We have one national park, part of another national park and a State Park in Grand County, also several large wilderness and wilderness study areas. That is enough.

Sincerely Yours,

Eyan Moshor _____ dated 5/1 /14

Eyan Moshor

Grand County Citizen

Grand County Council
125 East Center St
Moab, Utah 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 06 2014
BY: KW

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Sincerely Yours,

Donald J. Wood dated 4-30-14

RECEIVED
MAY 06 2014
BY: lcw

Grand County Council
125 East Center St
Moab, Utah 84532

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Sincerely Yours,

Aaron L Woodruff dated 4-30-14

RECEIVED
MAY 06 2014
BY: KW

Grand County Council
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Moab, Utah 84532

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Sincerely Yours,

Kelly R Durant dated 4-30-14

RECEIVED
MAY 06 2014
BY: KW

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Sincerely Yours,

Alexandra Loretta Reich dated 4/30/2014

RECEIVED
MAY 06 2014
BY: KW

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Moab, Utah 84532

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Sincerely Yours,

Terrance Leuck _____ dated 4-30-14

RECEIVED
MAY 06 2014
BY: YW

Grand County Council
125 East Center St
Moab, Utah 84532

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Sincerely Yours,

Mark Brown dated 4/30/14

RECEIVED
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BY: KW

Grand County Council
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Moab, Utah 84532

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Sincerely Yours,

Lana Pauline Lathrom dated 5/6/14

Grand County Citizen

RECEIVED
MAY 06 2014
BY: KW

Grand County Council
125 East Center St
Moab, Utah 84532

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Sincerely Yours,

Ethel Kowal _____ dated 4-30-14

RECEIVED
MAY 06 2014
BY: KS

Grand County Council
125 East Center St
Moab, Utah 84532

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Sincerely Yours,

Cathy Dorning _____ dated 4-30-14

RECEIVED
MAY 06 2014
BY: jw

Grand County Council
125 East Center St
Moab, Utah 84532

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Sincerely Yours,

Herald W. Herring _____ dated 4/30/2014

RECEIVED
MAY 06 2014
BY: W

Grand County Council
125 East Center St
Moab, Utah 84532

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Sincerely Yours,

Jean A. Posey dated 4-30-14

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MAY 06 2014
BY: KW

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Sincerely Yours,

Cindy Hare dated 4-30-14

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BY: KW

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Sincerely Yours,

Cole [illegible] dated 4/30/14

RECEIVED
MAY 06 2014
BY: KW

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125 East Center St
Moab, Utah 84532

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Chace Gholson Chace Gholson dated 4/30/14

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BY: KW

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Sincerely Yours,

Darrell Dalton dated 4-30-14

RECEIVED
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BY: W

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Sincerely Yours,

Merlene Dalton dated 4-29-14

Merlene Dalton

RECEIVED
MAY 06 2014
BY: KW

Grand County Council
125 East Center St
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Sincerely Yours,

Barbara Hawks dated 4-30-14

506 Nichols Ln
Moab, UT 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 06 2014
BY: jw

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125 East Center St
Moab, Utah 84532

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Sincerely Yours,

J. Fray Hawks dated 4/30/14

506 Nichols Ln
Moab, UT 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 06
BY: KW

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125 East Center St
Moab, Utah 84532

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Sincerely Yours,

Lois Wyss _____ dated 5/6/14

Grand County Citizen

RECEIVED
MAY 06 2014
BY: KW

To whom it may Concern:

Please do not tie up any Wilderness
I am 48 years old and have Cerebral
Palsy and am in a wheelchair. If
you tie up any more wilderness
I will not be able to enjoy any
of the sites and natures brilliance
This is important to me because
I am a painter and I use the
landscape to inspire me. and
painting excaises my cripled fingers
and I deserve to see it
like everyone else does.

Thank you
Michael Kelch

RECEIVED
MAY 06 2014
BY: lw

To whom it may concern:

I work at the hospital, please don't tie up any more wilderness. We need some industry in this town to secure jobs. We don't need to rely on the tourists. We need to rely on the people who live here. especially for our new hospital to remain operating.

Thank you

Jena Kelch

To: Grand County Council

Re: Congressman Bishop's Public Lands Initative

RECEIVED
MAY 06 2014
BY: KW

Clearly option 3 offered by the commitee appointed to make a recommendation on the public lands initrative does not go far enough in protecting our public lands. With the threat of more oil and gas drilling our air and water also need to be protected. These are serious issues and need to be studied in depth. Also the more protected lands we have the more special our area will be in the future. The highway through the Book Cliffs area is absolutely unnecessary for the citizens of Grand County. Suspending further use of the Antiquities Act would be foolish, remember Canyonlands & Arches were created with the Antiquities Act, where would we be without our two National Parks?? We have a chance to be the premier wilderness destination in the Lower 48. This will bring people from all over the world far into the future. Protecting our lands, our air and the great vistas, (and, of course, our water which we all need to live) will provide a much larger economic gain in the long term. Think big picture. Don't sell us out.

John Brewer
463 Tusher St.
Moab, UT

Jordan Knutson
1301 E. Knutson Corner
Moab, UT 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY:

May 06, 2014

Grand County Council
125 E. Center St.
Moab, UT 84532

Attn: Public Lands Bill

Honorable Council Members,

I am writing as a resident of Grand County regarding land use and protections surrounding my beloved native land. I want to thank the Council for the opportunity to provide my input in this matter.

Perspective

I understand that the Council is not making any law or binding decisions on land use designations, but rather that the Council is seeking for a position on our future land management which can be suggested as a means of participation in Congressman Bishop's proposed public lands bill. I applaud the Grand County Council for being proactive, for seeking solutions, and for being willing to consider diverse opinions.

I love Grand County

I would like to begin by stating how profoundly I love Grand County and the unparalleled grandeur of the nature that surrounds us here. The beauty of the Colorado Plateau is deeply stirring, and I cannot find words to adequately express how much I appreciate living in such a breathtaking environment. I feel a great desire to conserve and protect it. We are surrounded by some of God's most awe inspiring creations, and I believe that God expects us to be responsible stewards of the land and resources that he has given to us as a gift for our happiness and prosperity. And I believe that prudent and responsible care of our beautiful land can be achieved while encouraging multiple use, including responsible mineral extraction. I believe that it is in the best interest of our community to diversify our economic portfolio and to broaden our tax base with a moderate, balanced, and environmentally responsible approach to economic development.

Is compromise a curse word?

I have read the letters previously submitted to the Council. I attended the public meeting at the Grand Center in April. I understand that there are those who believe that absolutely nothing short of wilderness designation for the maximum possible area in Grand County can be called "environmentally responsible." They are entitled to their opinion, but I respectfully disagree. And although I disagree, I would hope that we could find a compromise and draw up a plan which we could submit to Congressman Bishop with broad support. Yet I do not hear many that seem willing to make any concessions at all. Congressman Bishop himself said: "No stakeholder group will get everything it wants. Genuine negotiation and compromise is key and can lead to win-win outcomes for all involved." Yet there are voices on both ends of the political spectrum that decry <u>any</u> compromise as lose-lose.

My Stance

I personally do not want to see any additional wilderness designations for Grand County, yet I am willing to "lose" certain uses of a small portion of our public lands in order to "win" the economic benefit of increased tax revenue from mineral development and other industry. Furthermore, I appreciate that there are environmental

benefits of a certain amount of wilderness protection, and I can view that also as a "win." But now I have compromised, and I am dodging bullets from both sides.

If I were forced to chose between the Council's three proposed alternatives, I would support Alternative 1. I view more protected designation to be excessive and even detrimental to our economy. I also support exclusion from the Antiquities Act, which I think could be used as a back door for environmental extremists to override public collaboration and cooperation to get their way in the end. Additionally, I support the Sego Canyon transportation corridor because of the tremendous economic benefit it could have for our county.

I am a sixth generation native, born and raised in Moab, on both my mother's and my father's genealogical line. My roots here go deep. I do not believe that ancestral credentials give my opinion greater importance than the opinion of someone who has moved here as a first generation resident, but I do believe it gives me a much different perspective. My family has made its living in cattle ranching, oil, and mining, among other things to make ends meet. And I know for a fact that while they supported themselves in industries labeled by opponents as destructive and non-sustainable, members in every branch of my family tree have cared for and reverenced the uniqueness and beauty of Grand County's environment, and have considered themselves lucky to be able to call it their home. Economic development and environmental conservation can coexist. I have seen it and participated in it firsthand through my family's 50-year-old heavy equipment contracting and trucking business (which, incidentally, has struggled immensely over the years because of land use restrictions).

Economic Benefits

Everyone in this community would benefit from more tax revenue and other funding from the mineral development industry, even those opposed to it. With my children entering school, I can't help but think of the potential benefit of industry funding to the schools and children of our community, which I have observed in other communities. But even tourism can benefit from mineral extraction! I just heard about a newly completed section of bike trail funded by Intrepid Potash. More bike trails are a huge tourist draw. Think about what else could be done to benefit tourism and recreation if we continued that trend. That is a win-win situation.

All our eggs in one basket

After High School, I left Moab to get a college education and to serve abroad doing volunteer religious ministry. I got married and started my family in Cache Valley, UT where I was attending USU. As I neared my college graduation, my wife and I repeatedly and exhaustively discussed moving back to Moab, but every time we reopened the topic, our deliberations ended with the same conclusion: The tourism-based "mono-economy" in Moab has resulted in sky-high real estate priees and very few jobs that can compensate well enough to afford raising a family. We finally moved back last year, despite the challenges. It has not been easy. I do not want my own children to face the same obstacles if they want to live and prosper in Moab. We need economic opportunity.

I am not opposed to tourism. I welcome tourists to come aud spend their dollars here. But I do not feel comfortable limiting our economy to tourism only, because I do not believe that tourism alone will be able to fund our community's growing needs without shifting a tremendous burden to property owners. Further, I don't see how increasing wilderness protections equates to an increase in our thriving tourist economy. On the contrary, we cannot reduce motorized recreation, limit bicycle access, and relegate tourism to foot traffic only and expect to see an increase in visitors. Worse than limiting our economy to tourism only would be to limit the tourism to the elite few that have the means and ability to hike into wilderness areas.

Family: the building block of society

I have already mentioned funding for schools, but I urge the Council to especially consider the economic impact on families. I feel that the needs of our community's families have been underrepresented in these discussions. In fact, the night of the public meeting at the Grand Center, many families were helping with or attending a high school production scheduled for that same night, and were unable to come voice their opinions. I want to plead

with the Council to remember the families that are actively involved in building our community, and as a result may lack the time, means, or opportunities to make their voices heard.

Instead, at the public meeting two weeks ago, we heard one gentlemen say how much he loved his poverty, because it forced him to be creative with how he survived. scavenging apples from an orchard (that someone else was paying taxes on), traveling under his own body power, and sleeping who knows where. Nowhere in that life philosophy is there any room for being responsible for another human being other than himself. To be frank if not a bit emotional, it irks me that someone can be so completely selfish as to say that he enjoyed his poverty right after we hear teachers telling about underfed children at our own schools. Meanwhile, our families are doing their best to contribute meaningfully and build our communities.

Recreation = the pursuit of happiness

Almost all of the arguments I hear advocating greater wilderness protections for our lands have something in common: a recreation-centric lifestyle. Of residents who have moved to Moab by choice, it appears that all claim to have done so because of the recreational environment that Moab offers. They now want to protect the land for future recreation. The world has a right to recreate here. Recreation seems to be the ultimate goal. That sounds nice, but unfortunately, I do not presently have the luxury of dedicating my life to an outdoor hobby. Instead I chose a family-centric lifestyle. I am raising children, and *my* ultimate goal is to raise them to become happy, intelligent, competent, socially responsible adults. I am the breadwinner and the sole provider for what most people consider to be a large family.

Yes, I chose that path. I also chose to raise my family in Moab because it is where my roots are. It is where my parents and grandparents and siblings and cousins are, and I wanted to raise my children near their family. Moab is my home. The scenery and the climate and opportunities for recreation are an undisputed bonus, but we cannot raise children on sunshine and scavenged apples! Families need cars for transportation. We need homes with bedrooms to sleep in. We need food and clothing and jobs. We need schools.

Conclusion

I scribbled notes as fast as I could during the public meeting, and I have written notes on many of the public comment letters that I have read. I would love to address topics such as the source of air pollution, the true environmental impacts of tourism, and discuss existing and proposed regulation and mitigation for the negative impacts of mineral exploration that have citizens most concerned. But I do not feel that I can add any profound new argument beyond what has been said by others, and this letter, as I am sure you will agree, needs to end. In conclusion, I would like to endorse the views expressed in letters and voices encouraging limited wilderness designation, environmentally conscious multiple uses for our lands, and a greater focus on responsibly developing our economy and tax base, so that the children of our residents, and not only the children of tourists, can enjoy Moab for generations to come.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration on these issues.

Sincerely,

Jordan Knutson

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: YW

Dear county council subcommittee,

I am writing to tell you that asking for opinion letters about public land use is a slap in the face to all who voted you into office. We expected certain things from you when we elected you; this is not one of them. You already know how the environmentalists feel about the issue. I thought you already knew how those who voted for you felt. But apparently you have forgotten, or you would not have asked for letters. So let me remind you what we want and what we are holding you accountable to do.

We want and need more land available for industry or anything that will bring a diversified tax base to Grand County. We already have enough wildernesses (land of no use). Offering more in your proposals was another slap in the face. We did not elect you to sacrifice more land as wilderness.

We desperately need more industry to alleviate the heavy burden placed on property owners. I don't care what people say, tourism does not pay the bills. If it did, the school district would not have asked for a voted leeway. But we *can* clearly see the benefits of industry to the county. I work for the school district, and this last December, every employee got a bonus, probably for the first time ever. Who can we thank for this? It was certainly not property tax and was not due to the frugality of the district. It was all thanks to unexpected taxes collected from the best producing oil well in the nation, right here in our county. Just look around the state for more examples of counties and school districts thriving on industry.

We do not expect industry to *replace* tourism. It could not even if we did want it to. Tourism is here to stay and will not be diminished by industry in any way. We want the two to work together for our growth instead of what we are doing now; which is surviving.

We must take a stand. We want you to draw a line in the sand that tells the environmentalists "enough is enough." This is what we expected from you when we elected you. It will be difficult to do. Some are afraid of harsh words from those with opposing views. We can not afford for you to be among them. The environmentalists have never backed down or been willing to compromise it would seem. We believe you have the courage and integrity to do what needs to be done in spite of opposition. We support you and are ready to get the job done. Let's have a voice again in Grand County.

Sincerely,

Trevor Knutson
1206 CAÑON VISTA
MOAB, UT

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: VW

To our highly maligned, under-appreciated, overworked and underpaid Grand County Council:

Greetings!

You have before you a lands management issue that has been raging for decades. It is not an overly complicated or unreasonably difficult issue, but it is extremely emotionally charged and politically toxic.

I do not have any new or unheard information to aid you in your decision. I believe that with the number of meetings you have attended, the amount of articles, letters, memos, etc. you have read, and the hours of study you surely have put into this, you are as well versed on this issue as elected officials can reasonably be.

If, at this point, it helps to know my personal opinion, it is this: I believe there are sufficient rules, regulations, designations, and prohibitions already in place to more than adequately protect public land. I think strong emphasis should be placed on protecting and expanding our tax base which funds our schools, service districts, county services, etc. As you know, the ability to do this depends on keeping lands open and accessible to multiple use.

It takes more courage than most people have or can even imagine to vote according to your conscience when you know that doing so will make not only you, but also your family, objects of derision and vilification.

I wish you strength and courage.

Sincerely,

David Knutson
1301 E. KNUTSON CORNER
MOAB, UT

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: WW

May 5. 2014

Grand County Concil,

I prefere that there be no more wildemess desigenation in Grand County. I belive that lands should be managed for mutiple use.

of the 3 plans I prefere plan #1

Sincerely
Catherine Lightfoot
450 emma blv Apt F
Moab Ut 84532

Grand County Commission
125 East Center
Moab, Utah 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

Re Wilderness proposal

Dear Council Members;

I am extremely disappointed in the wilderness process to date. It was so obvious from all of the public comments and all of the letters that were written that a huge portion of Grand County Residents want wilderness and yet what you have offered represents the views of people who do not want wilderness.

Why is it that you are so scared of wilderness? A huge portion of Grand County has been managed as wilderness for the past 30 years and yet even with all of that land being locked up we still have oil wells going up everywhere. Wilderness is not going to stop growth. But wilderness will save some of our countries most priceless gems.

If we are going to do a wilderness bill let's do one that serves its purpose. For example look at your proposal for the Green River. It's almost worthless. A few canyon walls have been put in. Thousands of people each year boat down the Green River. They come for a wild experience. With your proposal the rim of the canyon could be lined with drill rigs. That's hardly the kind of thing people want to see. If you are going to designate some wilderness there then make it a true wilderness area.

Have you seen some of the ads that other Western states are running? Take Montana for example. They have ads with headlines saying something to the effect of, If you want an out of bounds experience (Wilderness) come to Montana. People are looking for Wilderness. Wilderness sells motels rooms. Wilderness sells gas station business. Wilderness creates jobs.

A large number of letters talked about the Dome Plateau which is the back drop for Arches National Park. We have just got to protect the view shed for Arches and yet none of your proposals have anything in regard to this. Again I have to say if we are going to have a wilderness bill let's have one that has a purpose rather than just setting some land aside.

In your proposal you do have Behind the rocks and yet you should look at your boundaries. All of the land to the West of Hunter canyon should be included. It's an incredible area.

Council members seem to think that the oil and gas industry is going to save Moab. But the only thing that is going to save Moab for the long haul is to save the land.

Glen Lathrop

May 5, 2104

Andy Nettell

4050 E. Querencia Ct.

Moab, UT 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY:

Dear County Council,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Bishop Public Lands Initiative and the three proposed alternatives put forth.

I wish I could fully support any of the three alternatives, but cannot. None of the alternatives go far enough to protect this fabulous landscape surrounding our community. In looking at a lands use map of Grand County, it is striking at how **little** land truly qualifies as wilderness. Between oil leases, mountain bike trails, Potassium resources, primary and secondary roads etc. there are relatively few acres unscarred. Your primary goal should be to protect as much land which qualifies as wilderness as possible, at the highest level of protection possible. I fully support the closure of mountain bike trails (Hidden Valley), ATV routes (Labyrinth Canyon) in areas qualifying for wilderness.

Once the goal of protecting qualifying Wilderness is accomplished, what is left? Hundreds of miles of roads and mountain bike trails, multitudes of existing oil, gas and potash leases, plus thousands of acres of multiple use lands. Grand County will still have a vibrant, multiple-use based economy with room for growth in resource extraction and tourism. Plus we can look back knowing that Grand County did what was morally right by protecting our last few remaining wild places.

It is critical that our watersheds be protected at the highest level possible. Further, it is criminal that local governments have not funded a full-scale watershed/hydrology study for Grand County. We cannot allow potentially

harmful activities (be it mining, houses or tourism) to take place within our watersheds (we're not even clear on the watershed boundaries) until we fully understand the complex hydrology. If we lose our sole source aquifer, we're screwed.

We as a community need to put forth a conservation ethic immediately. As global climate change occurs, it is our responsibility to act. The county should implement immediate goals for reducing local and regional pollution, plan to use renewable resources and promote low carbon emitting activities.

By taking steps now, there will be no need to push forth a major transportation corridor into the relatively pristine Bookcliffs. Has the council even traveled the proposed road corridor? The sole reason for a road is resource extraction. The old saying in politics is 'follow the money'. Expect in this case the money will flow out our Grand Counties coffers into the wallets of the gas and tar sands companies. The cost of construction (and it does not matter whether it is local or federal monies used for construction), the environmental costs, the legal issues over private lands and tribal lands etc. far outweigh any benefits to our local schools or monies to the general fund. Any short-term gain is far surpassed by long-term environmental damage, increased pollution, and huge maintenance costs just to benefit the few.

Please, dear council—be courageous and do the right thing. Honor this, the 50th year of the Wilderness Act by leaving a lasting legacy of clean air, clean water and pristine lands for future generations.

The father of Western American Literature, Utahan Wallace Stegner wrote this plea in 1960:

> ...Something will have gone out of us as a people if we ever let the remaining wilderness be destroyed; if we permit the last virgin forests to be turned into comic books and plastic cigarette cases; if we drive the few remaining members of the wild species into zoos or to extinction; if we pollute the last clear air and dirty the last clean streams and push our paved roads through the last of the silence, so that never again will Americans be free in their own country from the noise, the exhausts, the stinks of human and automotive

waste. And so that never again can we have the chance to see ourselves single, separate, vertical and individual in the world, part of the environment of trees and rocks and soil, brother to the other animals, part of the natural world and competent to belong in it. Without any remaining wilderness we are committed wholly, without chance for even momentary reflection and rest, to a headlong drive into our technological termite-life, the Brave New World of a completely man-controlled environment. We need wilderness preserved--as much of it as is still left, and as many kinds--because it was the challenge against which our character as a people was formed. The reminder and the reassurance that it is still there is good for our spiritual health even if we never once in ten years set foot in it. It is good for us when we are young, because of the incomparable sanity it can bring briefly, as vacation and rest, into our insane lives. It is important to us when we are old simply because it is there--important, that is, simply as an idea....

What more need be said?

Sincerely,

Andy Nettell

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

May 6, 2014

Council Members:

I'm Jerry Ward I moved to Moab on my grandfathers ranch when I was 3 yrs. Old.
I'm now 66 yrs old, so I have seen the best & the worst of Moab. I love my state & county or I wouldn't still be here.
I feel if they go through with this plan for the greater canyonlands it will eventually be the undoing of this country. We have as nice as Parks as anywhere in the whole world. We also have more wilderness than most other states have, but enough is enough. I feel that we need to recover the vast resources we have here. I also think if they shut this country down that even though I have lived here all of my life. I will no longer be able to enjoy it, because I'm going to be to old to hike anymore. I think that if this goes through it will be discrimination against the older people & people that are handicapped in other ways.
many of them who served in our armed forces. So I say lets take good care of our parks that we have, but lets not cripple our country by getting carried away. I also feel it would be detrimental to the growth & betterment of our county in the future
Therefore I'm against anymore wilderness.

Thank You

Jerald T Ward

Jerald T. Ward

May 6, 2014

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: kw

Counsel Members:

**I LaVerta Ward I have lived in Moab & have raised my children in Moab for 42 yrs.
I love Moab & I like the parks that we have & the wilderness we have, but I think we have more than enough parks & wilderness in Grand County. Therefore I think we should keep it like it is, where it's a multi receational area that everyone can use instead of just a select few, we can still use the vast resources we have for fuel & energy to help our country. Therefore I'm against anymore wilderness area at all. We have plenty.
I also feel if they put this all In wilderness it will put a hardship on Grand County & the industry & growth in Grand County & other areas as well.**

Thank You

LaVerta K. Ward

LaVerta K Ward

Grand County Council

RECEIVED
MAY 07
BY:

Dear Sirs:

Of the 3 plans submitted, plan #1 would best suit the needs of the County. Although In my opinion we need to consider multiple use for more lands than the plan #1 allows. I believe that current regulations already in place policing mineral development, petroleum development grazing and recreation are adequate to prevent any meaningful detrimental effects to the environment and wildlife. Currently the Grand County area economy is stuck in a seasonal boom/bust cycle revolving around the hospitality business. If we were able to develope some of our local resources we could break that cycle with the addition of good, year around jobs. While the hospitality business has been good for Grand County in many ways it also by it's nature left many residents struggling to keep their families above the poverty level. I understand the sentiments of the people who want the scenic beauty of the area preserved, I also choose to live here because of the area's scenic beauty, but I believe that a balance can be achieved that will give us the best of both worlds. I'll end my comments with my favorite C.S. Lewis quote, I believe it applies to the turmoil regarding land use in the west.

"Of all tyrannies, a tyranny sincerely exercised for the good of its victims may be the most oppressive. It would be better to live under robber barons than under omnipotent moral busybodies. The robber baron's cruelty may sometimes sleep, his cupidity may at some point be satiated; but those who torment us for our own good will torment us without end for they do so with the approval of their own conscience."

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed land use plans.

Sincerly,
Dennis Lightfoot
125 N. Main St.
Moab, Ut

May 5, 2014

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

Grand County Council
Public Lands Committee

I have viewed the proposed maps and I still think that the public lands located in Grand County should be managed for multiple use. I do not agree that we have to designate more wilderness areas. Considering the wealth of natural resources we have in this area according to the GAO itself, I think it unwise to lock up these resources until we know for sure what we have. I was pleased to see the road up Sego Canyon is once again a possibility. The road will benefit Grand County greatly if allowed to be built. If I have to choose one of the three plans, I choose plan #1 because it has the least amount of wilderness.

I applaud you for all the hard work you have put into this project. I thank you for all you do to make Grand County more than just a place to visit.

Stella A. Lightfoot
125 N. Main St.

May 7, 2014
Grand County Council
Attn: Public Lands Bill
125 E. Center Street
Moab, UT 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

Dear Council Members and Public Lands Subcommittee,

As we near the end of the Bishop Public Lands Bill process in Grand County, what will at long last be determined is whether the county will take a top down approach to its land use planning by flexing the power of its county council members, or a bottom-up one that incorporates the vision of its citizens. I firmly believe that today a majority of us living and working here do not view public lands protection as extreme environmentalism, but rather as a prudent investment in the future of our local economy. It is also a signal to everyone elsewhere that the Moab brand based on keeping this area a special place for humans to visit, live, and achieve community is still alive. The eco-terrorists these days are the climate disrupter companies who want to strip mine and frack their way to the extraction of tar sands and oil shale in pristine areas, abetted by government officials who rather naively ignore the science on climate change by providing them with transportation corridors to get their "game over" dirty energy to refineries.

That off my chest, none of the land use alternatives so far suggested by the subcommittee goes far enough in protecting public lands in Grand County, especially because of our proximity to Arches and Canyonlands National Parks, two of the jewels of the Park Service. Alternatives 1 and 2, in particular, don't come close to protecting the amount of land deemed necessary by scientific studies to conserve a region's biodiversity and halt and reverse its ecosystem desecration (see Noss et al, letter to Interior Secretary Jewell, March 28, 2014).

That leaves Alternative 3 as the only one standing. The conservation community is often criticized for being unwilling to compromise, but I'm willing to see if Alternative 3 can be improved by increasing protection for Greater Canyonlands, by providing a Dome Plateau protective wall around Arches NP, by eliminating the Book Cliffs "Hydrocarbon Highway," and by enacting protection for our watershed and some Forest Service lands in the La Sal Mountains. I realize, however, that if compromise can't be achieved, legislating America's Red Rock Wilderness Act or the presidential designation of a Greater Canyonlands National Monument are paths that can still be followed.

In 2012, Arches and Canyonlands National Parks together attracted over 1.5 million visitors who spent over $141 million locally. The economic multiplier for the two parks sustained 2,050 local jobs and generated about $54 million in county personal income (see Headwaters Economics, 2014, "National Park's Economic Impacts"). By all measures, this economic model, based on protecting public lands is wildly successful, eminently sustainable, and the reason why the Great Recession largely bypassed Grand County. It is a model that the rest of Utah's rural counties salivate over.

Grand County has tried the mineral extraction economic model in the past. By the early 1980's, it had left homes empty, workers in ill-health, businesses on life support, and the population in rapid decline. It also left behind a mound of uranium waste that is taking years and hundreds of millions of dollars to clean up. For the last quarter century, a much more sustainable and renewable economic model has taken its place, one that protected public lands from being leased or sold off to private industry, while at the same time marketing the specialness of these same lands to the whole

world as a place to visit, recreate, set up a business, and even live. This last point can't be stressed enough, for the greatest value of the natural amenities and recreation opportunities provided by protected public lands is their attractiveness to new residents and new businesses, most importantly the growing number of retirees like myself who have moved to Moab for quality of life reasons.

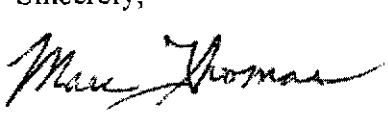
I urge the county council to expand its subcommittee and spend the next month or two with a select group of citizens, business owners, conservationists and other local voices so as to hammer out an acceptable compromise between Alternative 3 and America's Red Rock Wilderness Act. One of my suggestions would be expand the boundaries of the proposed National Recreation Area (NRA) to include more of the area north of Spring Canyon Rd. and west of Bartlett Wash, where everyday recreational use by four-wheelers, motorcyclists, bikers, horse riders, hikers, and rock climbers trumps the more speculative claims of the potash industry. I would also like to see a NRA protective wrap on the east side of Arches, particularly near Lost Spring Canyon and Winter Camp Wash. At the same time, it seems reasonable that to protect all of the watershed for Moab and Castle Valley, the land area up to the ridgeline of the La Sal Mountains be inside the NRA.

At this point, the future of the Book Cliffs Highway is as much a moral issue as one based on economic speculation and environmental concerns. For me, and for the other 2.4 million Sierra Club members and supporters across the nation, our commitment to the future is to keep the dirtiest of the fossil fuels in the ground. For that reason, I oppose giving the tar sands and oil shale of the Green River Formation access to a Book Cliffs transportation corridor that might make such extraction more economically feasible. The plethora of recently released climate change reports and warnings provide plenty of cover for a county council that is willing to back away from pushing for such a right-of-way.

Whether you heed my suggestions or not, working more closely with the local community in crafting a compromise would signal that it is indeed possible to merge top-down and bottom-up approaches into one that works best for the county. My hope is that the end result would acknowledge the supremacy of protecting these special public lands for our own economic model and as our gift to the rest of America. It has been said that our national parks are America's best idea because it saves for the ordinary citizen special places that would otherwise be off limits due to privatization. We have the chance to do the same with the special places in Grand County. Let's be the good guys and not blow it for ourselves or for all Americans.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to submit my comments.

Sincerely,



Marc Thomas
827 Palisade Ave.
Moab, UT 84532

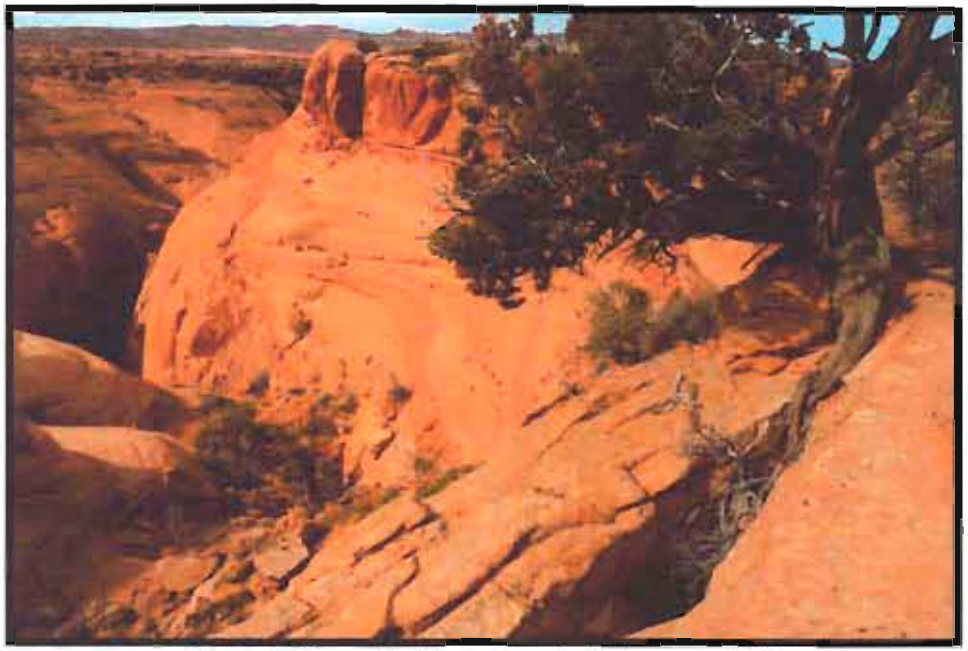
enclosures

Sego Canyon Barrier-Style pictographs

Fremont Indian petroglyphs near the Sego Canyon Rd.

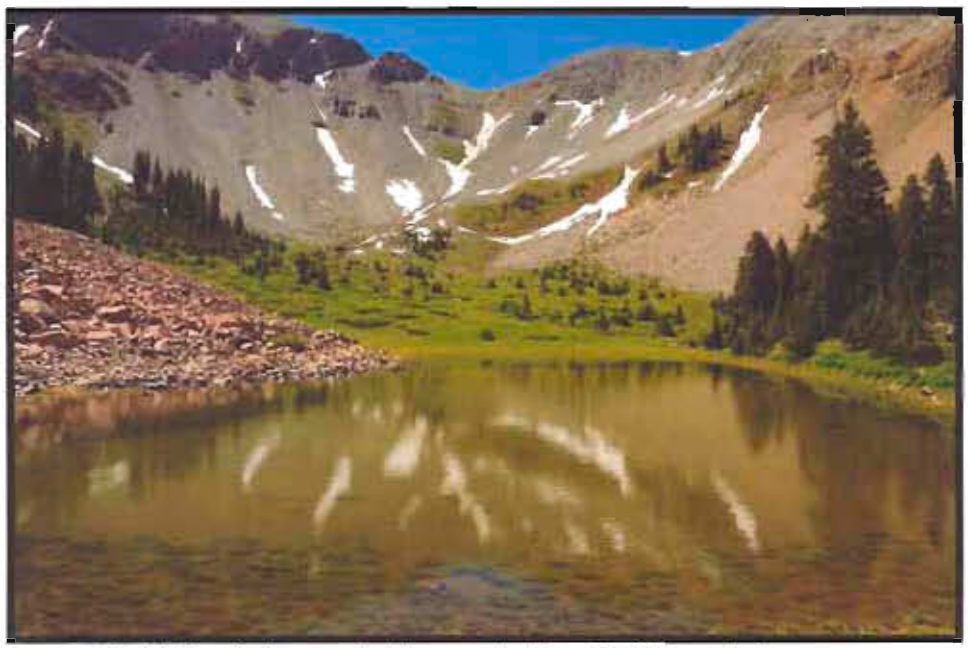
Scenery in the Spring Canyon-Tombstone Rock area

Bartlett Wash-Hidden Valley Area south of Blue Hills Rd.



Top of Crumbly Arch (east of Arches NP)

Winter Camp Wash (east of Arches NP)



Gold Basin beneath the central La Sal Mountain range

Headwaters of Brumley Creek below the ridgeline of the La Sal Mountains

May 6, 2014

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: VW

To: Grand County Public Lands Committee

RE: Land Use Alternatives for Grand County and your future recommendations to Bishop Land Bill

From: Tracy Reed, owner of Chile Pepper Bike Shop and member of the community of Grand County

After reviewing all three alternatives and attending the meeting at the Grand Center, I am disheartened by many of the comments made during the meeting. I have invested in this community by deciding to call this place home. I bought a home here in 2004. I purchased a business located in the community in order to remain in Moab because it is where I wanted to build a future. My business relies on the recreation opportunities that Moab abounds with. My business also provides viable income for my employees. Some of them have purchased homes here as well and a few of them are considering starting their own families. My business also provides for local non-profit groups, the city recreation program, the Youth Garden Project and our local high school mountain bike team just to name a few. Everyone I know lives in Moab because of its unique and unparalled beauty. Not because it is an industrial zone for resource extraction. People don't visit this place to see the kind of industrialization this place could be headed toward. They come to Moab to look out across this landscape and to be awed and inspired by its natural beauty and this includes motorized and non-motorized visitors.

Moab has become a model for other communities seeking to utilize recreation as a means to bolster their own economies. To draw people interested in recreation not industrialization. Moab has been striving to become what it is today because of the hard work of a great number of people within this community. With the alternatives set forward by the committee, I feel it is an insult to what a large majority of business owners and non-profit groups have worked so hard for in Grand County. To help create and promote a place that people want to come back to year after year.

When I moved to Grand County we didn't have a beautiful recreation center, a new elementary school, paved bike paths, a new library, an animal shelter, and a bark park for dogs. We didn't have nearly the selection of restaurants, hotels or breakfast and lunch cafes. Moab now has a lot more variety and options not only for local people to enjoy but also for visitors to our area. Without all of the folks who come here to recreate or the folks who have also decided to invest in this place by buying a first home, a second home or possibly a home for real estate investment and rental income, we wouldn't have all of the wonderful choices we do now. Change Moab into an industrial zone and a large number of these newer businesses will go out of business, people will sell or lose their investments and drawing new investors to Moab will cease.

I heard people say at the meeting we need to diversify our economy because we have poverty in our schools and poorly paid teachers. Blaming our recreation economy for this is unfounded. I agree teachers aren't paid enough but this goes beyond what our local economy provides, this is a national issue, as are children who go to school hungry. Hungry children are a problem everywhere, not just Moab. These issues and their real solutions are not what we are discussing nor is resource extraction the answer. Comments were also made about the jobs we could see with resource extraction. What jobs? Who do these companies employ? We already have people in our community that are here to work for oil and gas that don't LIVE here. They are brought here by their company to do the work needed. They live here on a temporary basis and then move on to the next project and location. Where is the promise for high paying jobs? I also heard comments made regarding doing away with federal agencies such as the National Parks. This is the most ridiculous thing I've ever heard. The commenter said the we, as in Grand County, can do a better job running the parks than they can. Really? What about all of the jobs that would be lost for those that work federally? Do away with federal agencies in Utah and what happens when there is a natural disaster such as flooding, fire and severe drought. Who will cover the cost for that? Who will be deployed to assist in such disasters? Federal agencies were formed for a reason and to think that Utah will be a better place to work and live without such agencies and their trained personnel is ludicrous.

In closing, I whole heartedly disagree with improving the road through Sego Canyon, doing away with the Antiquities Act and none of the alternatives provide enough protection for our recreation assets. I have called Moab home for a lot of reasons and none of them include going the direction that our county officials seem to want to take us. Diversifying our economy is a great idea but let's do so in a more sustainable and mindful manner and not just for short term gain for a select few or for a large corporation that has no real investment in our future, only for their bottom line.

Regards,

Tracy Reed

RECEIVED
MAY 07 ....
BY: KW

Grand County
Attention: Public Lands
125 E. Center St
Moab, UT 84532

May 7, 2014

RE: Bishop Public Land Bill

Dear County Council Members:

The current proposals (1 through 3) do not provide enough protection for the land in Grand County. One only needs to look at the current leases for oil and gas parcels on a map overlay to realize that Grand County needs to protect its greatest asset, that of beautiful scenery and wide unspoiled vistas. Please consider no more leasing as the only reasonable solution.

The committee did not listen to the public's voice when asking for comments in early 2014. People want their lands to have wild places and they want these places to be protected for generations to come. None of the proposals provide enough Wilderness.

Go back to the drawing board and come up with a proposal 4 which provides greater protection for the wild places in Grand County, says no to more leasing and does not include the Sego Canyon Highway.

Sincerely,

Virginia Carlson
3136 Far County
Moab, UT 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY:

Dear County Council members,

I am writing you another letter regarding the land management plan for Grand County known as the Bishop Process. I was one of the 90% of letters that wrote to you in January in favor of strong wilderness and public lands protection. I am copying that letter below so that you can reference it. It took me many hours to write you my letter which I wrote in good faith that you would respectfully take into consideration. I was very disappointed to read through your proposal that was created in response to the letters that so many people, such as myself, have sent you.

The best alternative that you proposed in favor of protecting our public land is Alternative #3. This alternative only protects a little over half of our proposed wilderness. It intends to build a transportation corridor to move fossil fuels and tar sands from proposed sites and allows oil and gas extraction and potash mining on the rim of Labyrinth Canyon. The best alternative that you have provided for us fails to propose any US forest land for wilderness within the La Sal mountains, thereby leaving our watershed unprotected. Your best alternate also prohibits the use of the Antiquities Act.

This is unacceptable.

All of this mentioned above has made many county residents, such as myself, very concerned for our wellbeing in Grand County. I make a living off of the tourism industry that we are so fortunate to have here in Moab. All of your presented alternatives will threaten both our tourism and our health. You MUST give us better options than this. I spend much of my time within the remote areas that are among discussion for resource development and industrialization, and I am beside myself with what you have presented for our alternatives! You must re-evaluate your proposal and give us residents of Grand County an alternative that does not include a transportation corridor into the Book Cliffs or any of the awful options that I have mentioned above. Please have some sense of pride for our magnificent land, our thriving tourism economy and for us citizens, and beyond, who enjoy this land just as it is. Above all, I ask to you to have respect for our wellbeing and the health of

Grand County residents and our children. You were elected, in good faith and trust, into your job with the expectation to do what is right for Grand County. Your proposal does everything but. You are clearly favoring the interest of non-residential prospectors whose hope to gain monetary wealth at the expense of our livelihood. You intend to sell out our land for greedy industrialization that will ruin our home! The bottom line is: if you try to follow through with any one of the alternatives that you presented, you will have clearly broken our trust.

Your lack of interest to protect Grand County public lands from resource development of any kind, but especially tar sands, will not be ignored. This will be the beginning of a long debate that will get national and international attention, as Grand County public lands are not only at our residents utmost interest and concern, but is of the concern of people worldwide.

This discussion that began in January regarding this land intiative has been very disheartening for many of us citizens, because you have clearly not listened to what we have asked for. We are not just asking, anymore. We are demanding that you give us the respect that we deserve as hard working, tax paying citizens who love our land, our home, and deserve a good quality of life free of the visual eyesore and health hazard associated with the alternatives given in your Bishop's Process proposal.

Please listen to your community. It is your job to do so. Give us a better alternative.

Sincerely,

Cherisse Morgenstein

Below is an attachment of my previous letter that I wrote to you in January:

Cherisse Morgenstein Attachment

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: VW

To Whom it May Concern,

I would like to thank you for inviting our local community to comment on these matters regarding the fate of our public lands in here Grand County. I have great hope that we can compromise for the good of our people, economy and environment. I have great hope that we can come to an agreement that will ensure no more potash mining, no more uranium mining, no more oil and gas extraction and NO tar sands development. I hope that there will be serious thought given to cattle grazing here in the desert as this is not the proper habitat for cattle and is therefore extremely detrimental to the natural ecosystems. Cattle grazing is destroying massive amounts of cryptobiotic soil and contributing to our awful dust storms that we experience here and beyond into the mountains of Colorado where it is then a cause of avalanche danger. Cattle is also invasive to the habitats of our native creatures, they destroy our riparian ecosystems and eradicate our native flora and fauna. All of this has taken a collective toll on our natural ecosystems of Grand County. It is in my opinion that cattle grazing should be stopped altogether or new regulation should be strictly set forth that takes into account all of the things effected by grazing for the sake of preserving what is left of the ecosystems at this point so that the natural landscape can recover, before it is too late and the ecosystems are weakened beyond repair.

As far as potash mining, uranium mining, oil and gas extraction and mining for tar sands are concerned, none of these industries offer any good whatsoever to the future of Grand County, while, on the other hand, the sustainable, clean and economic promise of renewable energy does. I believe that we should move forward with localized renewable solar energy right here in Grand County. Unlike solar energy, everyone of these caustic resource extraction methods that I have mentioned have negative qualities to them that threaten the wellbeing of Grand County and ensures great consequences and strife for our future. Once the resources are depleted from the land, there will be no more jobs and we will have both an economic and environmental mess as well as a population sickened from the pollutants that are promised from these destructive industries. Mining for tar sands is in a class of its own in terms of being completely pointless and an idiotic means by which to resource fossil fuels. It is of mine and many other educated person's opinion that this means of resource extraction is one of the most costly,

dirty and destructive industries in the world. Why would you ever want to bring to Grand County: an industry that destroys enormous amounts of land, uses our limited precious water resources only to lose it in the form of it turning into toxic waste, emits additional toxic pollutants contributing more to climate change than any other method of fossil fuel extraction? The cost to mine tar sands is greater and so the profit margin is very slim. The exact numbers escape me at the moment, but I have learned about the proposed tar sands mine in the Book Cliffs and the amount of resources available at that sight is absurdly small. I cannot believe how the developers could be so obsessed and determined to mine it. I view their irrational stubbornness to defile this land for such small profit as clear sign of mental illness. It truly makes no sense. They are clearly driven by money and greed, and hold no respect for us citizens who would have to live with the mess that they would create if this mine were to be developed.

In addition to tar sands mining, oil and gas extraction, uranium mining and potash mining being detrimental to the environment and health of Grand County residents and lack of economic sustainability, the simple presence of each one of these industries is an obtrusive eyesore to our wild, vast landscape, and will absolutely ruin our recreation and tourism industry; which is the greatest promise of economic sustainability and growth for Grand County. We would be shooting ourselves in the foot if we were to take our scenic land that is generating a strong economy on it's own, just sitting here as it is, and defile it by turning it into a land scared with mines and oil rigs. What a shame that would be. And what do you think that would look like to all of the people who visit from all over our nation and from other nations? It would clearly be a huge embarrassment by the lack of morals and respect that we hold for ourselves and our stunning, sacred, precious land.

When I speak about Grand County and this land that I love so much and spend my happiest moments of my life in, I cannot help but feel very emotional, anxious and frightened for the fate of this land that I hold so dear to me. The vast, untouched beauty of our land is what drew me here. It would be too sad for me to live here and watch this land that I love so be defiled with oil and gas, potash and tar sands development. I would move away if that were to happen, and I know many other Grand County residents who feel the same way as I do. I am going to list all of the remote areas of Grand

County that I frequent. This land is where I turn to for my ultimate peace, serenity and enlightenment for the path that I walk in my life. The time that I enjoy most in my life are spent walking, hiking, climbing, rafting, swimming and meditating in the following sacred places:

Labyrinth Canyon, Upper Horseshoe Canyon, Hellroaring Canyon, Spring Canyon, Three Canyon, Tenmile Canyon, the Spur, Island in the Sky, Deadhorse Point, The White Rim, the Desolation-Book Cliffs Wilderness and surrounding region including: Turtle Canyon, Hill Creek, Roan Cliffs, Range Creek, Willow Creek, Jack Creek Canyon, Big Horn Mountain, The Beckwith Plateau, Tavaputs Plateau and Manti-La Sal National Forest, Dark Canyon, Fishlake National Forest, Mill Creek Wilderness, Indian Creek, Canyonlands NP, Arches NP, Castle Valley, Westwater, Mineral Bottom, LaSal, and just about every remote area within Grand County.

Kimberly A. Schappert

210 East 300 South
Moab, Utah 84532
435-260-8197

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: kw

May 7, 2014

Dear County Council Members,

I am writing this as a private citizen of Grand County, not as a representative from the Moab Trails Alliance. I feel we are truly at a crossroads here in our county and that I would be remiss if I did not put my heartfelt comments down on paper for you to consider.

I found the meeting last week at the Grand Center disappointing because the mediator who was paid to preside over the crowd had no control over outbursts that were made in violation of the explicit rules outlined at the beginning. It was a feeling of "he who yells the loudest, wins the argument". I can understand the frustration of some attendees, myself included, who felt minimalized because, out of respect for the process and all included, we followed the rules.

As a former county council member who also dealt with heated topics and difficult decisions, I understand how hard it is to face upset constituents who vehemently voice their opinions. I know how difficult it is to not be swayed by a logical and well presented scenario when it comes from an "expert" and when it feels like the future of the county is at stake. Well, I feel like the welfare of our community and livelihoods are at stake. We are being swept up in an extraction industry that will jeopardize a healthy and robust economy. The impacts of the resource extraction we are presented with in Grand County are so great that the old notion that there is room for everyone no longer applies.

I and many others in Moab have worked long and hard to make a living here. Like the prospectors before us we had to create our own niches to survive and thrive. Mine was Up the Creek Campground, now in business for 27 years. As a single mother I cleaned the bath house every day for 17 years while branching into other pursuits like the county council, starting Trail Mix, founding the non-profit Moab Trails Alliance, because the people I met all wanted more opportunity to enjoy the reasons I was in Moab myself. They came here little by little, more and more, to experience the spectacular scenery and profound desert that surrounds our unique community.

The success of Grand County's economy that has mushroomed over the past 15 years is no freak event. It is the result of hard working people who bet on their town, of people from other places who wanted in on what they perceived as a bright future. We all pay lots of property taxes, even more sales and use, and TRT. We pay it because we can, because our businesses are successful and we believe in our town. The thought that our breathtaking and unforgettable desert, the simple reason people flock to our services, could be devastated with all the proposed oil and gas and tar sands development, is a hideous scenario.

Why would we ever consider selling out to an industry that will change the face of our community and landscape in irreparable ways, that will bring wealth to a few who don't even live here, that will quite possibly pollute and ruin the air we breathe and the water we drink. Anyone who truly loves this place is incredulous at the thought.

I heard the comments the other night about poverty in the schools, about people wanting a good job. We all want children to have enough to eat and parents to make a living. Unfortunately, no matter how rich a community is, there will always be some who are suffering. Does anyone really think this resource extraction industry is going to make local people's lives better? Is it going to bring revenue to Moab that is going to trickle down to the poorest in our community and erase all their woes? The answer is no. They will probably be forced to re-locate elsewhere, somewhere the cost of living has not been driven up by an influx of transient workers. As described in many published accounts of other boom towns, these temporary workers are less than desirable members of the communities on which they have such an impact.

Why are we playing along with this industry? Why are we entertaining the Bookcliffs Highway? Anyone knows that by joining any study, by opening the door to Unitah County, we are going to have the highway and a flood of impacts like traffic, oil field housing and air pollution like we have never even dreamed of from new refineries. I do not want to encourage any more truck traffic on Main Street Moab which creating this new north-south route will do. I do not want short term rentals in Moab swamped by oil field workers, like they are in Vernal where the tourists have no place to stay during the week. I do not want Big Flat to resemble in any way, shape, or form, Rangely, Colorado. I do not want to go to the ENT DR again and have him tell me my cough is from our air pollution in Moab. If that is what he told me last winter, what will he tell me in another few years when the industry really gets rolling? Those mothers with asthma suffering children at the meeting the other night better think long and hard about encouraging an industry that will do nothing but plague more people with more ailments.

You are faced with making decisions that could forever change the face of our home. There is no crystal ball that will show you the future before it is too late. It is a fast paced world out there and I am imploring you to stall, throw road blocks in the way of this industry, speak out to Fidelity, and Anadarko, and Uintah County. Tell Representatives Bishop and Chaffetz that their bill still does not reflect the needs and wishes of the community. Take some field trips to some towns who have been changed by the extraction industry and see for yourselves what this means for our backyard. We have what no one else in the world has here in Grand County. And we have a responsibility to protect it for us and for the rest of the world. Don't sell it for a pittance that will not make an ounce of positive difference in the long run.

Sincerely yours,

Kimberly Schappert

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this letter in response to the Grand County Commissioners "Bishop Lands Recommendations".

I find that the three proposal options brought forth by the Grand County Commissioners are unacceptable. They are far reaching and unnecessary. I'm tired of compromising and giving into special interest groups that are unwilling compromise and have no tolerance for anyone's opinion other than their own.

As of a February 8, 2012 in a Congressional Research Service Report, Utah State ranks 2nd in the Nation for Federally Owned Acreage by State at 66.5%, behind Nevada 1st at 81.1% and just ahead of Alaska 3rd at 61.8%. If you compare that to Texas at 1.80%, Iowa at 0.30%, and New York State at 0.70%...Utah has done its fair share!! How much will be enough? We have done too much compromising. Enough is enough and it's time for the silent majority to stand up and be heard.

Let's look at a few more numbers here. According to the same Congressional Research Service Report from 2012 here is the brake down of Federally controlled land within the state of Utah by agency and acreage: Bureau of Land Management 22,854,937 acres, United States Forest Service 8,207,415 acres, National Park Service 2,097,106 acres, Department of Defense 1,766,260 acres, and Fish & Wildlife Services 107,885 acres. That's a total of 35,033,603 acres in a state of 52,696,960 acres. Compare that to the state of Texas with a total of 2,977,950 acres of Federally controlled land in a state with 168,217,600 acres of total land mass. In the same report it was stated that from 1990 to 2010 there was a 4.3% increase of federally owned land within our state...that is an additional 1,451,025 acres grabbed by the Feds within a ten year period.

In a separate report produced by Utah Governor Gary R. Herbert's Office of Planning and Budget...it was stated that of the nearly 85,000 sq. miles of surface area in Utah 17,884 sq. miles are in private ownership...only 21% of the State of Utah is privately owned by its citizens. That is outrageous. Why are we even considering handing over more land?

When you begin to take a closer look at the numbers it becomes very apparent that there is a vast imbalance in the area of land ownership. The state of Utah has far exceeded it's responsibility in land management. Therefore I believe that we as a State must begin demanding that the federal government begin looking at viable ways to start the process of returning the land back to the state of Utah and it's citizens.

For 116 years, we've been reduced to less than 30 percent of our land, making it tough to support our education system which relies on property tax. Federal and Native American lands, which occupy 70 percent of our state, are not taxable. For example, Grand County has only four percent privately-owned land to help fund schools. Compare that to eastern states which have little or no public lands and highly funded schools. It's time for us to begin using a common sense approach to these issues. There is gross poverty in our community and a true lack of economic diversity. Our families and our children should have the economic opportunity to live and work here year around. I approve the development of a diversified industry allowing a stronger economy and tax base for our struggling community.

I support leaving a portion of our public lands open to energy development along with other portions being managed for recreational activities. I support the recommendations to create a new transportation corridor through Sego Canyon and designate the 2 mile wide (18,145 acres) transportation corridor on federal lands from State block to I-70 and transferring it to Grand County under RS 2477 allowing another form of tax revenue and added tourism. I also support oil and gas exploration and drilling, along with mining on our local public lands.

It was more than clear to see in the last County Commissioners meeting for "Bishop Lands Recommendations" that there was an overwhelming majority of County Residents opposed to any new land being handed over to the Federal Government. All of the 300 plus in attendance may not have gotten up and spoke but you heard the overwhelming positive response to the residents opposing the land grab.

So in conclusion you can consider me as one of the many Grand County Residents opposed to any of the three recommendations and request that you take action in addressing the Federal imbalance within our county and immediately start the process of getting our land back. Enough is enough!!

I will be paying close attention to this matter and other issues being heard before the County Commissioners and other elected officials. If I feel you do not represent me and my best interests I will be voting accordingly in the future. I will no longer be part of the silent majority.

Sincerely,

Your Constituency

Send your letter to the Grand County Council before May 7th:
Grand County Council
125 E Center Street
Moab, UT 84532

Also send a copy of your letter to:
Fred Ferguson
Legislative Director, Rep. Rob Bishop
123 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 2051

John J. Oliver
826 Mountainview Dr.
Moab, UT 84532
(4th Generation Moab Local).
435-260-2800

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

May 7, 2014

Grand County Council
125 E Center St
Moab, Utah 84532

Attn: Public lands bill

Grand County Council Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input once again on this important issue facing Grand County and for the work of the Council on that.

While we adamantly support multiple use of land in Grand County, we respectfully ask that the Council not include designating any more wilderness or wilderness study areas as part of the proposed public lands bill. With that in mind, we would only support the first map option. We are in agreement with the County's position on retaining land for use as a future road corridor in the Bookcliffs and support that option in whatever land bill is ultimately proposed.

Multiple use of our public lands is the life blood of Grand County's economy and public infrastructure. The best and responsible use of all of the resources of the land is at the heart of all citizens of the County. We rely on tourism, natural resource development, grazing of livestock and other public land uses where they make sense. We are hopeful that the Council will consider what is already designated as wilderness or wilderness study areas as sufficient. We are also hopeful that the Council will support the opening of public lands for exploration and development of the County's abundant natural resources.

Sincerely,

Pete and Pat Byrd
Byrd Farm
850 Byrd Ave
Moab, Utah 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: K

May 7, 2014

Grand County Council
125 E. Center Street
Moab, UT 84532

Dear Council and Public Lands Committee,

My name is Neal Clark and I'm a resident of Grand County. I live here because of the surrounding landscape and the people who are drawn to it. I hike, backpack, rock climb, mountain bike, run the rivers, and bask in the quiet and solitude as often as my free time will allow. That is why I call Moab home. So much so that I recently purchased a home here and look forward to raising a family in our wonderful little town in the years to come.

I commend the Council's hard work on this controversial issue and appreciate the Council seeking additional input from the citizens of Grand County. As elected officials, it is important that you view this as an iterative process, and possess a willingness to modify the proposed alternatives based on community feedback. I encourage you to be courageous in your vision for the protection of Grand County's spectacular wild places.

I support America's Red Rock Wilderness Act, which proposes wilderness designation for approximately 835,000 acres of public land in Grand County. Wilderness designation is, without question, the single best mechanism to ensure that the large, wild, intact ecosystems we all know and love are protected in perpetuity. Without wilderness, the pressures of development will continue chipping away at this once vast and wild landscape. Simply put, as Wallace Stegnar wisely stated, "something will have gone out of us as a people if we ever let the remaining wilderness be destroyed."

Almost always controversial at the outset, history never frowns upon those who take bold actions to protect public lands. We need not look any further than Arches National Park to illustrate this point. Utah politicians decried the initial monument proclamation, later expansions, and ultimately National Park designation, as locking up Arches for future development. Yet today, Arches provides substantial revenue to, and intangible quality of life for, Grand County citizens. This story plays out in nearly every instance of land preservation across the nation. Let it empower you to leave a visionary legacy for this community.

Although a step in the right direction, the current draft of Alternative 3 suffers from serious flaws with regard to designated wilderness areas, motorized routes and resource extraction. Alternative 3 fails to protect wilderness-quality lands north of Spring Canyon Road, in the northern Book Cliffs (of Grand County), and surrounding Arches National Park; fails to protect the Moab and Castle Valley watersheds by omitting Forest Service lands from potential wilderness designation; rolls back currently existing No Surface Occupancy restrictions along the Green River; and includes the short-sighted

Sego Canyon ROW proposal. Alternative 3 simply does not go far enough to protect these public lands for all future generations.

Sincerely,

Neal Clark
433 Huntridge Dr.
Moab, UT 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY:

1996 Highland Drive
Moab UT 84532
May 6, 2014

Grand County Council
Attn: Public Lands Bill Committee
125 East Center Street
Moab UT 84532

Dear Committee Members:

Thank you for the time and effort you have given to preparing and presenting the alternatives for Congressman Rob Bishop's proposed public lands bill. I understand it is a tough job and is still a work in progress.

I believe the three proposals presented do not represent a collaborative process reflecting the will of Grand County residents. A three person committee has developed three alternatives which are all heavily skewed toward industrial development at the expense of our recreation economy and the health of the land. All include prohibition of using the Antiquities Act in Grand County, and all espouse development of a fuel corridor through the Book Cliffs to facilitate oil and gas drilling and tar sands mining. These issues are far too important to be fast-tracked behind closed doors without full public involvement and careful analysis of their profound, long-term effects. This is not collaborative planning, and does not accurately reflect the input and the will of county residents.

To truly present a full spectrum of choices, a fourth alternative should be developed with no Sego Canyon corridor, more wilderness designation, and stronger protection of our watershed and sole source aquifer by including USFS land. The committee should be expanded to include a broader cross-section of county residents to bring more balance to the planning process.

As for the Antiquities Act, Federal lands belong to <u>all</u> U.S. citizens, not the state. Please quit wasting time and taxpayer money on political posturing. Instead concentrate your efforts on developing a proposal that demonstrates good stewardship of public land. The best way to assure that the Antiquities Act is not used in Utah is to come up with a plan that protects our most vital and irreplaceable resources -- clean air and water, unspoiled scenery, the health of our residents, and a robust economy that doesn't depend on destroying the land.

I can accept limited conventional oil and gas development in some places, as long as safety and environmental protection rules are enforced. However, tar sands development is a whole different game. It is far more polluting and destructive to the surrounding landscape, ecosystems, and nearby communities. It consumes huge quantities of water, yields proportionately less oil, and increases climate change to a greater degree. The currently

existing tar sands operation is highly experimental and speculative. Most residents are appalled at the prospect of degraded communities, destruction of the landscape, and damaged health, as has occurred near the tar sands operations in Canada.
Let's not go down that path!

I am concerned about the vulnerability of areas currently used by a wide spectrum of recreationists including Rainbow Rocks, Secret Spire, Bartlett and Tusher slickrock, and the canyon rims above Hellroaring, Tenmile, and Mineral Canyons. If they aren't to be protected as wilderness, I hope there is another designation that will maintain their scenic and recreational value. The Dome Plateau, part of the world-famous view from Delicate Arch is another area that must somehow be protected from industrial blight.

Protecting our natural heritage is the conservative approach. The land will still be there intact, and can be used in the future if a compelling need arises. However, once land is destroyed, you really can't put it back together. Please don't let the hope of money from friction fees and jobs lure you into a foolhardy bargain.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Sincerely,

Thea Nordling

Thea Nordling

April 29, 2014

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

RE: Bishop Lands Recommendations

TO: Grand County Council

I am writing this letter in response to the Grand County Commissioners "Bishop Lands Recommendations". I find that the three proposal options brought forth by the Commissioners are unacceptable. They are far reaching and unnecessary. I'm tired of compromising and giving into special interest groups that are unwilling to compromise and have no tolerance for anyone's opinion other than their own.

As of February 2, 2012 in a Congressional Research Service Report, Utah State ranks 2nd in the Nation for Federally Owned Acreage by State at 66.5%, behind Nevada 1st at 81.1% and just ahead of Alaska 3rd at 61.8%. If you compare that to Texas at 1.80%, Iowa at 0.30%, and New York State at 0.70%...Utah has done its fair share!! How much will be enough? We have done too much compromising. Enough is enough and it is time for the silent majority to stand up and be heard.

In a separate report produced by Utah Governor Gary R. Herbert's Office of Planning and Budget, it was stated that of the nearly 85,000 sq. miles of surface area in Utah 17,884 sq. miles are in private ownership, only 21% of the State of Utah is privately owned by its citizens. That is outrageous. Why are we even considering handing over more land?

For 116 years, we've been reduced to less than 30% of our land, making it tough to support our educational system which relies on property tax. Federal and Native American lands are not taxable. Grand County has only 4% privately owned land to help fund schools. It is time for us to begin using a common sense approach to these issues. There is gross poverty in our community and a true lack of economic diversity. Our families and our children should have the economic opportunity to live and work here year around. I approve the development of a diversified industry allowing a stronger economy and tax base for our struggling community. I support leaving a portion of our public lands open to energy development along with other portions being managed for recreational activities. I support the recommendations to create a new transportation corridor through Sego Canyon and designate the 2 mile wide (18,145) acres) transportation corridor on federal lands from State block to I-70 and transferring it to Grand County under RS 2477 allowing another form of tax revenue and added tourism. I also support oil and gas exploration and drilling, along with mining on our local public lands.

So in conclusion you can consider me as one of the many Grand County Residents opposed to any of the three recommendations and request that you take action in addressing the Federal imbalance within our county and immediately start the process of getting our land back. Enough is enough!!

I will be paying close attention to this matter and other issues being heard before the County Commission and other elected officials. If I feel you do not represent me and my best interests I will be voting accordingly in the future. I will no longer be part of the silent majority.

Sincerely,

William K Carter WILLIAM K CARTER

Dennis Hotz DENNIS HOTZ

Constituent

LARRY KENNY

Cliff Carter

This letter in its entirety are excerpts taken from a letter written by Joe Day who gave we, the people, the permission to repeat in part or whole his personal writing.

HC 65, Box 3706
Castle Valley, UT 84532
May 6, 2014

Grand County Council
Attn. Public Lands
125 E. Center St.
Moab, UT 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

Re: Grand County Council Committee's Proposed Alternatives for Long-term Federal Lands Management

Dear Council Members,

I have reviewed the committee's three alternatives for long-term public lands management, and I wish to express my deep disappointment at the committee's failure to promote the preservation of wilderness in any way that even remotely resembles the recommendations of the congressional sponsors of America's Red Rock Wilderness Act. The committee's disregard of the research and analysis that resulted in House Bill 1630 and the deaf ear that the committee turned to the overwhelming support for greater wilderness protection expressed by the majority of Grand County residents who made their wishes known to the committee raise serious questions about the Council's sincerity in seeking public input in the first place. The committee's support for a Book Cliffs Highway in the face of so much well-reasoned public opposition is particularly baffling.

Sincerely,

Ted R. Bright

187 Shafer Lane
Castle Valley, Utah 84532

May 6, 2014

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: lw

Grand County Council
125 East Center Street
Moab, Utah 84532

Dear Council Members,

I wrote a letter to the Council in response to the request for public input regarding public lands and the "Bishop Initiative." I support America's Red Rock Wilderness Act, which has been the subject of numerous studies and collaborative efforts. I did not want to be cynical about the process and held a small hope that Mr. Jackson and the other committee members would consider the concerns expressed by the majority of those responding. But Mr. Jackson made his decision long before going through the dog and pony show of the public hearing on April 23. The so-called three options are a joke. None of the options incorporate the recommendations under the Red Rock Wilderness Act. Plus a highway will go through Sego Canyon in all three proposals. He gave no option.

It is very disappointing that Mr. Jackson has decided that only by bringing in the tar sands highway can Grand County obtain the money it needs. Will there be jobs? Yes, but what kind of jobs? And at what cost? How long will those jobs last after the land has been scraped off and the resources removed? What will that do to the watershed? Who cares about the consequences of the extraction, water use and contamination, air pollution or other environmental concerns? We need more preservation, not less.

This is our home. People do need jobs but we must be careful that in the pursuit of money we do not destroy the very thing that we all love about living here. There are always trade-offs in life. Living in a small town has challenges that big cities do not. There will always be more money to be made in places where population density is higher. I think most people who live here do not want Moab to lose its most valuable resource – this fabulous landscape, so vast and open. Mining ruins it. Period.

Though I know Mr. Jackson will not change his mind, I wanted to make my views a part of the public record.

Sincerely,

Pamela A. Gibson

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

Jane Butter
2589 Cactus Rd. Unit M.
Moab, UT 84532
801-232-5706

Dear Grand County Council,

I am writing today to express my concern with your 3 proposed alternatives for the Bishop Lands Bill. I am concerned because none of these alternatives are even close to acceptable. I understand that there are other pressures at play, but none of the alternatives you have given us have a chance of passing in Congress, nor do they fairly and accurately represent conservation interests.

Alternative 3 is the best you have put forward, but it needs serious work in order to be acceptable to the conservation stakeholders at the larger Bishop table. It would have been nice if you would have put something forward that was even close to being acceptable to the conservation community instead of ramming Sego Canyon and Antiquities Act nonsense down our throats in all 3 of the alternatives. In this sense, they're not "alternatives" at all. Where is your constituent's ability to choose anything when huge asks like the above are included in all of your alternatives. Here is why alternative 3 falls short:

- It doesn't include ANY Forest Service Wilderness
- It only includes 58% of the BLM Wilderness that qualifies in Grand County
- It includes a Sego Canyon Corridor
- It precludes the use of the Antiquities Act

You knew that this wouldn't be acceptable to the conservation community and it is a serious blow that you have included a Sego Corridor, no FS Wilderness, and an Antiquities Act preclusion in a "conservation-friendly" alternative. You have solidly made your point, we hear you, and we're upset. There is no way even this "conservation-friendly" alternative has a chance in hell of passing Congress should this all turn into an actual bill, let alone your other pathetic alternatives. You're efforts, at best, are a long shot. I commend you for representing your selfish, short-sighted interests, and not those of your constituents, or the very planet which sustains you.

Forest Service Wilderness is the best tool we have to protect our precious watershed and I endorse the Grand Canyon Trust's proposal for the protection of these lands. With climate change happening faster and harder than we thought, water in the Southwest is our most precious asset and we need to protect it. This is a value that all of your constituents share, and you need to take another look at including Forest Service lands in your proposal. Almost all of the other counties in the Bishop Initiative have included forest lands, understanding that this is the ONLY way to truly resolve the wilderness issue once and for all - which, as I understand it, is a major aim of the Bishop Initiative. If you want us to go away, you're going to have to consider this and do better.

Trust me, we would love to be able to go away. If you're as sick of this song and dance as I am, PLEASE give us something reasonable so we can actually resolve these issues and not continue to run around in circles and have to do this all over again in the future. This is a rare opportunity we have in

Utah to get things done for public lands, but your alternatives show that you are not serious about this opportunity, nor do you wish to have valuable and valid input into a bill that could actually pass. I urge you to recognize how important this is, and take another look at putting something forward that will move with this process.

I don't need to go into detail about Sego....you know why I, as well as many of your other constituents, are concerned. It would be nice to at least have ONE alternative that didn't include it. It doesn't feel like we have a choice and that these are alternatives at all, when there are GLARING issues in all 3 of them. You could at least pretend to give us a truly conservation oriented alternative. I know you wouldn't choose it, but you could at least give us the respect and courtesy our beliefs deserve by putting something forward that we can even come close to swallowing.

Moab is a special place and we need to keep it that way. I want this to be a place where people want to live, where people from all over the world want to visit. If we develop at the extent that your alternatives present, we will be ruining this place forever. Our air, our water, and our climate will be destroyed beyond repair. I would hate to have to point to all 7 of you and say that you are at fault for these irresponsible decisions which could land us in a truly scary place. Step up and do what's right, and you will remembered fondly forever. This is not an issue you should take lightly, and all eyes are on you. Please do what you know in your heart is right, for us now, and for all of those to come after us. Let's keep our corner of the planet pristine and livable for the long-term. We need to protect, not develop. Thank you for your consideration of my comments,

Sincerely,

Jane Butter

GRAND CANYON TRUST

Grand County Council
Attention: Public Lands
125 E. Center Street
Moab, UT 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY:

May 2, 2014

Dear Grand County Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the alternatives developed by the Public Lands Working Committee of the Grand County Council for Representative Bishop's Eastern Utah Public Lands Initiative. These comments are submitted on behalf of Grand Canyon Trust, a 501(c)3 regional conservation organization focused on the Colorado Plateau. While the headquarters office is in Flagstaff, AZ, the Moab office of Grand Canyon Trust consists of six Grand Canyon Trust staff members (including the Executive Director), who are full-time residents in Grand County. Thus, these Trust comments are submitted by your constituents, residents of Grand County. The County is to be commended for its efforts at developing alternatives and for its willingness to consider citizen comments.

The support of a broad spectrum of stakeholders will be necessary in order to craft legislation that can pass the US Congress. With improvement, Alternative 3 is the only Council alternative with the potential to appeal to such a broad spectrum of interests. Essential improvements include (1) addition of significant proposed BLM and Forest Service wilderness acreage; (2) elimination of the mile- (or miles) wide Sego Canyon transportation corridor; and (3) elimination of the prohibition on future Antiquities Act designations in the County. Passing legislation agreeable to such a broad spectrum of supporters is our goal, and these suggestions for improvement are offered in that spirit. We support the inclusion of additional BLM wilderness lands in the following areas: Porcupine Rim, Mary Jane Canyon, Fisher Towers, Goldbar Rim, Dome Plateau and Mineral, Hell Roaring, Spring, and Tenmile Canyons. Our area of special expertise relates to National Forest lands, and we explore that issue in greater depth below. We also explore the issue of a resource transportation link from the Uinta Basin to Grand County, which is currently present in all three Council alternatives. We feel strongly that inclusion of either a one or two mile wide corridor in Sego Canyon is premature and that further discussion is merited on this matter.

Forest Service Wilderness

Designation of National Forest wilderness is a key factor in resolving these land use issues. The primary purpose of the Bishop Initiative and its seven county reach, as we understand it, is to resolve long standing land tenure issues including the designation of wilderness and the release of lands not designated wilderness to land management plan prescriptions and state land exchange. All counties engaged in the effort contain public lands managed by both the Forest Service and BLM. All counties at the table are considering protective designations for Forest Service lands. Emery County, arguably the most advanced in the designation proposal process, has two Forest Service units in their formal proposal, despite containing a smaller proportion of Forest Service lands in their county than Grand County. Wayne, San Juan, Uintah and Daggett counties are also considering Forest Service lands as a

major component of their efforts to resolve the wilderness issue. ***These Utah counties are including Forest Service wilderness areas because they realize that the wilderness issue cannot be resolved in their counties if they do not address all qualifying public lands in this Initiative, including Forest Service Lands.*** Certainty is a key concept in the Initiative, and if Grand County refuses to propose Forest Service lands for wilderness designation, pressure for more wilderness from county residents and conservation groups will continue, and this Council could be remembered as one who lost a once-in-a-generation opportunity to protect Moab and Castle Valley's watersheds for future generations.

Existing management conflicts with potential wilderness designation in the La Sals have been resolved. Designation of Wilderness in the La Sal Mountains should be among the easiest land use decisions made under the Bishop Initiative in Grand County. Due to steep, rocky, scenic, and remote terrain, new wilderness in the La Sals is surprisingly uncontroversial. New roads cannot be built due to budgetary, geologic, and engineering limitations; and existing administrative protections in much of the range. Commercial timber harvest and new mineral entry are prohibited in much of the mountain range, and mineral claims that were viable have been thoroughly explored and patented as private lands. For these reasons, the La Sals have little or no mineral or timber production potential.

A motorized Travel Management Planning process has closed open areas in the mountains and the Moab District's recently completed 2013 non-motorized trails system NEPA decision re-examined what kinds of uses are permitted to occur on which trails. The mountain bike, watershed and conservation communities spent two years coming to agreement on trail use issues, and both mountain bikers and wilderness advocates largely agree in their support of new wilderness in the La Sals, even down to specific areas and boundaries. Motorized use can and will continue on the State Forest blocks east of the peaks on a more than adequate system of trails developed by SITLA and the local motorized community.

The core peaks in the range are already designated as Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRA),[1] a permanent administrative designation prohibiting new road construction, commercial timber harvest and new mineral leasing (Appendix 2). IRAs contain some of the same considerations for managing insects and fire as do lands protected as wilderness. For these reasons, Forest Wilderness units in Grand County should be among the easiest lines to draw countywide. ***Locals and recreationists alike support Forest wilderness designations for protection of existing primitive and semi-primitive recreation experiences, watershed and habitat integrity, and increased protections for the aquifers that provide Moab and Castle Valley with their sole sources of culinary water.***

At the April 23, 2014 public hearing in Moab, Council Chair Lynn Jackson gave several reasons for omitting all Forest Service lands from proposed wilderness in all of the Grand County alternatives. Each of these concerns is easily addressed:

> *First, it was stated that with the state and private blocks in the La Sals, designations and management for wilderness and National Conservation Areas (NCAs) on Forest Service lands would be "too complicated."* No entity is proposing wilderness for private lands or the state blocks, and all such boundaries on the Forest are surveyed and/or fenced appropriately. Further, the owners of the private mineral inholdings in Bachelor, Miners and Beaver Basins and in far Upper Mill Creek have written the Council (Appendix 3) in support of the Grand Canyon Trust's wilderness proposal for the La Sals (Appendix 1).

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[1] fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5050459.pdf

In order to address protection of both the watershed and recreation opportunities as well as to eliminate the complexity of managing a cross-jurisdictional NCA, the Trust has proposed a National Scenic Area (NSA) for the La Sals. This designation is already in place on nine Forest Service Areas in the United States, and is a rough equivalent to BLM's NCA.[2]

In all three of the Grand County alternatives, the County proposes BLM wilderness that makes contact with Forest boundary in the Beaver Creek area. A truly complicated and confusing result would be to designate the BLM portion while neglecting designation for the higher, wetter portion of the same wilderness unit in upper Beaver Creek on Forest Service land. All that exists on the boundary line is a fence, and fences do not disqualify an area from wilderness designation. Washington County, Utah applied this same principle in their countywide legislation passed in 2009, designating as wilderness the adjacent Forest Service portion of the Cottonwood BLM Wilderness Study Area (WSA) unit on Dixie National Forest lands.

Second, it was stated that since the county line splits the La Sal range in the middle, designations could not be considered. All three County alternatives include wilderness and NCA designations that meet the San Juan County line, and are thus split. If this is not an issue for BLM lands, it should not be an issue for Forest Service lands. The qualifying extensions of Grand County's Forest Service wilderness units in San Juan County should be designated by this Initiative as well.

Third, it was stated that Forest Service lands have not been the subject of study for wilderness characteristics and that the agency has not made a formal wilderness recommendation "to the President" as has occurred for BLM lands. In fact, by the *Utah Wilderness Act of 1984*, ***Congress released the Forest Service from its obligation to make such a recommendation.*** The law suspended future wilderness recommendations by the agency until the second round of forest planning, which was intended to take place between 1996-2001:

> *...[W]ith respect to the national forest system lands in the State of Utah... ...the Department of Agriculture* ***shall not be required to review the wilderness option*** *prior to the revisions of the [forest] plans,* ***but shall review the wilderness option when the plans are revised, which revisions will ordinarily occur on a ten-year cycle, or at least every fifteen years****, unless, prior to such time the Secretary finds that conditions in a unit have significantly changed..."*[3] (emphases added).

As of 2014, the Manti-La Sal National Forest still has not completed a second management plan and continues to operate under their 1986 Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. Since revision (and a new wilderness recommendation) was intended every 10-15 years (by 1996 to 2001), and we are now operating from a twenty-eight year old forest plan, a wilderness recommendation from the Manti-La Sal NF is now at least 13 years late. ***That the agency was released from its obligation to make a wilderness recommendation is the reason such a recommendation does not exist, not because the lands do not merit such a recommendation.*** Grand Canyon Trust's Forest Wilderness Proposal was assembled using the criteria found in the

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[2] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Scenic_Area_%28United_States%29

[3] *The Utah Wilderness Act of 1984*, PL - 98-428 http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/STATUTE-98/pdf/STATUTE-98-Pg1657.pdf

Wilderness Act of 1964 and the Forest Service's own manuals and handbooks, and the Proposal has been painstakingly field checked. Using the agency's criteria, the Trust has completed what the Forest Service was released from doing by *The Utah Wilderness Act of 1984*.

Counties involved in the Bishop Initiative such as Emery, Daggett, Uintah and San Juan are all considering new Forest Service wilderness absent an agency recommendation, and Grand County should too.

Among the most scenic and ecologically valuable lands in Grand County, the La Sals are truly deserving of wilderness protection. Due to their ubiquitous, wild and imposing presence from most views of the horizon in Grand County, most people naturally assume the La Sals are already protected as wilderness. Their instincts are wise: more than just scenery, Forest Wilderness is important for watershed protection, resilience in the face of climate change, protection of habitat on which native biodiversity depends, long-term sustainable economic growth, and space for outdoor recreation so many citizens and visitors desire.

Watershed Protection

In the present, and in light of increasing temperatures and decreasing precipitation, Forests become ever more important as a way to catch and hold water vital to communities and wildlife. Protected areas generally produce higher water quality. The City of Salt Lake has proposed and supported wilderness protection for their culinary watersheds in the Wasatch canyons adjacent to the city, and has applied non-disturbance management regimes even more restrictive than wilderness to critical watershed lands.

In addition to water quality, National Forests are often the major source of water for communities. This is the case in Grand County, where the Glen Canyon aquifer is fed by snowpack in the La Sals. Watershed protection is particularly important given that climate change is expected to decrease snowpack, increase flooding in the winter months, and reduce summer in-stream flows. Water that falls in alpine headwaters becomes increasingly important for both runoff and groundwater recharge.[4]

Climate Change and Native Biodiversity

The Colorado Plateau is ground zero for climate change impacts. Precipitation is projected to decrease while temperatures rise.[5] Wilderness can help alleviate certain impacts associated with climate change and can serve as a central component of adaptation to climate change.[6] Wilderness contributes to climate change adaptation by furthering our understanding of ecological systems, sustaining biodiversity, connecting landscapes, providing ecosystem services, and fostering human-nature relationships. Wilderness not only provides a refuge for native species of plants, birds and wildlife, it offers space and isolation for species populations to survive and flourish. Migrating species depend on the intact habitat and forage that wilderness provides. Allowing the space for species to fulfill their life cycles undisturbed also leads to greater genetic diversity and the perpetuation of these species.[7]

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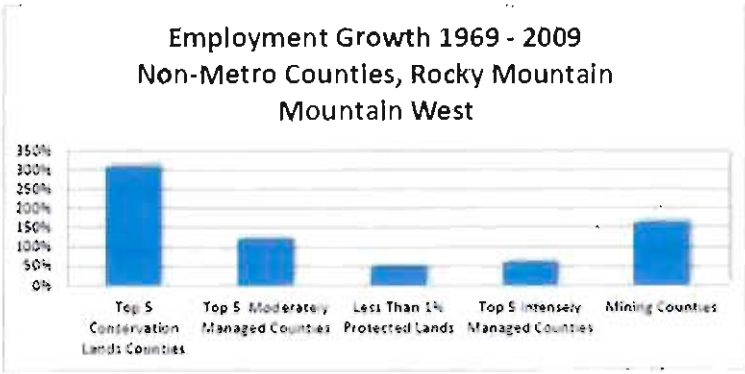
[4] Cole, D.; Boutcher, S. *Wilderness and Climate Change*, USDA FS, Climate Change Resource Center
[5] http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/prog/more/CPNPP/Historic_Climate_Conditions.html
[6] Lovejoy, T.E. Protected areas: a prism for a changing world, *Trends in Ecology and Evolution*
[7] http://www.wilderness.net/NWPS/valuesEcological

Economic Prosperity



Employment growth rates between 1969 and 2009 by land management category, from Southwick Associates

Only relatively recently quantified, the scale of the outdoor recreation economy is massive. Nationwide, recreation is directly responsible for 6.1 million American jobs (far surpassing the 2.1 million jobs provided by domestic oil and gas production)[8], $646 billion in outdoor recreation spending each year, $39.9 billion in federal tax revenue and $39.7 billion in state/local tax revenue. Utah alone benefits from $12 billion in annual spending, 122,000 direct local jobs, $3.6 billion in wages, and $856 million in state and local tax revenues related to outdoor recreation. Eighty-two percent of Utah residents participate in outdoor recreational pursuits, and visitors and migrants alike are drawn by Utah's outstanding opportunities to recreate outdoors.[9] The power of the outdoor industry has gained more recognition of late, with Governor Herbert's office's release of a Vision for Outdoor Recreation, elevating the industry to a level on par with fossil fuel development in state government, appointing a director of an office to focus on outdoor recreation, and a set of guidelines for ensuring the maintenance and enhancement of recreational resources in the form of protected lands.

All this economic activity of course, depends on the "natural infrastructure" of protected lands, of which wilderness is an essential part. People don't travel great distances to mountain bike through an oil field, jeep through clear cuts, or hike beside an open pit mine. Though nearly all Western counties need the income provided by the extraction, recreation and amenity economies, economic activity is more robust in areas where lands are public and where they are protected. Conversely, the presence of lands managed for the extraction of natural resources is associated with relatively slow growth.[10] Increased tourism, or the practice of drawing temporary visitors to lodge, feed and outfit in an area are only part of the economic benefits of protected lands. Diversification from dependence on boom and bust cycles of resource extraction, attractiveness of a community for retirees and in-migrants, retention of cultural and historic resources, and preservation of landscapes for increased water quality are all benefits of protected lands and wilderness – they increase a community's quality of life. Protected natural landscapes are important to both our community's and individual well-being. Research has shown high correlations between protected lands such as National Parks, National Monuments, Wilderness and all

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[8] Outdoor Industry Association, *The Outdoor Recreation Economy, Take it Outside for American Jobs and a Strong Economy*, 2012

[9] Outdoor Industry Association, *The Outdoor Recreation Economy, Take it Outside for Utah Jobs and a Strong Economy*, 2013

[10] Southwick Associates, *Conserving lands and prosperity: Seeking a proper balance between conservation and development in the Rocky Mountain West*, 2012, p. 14

common measures of economic vitality - employment, per capita income, total aggregate income and population growth.[11]

RS 2477 Roads

Any successful legislation must include the resolution of the RS 2477 roads issue in Grand and other counties. The prospect of endless litigation is not appealing. The April 25, 2014 ruling by the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals on Salt Creek in Canyonlands NP against San Juan County and the State of Utah shows what a daunting prospect endless RS 2477 roads litigation could be. Among the best researched and most thoroughly deposed routes in Utah, the Court ruled that the plaintiffs still had not met a sufficient evidentiary standard to gain title to the route in Salt Creek. This after ten years and millions of Utah taxpayer dollars spent on litigation. Multiply the time and expense for this single route by 30,000 route segments, and we have litigation that has the potential to outlive all of us. We can resolve the issue with this legislation. A coalition of which the Trust is a member made a very generous offer to Representative Bishop and to the State of Utah in 2013. Together, we agreed to disclaim interest in more than 82% of the County-claimed RS 2477 routes under litigation statewide. We'd like to enter serious discussions on how to make real progress on the issue and we urge the County to act to resolve the RS 2477 issue in this Initiative.

The Antiquities Act

As you know, Arches National Park was once an Antiquities Act National Monument. In Utah, so too was every National Park except Canyonlands. Without the Antiquities Act, it can be argued that Grand County would be a much poorer and less populous place, relying heavily on what is now mostly a non-existent mineral extraction economy, a sector of the County's economy which currently accounts for only 2% of employment.[12] A representative example of an opportunity that would be foregone by repeal of the Antiquities Act for Grand County can be found at Dalton Wells just north of Moab. It's the historical site of a CCC camp, later the site of a WW II Japanese Internment/Isolation Camp.[13] Also nearby is a world class paleontological resource – one of the world's largest bone beds, containing the remains of at least 67 dinosaurs.[14] No information on site currently hints at either of these heritage or historical tourism opportunities. An Antiquities Act monument for these two sites could help bring attention, revenue, and economic activity for little or no cost to the County. This and any other opportunities yet to be discovered would be foregone in perpetuity under all three Grand County alternatives. Repealing the Antiquities Act might seem like a victory for the County now, but it has the potential to dramatically short-change future generations.

The Sego Canyon Transportation Corridor

The Sego Canyon Transportation Corridor issue appeared on all three alternative maps virtually out of the blue after the initial Grand County public comment period had closed. The decision to include the corridor in all three alternatives represents a fundamental alteration of the scope and scale of what the alternatives would do to the future of the county. Doing so after the initial comment period had closed

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[11] Power, Thomas M. *The Economics of Wildland Preservation,* University of Montana Economics Department, 2000, pp. 23-24

[12] http://headwaterseconomics.org/land/economic-grand-county

[13] http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/anthropology74/ce14.htm

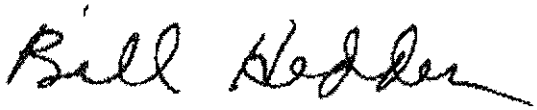
[14] http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/how-to-make-a-dinosaur-bonebed-55564905/?no-ist

presents a serious problem for the county to be able to gather meaningful public comment on the corridor issue. As a result of its late and unexpected inclusion, a Sego corridor has not been vetted with residents, and though plans are in motion, it has not yet been studied or assessed for economic or geologic feasibility. Other than two tense council meetings and back and forth in the local newspapers, there has been no community discussion about Sego, and no collaboration of any kind on finding solutions. Since Anadarko has not announced the discovery of vast quantities of oil on the Three Pines, One Eye and Bogart SITLA tracts, a Sego transportation corridor is truly a solution in search of a problem. Taxpayers and industry have invested millions of dollars in improvements to the Seep Ridge Road in Uintah County, and the pavement stops far from any route that would connect to Sego. Is there really an economic need or an industry desire to do so? Designating a corridor in Sego through legislation forecloses the opportunity to fully study the issues and their implications for tourism, Utah taxpayers and industry alike. Local residents may see value in economic diversification beyond amenities, tourism and recreation, but few if any want to see Moab become more like Vernal. It is not only "extreme environmentalists" that have voiced opposition to the Sego Corridor. The majority of the recreation community; hunters and anglers; and even mainstream, moderate, and conservative conservation organizations across the political spectrum oppose the mandate of one particular route over all others, without any study. By including the Sego corridor in every alternative, negotiation has been stymied, lines have been drawn in the sand, and the tone of the debate has become unnecessarily anxious. The environmental, economic, recreational and land-use implications of connecting the Book Cliffs to I-70 with an oil transportation corridor would be significant and potentially irretrievable. A proposal of this magnitude at the very least deserves careful and detailed analysis before being considered in the context of a legislative negotiation.

Conclusion

We believe the Bishop Initiative represents the best opportunity in a generation to resolve land tenure issues and we are confident that with improvements to Alternative 3, we might reach agreement. When we are asked what we intend to "give up" as a part of the Initiative, a partial list includes: lands not designated (which can be returned to applicable management plan direction); permanent and final resolution of the RS 2477 roads issue (and an end to costly and time-consuming litigation over the matter); a SITLA land trade and consolidation to maximize revenue paid to the County for development. The end result for all of us would be greater certainty about the future – for development of natural resources and for all forms of recreation. We remain open to other ideas as well, and we encourage the county to formulate collaborative, productive answers to genuine citizen concerns that County residents and a broad spectrum of local, regional and national interests can support.

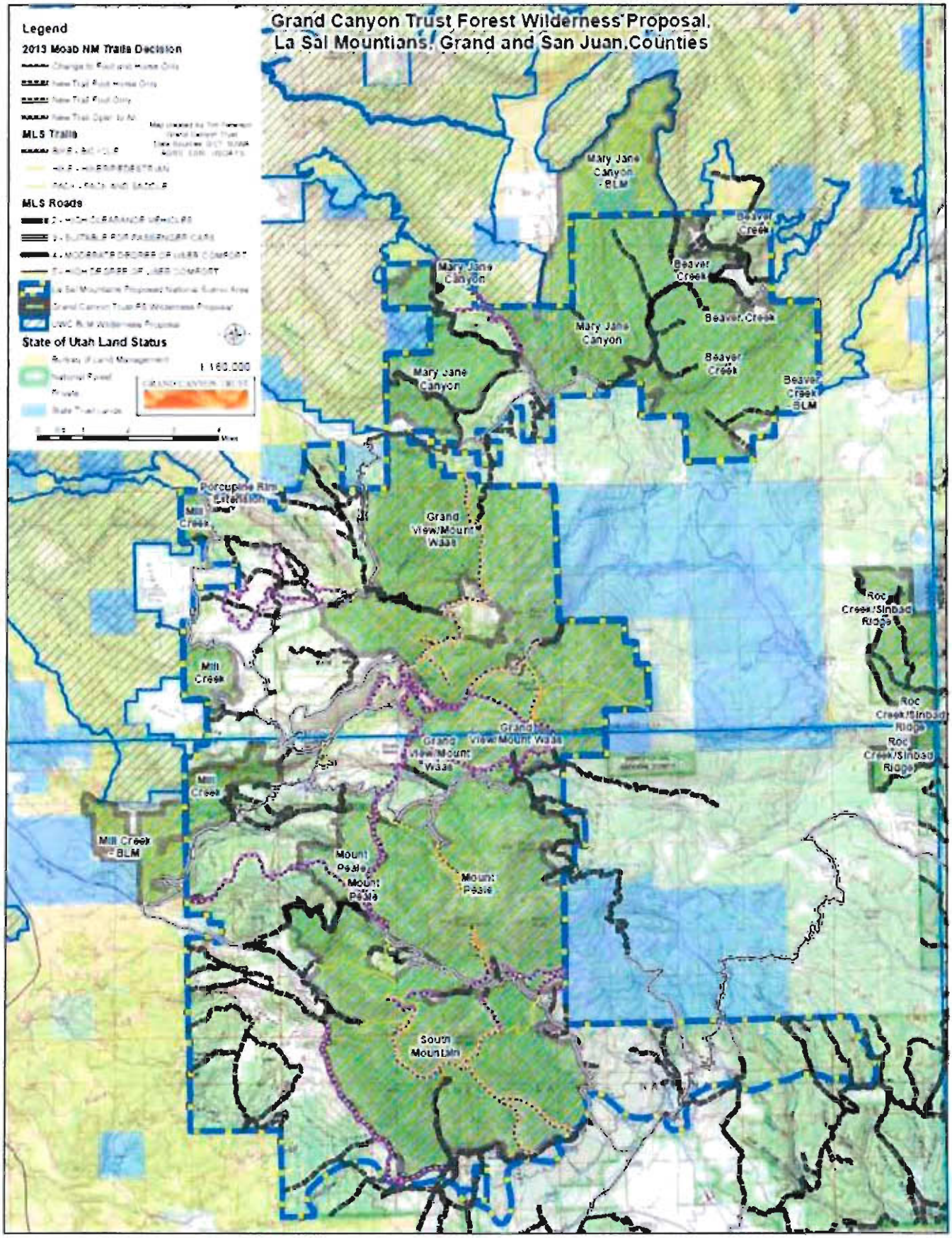
Sincerely,



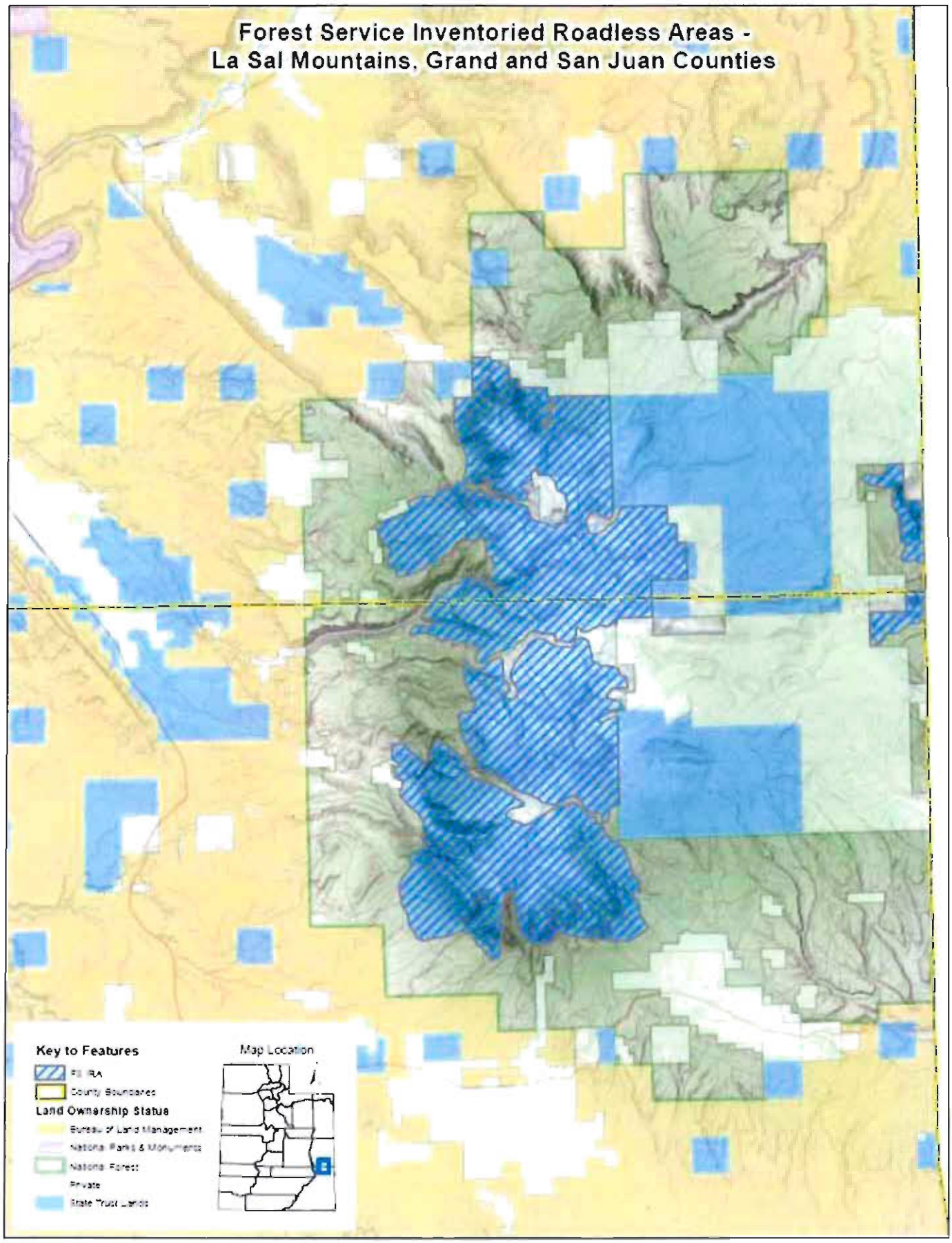
Bill Hedden
Executive Director
Grand Canyon Trust

Cc:
Representative Rob Bishop
Representative Jason Chaffetz
Senator Orrin Hatch
Governor Gary Herbert

Appendix 1: GCT's FS Wilderness and National Scenic Area Proposal for the La Sal Mountains



Appendix 2: Forest Service Inventoried Roadless Areas



RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

Landowner Letter
Regarding Forest Service Wilderness in Grand County

29 January 2014

Dear Grand County Council Members,

I am writing this letter as a longtime Grand County business owner (the Jailhouse Cafe for over 20 years). I'm also writing as one of two partners in the largest inclusion of private lands within the Grand Canyon Trust's map of proposed Wilderness in the La Sal Mountains. This inclusion consists of a collection of patented mining claims in Miners, Bachelors, and Beaver basins, and in far Upper Mill Creek. Between my partner and me, we own all the private lands within these excluded areas, amounting to just under 270 acres.

I want to say that as the owner of the Jailhouse Cafe, I am favor this proposal, as I believe that ultimately it will be an economic benefit to me and other business owners in Grand County, and by extension, to all county residents.

As a landowner who would be very much surrounded by this proposal, I realize that Wilderness designation could cause certain headaches for me personally, but on the whole I am in favor of it, as long as rights of access and other important private property rights are maintained. Even as the owner of actively maintained mining properties, I would be dishonest if I did not admit that, from my own knowledge, the highest value of those mountains is not mineral extraction.

I have spoken to my partner in these properties, Christoph Henkel, regarding this proposal. He has stated that he agrees with the position I have outlined above, and has also given me permission to say so in this letter.

Sincerely yours,

Will Petty
The Jailhouse Cafe
101 North Main
Moab

FRIENDS OF INDIAN CREEK
PRESERVING ITS FUTURE
P.O. BOX 1531 MOAB, UT 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: kw

Grand County
Attention: Public Lands
125 E. Center St.
Moab, UT 84532

RE: Grand County Council Public Lands Working Committee Alternatives for Bishop Public Lands Initiative

Dear Grand County Council:

The Friends of Indian Creek is a local advocacy group (and affiliate of the Access Fund, a national climbing advocacy group) concerned with maintaining public access for rock climbing in the Greater Canyonlands. We appreciate your consideration of our concerns regarding Grand County's proposal for the Bishop Public Lands Initiative.

Having carefully considered the three proposals put forth by the Grand County Council Public Lands Working Committee, we *can offer support to none*. This is for myriad reasons, including potential affects to the many world-class climbing destinations in Grand County, generally poor resource management probabilities, and out of concern for the long-term economic welfare of Grand County.

Of the proposals put forth, *Alternative #3* provides the most potential for a viable framework for this important public lands bill—for example, we are encouraged by the proposed 400,000-acre National Recreation Area; this has great promise for the protecting and enhancing the recreation economy in Grand County while simultaneously allowing for the development of natural resources —but Alternative #3 needs significant amending before we would support it. The inclusion in Alternative #3 of the development of the Sego Canyon Transportation Corridor is not an option we can support as a reasonable land use in Grand County. Additionally, we have significant concerns about the proposed (and inexplicable) Antiquities Act exclusion.

Though the primary directive and purview of the Friends of Indian Creek is to advocate for continued access to our legacy and developing cliffs and crags for rock climbing, as residents or visitors to Grand County, we would be remiss not to mention that the economic effects of the extractive industry's proposals included by way of any of these options would inevitably be devastating to our currently flourishing recreation and tourism economy. Our constituency supports investment in Grand County that will provide sustainable land-use practices and employment opportunities for all citizens and visitors.

Issues of Concern

The Sego Canyon Transportation Corridor: We believe the type of industry this road will bring to Grand County will seriously undermine the world-renowned climbing destination experience and the related recreation economy in two primary ways:

1. Increased Industrial Presence:

   The large-scale industrial development made possible by this road improvement is not compatible with a world-class tourist destination. Increases in industrial traffic, facilities and other associated impacts are not conducive to providing revenue-generating outdoor recreation experiences.

2. Reduced Incentive for Investment:

   Press reports of increasing industrial uses in Grand County, and potential air and water issues, discourage both would-be tourists and quality-of-life recruits. Many heads of climbing companies, state-wide and nationally have already expressed their dismay with the direction Grand County has been heading in the last decade, with one prominent business owner declaring publicly on social media that, courtesy to the destruction on the Deadhorse/Gemini/ISKY plateau, he will no longer bring his family to camp and recreate in what was formerly a favored spot. Those are real dollars lost, not just from one family, but from all who support his company. Additionally, like ours, many rural communities around the country are now gaining residents and jobs by attracting small businesses that want to locate in places where environmental quality is guaranteed. The industry the Sego Canyon Transportation Corridor will bring to the region does not provide these guarantees. Rather, it will greatly discourage potential visitors as well as the many businesses currently moving to protected rural landscapes around the country. We also see potential increases in law enforcement and healthcare costs, all of which discourages business investments. We do not believe the Sego Canyon Road can deliver the type of economic benefits promised and are certain it will threaten the ability of our businesses to continue to generate revenue in Grand County.

The Antiquities Act Exclusion:
We are also concerned that the inclusion of Antiquities Act exclusion in each alternative offered by the Public Lands Working Committee will make the bill much less viable in the U.S. Congress. This exclusion significantly increases the number of local and national interests in opposition to this process. For this reason we cannot support this element in a proposal that will likely be doomed from the outset.

The Recreation Economy:
Though climbing is but a small percentage of the overall boon to Grand County provided by recreation tourism, taken in its entirety—cycling; rafting; hiking; camping; exploring the national park, state and public lands; and vehicular recreation—it is a *proven* long-term, sustainable and renewable resource. The practices of the extractive industry, for which these 3 alternatives pave the way for inception, on the other hand, are proven to be short-term (as is evidenced in currently in rural Texas), and not beneficial for the sustained welfare of this county and community. An economy based on the short-term

gains of extractive processes is not sustainable, whereas the recreation and tourism economy has been on a steady growth curve since the 1970s.

This lack of long-term sustainability has already been evidenced with the boom/busts of uranium and potash in Grand County (regardless of a couple success stories, the overall trend is of bust) and this is more likely than not—as history proves—to be the case with these potentially drastic extractive processes. As with the commercial hotel industry, these invasive projects (if at all successful) tend to line the pockets of a large, outside corporation, while providing but menial, low-skill, low-paying, short-term employment for our residents—and primarily only male residents. In areas with current extractive project booms, the small towns' infrastructures can not handle the influx of transient workers, thus requiring temporary housing installments (the likes of which, ironically, this county—or at least town—has been on a mission to eliminate), crime rates go up and town living becomes unviable for families, causing many to relocate. Short-term gains can be made by grocery store chains, gas station chains, hotel chains and restaurants, but the vast majority of those profits go to outside corporations and the transient residents do not contribute long-term to local tax revenues by buying and investing in properties, businesses and schools. Should Grand County go down a path favoring short-term boons, hand-in-hand with long-term land and image damage, we risk losing all that has been gained in the past decades of recreation tourism. North Dakota, for example, lost much for short-term gain. Do we wish to lose our national parks as word-renowned destinations? Do we really wish to be on the national news for all we have could have going wrong, versus our current standing as one of the premier recreation tourist destinations in the US, if not the world?

The report "The Economic Value of Public Lands in Grand County, Utah" finds that "tourism and recreation businesses account for 44 percent of private employment in Grand County—more than one-third of local families have a member that works in a public lands-related business."

Continuing with economic findings from the report, quoting our own local study "the public lands in Grand County—because of both their extensiveness and their beauty–have directly influenced and shaped the county's economic performance. Looking ahead, these lands will continue to play a vital role in the future economic health and prosperity of the region, and a key challenge facing Grand County leaders is how to maximize the long-term return from this valuable asset. In addition to the economic benefits of tourism and recreation, Grand County's picturesque and high-profile public lands–and the environmental and recreational amenities they provide–are closely linked to population growth and other economic benefits. The county, for example, has had success attracting new residents who find the communities and surrounding public lands in the area compelling–almost one-third of net population growth in the last decade resulted from in-migration. Trading on natural amenities, the county has increased non-labor sources of personal income (+54%, or $47 million new dollars, in real terms, from 2000 to 2009), especially retirement-related income, which has boosted per capita income and added stability to the local economy."

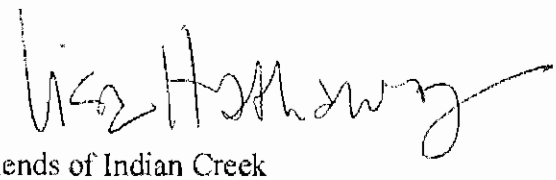
The indisputable findings from this study shows that the recreation and tourism economy thrives and is well-ensconced in Grand County. While it can be argued that an increase in

extractive projects (such as the myriad proposed that these three alternatives would help to get rolling) would increase that sector's contribution to our economy, the fact of the matter is: not only would we lose income and residents based on the recreation economy, once gone, with a land scarred by open (possibly toxic) pits (like the ones we currently are spending billions to remove), mile(s)-wide transportation corridors, razed wild lands, polluted by the constant noise of active wells, we can *NEVER* get it back.

We can appreciate the difficulty of the Public Lands Working Committee's work on these difficult issues, and hope to participate in forming policy on these critical public lands issues that are central to our enjoyment of this area and for our local economy.

However, for the reasons stated herein The Friends of Indian Creek does not support any of the alternatives proposed for the Bishop Public Land Initiative by the Grand County Public Lands Working Committee.

Sincerely,



The Friends of Indian Creek

Cc. Congressman Rob Bishop: Fred.Ferguson@mail.house.gov
Congressman Jason Chaffetz: Wade.Garrett@mail.house.gov

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

Public Lands

To: Grand County 5 May, 2014

Public lands belong to the people, not the government. The government has set aside a large slice of Utah for forests and parks. No more land is needed by the government. The people of Utah need energy and resources to provide for the livelihood of our growing population. Reserved view points and bike trails won't cut it.

Development of natural resources and preservation of natural beauty can go hand in hand. Alaska has done it, and North Dakota and several other states have led the way. Utah can prosper with development and use of natural resources. The people can prosper, live better, and provide for the future if not handcuffed by wild, unproven beliefs in climate change and damage to the earth. God and Mother Nature have provided us with bountiful treasures. Let us use them with good stewardship and management. Tourists will still come and the people of Utah will prosper for generations with the natural treasures Mother Earth has provided.

Robert Brandon,
First Moab City Engineer, and Family

RECEIVED
MAY 07
BY: KW

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter in response to the Grand County Commissioners Bishop Lands Recommendation's.

After researching the three land proposals that were brought forth by the Grand County Commissioners, I have found all three of them to be unacceptable. As a responsible taxpayer and land user, I am tired of the growing threat of having our land taken from us because special interest groups (who are a vocal minority in this town) want to push their own agendas.

We need to stop catering to these special interest groups and say "Enough is enough, we are taking our land back."

I am thirty-three years old and a sixth generation Moabite. I currently live in Grand Oasis (after losing my house during the housing market crash). Housing prices in this town are outrageous and unrealistic. I cannot get out of this place because there are no jobs in Moab that pay enough for me to rent a $1400.00 a month home. If you close these lands down and do not allow responsible drilling and industry to come into this area, you are dooming future generations to the same fate.

I would like to state once more that I do not support any of the three proposals.

Sincerely,

Josh Green 5-7-14

Josh Green
gojoshgreen@gmail.com

RECEIVED
MAY 07
BY: KW

To: The Grand County Council
Subject: Public Lands Maps

As a business owner and Grand County Resident for 24 years, whose family hails from the coal mining town of East Carbon, I am writing to state my opinion on the public lands maps put forth by the council.

I strongly favor greater protection of public lands than any of your alternatives recommended. I could go into all the details and reasons, but I suspect they will fall largely on deaf ears which makes we wonder if this whole process of public comment is just a dog and pony show. You clearly have your agenda, which likely does reflect the views of much of your constituency, but it doesn't take into account the wishes of your opposition, who's numbers are at least equal to those you represent.

I would also like to add that this is the 21st century, and email has been the norm for comments and conducting business for the last 20 years or more. It seems to me that your refusal to accept emails, is simply an attempt to limit public comment. But when 190 people write letters anyway, you simply cast them off as "only representing 2% of the population." Well then, here is another one for you to cast off.

Sincerely,

Eric Trenbeath
Moab, Utah

to County Council members,

I am writing to express my opinion on the three public-land map alteratives created by the county subcommittee to designate future possible uses of public lands.

Contrary to Lynn Jacksons belief that these alternatives present a balance of perspectives what I hear is three pro-development proposals that all lack F.S. land protection for our watershed, prohibit any future federal use of the Antiquities Act to designate national monuments in Grand County, and include the approval of feasibility of the Sego Cyn transportation corridor which will become a haul road for toxic fracking products. This is balance? Kiley Millers Moab Sun comments on the "decorum" of behavior accepted at the public hearing point out the lack of balance in the County Council.

I feel totally unrepresented by the County Council members, the Sagebrush Rebellion speakers and the kind of county officials like Phil Lyman (San Juan) who will illegally lead a offroad vehicle caravan into Recapture Canyon on an illegally built "road".

I do NOT support ANY of the 3 proposed public-land map alternatives.

You all can do better to represent your constituents.

RECEIVED
MAY 07 ....
BY: KW

Jeannine Wait
registered voter, Grand County, Ut

5/7/2014

• • •

David Short
HC 64 Box 1715
Castle Valley UT 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY:

Grand County
Attn: Public Lands
125 E Center Street
Moab UT 84532

RE: Bishop Public Lands Initiative

I endorse the Grand County Land Alternative #1 because it has the least wilderness.

My personal view is I would rather see public land auctioned off than be designated wilderness. Private ownership would bring in tax revenue to the county and there may be a chance I may be allowed to visit the property.

I strongly endorse the Sego Highway. A paved direct route connecting Eastern Utah is long overdue and much needed.

Sincerely,

David Short

5/7/2014

• • •

Brenda Short
HC 64 Box 1715
Castle Valley UT 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: JW

Grand County
Attn: Public Lands
125 E Center Street
Moab UT 84532

RE: Bishop Public Lands Initiative

I endorse the Grand County Land Alternative #1 as it allows more land for the public to enjoy.

There are many areas of Grand County that are already inaccessible to humans simply because of nature itself. It is a beautiful and rugged land. I see no reason to limit access to more areas.

I endorse the Sego Highway. A paved direct route connecting Eastern Utah is long overdue and much needed.

Sincerely,

Brenda Short

Brenda Short

May 6, 2014

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

Grand County Council

Attn: Public Lands

125 E. Center St

Moab, Utah 84532

Thank you for allowing us to voice our opinion on the Public Land Proposals. I realize that a lot of work went into the different proposals and I commend you on it. I am for multiple use of all of the remaining land in Grand County. I know this doesn't agree with any of your proposals but I feel we have enough land in National Parks, National Monuments, Wilderness and State Lands. We need to keep the rest open for mineral extraction and energy exploration so that we can increase the tax base that will help in supporting our schools and the infrastructure that it takes to provide for all the tourism that impacts us for ten month of the year. We need better jobs and more jobs that industry could provide if they had the chance to come into the area.

I am sure you are aware that no matter how much you give in to the environmentalists it still won't be enough. They will still come back and want more tied up in wilderness, expand the Monuments and the National Parks until they have it all. They have the money behind them and can hire people to keep up the pressure and write the letters until they get their way. The individuals who are for multiple use do not have the money or the organization to represent their interests like they do. However I feel there are just as many of us as there are of them. We are just not as vocal and organized as they are. They won't admit it but tourism causes a lot more pollution than mining, Potash, or drilling.

If I had to choose on one of your proposal I would choose the one with the least amount of impact on multiple use of all lands.

Sincerely,

Leon B. Behunin

Leon B. Behunin

4235 Heather St.

Moab, Utah 84532

Bruce Keeler
HC 64 Box 2812 78 Bailey lane
Castle Valley, UT 84532
259-2298

RECEIVED
MAY 07
BY:

Grand County Council re. Bishop Initiative Options
125 E. Center St.
Moab, UT 84532

Grand County Council,

The three options presented by the Council for the public to consider are pretty far off the mark. Option #1 is basically a take back by those who want no restrictions on any type of extraction industry in Grand County and want the clock turned back about 20 years. With Option #1 on the table Option #2 should be completely discarded and Option #3 should become the middle option or Option #2, this being the most inclusive of all points of view. Option #3 should become the Red Rock Wilderness Proposal because of it's heavy protectionist perspective. This would have given the community a better choice allowing for the diverse perspectives of our community. Instead we were given choices heavily loaded for a free for all for the extractive industry disregarding the comments given by a large segment community(75% in the first round of public comments). We are a community with strong diverse opinions and the only possible fair plan is one that combines both perspectives in a creative plan embracing elements of the interests of the whole community as the Bishop Initiative envisions, not the winner take all approach we have been given. This said I would like to add that none of the options can stand as they are written.

I suggest using Option #3, as presented by the Council, as the base proposal. Include language to protect our watersheds on the La Sals with the Forest Service, create buffers around the National Parks to set back extraction and protect our tourist industry and add protection for the areas along the Green River from Spring Canyon Point up river toward Ruby Ranch. Remove all language demanding that the Antiquities Act be off the table for Grand County. The last point is the Sego Canyon Book Cliffs Highway. This proposal has been handled in the a less than forthright fashion. First we are told by the Council that we need to be part of a study with Uinita County to see if they are interested and that this is just to see if there is interest. Almost immediately that announcement is followed by one that we are now joining a UDOT study and are once again ensured that there is no commitment or that a road is that is safe and stable can be built. The next step is that the road with no studies is included in all three of the counties proposals designating Sego Canyon as a route with no more process than being included in a study, that has not yet taken place. Until a study is done this proposal should not be included in any proposal.

What I see is the potential for furthering the battles over the use of Federal land in Grand County by the way the Council is dealing with the Bishop Initiative rather than the intent of the Initiative which is to come to a middle ground. There is an impression information is being withheld or misrepresented as examples; the handling of the Sego Canyon Road study with it's implied but not stated connection by rail from the road to Green River to a proposed refinery, the suggestion that the Forest Service should be dealt with separately in relation to water shed protections, that a wealth of local non service industry jobs will be created by any of this extraction activity and from the beginning the limiting of how the comments can be given to the Council.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bruce Keeler

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this letter in response to the Grand County Commissioners "Bishop Lands Recommendations".

I find that the three proposal options brought forth by the Grand County Commissioners are unacceptable. They are far reaching and unnecessary. I'm tired of compromising and giving into special interest groups that are unwilling to compromise and have no tolerance for anyone's opinion other than their own.

As of a February 8, 2012 in a Congressional Research Service Report, Utah State ranks 2nd in the Nation for Federally Owned Acreage by State at 66.5%, behind Nevada 1st at 81.1% and just ahead of Alaska 3rd at 61.8%. If you compare that to Texas at 1.80%, Iowa at 0.30%, and New York State at 0.70%...Utah has done its fair share!! How much will be enough? We have done too much compromising. Enough is enough and it's time for the silent majority to stand up and be heard.

Let's look at a few more numbers here. According to the same Congressional Research Service Report from 2012 here is the brake down of Federally controlled land within the state of Utah by agency and acreage: Bureau of Land Management 22,854,937 acres, United States Forest Service 8,207,415 acres, National Park Service 2,097,106 acres, Department of Defense 1,766,260 acres, and Fish & Wildlife Services 107,885 acres. That's a total of 35,033,603 acres in a state of 52,696,960 acres. Compare that to the state of Texas with a total of 2,977,950 acres of Federally controlled land in a state with 168,217,600 acres of total land mass. In the same report it was stated that from 1990 to 2010 there was a 4.3% increase of federally owned land within our state...that is an additional 1,451,025 acres grabbed by the Feds within a ten year period.

In a separate report produced by Utah Governor Gary R. Herbert's Office of Planning and Budget...it was stated that of the nearly 85,000 sq. miles of surface area in Utah 17,884 sq. miles are in private ownership...only 21% of the State of Utah is privately owned by its citizens. That is outrageous. Why are we even considering handing over more land?

When you begin to take a closer look at the numbers it becomes very apparent that there is a vast imbalance in the area of land ownership. The state of Utah has far exceeded it's responsibility in land management. Therefore I believe that we as a State must begin demanding that the federal government begin looking at viable ways to start the process of returning the land back to the state of Utah and it's citizens.

For 116 years, we've been reduced to less than 30 percent of our land, making it tough to support our education system which relies on property tax. Federal and Native American lands, which occupy 70 percent of our state, are not taxable. For example, Grand County has only four percent privately-owned land to help fund schools. Compare that to eastern states which have little or no public lands and highly funded schools. It's time for us to begin using a common sense approach to these issues. There is gross poverty in our community and a true lack of economic diversity. Our families and our children should have the economic opportunity to live and work here year around. I approve the development of a diversified industry allowing a stronger economy and tax base for our struggling community.

I support leaving a portion of our public lands open to energy development along with other portions being managed for recreational activities. I support the recommendations to create a new transportation corridor through Sego Canyon and designate the 2 mile wide (18,145 acres) transportation corridor on federal lands from State block to I-70 and transferring it to Grand County under RS 2477 allowing another form of tax revenue and added tourism. I also support oil and gas exploration and drilling, along with mining on our local public lands.

It was more than clear to see in the last County Commissioners meeting for "Bishop Lands Recommendations" that there was an overwhelming majority of County Residents opposed to any new land being handed over to the Federal Government. All of the 300 plus in attendance may not have gotten up and spoke but you heard the overwhelming positive response to the residents opposing the land grab.

So in conclusion you can consider me as one of the many Grand County Residents opposed to any of the three recommendations and request that you take action in addressing the Federal imbalance within our county and immediately start the process of getting our land back. Enough is enough!!

I will be paying close attention to this matter and other issues being heard before the County Commissioners and other elected officials. If I feel you do not represent me and my best interests I will be voting accordingly in the future. I will no longer be part of the silent majority.

Sincerely,

David Weeks

301 Crestview Dr.
Moab UT 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2013
BY: VW

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Sincerely,

301 Crestview Dr.
Moab, Ut. 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 07
BY: lw

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Sincerely,

Brithie Ellis
Brithie Ellis
4905 Sunny Acres
Moab Ut 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

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Sincerely,

Carolyn S. Tibbitt
497 Juan Ct.
Moab, Ut 84532

Although this is a form letter
I agree with all points.

April 29, 2014

RECEIVED MAY 07 2014

RE: Bishop Lands Recommendations

TO: ~~Fred Ferguson Legislative Director Rep. Rob Bishop~~ Grand County Council

I am writing this letter in response to the Grand County Commissioners "Bishop Lands Recommendations". I find that the three proposal options brought forth by the Commissioners are unacceptable. They are far reaching and unnecessary. I'm tired of compromising and giving into special interest groups that are unwilling to compromise and have no tolerance for anyone's opinion other than their own.

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Sincerely, Brian Elizondo, Rob Gri[illegible] 3 Lisa Olsen 4 Bill Olsen

Kenneth L Sam[illegible] Joe Acuda[illegible]

Constituent

This letter in its entirety are excerpts taken from a letter written by Joe Day who gave we, the people, the permission to repeat in part or whole his personal writing.

Linda Robinson

Debra L. Hopkins
Sean Hatton
Sarah Hatton
Mary McKee
Betty Pearson
Georgia Mitchell
[illegible]
Rhonda Miller
Alessandra Flores
Melissa Brown
Jenna Rhodes
Jessica Jerrin Storrs
Elaine M. Pitchford
Yvonne Hawkins
Cheryl Sanchez
[illegible]
P. Todd McKee
Debbie J. McKee
Paul E. McKee

Lee Rimel
91 Saddle Drive
PO Box 309
Edwards, Co 81632
leerimel@gmail.com

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: [illegible]

Grand County
ATTN: Public Lands
125 E. Center St
Moab, UT 84532

May 7, 2014

This letter is written from the perspective of a tourist who has visited Moab since 1968. In that year the mining industry, Uranium, had collapsed. Moab for all purposes was in economic ruin, properties (residential & commercial) were vacant and citizens were leaving.

Brilliantly, Grand County & Moab, realized the economic value of tourism, recognized your magnificent red rock, sandstone, canyons, bluffs, rivers

and streams were a quality & uniqueness that people from around the world wanted to visit. You all together magnificently created a natural heaven that allows us all to enjoy this special place on Mother Earth.

Extractive industries, mining & drilling, on the other hand disrupt the enjoyment we come to Moab to experience, come to Grand County to admire.

Some argue higher mining paying jobs — NOT SO! Man & Guist in infrastructure requires:

Engineers
Mechanics
Electricians
Plumbers
HVAC Technicians
Accountants
Attorneys
Construction Workers:
Carpenters

Concrete Workers
Stone Masons
Tile Setters
The list goes on & on

Tourism pays well, requires highly skilled workers in addition, of course, to the maids, restaurant workers & general all around laborers.

Please in your decision making process RESPECT the already significant prosperous and friendly economy you have created.

Those who proclaim mining provides jobs can apply for one of the many job openings already available in Grand County.

Thank You.
1968 to 2014
46 Years Enjoying
Moab & Grand County

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

Regarding the Bishop Proposal for Land Use in Grand County:

For the past month I've spent a great deal of time informing myself about this proposal for Grand County. I'm over-whelmed by the plan and its' three alternatives that have been presented to us for consideration. The three alternatives are not to be decided on easily, and I think the amount of citizen input necessary to create such an important master plan for our area, was lacking. The Recreation Industry, Extraction Industry, National and State Stakeholders, and Government were all listened to, but the people who actually live in Grand County, are hardly even aware of the discussion.

However, after studying maps that DO show the amount of roads, trails and real mining and gas operations that are and will be in Grand County's future without designating NEW PLANS, or creating new restrictions, I came to the conclusion that we aren't even dealing with the development we have now. The Extraction Industry and the Recreation Industry have hardly been hindered by a "lock-up" of Wilderness Lands. It seems we are experiencing a "Boom" in both areas. A boom that is out of control. I'm not sure that Mr. Bishop's intent is to further regulate, control, or organize (which I think would be a good thing) the mess that we have now. When all is said and done, these plans, mostly done for political reasons in my opinion, are only adding fuel to the fire.

Water quality and air quality were not addressed. The LaSal Mountains and our watershed were not included in the proposals. The economic and community impacts that will be coming to Grand County with more growth were not addressed. The Road to Vernal, Tar Sands, and possibly a refinery at Green River, would have serious effects on Grand County, and this was given little thought.

Sorry. I appreciate the work that the County has done to put this proposal together. I know how much work it involved. I don't think the proposal is adequate for the future that we face.

Carrie Bailey
46 South 200 East
Moab Utah

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

5/7/14

County Council.

When considering the Bishop Land use plan from Grand County I would like specific attention paid to the porcupine Rim Trail that goes thru a portion of the Negro Bill Wilderness Study Area. If this area would become Wilderness. This important Mt. bike Trail should be "cherry stemmed" thru the wilderness area, or a "corridor should be maintained for this economically very important trail.

Thank you for considering and including important "Details" in your decision.

Sandy Freethey
1090 N. Kayenta dr.
Moab, Ut. 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY:

May 7, 2014

Re: Bishop alternatives

Dear Grand County Council,

I am against all three land use alternatives. Even your alternative #3 does not go far enough to protect wilderness.

The argument in favor of oil and gas development always comes down to jobs. ONE answer in reply to tenfold reasons for protection. Where are the facts supporting these jobs? If we're going to sacrifice so much, we better get the facts down. How many jobs are there? How long will these jobs last? How much of the local population will fill these jobs? How committed to PEOPLE are these corporations? We've seen it here numerous times: corporations change hands or mills/rigs shut down, leaving that new worker with only a the bright shiny new truck PAYMENT or comfortable new MORTGAGE. Yes, there is a poverty issue here in Grand County, it will not be solved by the oil and gas industry.

The Sego Canyon road proposal was slipped into all three alternatives like pork in a bill in Congress. The vast majority of the 180 comment letters were pro-conservation, how did the possibility of building a road through the Book Cliffs then end up in ALL of the plans?

With development, you are defacing this unique and beautiful land that has been here for MILLIONS of years. All in one generation, and all by only a handful of politicians (this County sub-committee and Bishop's office). It seems arrogant, disrespectful to the planet that supports us, and just plain selfish to me.

Put me down for alternative 4: go back to the drawing board.

Sincerely,

Wendy Hoff

Moab, UT

cc: Office of Rep Rob Bishop

5 May 2014

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

To the Grand County Council:

I do not support any of the 3 options presented to the public as part of the Bishop Land Initiative.

We need a 4th option, one that includes the Antiquities Act, and does not sell out the health of the citizens of Grand County with such pollution-producing activities as tar sands extraction.

Here are 2 alternatives to generate income in Grand County:

- Make the River Rd (SR 128) a toll road
- Attract some industry such as solar panel fabrication. It is inconceivable to me that we are not capitalizing on our solar potential. Should we leave this industry to other countries to generate prosperity for themselves?

I do hope that the Council is sincere in its stated interest in hearing feedback. Please prove to us that you are not simply checking off the little box that says "Held Public Hearing"

Thank you,

Alice Drogin

Castle Valley

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

May 7, 2014

Grand County Council,

I Marsha Marshall do not agree with any of the three plans proposed to the citizens of Grand County. The project concerning the Bookcliff's road was voted down in the late 80s. I listened to citizens' comments debating the consideration of such a project again in the public meeting and decided I am not in favor of this road. I am not in favor of our elected officials promoting or helping along a vision of strip mining or refining of oil so close to the gateway of many natural wonders. Tourism is our main industry. Many citizens make a living from visitors to our area. Heavy impact on the air, water or land could come back to haunt us. We live in a delicate desert area. It will be hard enough to organize and protect it from the tens of thousands of visitors coming here to explore it. There are other projects established in our area concerning, oil and mineral extraction we need to focus on keeping these orderly and safe as they start and close. I know it is difficult

to predict the future, but why take a chance with promotion of a project that could have a heavy impact on our area? Please do not support or help a industrial complex that does not blend well with tourism. Do not build a road to open the door to this drastic change. If this comes to pass we will have no control.

Sincerely,
Marsha Marshall

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

Comments on the Proposed Recommendations to The Bishop Public Land Initiative
May 5, 2014

I have already written a letter expressing what I would like us to include in our recommendation to the Bishop Land Initiative and the designation of wilderness—I want wilderness. And although the majority of letters written by Grand County residents in January overwhelmingly supported wilderness designation, the Grand County Council Wilderness Study Committee didn't seem to listen so I am writing again. And in fact, the degree to which they did not list was offensive. Do not dismiss these letters.

I do NOT support a road through the Book Cliffs. It is a terrible idea for our community. We do not need it. We do not need to help Vernal get its oil anywhere, nor do we need to further our impact on this unsurpassed wild land with more oil extraction. It is a divisive issue that seems to be tearing apart our community.

We have worked hard as a community to embrace recreation and Moab is busier than it has ever been. We are thriving. People are coming here to enjoy our incredible landscape. The hotels are always full, the restaurants are busting at the seams, there is not a bike or boat to rent on many weekends.

I work in the recreation industry and have had some clients actually come into our office to ask about/complain about all the oil rigs and motor sport vehicles they are seeing and hearing. One said he has come here for 20 years but would not be coming back. He said it is too loud and that the oil rigs are unsightly and marring the land and views. He wondered why we don't do more to protect the unique land that drives our economy. We need to preserve what we have NOW in order to maintain the success we have had a marketing ourselves as a vacation/recreation/ where everyone wants to go destination.

The best way to preserve this amazing landscape is through large amounts of BLM Wilderness. Therefore I do not find any of the proposed alternatives acceptable and urge you to seriously reconsider the overwhelming majority of letters written in January supporting wilderness and the repercussions to Grand County if you do not recommend more protection.

Sincerely,
Anne Clare Erickson

Anne Clare Erickson
329 Hillside Dr
Moab, Utah 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014

To Whom it May Concern,

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I find that the three proposal options brought forth by the Grand County Commissioners are unacceptable. They are far reaching and unnecessary. I'm tired of compromising and giving into special interest groups that are unwilling to compromise and have no tolerance for anyone's opinion other than their own.

As of a February 8, 2012 in a Congressional Research Service Report, Utah State ranks 2nd in the Nation for Federally Owned Acreage by State at 66.5%, behind Nevada 1st at 81.1% and just ahead of Alaska 3rd at 61.8%. If you compare that to Texas at 1.80%, Iowa at 0.30%, and New York State at 0.70%...Utah has done its fair share!! How much will be enough? We have done too much compromising. Enough is enough and it's time for the silent majority to stand up and be heard.

Let's look at a few more numbers here. According to the same Congressional Research Service Report from 2012 here is the brake down of Federally controlled land within the state of Utah by agency and acreage: Bureau of Land Management 22,854,937 acres, United States Forest Service 8,207,415 acres, National Park Service 2,097,106 acres, Department of Defense 1,766,260 acres, and Fish & Wildlife Services 107,885 acres. That's a total of 35,033,603 acres in a state of 52,696,960 acres. Compare that to the state of Texas with a total of 2,977,950 acres of Federally controlled land in a state with 168,217,600 acres of total land mass. In the same report it was stated that from 1990 to 2010 there was a 4.3% increase of federally owned land within our state...that is an additional 1,451,025 acres grabbed by the Feds within a ten year period.

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For 116 years, we've been reduced to less than 30 percent of our land, making it tough to support our education system which relies on property tax. Federal and Native American lands, which occupy 70 percent of our state, are not taxable. For example, Grand County has only four percent privately-owned land to help fund schools. Compare that to eastern states which have little or no public lands and highly funded schools. It's time for us to begin using a common sense approach to these issues. There is gross poverty in our community and a true lack of economic diversity. Our families and our children should have the economic opportunity to live and work here year around. I approve the development of a diversified industry allowing a stronger economy and tax base for our struggling community.

I support leaving a portion of our public lands open to energy development along with other portions being managed for recreational activities. I support the recommendations to create a new transportation corridor through Sego Canyon and designate the 2 mile wide (18,145 acres) transportation corridor on federal lands from State block to I-70 and transferring it to Grand County under RS 2477 allowing another form of tax revenue and added tourism. I also support oil and gas exploration and drilling, along with mining on our local public lands.

It was more than clear to see in the last County Commissioners meeting for "Bishop Lands Recommendations" that there was an overwhelming majority of County Residents opposed to any new land being handed over to the Federal Government. All of the 300 plus in attendance may not have gotten up and spoke but you heard the overwhelming positive response to the residents opposing the land grab.

So in conclusion you can consider me as one of the many Grand County Residents opposed to any of the three recommendations and request that you take action in addressing the Federal imbalance within our county and immediately start the process of getting our land back. Enough is enough!!

I will be paying close attention to this matter and other issues being heard before the County Commissioners and other elected officials. If I feel you do not represent me and my best interests I will be voting accordingly in the future. I will no longer be part of the silent majority.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Tillett
Moab, Ut 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

Dear Congressmen Bishop and whom it my concern regarding the Bishop Lands Recommendations;

My name is Colleen Tibbetts, I was born and raised in Moab. My family came to this valley in the 1800's, where they made a living through the cattle and oil industry. I too choose to live in this community. I have raised my children here, I worked for the Grand County School District, focusing on behavior students. I help design a behavior program that was recognized throughout Grand County. I worked in the district for eleven years, then I put in my resignation and went back to my roots chasing cattle / cowgirl / ranch hand. My family and many others in our community have been lifelong stewards of Grand County and doing an amazing job, otherwise you would not have so called environmentalists telling you how pristine and breathtaking our landscape is! (Note all the while driving to and fro.) I too would love to have this land to myself, just me and the cattle. However I realize that everyone is paying a fair share and should be able to enjoy the land. You have groups like SUWA or even the bicycle companies who are an entirely new type of elitist, they have the monies and the backing to keep certain types of people off public lands. These are the same groups who are major consumers of petroleum products each day, in many cases these persons use more diesel and gasoline than the majority of Grand County Citizen. How is it that a community that relies heavily on petroleum products not bear some of the responsibility and allow for drilling, etc.? I have seen it in my life time with Arches National Park, where cattle were removed, jeep trails closed, bicycles, hikers, and wheel chairs (that are given limited access), to keep on trails. What about our Military Vets who are wounded in war, or those with a disability? It seems incomprehensible that military men and women are willing to give life and limb, and there is a group of people trying to take the rights of many for the few enviro-elitist. I feel Moab has given its fair share to the Nation as a whole. I feel that we have been doing a respectable job, and don't feel that there should be more of a land grab. Drilling for oil or gas, mining, or cattle, does not destroy the earth, and I have proof. The proof is Moab has had cattle for one-handed thirty years at least, not to mention drill and mining for over sixty years. And Moab continues to be a beautiful place, we call it "God's Country." A community needs diversity, having "All your eggs in one basket," is a poor choice! Tourism alone cannot sustain a community, I've seen it in our school district. Families counting on two meals a day provided by, the free school lunch program. Tourism jobs are such low paying jobs, most parents have two jobs. Also remember tourism is a so called, "Boom and Bust," booming in the summer, bust in the winter. A lot of unemployed and impoverished families feel the burden in the winter months. The choices being made by a few will affect us all, and I see that this can effect myself, my family, my friends, and the community I have lived in my entire life. I work on a ranch where we raise All Natural Free Range Beef, the cattle run on public lands, private, forest, and in return we care for the land, care for the cattle, I don't feel it is my land, but I feel the responsibility to take care of it for the next generation. Please remember, that we have proof Grand County has been successful at loving and caring for our land, by the voices of the environmentalists they say it is absolutely beautiful, and we have known it way before they came here and when they leave on to the next project, the locals will still be here doing what we've always done, "Care for our environment."

Sincerely, Colleen Tibbetts

Colleen Tibbetts (One of the few, helping to feeding a nation.)

573 Nichols Ln.

Moab, UT

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: (W)

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I find that the three proposal options brought forth by the Grand County Commissioners are unacceptable. They are far reaching and unnecessary. I'm tired of compromising and giving into special interest groups that are unwilling to compromise and have no tolerance for anyone's opinion other than their own.

As of a February 8, 2012 in a Congressional Research Service Report, Utah State ranks 2nd in the Nation for Federally Owned Acreage by State at 66.5%, behind Nevada 1st at 81.1% and just ahead of Alaska 3rd at 61.8%. If you compare that to Texas at 1.80%, Iowa at 0.30%, and New York State at 0.70%...Utah has done its fair share!! How much will be enough? We have done too much compromising. Enough is enough and it's time for the silent majority to stand up and be heard.

Let's look at a few more numbers here. According to the same Congressional Research Service Report from 2012 here is the brake down of Federally controlled land within the state of Utah by agency and acreage: Bureau of Land Management 22,854,937 acres, United States Forest Service 8,207,415 acres, National Park Service 2,097,106 acres, Department of Defense 1,766,260 acres, and Fish & Wildlife Services 107,885 acres. That's a total of 35,033,603 acres in a state of 52,696,960 acres. Compare that to the state of Texas with a total of 2,977,950 acres of Federally controlled land in a state with 168,217,600 acres of total land mass. In the same report it was stated that from 1990 to 2010 there was a 4.3% increase of federally owned land within our state...that is an additional 1,451,025 acres grabbed by the Feds within a ten year period.

In a separate report produced by Utah Governor Gary R. Herbert's Office of Planning and Budget...it was stated that of the nearly 85,000 sq. miles of surface area in Utah 17,884 sq. miles are in private ownership...only 21% of the State of Utah is privately owned by its citizens. That is outrageous. Why are we even considering handing over more land?

When you begin to take a closer look at the numbers it becomes very apparent that there is a vast imbalance in the area of land ownership. The state of Utah has far exceeded it's responsibility in land management. Therefore I believe that we as a State must begin demanding that the federal government begin looking at viable ways to start the process of returning the land back to the state of Utah and it's citizens.

For 116 years, we've been reduced to less than 30 percent of our land, making it tough to support our education system which relies on property tax. Federal and Native American lands, which occupy 70 percent of our state, are not taxable. For example, Grand County has only four percent privately-owned land to help fund schools. Compare that to eastern states which have little or no public lands and highly funded schools. It's time for us to begin using a common sense approach to these issues. There is gross poverty in our community and a true lack of economic diversity. Our families and our children should have the economic opportunity to live and work here year around. I approve the development of a diversified industry allowing a stronger economy and tax base for our struggling community.

I support leaving a portion of our public lands open to energy development along with other portions being managed for recreational activities. I support the recommendations to create a new transportation corridor through Sego Canyon and designate the 2 mile wide (18,145 acres) transportation corridor on federal lands from State block to I-70 and transferring it to Grand County under RS 2477 allowing another form of tax revenue and added tourism. I also support oil and gas exploration and drilling, along with mining on our local public lands.

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So in conclusion you can consider me as one of the many Grand County Residents opposed to any of the three recommendations and request that you take action in addressing the Federal imbalance within our county and immediately start the process of getting our land back. Enough is enough!!

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Sincerely,

Joe + Wilma Vanell
4607 Stooks Dr
Moab Ut.
84532

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2019
BY:

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Sincerely,

Julyan Dalton
711 S. 400 East
Moab Ut. 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: kw

The Bishop Public Land Initiative
Grand County Council Wilderness Study Committee
Lands Recommendations
May 4, 2014

The Wilderness Study Committee displayed a contemptuous reaction to the large majority of people (January 2014) who expressed support for establishment of significant amounts of wilderness in Grand County via the Bishop Public Lands Initiative, by defining the 80 plus percent respondents that spent considerable time and effort expressing their opinions as a vocal minority. The recommendations the committee offered up included three offensive alternatives, none of which approached the majority of respondent's perspective, and then adding insult to injury inserted language that would preclude future utilization of the Antiquities Act in Grand County in all alternatives. And it also included language that would lead to the opening of a transportation corridor right of way through Sego Canyon, which would inevitably open up environmentally disastrous tar sands and oil shale development. These latter issues were not included in the original discussion.

Writing yet another letter this time to comment on the study committee's disappointing product certainly approaches the absurd. It appears to me that the study committee clearly is not interested in making the Initiative move forward. But at the same time makes it abundantly clear the vital importance of future antiquities actions. Those actions may be the only logical mechanism of protection of wild land in Grand County worthy of Wilderness designation. This would result in more maddeningly restrictive and expensive national park service units, instead of inexpensive and lightly regulated Bureau of Land Management wilderness areas. Although that protection of some amount of this priceless and irreplaceable landscape would be preferable to any of the committee's recommendations. I urge the committee to reconsider the proposed alternatives before submitting any proposal to the Bishop Initiative.

Paul Frank
329 Hillside Dr
Moab Utah 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2015
BY: KW

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Sincerely,

Ryan Eller
4905 Sunny Acres
MOAB ut.
84532

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY:

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Sincerely,

Matthew E. Martin

Matthew E. Martin
3415 Tierra Norte Dr
Moab Ut 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

To Whom it May Concern,

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Sincerely,

Kent Dalton

EVEN THOUGH THIS IS A FORM LETTER I DO BELIEVE WHAT IT SAYS. I HOPE THE ROAD GOES IN SO MOAB AND GRAND COUNTY WILL HAVE A BETTER ECONOMIC BASE AND I AM VERY TIRED OF LOOSING MORE LAND TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

THANK YOU

Kent Dalton

711 SOUTH 400 EAST
MOAB, UT
84532

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MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

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Sincerely,

Sheila Martin
3415 Tierra Norte Drive
Moab, Ut 84532

May 7, 2014

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: VW

Grand County Council
125 East Center Street
Moab, UT 84532

Attention: Public Lands and the Bishop Public Lands Initiative

We want to respectfully urge the Grand County Council to consider:

1. **More time for research and study of facts needed**: This is a huge decision that could impact many generations to come. Please take the time needed to research and study all the facts and all of the implications the proposed changes will have before making any decisions. Facts are needed, not opinions based upon short-term needs and wants.

2. **Preservation and protection are essential**: The American Antiquities Act of 1906 (16 USC 431-433) has been an important part of government checks and balances for over a hundred years. Please do not disregard the value of the Antiquities Act and the importance of its ability to preserve irreplaceable treasures for generations to come.

3. **Water and air quality are of primary importance**: There is very little room for compromise when it comes to water and air quality. Any potential degradation of water and air quality in Grand County should ring loud alarms and raise huge red flags. Water and air quality need to be top priority over any short-term gains.

Sincerely,

David Wilson
Theresa Wilson

David and Theresa Wilson
464 E. Center Street
Moab, UT 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

To Whom It May Concern regarding the Bishop Land Proposal,

First of all, I want to thank you for your time spent in working on a solution to the never-ending land grab.

Although I truly believe your intentions were well meant, I believe that any of these proposals would be a grave mistake. While the Sego Canyon road is something that I agree with, it is time to stop locking up land. We have already given so much to make the environmentalists happy. This has been an issue for years. Although compromise sounds great in theory, it will never make them happy. If we agree on any one of these maps, they will never stop until we give them more and more. We need to take action now. I do not want my kids to have to fight this fight.

My children deserve a chance to grow up in this community and have the opportunity to stay here and raise their children if they choose to do so. If we rely solely on tourism, they will be unable to do this.

This town was founded on industry. We have taken good care of our land and continue to do so.

Please fight to keep our lands open to multiple use.

Thank You,

Darrin Tangren

783 Blue Heron CT Moab

To Whom it May Concern,

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Sincerely,

Natalie Butler Ford

RECEIVED
MAY 07
BY: KW

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My children deserve a chance to grow up in this community and have the opportunity to stay here and raise their children if they choose to do so. If we rely solely on tourism, they will be unable to do this.

I do not understand why we are even in this situation again. The Sagebrush Coalition spent countless hours over a year ago gathering almost 2000 signatures against the Greater Canyonlands National Monument Proposal. We are the silent majority.

This town was founded on industry. We have taken good care of our land and continue to do so.

Please fight to keep our lands open to multiple use.

Thank You,

Sandy Tangren

Sandra L Tangren

783 Blue Heron CT Moab

LIVING RIVERS
COLORADO RIVERKEEPER®

PO Box 466 • Moab, UT 84532 • 435-259-1063 • info@livingrivers.org

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Grand County Council
125 E Center Street
Moab, UT 84532

Fred Ferguson
Legislative Director
Rep. Rob Bishop
123 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Public Lands Bill for Eastern Utah

Dear County Council and Congressman Bishop,

Thank you for inviting the public to submit written comments about the proposed public lands bill for eastern Utah.

Living Rivers & Colorado Riverkeeper is a non-profit organization based in Moab, UT. Our mission is to protect the water resources of the Colorado River basin, with special emphasis on the Colorado Plateau.

In our letter of January 17, 2014, our organization asked the leadership of the "Bishop Process" for a water budget to demonstrate to the public whether water is even available for all the proposed extraction industries in eastern Utah. In that letter we submitted significant evidence to conclude that the necessary water for these projects does not exist.

To further illustrate this point, as of May 2, other basin states are implementing mitigation strategies to avoid the consequences of diminishing reservoir levels at Lakes Mead and Powell. For example, the Bureau of Reclamation, California (MWD), Nevada (SNWA) and Colorado (Denver Water) are offering $9 million to fund water conservation programs in the Colorado River basin.[1]

While the feds and other basin states are initiating strategies to avoid curtailments with good faith and hard cash, Utah is spending their time and resources to develop water intensive mining/energy projects in eastern Utah; essentially dipping into the shared water pool of the

[1] http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/water-environment/new-program-pay-water-users-take-less-drought-stricken-colorado-river

Colorado River at the cost of others. Clearly, Utah's political leadership is intentionally generating bad public policy and ill-will with their residents and neighbors.

In addition to the jeopardy Utah is imposing on the water resources of the Colorado River basin, the proposed mining/energy projects will increase air pollution in legally sensitive areas, such as First Nations and National Parks. Moreover, these projects will increase greenhouse gases significantly and eliminate any hope of increasing the annual yield of water derived from high elevation snowpacks. Of course the quality of human life will diminish in step, and the region's biodiversity and water quality will likely crash as well.

The three alternatives set forth by the County Council are very poor choices. This preference for a paradigm of business-as-usual is why the Colorado River basin is now poised in a situation of water insecurity.[2] We strongly suggest that the leadership walk away from this process or, better yet, give the people an assured hope for a much more prosperous future by implementing a system of governance that would restore the health of this vital watershed. This would include an energy policy that provides infrastructure and jobs without exploiting the development of dirty fossil and nuclear fuels.

Sincerely yours,

John Weisheit
Conservation Director
Colorado Riverkeeper
Moab, UT

[2] http://www.nytimes.com/2014/01/06/us/colorado-river-drought-forces-a-painful-reckoning-for-states.html

Public Lands Bill Process

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

Dear Congressman Bishop.
I was born in Moab Utah in 1963 and have lived here every since, my family originally arrived in Grand County in the late 1800's and stayed here until there passing. My family and I have been the stewards of the lands of Grand County making our living from the public lands and while doing so doing everything in our power to take care of it at the same time. these are public lands and are meant to be used by everyone regardless of race, color or religion. There are groups that want to take the public lands that they have only known for a short time and lock it up for the use of a very select few. I ask that you fight for our public lands for all and that you will only support the very minimal amount to go to wilderness. With proper management our public lands can be used by all and still retain the beauty they have always had.

Thank you for your time.
Raymond Gregg Tibbetts
4th generation Grand County Resident

Raymond Gregg Tibbetts

To the Grand County Council,

I have been involved since the whole Greater Canyonlands National Monument was first an issue. I worked with the Sagebrush Coalition and petitioned against the National Monument with over 1700 signatures. I myself have reviewed the 3 proposals and at first was somewhat okay with the proposal #1. I attended the meeting on April 23rd and was appalled at how SUWA and the individuals who want more wilderness and no drilling or mineral extraction wanted more wilderness and that the 3 proposals weren't enough protection. With this in consideration I now am certain I do not agree with any of the proposals at all!! I would like to see it remain the same and more of our federal land be under the state's control. Thank you for your time and effort in this matter.

Sincerely,

Tracy Tibbetts Martinez

Tracy Martinez

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

To the Grand County Council,

I have reviewed the 3 proposals and I am strongly against all 3! I do agree on squashing the Antiquities Act! I am not agreeing to more land being locked up!! We need to keep this land open . Thank you.

Sincerely,

John Martinez

John Martinez

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

May 6, 2014
To the Grand County Council:

**In the interest of keeping this short and readable to the end, I have left out a lot of detail in the specific wilderness units that come in Part II, after the general comments of Part I. I feel I am uniquely qualified to comment on the wilderness character of Grand and San Juan County, as I photo documented many of the units in the Citizen's Proposal now before Congress. I would be happy to provide as much detail as you are willing to take in. Thank you for the opportunity. Please read! I hope this is a valuable and informative contribution to the process.*

PART I

I first came to Moab, or rather, the Needles District of Canyonlands National Park, in 1978, and was blown away. I've thought of Moab as my home ever since and have worked for the Utah DWR, NPS, BLM, USGS, USFS, SUWA, Redrock Forests, Rim Tours, Rim Cyclery, the Moonflower Market, and several restaurants, as well as starting 3 businesses over the years. I haven't made a killing, but I've made a living walking the land, and I've stayed skinnier than a camel and can still get through the eye of a needle.

The reason I continue to live, work and play in the canyons, mesas and mountains of Southeastern Utah is captured best in one word: Wilderness. It is one of the pre-eminent places in the world to experience the natural world untrammelled by man and the greedy, short-sighted, destructive plans of individuals not attuned to the whole.

That whole, the planet and all its creatures great and small, is in big trouble and is rapidly diminishing in grandeur, diversity, stability, abundance, and wildness/Wilderness, all because we have failed to respect the fragility, complexity and sanctity of life and husband our "resources" carefully. Southeastern Utah is one of those rare, mostly intact landscapes that happens to be stunningly beautiful and spiritually potent. We have a duty to our fellow Utahns, Americans, even all world citizens and the biosphere, to discourage activities that compromise this special place.

Most of our residents come for the land, not oil and gas or the short term, high cost wealth they produce. Moab is still a uniquely livable, healthy, natural place to live, though it has lost its quiet and dark skies due to inept failure to plan. We've also lost our ability to feed ourselves, including the vast orchards of delicious desert fruit, the green fields of alfalfa, the big backyard gardens. Let's focus on sustainability, not transience and boom and bust. Let's keep what we have, even improve it! Don't drill paradise! Husband the Goose that lays the Golden Egg!

We are currently at risk of loosing what makes Grand County so special:

- The County is not abiding by their promise, in the wake of FLPMA, to claim and use only the roads that it documented to the Federal Government at that time. We should revert to that road map, updating for what already exists that we all agree to keep.
- We are still cleaning up Atlas (the last boom) while proposing new toxic developments.
- Moab is over *carrying capacity*, a concept seemingly lost on the county (and the nation, truth be told), which is leading to a diminishment in the quality of life.
- There are numerous new threats to the public lands that we swim in, but oil and gas has to be the worst. We ignore solar and wind generation, the wave of the future, choosing instead to commit our resources to a toxic, short lived oil boom. The carrot of PILT payments and oil and gas royalties just make this situation worse (I know, these are sacred cows!)
- I respect and trust the Federal Government more than local government in this regard, as I have seen Grand and San Juan Counties not "getting it" that we have inherited a wealth of spectacular public

lands unique not just in the US or North America but the World. As a community we have had a hard time being good citizens of the world and still debate whether or not to preserve what's left of our ATV/oil&gas/cattle hammered public lands. Why isn't it obvious that we need to act to preserve what attracted nearly all of us to come here or risk losing the very thing we enjoy most about our home? Why are we willing to sell off our divine inheritance, our ancestor's birthright, for a quick buck?

It's the Golden Goose, both financially and spiritually, and we stand to loose it to those selfish, short sighted individualists who want to use it for destructive, exclusive, EXTRACTIVE purposes: their short term benefit at a huge cost to all other uses, including sustainable grazing, low-impact recreation, clean water and air maintenance, and just plain living the good life in a beautiful, sane, healthy and healing place.

Oil and gas is not booming in Utah, which produces 1.29% of the Nation's oil yet is much larger than 1.29% of the area. It's not even booming in Grand County, which last year produced only 3.1% of Utah's miniscule National contribution, or only 0.05% of US production. Yet we have seen the terrible swath of destruction being laid down by all the new wells and their associated roads, pits, pads, storage facilities, pumps and pipelines. Not worth it!

We cannot welcome all comers, regardless of footprint, and hope to retain the people that visit and live here that are too intelligent and sensitive to put up with living in a toxic energy zone. More people every year tell me they will not choose Moab anymore because the very peace they come for is gone.

I believe most citizens of SE Utah, Grand County particularly, pretty much know what they have and want to keep it. This means protecting the land from uses that will diminish the high quality of life we currently enjoy. I'll say it another way: Jeepers and dirt bikers barely notice hikers, but hikers can hear the jeepers and bikers coming a mile away! The enabling legislation for Canyonlands National Park refered to silence as a key and rather unique virtue. Grand County has done nothing to address the assault on this silence that its economy is embracing, and more and more of the quiet recreationists, and their money and social contribution, are thus being driven away. Designating wilderness will at least limit these assaults to the large percentage of the county that is not designated.

Quality of life in Moab is tied inextricably to the low-paying, steady jobs that have been criticized by those looking for the next get rich-quick boom. If the boomers do manage to be one of the few that get rich, chances are they may also get cancer and die young due to the very thing they thought would make them wealthy. We need to cultivate longevity in the careers and livelihoods of our citizens, not bring in a bunch of outsiders riding a boom that will then complain about the lack of jobs when it busts!

The problem with really nice places to live is that if it becomes very profitable, everybody and their monkeys wants to move there too. So if we want a sustainable, nice community we're going to have to be smart and make it a little difficult for people to be there, hopefully not by making their lives over worked and stressed out but by making it a place of low means, not quick cash.

Truly our health is our only wealth, and Moab is still a very healthy place to live, despite the dangers of living across the river from one of the nation's biggest toxic cleanup sites, the Atlas Mill. Besides that and the asbestos in our dump, we are pretty clean, thanks to citizen's efforts to kill the county's attempts to have a nuclear storage facility, a toxic waste incinerator, gas pipelines and well field east of Arches and another north of Canyonlands. Oh, you say that one made it? You can't have it both ways: eventually we will kill what makes living in Moab so good if we don't act to protect it. Like hooking up too many udder milkers, we will suck it dry, lose wilderness and our free, happy, easy lifestyle to the 'death by 1000 cuts' that Wayne Owens warned about when he first introduced wilderness legislation in Utah. Will we protect it, or lose it bit by bit, and one day wonder whatever happened to all those lovely, unspoiled grottoes where the canyon

wren sang and the seeps dripped and the bighorns butted heads. Some pioneers think it will never end, that the world is infinitely abundant. Currently every fishery in the WORLD is dysfunctional, to give an idea of the depth of the malaise that humanity has bred, through ignorance and selfish uncaring. Grand County has a role on this beautiful planet, and that, first and foremost, is to recognize and defend this uniquely spectacular canyon country.

What SUWA and the citizens of Utah have proposed for Wilderness designation is a start, but Grand County needs to take additional measures to insure the health of the lands that so many people are coming to see, primarily by LIMITING DESTRUCTIVE ACTIVITIES such as oil and gas exploration, motorized vehicle use, large events with big impacts, and just too much advertising. Slow, steady growth is good, but unlimited growth is the mantra of the cancer cell.

There are a few people who have not found it to be easy to live in Moab, and like all places, Moab is not for everybody. Sadly, they may need to move on. We cannot accommodate everyone or every activity that would like to be here. We are in a fragile desert and will lose what we have if we promote, expand and develop indiscriminately. The Grand County council had the duty to discover what the citizens want, consider it in the context of the nation's and world's interest, and work to protect those aspects, namely, wild, untrammelled, beautiful desert ecosystems and landscapes, that make this place what it is. People that want to recreationally chainsaw are not permitted in National Parks. Similarly, people should not be allowed to drill for oil and off-road in places like Mill Creek Canyon, Grandstaff Canyon, Fisher Towers, Mary Jane Canyon, Porcupine Rim, Bull Canyon, White Wash, 10 Mile Canyon... where people are in fact cutting down live cottonwoods for the fun of it. We are not talking about hands off every inch of public land. Resources will be used. But let's set aside the best, and wisely husband the rest for the enjoyment of ourselves and future generations.

PART II

Since I was part of creating the proposal, I stand 100% behind the Citizen's Wilderness Proposal forwarded by SUWA, The Wilderness Society, The Sierra Club and others. It is a modest proposal that closely mirrors the lands found to have wilderness character by the BLM. Specific area comments:

Book Cliffs – Kudos for including this spectacular functioning ecosytem that supports phenomenal wildlife populations. Get rid of the Sego energy corridor and protect valuable riparian and archeological/scenic resources. Utah will not develop State Lands in the Books without a HUGE fight that will again unite sportsmen, recreationists and wilderness advocates.

Mill Creek Canyon, Grandstaff Canyon, Behind the Rocks, Beaver Creek and Dolores Triangle - Thanks for including these precious lands in alternative 3. Please expand to the boundaries recommended in the Citizen's Proposal.

Porcupine Rim – 25 years living in Castle Valley taught me that the best, easiest way to get solitude and the exhilarating feeling of being in the natural world that thrives and evolves apart from the undue influence of man was to hike the arduous path up the 1400 foot south rim to access Porcupine Mesa. I've never even seen another person out there, despite many trips over the years. Why has the County left out this peak wilderness experience from their consideration?

Mary Jane Canyon – equally wild and slightly more difficult to access than Porcupine Rim, this is a unique wonderland in heart-red sandstone with a creek, waterfalls and labyrinths in convoluted serpentine slickrock. I once found a cowboy camp overgrown with cryptobiotic soil right on the creek that had the cans and charcoal sitting in the fire ring undisturbed for perhaps more than 50 years. Why hasn't the county included it?

Goldbar Canyon – shortly after I first came to town I went on a bike ride here on Summer Solstice. I headed up from Little Canyon and got lost in the magnificent and intricate white sandstone playground above the heads of redrock canyons cutting up to the Moab Rim. I spent the night shivering under a juniper tree, stripping bark off the trunk for warmth. I ran out of water and finally made it to the Portal trail and back to Matrimony Spring the next afternoon, exhausted but somehow invigorated by one of my most memorable wilderness experiences ever. Now there's an illegitimate jeep route and constant motorbike noise defiling this place due to negligence on the part of the County and BLM. Keep it like it was! Please include the Citizen's proposal for the Gold Bar Canyon Wilderness.

Labyrinth Canyon – Commendation on at least considering making the river corridor Wilderness. Please incorporate the detailed, thoroughly researched boundary put forward by SUWA in their inventory. Canyon rims are very valuable to wildlife that use the river corridor, as well as for humans seeking unspoiled views and experiences. Cherrystem roads you truly consider valuable, but don't create a spaghetti bowl of roads confusing to both users and law enforcement.

10- Mile Canyon/White Wash/Red Wash – It is a tragedy that this special, family friendly place has been neglected and sacrificed by the County and BLM. This rare and fragile dune system and riparian area would be fun and safe for kids and families if it were not for the crazed, lawless ORV use that has been ENCOURAGED by the BLM's neglect. Archeological sites have been compromised by ORVers, (personal and BLM archeo documentation), wetlands and cottonwood depressions have been severely compromised (personal documentation and research funded by SUWA) and amphibian and bighorn populations stressed by rampant, out of control ORV use. Soil loss, cutting and burning of live trees, weapons violations, sexual harassment and all sorts of lawless abuse are occurring because no official entity will take on the responsibility. Make these special places whole and safe again. Make them wilderness, as they were when I first arrived!

Bull Canyon – The obviousness of wilderness in Bull and Day Canyons occurs to anyone who visits these spectacular, fancifully articulated chasms in sandstone. No place in the world is more amazing than Bull Canyon (as Jack Bickers might say) but even its location within the short gap between Canyonlands and Arches National Parks has saved it from the pathetic little boom that has produced barely enough gas to pay for the infrastucture, exploration, servicing and ultimate "reclamation" of this area. Sadly, it will take much longer than my lifetime to reclaim the damage already done. Protect what's left of this National Park caliber area by designating Bull Canyon and Day Canyon in their entirety as wilderness. Or must the Antiquities Act again be used to achieve the will of the people?

There seems to be a pattern: anything close to communities, desired by industry or recreation, has just been left off your maps: the very places that are most at risk of being lost and yet are most accessible and beneficial to the residents of the county. What are you thinking? Do you think we want a town surrounded by dumps, oil wells and ORV sacrifice areas like Potato Salad Hill, the fate of 90% of shithole towns across the West, or parks accessible by foot trails and bike trails to everyone, like Boulder, Colorado?

Lastly, why have you not considered protecting our mountain watershed as wilderness? This is not a new technique. Many cities across the US are keenly interested and have protected their water supply and controlled flooding issues in this way. Why would these lands not be the first on your preservation agenda?

Sincerely,

Dan Kent

Daniel Kent 749 Bartlett Circle, Moab

WAYNE Y. HOSKISSON
MOAB, UTAH

May 7, 2014

Grand County Council
Attn: Public Lands Bill
125 E. Center Street
Moab, UT 84532

Dear Council members and Public Lands Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the three alternatives presented to the county for consideration. I think using the presentation of alternatives for the public to review and comment upon represents a new and improved stage in local government.

This letter should be considered in company with my previous letter.

Alternative 3 represents some movement in the right direction. Alternatives 1 and 2 fail completely as reasonable proposals for a solution to public land management issues that Rep. Bishop would like to resolve.

All three alternatives have some common problematic elements.

First, all three alternatives contain a provision for a one or two mile wide right of way through Sego Canyon. So far Grand County has merely signed an agreement with Uintah County to look at the feasibility of a highway corridor through Sego Canyon. Such a highway may not be feasible. The current road crosses private property and ends at Ute lands. Congress will be reluctant to grant such a right of way across private lands and particularly across Ute lands. Such a wide road corridor through two adjacent wilderness areas is atypical if not unprecedented. This concept of a right of way and possible highway were introduced to the public after the initial round of public comments. Thus the public did not have an opportunity to consider this in initial comments. This is a momentous idea and one with a long and controversial history in Grand County. The public needs to time to consider this proposal.

Second, all three alternatives contain a provision to eliminate the authority of the President of the United States to create new national monuments in Grand County. This is puzzling. The portion of Utah that Rep. Bishop has engaged in this process contains three National Parks and four National Monuments. When a recalcitrant Congress failed to fund the Department of Interior, Utah with the support of local politicians chose to fund the operation of the National Parks in Utah. Utah politicians never seem to learn anything from history. Boulder, Utah, changed its name to Johnson's Folly when President Johnson enlarged Capitol Reef NP. Grand County has an opportunity to make

the establishment of a new National Monument within the county by proposing a forward looking and visionary solution to public lands conservation. I believe it will be impossible for Grand County to propose far too little land protection and eliminate the ability of the President to remedy that problem in one legislative proposal. While Rep. Bishop may be sympathetic to such a notion I doubt he will be able to make it work in this current legislative initiative. He shepherded a bill through the House that would modify (but not eliminate) the authority of the President to create National Monuments. The bill has not and will not be considered by the Senate.

In my earlier letter I quoted and article that included a statement from Council member Lynn Jackson.

> "We need to get some level of assurance that if we in good faith do all this work with all these stakeholders, that we're not going to get a monument slapped on top of us when it's all said and done," Grand County's Jackson said.

The County Council has a long way to go to achieve that "good faith" effort that will prevent a new National Monument. The county will not be able to wave away the possibility of a National Monument without making that "good faith" effort.

Wilderness is inadequately represented by any of the alternatives.

America's Red Rock Wilderness Act remains on the roster of Congressional wilderness legislation. A version of it has been introduced in every Congress since 1989 when Rep. Wayne Owens (D-UT) introduced it. In the 1990s Rep. James Hansen (R-UT) introduced a very small wilderness bill for Utah. He eventually passed it out the Resources Committee for a vote on the floor of the House. Shortly after that he withdrew the legislation. He was not very good at counting votes. Very likely HR1500 (an early version of America's Red Rock Wilderness Act) would have been amended to Rep. Hansen's bill to create almost 6 million acres of Wilderness in Utah. Members of Congress from both houses sponsor the legislation with many members co-sponsoring the legislation. Unfortunately the Antiquities Act and the presidential authority to create National Monuments remains critical to the protection of deserving lands when Congress can stall action for 25 years. Utah is not the only place where wilderness legislation has been stalled. This is a political reality that will have to be dealt with at some point. An inadequate proposal with lots of unusual language and provisions from local politicians will be difficult to pass. A good enough proposal will be difficult to oppose. Depending on the Council's objectives it will need to weigh what will make America's Red Rock Wilderness and the possibility of a new national monument no longer a part of our future.

Dome Plateau, Lost Spring Canyon and WSA, Mary Jane Canyon, Porcupine Rim, Fisher Towers, Labyrinth Canyon, Horsethief Point, Hunters Canyon, Goldbar Canyon, Mexico Point, Survey Point, and Hideout Canyon are not represented in any of the alternatives.

None of the alternatives includes wilderness on Forest Service managed lands. No justification is provided. This appears to be an arbitrary decision on the part of the public

lands bill committee. The Grand Canyon Trust letter contains an excellent description of this problem. I support the GCT position.

Southeastern Utah and Grand County contain a unique and special place in the world.

On average, twice the population of Grand County visits Arches NP every week. Thousands more visit other portions of our county. Our unique landscape makes us very much the concern of people all over the United States and increasingly all over the world. We must find a way to accommodate the huge numbers of people coming here without destroying the lands they come to see. Wilderness is one very real tool to help control the impacts of a growing population. Society and civilization will not collapse or suffer if we do not now develop every energy source. But if we lose the remaining refuges from our industrialized society to the continual encroachment of human impacts society will lose something it will find difficult to replace. New York State has been attempting to solidify its wilderness holdings for over one hundred years. It has had a "Forever Wilderness" clause in the state constitution for 120 years. Texas has been attempting to expand its state parks system to accommodate the expanding population. In Grand County and Utah we have the opportunity to keep what is wild as wild, to keep the undeveloped as undeveloped. Along with few other states we have the ability to keep our heritage of access to huge areas of natural lands.

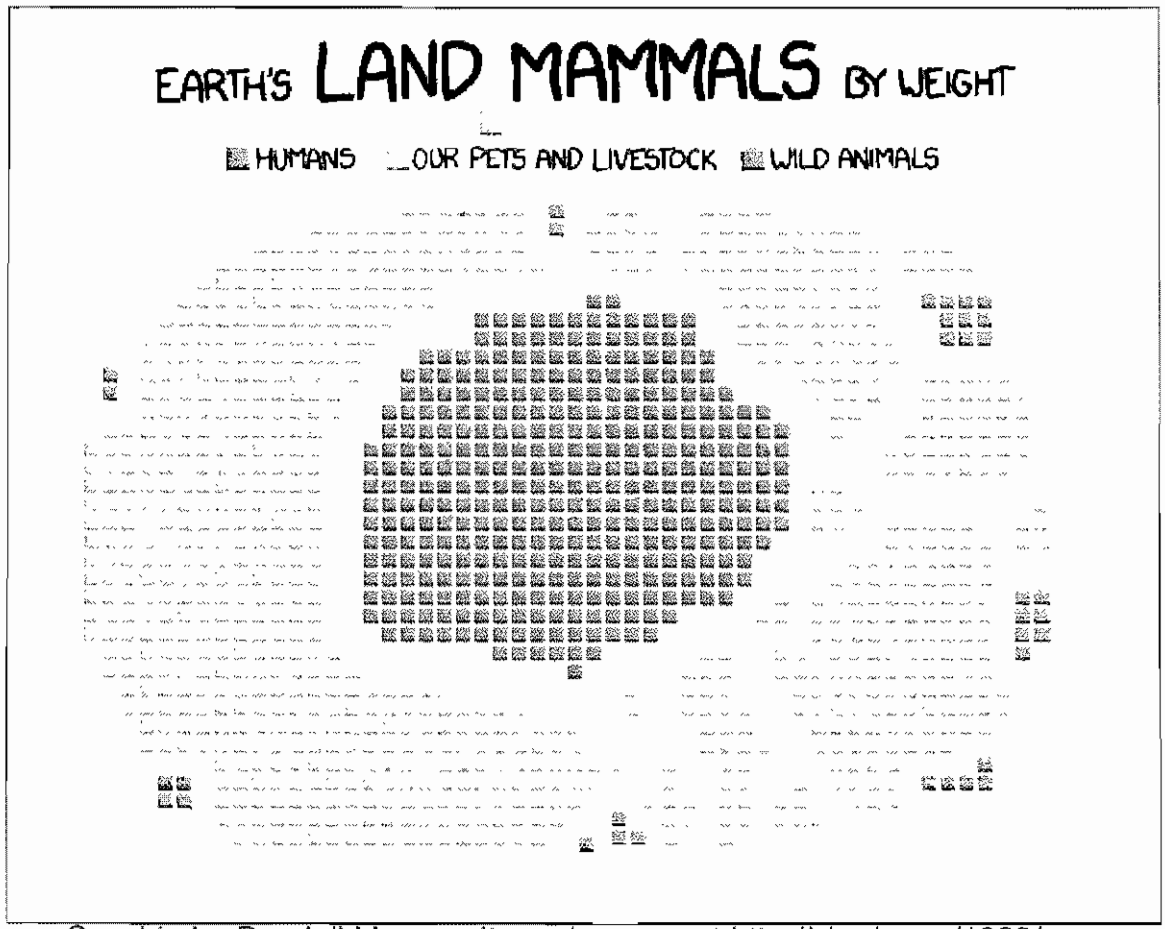
I belong to the Sierra Club. John Muir organized the Sierra Club in 1892. The Sierra Club has grown over the years and expanded its interest to the entire United States and beyond. Currently there are about 2.1 million members and supporters. I believer every one of those people have a legitimate interest in what happens to the public lands in Grand County. Members come to Utah often. Every year the Sierra Club sponsors service trips to National Parks and other places in Utah. Every visitor has a legitimate interest in what happens in Grand County. We cannot separate ourselves from the world we live in.

My letter of Jan. 28, 2014 included the following statement

> Conservation truly is the big picture for any proposal for public lands by Grand County. Conservation can mean a lot of different things but the aspect that is essential for Grand County to consider is not too difficult to understand. Conservation means protecting our land as it is today. This means not increasing the significant imprint of humans across all portions of this county and the nation. *This means managing the lands so that native plants and animals continue into the future in their natural abundance and distribution* (Emphasis added this time).

That statement is key to understanding the Sierra Club position on conservation and need for additional wilderness or other protective measures on public lands.

Sometimes it is difficult to grasp how extensive and intensive humans impact the world. Below is a simple graphic that displays the tonnage of humans and other land mammals on earth including domesticated and wild animals.



Graphic by Randall Munroe. It can be seen at http://xkcd.com/1338/

Humans impact the earth in ways that are difficult to comprehend. We must leave some of the earth as a refuge from our continual encroachment, especially if we want some portion to remain natural with abundant wildlife and the full complement of plants and animals that do and should live here with us.

Solutions?

No one expects that Rep. Bishop and Rep. Chaffetz will include all potential wilderness in their bill. Although I have been a long time Sierra Club member and leader I cannot speak for the Sierra Club on this without consulting with others. The Sierra Club will also consult with our partners before taking a position. I will make some tentative suggestions.

Grand County should reconsider what would be acceptable around Canyonlands NP. In particular it should look at areas left out of the original park designation. A combination of wilderness and other conservation measures in that area. More than the river bottoms need some kind of conservation provisions. The county should also look at lands along

the east side of Arches NP. It must include designation of the Lost Spring WSA at a minimum.

Grand County should consider National Conservation Areas for some parts of the county. You could even try something new such as a National Conservation and Recreation Area. There is no specific Congressional definition of either conservation or recreation areas. So this is an area where some creativity and flexibility could help create a workable bill.

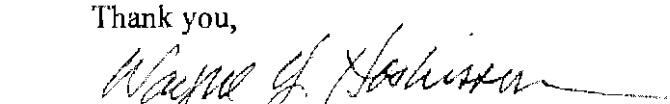
In Washington County conservation organizations accepted NCAs rather than wilderness in some places that seemed to have little threat of development. The county should consider proposing NCAs in areas that could be managed for some level of conservation through administrative determinations. In particular the county should consider an NCA for the Colorado River with some wilderness areas included.

The Moab and Castle Valley watersheds need a better level of protection. Wilderness on the La Sal Mountains would accomplish some of that. Expanding the Mill Creek and Negro Bill (Morning Glory) WSA to include the ARRWA proposal would help. Watersheds should be placed in national conservation areas with specific language to protect the watershed.

As suggested by the Grand Canyon Trust some Forest Service wilderness must be included.

The Grand Canyon trust also suggested that some means for resolving RS 2477 claims should be included in the legislation. I understand that Rep. Bishop is particularly interested in find a way to resolve this conflict. Recommending that legislation incorporate the current county and BLM transportation plans is not a means of resolving the conflict. Relinquishing RS 2477 claims must be tied with wilderness designations. America's Red Rock Wilderness Act acknowledges those claims with that may be valid. In light of the recent 10th Circuit Court decision on Salt Creek this assessment seems even more reliable that before. Many routes or ways, including seismic exploration lines, do not meet the standards needed to perfect an RS 2477 right of way claim.

Thank you,



Wayne Y. Hoskisson
PO Box 14
Moab, UT 84532

cc. Fred Ferguson

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this letter in response to the Grand County Commissioners "Bishop Lands Recommendations".

I find that the three proposal options brought forth by the Grand County Commissioners are unacceptable. They are far reaching and unnecessary. I'm tired of compromising and giving into special interest groups that are unwilling to compromise and have no tolerance for anyone's opinion other than their own.

As of a February 8, 2012 in a Congressional Research Service Report, Utah State ranks 2nd in the Nation for Federally Owned Acreage by State at 66.5%, behind Nevada 1st at 81.1% and just ahead of Alaska 3rd at 61.8%. If you compare that to Texas at 1.80%, Iowa at 0.30%, and New York State at 0.70%...Utah has done its fair share!! How much will be enough? We have done too much compromising. Enough is enough and it's time for the silent majority to stand up and be heard.

Let's look at a few more numbers here. According to the same Congressional Research Service Report from 2012 here is the brake down of Federally controlled land within the state of Utah by agency and acreage: Bureau of Land Management 22,854,937 acres, United States Forest Service 8,207,415 acres, National Park Service 2,097,106 acres, Department of Defense 1,766,260 acres, and Fish & Wildlife Services 107,885 acres. That's a total of 35,033,603 acres in a state of 52,696,960 acres. Compare that to the state of Texas with a total of 2,977,950 acres of Federally controlled land in a state with 168,217,600 acres of total land mass. In the same report it was stated that from 1990 to 2010 there was a 4.3% increase of federally owned land within our state...that is an additional 1,451,025 acres grabbed by the Feds within a ten year period.

In a separate report produced by Utah Governor Gary R. Herbert's Office of Planning and Budget...it was stated that of the nearly 85,000 sq. miles of surface area in Utah 17,884 sq. miles are in private ownership...only 21% of the State of Utah is privately owned by its citizens. That is outrageous. Why are we even considering handing over more land?

When you begin to take a closer look at the numbers it becomes very apparent that there is a vast imbalance in the area of land ownership. The state of Utah has far exceeded it's responsibility in land management. Therefore I believe that we as a State must begin demanding that the federal government begin looking at viable ways to start the process of returning the land back to the state of Utah and it's citizens.

For 116 years, we've been reduced to less than 30 percent of our land, making it tough to support our education system which relies on property tax. Federal and Native American lands, which occupy 70 percent of our state, are not taxable. For example, Grand County has only four percent privately-owned land to help fund schools. Compare that to eastern states which have little or no public lands and highly funded schools. It's time for us to begin using a common sense approach to these issues. There is gross poverty in our community and a true lack of economic diversity. Our families and our children should have the economic opportunity to live and work here year around. I approve the development of a diversified industry allowing a stronger economy and tax base for our struggling community.

I support leaving a portion of our public lands open to energy development along with other portions being managed for recreational activities. I support the recommendations to create a new transportation corridor through Sego Canyon and designate the 2 mile wide (18,145 acres) transportation corridor on federal lands from State block to I-70 and transferring it to Grand County under RS 2477 allowing another form of tax revenue and added tourism. I also support oil and gas exploration and drilling, along with mining on our local public lands.

It was more than clear to see in the last County Commissioners meeting for "Bishop Lands Recommendations" that there was an overwhelming majority of County Residents opposed to any new land being handed over to the Federal Government. All of the 300 plus in attendance may not have gotten up and spoke but you heard the overwhelming positive response to the residents opposing the land grab.

So in conclusion you can consider me as one of the many Grand County Residents opposed to any of the three recommendations and request that you take action in addressing the Federal imbalance within our county and immediately start the process of getting our land back. Enough is enough!!

I will be paying close attention to this matter and other issues being heard before the County Commissioners and other elected officials. If I feel you do not represent me and my best interests I will be voting accordingly in the future. I will no longer be part of the silent majority.

Sincerely,

James E. Tidwell

5-7-14

May 6, 2014

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

Dear County Council Members:

Thank you for the time and effort you put in for Grand County. My name is Roberta Knutson, I was born and raised here by my parents, Arnel and Myrtle Holyoak. I do not want this country all tied up in wilderness and limited use. Let me tell you a little bit about Moab when I was growing up and the reason I am against trying up the land.

In the 1940's and early 50's there were very few places in town to shop, a couple of motels, a couple of "Mom's" cafes and etc. College education was available to only a few of our Grand County students because there was no local scholarships available from successful industries. I'm sure you get the picture.

Up until the Uranium boom along with TGI (Moab Salt) and some mining, Moab was a small town of about 1800 people Then in the mid 1950's mining opened the door for many familes to move here. We gained a new hospital, new schools, churches and clubs that offered scholarships. We had new stores, such as , hard ware, shoes, men's ware, women's ware, drug store, postoffice, furniture stores, larger grocery stores, new motels, gas stations, doctors, dentists, parts store and various supply stores. Industry brought in the movies and commercials that brought hundred of thousand of dollars to the locals including children. I think you can see the picture. We no longer had to go to Grand Junction to get most of our needs met. Gee where have all the stores gone?? Now we have bicycle parts, spandex and china made trinkets and souvenirs along with many lodging properties. This tourism industry has provided many jobs for our locals but we need to be able to diversify not put all our eggs in one basket. Let's give all the locals that live in Grand County a good way to make a living whether it be by tourism related activities or the filming industry, mining, ranching, farming, manufacturing or whatever it may be.

I agree that some land regulations were needed and I believe most of them have been met. I don't agree with abusing the land in anyway however I know and feel that this earth was made by Heavenly Beings **for us to use**. **We have enough land tied up!**

I hear the cry "this is our land" I agree but it is for everyone and to be used to help us live a productive life.

Please keep the land and roads open for all to see and use. We have children that would love to come back home to be by families but due to very little industry in the area our children have to move to other places.

I say bring the Book Cliffs road, pipeline, industry and filming back to Grand County along with the tourists that would love to see this country, the old, the crippled, the young, the sick–all of us. Let's all remember that it's INDUSTRY that pays the taxes, and carries the biggest burden if we will let them.

Thank you
Roberta Knutson

Roberta Knutson

964 S Antiquity Lane
Moab, UT 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

May 7, 2014

Grand County
Attention: Public Lands
125 E Center St.
Moab, UT 84532

Dear County Council,

I would like to thank you for the public forum that you provided in which so many different viewpoints were presented. I respect the difficult situation that you are in with trying to find common ground and consensus among such variety.

My opinions stem from two main sources: the first that of being raised in Canyonlands National Park and Moab. My father was district ranger at the Needles and then transferred to BLM in the late 70's, The second is that of being trained as an engineer and as an accountant. The first makes me appreciate and want to protect but share our beautiful area; the second makes me look at the facts untarnished as possible by emotional arguments, look at true cause and effect, and evaluate cost vs. benefit.

I really think that the main consensus among those in Grand County is that we all love it here and don't want to see it change. During the meeting the other day, I was missing 1982. Back then we had the freedom to enjoy the area, explore at will most areas, and make a living from both tourism and mineral extraction. The impacts of the tourists were minimal, the impacts of industry were pretty isolated to certain localities. Both coexisted pretty well back then. I miss being able to drive to Angel Arch.

Since then, due to the influx of so many people enjoying our area we have had to make some concessions. Limits to off road travel, camping, and sanitation issues come immediately to mind. We realized that those concessions to our 'freedoms' were necessary to preserve the nature of our area due to the sheer volume of tourism. Mineral extraction has also made concessions to transportation routes, methods of extraction, and environmental remediation during and after exploration and extraction. Once again, maybe not ideal for the extraction companies, but necessary to help us all coexist in this area now and in the future. I think that the processes that we currently have in place do a very good job of balancing recreation and industry when it comes to protecting and preserving our unique environment. Times will continue to change, more people will come to visit and I hope more industry will come as well. I think the existing system can continue to make the sane though sometimes difficult decisions.

As such, I agree that although it is a non-binding resolution, Grand County should oppose Executive use of the Antiquities Act in the future. Every argument I have heard against that is based on a different time and completely ignores our current environment.

I do not know if I support a Sego Canyon transportation corridor, but it should be studied for Return On Investment. If the ROI will help fund a local college campus then by all means build it. Whatever is to be done will of course be in the best interest of the entire community. That it may *also* be in the best interest of industry, fine. Many seem to be concerned that it may be *only* in the best interest of the extraction industry. I do not believe the issue to be so one sided. I also do not believe that such a corridor would have any significant impact to our environmental quality locally or globally. If the ROI is great enough, build the road.

I support **no** additional Federal wilderness designations in Grand County.
This may be the most difficult area in which to achieve consensus and I think the problem is primarily one of semantics. I support wilderness. I support having wild areas for us now and for future generations to enjoy. I think most people misunderstand what Federal Wilderness designation really means. It seems that many of the people that come here to escape some urban blight think that unless the federal government steps in and declares an area to be protected as 'wilderness' that it will turn into what they came from.
In urban areas such as Chicago where I once lived, the only thing approaching nature was in select protected preserves. That cannot happen here. Our remote, arid, harsh landscape is self protecting from such development.
Yes, there need to be controls to use and development, but they exist in the current system. Fear of change is no reason to let someone who is far away and does not understand our situation permanently lock away vast tracts of land.

Please resist the forces that believe it is all black and white and are trying to lock away our country for some idealistic goal. Work to maintain the somewhat realistic system that we currently have. Do I always agree with the decisions that are currently being made? No. Do I always want to see tourism or extraction flourish? No. But I understand that stagnation would be worse. I would like at least one of my children be able to return to Moab and have a good life here. It is all compromise. The local process can see the history and understand that none of the issues are black and white and hopefully choose the best shade of gray.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kenneth G. Minor

Dear County Council,

I am against all 3 alternatives. I am a new resident of Moab, [redacted] and I am a nurse at the hospital. We relocated to Moab from SLC because of the clean water, clean air, the national parks and wilderness surrounding the area.

I just found out about the county proposal for public land and the 3 alternatives and was incredibly surprised and dismayed! I am against all alternatives because they open up a portal for energy development that could endanger the health of local residents if pursued and diminish the qualities of this area; in a sense turning this pristine natural land into an industrial site, destroying wilderness and recreational quality and all that we cherish.

We should not destroy our wilderness land to promote development of dirty, polluting and toxic energy deposits. ALL the alternatives promote development of dirty energy and destroy pristine wilderness and this is immoral and wrong on several different levels: degrades and endangers human health, promotes climate change, destroys wilderness, diminishes the countries limited recreational resources, uses up limited water resources, creates water pollution, air pollution, dangerous traffic, and degrades the tourism industry will be impacted.

Alesia Streipeka
801-419-9470
Moab, UT 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY:

May 6, 2014

RECEIVED
MAY 07
BY: KW

Grand County Council members,

I am writing in response to creating more wilderness and increasing the size of our National Parks.

Although I have worked in the tourism industry for over 21 years, I realize that the citizens of Moab need to diversify. If something catastrophic were to occur in the world today causing the National Parks to close or the travel industry to shut down it would be devastating to our local economy. Tourism is a wonderful part of our lives here in Moab but we could be so much better and protect ourselves by branching out.

When the Uranium mill closed in the 80's many of our local residents lost their homes and business'. Moab was practically shut down over night.

It is important to maintain a balance in all things and with over 90% of Grand County tied up in State and Federal lands it does make it difficult if not almost impossible for any other types of industry to thrive besides tourism.

Please do not vote for increasing any of our National Parks boundaries or setting aside any more wilderness. We need business to help pay the taxes and support our schools, county and city infrastructure. One good oil and gas well pays enough in taxes to give some considerable relief to our local residents.

We need to be aware of the tax burden that is being placed on the home owner as well and small business' in Moab and Grand County.

There is enough beautiful land set aside for us and our children's children to enjoy. Let's continue to promote multiple land use and give all industries a chance to survive in Grand County.

Please vote **NO** to any proposal to tie up more of our lands and **YES** to industries that create great jobs such as filming and responsible oil and gas exploration.

Thank you so much for the time and effort that you put into serving on the County Council. Let's be a diversified county so that we will not have to repeat the 1980's.

Respectfully yours,
Sandy Bastian

Grand County
Attention: Public Lands
125 E. Center St.
Moab, UT 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY:

County Commissioners,

My husband and I do NOT support any of the 3 proposals that would give any amount of land to the Rob Bishop's Proposal Public Lands Bill for Southeastern Utah.

We feel the interest groups that want to handle this land do not have the interest of our community in mind. We need a balance of bringing in more than tourism in our county so that our children can stay and live in this community.

We are tired of special interest groups with deep pockets coming in and deciding what is best for the assets we have around us. 64% of our land is already gone! That is enough.

Raye Lynn Robertson and Travis Robertson
475 Taylor Ave

Moab Ut. 84532

CANYONLANDS WATERSHED COUNCIL

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY:

Chris Baird
Executive Director
PO Box 1024
Moab, UT 84532
(435) 260-1431
chris@farcountry.org

May 7, 2014

Grand County Council
Attention: Public Lands
125 East Center St
Moab, UT 84532

RE: Bishop Public Lands Initiative

Dear Grand County Council Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the County's proposed alternatives for Representative Bishop's Public Lands Initiative. These comments are submitted on behalf of Canyonlands Watershed Council, a local 501(c)3 conservation organization.

We applaud the Council for accepting such a difficult undertaking. A public lands bill such as this can only be viable with comprehensive support from all major stakeholders. We understand the difficulty in achieving this level of support. We also understand that at this stage the County will need to make specific decisions with regard to its final proposal to Rep. Bishop. To that end the Canyonlands Watershed Council would like to present specific comments for your consideration on the below:

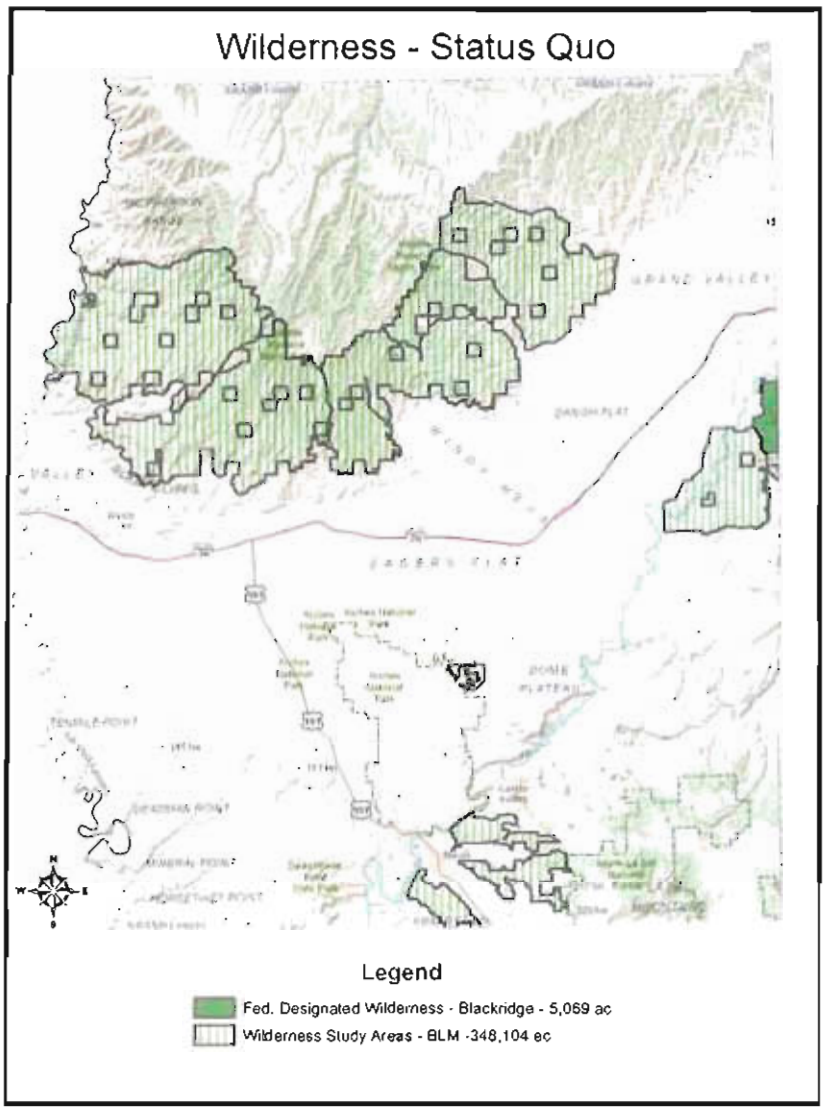
- Wilderness
    - Status quo review, alternatives review, additional proposals
    - Wilderness as watershed protection
    - Potential conflicts with industry
- National Recreation Area
    - Clarifications on protected lands
    - Potential Industry Conflicts
    - Potential conservation value
- Recreation
- Roads

- Antiquities Act
- Sego Canyon Transportation Corridor
    - Overview
    - Economic Growth Potential
        - Methodology
        - Reasonably foreseeable development scenario
        - Predicted economic benefit to local schools and government
        - Predicted jobs and their effect on local economy
        - Assessment fee for proposed use of haul route
    - Environmental and Conservation Concerns
        - Hunting
        - Surface Impacts
        - Water Impacts
        - Air quality impacts
        - Cultural resource impacts
        - Private property concerns
    - Canyonlands Watershed Council's opinion

Wilderness

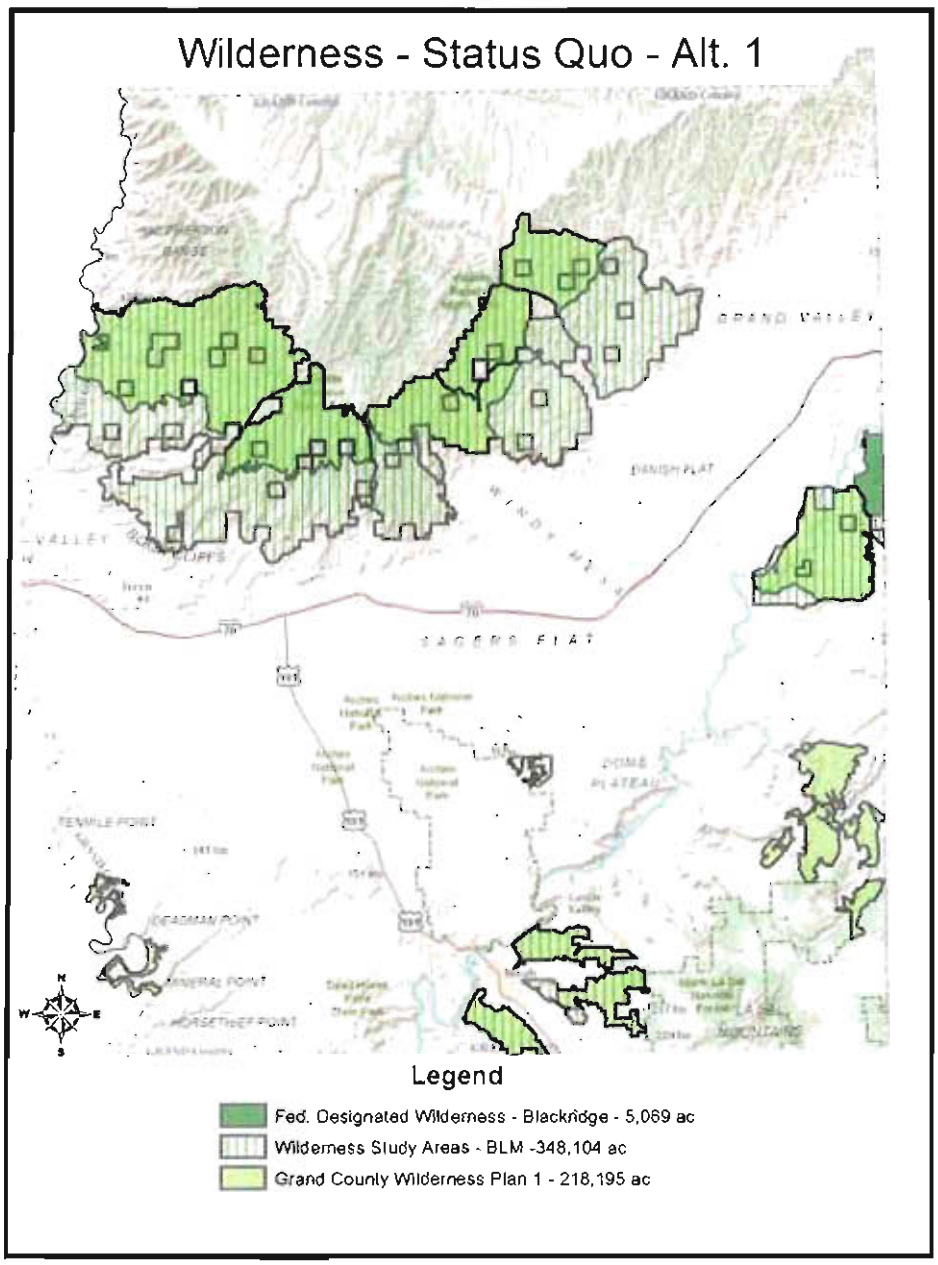
Status Quo:

Currently Grand Co. has one 5,069 acre parcel of federally designated wilderness, the Blackridge wilderness area. This parcel was part of a Colorado lands bill and is located near Westwater Canyon. Additionally there are several wilderness study areas that are managed as federally designated wilderness would be. The wilderness study areas were established between 1980 & 1983 and encompasses 348,104 acres.

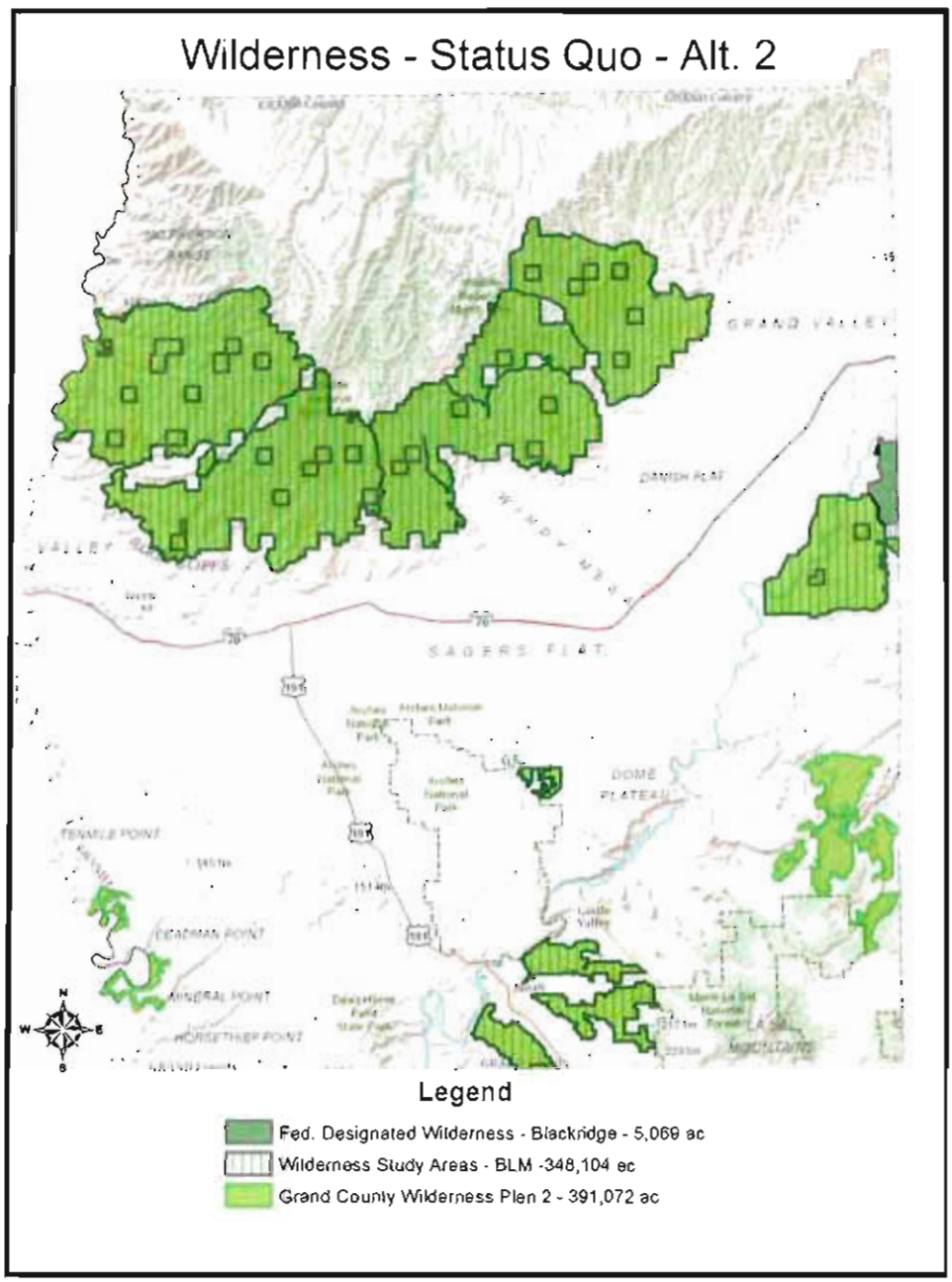


Wilderness Alternatives Review:

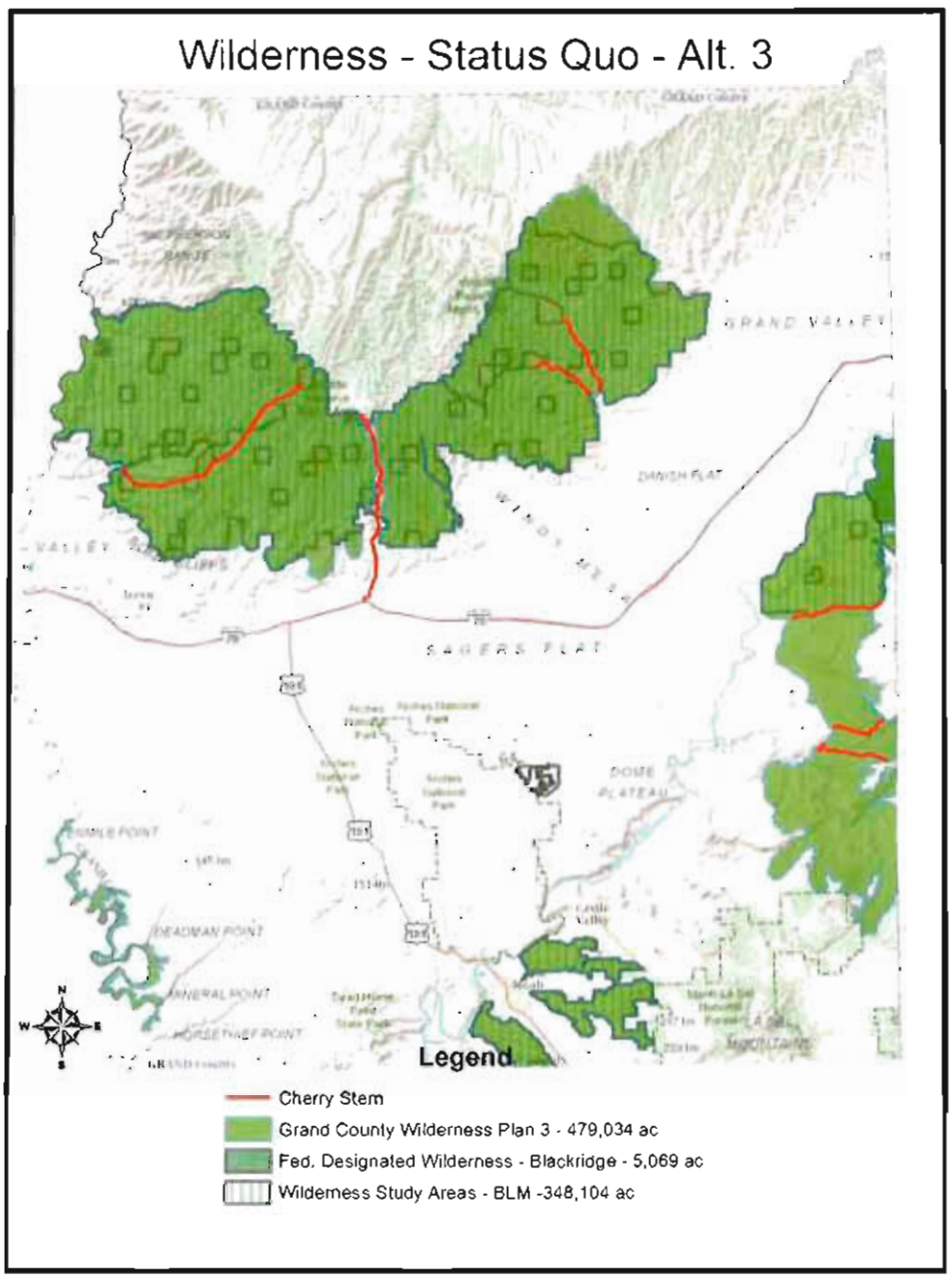
Wilderness alternative 1 proposes 218,195 acres of wilderness. This would reduce the status quo of lands managed as wilderness by 165,909 acres.



Wilderness alternative 2 proposes 391,072 acres of wilderness. This would increase the status quo of lands managed as wilderness by 42,968 acres. Primarily in the Fisher Valley/Mary Jane, Dolores Triangle, and Labyrinth Canyon areas.



Wilderness alternative 3 proposes 479,034 acres of wilderness. This proposal is not as fully formed as alternative 2. More explanation on next page.



The County's alternative 3 for wilderness contains a few anomalies that we suspect are the result of time constraints.

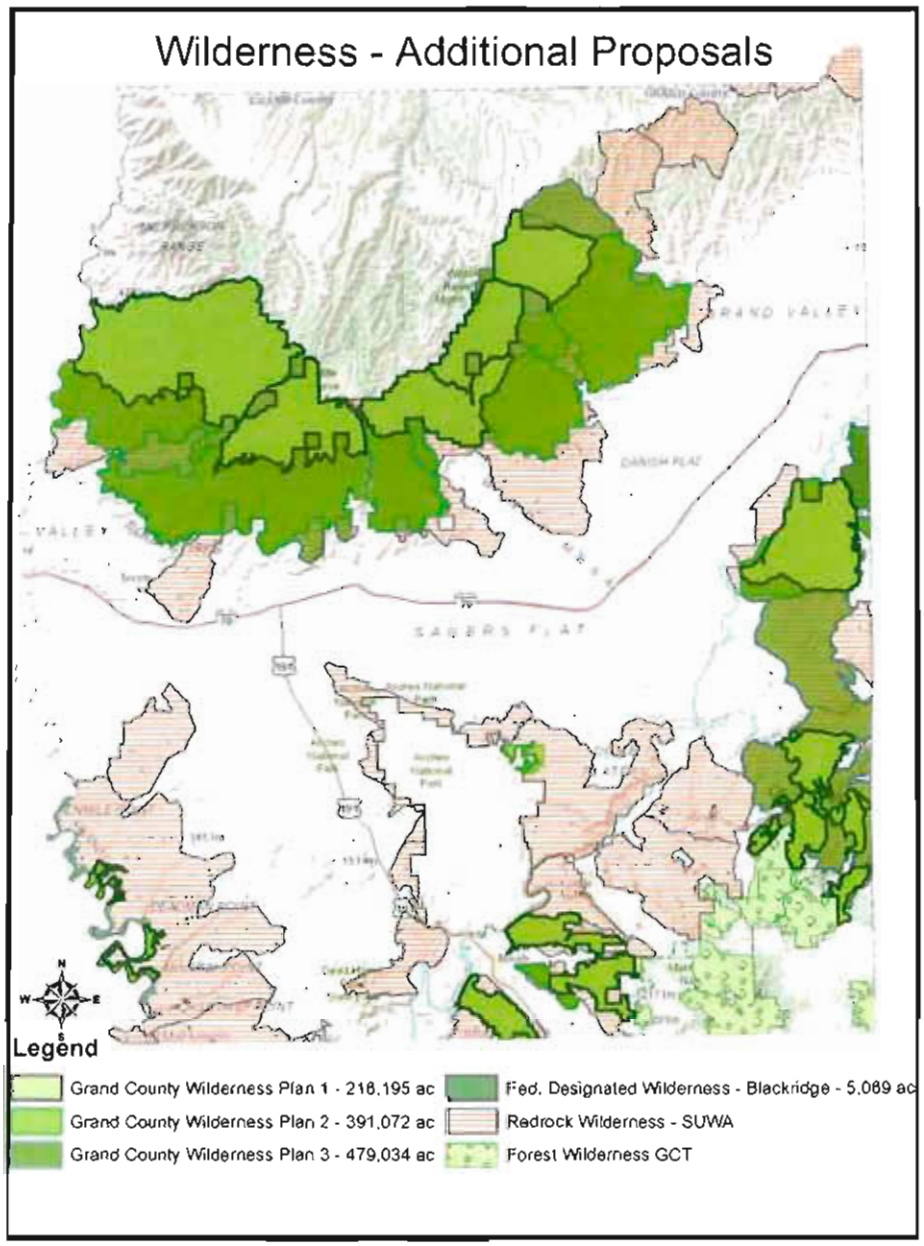
1. The 5,069 acre Blackridge federally designated wilderness area is being proposed for wilderness again. It is already wilderness.
2. The Lost Spring Canyon WSA (NE of Arches N.P.) is proposed for wilderness in alt. 2, but is not in alt. 3.
3. Alt. 2 makes many specific allowances for roads beyond the identified "cherry stems". Alt. 3 however, has not received the same level of attention.

We hope that these anomalies will be addressed. Alt. 3 can only be seriously considered if it receives the same level of attention as alt. 2. We hope that the County will seriously consider all of its proposed alternatives.

As alt. 3 stands, less the Blackridge wilderness area, it proposes 473,965 acres of wilderness. This would increase the status quo by 131,861 acres.

Additional Proposals:

The below map includes the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliances' "America's Red Rock Wilderness Act" as well as the Grand Canyon Trust's forest service wilderness proposal.

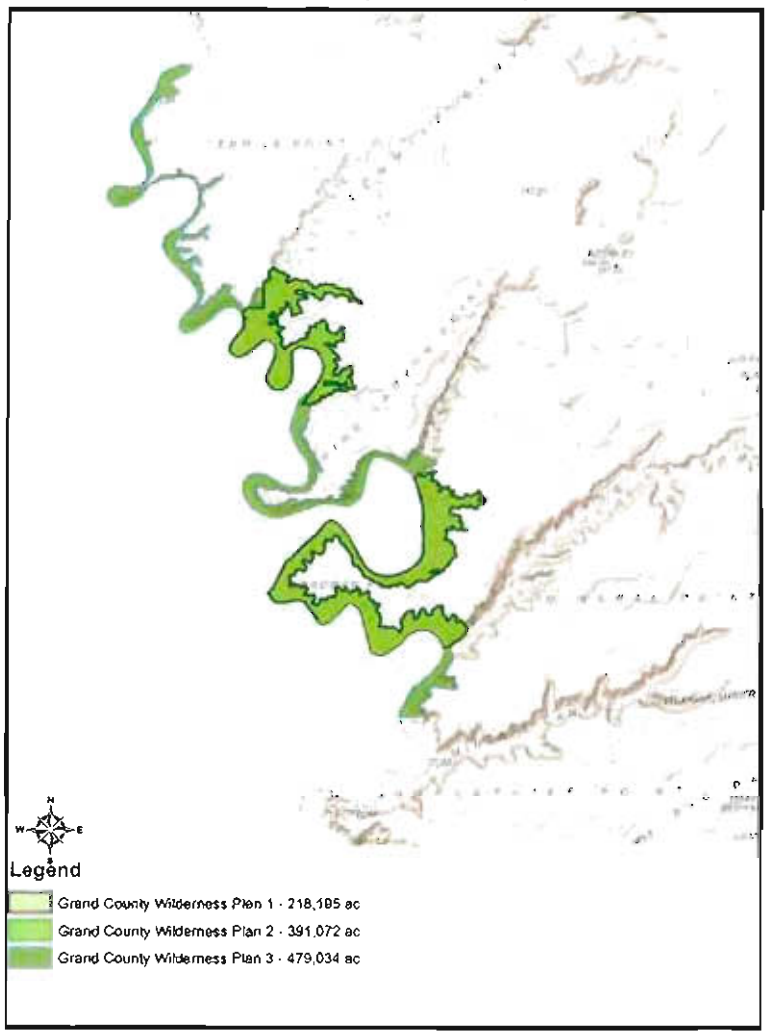


Wilderness as watershed protection:

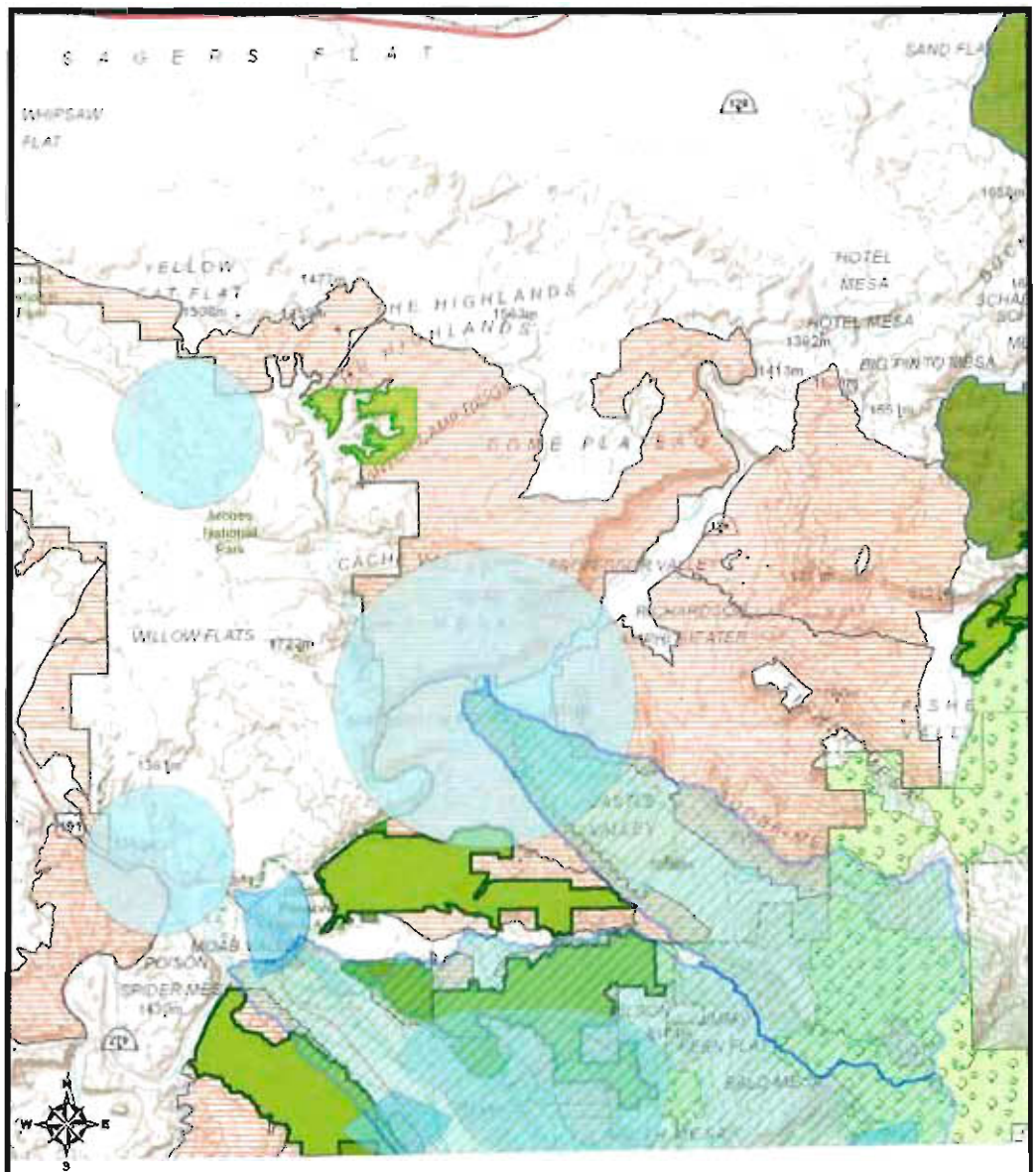
The Canyonlands Watershed Council, despite its name, is concerned with all facets of conservation and land use. However, we prioritize water related issues and so will restrict our wilderness requests as such.

We respectfully request that wilderness proposals specifically within the Moab and Castle valley watershed be considered for inclusion in the County's recommendations to Rep. Bishop. We also request that the Alt. 3 wilderness proposal be accepted for the Labyrinth Canyon area and expanded to include a visual and sonic setback along the canyon rim. Currently only the river bottoms are being considered. We also request the inclusion of Lost Springs Canyon WSA as proposed wilderness.

Wilderness - Labyrinth Canyon Area



Wilderness - Watershed + Lost Springs Canyon



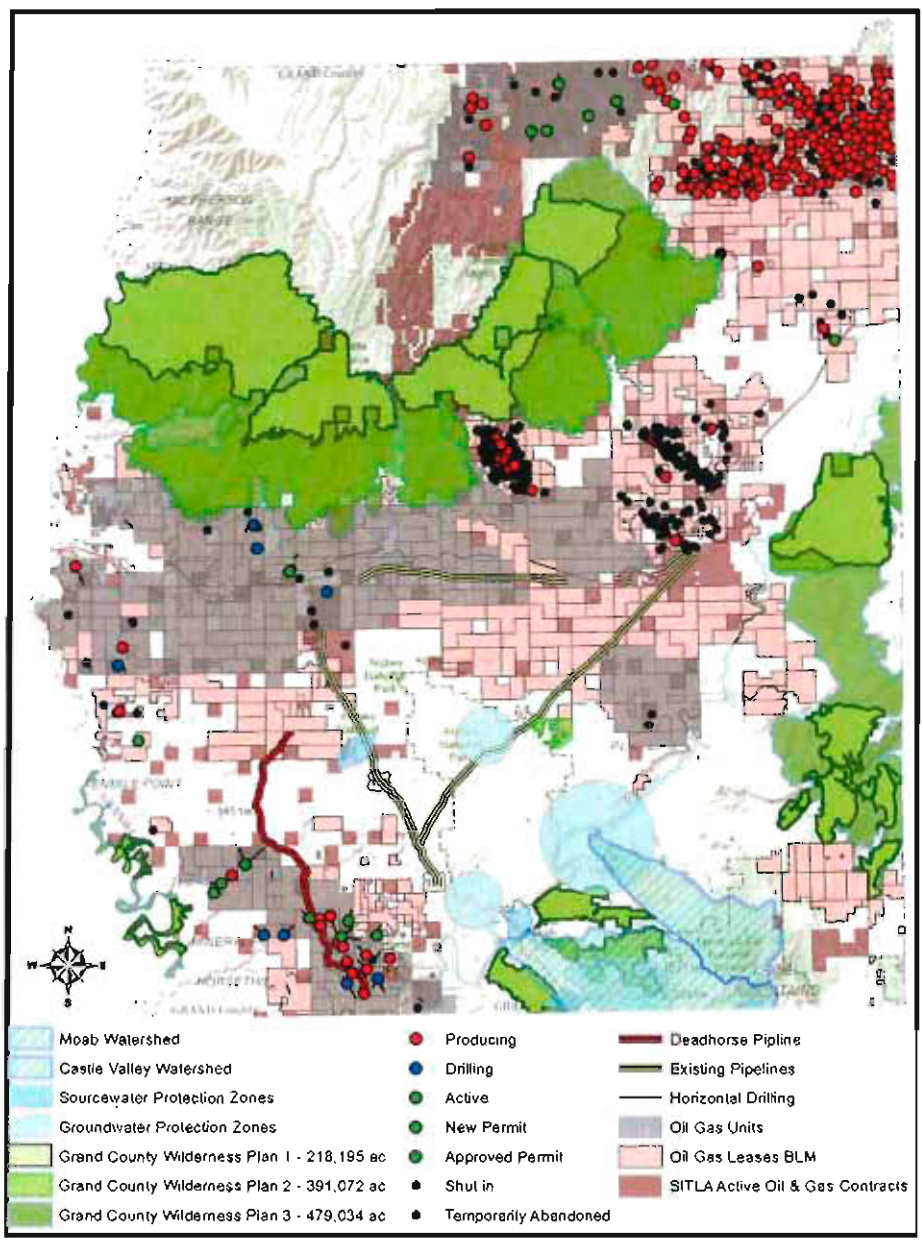
Legend

- Moab Watershed
- Castle Valley Watershed
- Sourcewater Protection Zones
- Groundwater Protection Zones
- Grand County Wilderness Plan 1 - 218,195 ac
- Grand County Wilderness Plan 2 - 391,072 ac
- Grand County Wilderness Plan 3 - 479,034 ac
- Redrock Wilderness - SUWA
- Forest Wilderness GCT

Potential Conflicts with Industry:

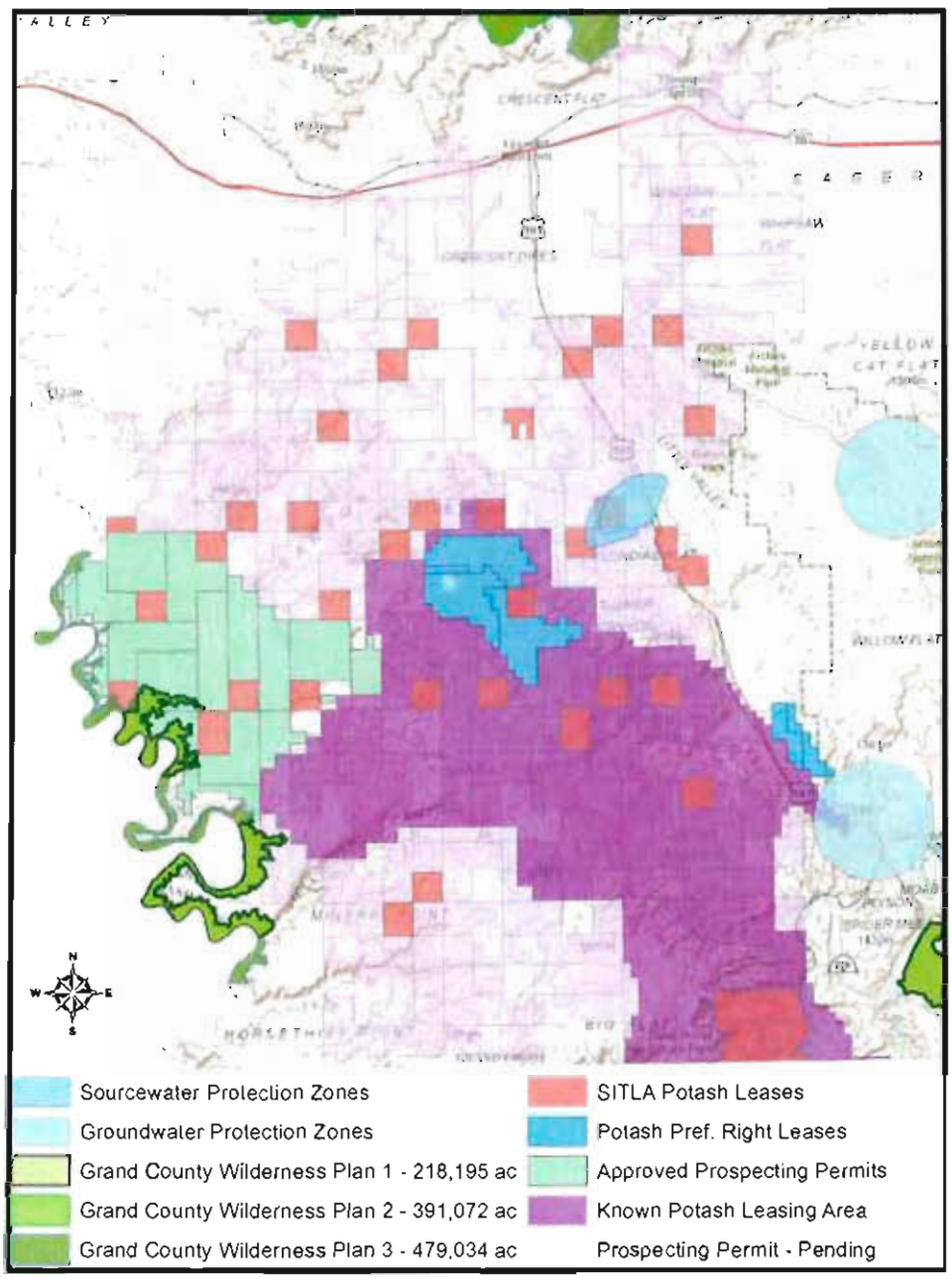
The below map shows the current oil & gas scenario against the County's proposals. It is worth noting that no federal designation, even of wilderness, can void an existing valid lease.

Wilderness - Oil & Gas



The below map shows the current potash scenario. The only legally vested potash interests are the approved prospecting permits, preference rights leases, and SITLA contracts.

Wilderness - Potash



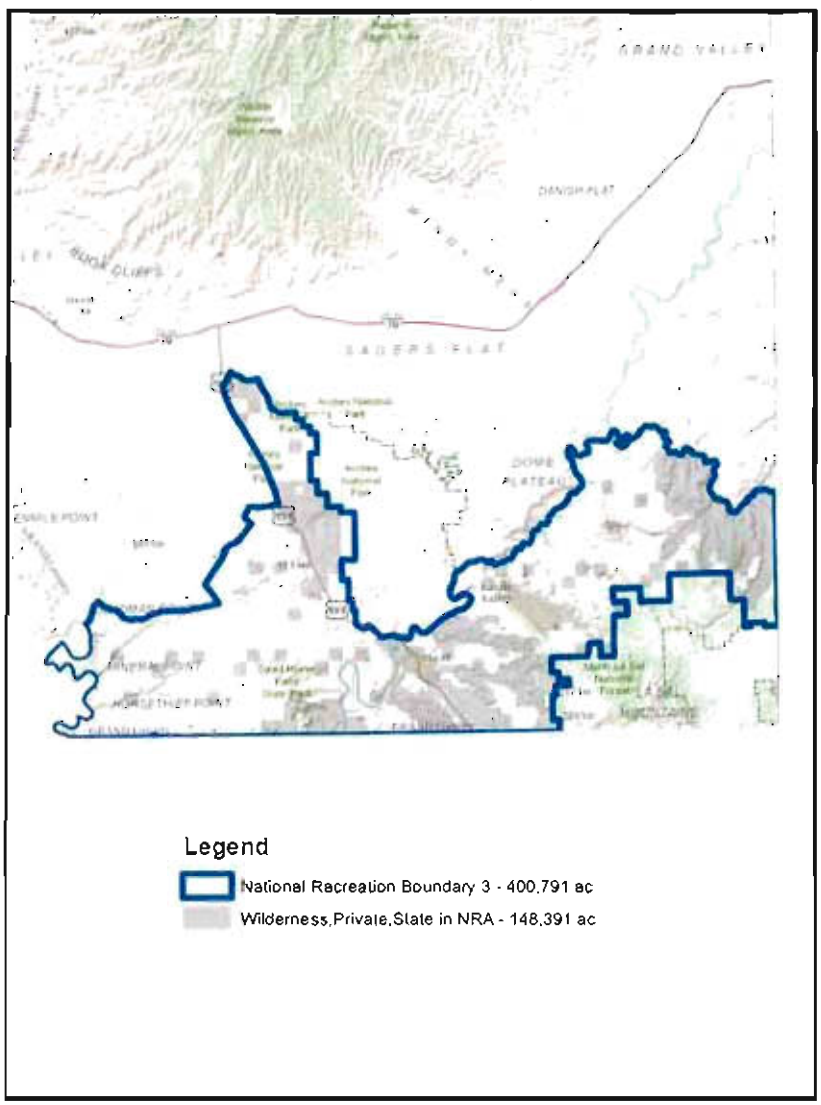
CANYONLANDS WATERSHED COUNCIL

National Recreation Area

Clarifications on Protected Lands:

The proposed National Recreation Areas (NRAs) include private, state, and proposed wilderness. Private and state lands will not be a part of an NRA. The wilderness proposed within the proposed NRAs should be counted for protection only once. For alt. 3 this would leave a total area of protected lands (less private, state, and wilderness) of 252,400 acres.

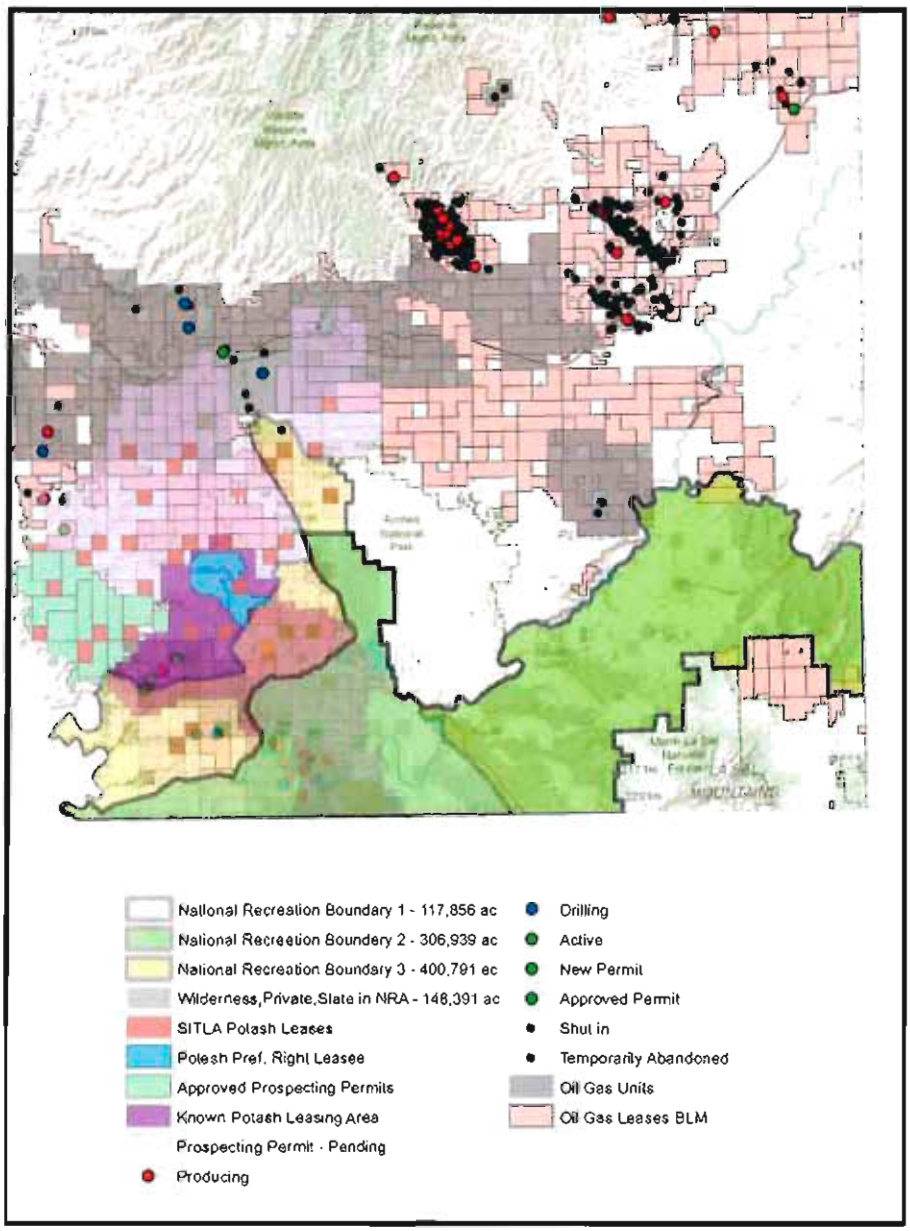
National Recreation Area - Private, State, Wilderness



Potential Industry Conflicts:

It is likely that most oil/gas interests are already leased within the NRA boundaries, however there are pending potash prospecting permits within the NRA boundary. Again, an NRA designation will not void existing leases.

National Recreation Area - Oil, Gas, Potash



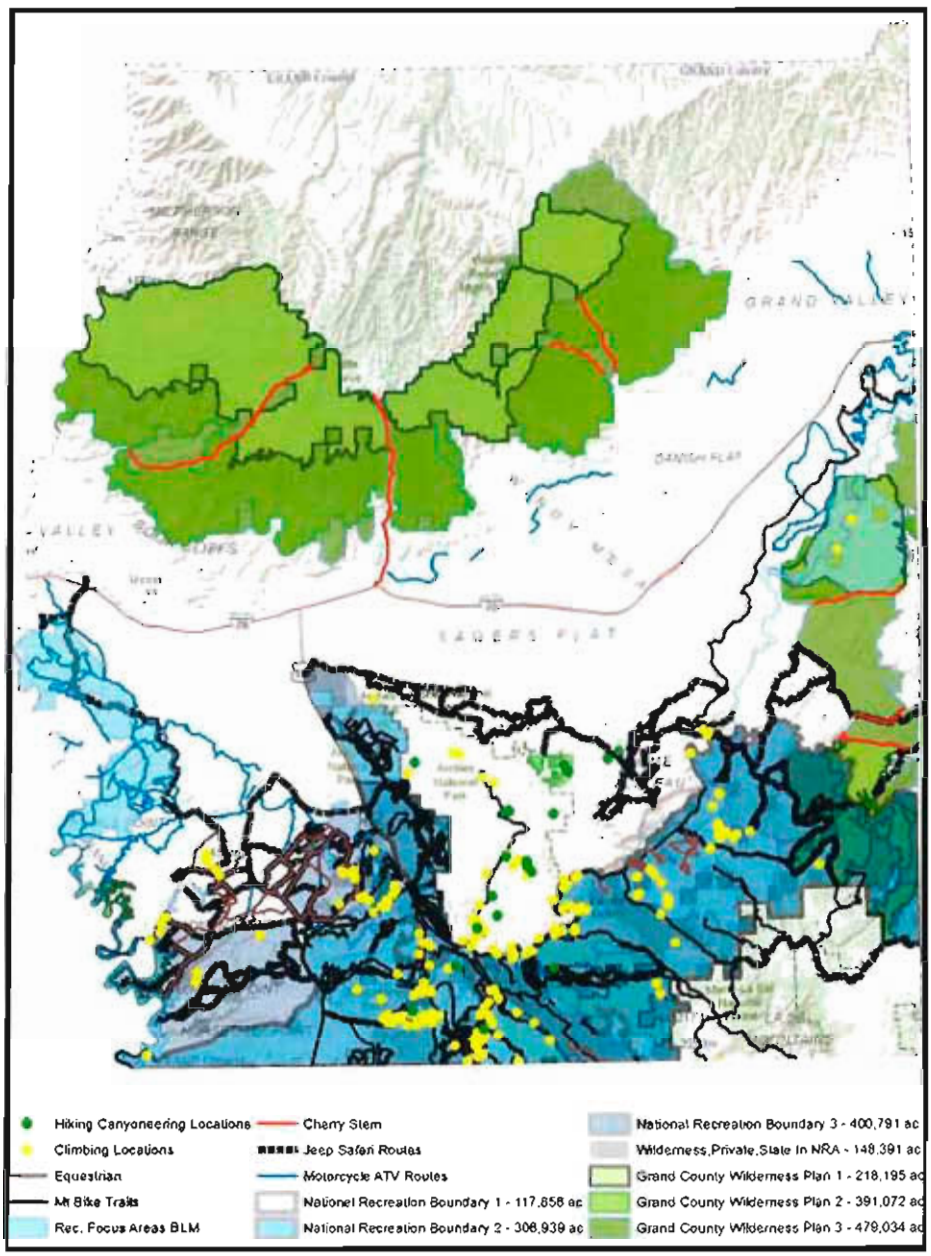
Potential Conservation Value:

As the proposed NRAs will not void existing leases nor close any roads, the only conservation value inherent in an NRA is found in alt. 3's "no new leasing". The recreation industry stands to gain additional advertising as an NRA would appear on all road atlases and gazetteers. The Canyonlands Watershed Council, however, believes that, between the Grand Co. Travel Council and private advertising, the recreation industry is well covered. We only support NRA designations that include "no new leasing" language as that is the only designation that carries any conservation value. An NRA is not de-facto wilderness, and, depending on its stipulations, may run counter to conservation interests.

Recreation:

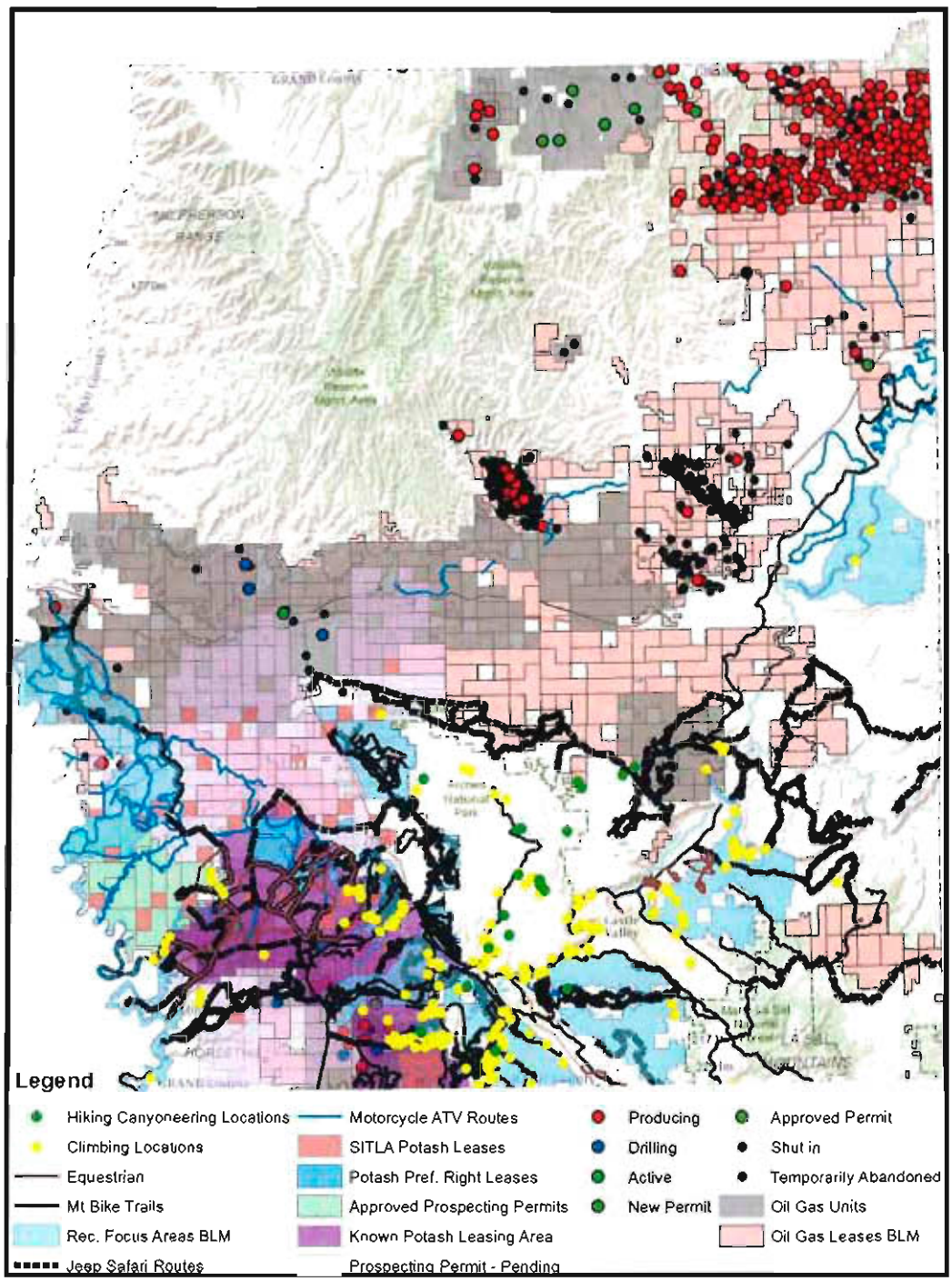
The recreation sector accounts for 70%+ of the Grand Co. economy. Any proposal should give significant attention to potential effects to the recreation economy.

Recreation



CANYONLANDS WATERSHED COUNCIL

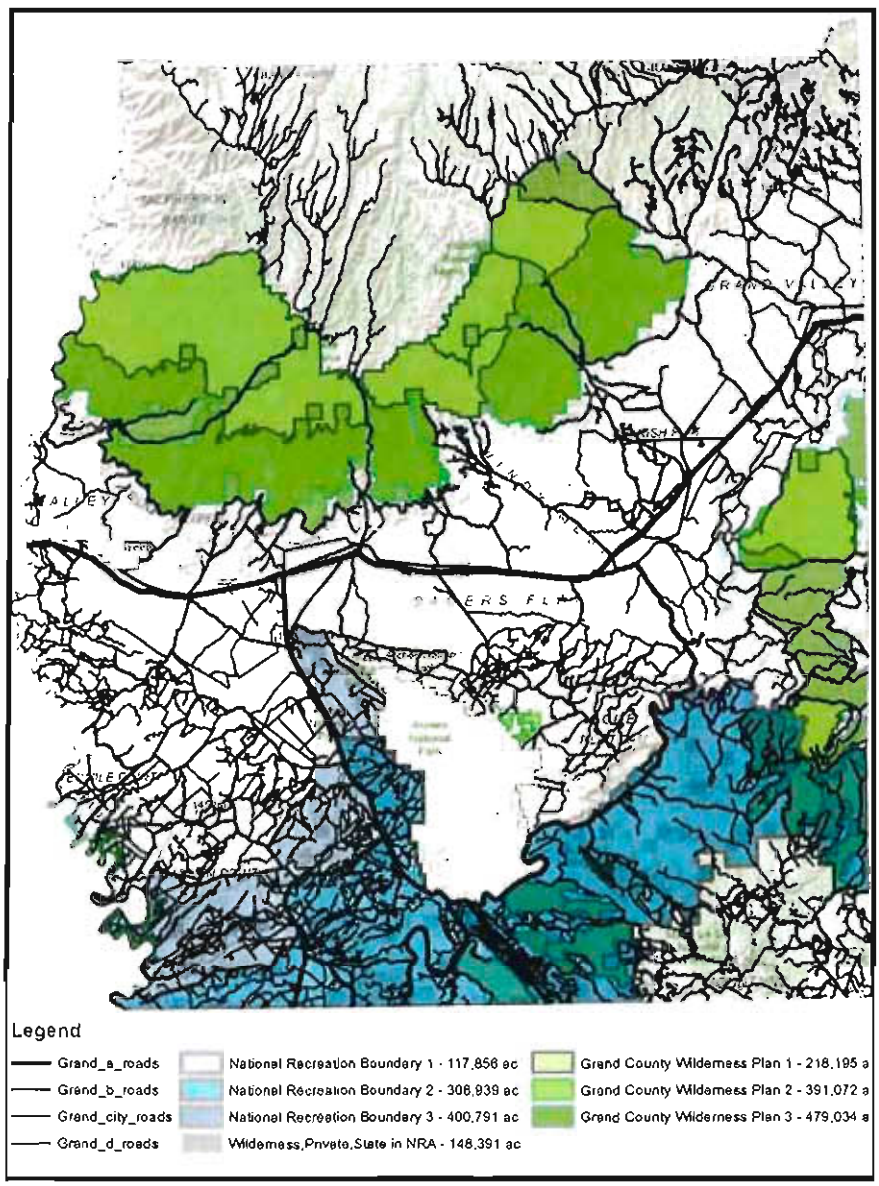
Recreation & Oil, Gas, Potash



Roads

The County's 1 & 2 proposals give a fair amount of attention to the current travel plan. However, alt. 3 is devoid of such attention. We request that alt. 3 be give such attention for fair evaluation. We do not support routes into Labyrinth Canyon nor do we support unnecessary and duplicative routes within proposed wilderness.

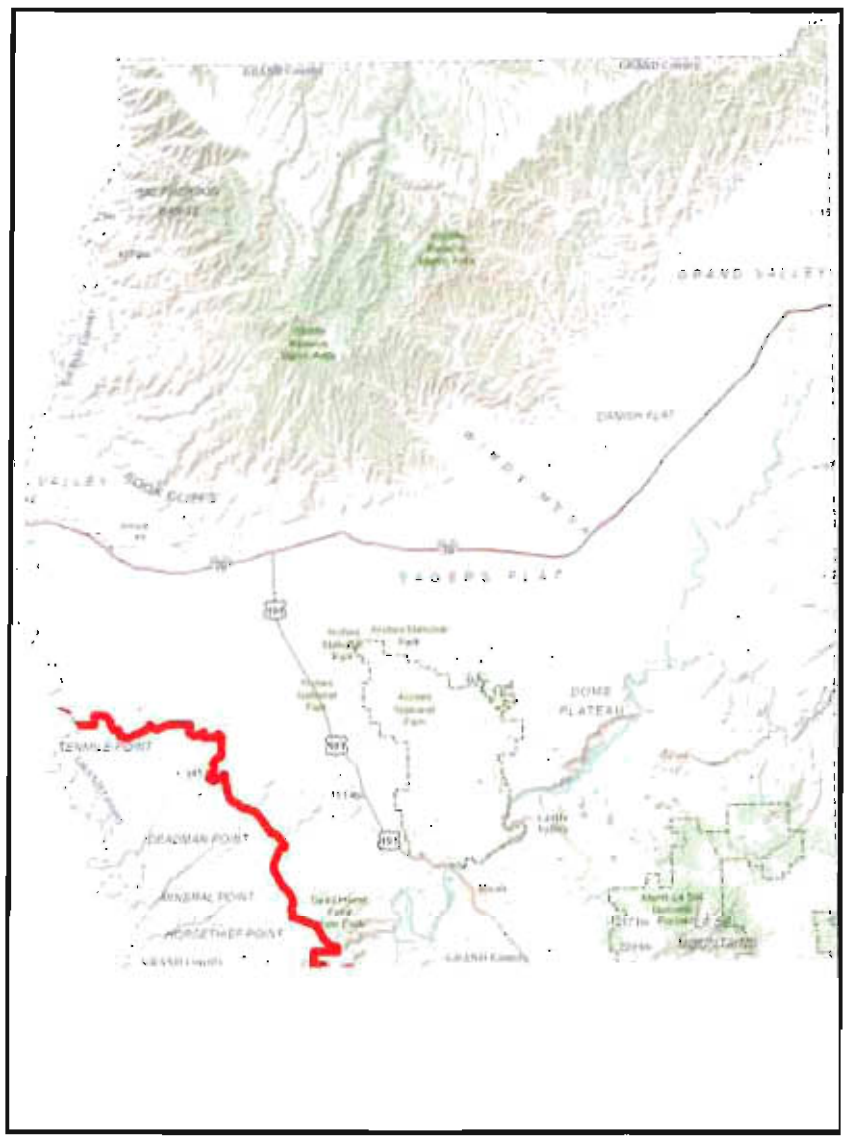
Travel Plan



Antiquities Act

We can not support any proposal that includes "no further antiquities act" language. The Grand Co. economy is largely based on its National Parks. While we see value in conferring with local populations with regard to such acts we also feel that a "no further antiquities act" provision sets a negative precedent and eschews our most important economic driver and conservation interest. We would not want to see a precedent that would negatively affect future national monuments or parks.

Proposed Boundary - Greater Canyonlands National Monument

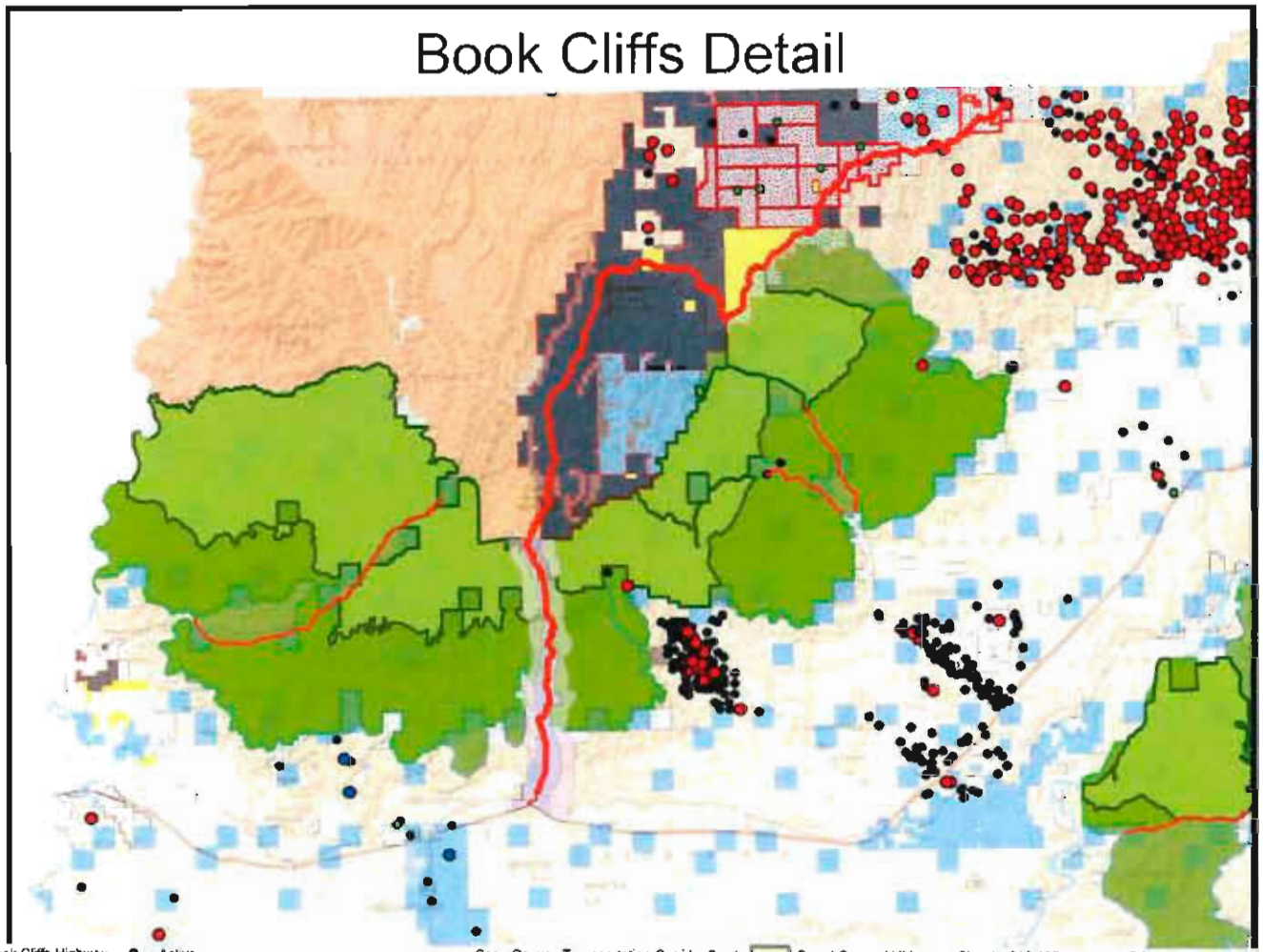


Sego Canyon Transportation Corridor

Overview:

This proposal should be given very careful consideration, weighing the potential economic gains against the potential environmental, cultural, and conservation impacts. Below we will explore these potential gains and impacts.

Book Cliffs Detail



Proposed Book Cliffs Highway
Cherry Stem

DNROilGasWells

Well Status

- Producing
- Drilling
- Active
- New Permit
- Approved Permit
- Shut in
- Temporarily Abandoned

Sego Canyon transportation Corridor 1 mile
Sego Canyon Transportation Corridor 2 mile

Status

- BLM Lands Conveyed to State Trust Lands
- SITLA Active Tar Sands Contracts
- SITLA Anadarko Lease
- Tar Sands Strata

Grand County Wilderness Plan 1 - 218,195 ac
Grand County Wilderness Plan 2 - 391,072 ac
Grand County Wilderness Plan 3 - 479,034 ac

Surface Ownership and Administration

STATE OF UTAH LEGEND

- Bureau of Land Management
- Private
- State Trust Lands
- State Sovereign Land
- State Wildlife Reserve/Management Area
- Tribal Lands

Economic Growth Potential

Methodology:

In order to consider the economic potential we have to evaluate development potential in the area that the proposed transportation corridor would serve. There are three different ways to do this; using analogous development in the area (oil/gas wells), using geological information, and using "future statements" from companies that propose development (Oil Sands).

- Analogous Development
    - This is perhaps the most reliable source of data. We used regional well density and well production data from the Utah Department of Oil, Gas, & Mining (UDOGM) to determine probable well density, production, and product.
    - Well Density: The well density of the adjacent San Arroyo and Westwater gas field was calculated and applied to the Anadarko lease area. This resulted in a potential for 225 wells. Additionally, we evaluated the acreage of the soon-to-be recreational land exchange parcels and applied the same well density, which resulted in 13 potential wells.
    - Production: Analogous local production statistics were used from UDOGM to calculate average annual production rates. It was found that gas wells produce, on average, 49,266 MCF (thousand cubic feet) of gas annually. There are no analogous oil wells in the area.
- Geology
    - Product: Both analogous data and geologic data give little chance of conventional Uintah crude production from the Green River and Wasatch oil bearing formations in the Anadarko lease area (they are considered immature for this area). However, deeper hydrocarbon bearing strata are proven to contain natural gas potential. We conclude that the Anadarko lease will mostly likely be a natural gas play.
- "Future Statements"
    - In the case of oil sands development there is no analogous data available and so we have to rely on statements from the company in order to supply useful data. "Future Statements" are what the company expects to do, with the caveat that they make no guarantees. For oil sands this is 2,000 barrels a day bitumen crude production over 6,000+ acres for their phase I commercial proposal.
- All citations, references, calculations, and data obtained will be provided to the County via an excel spreadsheet file. It is only useful as an electronic file.

Resonably Foreseeable Development Scenario

The above methodology was used to produce the below for the Book Cliffs area in Grand Co.

- Gas Wells – 238 (13 on future land exchange parcels)
- Oils Sands – 1 - 6,000+ acre site

Predicted Economic Benefit to Local Schools and Government

Grand County Schools: (HMK, GCMS, GCHS, MCS)

Annually the Schools and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) provides, respective to the total State-wide K-12 budget, 1.03%

In Grand Co., included within the total K-12 budget, they provide 0.78%

If the above development scenario were to happen instantly, the Grand Co. public schools would receive an additional annual revenue of **$1,004**. This would increase their annual revenue by **0.006%.**

Grand County Government: General Fund

The recreational land exchange provides an opportunity for the Grand Co. government to make economic gains from development on SITLA parcels associated with land exchanges.

If the above development scenario were to happen instantly, the Grand Co. government would receive an additional annual revenue of **$186,925 (0.70% of total revenue / 2.05% general fund revenue).** And, a one-time contribution (from bonus lease revenue) of **$299,723(1.13% of total revenue / 3.29% general fund revenue).**

Predicted Jobs and Their Effect on Local Economy

Given the above development scenario there are predicted:

13, 30 year FTEs for the Drill/Completion well phase @ $100,000/yr

48 FTE jobs for productions phase (variable duration) @ $50,000/yr

88 FTE jobs for Oil Sands (from future statements) @ $45,00/yr

This would raise the: (!!!Assuming all jobs are Grand Co. Jobs!!!)

Average number of Grand Co. Jobs by **2.69%**

Average Salary in Grand Co. by **2.08%**

Environmental and Conservation Concerns

Hunting:

The announcement of the Anadarko lease created an uproar among the Sportsmens associations. The lower portion of the lease includes roadless and un-grazed lands of high value for sportsmen and anglers.

Several sportsmen associations protested the lease and even obtained support from Gov. Gary Herbert (not to mention, at the time, council member Lynn Jackson).

The Governor and sportsmens associations were unsuccessful in reversing SITLA's lease decision. However, a wildlife advisory committee was created. The outcome of which entails deferring development of the lower roadless area for 1 & 2 years (respective north to south).

Sportsmen associations have an expressed an interest in using this time to work with SITLA, Anadarko, and Rep. Bishop to trade out the 2 lower roadless areas for wildlife conservation.

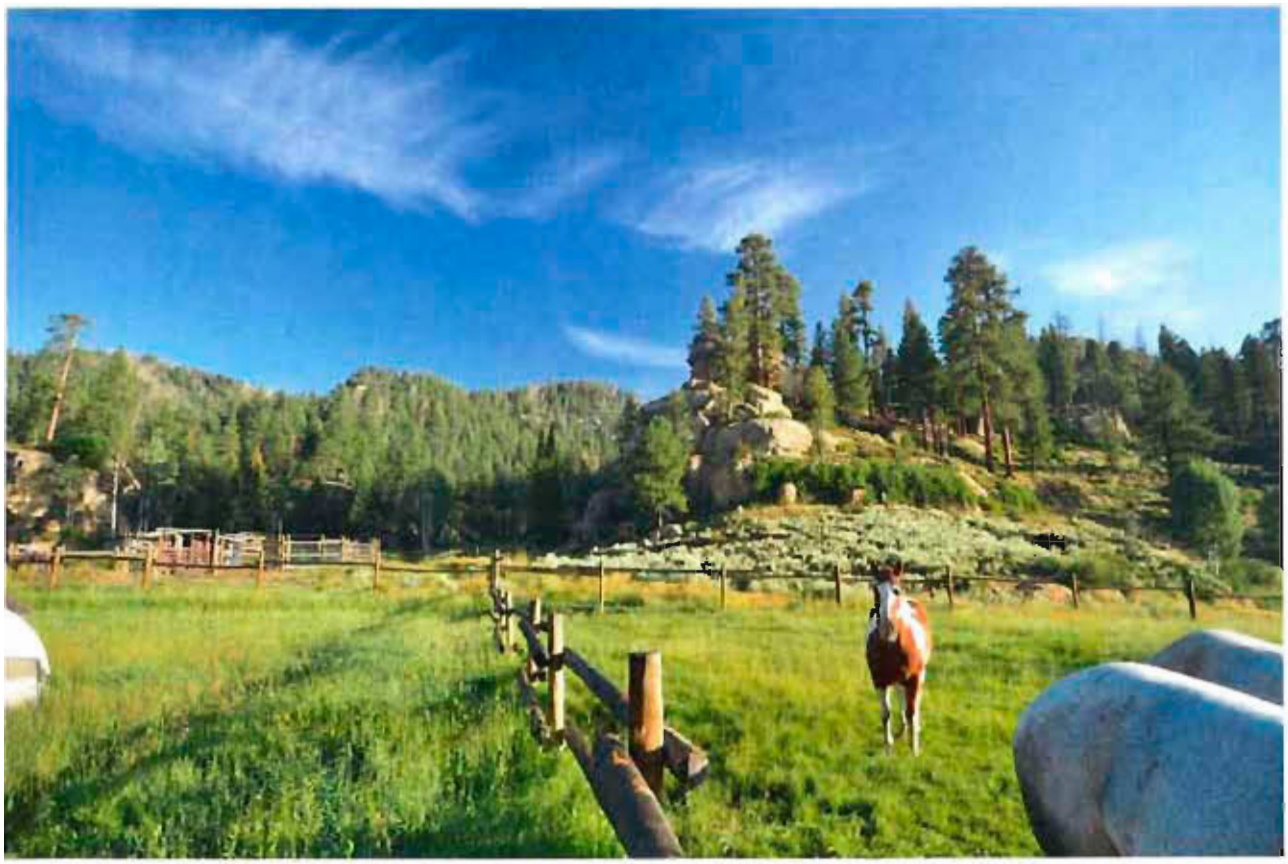
The newly proposed "Book Cliffs Highway" would pave a haul road through those two roadless areas.

Surface Impacts:

Oil/Gas pads have a physical impact of 2 – 10 acres each. The oil sands operation includes strip mining and could impact as much as 6,000 acres for phase I and an additional 28,000+ acres in phase II. The best way to illustrate surface impact is with photographs.

DeLambert Cattle Ranch, Few Miles Below Oils Sands Project

Roadless Area



Oil Sands – PR Springs

Gas Field – Natural Buttes – Uintah Co.

Water Impacts:

One of the main limiting factors for development in this area is availability of water. This development would severely stress the area's water resources and potentially impact existing water rights, resulting in costly litigation and loss of adjacent land use (primarily ranching) revenue.

The is also the possibility of significant run-off pollution

Air Quality Impacts:

The Uintah Basin has a serious ozone pollution problem, which restricts their ability to approve new development. Part of the reason for the proposed haul route is to export pollution to the proposed refineries in Green River and beyond via rail.

Grand Co. has an ozone pollution problem as well. There is a good chance that the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for ozone will be reduced to 70 part per billion (ppb), or less, next year. The Island in the Sky monitoring station has us at 69 ppb.

Nonattainment for ozone would be a major problem for Grand Co.'s economy as 70% is based on outdoor recreation and the personal mitigation for ozone pollution is to stay indoors and avoid outdoor exertion.

The two proposed refineries in Green River could push us past 70 ppb.

Oil Sands production has a Co2 foot print up to 40% greater than conventional crude.

This is ***not*** a move in the direction of a cleaner energy future as the IPCC etc. has urged in order to avoid catastrophic consequences due to climate change.

Cultural Resource Impacts:

Sego Canyon has a vast array of cultural resources ranging from historical inscriptions/structures to ancient rock art that spans thousands of years.

Private Property Concerns:

The mouth of Sego Canyon is partly in private ownership. We've talked with two of those owners and they oppose this proposed haul route. This may result in an emanate domain confrontation.

Roughly 1 mile of the proposed route would have to cross Ute Tribal land that is currently closed.

Canyonland Watershed Council's Opinion:

Due to almost no economic return to Grand Co. schools, minimal return to Grand Co. government, and marginal returns to the job market we feel that the potential impacts, especially with regard to oil sands mining, far out-weigh the economic benefits. We, therefore can not support any proposal that includes the Sego Canyon Transportation

Corridor. The proposed haul route is not facilitating "moderate and balanced" resource extraction. It facilitates a very extreme energy development portfolio. If one were to draw a line after oil sands it could be concluded that one has no line at all, as oil sands development is nearly as impactful, environmentally, as can be in the U.S.

We urge the Council to carefully consider this information and present a moderate and balanced proposal to Rep. Bishop.

Sincerely,

Chris Baird

Executive Director
Canyonlands Watershed Council
435-260-1431
chris@farcountry.org

Robert Martin
P.O. Box 880458
Steamboat Springs, CO 80488
970-736-2576
Rlmartin76@hotmail.com
May 6, 2014

RECEIVED
MAY 07
BY:

Grand County Council
125 E Center Street
Moab, UT 84532

Dear Grand County Council:

I am writing this letter in response to the Public Lands Alternative proposed by Grand County. I DO NOT support ANY of the alternatives as presented. Several reasons for my opinion are provided below:

- All three proposals appear to dictate land usage on public land
- All three proposals appear to impact access on public land
- OHV use is lumped in with mineral and energy extraction
- Proposed wilderness areas do not always have wilderness characteristics
- Wilderness areas force more people to access remaining open areas causing congestion and impact user experience
- Many wilderness areas are not used by the public and many users only see a small portion of the land
- mineral and energy extraction uses should have a separate designation to not impact existing motorized OHV access

In closing, I would like to reiterate that "Public Lands" in Grand County need to be preserved as "Public" and "Accessible".

Sincerely,

Robert Martin

Moab Friends-For-Wheelin'
351 East Coronado Lane
Moab, Utah 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

May 6, 2014

To: Grand County Council
Subject: Public Lands Bill

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the public lands initiative.

My name is Jeff Stevens, and I am president of Moab Friends-For-Wheelin' (MFFW), a Moab based club consisting of about 40 families. We enjoy driving and exploring the roads and trails around Moab, and have spent thousands of volunteer hours since 2005 maintaining and improving these routes. We believe that a balance can be achieved in SE Utah that not only protects our unique landscapes, but also allows for both sensible resource extraction as well as the varied types of recreation that is so important to our local economy.

I believe that Alternate No. 1 is a balanced proposal that would permanently protect Grand County's most pristine and fragile landscapes, while still allowing responsible resource extraction and both motorized and non-motorized recreation where appropriate.

I support designating existing WSA's as official Wilderness, but I believe that no additional Wilderness Areas should be created. Most of the areas being promoted for Wilderness designation by wilderness advocates such as Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance do not meet the strict requirements outlined by law, and if designated as Wilderness would curtail many of the recreational activities currently being enjoyed on those lands. This, along with eliminating any possibility of resource extraction, would have a detrimental effect on the economy of SE Utah, as well as the quality of life for many people. I am also supportive of the other provisions outlined in Alternative No. 1, especially the Antiquities Act provision, the Sego Canyon Transportation Corridor, and the recognition of the BLM Travel Plan.

Thank you for your efforts and considerations.

Jeff Stevens

Jeff Stevens

President, Moab Friends-For-Wheelin'
351 E Coronado Ln
Moab, UT 84532
435-259-6119

PROMOTONG RESPONSIBLE AND FUN 4WD RECREATION

May 4th 2.024

Esteemed Members of Our Grand County Council,

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

I want you to know that I for one really appreciate all the work you do, and the hours of dedication your positions require. Couple that with the lack of appreciation you are constantly dealing with, and the hostilities often vented on you, I am amazed by your grace and stoic resolve to represent your constituency.

Public opinion has been classed as one of the three instrumentalities available to the people of the United States for the control of their government, the other two being the filling of public offices by election and the making of laws by direct popular vote. More than a century ago Author James Bryce observed that "in no country is public opinion so powerful as in the United States.... Towering over Presidents and State governors, over conventions and the vast machinery of power & party, public opinion stands out in the United States as the great source of power, the master of servants who tremble before it."

Public opinion, in short, is the medium in which the machinery of goverment operates.

Unfortunately the information on which some citizens of Grand County have based their opinions on concerning land use, have been formed by a very out of touch, liberal and left leaning media, who take their marching orders from a select few who are so out of touch with day to day living, such as employment, raising families, living paycheck to paycheck. Struggling each month to make ends meet, that they think nothing of spending Forty Million Dollars on two Vacations! IE OUR PRESIDENT.

The majority of your constituency know for a fact that there had never been any business or service run by the federal government, that wasn't done better and more efficient by the local, and private sector.

In short, we need to work tirelessly to return our state lands to local control, not federal overlording. Local governance is always the better choice.

Thank you for considering my opinion

Russell Call

May 7, 2014

Sharon Hogan
PO Box 242 or 598 Rosetree Lane
Moab, UT 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY:

Grand County Council
Attn: Public Lands
125 East Center Street
Moab, UT 84532

Chairman Jackson and Grand County Council Members,

Thank-you for considering the local citizens' viewpoints in this matter. We are the ones who ultimately suffer the consequences or reap the rewards of your decisions. The use of public land surrounding Moab has a very direct effect on us, and our livelihood. The uniquely beautiful landscape is what supports our vibrant community and it is what we stand to lose if poor and hasty decisions are made at the government levels without considering what benefits the most people in Moab. Grand County council members have a huge responsibility to the citizens to make the right recommendations to Representative Rob Bishop for consideration in his Utah Public Lands Bill. None of the three alternatives presented thus far would preserve what is a healthy economy based on the scenic and recreation assets at stake.

Moab's current economy thrives on the allure to visitors of the amazing scenery and recreational opportunities on the surrounding public lands. Combining national parks with spectacular mountains and red rock deserts, Grand County is unique and irreplacable, valued worldwide as the most coveted travel destination. It would be the greatest possible mistake to sacrifice this global gem to short-term mining interests that would irreparably damage the landscape, viewsheds, and surrounding environment.

Moab's current economy also depends on locals who work and play here. As a bookkeeper for four retail/outfitter businesses in Moab, I have nearly 200 individuals on payrolls. These people choose to live in Moab with their families, pay local taxes, shop locally, enjoy local restaurants and events. Most of these people live and work in Moab because of the same scenic and recreational opportunities that visitors flock here for, giving up larger paychecks in other places to live here. It's the locals as much as the tourists who keep Moab thriving, but it all depends on the beauty that surrounds us.

Unchecked mineral development is, by its nature an exclusive and unsustainable use of the land. It destroys the natural beauty of the landscape with its mining machinery and methods, access roads, pipelines and waste facilities. Mining areas and the surrounding land are closed to the public, even if they are on "public land". Nothing else can coexist with any degree of quality. Wildlife habitat and old growth plant communities are destroyed, public recreation in any form is impossible, including simple enjoyment of

unsullied views. Historical, paleontological, and archeological sites are obliterated by the footprint of mineral extraction. Air quality suffers due to the processes of mining and dust raised from large areas of disrupted soils and heavy vehicle traffic. Scarce water resources are taken in unacceptably large amounts from our severely limited aquifer, and used up or poisoned, endangering the public, livestock and farmland. And when the minerals are inevitably depleted, all that's left is a destroyed and poisoned landscape which no one can use or enjoy. Economies based exclusively on mining are thus, unsustainable.

In contrast, a recreation-based economy can thrive indefinitely in a place as uniquely suited to it as Grand County, if we preserve the scenic landscape. I moved to Moab in 1988 for the spectacular landscape and the outdoor recreational opportunities. I also recognized the potential to make good a living here, long-term, working in recreation related businesses. I was right. The recreation-based economy has continued to thrive, and so have I along with everyone I know who choose Moab. The Moab community has gotten better since the bust days of the eighties. We now have, and continue to build and improve, first class amenities such as the Grand County Library, our schools, health and senior care facilities, the city parks, the Aquatic Center, The Moab Arts and Recreation Center, the Spanish Valley Arena rodeo facility and ball parks, and the Moab City buildings in the town center. The limited amount of mineral extraction that has continued throughout these years has contributed, but these improvements have been possible during a time when non-mining land-based activities are generating most of our income. This economy, and the culture and society established because of it, is in danger of being destroyed along with the public lands, if they are given to mining interests for widespread, nonrenewable mineral extraction.

Since the BLM enacted the Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Canyon Country District in 2008, the Moab community has stepped up to improve public access and safety in the designated Recreation Focus Areas while at the same time, protecting the resource by establishing trails, shutting down illegal uses of areas, respecting NSO's, and providing on-site educational signage and maps. This partnership with the BLM has resulted in a measurable increase in visitors and locals recreating responsibly on public lands, reducing negative impacts on wildlife, cultural resources and other user groups. Grand County should seek to enhance this type of partnering through recognizing not only the RMP focus areas, but expanding them to include in the proposed National Recreation Areas all areas and stipulations outlined in the Utah Outdoor Business Network Proposed Stipulations for Oil and Gas. This action alone could help ensure Moab's future viability and sustainability.

Thank-you for the opportunity to comment and for your careful consideration of the points in this statement. You are responsible for Grand County's long-term viability.

Sincerely,

Sharon A. Hogan

Sharon Hogan

Utah Outdoor Business Network

Mailed w/ Sharon Hogan's letter -KW

May 7, 2014

Grand County
Attention: Public Lands
125 E. Center St.
Moab, UT 84532

Please use for reference

RE: Grand County Council Public Lands Working Committee Alternatives for Bishop Public Lands Initiative

Dear Grand County Council:

The Utah Outdoor Business Network provides business owners in Utah with information about important public land issues that affect our businesses. The undersigned businesses appreciate your consideration of our concerns regarding Grand County's proposal for the Bishop Public Lands Initiative.

It is our goal to grow our businesses and encourage investment in Grand County that will provide good jobs for all our citizens. We believe Alternative #3 could provide a viable framework for this important public lands bill; for example, we are encouraged by the proposed 400,000-acre National Recreation Area. This proposed NRA has great promise for the protecting and enhancing the recreation economy in Grand County while simultaneously allowing for the development of natural resources.

However, because we oppose the Sego Canyon Transportation Corridor and have significant concerns about the proposed Antiquities Act exclusion we cannot support any of the Working Committee's proposed alternatives.

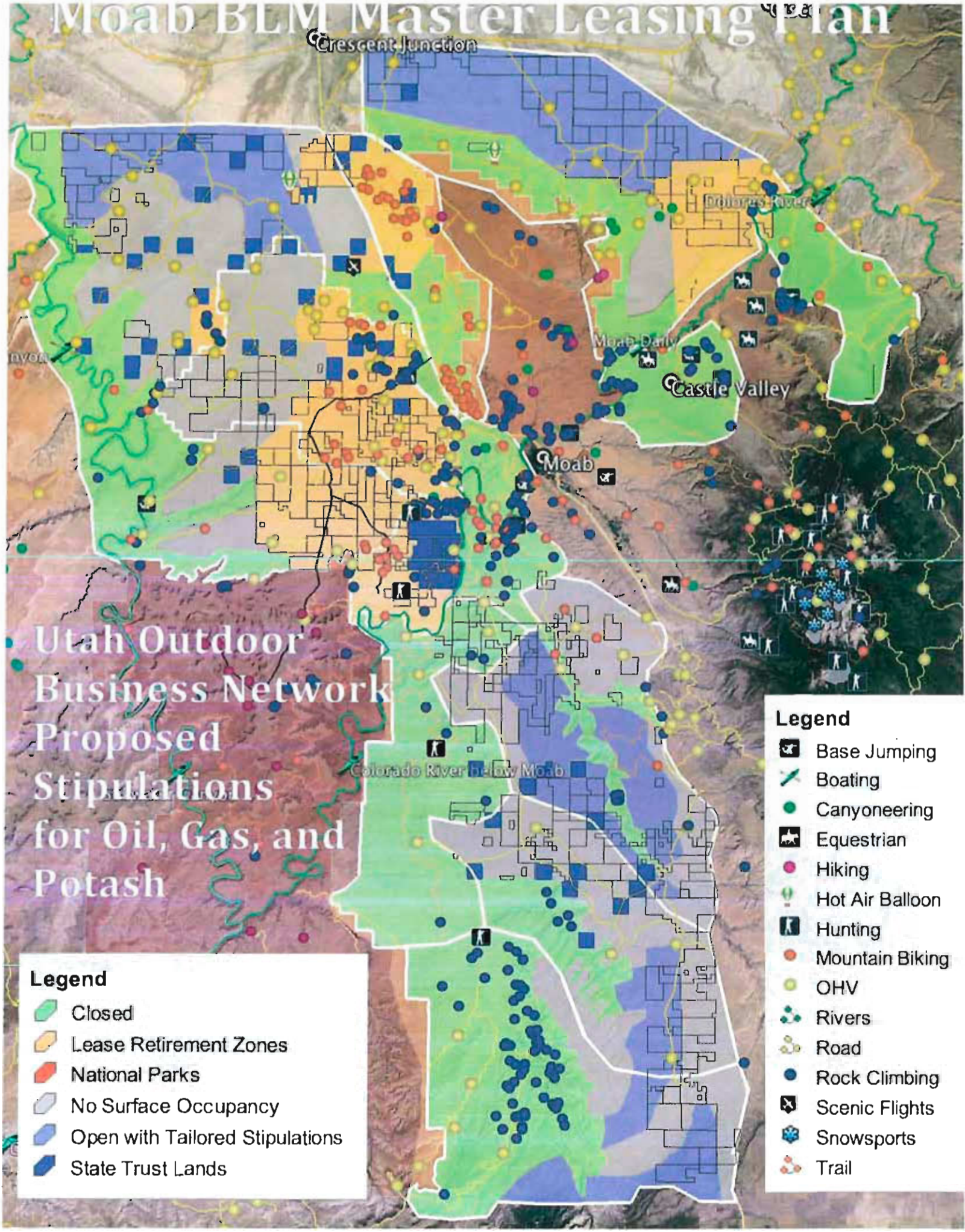
Sego Canyon Transportation Corridor

We believe the type of industry this road will bring to Grand County will seriously undermine the recreation economy in two primary ways:

1. **Increased Industrial Presence:** The large-scale industrial development made possible by this road improvement is not compatible with a world-class tourist destination. Increases in industrial traffic, facilities and other associated impacts are not conducive to providing revenue-generating outdoor recreation experiences.

2. **Reduced Incentive for Investment**: Press reports of increasing industrial uses in Grand County, and potential air and water issues, discourage both would-be tourists and quality-of-life recruits. Many rural communities around the country are now gaining jobs by attracting small businesses that want to locate in places where environmental quality is guaranteed.

Moab BLM Master Leasing Plan



RECEIVED
MAY 07
BY: JW

May 7, 2014

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is to let you know that I am for Proposal No. 1 regarding land use in Grand County. I personally don't believe that tourism is a pollution free industry and would rather see our public lands used for industry to provide good jobs and a steady tax base for the City of Moab.

Sincerely,
Susie Johnston

Susie Johnston

Mary Mullen McGann
285 Hillside Drive
Moab, Utah
84532

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY:

Grand County Council
Attention: Public Lands
125 E. Center Street
Moab, Utah
84532

Dear Grand County Council,

In regards to Rep. Rob Bishop's public lands initiative developed for Grand County, I have some concerns. My major concerns are the following.

- I am concerned about how it is dividing the community. When a road over the Bookcliffs was proposed in the late 80's early 90's it was a big part of the reason a group of concerned citizens banded together to form a new government. The proposal for a new form of government was created, voted upon, and passed. Thus we have a County Council now rather than the three-member Commission. I do not believe the attitudes of the citizens of Grand County have changed that much over the past 20 years, if anything they may be more progressive. Therefore I am concerned that the proposals being presented do not represent the majority of people.
- I am concerned about the lack of choice. Yes, there are three choices, but embedded in all three choices is the road and the ban on the Antiquities Act. For a great many people in this community the proposals do not provide a viable choice.
- I am concerned about the plans being developed by only three officials with so little public participation and input.
- I am concerned about the legality of charging fees to use a public road where such fees provide a profit.
- I am concerned about elements being left out of the plan. For example our forest Service Land being left out because of the complication adding those lands create. The outcome of Rob Bishop's public land initiative will greatly influence the future of our county. We need to take the time to tackle the more complicated issues.

Thank you, for accepting the written public comments of Grand County citizens.

Sincerely,

Mary Mullen McGann

Mary Mullen McGann

SAGEBRUSH COALITION

ACCESS • OPPORTUNITY • BALANCE

Grand County Council

125 E Center St

Moab, Utah 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: WW

Dear County Council,

Being that the creation of a Greater Canyonlands National Monument is fundamentally wrong and would come as a detriment to the economy, we appreciate the opportunity to create land policy at the local level. While public input us surely important, we can't emphasize enough that decisions made regarding public lands should be done carefully and with rational analysis.

The majority of outdoor recreation and mineral exploration exists due to our access to public lands. These industries are our economic backbone and significantly provide to our tax base. Make no mistake, these industries can and will coexist. During this process you have, and will continue to receive input promoting speculative science and asking to "save these lands for our children." You'll receive input demanding that you "don't sell out to money hungry corporate interests." Our OHV, mountain biking, and mineral production industries are not going to ruin our landscapes, water, or our air. Theoretically, even if man made climate change were real, restricting access to mineral development and OHV use will only inhibit economic growth in our county. Our co2 emissions are minuscule in comparison with China and India and eliminating jobs and tax revenues in the name of do-good-ism is not in our best interest. Extreme environmentalism will always over exaggerate the impacts of industrial development at our expense, don't be a casualty of the un-informed. If the council required for scientific fact(s) and evidence to be supplied for every bold claim of development compromising our natural environment, or of nature's inability to reclaim itself after being utilized for OHV use, there'd be far fewer letters to consider. We ask that you consider letters asking to "save these lands for our children," but consider these letters not in favor of wilderness, but for the preservation of our children's access to their public lands for recreation and opportunity.

There is room for all interests to not only succeed, but to thrive in Grand County. Removing human beings from the land by way of wilderness is absolutely not in the best interest of our people. We ask that you send Rob Bishop a proposal that considers fiscal responsibility and multiple use.

Sincerely,

Curtis Wells
President

P.O. Box 1281
Moab Utah
84532
www.sagebrushcoalition.com

Grand County Council

125 E Center St

Moab, Utah 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

Dear County Council,

I moved to Grand County so that I could access my public lands in many different ways including hiking, jeeping, camping, and atv'ing. The creation of wilderness will eliminate my ability to access some of my favorite trails.

Sincerely,

Krystle Harrison

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

Grand County Council

125 E Center St

Moab, Utah 84532

Dear County Council,

My ability to access public lands in Grand County allows for me to find solace and provide for my family. I ask that you don't create any more wilderness in Grand County.

Sincerely,

Gavin Harrison

Moab, UT

Grand County Council

125 E Center St

Moab, Utah 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY:

Dear County Council,

Access to our public lands is essential to our citizens well being in Grand County. I ask that you promote multiple use and sustained yield in Grand County. No Wilderness.

Sincerely,

Dennis Hacker

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

Grand County Council

125 E Center St

Moab, Utah 84532

Dear County Council,

I strongly discourage the creation of more federally managed lands in Grand County. Removing our people from public lands by way of wilderness or national monuments is against our best interest. I supported the Sego Canyon highway when I created the concept, and I continue to support it's creation today.

Sincerely,

James Walker

Grand County Council

125 E Center St

Moab, Utah 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: VW

Dear County Council,

At a time when our Federal Government is $17 trillion dollars in debt and our disgruntled land users are being labeled as "Domestic Terrorists," I am directly opposed to the creation of more federal land management or wilderness in Grand County. I ask that the 300,000 acres of WSA be rightfully turned over to the state.

Sincerely,

James Tibbetts

James Tibbetts

Grand County Council

125 E Center St

Moab, Utah 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY:

Dear County Council,

As a 5th generation Moab resident I am uphalled that our county is considering the creation of approximately 500,000 acres of wilderness, 500,000 acres of NRA, and the subsequent elimination for recreation and economic opportunity to exist on these lands. Our ancestors, current residents, and future generations deserve for rational decisions to be made regarding our public lands. Responsible land stewardship is first and foremost, the preservation of our access and multiple use. I encourage the Grand County Council to make land policy decisions not by subjective science or emotional agenda's, but by the facts and reality that our livelihood depends on our ability to access our public lands.

Sincerely,

Wendy Tibbetts

5/7/14

Dear County Council,

I support the creation of the Sego Canyon Highway. I am directly opposed to the creation of more wilderness in Grand County.

Carlin Walker-Heaty

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

Grand County Council

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

Dear County Council,

I ask that you move our county in the direction of the relinquishment of all federal lands within Grand County to the state by formally endorsing the American Lands Council and HB 148.

I also ask that while creating the final proposal to be sent to Rob Bishop, you start with alternative 1. Although I see some value in wilderness, I see far more value in public lands that allow for multiple use and sustained yield, both guaranteed to us by the BLM (FLPMA). By creating more federally managed lands, you're allowing for the degradation of our inalienable rights by an ever-overreaching Federal Government. Grand County cannot trust it's sacred land to an inefficient, bureaucratic agency that changes the law by way of a DC office to the benefit of special interests. The council has the jurisdiction to create an environment that rewards hard working Americans with opportunity and access to their public lands. Don't negotiate with special interests and ill-minded people that advise you to lock our lands up and throw away the key.

Innovation and technology have successfully created an atmosphere where we can reap the benefits of natural resources and allow nature to reclaim the land without leaving a mess behind for future generations. Multiple use currently allows for recreation and mineral production to co-exist. Our top 7 property taxpayers are mineral development based businesses. Creating more wilderness and Federal Land Management in Grand County is an inhabitance to our top producers within the sector. We should be creating opportunities for growth like, the Sego Canyon Highway. I support the Sego Canyon Highway and upon its construction, I ask that you name the Highway the, James R. Walker Highway. My grandfather is a 4th generation Moab resident that founded the idea for such a highway while serving on the Grand County Council in the 80's. James Walker has led an inspirational life in Moab and personifies and embodies responsible and useful land stewardship. He's an inspiration for young men like myself to recreate, make a living, and find inner peace in the midst of the geological wonder that is Southeastern Utah. The knowledge and opportunistic lifestyle passed on to me by my grandfather is dependent solely on my ability to access my public lands. His everlasting legacy would be greatly supplemented by the James R. Walker highway.

Sincerely,

Curtis Wells

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

Grand County Utah
County Council

It is unfortunate that the recent local Rob Bishop comment letter stastics point to massive public support for more restrictive public land management. Regardless, that conclusion can only be reached by ignoring several overwhelming facts. One such fact is that the workers and producers of Grand County solidly support multiple use of most of the land in question. Many factors exist that cause the public to fail to assert their wishes at any given moment, with attendance at yet another meeting, or the writing of the hundredth letter on the subject of land management. A top offense would be a form of slavery in which property owners pay in taxes on unimproved owned land hundreds of dollars per acre vs. less than one dollar of federal PILT on acres under Federal management, and have time for little other activity than working to raise enough to cover their "share" of the tax burden and basic needs to sustain life. Indeed, many property tax payers surrendered in 2013 70% more than in 2012, and as much as 800 times the Federal input per acre. It has become tedious beyond tolerance to have to run to the weekly emergency "flavor of the moment" meeting in which those who have little or no business of their own, seek to impose their will upon those whose time is dominated by a multitude of responsibilities, including the carrying of civilization on their backs.

For the most part I do not oppose Congressional Wilderness Designation on most of the existing WSA's in Grand County or nearby. Those lands ceased to be useful in any meaningful way (excluding the far too rare hike) decades ago. Indeed, I value wild and scenic places as much or more than most, but have almost no time to enjoy them in the mandatory ways.

The largest land owner in Grand County has failed miserably to manage it's resources. Recent efforts to act in good faith will need to continue for decades before that damage is rectified. For example, single track trail is prized at a premium by hikers, equestrians, bicyclers, and motorcyclists. Yet, BLM made no meaningful effort to inventory such routes, and actually sabotaged such efforts by others. The 2008 RMP used Grand County's excellent inventory of approximately 5,000 miles of roads and reduced the access by about half. They then took RwR's hard fought and completely inadequate inventory (arrived at with almost zero public funding) of about 500 miles of single track trails and slashed them to 175 miles of designated routes. Many hundreds of miles of such trails exist on the ground that never received consideration. It would be quite possible for an expert rider to cover all 175 miles in a day, a good rider 2 days. Then where will they go? Roughly 40% of the national recreation economy, or $260 billion are spent yearly by motorized enthusiasts. That number is arguably much higher in Grand County. Their needs are not remotely addressed in any adequate manner.

To paraphrase a dirt biker friend, no grass grows in a corral. Corral is an accurate term that describes the current situation for trail motorcycles. At the very least, there should be no net loss of single track motorized trail opportunity. Responsible management would dictate a massive increase in that category, arrived at with proper planning and execution.

National and regional wilderness organizations have made no "on the ground" contribution to the situation, preferring to treat the public lands as a cash cow that results in an attorney charity which keeps on retainer around a dozen litigators. No wonder Owen Severance lamented the decades long management farce in his article "***Why I Don't Belong to SUWA or the Sierra Club*** in the October-November issue of Canyon Country Zephyr. The land and the public deserves better than the "take my ball and run home to mommy" approach of the massive moneyed environmental lobby.

I support extraction of natural resources. The methods of today are so infinitely cleaner than those of the past as to be in another world entirely. Even the "dirty" methods of years ago resulted in valuable routes that our visitors use daily, which net millions of dollars to outfitters. Our economy must not remain dependent upon only one sector of the economy. If we have a well that is leading in production nationally, and surprise, we do! There most likely will be more down the road. What a travesty it would be if those potentials were not explored and developed. Those who say we should abandon "dirty" energy dependence are not offering anything affordable or viable as an alternative. I say this having made a $20,000.00 investment in CNG personally. I challenge anybody on the environmental side of this issue to match that level of commitment. In reality, many of them are driving four wheel drive vehicles, if not old high carbon emission engines lacking in proper maintenance. They do not have the moral high ground they appear to in regards to carbon footprint.

The issue of an energy corridor to be owned by Grand County through Sego Canyon to resource rich areas of Uintah County has my full support. All the fear mongering aside, the earth didn't die with Chernobyl, Exxon Valdeez, Gulf Oil Spill, or any of the supposed "ends of life as we know it" events of the past fifty years. Indeed, the spilled Gulf oil has yet to even be located. A paved road through Sego Canyon cannot begin to compare even with the 1992 change to our local form of county government in terms of devastation.

I implore Grand County, and by extension, Rob Bishop and US Congress to decide this issue in favor of the average working, productive, contributing (and I do not mean contributing to ever increasing red tape and regulation) citizen and families. Those who have time to wander blissfully out in the desert for weeks and months at a time are not the backbone of society, and do not deserve the concessions they frequently receive.

Sincerely,

David R. Cozzens

Ride with Respect
395 McGill Avenue
Moab, UT 84532
435-259-8334
501(c)(3)

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY:

To: Grand County Council
From: Ride with Respect
Date: May 7th, 2014
Re: Public Lands Bill

We appreciate the county-council members for attempting to resolve long-standing controversies about public lands.

Your alternatives provide a reasonable starting point, and in fact a blueprint for providing security to preservation and development interests. To secure recreation opportunities, we request that your final draft add three points of clarification.

First, if the Dalton Wells area will be changed from state to federal ownership, future public access should match the current route designations that comprise Sovereign Trail System. Although small, this area has become a nationally-recognized model for multiple-use trails, thanks in large part to support from Grand County.

Second, the National Recreation Area (NRA) should be defined to provide diverse recreation opportunities. Uses should include motorized and non-motorized trails, rock climbing, etc. Similar to focus areas in the 2008 RMP, the NRA can partially-zone uses. Still the NRA should predominantly utilize the efficiency and community benefits of multiple use in shared spaces.

Third, the travel plan established by the 2008 RMP should be codified into this legislation. Whether four-wheeling, ATVing, motorcycling, or bicycling, these trails are national treasures that deserve to be preserved. Flexibility can be provided through temporary closures and permanent reroutes as needed. An alternative way to prevent net losses of access for each type of use would be for the 2008 RMP to establish a minimum mileage of routes, which should be maintained or exceeded in future.

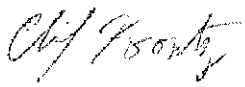
Also we should note that Alternative 3 would appear to close lower Hey Joe Mine, Tenmile Wash, and Dead Cow routes. These routes are highly valuable to off-highway vehicle riders, so we would prefer designations other than Wilderness in order to conserve these three outstanding trails.

Regarding the Sego Canyon road, connecting it to roads atop the Bookcliffs would enhance recreation, generally speaking. However improving the road seems to be associated with oil sands mining. When it comes to more conventional industries, mitigating impacts to recreation is proving to be fairly successful. Indeed, diversifying Grand County's economy is important to many residents. Nevertheless, we hope that new forms of industrial activity will not substantially raise impacts to recreation or the natural resources upon which they depend.

Finally, preventing national-monument proclamations seems to be perfectly reasonable. Since all three alternatives further protect land through a variety of designations across the county, allowing future presidents to add a monument on top of them would undermine the entire agreement.

Again, providing some certainty for all stakeholders is a primary goal of the Eastern Utah Public Lands Initiative. To extend this benefit to recreationists, we request adding a few points regarding long-term access in your final draft. Above all, we applaud the Grand County council for its vision and diligence.

Clif Koontz
executive director



RECEIVED
MAY 07
BY: KW

Grand County Council

This county needs to understand that the tourism industry can only go part way in supporting the way of life that citizens need. We need industry and resource extraction to provide the infrastructure and wages necessary to enjoy family life here. The working families here deserve more than they can ever get from a tourism only economy. Public lands must be available for these activities to be conducted in responsible ways. Drill where the oil is, not where wealthy trust fund supported environmentalists want to allow it. Mine for the minerals that society needs to function. Grand County needs to dedicate itself to the well being of it's citizens, not just the ones with time on their hands to manipulate the system through continuous letter writing and attendance at daily meetings.

Drew G. Cozzens
435.260.1289

May 6, 2014

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: [illegible]

Grand County
Attention: Public Lands
125 E. Center St.
Moab, UT 84532

Dear Grand County Council,

A Sego transportation corridor in the Grand County wilderness proposal is not reasonable, and yet all three current Grand County Council alternatives incorporate it, with no previous public discussion that it would be included in the alternatives. The proposed Sego Road transportation corridor would facilitate tar sands development to the utter degradation of Grand County and exacerbation of CO2-driven climate change. For at least the following reasons, it is an unacceptable element of a wilderness bill for Utah:

1. The road would facilitate development of tar sands on tens of thousands of acres in the Book Cliffs, which is a premier wildlands.

   One need merely to look at the devastation of 9 acres at PR Springs to begin to fathom what tens of thousands of acres of tar sands extraction would look like in Grand County.

2. Tar sands development is Appalachian mountain top removal all over again.

   Presumably Appalachian county councils similarly voted for mountain top removal to get at coal decades ago.

3. Tar sands use generates considerably greater CO2 emissions than conventional fuels.

   More and more, "all of the above" energy development begins to look like, "Let's see how irresponsible to future generations we can be."

4. Facilitation of tar sands development accelerates, rather than mitigates global warming.

   Global warming should be of paramount concern to the Grand County Council if it is scientifically informed and concerned about the future of Grand County.

5. The road would likely bring no profit to Grand County.

   As far as I understand, the touted "toll road" income for Grand County would not be allowed to be used for anything other than the construction and/or maintenance of the Sego transportation corridor.

6. The road, with its facilitation of tar sands and hellish industrial destruction of the Book Cliffs, would likely reduce rather than increase jobs in Grand County due to its destruction of wildlands uses (e.g., hunting, fishing, tourism).

   The work of Chris Baird of Canyonlands Watershed Council, using published data and transparent methodology, shows how any employment generated by the tar sands-facilitating, wildlands-destroying Sego transportation corridor is minor at best. This raises the spectre of overall job LOSS through the road-facilitated degradation of Grand County's fundamental tourism economy.

7. The stripped and bared lands of tar sands development would not be required to be restored to the current native biodiversity. (Reclamation requirements are low, and reclamation track records are dismal.)

   Please look at the photos of the 9-acre wasteland of the PR Springs pilot project and compare it to the complexity, diversity, and beauty of the Book Cliffs today.

`Sincerely,

Mary O'Brien

Mary O'Brien
270 E. Pope Lane
Castle Valley UT 84532
Ret.359-6205

May 7th 2014

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

Grand County Commissioners
Attention: Public Lands
Grand County
125 E. Center Street
Moab, Utah 84532

Dear Commissioners,

I begin this letter with text (slightly altered) from my letter of January 30th of this year. "I am a resident of Castle Valley and Grand County. I am writing this letter in the context of the 'Bishop Plan.' My [major] concern/suggestion [in this letter] is that the county focuses on our most important natural resource, our pristine water that comes from the La Sal Mountains. Occasionally, one of my friends living in Oregon notes that my wife and I should not be living on a desert where there is a natural water shortage. The last time he said this, I noted a report from a national environmental organization that listed Grand County as sustainable in terms of water resources until the end date for the study: the middle of this century. Many counties in the United States do not meet this sustainability standard. We all know we owe this to the watersheds coming off the La Sal Mountains. These watersheds comprise less than 3% of the land area in Grand County, but provide water for over 90% of its population."

The Bishop plan is an opportunity for Grand County (the Council) to make it known that a bottom line for the county is protection for the watersheds for Moab and Castle Valley. The Council could take a stand that these water sources are off limits to development or at a minimum any development that would threaten these sources of pristine water.

Unfortunately, none of the three proposed options offer protection for the entire watersheds. Option 1 offers some limited protection that is expanded in Options 2 and 3 by recommending a National Recreation Area designation that includes some of the watershed areas. Why not all of the watershed areas: a line in the sand that at the minimum Grand County needs these two important watersheds protected in the final Bishop Plan.

This can still be done by expanding the NRA designation to cover the entire watersheds and suggesting in writing that one element of the NRA protections needs to highlight the protection of water in these watersheds. This should not be difficult, and it would seem that the Council has enough members who realize that this is the resource that allows people to live in this area. *Am I and others to interpret a recommendation to the Bishop Process by the County that does not include protection for our watersheds as meaning that the Council does not have a majority of members that share this concern?*

My understanding of a National Recreation Area is that its stipulations for protection are dependent upon what the authors of the specific NRA write into it. So that process would be important, but at least the recommendation for the establishment of an NRA that covers the entire two watersheds would be a start. The bottom line for me is that any plans/suggestions submitted by Grand County to the Bishop Process should include strong protections for our watershed from the La Sal Mountains.

I want to thank the Commissioners for your work on the "Bishop Plan" and your interest in protecting our watershed

Sincerely,

Robert M. O'Brien
HC 64 Box 2604
Castle Valley UT 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: LW

Dear County Council, May 7th, 2014

I hate to keep repeating the obvious, but it seems necessary. Our major industry these days, is tourism. Now, tourists can be a nuisance & they do cause impacts.

Being as I'm a carpenter, I don't directly benefit from tourists dollars. But, if someone who does benefit from tourist money, hires me to build something, then I benefit indirectly, as does everybody in the County.

Now, by definision (sic), the extraction industry is a "Boom & Bust" cycle. With climate change happening, we need to get away from the extraction & burning of carbon based fossil fuels. Especially, dirty fuels like tar sands & oil shale. There are already plenty of access roads into the Book Cliffs. We don't need a new Book Cliffs Highway. Let's start looking long term, instead of short term. Let's save something for future generations.

I support & want the County to support, the protection & expansion of Greater Canyonlands. People come from all over the world to visit our National Parks. They don't come to see misguided oil & gas development.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

J R Burnett

Jake Burnett
Castle Valley, Utah

May 7 2014

Grand County Council
Public Lands Initiative Subcommittee
125 E. Center St.
Moab, UT 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

Dear All,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment again on Congressman Bishop's "Public Lands Initiative" (PLI) to present a Wilderness Bill to the nation. These comments reiterate concerns I have expressed previously and address the subcommittee 3 alternatives presented at the public hearing on April 23.

With all due respect for the sub-committee perspectives and acknowledging the great effort you've gone to thus far, I can't support any of the alternatives you've presented.

I strongly believe that the process of determining the fate of public lands in Grand County is a land use issue and should be taken through our Planning Commission. Having served on the Planning Commission from 2010-2013, I know our planning process is very robust and thorough. This was clearly evident in the recent update to GC General Plan. I think it will only serve our present and future community to be more deliberative. I implore you to take the time to fully explore wilderness designations, other land protection avenues, and transportation planning, etc.

As I have noted previously, I recognize the frustration on the part of some that the 'wilderness question' needs to be 'settled' to get on with development. But I see wilderness as only a slice of the land management pie that requires thoughtful deliberation. I think that Congressman Bishop's approach, while offered in good faith, is premature for Grand County and the region.

Watershed protection for the drinking water supplies of Moab-Spanish Valley and Castle Valley is paramount. As you know, the Moab Area Watershed Partnership is a collaboration of diverse stakeholders who share knowledge and develop, and facilitate implementation of, a holistic watershed plan that conserves and enhances water quality and quantity in the Mill Creek and Castle Creek watersheds and their tributaries. Grand County is a member of this organization that includes stakeholders from Grand and San Juan Counties. This provides an already established platform to discuss watershed planning and land use designation.

Two examples of proposed national legislation under the Wilderness Preservation System that specifically includes watershed protection that could be considered for Grand/San Juan Counties.

> **Wasatch Wilderness and Watershed Protection Act (H.R. 2808)** would protect a picturesque section of Utah's Wasatch Mountains, with more than half of the nearly 26,000 acres becoming wilderness area. Decades after the state's last wilderness designation, the legislation would set aside important buffers for protecting the watershed on which nearby Salt Lake City depends for more than half of its drinking water.
>
> **The Hermosa Creek Watershed Protection Act** (S. 841/H.R. 1839) would protect 38,000 acres of wilderness and 70,000 acres of special management area in southwest Colorado's San Juan National Forest, where some mountain biking and trail-bound motorized recreation like snowmobiling would continue. The greater watershed contains 17 distinct ecosystems, encompasses the largest unprotected roadless area in the southern Rocky Mountains, and serves as habitat for elk, Canada lynx and other wildlife.

One example of using a watershed approach to protect lands for water supply, as wilderness (or under other special management designations), is the Grand Canyon Trust's Forest Wilderness Proposal. I support this proposal. There are many creative land protection and conservation tools that have been successfully applied in the West and in Grand County. I don't think that the 3 alternatives presented by the subcommittee are anywhere near complete or inclusive enough in this regard. These ideas and designation opportunities need to be more fully explored, discussed, and implemented. Again through our planning process. This addresses Councilman Jackson's concern that inclusions of Forest Service lands is 'too complicated'.

I am also concerned that the Subcommittee has unilaterally expanded the scope of the initiative by including references to a Sego Canyon (or other Book Cliffs) transportation corridor and to exempting Grand County from the Antiquities Act. These were not topics that the community was asked to comment on when this process started. The essentially are coming out of the blue. Again without ample time devoted to discussion and analysis of effects – positive or negative.

I am disappointed that the Subcommittee has brought these elements in in this way when they have been very divisive for the community in the past.

Including a prohibition against future Antiquities Act designations in all 3 alternatives does not reflect a good portion of the comments you have received so far that favor some sort of expanded protections for our public lands. I think 'all tools in the toolbox should be used'.

The Sego Canyon corridor, bisects all three wilderness proposals. It also threatens the integrity of the Book Cliffs and the surrounding wild areas. It is very clear that the purpose of the transportation corridor is to allow for development of tar sands and oil shale, both, highly destructive and untested processes that go beyond conventional fossil fuel development. This type of large-scale development does not comport with our attraction to people from all over the world, including Utah, to visit and experience Grand County's vast, hauntingly beautiful, quiet, intact wild lands.

Protecting lands now leaves them whole for the future – like a bank savings account or trust to be used for that rainy day. I haven't been shown that the rainy day is here yet to justify the vast extension of ground-disturbance caused by these kinds of resource extraction.

The alternatives should also include additional BLM wilderness lands in the following areas Porcupine Rim, Mary Jane Canyon, Fisher Towers, Goldbar Rim, Dome Plateau and Mineral, Hell Roaring, Spring, and Tenmile Canyons. Many citizens have expressed full support for these areas, including myself. Include the America's Red Rock Wilderness Act boundaries in full.

I think it is only fair and with due process to expand the range of the alternatives through a more deliberative process. As was evident at the April 23 hearing, passions were running high and our community, on all sides of the issues, is telling you that you need to slow down and give us all more time to work collaboratively on a comprehensive approach to land management.

The Council is, in effect, creating new land use maps – ad hoc. Once again, I encourage the Council to slow the process down and broaden the community input. Rather, use the PLI as a catalyst and an opportunity to take the lead in our own County's planning context. Establish a process and budget proposal to accomplish this. Base it on rational discussion and decision-making supported by appropriate science and economic studies. The PLI would be one of the many pieces or processes to consider.

We can use a watershed approach that John Wesley Powell envisioned for achieving sustainable communities when he explored the river systems west of the 100th meridian. Let's look systematically at protection designations that support watershed function and sustainability values that will serve us now and in the future. In the end we are stewards of the land, lands that support our very existence. We should err on the side of careful deliberation and conservation because this protects the future for our children's, children's grandchildren. Let's work together to foster a legacy that will be admired and honored by our descendants long after we are gone.

Very sincerely,

Pam Hackley

Pam Hackley
HC 64 Box 3208
Castle Valley, UT 84532

cc: Congressman Rob Bishop

May 7, 2014

RECEIVED
MAY 07
BY:

Grand County
Attention: Public Lands
125 E. Center St.
Moab, UT 84532

RE: Comments On Public Lands Alternatives

Thank you for allowing me to provide written comments on this very important issue in Grand County. As a life-long (58 years) resident of Grand County, I am very interested in the management of our public lands, School Trust Lands and their impact on private lands and our local economy as well as the recreational opportunities they provide.

In general, I believe that public lands and School Trust Lands (SITLA) should be actively managed to provide for a variety of benefits. Both economically as well as providing long term conservation to our natural resources. As these three (3) proposed alternatives involve both BLM & SITLA lands, it is important to discuss the implications of exchanging lands between each. Back in the 1980's when I was a Land Specialist for the Division of State Lands and Forestry, Grand County had the highest percentage of School Trust Lands of any county in Utah (17%). There are still two (2) large SITLA land blocks in Grand County (Book Cliffs Block & La Sal Mountain North Block) totaling together approximately 140,000 acres. Both of these areas were originally obtained through grant selections by the Federal Government for their values in; grazing, minerals and timber. The Book Cliffs block was a much later, Quantity Grant Selection in the late 1950's and was primarily selected for anticipated mineral values. Today, both of these areas are prime Big Game hunting units in Utah. Through a lease agreement between SITLA and the Division of Wildlife Resources public access is granted for hunting to these two land blocks and others in the State for an annual fee totaling near one million dollars. Not many of the general public is aware of this lease agreement providing public access to SITLA lands for hunting and fishing. I strongly encourage the Grand County Council to consider the wildlife values during the further analysis of these land use alternatives.

Sego Canyon Transportation Corridor

I was unable to attend the public meeting on April 23, 2014 to find out the reasoning for this proposal, but I have a very hard time seeing any benefit to a transportation corridor in Sego Canyon. The map shows the road stopping at the "Indian Gate" as referred to by the many who use this area, or more specifically the Ute Tribal boundary fence. Has Grand and perhaps Uintah County reached an agreement for a right of way for mineral/oil & gas transportation across the Ute Tribal lands (crossing West Willow Creek and onto Mormon Ridge) and into the Uintah Basin? Or would this be just to improve the road from Thompson Springs to the top of Sego Canyon for recreation purposes and foot and

horseback travel into the SITLA land block? In the 1970's and through the late 1980's, limited access for fishing to Weaver Reservoir on the Ute Reservation was available by a unimproved two track road. As one who used to use this four-wheel drive road in the summer to fish at Weaver, it took about 4 1/2 hours to make this trip from Moab to Weaver Reservoir, depending on recent rain-storms and condition of the road. It was always an adventure with great scenery and wildlife viewing. There was no hunting allowed on the Ute Reservation in this area. In about 1988 or 1989 the Ute Tribe decided to construct a fence and gate at their boundary to alleviate travel onto their lands. An agreement with the Division of Wildlife Resources to provide foot and horseback travel on a designated trail (approximately 1/2 mile) to SITLA land block and Cunningham Ranch's private property was negotiated. The road near the gate and fence was later obliterated by the Ute Tribe. Some other administration uses like fire suppression activities were authorized on a case by case basis. I spent over 14 years administering these State lands from Moab and would not recommend putting a major transportation corridor to the Uintah Basin through this section of the Book Cliffs, even if you acquire access from the Ute Tribe. If you are looking to transport minerals and oil & gas from the Book Cliffs why not look at the existing Hay Canyon Road, Middle Canyon Road, or the East Canyon Roads (all in Grand County) and tie in with the newly paved Seep Ridge Road in Uintah County? It would be much closer to the existing roads and mineral activities in the Book Cliffs. If you are set on building a better Sego Canyon Road, which will cost major dollars, as you would have to stay in the bottom of Sego Canyon most of the way up and very limited with the ridge tops, funding would come more from tax payers and less from the energy companies. Most all the roads in the Book Cliffs were built by the energy companies to access drilling and production well sites. These roads have been maintained and improved by them with some limited annual assistance from Grand County Road Department. Why do we need a better road than what the energy companies have been willing to provide for. If one is needed and major transportation of materials is needed to Interstate 70, then put it in the most logical place, Hay Canyon.

I would support **ALTERNATIVE # 1** as the preferred alternative for Grand County and using Hay Canyon as the main transportation corridor for mineral extraction and oil & gas transportation to I-70. This would represent a compromise solution to some very complicated land use issues in the County, but at least a start to future dialogue and discussions, hopefully.

Stan Baker
Stan Baker
661 Bartlett Ave.
Moab, Utah 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY:

Dear City Council,

My name is Jessica Holyoak and I am the Community Manager of the Grand Oasis Manufactured Home Community. As you can imagine the Grand Oasis is a very diverse community with two hundred and forty families. I have tenants who serve our booming tourists industry, work in mineral exploration, business owners and many more professions.

At the risk of sounding cliché I would say I have a bird's eye view of a substantial amount of the community of Grand County. Not to mention being a sixth generation local with a lot of friends and family.

I urge the city council to do away with the idea of anymore wilderness lands and pursue a greater mineral development plan.

I understand that many residents work in the tourist industry and it is a booming industry for about eight months of the year. But every December I watch most families of the tourist industry face the decision of buying Christmas for their children or paying rent. It only gets worse from there. Most families struggle for the months of January February and March as well. They spend a substantial amount of the late spring and early summer digging out of the debt they incurred through the winter.

I hear many people argue that unemployment will sustain the families through the winter but sadly enough I encounter people who work three jobs in the spring ,summer and fall months just to make ends meet and do not qualify for those benefits through the winter.

The biggest truth is that Moab needs more high paying jobs throughout the whole year. Mineral exploration and the option for the transportation corridor through Sego Canyon would create many high paying jobs. Those are the jobs that will fuel our economy through the winter and assist it in the tourist season.

I also have the strong belief that America as a whole needs independency from foreign oil. We are not at a point of using "clean energy" for everything. Everything that we use from metal to rubber to plastics to nylon comes from the earth and needs to be mined.

Grand County has a lot of resources ready to be produced. Why not take advantage of that and create opportunities and jobs for Grand County residents?

That being said we do need to protect our lands, development does need to be monitored and supervised. The individuals I know involved in industry do not want to go out and ravage the lands. That is their lively hood. Most of these boys enjoy the outdoors hunting, fishing, hiking and four wheeling. Why would they try to hurt the environment that they enjoy so much?

I actually have witnessed workers in the oil field fixing the land after a job. I was taken on a date to "reseed reclamation of a drill site." I thought "Why are we planting weeds?" But that is how things are done. These industries fix the land that they work. This is THEIR home.

I don't think this is a give and take situation at this point. The federal government should have no more say in our land. We have plenty of wildernesses, there are many acres untouched.

We need more high paying sustainable jobs and mineral exploration. Please take into consideration that Moab cannot sustain on tourism alone.

Thank you for your time,

Jessica Holyoak

400 N 500 W #136
Moab, UT. 84532
(435) 260-1970

May 7, 2014

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: W

Dear Grand County Council Members,

I commend you + your Land-Use Committee for asking for open discussion and stakeholder input in this process. However, the current 3 proposals leave out MANY Grand County voices. I encourage you to draft and add at least 1, hopefully 2, additional proposals that represent these requests (listed below).

* Do not include "hydrocarbon highway" through the Book Cliffs. This will facilitate the dirtiest of all extraction, increase pollution in Grand County, encourage a 'dirty' refinery in Green River (more Grand County air pollution), cost our county without long-term benefit. Please listen to the facts - financially this could be a huge liability.
* Include Moab's watershed in protective language: NO mineral extraction in the La Sal's or lands adjacent to our sole-source aquifer.
* Expand land protection - if not by greater # of acres set into wilderness, then by eliminating any more opportunities for fracking + tar sands extraction. This is a health issue! Please educate yourselves as our representatives on the documented dangers these industrial processes pose to our air and water.

The health of our children and grandchildren is my bottom line. Sure it would be great to receive more county income,

but at what price? Expanding polluting extractive industries is not the only way to grow job diversity, income, + consistent financial support for Grand County. Please look at clean industry + court these options. If eyes are focussed solely on the Book Cliffs Highway + the expansion of extraction industry, the other options are hidden from view.

You can take a healing step for Grand County: take as wide a view as possible – allow our options to expand, both by adding additional Lands bill proposals and by exploring new ideas for luring clean business to Grand County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lisa Paterson

2729 Old City Park
Moab UT 84532

Monette Tangren Clark
22 W. Coronado St., PO Box 1274
Moab, UT 84532

May 6, 2014

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY:

Grand County Council
Public Lands Working Committee, Lynn Jackson, Chair
125 E. Center Street
Moab, UT 84532

Re: Public Comments – Congressman Bishop's Proposed Public Lands Bill

Dear Grand County Council:

Thank you for extending the time period for written comments on the alternatives for public land designations in Grand County. I live in upper Spanish Valley, one mile into San Juan County. As a "borderlands" resident, Grand County policies affect me greatly. My life is centered on Grand County. It is here that I work, recreate, and purchase my groceries, gas and other goods. I also own commercial property in and pay property taxes to Grand County. I'm a descendant of pioneers who settled in Moab in the 1800s. My parents, ages 84 and 90, have lived in Grand County all their lives. I grew up in Moab, moving away in 1974, then back in 1998. I resided in Grand County until 2006, when I bought my manufactured home in Upper Spanish Valley.

I lived in air-polluted Denver for 17 years. This showed me the value of Grand County's world-class, scenic red rock lands as nothing else could. Future generations will live in ever-larger, more densely crowded cities, resulting in an increased demand to visit our wide open spaces for renewal and recreation. IF the lands are protected and cared for, their value will exceed and outlive the limited monies gained through extractive industries, which "dry up" once the resource is gone. With this in mind, **I support Alternative #3, with the added improvements suggested by the Grand Canyon Trust in their letter to the Council, dated May 2, 2014**. The Trust summarized their recommendations as follows:

> "(1) addition of significant proposed BLM and Forest Service wilderness acreage; (2) elimination of the mile- (or miles) wide Sego Canyon transportation corridor; and (3) elimination of the prohibition on future Antiquities Act designations in the County. We support the inclusion of additional BLM wilderness lands in the following areas: Porcupine Rim, Mary Jane Canyon, Fisher Towers, Goldbar Rim, Dome Plateau and Mineral, Hell Roaring, Spring, and Ten Mile Canyons."

The water and air quality of my environment concern me greatly. These resources flow across County lines. I'm very concerned about protection of the watersheds on the La Sal Mountains, particularly because I get my drinking water from a community well in my subdivision. **Alternative #3 should be strengthened by adding wilderness and watershed protections to the La Sal Mountain Forest Service lands. I support using**

the plan of the Grand Canyon Trust, as they have researched this thoroughly, using the requirements of the 1964 Wilderness Act and the Forest Service's manuals and handbooks, and have field-checked the plan. Other counties are including Forest Service wilderness in their plans to be submitted to the Bishop Land Initiative process and Grand County should, too. The La Sal Mountains are too important to leave unprotected.

Air quality is worsening in Moab/Spanish Valley. Visible haze hangs over the valley quite often these days and ozone levels are up, creating health hazards. Promoting activities, such as tar sands production, that are known to cause air pollution is short-sighted and dangerous to the valley's population. Grand County is a windy place and air pollution crosses the county line to where I live. I am against designation of a Sego Canyon Transportation Corridor in any "preferred alternative" that will be presented to Congressman Bishop, because it would facilitate air pollution and release of globally significant amounts of hydrocarbons into the atmosphere. This will only speed up climate change and droughts in our region.

Additionally, I am against a Sego Transportation Corridor because it would cut the proposed wilderness of the Books Cliffs in half – greatly deteriorating its wilderness value. This road would impact the land for miles on both sides, not just in the ROW setback areas. Wildlife migration patterns would be disrupted, air pollution and noise would emanate, and there would be high risks for water and land pollution due to wrecks and oil spills. Nothing could be less wilderness-like than a hydrocarbon highway through the archeologically significant Sego Canyon.

According to news articles in the Salt Lake Tribune and Desert News in September, 2013, Congressman Bishop had been in the middle of trying to work on a trade-out of SITLA lands–for the purpose of conserving the road-less areas of the Book Cliffs lands for big game hunting in a pristine wilderness, even as SITLA was in the midst of secretly leasing to Anadarko! As we all know, Governor Herbert stepped in to assist concerned Sportsmen Associations in delaying the start of Anadarko's oil exploration in the southern, road-less segment, until some sort of plan to protect wildlife could be set into place. If *our Governor and Congressman have the goal of protecting the road-less lands of the Book Cliffs, will they and other critical stakeholders support a Sego Transportation Corridor?* I believe that many influential stakeholders feel that the highest, best use of the Books Cliffs unspoiled lands is for hunting conservation and wilderness, not for production of dirty energy via tar sands. It will be vital to have all stakeholders on board with Grand County's "preferred alternative," to assure its success in passing through Congress and obtaining the President's signature.

On a "brighter note," *Sunshine* is one of Grand County's biggest assets. I support designation of some public lands in Grand County as "clean energy industrial," perhaps in the I-70 corridor, to diversify Grand County's economy with a solar power plant. This could provide initial construction jobs, followed by clean energy "production" jobs that never go away.

Finally, I urge the Council to not be pressured to submit any plan to Congressman Bishop before the plan is fully considered and weighed from all perspectives. I think it would help with cooperation and openness if the sub-committee expanded to include representatives from the full spectrum of the community, including Planning Commission, Castle Valley, City of Moab, federal agency(ies), small business, recreation, and a citizen at large.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Respectfully,

Monette Tangren Clark

Monette Tangren Clark

Cc: Congressman Rob Bishop

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

Dear County Council Members,

Water is the most vital resource in our home in the desert and putting it at risk for short term profits is irresponsible. The Moab and Castle Valley watersheds deserve full protection, including Forest Service land even if it takes longer to enact.

The United Nations put out the most comprehensive assessment to date of the impacts of climate change on the world a few weeks ago that further illustrates the scientific community's almost unanimous belief that our planet is in extremely dangerous territory. It prompted Secretary of State John Kerry to say, "Unless we act dramatically and quickly, science tells us our climate and our way of life are literally in jeopardy. Denial of the science is malpractice." Mining tar sands and oil shale is taking a step backwards in responsible energy production. Building a road through Sego Canyon that enables strip mining the dirtiest known fuel source to be refined close to our home and the Green River involves taking risks we cannot afford to lose. We should be investing in solar and wind technology that will take us into a healthier and more responsible future. The inclusion of the road on all three alternatives says to me the county council does not accurately reflect the community it represents. The small amount of money the schools would be getting from SITLA is a bad reason to push this through and the jobs it would help create do not guarantee money will even stay in our county.

Arches deserves a protective buffer around its borders, especially in the north and east. The Labrynth Canyon river corridor deserves protection from heavy industry.

I believe there should be stronger wilderness protection than any of the three alternatives would provide and I hope the community's voice will be heard more this time.

Sincerely,

Jeff Guiterrez
687 Mulberry Lane
Moab, UT 84532
435-494-8119

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

May 7, 2014

Sirs,

I am in favor of Proposal 1. We have too much federal land in Utah. Utah is one of the lowest privately owned land areas in the country. No more federal lands.

Thank you,

Lloyd Wilson

May 5, 2014

Alice de Anguera
503 Kane Creek Blvd
Moab, UT 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY:

Grand County Council
Attn: Public Lands Bill
125 E Center Street
Moab, UT 84532

Council Members Jackson, Nyland, and Paxman:

Please expand on the initial Alternative #3 and include more protected land in larger, less fragmented pieces. Of particular need of protection:

- The Arches National Park view shed to the north and east
- Moab's own watershed in the La Sals
- The area around Labyrinth Canyon
- Existing WSA areas
- Beloved hiking and recreation areas such as Mary Jane Canyon, Fisher Towers, Gold Bar Rim, Culvert Canyon, Day Canyon, and others.
- Sensitive archaeological areas such as Seven Mile Canyon and many others.

Yes, a few ORV routes and roads may need to be closed. This is a compromise, and in order to meet the definition of the word, there must be concessions on both sides. Even in Alternative #3, wilderness advocates are giving up 42% of the hoped-for acreage. Does this balance the amount of roads, ORV routes, and mineral development is being given up?

Additionally, a prohibition on the use the Antiquities Act is short-sighted and likely to endanger to success of this bill. Don't forget, the Antiquities Act made possible four of Utah's "Mighty 5" National Parks, and with them, millions of dollars of tourist revenue each year.

As our elected council members, it is your job to act as your voters are asking you to. Please protect the economic and ecological future of this beautiful and delicate region by adding more wilderness to create Alternative #4.

Best regards,

Alice de Anguera

CC: Fred Ferguson, Legislative Director for Representative Rob Bishop

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: JW

Grand County Council

Please do all you can to protect the access to the resource rich land that makes up our county. Those who would lock up such resources do so because they have no need to work to maintain their lives. Most of the citizens of Grand County do not have time to be writing letters and attending meetings. We have work to do, children to raise and feed. We need better jobs than tourism provides. We also need to be able to recreate on the land. There is plenty of true pristine wilderness without pretending that developed lands qualify for draconian protections.

G. Shane Tangren
435-260-9131

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY:

May 7, 2014

Grand County Council
Attention: Public Lands
125 E. Center St.
Moab, Utah 84532

Re: Bishop Public Lands Bill

Dear Grand County Council:

Below are my comments on the alternatives developed by the Public Lands Working Committee of the Grand County Council for Representative Bishop's Eastern Utah Public Lands Initiative. Thank you for the providing this opportunity to submit comments. I have been a resident of Grand County since 1996.

I. General Comments

1. The proposed alternatives do not reflect the vast majority of written comments submitted to the Working Committee. Most of those commenters supported maximum wilderness and other protection.

2. The Grand County community needs more economic and other data on the short-term and long-term impacts of all of the proposed alternatives. The data would include information of how the various proposals and the industrial development that will follow will affect southeast Utah. This would include information on money that will go to schools, the county, and general local economic pool. It would also include possible negative economic impacts to our community. It should include consideration of health impacts. Today there is an article in the Salt Lake Tribune about possible increase in neo-natal deaths in the Vernal area due to oil and gas development.[1] There has been an ongoing increase in oil-field worker fatal accidents.[2] Grand County has never conducted a full evaluation of all of the social, medical, economic, and environmental impacts to the County as a result of the uranium industry development. With many uranium mines still to be remediated in Grand County and a uranium mill tailings removal project that will cost American taxpayers about 1 billion dollars, such as assessment is long over due.

3. I support the Alternative 3, with additional areas of protection, as stated below.

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[1] http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/news/57914660-78/vernal-birth-health-utah.html.csp

[2] http://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/Oil-field-deaths-rose-sharply-from-2008-to-2012-5433943.php

4. There should have been more County meetings that provided basic information about the various proposed Lands Initiative alternatives. Maps along did not cut it. The county should have had a presentation with electronic map overlays and opportunities for questions (not opinions). The Grand County Watershed Council hosted such a meeting, which was highly informative. However, some members of the public who would have benefited from just such an informational presentation were not in attendance, due to their hostility. Such hostility is not beneficial to this process.

5. The County must be actively involved in getting a campus for Utah State University up and running. The County must not rely on industrial energy extractive industries to expand the economic base of southeast Utah. The need for well-paying jobs is real, but can be addressed by other ways and means.

6. It is interesting that Congressman Bishop, who is supposed to shepherd any Grand County lands bill through Congress, has over the past year opposed any wilderness bills in Congress, putting a stop to the progress on those bills.[3] Some of those bills had wide support in their communities. I wonder how Congressman Bishop will get Congressional support for a Grand County lands bill, if he will not support other wilderness legislation.

II. Wilderness

1. I support maximum protection of wilderness. Much of the land (more or less what is presented in Alternative 2) is already managed as Wilderness. However, Alternative 3, which expands on that area, does not go far enough to protect our valuable heritage. Porcupine Rim, Mary Jane Canyon, Fisher Towers, Goldbar Rim, the Dome Plateau, and all of the Labyrinth, including Mineral, Hell Roaring, Spring, and Tenmile Canyons, should have wilderness protection.

2. Areas with wilderness protection should not include ORV routes. There are miles and miles of ORV routes on US Forest Service and BLM lands in Utah that will remain open. We need to reduce the number of routes for ORVs.

III. Federal and State Land Exchanges

The transfer of federal lands to the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) is a questionable practice. Once land is in the hands of SITLA, as was pointed out by Lynn Jackson in a May 6, 2014, Salt Lake Tribune opinion piece, decisions on the how the land will be used and who will make use of the land (the buyer or lessee) are outside of any public input process. Federal lands are subject to federal laws that require environmental analyses (the National Environmental Protection Act); protect air, water, land, and cultural resources; and in other ways are subject to provisions and management decisions that are meant to assure that lands are developed in an

[3] http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/politics/57707543-90/wilderness-bills-conservation-report.html.csp

environmental sound manner, taking into consideration other important uses, such as wildlife habitat for game animals.

IV. Book Cliffs Highway

1. Grand County should not widen of the existing road through Sego Canyon and the Books Cliffs to provide a transportation corridor for the fossil fuel extraction industry. The mining of tar sands has an overwhelming negative impact on the environment and results in unacceptable increases in green house gas emissions. The tar sands project in the Book Cliffs is only in its research and development phase and may never get to the full production level. Other companies have abandoned tar and oil sands development projects because they were not economically or environmentally feasible. Currently, there is no processing plant in southeast Utah to support tar and oil sands development.

2. A lands bill should not include a provision that would widen the existing corridor of the road from Sego Canyon through the Book Cliffs.

3. Any lands bill should not exempt the Sego Canyon-Book Cliffs road from the National Environmental Policy Act.

4. Grand County has no legal or moral obligation to provide a highway for tar sands products or natural gas from the Book Cliffs.

5. Statements from a Working Committee member implied that Grand County would be able to charge a toll on a Book Cliffs highway in order to bring in revenue beyond what is needed to construct and maintain the highway. The legality of "making money" on a public county road is highly questionable. Therefore, one of the economic justifications for constructing a highway for the benefit of Grand County has a very shaky legal basis.

6. Grand County should get a sound legal opinion regarding whether it could charge Book Cliffs corridor users any fees or other charges that would go beyond what is necessary to pay for the construction and maintenance of the highway and other legitimate impacts. The County government must not mislead the citizens of Grand County regarding potential revenues from the use of a county road.

V. Protection of View Shed Around Arches National Park

1. The lands bill must not permit oil and gas drilling in the view shed of Arches National Park. It must include wilderness protection for areas east of Arches National Park.

VI. National Forest Wilderness

1. Any federal lands bill for Grand County must include a proposed wilderness area in the Manti-La Sal National Forest. Grand County must make use of this opportunity to protect the watersheds of Moab and Castle Valley.

VII. Antiquities Act

1. The lands bill must allow for the use of the Antiquities Act to protect the heritage of Grand County. Grand County's current economy is based on the lands that were originally protected from development under the Antiquities Act.

VIII. ORV Routes

1. Any lands bill must not simply support ORV routes already designated on BLM lands. Many of these routes fail to comply with legal mandates to protect archeology, riparian areas, and other natural resources.

IX. Support of Other Comments

1. I support and herein reference the comments submitted by the Grand Canyon Trust on the I Public Lands Initiative.

Sincerely,

Sarah M. Fields

Sarah M. Fields
2881A East Bench Road
Moab, Utah 84532

Dear Grand County Council,

The land use debate in Grand County is pretty heated. As elected officials you have the opportunity and responsibility to make decisions that will affect the future of our county for a long time. Most of you were elected by a conservative constituency that believes in a multiple-use philosophy for guiding land-use decisions. I believe that the views I will present in this letter are representative of most of my family and friends, including the majority who elected you to office.

I didn't want to write this letter with an "us" against "them" approach, but finding much common ground has been very difficult. It seems that the arguments on both sides of the issue of land-use have revolved around three key things: Environmental issues, Economic issues, and regulatory issues. I'll address each of these issues from my point of view.

First, environmental issues. A lot has been said about the alleged potential impacts to the environment from oil and gas development. No one seems to want to answer the question about the impact of tourism on our land, air, and water. How much water and energy is consumed by the tourists who come here? Motels have their toilets, showers, swimming pools, laundries, etc., not to mention the energy used to keep their rooms cool; restaurants also use a good amount of water and energy as well as generate a large amount of waste that has to be disposed of; thousands of added vehicles in our area touring the parks, recreating, bringing mountain bikers, climbers, and hikers here with their equipment, driving around town, surely have an impact on our air quality; and what of the hundreds of miles of biking trails being constructed? Oil and gas companies cannot even turn over a rock without an environmental impact study. Where are the EIS's for these trails? Yes, both industries have an impact on our area. **Both** should be carefully monitored. But certainly **both** should be allowed.

Second, economic issues. As the previous paragraph illustrates, tourism has an economic benefit but it also COSTS us. What are the negative economic impacts to our county as the tourism industry wears out our roads, maxes out our sewer systems, fills up our landfills, and uses the water we locals could be using for gardens and crops? Our status as a "resort" community has driven the cost of living way up while wages have gone way down. With the low-paying jobs has come a migration of non-English speaking people who are willing to do them. This has an impact on our schools who struggle to hire enough aids and teachers required to educate them. There is also a serious shortage of affordable housing for people on these lower incomes. Property owners alone <u>cannot afford</u> to provide for all of these needs through the taxes they pay. We need an expanded tax base! Compared to the tourism industry, the extraction industries (and others), use up less of our infrastructure and resources while providing a better source of wages, taxes and funding for county needs. Further, there is no guarantee that tourism will escape the "boom and bust" cycle that occurs in any form of business. Any number of factors including political, economical, or natural disasters could cause the tourism industry to come to a screeching halt at any time (as evidenced by the government shutdown last fall).

Third, regulatory issues. With 98% of land within Grand County already under the control of one government agency or another, there are MORE THAN ENOUGH controls and regulations already in place. In fact, overly strict regulations have already largely driven away the movie industry here. They go to other places where they don't have to fight so hard to get things done. The Forest Service has plenty of plans and regulations in place to protect our watersheds on the LaSals. And if it's true that the use of fossil fuels is declining (as some have claimed), then that industry will also decline, thus regulating itself, so what it is the worry?

My last argument for keeping land-use policies multiple use is simply the principle of the thing. My priority is a value of work over play, industry over recreation, not the other way around. It is more important to have land available for opportunities to make a living on, rather than to play on. Wilderness designations are NOT family friendly for a variety of reasons, even though the environmentalists are trying to strike a chord with everyone by saying they are "saving" the land for future generations. My family has been in Moab for six generations but the future generations will

have to go elsewhere to live and raise a family if there are not jobs or the cost of living excludes all but the wealthy. That's the direction Grand County is moving and it must turn around.

To conclude, I know we need to make designations and recommendations. I am convinced that outdoor recreation, tourism and the oil, gas and mining industries can comfortably co-exist! I urge the council to consider minimal wilderness and recreation designations beyond what we already have in place. Of the three proposals presented, I would support map #1 as the best option and I wholeheartedly support requesting exclusion from the Antiquities Act as part of that compromise. I also support keeping open a transportation corridor through the Bookcliffs for possible future need and use. This issue has been studied, and re-studied long enough. Let's get the designations made, release the excess wilderness study areas, and move forward to a more prosperous county for everyone.

Thank you for considering my viewpoint.
Sincerely,

Merrie Knutson

Merrie Knutson

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

RECEIVED
MAY 07
BY: KW

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this letter in response to the Grand County Commissioners "Bishop Lands Recommendations".

I find that the three proposal options brought forth by the Grand County Commissioners are unacceptable. They are far reaching and unnecessary. I'm tired of compromising and giving into special interest groups that are unwilling to compromise and have no tolerance for anyone's opinion other than their own.

As of a February 8, 2012 in a Congressional Research Service Report, Utah State ranks 2nd in the Nation for Federally Owned Acreage by State at 66.5%, behind Nevada 1st at 81.1% and just ahead of Alaska 3rd at 61.8%. If you compare that to Texas at 1.80%, Iowa at 0.30%, and New York State at 0.70%...Utah has done its fair share!! How much will be enough? We have done too much compromising. Enough is enough and it's time for the silent majority to stand up and be heard.

Let's look at a few more numbers here. According to the same Congressional Research Service Report from 2012 here is the brake down of Federally controlled land within the state of Utah by agency and acreage: Bureau of Land Management 22,854,937 acres, United States Forest Service 8,207,415 acres, National Park Service 2,097,106 acres, Department of Defense 1,766,260 acres, and Fish & Wildlife Services 107,885 acres. That's a total of 35,033,603 acres in a state of 52,696,960 acres. Compare that to the state of Texas with a total of 2,977,950 acres of Federally controlled land in a state with 168,217,600 acres of total land mass. In the same report it was stated that from 1990 to 2010 there was a 4.3% increase of federally owned land within our state...that is an additional 1,451,025 acres grabbed by the Feds within a ten year period.

In a separate report produced by Utah Governor Gary R. Herbert's Office of Planning and Budget...it was stated that of the nearly 85,000 sq. miles of surface area in Utah 17,884 sq. miles are in private ownership...only 21% of the State of Utah is privately owned by its citizens. That is outrageous. Why are we even considering handing over more land?

When you begin to take a closer look at the numbers it becomes very apparent that there is a vast imbalance in the area of land ownership. The state of Utah has far exceeded it's responsibility in land management. Therefore I believe that we as a State must begin demanding that the federal government begin looking at viable ways to start the process of returning the land back to the state of Utah and it's citizens.

For 116 years, we've been reduced to less than 30 percent of our land, making it tough to support our education system which relies on property tax. Federal and Native American lands, which occupy 70 percent of our state, are not taxable. For example, Grand County has only four percent privately-owned land to help fund schools. Compare that to eastern states which have little or no public lands and highly funded schools. It's time for us to begin using a common sense approach to these issues. There is gross poverty in our community and a true lack of economic diversity. Our families and our children should have the economic opportunity to live and work here year around. I approve the development of a diversified industry allowing a stronger economy and tax base for our struggling community.

I support leaving a portion of our public lands open to energy development along with other portions being managed for recreational activities. I support the recommendations to create a new transportation corridor through Sego Canyon and designate the 2 mile wide (18,145 acres) transportation corridor on federal lands from State block to I-70 and transferring it to Grand County under RS 2477 allowing another form of tax revenue and added tourism. I also support oil and gas exploration and drilling, along with mining on our local public lands.

It was more than clear to see in the last County Commissioners meeting for "Bishop Lands Recommendations" that there was an overwhelming majority of County Residents opposed to any new land being handed over to the Federal Government. All of the 300 plus in attendance may not have gotten up and spoke but you heard the overwhelming positive response to the residents opposing the land grab.

So in conclusion you can consider me as one of the many Grand County Residents opposed to any of the three recommendations and request that you take action in addressing the Federal imbalance within our county and immediately start the process of getting our land back. Enough is enough!!

I will be paying close attention to this matter and other issues being heard before the County Commissioners and other elected officials. If I feel you do not represent me and my best interests I will be voting accordingly in the future. I will no longer be part of the silent majority.

Sincerely,

Gladys Wells

Your Constituency

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY:

To: Grand County Council Committee

RE: Land Use Alternatives for Grand County and your future recommendations to Bishop Land Bill

From: Kristi Jensen

I would like to thank you for taking the time to thoroughly read everyone's letters as this issue is of utmost concern for many of the residents of Grand County , San Juan and Uintah County and should be for all residents.

I do not agree with the three alternatives as they do not offer fair choices, only a lesser of evils. All three include a highly intrusive transportation corridor into the Book Cliffs and all of them the removal of the Antiquities Act.

I do not understand why the county council would want to totally change a thriving economy and replace it with one that will drive away most established businesses. It would be one thing if we had nothing, like Cisco, but putting a town out of jobs to create wealth for the few is not responsible governing.

Moab, as with many other western small towns was born of mining but turned into a ghost town, only to be revived by recreation. If recreation hadn't replaced the uranium boom, **no one on the county council would be here today**. According to many who were here during the end of the boom recount it as a grim time, "In 1989 the town of Moab was half-boarded up. Things were bad here with the mines closed and the town's population cut in half in two years. It really had the sense of a dead town." Colin Fryer, *SLC go Local Guide*. Recreation gave Moab a second chance and was able to thrive because of our incredible natural landscape. Other mining "ghost towns" remain that way due to the lack of resources needed to draw visitors and outside money. Mining here would take money from our region and put it in the hands of out of state and out of country corporations and politicians.

The UMTRA site is a constant reminder of the past boom and bust cycle of Moab. If so many people got rich, why was is called a bust? And while the site is providing jobs for a few people their wages are paid by taxpayers dollars. Only a few people profited from these mines and now we are carrying the burden of the removal. Is that viable economics? All we need to do is look at the past mistakes and also learn from other communities who are recovering from mining only economies. In an article about Montana rebuilding it's economy by diversifying the author states,

"while it may be less dramatic than it has been in the last few years, it will also be less traumatic than it was in the more distant past when the upheaval of boom and bust loomed over all aspects of the resource economy." George Everett www.butteamerica.com

We need to look at the true cost of unconventional oil extraction and weigh the benefits. Short-term economic gain is not viable if it threatens to contaminate our water supply, degrade our air quality, destroy habitat and permanently destroy a scenery that could generate tourist revenues for, pretty much, ever. It would also diminish the quality of life of all residents, even those drawn to the false promises of more money and a better life. Have you considered the commute to drive to the tar sands everyday? The traffic? The housing demand created by a mainly male work force? I would argue that there will be few who reap the benefits and most of them won't live here. Also, I believe there will be more poverty as people flock to an area with a get rich quick, "Gold Rush" mentality. Towns affected by mining booms are complaining about increased crime and drug use.

The energy return on investment (EROI) needs to be considered, the energy output needs to exceed the energy input which isn't necessarily the case for unconventional fuel extraction. As the EROI decreases, society spends so much money on energy production that the costs eat into funds that could be spent elsewhere to the benefit of society, such as on education and on health care. "By measuring the energy in versus the energy out, investment can be guided to the sources that most effectively keep the economy humming and that also can help build a sustainable future." Mason Inman, Scientific American

The tar sands,

"could also yield important socioeconomic benefits, including the creation of jobs, increases in wealth, and increases in tax and royalty payments to federal and state governments for oil produced on their lands."

But in the same breath, Anu K. Mittel, Director of National Resources and Environment to the House Subcommittee on Energy and Environment, in his report for the US. Government Accountability Office states,

"The GAO testimony is careful to note the existing concern over "viable technologies" necessary to extract recoverable oil from the oil shale, as well as environmental concerns over water quantity and quality, impacts on air quality, and disruption to wildlife. **Rapid socioeconomic development could falter just as quickly, as it has the past, with an unpredictable ~boom and bust" cycle.'**

As of now we are all dependent on fossil fuels. But putting a Bandaid on the situation will only make our lives everywhere worse in the long run. We can't plan on extracting every last drop of oil out of the earth without developing alternative energy sources in the meantime. Oil and gas are finite and with the ever-growing demands of our planet there will be a time where we need to fall back on other sources.

I believe most communities benefit from diversification, and that is what we should strive for. We have a solid base with a recreation economy and we should build from that, not destroy our main source of revenue. Our new hospital offers high paying wages for doctors, medical workers and administrators and with a growing population will continue to provide jobs and services. A new university promises jobs for a whole slew of talents. And to further diversify, Moab could promote smaller light industrialization by creating incentives. Our county council would do better to create more revenue from within the community, not outside of it. Community members can also help create higher income for it's workers by making sure our representatives favor raising the minimum wage or paying our teachers more. Those decisions are made higher up but we can vote for them. It is not our tourist based economy that keeps our teachers underpaid, it is, as I understand it, in the hands of the state legislature.

I also don't understand the rhetoric of giving the land back to the states and people. If the all the land ends up in the state's hands it will be sold to developers and mining corporations who will ultimately, take the land away from the people to build resort hotels and mines. If we lose federal lands recreation for all users will cease, you can't ride, hike or 4 wheel through a pit mine or condo complex. The ability for the whole community to make a sustainable living off the lands will also cease. Many people would lose permits, including grazing rights and hunting rights. Many of state's lands are set aside to make money for the schools and it is in their agenda to sell the lands to make profits not to protect the resources. If we sell off our lands, Grand County will just be another tailings pile, and once again, we will have to carry the burden of a collapsing economy and a destroyed landscape.

Thank you,
Kristi Jensen
Owner
Coyote Shuttle

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

Dear Council:

Moab, Springdale, Rockville, Kanab, Torrey, Orderville, and Mt. Carmel all have something significant in common. All of them are thriving communities in Southern Utah thanks in large part to their proximity to National Parks. All of Utah's National Parks were originally designated as National Monuments by executive order of various presidents. At the time, all of those executive orders were opposed by locals who predicted economic gloom and doom. Instead, precisely the opposite occurred. Congress later passed legislation to upgrade all of them to National Park Status.

Were it not for the 1906 Antiquities Act and the foresight of various presidents, many if not all of these same communities would be at the mercy of the classic boom-bust cycle if not constantly mired in the bust state. Yet, all three of your proposed alternatives embrace the short-sighted mentality that would have doomed these communities, including our own, to a boom and bust economy. I support Alternative 4, the citizens' alternative, which recommends leaving the Antiquities Act intact.

All three of your proposed alternatives support the potential development of tar sands in the Book Cliffs area. New tar sands developments are only economical as long as the current market price of oil remains high, a dubious premise upon which to rely. Even fossil fuel development proponents such as ExxonMobil and the United States Chamber of Commerce recognize this fact. Both publicly acknowledge that energy efficiency is faster and cheaper than developing new sources.

The pro-business International Monetary Fund recently published a study that estimates fossil fuel subsidies worldwide are a staggering $1.9 TRILLION, about two to three times Medicare, Social Security, or military spending in the United States and more than the entire world's military spending in 2013. The IMF emphasizes that eliminating those subsidies would benefit economies worldwide. Eliminating those subsidies would also pull the plug on tar sands development by exposing the already marginal business case with subsidies as uneconomical without them.

The world renowned Rocky Mountain Institute goes much further in its Pentagon funded book "Winning the Oil Endgame" published in 2004 and its more recent publication "Reinventing Fire." In these rigorous, peer-reviewed publications, lead author and chief scientist Amory Lovins demonstrates that it costs less than $20 to save a barrel of oil with off-the-shelf technology for at least half of our current oil consumption. Even partial deployment of these energy efficiency measures would cause the current market price of oil to plummet below the break-even point for tar sands development as demand drops.

In fact, Reinventing Fire outlines how, led by business for profit, the United States could transition away from ALL oil and coal consumption for energy and use 1/3 less natural gas with aggressive deployment of existing energy efficiency strategies and expanded use of renewable energy at a NET SAVINGS of $5 TRILLION by 2050.

I support Alternative 4 which supports rather than distorts business logic and does NOT facilitate the folly of tar sands development.

I also support the wilderness recommendations of the Grand Canyon Trust and in the proposed Red Rock Wilderness Act to be included in the citizens' initiative, Alternative 4. In particular, the Grand Canyon Trust recommendations help protect our irreplaceable water supply without which Moab would be in serious trouble.

Please support Alternative 4, the citizens' initiative.

Pete Gross
853 Mountain View Drive
Moab, UT 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

May 6, 2014

Council Members:

My name is Jesse Ward I'm 38 yrs. Old & have lived in Moab all my life.
I'm against having anymore wilderness in Grand County or the State of Utah

Thank you

Jesse Ward

Jesse Ward

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY:

May 6, 2014

I'm Shelbi Dowd age 33 yrs. Old. I live in Parachute, Co, but lived most of my life in Moab and still own a home & property in Moab. I do not want anymore wilderness in Grand County or the State of Utah.

Thank You

Shelbi Dowd

Shelbi Dowd

Dear Grand County Council

I have been counting Jeeps and ATV's & bikes in Moab for a while & am convinced that even our tourist industry would be harmed if we lock more land up in wilderness areas. Please opt for Proposal #1 or even less unusable land (wilderness) would be better.

Thanks Dwight Johnston

2390 Terrace Dr.

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2008
BY: KW

May 6, 2014

Grand County Council
125 E. Center Street
Moab, UT 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY:

Dear Grand County Council Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the public lands bill initiative alternatives established by the Grand County Council Public lands Working Committee.

I support greater protections of public lands and potential wilderness areas than those proposed in any of the 3 alternatives.

We live in an amazing place. Unique natural features, spectacular landscapes, clean air, brilliant night sky, quiet, and solitude are attributes that add to our quality of life and attract visitors from around the country and around the world. Planning efforts relating to public lands should take a long-term approach. Activities on public lands should support clean air and clean water.

A primary concern needs to be maintaining healthy watershed areas. Water resources are limited. A comprehensive science-based study of the area's watersheds should be completed so we have a better idea of what we have and how to maintain and protect it, particularly as we continue to experience additional demands for water and witness the increasing detrimental impacts of climate change.

A large portion of our local economy is tourist-based, and while it may have some drawbacks, it does provide or support hundreds or thousands of jobs in our area and brings millions of dollars into our community. Promoting extractive industry in its various forms of drilling or mining has the potential to use vast amounts of water and the full range of possible adverse impacts of some extractive methods are not yet known, and could potentially degrade or contaminate our limited water sources.

Additional extractive industry will forever change the landscape. As noise levels increase, and wells, tanks, pipelines, and other visual impacts of drilling and mining activities become more visible on public lands adjacent to parks and elsewhere, qualities we value will be lost, and we begin to risk undermining the tourist-based segment of the local economy. Planning efforts should pursue economic growth with cleaner options than the extraction industry provides.

None of the land use alternatives should include a proposal for limiting the use of the Antiquities Act. Use of the Act has resulted in establishing a number of national treasures, and Arches National Park would probably not exist if not for the Act.

Sincerely,

Tom Cox

Tom Cox
2225 Desert Hills Drive
Moab, Utah 84532

May 7, 2014

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY:

Re: Public Lands Bill Process in Grand County, Utah

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a long-time resident of Grand County. I enjoy the out-of-doors in many ways. I enjoy to hike, jeep, ride motorcycles, and camp in our beautiful area.

Some areas in our county are closed to some of these activities. I understand that that must be so in order to protect the parks and other sensitive sites. I also understand and appreciate the other areas of our county that are open to multiple uses.

I support multiple uses of the public lands in our county. I feel it important for our local economy to have open usable public land, which includes open public land for oil and gas exploration and for mining.

A constant concern for most citizens and, I assume the Grand County Council, is funding of the budget and taxes. I feel that oil and gas and mining are a great source of tax revenue to help fund the needs of our county. The 'local' citizens of Grand County can only be stretched so far when it comes to taxes.

I get frustrated over the constant land grab attitude of groups who would have public land closed or overly restricted. I feel that most of these groups are out of touch with the needs and concerns and wants of the majority of the residents of Grand County. I would love to see a stop to litigation and continual threat of litigation over proposals of public land use. I highly favor including in any bill - legislation to stop the continual land grab and closures.

In summary: I am in favor of multiple uses on our public lands. I am in favor of oil and gas and mining in our county. I am in favor of stopping the continual land grab that has occurred over time - which has closed or restricted access to our public lands.

I feel that local government has the greatest interest in local public land use and that they should represent the wants of the majority of the residents of Grand County.

Sincerely,

Merrill M. Hugentobler
350 Hobbs St.
Moab, UT 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

Dear Grand County Council ,

I live , work and recreate here in Moab Utah. I am writing this letter in response to the Grand County Commissioners "Bishop Lands Recommendations".

I find that the three proposal options brought forth by the Grand County Commissioners are unacceptable. They are unnecessary. I'm tired of compromising and giving into special interest groups that are unwilling compromise and have no tolerance for anyone's opinion other than their own.

When you begin to take a closer look at the numbers it becomes very apparent that there is a vast imbalance in the area of land ownership. The state of Utah has far exceeded it's responsibility in land management. Therefore I believe that we as a State must begin demanding that the federal government begin looking at viable ways to start the process of returning the land back to the state of Utah and it's citizens.

We have done too much compromising. Enough is enough and it's time for the silent majority to stand up and be heard.

. Our families and our children should have the economic opportunity to live and work here year around. I approve the development of a diversified industry allowing a stronger economy and tax base for our struggling community.

I support leaving a portion of our public lands open to energy development along with other portions being managed for recreational activities. I support the recommendations to create a new transportation corridor through Sego Canyon and designate the 2 mile wide (18,145 acres) transportation corridor on federal lands from State block to I-70 and transferring it to Grand County under RS 2477 allowing another form of tax revenue and added tourism. I also support oil and gas exploration and drilling, along with mining on our local public lands.

TO MAKE IT REALLY CLEAR WE DO NOT NEED MORE WILDERNESS!!!

MULTIPLE USE LANDS FOR EVERYONE NOT FOR A SELECT FEW.

I DO NOT LIKE ANY OF THE THREE PROPOSALS THAT WERE MENTIONED AT THE MEETING THE OTHER NIGHT!

Sincerely,

Jared Wagner
33 E. Ranch Road
Moab, Utah
84532

RECEIVED
MAY 07
BY: KW

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Sincerely,

Nate Wiggins
417 Mochkopi
Moab, Utah 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY:

Dear Grand County Council Members,

My name is Monica Tibbetts I am a fourth generation Moab resident and I Love Moab so , I am writing this letter in response to the Grand County Commissioners "Bishop Lands Recommendations".

I Do NOT like any of the three proposal options brought forth by the Grand County Commissioners they are all unacceptable. They are far reaching and unnecessary. I'm tired of compromising and giving into special interest groups that are unwilling to compromise and have no tolerance for anyone's opinion other than their own. We Do Not Need More Wilderness!!!!!!

As of a February 8, 2012 in a Congressional Research Service Report, Utah State ranks 2nd in the Nation for Federally Owned Acreage by State at 66.5%, behind Nevada 1st at 81.1% and just ahead of Alaska 3rd at 61.8%. If you compare that to Texas at 1.80%, Iowa at 0.30%, and New York State at 0.70%...Utah has done its fair share!! How much will be enough? We have done too much compromising. Enough is enough and it's time for the silent majority to stand up and be heard.

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have the economic opportunity to live and work here year around. I approve the development of a diversified industry allowing a stronger economy and tax base for our struggling community.

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It was more than clear to see in the last County Commissioners meeting for "Bishop Lands Recommendations" that there was an overwhelming majority of County Residents opposed to any new land being handed over to the Federal Government. All of the 300 plus in attendance may not have gotten up and spoke but you heard the overwhelming positive response to the residents opposing the land grab.

So in conclusion you can consider me as one of the many Grand County Residents opposed to any of the three recommendations and request that you take action in addressing the Federal imbalance within our county and immediately start the process of getting our land back. Enough is Enough!!

I will be paying close attention to this matter and other issues being heard before the County Commissioners and other elected officials. If I feel you do not represent me and my best interests I will be voting accordingly in the future. I will no longer be part of the silent majority.

Remember that multiple use land is what our county needs.... Not More Wilderness!!

Sincerely,

Monica Tibbetts

Monica Tibbetts

621 Bartlett Circle

Moab Utah 84532

April 29, 2014

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY:

RE: Bishop Lands Recommendations

TO: Grand County Council

I am writing this letter in response to the Grand County Commissioners "Bishop Lands Recommendations". I find that the three proposal options brought forth by the Commissioners are unacceptable. They are far reaching and unnecessary. I'm tired of compromising and giving into special interest groups that are unwilling to compromise and have no tolerance for anyone's opinion other than their own.

As of February 2, 2012 in a Congressional Research Service Report, Utah State ranks 2nd in the Nation for Federally Owned Acreage by State at 66.5%, behind Nevada 1st at 81.1% and just ahead of Alaska 3rd at 61.8%. If you compare that to Texas at 1.80%, Iowa at 0.30%, and New York State at 0.70%...Utah has done its fair share!! How much will be enough? We have done too much compromising. Enough is enough and it is time for the silent majority to stand up and be heard.

In a separate report produced by Utah Governor Gary R. Herbert's Office of Planning and Budget, it was stated that of the nearly 85,000 sq. miles of surface area in Utah 17,884 sq. miles are in private ownership, only 21% of the State of Utah is privately owned by its citizens. That is outrageous. Why are we even considering handing over more land?

For 116 years, we've been reduced to less than 30% of our land, making it tough to support our educational system which relies on property tax. Federal and Native American lands are not taxable. Grand County has only 4% privately owned land to help fund schools. It is time for us to begin using a common sense approach to these issues. There is gross poverty in our community and a true lack of economic diversity. Our families and our children should have the economic opportunity to live and work here year around. I approve the development of a diversified industry allowing a stronger economy and tax base for our struggling community. I support leaving a portion of our public lands open to energy development along with other portions being managed for recreational activities. I support the recommendations to create a new transportation corridor through Sego Canyon and designate the 2 mile wide (18,145) acres) transportation corridor on federal lands from State block to I-70 and transferring it to Grand County under RS 2477 allowing another form of tax revenue and added tourism. I also support oil and gas exploration and drilling, along with mining on our local public lands.

So in conclusion you can consider me as one of the many Grand County Residents opposed to any of the three recommendations and request that you take action in addressing the Federal imbalance within our county and immediately start the process of getting our land back. Enough is enough!!

I will be paying close attention to this matter and other issues being heard before the County Commission and other elected officials. If I feel you do not represent me and my best interests I will be voting accordingly in the future. I will no longer be part of the silent majority.

Sincerely,

Tom Bolshe

Constituent

This letter in its entirety are excerpts taken from a letter written by Joe Day who gave we, the people, the permission to repeat in part or whole his personal writing.

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

Dear Grand County Council ,

I live , work and recreate here in Moab Utah. I am writing this letter in response to the Grand County Commissioners "Bishop Lands Recommendations".

I find that the three proposal options brought forth by the Grand County Commissioners are unacceptable. They are unnecessary. I'm tired of compromising and giving into special interest groups that are unwilling compromise and have no tolerance for anyone's opinion other than their own.

When you begin to take a closer look at the numbers it becomes very apparent that there is a vast imbalance in the area of land ownership. The state of Utah has far exceeded it's responsibility in land management. Therefore I believe that we as a State must begin demanding that the federal government begin looking at viable ways to start the process of returning the land back to the state of Utah and it's citizens.

We have done too much compromising. Enough is enough and it's time for the silent majority to stand up and be heard.

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TO MAKE IT REALLY CLEAR WE DO NOT NEED MORE WILDERNESS!!!

MULTIPLE USE LANDS FOR EVERYONE NOT FOR A SELECT FEW.

I DO NOT LIKE ANY OF THE THREE PROPOSALS THAT WERE MENTIONED AT THE MEETING THE OTHER NIGHT!

Sincerely,

Mr. Mrs Aaron Favery
P.O. Box 1174
3420 Rimrock road
Moab, Utah 84532

Kelly Vagts
436 Ute Circle
Moab, Utah 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY:

May 6, 2014

Dear County Council members,

I understand the difficulty that faces each of you, with respect to so many opinions and stakeholders, regarding how the land around us should be utilized or protected. And I thank you for your willingness to place yourselves in a position of public service and representation.

As a tax-paying, actively voting, resident of Grand County I would like to express my opinion to you all. Of the three alternatives the Lands Working Committee decided on, I agree with many other residents that number 3 is the least destructive to our natural environment. However, I am particularly concerned about the lack of protection along the Labyrinth Canyon corridor and the lack of protection around Moab's perceived watershed. I ask that you please reconsider these sections of the proposal.

I understand the temptation to cave into the pressures of resource extraction companies; the lure of increased revenue for our county. Notwithstanding, the research I have done demonstrates that the revenue generated is relatively short-term and when the land has been destroyed, the residents of these communities are left more economically disadvantaged than before the resource extraction began. Are we not still witnessing this today in our community? From a social service perspective, I see the "underbelly" of Moab; the poverty and social ills that accompany poverty are still alive and well in our small town. And yet here was a boom town from the Uranium days.

Please try to look ahead several generations when making these very important decisions. For me, I want my son's great, great, great grandchildren to be able to drink clean water and enjoy a float through Labyrinth Canyon.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service.

Respectfully,

Kelly Vagts

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

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Sincerely,

Jamison Wiggs
2511 Redcliffs Road
Unit 1L
Moab, Utah 84533

Grand County Council
125 E Center St.
Moab, UT 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 07
BY:

Honorable Councilmen;

There has been much discussion since the War for Independence of the United States of America on how "public lands" should be disposed. State after state, the centralized Federal Gov't disposed of lands back to the several states including Hawaii. The exception to established policy & standard operating procedure stopped at the "Federal Lands Fault Line". That is, everything west of Kansas, Nebraska, Texas, Oklahoma, & the Dakotas has not been afforded the same. The Federal Gov't reneged on standard, established policy.

We fight that battle still. In Grand County, we fight a battle that I believe will in the end determine the economy future of the County and its residents. There are extremist groups which at the end of the day do not represent the majority. They may be loud, vocal, emotional and visible but, NOT THE MAJORITY. The majority works hard each day to provide a living for their families and hopes that elected officials will consider them and their future as they take on, work through, and ultimately decided direction of each issue.

The mantra of the extreme rock & tree hugger fringe group is always the same: it's for the children, polluted water, air, soil, & earth. It's primarily based on emotion, with 2% truth mixed in with disinformation meant to inflame those who are simply ignorant of the truth and/or are unwilling to seek it for themselves. Until those individuals stop driving cars, buying anything with plastics, or rubber including tires, or using anything produced with any amount of petroleum, they have zero credibility. "Not in my backyard" is unconscionable.

Economically speaking, it is for the children and their future, so we must diversify our economy in Grand County. Right now our economy primarily sits on a 1 legged stool. It won't take much to dislodge the stool. We must add other legs such as exploration and extraction, mining, the USU, etc. Tourism can bust just as quickly as any other industry. Sadly, tourism doesn't add enough to our needed infrastructure. The city tax just keeps things afloat. The TRT doesn't return to the City or County in a form that helps. The city & county residence can't be saddled with the extra burden. Our sewer system is over burdened. Our roads need significant maintenance, etc. Tourists come use our infrastructure and leave.

We should continue with the feasibility studies, integrate a robust lands use plan, and move everything forward to sure up and diversify our local economy. Damn the torpedoes and move ahead. I support the plan that the county own Sego Canyon, designate some wilderness, still open land for exploration and extraction, keeps current land for recreation and access. I favor the most open of the three plans but realize compromise must play a role.

You have my support.
Sincerely,

Mel Hugentobler

Grand County Council
Attention: Public Lands
125 E. Center St.
Moab UT 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

May 6, 2014

Dear Council Members

The planning for the Bishop public lands initiative is complicated and confusing. I thank former council member Chris Baird for presenting information without opinion or rancor. I am not sure which of your three proposals I am most in favor of, probably #3. They all have good and bad points. There is one glaring problem with all of them and that is the Sego Canyon road.

We have been presented with the argument that the road would bring a great deal of revenue into the county. There seems to be disagreement on this. It may be illegal for a government to make a profit above paying for the expense of building and maintaining a road. Who would build this road? Grand County better not attempt to do it.

So, it appears the oil/gas/tar sands companies want this road for their own reasons. It will not increase tourism noticeably. Who would choose to travel through country torn up by the extraction industries? What benefit would accrue to Grand County and Moab?

The traffic through Moab is so heavy between March and October locals avoid Main Street or plan their routes to avoid as much of it as possible. We do not need more traffic, particularly heavy trucks as would be associated with the oil industry. The Sego Canyon road would route more and more of this traffic trough Moab. They add to our traffic but I doubt they spend much money in town.

Grand County currently has a number of golden eggs contributing to our economy. Tourism is the obvious one. The argument is made we cannot depend on it. During the Great Recession of the past five years we did very well. We do not want to be dependent on one industry. But we are not.

A separate industry often lumped in with tourism is the Adventure Sports. People come to Moab and Grand County because it is a destination for mountain biking. Base-jumping and paragliding, rock climbing, bicycle racing and the several running races held each year. In addition the Jeep Safari and deer and elk hunting would be considered as something outside the usual definition of tourism. Our tens of thousands of true tourists are in addition to this base.

The goose that lays these Golden Eggs must be treated with respect. The people who have made Moab famous can be turned off by over development by the

extraction industries we are being sold on as good for our economy. We would go back to the boom and bust days that are so painful.

The maps showing producing oil/gas wells in Grand County as well as many more leased but undeveloped parcels makes me think we have economic diversity. The copper mine in San Juan County and proposed, I am afraid inevitable, potash mining will add still more. The Sego Canyon road is neither needed nor wanted.

Sincerely

Larry Thomas
3385 George White Rd.
Moab UT 84532

6th May 2014

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

To the County Council

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed alternatives for the Bishop Public Lands Initiative presented by the study committee.

Considering the strong support for lands protection that the committee received from their call for comments it is appalling to see how little protection even their most conservation-friendly map provides. Including the Sego Canyon transportation corridor & blocking the president's power to use the Antiquities Act to declare new national monuments in Grand County in even this "most conservation-friendly" proposal prevents me from being able to even consider this proposal & has made me lose faith in this process. A truly fair proposal would have included at least one proposal without this Transportation Corridor or the Antiquities Act block. The lack of protection in the La Sals for our watershed is also a serious concern. I urge the County Council to seriously reconsider these proposals - currently - to me - they all unacceptable.

Again - thank you for the opportunity to comment

diana chalmers
Castle Valley, Utah
34 year resident

Pierre Chastain & Abby Scott
477 Juan Ct.
Moab, UT 84532
801-718-6080

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2024
BY: KW

Dear Grand County Council,

We would first like to note that we were filled with small town pride to see such high attendance at the public meeting on April 24th and we thank the Grand County Council for doing the right thing and including community feedback in this process. However, it was clear that the Council was not interested in offering a true conservation alternative or deviating very far from a plan skewed toward development. I would like to express my deep disappointment with all three proposed alternatives for the Bishop Land Bill. Those who value the majesty of the land, the incredible natural history of this area, clean air and water, access to beautiful areas for low-impact recreation, or those whose jobs and livelihoods depend on tourism and the preservation of these natural areas were not fairly considered. At the public meeting, we counted 21 speakers of about 45 *specifically* reference that option 3 did not go far enough toward protecting these important lands. Many other spoke generally about a need for land protection.

For us, and many others, the most glaring issues include:

- Failing to include Forest Service Wilderness for protection, which leaves crucial parts of our watershed unprotected.
- The Antiquities Act, which has been used over a hundred times since its passage to protect important public lands for the greater good, is completely thrown out in order to help short-term, exploitive economic interests.
- The Sego Canyon Corridor is included in all options.
- Even in option 3, less than 60% of BLM Wilderness that qualifies in Grand County is included in the plan. This is an unacceptably small amount.

We do not think that failing to protect the public lands that draw millions of visitors to the area and allowing extractive industries to exploit the earth and our community is the way to address poverty in Grand County. Allowing the Sego Canyon Corridor to be built on the hope that some of Grand County's residents (and not commuting workers from West Texas or Oklahoma) will find work seems naive and short-sighted. There is a terrible history of exploitation by extraction industries after communities are sold on promises of money and jobs. We don't have to look any further than the Atlas Tailings Pile to see that. We understand the the lands north of the proposed road are not under Grand County control and have already been leased for extraction, but that does not mean that efforts at protection in Grand County should be dropped. It would be unconscionable for Grand County to recommend any alternative the leaves our community vulnerable to extractive industries as destructive as fracking.

We fear that a lack of protection of these lands will result in land, air and water that are polluted beyond healthy use and a community that is left dealing with the consequences. Please take this rare and important opportunity to do the right thing and put forward a true conservation alternative that will benefit Grand County residents for generations to come. Please do not allow this wonderful place that we all call home to become unlivable. Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Abby Scott

Pierre Chastain

May 7, 2014

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

Grand County
Attention: Public Lands
125 E. Center St.
Moab, UT 84532

RE: Grand County Council Public Lands Working Committee Alternatives for Bishop Public Lands Initiative

Dear Grand County Council:

The undersigned businesses appreciate your consideration of our concerns regarding Grand County's proposal for the Bishop Public Lands Initiative.

It is our goal to grow our businesses and encourage investment in Grand County that will provide good jobs for all our citizens. We believe Alternative #3 could provide a viable framework for this important public lands bill; for example, we are encouraged by the proposed 400,000-acre National Recreation Area. This proposed NRA has great promise for the protecting and enhancing the recreation economy, both motorized and non-motorized, in Grand County while simultaneously allowing for the development of natural resources.

However, because we oppose the Sego Canyon Transportation Corridor and have significant concerns about the proposed Antiquities Act exclusion we cannot support any of the Working Committee's proposed alternatives.

Sego Canyon Transportation Corridor

We believe the type of industry this road will bring to Grand County will seriously undermine the recreation economy in two primary ways:

1. **Increased Industrial Presence:** The large-scale industrial development made possible by this road improvement is not compatible with a world-class tourist destination. Increases in industrial traffic, facilities and other associated impacts are not conducive to providing revenue-generating outdoor recreation experiences.

2. **Reduced Incentive for Investment:** Press reports of increasing industrial uses in Grand County, and potential air and water issues, discourage both would-be tourists and quality-of-life recruits. Many rural communities around the country are now gaining jobs by attracting small businesses that want to locate in places where environmental quality is guaranteed.

In looking at other rural communities who have encouraged multi-national resource extraction corporations, we see significant amounts of economic leakage from out-of-state executive salaries to the large financial returns required by corporate investors. In addition, we see potential increases in law enforcement and healthcare costs, all of which discourages investment by any other type of business. We do not believe the Sego Canyon Road can deliver the type of economic benefits promised and are deeply concerned it will threaten the ability of our businesses to continue to generate revenue in the county.

Antiquities Act Exclusion

The undersigned are also concerned that the inclusion of Antiquities Act exclusion in each alternative offered by the Public Lands Working Committee will make the bill much less viable in the U.S. Congress. This exclusion significantly increases the number of local and national interests in opposition to this process.

* * *

We appreciate the Public Lands Working Committee's work on these difficult issues, and Grand County's outdoor businesses will continue working diligently with all of our elected officials to resolve these critical public lands issues that are central to our economy. However, for the reasons stated herein we cannot support any of the alternatives proposed for the Bishop Public Land Initiative by the Grand County Public Lands Working Committee.

Sincerely,

Adventure Inn
Jim Schwalen
512 North Main
Moab, UT

Back of Beyond Books
Andy Nettle
83 North Main
Moab, UT

Black Diamond
Peter Metcalf
2092 East 3900
South Salt Lake City, UT

Cali-Cochitta Bed & Breakfast
Kim Boger
110 South 200 East
Moab, UT

Canyon Voyages
Don and Denise Oblak
211 North Main
Moab, UT

Coyote Shuttle
Kristi Jensen
300 South
Moab, UT

Community Rebuilds
Emily Niehaus
548 Locust Lane
Moab, UT

Eddie McStiff's
Audrey Snyder
57 South Main
Moab, UT

Eklecticafe
Julie Fox
352 N. Main Street
Moab, UT

Far Out Expeditions
Vaughn Hadenfeldt
7th and Mulberry
Bluff, UT

Gear Heads
Greg Kennedy
47 South Main Street
Moab, UT

Goulding's Lodge & Tours
Ronnie Baird
1000 Main St.
Monument Valley, UT

Gregory Mountain Products
Bill Kulczycki
Salt Lake City, UT

Imlay Canyon Gear
Tom Jones
2625 S. State Street
Mount Carmel, UT

Lost River Clothing
Grand Properties LLC
Dave Knowles
2151 S. 191
Moab, UT

Love Muffin Café
Wes Shannon
139 North Main
Moab, UT

Magpie Cycling Adventures
Maggie Wilson
PO Box 1496
Moab, UT

Miguel's Baja Grill
Dave Bodner
51 North Main
Moab, UT

Milts Stop & Eat
Moab Trail Marathon
Danelle Ballengee
356 E Mill Creek Drive
Moab, UT

Moab Cliffs & Canyons
Brett Sutteer
253 N. Main
Moab, UT

Moab Cyclery
Escape Adventures
Jacques Hadler
391 S Main Street
Moab, UT

Moab Desert Adventures
Nathan Sydor
415 N Main Street
Moab, UT

Moab Yoga
Angela Houghton
37 East Center Street
Moab, UT

Nichols Expeditions
Chuck and Judy Nichols
Spaish Valley Drive
Moab, UT

O.A.R.S.
Steve Markle
2540 US 191
Moab, UT

Oneway Boatworks
Herm Hoops
PO Box 1234
Jensen, UT

Outdoor Utah, Inc.
Red Oelerich
2273 E. 6200 South
Salt Lake City, UT

Outerbike
Mark Sevenoff
478 Mill Creek
Moab, UT

Peace Tree Café
Karen Whipple
20 South Main
Moab, UT

Petzl America
Nazz Kurth
Freeport Center
Clearfield, UT

POC North America
Jarka Duba
Salt Lake City, UT

Poison Spider Bicycles
Scott Guzman Newton
497 North Main Street
Moab, UT

Quality Bicycle Products
Steve Flagg
859 West 1050 South
Ogden, UT

Recapture Lodge
Jim and Luanne Hook
PO Box 309
Bluff, UT

Red Desert Adventures
Eric Draper
Po Box 5
Springdale, UT

Red River Adventures
Carl Dee
1140 South Main Street
Moab, UT

Rim Tours
Kirstin Peterson
1233 S. 191
Moab, UT

Sabaku Sushi
Frankie Winfrey
Alex Borichevsky
90 East Center Street
Moab, UT

Slickrock Adventures
Cully Erdman
121 E 100 South
Moab, UT

Solfun
Mike Holme
South Hiway 191
Moab, UT

Sorrel River Ranch Resort
Tim Johnson
Highway 128
Moab, UT

Sloan Law Firm, PLLC
Christina Sloan
76 South Main Street
Moab, UT

The Neighborhood Suites
Helen Boyer, Drake Taylor, Brian Lugers, Jenna Woodbury
543 Nichols Lane
Moab, UT

Tom Till Photography
Marcy Till
61 North Main
Moab, UT

Thompson Manufacturing
Rock Thompson
Freeport Center, Bldg F-11
Clearfield, UT

Treasure Mountain Inn
Andy Beerman
255 Main Street
Park City, UT

Ultra Light Adventure Equipment
Chris McMaster
668 W 1725 North
Logan, UT

Up the Creek Campground / Center Street Suites
Kimberly Schappert
210 East 300 South
Moab, Utah

Waterpocket Press
Chad Niehaus
548 Locust Lane
Moab, UT

Dr. Lionel E Weeks
Director of Surgery
Moab Regional Hospital
450 West Williams Way
Moab, Utah

Western Spirit Cycling
Ashley Korenblat
478 Mill Creek Drive
Moab, UT

With Gaia Design
Kalen Jones
900 Kane Creek Blvd.
Moab, UT

Cc: Congressman Jason Chaffetz
Congressman Rob Bishop
Governor Gary Herbert
Senator Orin Hatch
Senator Mike Lee

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MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

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Let's look at a few more numbers here. According to the same Congressional Research Service Report from 2012 here is the brake down of Federally controlled land within the state of Utah by agency and acreage: Bureau of Land Management 22,854,937 acres, United States Forest Service 8,207,415 acres, National Park Service 2,097,106 acres, Department of Defense 1,766,260 acres, and Fish & Wildlife Services 107,885 acres. That's a total of 35,033,603 acres in a state of 52,696,960 acres. Compare that to the state of Texas with a total of 2,977,950 acres of Federally controlled land in a state with 168,217,600 acres of total land mass. In the same report it was stated that from 1990 to 2010 there was a 4.3% increase of federally owned land within our state...that is an additional 1,451,025 acres grabbed by the Feds within a ten year period.

In a separate report produced by Utah Governor Gary R. Herbert's Office of Planning and Budget...It was stated that of the nearly 85,000 sq. miles of surface area in Utah 17,884 sq. miles are in private ownership...only 21% of the State of Utah is privately owned by its citizens. That is outrageous. Why are we even considering handing over more land?

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For 116 years, we've been reduced to less than 30 percent of our land, making it tough to support our education system which relies on property tax. Federal and Native American lands, which occupy 70 percent of our state, are not taxable. For example, Grand County has only four percent privately-owned land to help fund schools. Compare that to eastern states which have little or no public lands and highly funded schools. It's time for us to begin using a common sense approach to these issues. There is gross poverty in our community and a true lack of economic diversity. Our families and our children should have the economic opportunity to live and work here year around. I approve the development of a diversified industry allowing a stronger economy and tax base for our struggling community.

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It was more than clear to see in the last County Commissioners meeting for "Bishop Lands Recommendations" that there was an overwhelming majority of County Residents opposed to any new land being handed over to the Federal Government. All of the 300 plus in attendance may not have gotten up and spoke but you heard the overwhelming positive response to the residents opposing the land grab.

So in conclusion you can consider me as one of the many Grand County Residents opposed to any of the three recommendations and request that you take action in addressing the Federal imbalance within our county and immediately start the process of getting our land back. Enough is enough!!

I will be paying close attention to this matter and other issues being heard before the County Commissioners and other elected officials. If I feel you do not represent me and my best interests I will be voting accordingly in the future. I will no longer be part of the silent majority.

Sincerely,

Michelle Corbin

Your Constituency
Michelle Corbin

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MAY 07 2014
BY:

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Sincerely,

Corey Corsi

Your Constituency

Every State should have the same percentage of federal land and the rest should belong to the State or private, or no federal land. We should not be someone else's playground.

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2013
BY: [illegible]

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Sincerely,

John R Carlson

Your Constituency

RECEIVED
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BY: KW

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Sincerely, Joan (Loveridge) Jackson

Your Constituency Lifetime Voter in our Changed County.

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: [illegible]

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My wife and I Think The amount of Federally controlled land in Utah Should Shrink To around 50% rather Than 66%. GJR

I support leaving a portion of our public lands open to energy development along with other portions being managed for recreational activities. ~~I support the recommendations to create a new transportation corridor through Sego Canyon and designate the 2 mile wide (18,145 acres) transportation corridor on federal lands from State block 15-170 and transferring it to Grand County under RS 2477 allowing another form of tax revenue and added tourism~~. I also support oil and gas exploration and drilling, along with mining on our local public lands. *BR*

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Sincerely,

Your Constituency

5-5-2014

My wife and I support a paved road over The Book Cliffs but being residents of Thompson Springs and having much love for The Sego Canyon area in it's present state we can not agree to The proposed routes. No paved road down Willow Creek and Sego Canyon. We would support a paved road in Grand County From The end of Pavement at Uintah County line, down Middle Canyon, or Hay Canyon, Then West along The base of The Bookcliff to either East or West Cisco exits on I-70. Staying away From The Roadless Bookcliffs area!

AJ Rogers

Brenda Rogers 5/5/14

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

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Sincerely,

Donna Johnston

Your Constituency

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

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Sincerely,

Your Constituency

James Coebin

May 7, 2014

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

Saxon Sharpe
2726 Calle Puentes Rd.
Moab, Utah 84532

Grand County
Attention: Public Lands
125 E. Center St.
Moab, UT 84532

Dear Grand County Council,

I attended the public meeting regarding the Public Land Initiative on April 23, 2014. The committee has done a tremendous amount of work in a short time and should be commended. It is clear from comments at the meeting that the economy of Grand County is of great concern to most residents. Revenue from gas and mineral extraction (and potential extraction) in many areas conflicts with revenue from tourism; if roads, rigs, and vehicles visually and environmentally impact areas, tourists will not visit those areas. We can always extract minerals in the future, but if we drill now and do not protect our environment we will permanently diminish tourism and the way of life Grand County residents appreciate. Therefore, it is important for the Grand County Council to assess the long-term revenue and job creation from each of these industries before a conclusion on percentages of acreage designated for these industries is reached. Consideration of cost-benefits of ecosystem services (e.g., preservation of watersheds and wetlands, and air quality) as well as direct and indirect revenue from mineral resources and tourism must be compared before a final plan is offered to Congressman Bishop.

Alternative 3, with the most designated wilderness acreage, is the best of the three choices provided. I would like more acreage designated as wilderness. (It appears that the acres of wilderness are miscalculated in Alternative 3 with some counted twice). The Red Rock Wilderness Act and Grand Canyon Trust have acceptable wilderness proposals that I would like to see included.

My additional comments on all the alternatives include:

- Do not limit the use of Presidential powers to use the Antiquities Act to designate National Monuments.
- Do not put a road in Sego Canyon (discussed below).
- Include the U.S. Forest Service lands in the initiative.
- Include permanent protection for the entire Spanish Valley and Castle Valley watershed.
- Include protection for the Grand County air-shed.
- Permanently protect Wild and Scenic river corridors.

I have concerns about the proposed road in the Sego Canyon corridor. Placing the road in all the Alternatives before a study is even commissioned is premature. Questions that should be answered before the study commences include, who bears the building cost and maintenance of the road; will revenue from the road outweigh the initial construction and maintenance cost

incurred by Grand County over the life of the road; who maintains the road when well-production ceases? Building and maintaining a road for a boom and bust drilling economy (particularly when the U.S. is transitioning to renewable energy) may not be in the long-term interest to Grand County taxpayers and our children. Drilling revenue is temporary, as Moab experienced with the uranium boom. A tourism economy, as Moab has experienced for almost the last 30 years, occurs as long as there is something special for tourists to visit.

Respectfully,

Saxon Sharpe, Ph.D.

Grand County Council
125 E Center Street
Moab, UT 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

LATE
After 5:00pm

May 6, 2014

To Whom It May Concern,

I think that our land should be used by everyone. I also believe we should take care of it so all of our future generations can enjoy the same places we do now. We live in a breathtaking, beautiful part of this world and we need to take responsibility in making it last. My family enjoys everything that Grand County and San Juan County has to offer. We enjoy golfing, boating, four-wheeling, motorcycling, hiking, horseback riding, and fishing to name just a few.....which is why we have decided to raise our family here. We also raise cattle, and decisions made by this county in every aspect for our lands will affect our grazing permits and livelihood in one way or another. I believe that the people in the state of Utah should make the decisions for our lands, not the federal government. I don't believe that in making "most" of southern Utah wilderness is the answer. We need to protect what we have and have a place for everyone to enjoy and love.

Thank you,

Brittany Redd

Brittany Redd

Grand County Council
125 E Center Street
Moab, UT 84532

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: KW

LATE
After 5pm

May 6, 2014

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Lowry Redd, born and raised in Monticello and La Sal Utah. I received my education and love for livestock and nature in Craig Colorado, Williams Fork, to be exact. There my grandpa and "favorite guy", Lowry S. Seely, instilled in me a love for animals and the value of care for our livelihood, livestock and land. We repaired hay equipment pretty much all summer to get enough hay in the sheds to winter the cows, sheep, and horses. Every two to three weeks we would get groceries and any other supplies requested by the sheepherder and pack by horseback to the end of the public road, with a one to four hour ride still ahead, depending on the location of the sheep.

Southeastern Utah is the place where my other grandpa, Charlie Redd had settled, and is real close to "God's country" in my opinion. We would travel at three to five mph on horseback and in about a four hour ride we would be in true wilderness. Without public roads, buildings, or any other noticeable sign of man's creations.

My cows graze on private, BLM, forest service and state lands, and in south eastern Utah a person could ride in any direction and within two miles that same person will have crossed either a road, a fence, a corral, and probably a hiker, biker, or walker. What I'm trying to say is, a place does not become wild simply by designation. Wilderness designation should be used in places that are wild and free from any use. The miners, drillers, sheep, cattle, and farmers, as well as mountain bikes, ATV's, jeepers, and hikers have used this country long ago. And as long as the people in Moab increases, the wilderness will not be restored.

As you decision makers make important decisions, take a holistic approach to ensure the health of the land, water, and air for the benefit of all of us for now and for the future.

Common ground that does not exist must be made, created through education not politics to determine on the ground actions. Like liberty and freedom, this land is worth the fight it's going to take to keep it. God Bless America.

Thank you for your time,
J. Lowry Redd

C/o La Sal Livestock Ltd.
PO Box 368
La Sal, UT 84532

CANYONLANDS WATERSHED COUNCIL

Chris Baird
Executive Director
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Moab, UT 84532
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RECEIVED
MAY 07 2014
BY: VLN
LATE after 5pm

May 7, 2014

Grand County Council
Attention: Public Lands
125 East Center St
Moab, UT 84532

RE: Bishop Public Lands Initiative

Dear Grand County Council Members,

I inadvertently omitted the below section from my comments (forgot to cut & paste). This is therefore presented on May 7, however after the 5pm deadline. I offer it to your discretionary consideration. If not as a part of the public record, then as a letter to the Council.

Assessment Fee for Proposed Use of Haul Route:

In my experience (Chris Baird, 2 years Planning Commission & 4 years Council) I've been under the impression that fees may be assessed respective to services provided. However, if the fee exceeds the cost of the provided service then the legal frame work for the fee becomes very fragile. It seems likely that a fee could be setup to account for the cost of the road and its maintenance, however, expecting more than that may be unrealistic. I am no lawyer however, and this issue can only be resolved with the aid of specific legal counsel.

Pertinent Utah Code: [emphasis added]

11-36a-102. Definitions.

As used in this chapter:

(1) (a) "Affected entity" means each county, municipality, local district under Title 17B, Limited Purpose Local Government Entities - Local Districts, special service district under Title 17D, Chapter 1, Special Service District Act, school district, interlocal cooperation entity established under Chapter 13, Interlocal Cooperation Act, and specified public utility:

(i) whose services or facilities are likely to require expansion or significant modification because of the facilities proposed in the proposed impact fee facilities plan; or

(ii) that has filed with the local political subdivision or private entity a copy of the general or long-range plan of the county, municipality, local district, special service district, school district, interlocal cooperation entity, or specified public utility.

(b) "Affected entity" does not include the local political subdivision or private entity that is required under Section 11-36a-501 to provide notice.

(2) "Charter school" includes:

(a) an operating charter school;

(b) an applicant for a charter school whose application has been approved by a chartering entity as provided in Title 53A, Chapter 1a, Part 5, The Utah Charter Schools Act; and

(c) an entity that is working on behalf of a charter school or approved charter applicant to develop or construct a charter school building.

(3) "Development activity" means any construction or expansion of a building, structure, or use, any change in use of a building or structure, or any changes in the use of land that creates additional demand and need for public facilities.

(4) "Development approval" means:

(a) except as provided in Subsection (4)(b), any written authorization from a local political subdivision that authorizes the commencement of development activity;

(b) development activity, for a public entity that may develop without written authorization from a local political subdivision;

(c) a written authorization from a public water supplier, as defined in Section 73-1-4, or a private water company:

(i) to reserve or provide:

(A) a water right;

(B) a system capacity; or

(C) a distribution facility; or

(ii) to deliver for a development activity:

(A) culinary water; or

(B) irrigation water; or

(d) a written authorization from a sanitary sewer authority, as defined in Section 10-9a-103:

(i) to reserve or provide:

(A) sewer collection capacity; or

(B) treatment capacity; or

(ii) to provide sewer service for a development activity.

(5) "Enactment" means:

(a) a municipal ordinance, for a municipality;

(b) a county ordinance, for a county; and

(c) a governing board resolution, for a local district, special service district, or private entity.

(6) "Encumber" means:

(a) a pledge to retire a debt; or

(b) an allocation to a current purchase order or contract.

(7) "Hookup fee" means a fee for the installation and inspection of any pipe, line, meter, or appurtenance to connect to a gas, water, sewer, storm water, power, or other utility system of a municipality, county, local district, special service district, or private entity.

(8) (a) "Impact fee" means a payment of money imposed upon new development activity as a condition of development approval to mitigate the impact of the new development on public infrastructure.

(b) "Impact fee" does not mean a tax, a special assessment, a building permit fee, a hookup fee, a fee for project improvements, or other reasonable permit or application fee.

(9) "Impact fee analysis" means the written analysis of each impact fee required by Section 11-36a-303.

(10) "Impact fee facilities plan" means the plan required by Section 11-36a-301.

(11) "Level of service" means the defined performance standard or unit of demand for each capital component of a public facility within a service area.

(12) (a) "Local political subdivision" means a county, a municipality, a local district under Title 17B, Limited Purpose Local Government Entities - Local Districts, or a special service district under Title 17D, Chapter 1, Special Service District Act.

(b) "Local political subdivision" does not mean a school district, whose impact fee activity is governed by Section 53A-20-100.5.

(13) "Private entity" means an entity in private ownership with at least 100 individual shareholders, customers, or connections, that is located in a first, second, third, or fourth class county and provides water to an applicant for development approval who is required to obtain water from the private entity either as a:

(a) specific condition of development approval by a local political subdivision acting pursuant to a prior agreement, whether written or unwritten, with the private entity; or

(b) functional condition of development approval because the private entity:

(i) has no reasonably equivalent competition in the immediate market; and

(ii) is the only realistic source of water for the applicant's development.

(14) (a) "Project improvements" means site improvements and facilities that are:

(i) planned and designed to provide service for development resulting from a development activity;

(ii) necessary for the use and convenience of the occupants or users of development resulting from a development activity; and

(iii) not identified or reimbursed as a system improvement.

(b) "Project improvements" does not mean system improvements.

(15) "Proportionate share" means the cost of public facility improvements that are roughly proportionate and reasonably related to the service demands and needs of any development activity.

(16) "Public facilities" means only the following impact fee facilities that have a life expectancy of 10 or more years and are owned or operated by or on behalf of a local political subdivision or private entity:

(a) water rights and water supply, treatment, storage, and distribution facilities;

(b) wastewater collection and treatment facilities;

(c) storm water, drainage, and flood control facilities;

(d) municipal power facilities;

(e) roadway facilities;

(f) parks, recreation facilities, open space, and trails;

(g) public safety facilities; or

(h) environmental mitigation as provided in Section 11-36a-205.

(17) (a) "Public safety facility" means:

(i) a building constructed or leased to house police, fire, or other public safety entities; or

(ii) a fire suppression vehicle costing in excess of $500,000.

(b) "Public safety facility" does not mean a jail, prison, or other place of involuntary incarceration.

(18) (a) "Roadway facilities" means a street or road that has been designated on an officially adopted subdivision plat, roadway plan, or general plan of a political subdivision, together with all necessary appurtenances.

(b) "Roadway facilities" includes associated improvements to a federal or state roadway only when the associated improvements:

(i) are necessitated by the new development; and

(ii) are not funded by the state or federal government.

(c) "Roadway facilities" does not mean federal or state roadways.

(19) (a) "Service area" means a geographic area designated by an entity that imposes an impact fee on the basis of sound planning or engineering principles in which a public facility, or a defined set of public facilities, provides service within the area.

(b) "Service area" may include the entire local political subdivision or an entire area served by a private entity.

(20) "Specified public agency" means:

(a) the state;

(b) a school district; or

(c) a charter school.

(21) (a) "System improvements" means:

(i) existing public facilities that are:

(A) identified in the impact fee analysis under Section 11-36a-304; and

(B) designed to provide services to service areas within the community at large; and

(ii) future public facilities identified in the impact fee analysis under Section 11-36a-304 that are intended to provide services to service areas within the community at large.

(b) "System improvements" does not mean project improvements.

11-36a-201. Impact fees.

(1) A local political subdivision or private entity shall ensure that any imposed impact fees comply with the requirements of this chapter.

(2) A local political subdivision and private entity may establish impact fees only for those public facilities defined in Section 11-36a-102.

(3) Nothing in this chapter may be construed to repeal or otherwise eliminate an impact fee in effect on the effective date of this chapter that is pledged as a source of revenues to pay bonded indebtedness that was incurred before the effective date of this chapter.

11-36a-202. Prohibitions on impact fees.

(1) A local political subdivision or private entity may not:

(a) impose an impact fee to:

(i) cure deficiencies in a public facility serving existing development;

(ii) raise the established level of service of a public facility serving existing development;

(iii) recoup more than the local political subdivision's or private entity's costs actually incurred for excess capacity in an existing system improvement; or

(iv) include an expense for overhead, unless the expense is calculated pursuant to a methodology that is consistent with:

(A) generally accepted cost accounting practices; and

(B) the methodological standards set forth by the federal Office of Management and Budget for federal grant reimbursement;

(b) delay the construction of a school or charter school because of a dispute with the school or charter school over impact fees; or

(c) impose or charge any other fees as a condition of development approval unless those fees are a reasonable charge for the service provided.

(2) (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, a political subdivision or private entity may not impose an impact fee:

(i) on residential components of deve opment to pay for a public safety facility that is a fire suppression vehicle;

(ii) on a school district or charter school for a park, recreation facility, open space, or trail;

(iii) on a school district or charter school unless:

(A) the development resulting from the school district's or charter school's development activity directly results in a need for additional system improvements for which the impact fee is imposed; and

(B) the impact fee is calculated to cover only the school district's or charter school's proportionate share of the cost of those additional system improvements; or

(iv) to the extent that the impact fee includes a component for a law enforcement facility, on development activity for:

(A) the Utah National Guard;

(B) the Utah Highway Patrol; or

(C) a state institution of higher education that has its own police force.

(b) (i) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, a political subdivision or private entity may not impose an impact fee on development activity that consists of the construction of a school, whether by a school district or a charter school, if:

(A) the school is intended to replace another school, whether on the same or a different parcel;

(B) the new school creates no greater demand or need for public facilities than the school or school facilities, including any portable or modular classrooms that are on the site of the replaced school at the time that the new school is proposed; and

(C) the new school and the school being replaced are both within the boundary of the local political subdivision or the jurisdiction of the private entity.

(ii) If the imposition of an impact fee on a new school is not prohibited under Subsection (2)(b)(i) because the new school creates a greater demand or need for public facilities than the school being replaced, the impact fee shall be based only on the demand or need that the new school creates for public facilities that exceeds the demand or need that the school being replaced creates for those public facilities.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, a political subdivision or private entity may impose an impact fee for a road facility on the state only if and to the extent that:

(i) the state's development causes an impact on the road facility; and

(ii) the portion of the road facility related to an impact fee is not funded by the state or by the federal government.

(3) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, a local political subdivision may impose and collect impact fees on behalf of a school district if authorized by Section 53A-20-100.5.

11-36a-204. Other names for impact fees.

(1) A fee that meets the definition of impact fee under Section 11-36a-102 is an impact fee subject to this chapter, regardless of what term the local political subdivision or private entity uses to refer to the fee.

(2) A local political subdivision or private entity may not avoid application of this chapter to a fee that meets the definition of an impact fee under Section 11-36a-102 by referring to the fee by another name.

17-36-34. Special assessment.

Money received by the county treasurer from any special assessment shall be applied towards payment of the improvement for which the assessment was approved. Such money shall be used exclusively for the payment of the principal and interest on the bonds or other indebtedness incurred to finance such improvements, except as provided in Section 17-36-29.

17-36-29. Special fund ceases -- Transfer.

If the necessity to maintain any special fund ceases and there is a balance in such fund, the governing body shall authorize the transfer of the balance to the fund balance account in the General Fund. Any balance which remains in a special assessment fund and any unrequired balance in a special improvement guaranty fund shall be treated as provided in Subsection 11-42-701(5). Any balance which remains in a capital projects fund shall be transferred to the appropriate debt service fund or such other fund as the bond ordinance requires or to the general fund balance account.

Sincerely,

Chris Baird

RECEIVED
MAY 08 2014
BY: KW
LATE

Grand County Council:

I can not be to the meeting 4/23/2014;howeven I would like to add my input as to more wilderness in Grand County.
There is thousands of acres in Grand County locked up in limbo waiting for the congress to vote these acres in or out of wilderness.
This process takes upwards of ten years once designated as such.
It seems obvious to those of us who have been involved with this battle, the movement towards wilderness in the Book Cliff Mountains is a means of stopping any development in that area of gas, oil and tar sands.
The Bakken oil and gas field in North Dakota/Montana is an indication of what can be in Grand County.
Those who argue that this is bad are not being honest with the citizens of Grand County.
The jobs and tax base could and would pick up the tab for home owner taxes and schools and other county costs.
North Dakota is a perfect example of what can be, a state who has no debt, and nine billion dollars in the bank against bad times.
Can you imagine the uproar one would expect from those same people who are trying to stop development in the Books if the potash operation tried to develop today.
Lets look at the positive, a beautiful black top road down river, thousands of visitors each year viewing a magnificent experience that would otherwise be unavailable to them; not to mention the employment of hundreds of moab citizens for the past fifty years. The employment there has sent our kids to college helped pay our taxes and furnished untold benefits to our community and county.
As a past county commissioner, I can't believe the council would consider more wilderness in a county with 3% deeded land.

Ron Steele
Moab Utah

Ron Steele