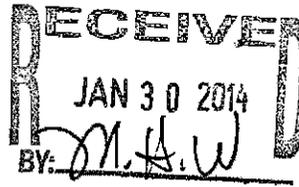


January 29, 2014

Grand County Council
125 E. Center
Moab, UT 84532



Dear Grand Country Council Members:

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed wilderness areas in Grand County. I believe strongly in finding a balance when it comes to public land management, especially since Utah's public lands cover 64% of the state. I believe they can be managed for multiple use through wise decisions. I have lived in Moab for over 20 years and feel I can speak to the value of our land to both the state and the nation as a whole.

I support wilderness designation for the identified parcels in Grand County. I am an avid hiker and was drawn to this area due to its scenic beauty and silence. Grand County is rich in extraordinary places that offer solitude, untrammled nature and solace in this busy world. It is also rich in gas and oil deposits and various minerals and salts. The extractive industries have found a home here and I believe they can be balanced by protecting areas that offer superlative beauty as well as healthy wildlife habitat.

Recreation is the new economy of the west. Wilderness protections will secure Utah's future in outdoor recreation and enjoyment, and promotion of these lands will send the message that this state does value the health of its people, wildlife and the natural surroundings that draw people here in the first place. Utah is perhaps the only state that does not have protected wilderness areas, which astonishes me. Areas like Morning Glory, Porcupine Rim, Mill Creek, Goldbar Canyon, Hunter's Canyon, Behind the Rocks could offer a retreat from the noise of motorized vehicles which surrounds Moab—places to find relative peace and quiet. River trips down Labyrinth Canyon and Westwater will only grow in value if they are protected by wilderness designation. The Bookcliffs parcels are critical to protecting the prime wildlife habitat that we are so lucky to have. The parcels around Arches can offer greater protection of the amazing viewsheds and wildlife habitat—making it less of an "island".

I believe in these designations because huge areas of public land still remain for the many other uses—extractive industry, grazing, motorized travel and exploration,—and the other many activities these lands offer.

I strongly urge the council representatives to support the proposed wilderness designations in Grand County as part of the public lands initiative.

Sincerely-


Sharon Brussell
4348 Heather St.
Moab, UT 84532

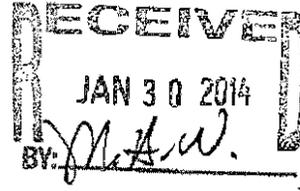
Grand County Council

Attn: Public Lands Bill

Moab, Utah

1/30/2014

Dear Sir or Madam:



As a resident of Grand County, I am writing to express my support for the protection of potential wilderness in Grand County. As more and more of our land is "built" and crossed by roadways, it is incredibly important for us to protect the vestiges of our heritage, the open space and wild places surrounding our communities, for the health of our ecosystems as well as for our sanity.

Please do your part to protect as much land as possible from any kind of development. I enjoy hiking and boating in Labyrinth Canyon, for the quiet and serenity, the feeling of being so far away from civilization. Mill Creek, Morning Glory, Behind the Rocks, the Book Cliffs—all of these areas are dear to me in that they provide places just to "be" in the quiet of nature, without the noise of machines or the visual impacts of mining or buildings. This quality of wildness is exceedingly important to the economic base of this county. I hike regularly in these areas. They are important places to humans as well as other creatures, and they should be protected from development.

Please adopt any measures that will protect vast quantities of land in Grand County from any future development.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



-Heidi E. Blankenship

858 Oak Street

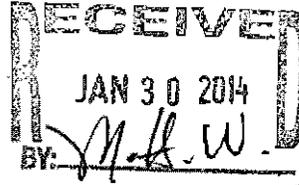
Moab, Utah

84532

Liz Thomas
PO Box 321
Moab, UT 84532

January 30, 2014

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



Dear Grand County Council,

I am writing to voice my support for Grand County's continued participation in Congressman Bishop's public lands initiative, and to voice my support for the preservation of public lands in Grand County. Specifically, I urge the County Council to draft a proposal to Congressman Bishop that would provide wilderness designation for all of the lands proposed for wilderness in America's Red Rock Wilderness Act (ARRWA).

Grand County is blessed with some of the most outstanding, visually appealing landscapes in the world. These lands are world-renown and like no other place on earth; there is little doubt that the public lands proposed for wilderness in Grand County would be National Parks in any other state of the Union. Yet, because these public lands are located near Canyonlands and Arches National Parks, they tend to be treated as less worthy of recognition and protection, valued merely for potential energy production. I urge the Grand County Council to be bold, think big, and lead the way in Utah to protect the last remaining wilderness landscapes. Even if ALL of the potential wilderness in Grand County were preserved as wilderness, there would be huge tracts of public lands that would remain available for energy exploration and development.

I have enjoyed, with friends, many of the wilderness-quality public lands in Grand County. I have hiked in Tenmile Canyon, Spring Canyon, Duma Point, Hell Roaring Canyon, and Mineral Canyon in the greater Labyrinth Canyon area. I have hiked and camped in Hunter Canyon, Behind the Rocks, Goldbar and Dragonfly canyons, Mill Creek, Porcupine Rim, Negro Bill Canyon, Mary Jane Canyon, and in the Dome Plateau areas numerous times – each time being a new, exciting and memorable experience.

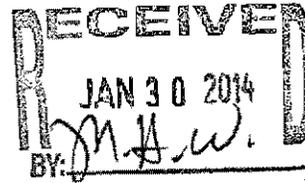
I urge the County Council to propose these lands as wilderness in its proposal to Rep. Bishop. I urge you not to sit by and watch these lands get developed and wrecked by out-of-state energy companies. Let's protect these landscapes as they've been for millions of years, they're worth it.

Sincerely,

Liz Thomas

Copy: Fred Ferguson

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



January 30, 2014

Dear Council Members,

I'm writing to you in response to your request for public comments in regard to Rep. Bishop's public lands initiative.

Representative Bishop's initiative is an opportunity for Grand County as a community to be very forward-thinking. The question before us is not just how we want public lands in Grand County to be managed now, but in what manner would they be best managed to ensure the continued prosperity of our county 20, 30, or even 50 years from now?

In answering that question, I've reflected on how much Moab and Grand County have changed since I first moved here 18 years ago. One thing is abundantly clear: the recreation industry and tourism have exploded, meaning that once-locals-only spots like Mill Creek are now brimming with tourists. This growth in tourism has forced many locals to recreate further afield, in the backcountry -- a lament I'm sure you've heard from your own family, friends and colleagues over the years.

This increased recreational pressure in and around Moab makes it self-evident (in my opinion) that those areas proposed as wilderness in and near Moab should be protected as designated wilderness under the Bishop proposal. Those wilderness areas are defined under the Utah Wilderness Coalition proposal as Mill Creek, Behind the Rocks, Hunter Canyon, Goldbar Canyon, Porcupine Rim, and Morning Glory (Negro Bill). All should be protected as wilderness to ensure the front country immediately surrounding Moab retains its wild and scenic appeal for locals as well as visitors. (I myself visit at least two of these areas every single week, 52 weeks a year -- excepting vacations, of course.)

In addition, it has become increasingly evident to me that the entire Highway 128 river corridor has seen heavier visitation in the last several years. Preserving that corridor is critical to ensuring that locals and visitors alike can seek solitude and a wild outdoor experience close to Moab, and to ensuring that our millions of visitors -- many of whom travel to or from Moab via Highway 128 when traveling to or from Colorado -- continue to experience the majesty and wildness of this corridor as the true gateway to Moab. Therefore, I hope that the County will recommend the protection of the proposed wilderness areas from Mary Jane Canyon (Fisher Towers, Big Triangle, Renegade Point, Granite Creek, and Beaver Creek) all the way to Westwater Canyon. That entire corridor should remain a recreational and scenic area, buffered by wilderness.

So, too, we should be buffering our National Parks -- which bring millions of dollars in business and hundreds of thousands of visitors to Grand County every year -- with designated wilderness. We all remember the brouhaha when the Bush administration proposed oil and gas leasing near Arches several years ago: the plan brought national condemnation. And I have heard increasing laments and questions from visitors -- questions along the lines of "What the hell are people thinking?" -- when they have seen gas rigs along Highway 313 leading to Island in the Sky. Nobody wants to travel half the world to visit a national park only to see oil and gas development simply because the park's boundaries don't match the landscape's natural line-of-site. For this reason, I believe we should protect the appeal of our National Parks by recommending the designation of appropriate proposed wilderness areas surround them -- areas such as Arches Adjacent, Yellow Bird, Dome Plateau, Duma Point, Horsethief Point, and Dead Horse Cliffs. Labyrinth Canyon (including Spring, Hellroaring, and Mineral Canyons) should also be protected as wilderness. As a river runner, the protection of Labyrinth is particularly important to me.

I know, however, that many of the areas I have mentioned (though not all) are not in much dispute when it comes to protecting wilderness in Grand County. It is the other areas, further afield from Moab, that I think require us to be most forward-thinking. For one thing is guaranteed: the population of Moab and Grand County will continue to grow, and will likely grow far more rapidly than many of us can imagine as plans for 2,500 students at USU-Moab come to fruition over the coming decade or more. This growth in population requires us to act now to protect those wild areas that lie further from Moab -- for in the future, when Grand County's population is larger, the demand for those areas as recreational and wilderness escapes will rapidly increase.

I have spent a fair amount of time in the Book Cliffs, though I believe it remains for many Grand County resident a largely unknown or unexplored area. Yet it is one of the most beautiful and truly wild places I have ever experienced. One need not travel far to find abundant evidence of elk, deer, mountain lion, and black bear in the Book Cliffs. The place is heart-breakingly beautiful, and I believe that in the coming decades, as Grand County's population grows, the beauty and solitude that can be found there will become ever more in demand. Therefore I believe that we should protect today those wilderness areas that will be highly valued by future generations of Moab residents, long after all of us have kicked the bucket. Those wilderness areas include Desolation Canyon, Eastern Book Cliffs, Survey Point, Mexico Point, Hideout Canyon, Sweetwater Canyon, Bitter Creek, and Hells Hole.

I believe protecting these areas will safeguard Grand County's greatest attraction to both visitors and future residents: its scenic beauty. I fervently disagree with those who think Grand County needs to "diversify" its economy by opening up our treasured public lands to more drilling or mining. The fact that Grand County barely suffered (relative to other parts of the country) in the Great Recession that began in 2008 while other places nearby that relied on oil and gas and mining (think Naturita and other places in Western Colorado) were devastated by the same recession illustrates that tourism and recreation

is a solid and enduring foundation for our economy, exempt from the boom-and-bust cycle that plagues oil and gas drilling or mining. And yet, even if we protect all of the proposed wilderness areas above, there will still remain plenty of areas in Grand County for such development -- without harming the enduring base of our economy, which is based on visitation.

That visitation is only going to increase in the coming decades as population growth increases in our region. For example, when I first moved to Moab, Utah had just passed 2 million residents; today, 18 years later, there are 2.8 million residents; in another 18 years, that number is expected to grow to nearly *4.4 million residents*. Similar rates of growth can be found in Colorado. What might seem to us today like a lot of wilderness set aside for future generations won't seem like so much in twenty years or more. Therefore, I urge you to recommend full protection for the amazing wilderness-quality lands that make Grand County a place that all of us feel proud and blessed to call home.

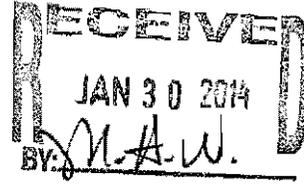
Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mathew Gross', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mathew Gross
233 Aspen Ave
Moab, UT 84532

January 30, 2014

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



RE: Public Lands Bill

Dear Council Members:

I am writing to you as a long time resident of Grand County. I have lived in Grand County since 1996.

With respect the proposed lands bill, I do not support transferring large tracks of land to the State of Utah for lease or sale. It was apparent from a recent conference call with United States Representative Jason Chaffetz and citizens in his district a few weeks ago, that there is an underlying strategy of removing lands from federal control to State or private control in Utah. Mr. Chaffetz (who represents Grand County) and maybe other Utah representatives are under the impression that the interests of the citizens of Utah would best be served by turning over much of the federal lands in Utah to private land owners. One way to do that is to first transfer the lands to the State of Utah. Utah politicians tend to blame federal land management for the lack of economic development in parts of Utah. However, there are few studies to support this assumption and few studies that compare the economic benefits of keeping lands under federal authority and supporting wilderness designation. Mr. Chaffetz does support wilderness protection in Grand County, but the question is how much and what will happen to the federally administered lands that do not receive wilderness protection.

Grand County must consider the extensive damage that has already been done to public lands in Grand County, both state or federal. The State of Utah has no interest in acquiring any lands that have been impacted by uranium mining or may be the sites of future uranium mining activities. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) does not have a comprehensive list and description of the lands in Grand County, or other BLM lands in Utah, that were impacted by uranium mining in Utah from the 1950s to 1980s. Currently, the Department of Energy (DOE) is studying abandoned uranium mines that provided ore for the United States Atomic Weapons Program.¹ Hundreds of these mines are in Southeast Utah. Grand County has a responsibility for seeing that all uranium mine impacts and sites in Grand County are identified and that funds are available to reclaim all lands in Grand County that have been impacted by uranium mining activities.

¹ <http://www.lm.doe.gov/aum/>

Grand County must make sure that all relevant information is available regarding the past and future impacts to state and federal lands in the County, whether these lands are part of any land exchange.

I support the widest possible designation of Grand County lands for wilderness. This includes the Labyrinth Canyon area, Goldbar Canyon, and the Book Cliffs region.

I urge the country to protect lands in the La Sal Mountains that are part of the Moab watershed. The Manti-La Sal National Forest should include wilderness to protect the water supply of Moab.

Congress should not make federal land exchanges or designate federal land uses in Grand County outside of the National Environmental Policy Act. The County must know what the future possible impacts would be to lands that are transferred to the State of Utah.

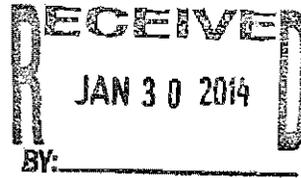
Grand County should also take into consideration that fact that both the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining and the BLM routinely fail to administer and enforce their mining regulations and applicable state and federal statutes.

Thank you for providing this opportunity to comment,



Sarah M. Fields
2881A East Bench Road
Moab, Utah 84532

To: Grand County Council



As the person who pioneered photography of the amazing landscapes on public lands near Moab, I am concerned about their preservation and protection from harm by outside interests whose use of the land involves bigger roads, huge landscape scars and many other negative impacts. The Book Cliffs, which are almost like the Rocky Mountain Serengeti, has been the target of this sort of activity for some time. More recently, the character of the lands east of Labyrinth Canyon and south of the airport have become heavily impacted.

I interact with visitors from around the world who come here for the beauty of our homeland and they are shocked at what is happening. Especially outraged are Americans who understand that this is their land by birthright and not solely the land of the state of Utah or the Grand County Council. I fear this is just the beginning of the destruction of our public lands in Grand County, and unless some kind of protection like a national monument or wilderness designation is quickly enacted, we will be very sorry.

One last economic point about a segment of the local economy I know a lot about. Moab has become a mecca for photographers from around the world. Tens, perhaps hundreds of thousands of these people visit each year. I do not personally gain from their visits, but every other business in Moab does. Most of these people are on the top end of the income scale and spend a great deal of money in town. They have the whole world to chose from, and they chose to come here. Their impact on the land is negligible, and their impact on our infrastructure is also negligible. In short, they are the sought after perfect tourist. Already places they like to go like the Secret Spire and Tombstone Rock have changed greatly. When things change too much, and all you can see in Arches at night is a line of drill rigs at Dead Horse Point, they will leave and not return.

I do believe in energy production. I wouldn't complain about development in Lisbon Valley or some other areas, but please keep development out the Colorado and Green River Canyons and tributaries with your plans.

Regards,

Tom Till

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Till". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "T".

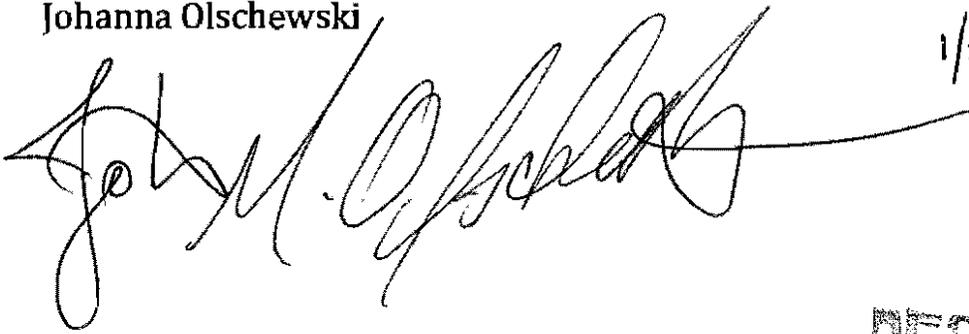
To The Grand County Counsel,

My main concern with protecting our land in the surrounding Colorado Plateau area is the negative affect that I have seen from mining. I realize that Moab was founded from mining, but the times are changing we need to find ways to create jobs and money without destroying our future. When I say destroying our future many of the effects of mining can be devastating on small communities. Destroying or using large portions of water. Changing the scenery making it unsightly for visitors in an area that solely depends on tourism for their economy to survive. Not to mention all of the issues we are still dealing with tailings.

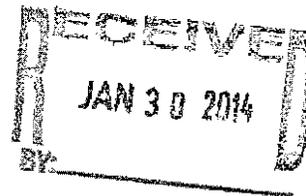
I believe that we can find a common ground to protect of land and our economy.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

Johanna Olschewski



1/30/14



1/28/14

To: Grand County Council

We would like to show our support of designating as much WILDERNESS as possible within Grand County (and San Juan County). These areas of designation are especially important to protect against energy exploration and production. They provide our community with delicate resources. Let's not jeopardize our futures. They feed our economy, drawing in the tourists to the vast "untouched" Wild West! If we give up our Wild West, they will stop coming. Our community depends on the wilderness around us; let's designate it!

Thank you,

Alexander Pasler

Jasper Groff
Stonifer

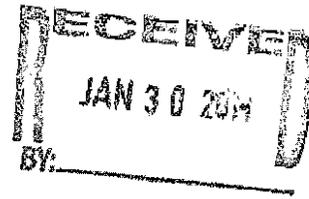
Ge Hernandez
H

Jessy
M

Mikenna Clokey

Fosay Lowridge

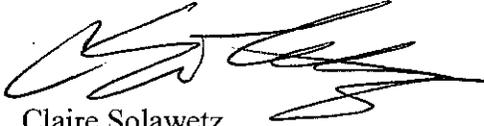
P. Billi



To: Grand County City Council

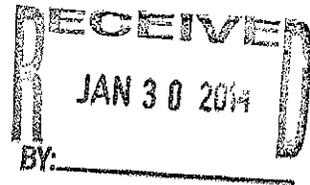
Thank you for your time and consideration in reviewing our letters. I know you are reading a lot. So instead of an extensive letter of explanation, I am certain you are getting the point from the other concerned citizens, I would just like to mention my SUPPORT for as much designated WILDERNESS in Grand & San Juan Counties as possible. We need to protect the land that keeps our economy thriving and protect the resources of that land for our future.

Thank you,

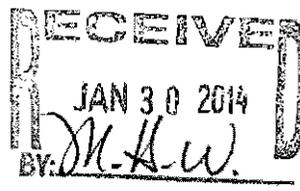


Claire Solawetz

PO Box 337
Moab, Utah 84532



Attention: Grand County Council
Re: Bishop Land Use Initiative
January 29, 2014



Dear Grand County Council members:

You have asked for my vision of the future of the homelands of Grand County. I appreciate the request. The future is a proper point for focus, and anchors my viewpoint. I'm not anti-business or anti- industry, but I am deeply concerned about our trajectory.

Currently, our decisions about land use are rooted in the past, in a system built on a view of land as exploitable resource for economic progress assumed as a basic right. So it is good you are asking about the future, because our system needs an upgrade to support viable land management decisions. Our decisions carry a lot of long term weight, and the burden should be shouldered by everyone, not just elected officials.

Grand County's challenges are set in a global context, and this context is everything. Increasingly stark realities of climate change are forcing us to think differently about meeting our needs, yet the era of peak oil alongside a need for energy independence, the ever present call to "create jobs" in a county comprised of mostly public land rich in mineral resource but poor in water make land planning especially challenging. I know the 3 of you who are tasked with reading this letter are favorable to industry, and that extractive fuel industries are poised to change the face of Grand County in ways you might think would benefit its citizens. But the problem we face that the free market has no way of curbing its excess. Governments fail to protect common resources because polluting industries are powerful and future generations don't vote. This is the context and the standard operating economic system, and it presents a big dilemma for the securing a livable future.

It is a moral dilemma as well as an economic one. We have a moral duty to preserve the irreplaceable gifts of creation, but no such moral duty exists towards 'transient commercial goods'. The economic dilemma is that any society that depletes its natural capital is bound to become impoverished over time. That makes it even more important to think beyond ourselves, our time, our short term needs. In my opinion, we have no basic right to cash in on the non renewable resource of our descendants. Yet it is assumed, simply taken in the name of

capitalism or creating jobs. I want to empower you with some possibilities that may improve the long term tradeoff in land use Bob Bishop and Jason Chaffetz alluded to in the 'Grand Bargain' for Grand County.

Our situation is somewhat unique in the quality and quantity of public land in Utah and Grand County. The land in question is a world treasure, its' resources are finite, delicate and need to be managed in that way.

The priority for use is as follows: to develop it as slowly as humanly possible.

First, we need to aggressively guard and protect Wilderness proposed as outlined in maps included in this letter.

Second, prioritize access for use that is the most temporary in nature, such as tourism access and other uses which can be thoroughly remediated post impact.

Lastly, industrial and extractive use is best kept to areas already in what I would call sacrifice zones. To my reckoning, these are in the Island in the Sky area, the Cisco desert, and along the easement that parallels I-70. The BookCliffs are being prepped for extractive sacrifice, and serve as an illustration on the great need for better guardianship with water protection being absolutely paramount. The following headline from a 2014 press release on the development of the BookCliff's is NOT what I want to see in Utah's future, though it is all too common in our present circumstance:

"Red Leaf plans to leave toxic post-production residues in its experimental capsules. The state permit lacks provisions to detect if or how the capsule would fracture during heating or prevent contaminants from leaching into groundwater, seeps and springs".

"State law requires protection of all waters of the state from contamination. Yet the state has approved a permit for Red Leaf to discharge potentially contaminated water from a first-of-its-kind facility." said Shelley Silbert, executive director with Great Old Broads for Wilderness. "Amazingly, they are not even requiring monitoring of springs, seeps, or groundwater on site."

Here's an little excerpt from a recent lament by professor Eric Waggoner on the West Virginia water contamination, and it speaks cautionary volumes for Utah. "There are sensible, sane ways to do things. (the contaminating industry in WV was allowed to do business a mile and a half upstream from a water intake facility, for God's sake. Upstream.) It's essential for state and federal governments to consult with scientists -- actual, real scientists, in spite of this area's long and fierce tradition of anti-intellectualism when it comes to public policy -- and provide a regulatory apparatus for maintaining safety standards and making sure things are up to code, and that there's a protocol in place for when systems fail. That's what a society does to protect the people who live in

it. Or the people who live in it will -- should, anyway -- naturally come to the conclusion that their health and safety mean zero in the calculus of industry and politics."
(<http://wvpublic.org/post/hell-you-west-virginians-raw-response-water-crisis-goes-viral>)

Meanwhile, it has come to my attention that the Moab city/Grand county is selling culinary water for oil and gas exploration. This underscores the misplaced priorities, and there will be hell to pay in every way imaginable if this set of priorities is not rectified.

You might overlay maps in the MLP with the proposed wilderness protection maps and see which areas are least likely to affect water flow for best guide for development/ industry. Actually funding the congressionally 'unfunded mandate' of studying the water table capacity of the Moab area is definitely part of my vision for a land use plan with any integrity. Though I am not an expert, it seems obvious that industrial development in the LaSals, Willow Basin, around Castle Valley, Porcupine Rim, Johnson's Up On Top, Black Mesa, MillCreek, Beaver Creek, Granite Creek, Westwater Canyon, Hunter Canyon, Behind the Rocks, Gold Bar, Labyrinth, Mary Jane Canyon, The Books in Desolation or Diamond Canyon, or any other areas that abut pristine water flows above or underground should be expressly forbidden.

In spite of how it sounds, I still think multiple use is preferable and still possible in Grand County, but there are some uses which are not at all compatible with industry and cannot be ameliorated by better systems of sharing. One particular kind of use that must remain apart is that of experiencing quietude. It takes vast tracts of land to experience it. Motorized industry of any kind ruins it. Much research today suggests that the loss of this unnoticed, undervalued resource is at the root of learning disabilities, mental illness and even auto immune dysfunction. Nature Deficit Disorder is one name educators are using to describe both cause and point to the cure for many ADHD related symptoms. This means that areas already light in access points should be carefully guarded for this benefit alone.

Another value I hold for present and future generations is Night Sky. The reality I envision and encourage us all to establish for future generations includes a night sky with virtually zero light pollution, so that our place in the firmament can be contemplated and felt, way out here on the long spiral arm of the Orion spur. It includes a depth of quietude that will certainly be a more precious quality over time, providing a sense of peace in place with the landscape. I would ensure that these experiences occur in large conserved tracts of land rich with diversity of flora and fauna, safe from the plunder by earlier generations' short sighted undervaluing of these rare, priceless goods.

In lands where extractive industries have been or are soon to be negotiated for trade with the SITLA parcels, I am in agreement in principal, though SITLA trustees themselves need to rethink what 'highest value' really means, and shift the weight of investment from short term profit to long term good for its future generations of students to whom the Trust is beholden. An expanded PILT or Permanent Fund framework might help strengthen SITLA core values and true bottom line. What I want for the future of Grand County is much stronger conservation, with priority given to less extractive use. In the current context, I know it is hard to imagine, our operating system makes it unlikely. But what if recognizing Grand County's land as a world treasure could pay dividends through a market mechanism? What if the idea of PILT fund could be expanded? What if we created a Utah Permanent Trust, similar to the Alaskan Permanent Trust? Such a mechanism could even be financed by the sale of use permits where the true long term value of the land is acknowledged. 'Pollution permits' would be the most expensive.

Where tourist related industries create impact a similar upgrade in understanding long term cost to the commons is required, and a possible system of pollution permits in buffer zones would offset the use burden/loss to future generations. Check it out:

From Wikipedia for your consideration as a model for Utah: **The Alaska Permanent Fund** is a constitutionally established permanent fund managed by a state-owned corporation, the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation (APFC). Shortly after the oil from Alaska's North Slope began flowing to market through the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System, the Permanent Fund was created by an amendment to the Alaska Constitution. It was designed to be an investment where at least 25% of the oil money would be put into a dedicated fund for future generations, who would no longer have oil as a resource.^[5] This does not mean the fund is solely funded by oil revenue. The Fund includes neither property taxes on oil company property nor income tax from oil corporations, so the minimum 25% deposit is closer to 11% if those sources were also considered. The Alaska Permanent Fund sets aside a certain share of oil revenues to continue benefiting current and all future generations of Alaskans. Many citizens also believed that the legislature too quickly and too inefficiently spent the \$900 million bonus the state got in 1969 after leasing out the oil fields. This belief spurred a desire to put some oil revenues out of direct political control.

The Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation manages the assets of both the Permanent Fund and other state investments, but spending Fund income is up to the Legislature. The Corporation is to manage for maximum prudent return, and not-as some Alaskans at first wanted-as a development bank for in-state projects. The Fund grew from an initial investment of \$734,000 in 1977 to approximately \$42.1 billion as of August 31, 2012.^[6] Some growth was due to good management, some to inflationary re-investment, and some via legislative decisions to deposit extra income during boom years. Each year,

the fund's realized earnings are split between inflation-proofing, operating expenses, and the annual Permanent Fund Dividend.

I am suggesting we research and implement ways to reward ourselves for not divesting irreplaceable resources, so as to leave it, rich and vital as can be, for future generations. In fact, I'm demanding it, with a reminder that there are no jobs on a dead planet.

Please do not let Grand County become another Carbon county, another polluted Wasatch Front with children unable to play outside, a populace unable to breathe or perhaps even survive its own "progress". Protect. Pro-act, and you will be on the right side of history. If future generations could vote, I'm certain it is this kind of stewardship they'd vote for. If we do not shift our operating system, at least re-prioritize, you tie us all to the wrong side of history. What would the 'wrong side of history' look like? To borrow again from Eric Waggoner:

"To anyone that allows continued exploitation of the lax, poorly-enforced safety regulations here, so that business could proceed in the cheapest manner possible by shortcutting the health and quality of life not only of workers, but of everybody who lives here: To hell with all who were supposed to be stewards of the public interest, and who sold us out for money, for political power. To hell with everyone who decided that making life convenient for business meant making life dangerous for us everyone".

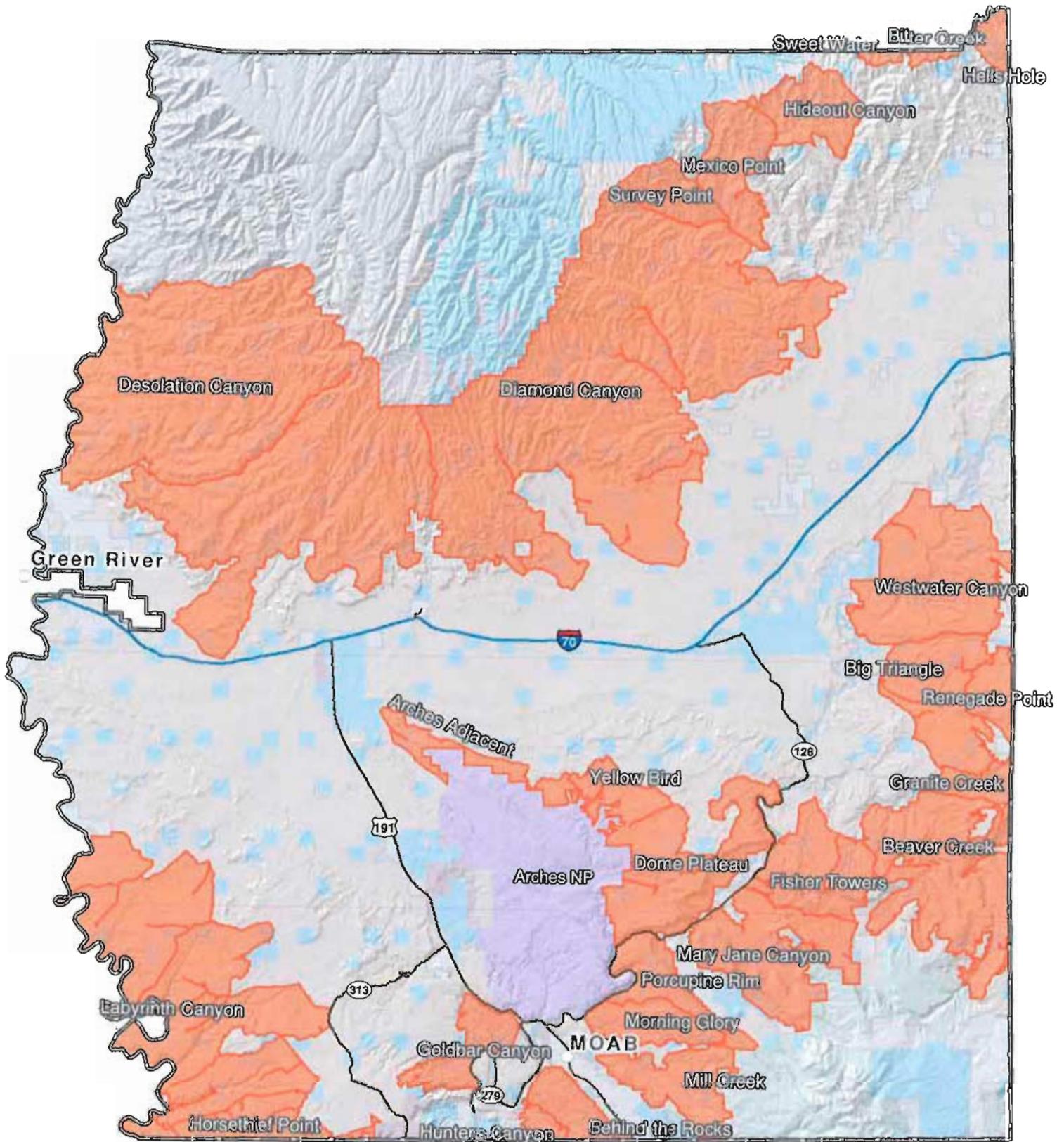
Thank you for any action to avert that fate, for thinking past our own time, for helping create a better way into the long future.

Sincerely,

Christy Williams

HC 64 Box 1711, Castle Valley Utah 84532 435-259-2709

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christy Williams', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

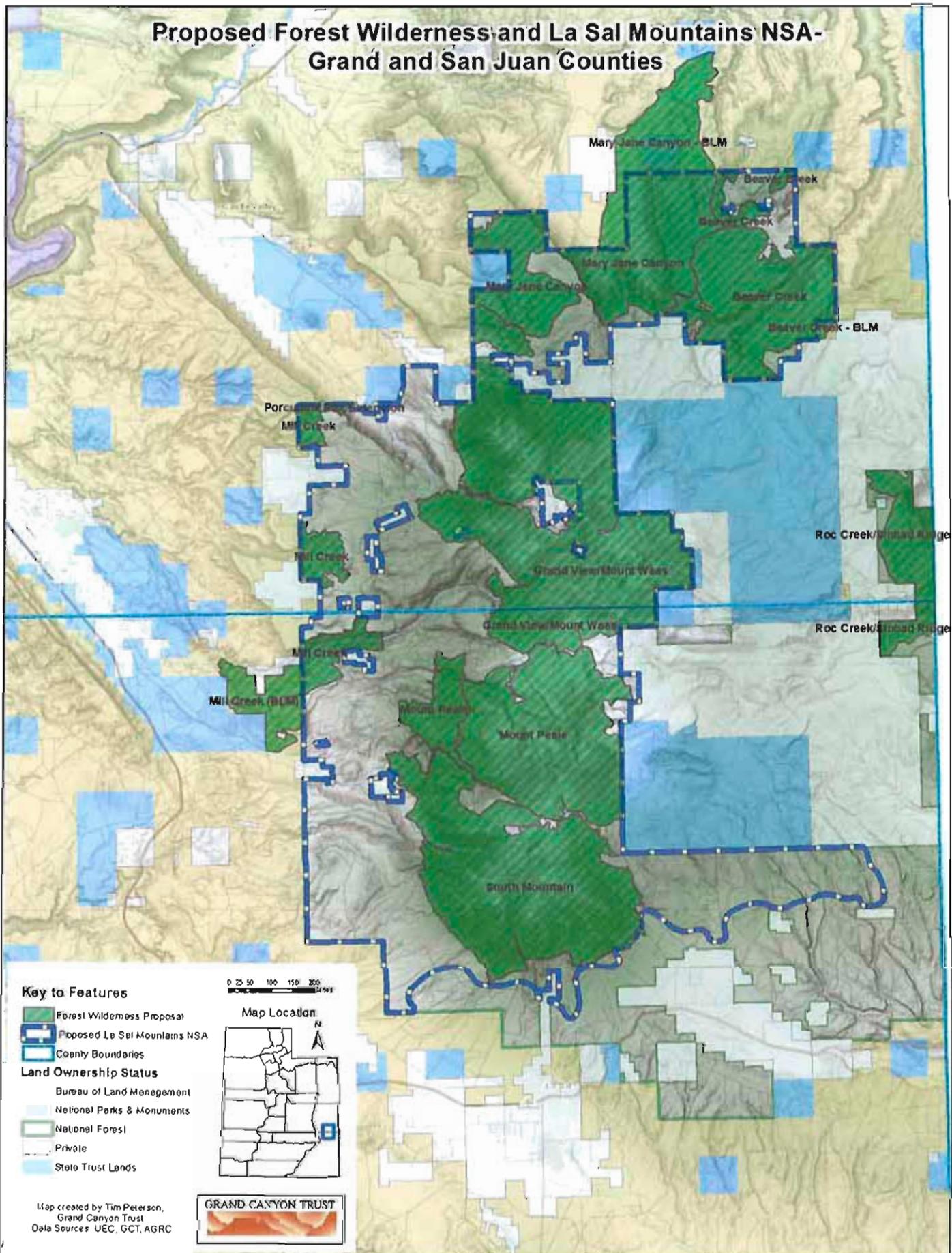


America's Red Rock Wilderness Act

Grand County

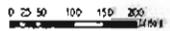
Legend	
	Proposed Wilderness

Proposed Forest Wilderness and La Sal Mountains NSA- Grand and San Juan Counties



Key to Features

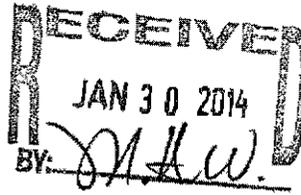
- Forest Wilderness Proposal
 - Proposed La Sal Mountains NSA
 - County Boundaries
- Land Ownership Status**
- Bureau of Land Management
 - National Parks & Monuments
 - National Forests
 - Private
 - State Trust Lands



Map created by Tim Peterson,
Grand Canyon Trust
Data Sources: UEC, GCT, AGRC



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



Dear Grand County Council Members:

I would like to comment on the potential recommendations for the Land Use Bill being proposed by a Rep. Bishop and Rep. Chavetz. First, I have several concerns about a proposal that could potentially limit the decision making process regarding the oversight of Federal Lands from the larger public and the Federal Government. These after all are lands set aside for multiple use that should include wilderness and conservation initiatives that benefit large ecosystems that include persons residing in the immediate region proposed as well as the greater US. Most of what I heard at a community Q & A with Rep Bishop and Rep. Chavetz last Fall had to do with finding ways to make specifically Federal Lands in Utah more productive for recreational access, resource exploration and extraction, and their feeling that too much of the Federal Lands in Utah were locked up purely for wilderness designation or had too many restrictions for other activities. There also seemed to be a sentiment by these Representatives that land set aside for wilderness or conservation was often wasted because it is idle and not productive, rather than recognizing that it contributes to the health of a larger ecosystem that includes humans as well as many other species and organisms we all rely on. Where I feel extra weighted regional or local public input should be considered on all public lands is when the quality of resources such as air and water are at risk of being compromised due to certain activities being considered on these lands. Other than that I am not sure a state or public initiative is necessary to take control from what its opponent's state as an "unresponsive federal bureaucracy." Also, since I have yet to see any of the proposed recommendations for the initiative it is hard for me to comment or make specific recommendations at this time and this brings me to my second point.

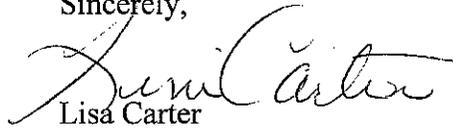
I have concerns regarding the process for defining the recommendations for the Public Land Use Bill due to what appears to be a limited perspective focusing on this initiative. Locally specific would be that the Grand County Council Committee proposing recommendations for Federal Lands within Grand County do not include any regular citizens from the community. I am told residents will have a chance to comment on what could be proposed once the "committee" drafts the initial recommendations but I feel that is a little after the fact. It seems it would be more effective to have at least 2- 3 private citizens involved with recommendations that may be put forward in the beginning. To move forward otherwise with any public lands initiative on the local or state level would be potentially excluding a portion of the public it says it intends to represent.

Lastly, specific activities I would like to see curtailed on all public lands would be the exploration and extraction of natural gas, oil, uranium, coal or any other material or process that pollutes the environment to lethal levels, or where past events or studies have shown them to be harmful or where egregious accidents or events have caused loss of life or laid vast tracks of land to waste due to toxicity. Specifically, "fracking" should not be allowed on public lands until a full accounting of all of the chemicals used are made

public and only after a federal agency can create guidelines for how to handle leaks or spills by setting acceptable levels for human or other species' safe exposure to the chemicals being used. We only have to look in our own back yard with the "tailings" pile to see where industry was remiss putting Moab residents at risk for radioactive exposure as well as water users further down the Colorado River and more recently in West Virginia where thousands of people have unsafe drinking water and for who knows how long will be exposed to health risks since there have been no studies done on some of the chemicals spilled with regard to human exposure.

Thank you for your time and attention.

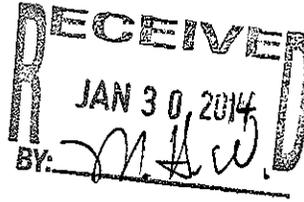
Sincerely,



Lisa Carter
Moab, UT Resident

January 29, 2014

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



To Whom It May Concern:

I have been a resident of Grand County since 1978. It is where I have raised my family and where I intend to stay. I am in favor of protecting as much wilderness in Grand County as possible.

One of our main forms of recreation is river rafting and we first experienced Desolation Canyon in 1987. We have been back many times with family and friends and want this area protected so our children and their families can enjoy it. The same goes for Westwater Canyon and Labyrinth Canyon including Spring, Hellroaring and Mineral. Part of river trips is hiking up the canyons at various stops.

We also hike in this area and want to see Arches adjacent, Fisher Towers, Goldbar Canyon, Hunter Canyon, and Mill Creek protected. Eastern Book Cliffs is an area important to many of my friends that hike and who hunt.

Once an area is developed there is no going back. Much of this county is spectacular in its beauty and uniqueness and needs to be preserved not only for us but for all people to enjoy.

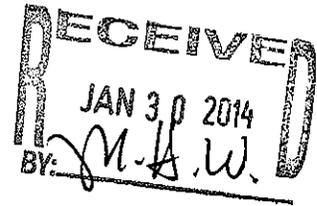
Thanks for considering my viewpoint,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cynthia Smith".

Cynthia Smith
1939 Spanish Valley Dr.
Moab, UT 84532

January 29, 2014

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



To Whom It May Concern:

I moved to Grand County in 1976 with my wife and five children because of the recreational opportunities.

Our main forms of recreations were river rafting and hiking the area. We first experienced Desolation Canyon in 1987. We have been back many times with family and friends and want this area protected so our children and their families can enjoy it. The same goes for Westwater Canyon and Labyrinth Canyon including Spring, Hellroaring and Mineral.

The areas we like to hike are Arches adjacent, Fisher Towers, Goldbar Canyon, Hunter Canyon, and Mill Creek. All the areas I have mentioned need to be designated Wilderness Areas.

This whole area is spectacular in its beauty and uniqueness and needs to be preserved not only for us but for all people to enjoy.

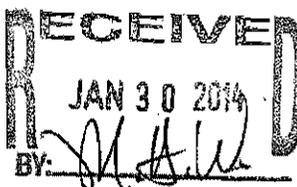
Thanks for your attention to this important issue,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Al McLeod".

Al McLeod
1939 Spanish Valley Dr.
Moab, UT 84532

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

January 28, 2014



Re: Bishop Public Lands Initiative

Dear Grand County Council,

Thank you for taking the time to listen to the public's views about the Bishop Land Initiative. If it appears that the Initiative is viable I hope that the county will engage its citizenry in a more extensive planning process. One which befits the magnitude and far reaching impacts of planning decisions affecting much of the land in Grand County.

I moved to Grand County in 1990 because of the landscape, abundant water (relative to many other places), clean air, and friendly community. These are the qualities that have kept me here for the past twenty-three years. During this time I have watched Moab go from mineral bust to a tourist boom. While at times I feel like the tourism is a bit much, I think it provides the most viable path for truly sustainable economic growth. As such I ask that you do all you can to protect our air and water quality and the landscapes that we treasure, and which I believe form the basis for a steadily improving community for many decades to come.

Please attempt to protect all of the public and SITLA land in the municipal watersheds of Grand County from any development that could be detrimental to water quality and quantity. Wilderness is one tool by which this protection could be accomplished. There are other tools for use where wilderness is inappropriate. Please include Forest Service land in the County proposal. Forest Service land is especially important because of the protection it offers for our watersheds, recreation, and wildlife management. Please refer to the Grand Canyon Trust proposal for protection boundary suggestions. I have hiked extensively throughout the USFS lands in Grand County and cannot conceive of a better use for these roadless Forest Service areas than to preserve them in their unspoiled state so that we can continue to benefit from the clean water, quiet recreation, and sustainable tourism they provide.

I feel great fondness for many areas of the county, and ask that you advocate for their protection. Several times per week I enjoy the undamaged vistas of Behind the Rocks and Hunter Canyon. I regularly visit Mill Creek, the Goldbar Canyon area, and the area between Porcupine Rim and Sandflats. Areas adjacent to Arches NP, Mary Jane Canyon, Fisher Towers, and Desolation Canyon I value, but unfortunately see less frequently. My wife relies on the intact area of Labyrinth Canyon for some of our livelihood. In addition to hiking I also use public lands in the county for many other forms of recreation, as do most visitors. Please refer to the work by Public Land Solutions for more detailed information about valuable recreational resources whose preservation we believe will benefit the county.

One of the primary responsibilities of government is to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizenry. Threats to those are rarely black and white, but more often probabilities. Climate change is appearing increasingly probable, and may be the greatest threat to the county's long-term stability. I would prefer that complicity in severe drought and other weather extremes, as well as air and water pollution, is not one of the sacrifices that we make as part of a 'bargain'. I would prefer that our community not be exposed to the increased drug use and crime that is being documented in oil and gas boomtowns. Please advocate for a public lands solution that protects our incredible landscape, and supports economic and social stability. Please lobby for a level of mineral extraction, which, at worst, has no chance of degrading our water and air quality, or limited water supply.

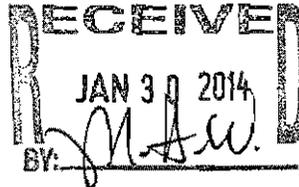
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kalen Jones".

Kalen Jones
900 Kane Creek
Moab UT 84532

Cc: Fred Ferguson

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



January 28, 2014

Re: Bishop Public Lands Initiative

Dear Grand County Council,

Thank you for taking the time to integrate the public's views into your response to the Bishop Land Initiative. I moved to Grand County in 1995 because of the amazing landscape, abundant water (relative to many other places), clean air, and friendly community. These are the qualities that have kept me here for the past eighteen years. During this time I have watched Moab go from mineral bust to a tourist boom, fueled by the unspoiled landscape. While I realize that tourist development is not without its problems, and I have mixed feelings about it, I think it provides a more viable path for smooth economic and social growth than another mineral boom. As such I ask that you do all you can to protect our air and water quality and the landscapes that I treasure, and which I believe form the basis for a steadily improving community for decades to come.

Personally, I also have great fondness for many specific areas of the county, and hope that you will advocate for their protection. I have hiked in most of the Grand County wilderness units proposed in America's Redrock Wilderness Act. I often walk the Goldbar unit, which offers beauty, diversity, and accessibility. I enjoy the undamaged vistas of Behind the Rocks and Hunter several times a week. I regularly visit Mill Creek, Porcupine Rim and Morning Glory. Others I see less often such as units adjacent to Arches NP, Mary Jane, Fisher Towers, Desolation Canyon, Diamond Canyon, Mexico Point, Horsethief Point. I count on the intact area of Labyrinth Canyon for some of my livelihood. I would like to see all of these areas designated Wilderness.

Please include Forest Service Wilderness in the County proposal. Forest Service Wilderness is especially important because of the protection it offers for our watersheds, limited summertime recreation, and wildlife management. Please refer to the Grand Canyon Trust proposal for boundary suggestions. I have hiked extensively throughout the USFS lands in Grand County and cannot conceive of a better use for these roadless Forest Service areas. Please attempt to protect all of the public and SITLA land in the municipal watersheds of Grand County from any development that could be detrimental to water quality and quantity. Wilderness is one tool by which this protection could be accomplished. There are other tools for use where wilderness is inappropriate.

In reading about the Initiative I am left with the impression that it is (perhaps oversimplified) a 'wilderness for drilling' horse trade. One of the primary responsibilities of government is to protect the safety and welfare of the citizenry. Threats are rarely black and white, but more often probabilities. Climate change is appearing increasingly probable, and represents the greatest threat to the county's long-term stability. I would prefer that complicity in severe drought and other weather extremes is not one of the sacrifices that I make as part of a compromise. I would prefer that our community not be exposed to the increased drug use and crime that is being documented in oil and gas boomtowns. Wilderness is one tool by which the Book Cliffs in Grand County could be protected from hydrocarbon extraction and its disastrous climate and social change impacts. Please advocate for a public lands solution that protects our incredible landscape, and supports economic and social stability. Please lobby for a level of mineral extraction, which, at worst, has no chance of degrading our water and air quality or limited water supply.

In conclusion, I would again like to thank Grand County and the Bishop Public Lands Initiative for the opportunity to comment on this important topic and for taking my comments to create large wilderness areas in Grand County to protect our future into serious consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susie Harrington".

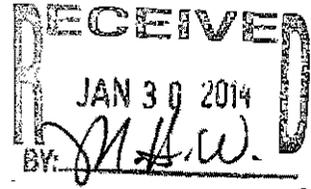
Susie Harrington
900 Kane Creek, Moab UT 84532

Cc: Fred Ferguson, Wade Garrett, Tim Robison

From: Mel Hare 4150 Spanish Valley Drive, Moab, UT 84532

To: Grand County Council, 125 East Center Street, Moab, UT 84532

January 30, 2014



Dear Grand County Council Members:

I think Congressman Bishop's public lands bill proposal is a great idea. I personally hike, bicycle, motorcycle (on and off-road) and horseback ride in many of the areas in the proposed America's Red Rock Wilderness Act. These areas include Behind the Rocks, Mill Creek, Morning Glory, Porcupine Rim, Fisher Towers, Goldbar Canyon and Desolation and Diamond Canyons in the Bookcliffs area. These are already public lands and if more legislation is needed to keep them open long term for the public to enjoy then I am all for it.

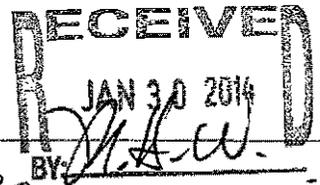
I understand that mineral extraction and oil and gas development are on the upswing, but I think the effects on other communities similar to Moab (tourist based, limited water resources, etc.) should be studied over a longer period of time before it is allowed here. There is a reason it is being banned in areas both in the United States and abroad. I think we should better understand the long term effects before opening the door to extraction and perhaps changing the long term economic and environmental health of Grand County in a negative way for a long time. Every boom is followed by a bust. Are we really that short-sighted?

I recommend that the Grand County Council propose as much public land as possible be included in the new legislation for America's Red Rock Wilderness Act. Future visitors and local generations will be grateful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mel Hare".

Mel Hare



Grand County Public Lands Committee

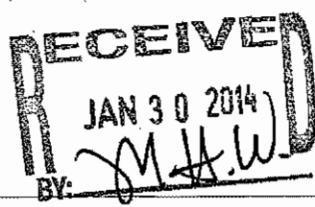
I believe that protected areas should not be expanded from current existing boundaries.

Lands held in wilderness study areas should be resolved and any lands without wilderness qualities be released for multiple use. Take those areas out of limbo.

Multiple uses of lands should be allowed where applicable.

I believe it's possible to allow responsible development of Grand County's natural resources without significant harm to the environment or the tourism industry. This would also create year-around employment, higher paying jobs and a stable tax base, all things our county sorely lacks at the present time.

Sincerely,
Dennis Lightfoot
125 N. Main St.
Moab Utah



January 17, 2014

To: Grand County Council
Public Lands Committee

I am writing in response to your request for comments regarding public lands in Grand County. I would hope that the county proposal will contain as much "multiple use" as possible.

Recreation and energy and mineral extraction can co-exist side by side. Dead Horse Point is an excellent and profitable example of such multiple use. I believe that multiple use provides the most opportunity for the most people and is the only path to real sustainability.

I would hope that the county does not promote more "wilderness" or "wilderness study areas," because they, by design, eliminate multiple use, especially 4x4 use and energy extraction, and ~~serve~~ serve only special interest groups.

and a small portion of the public.

I strongly oppose a recreation only economy. Due to new technology in mineral and energy extraction, I firmly believe that such extraction can be done responsibly. The jobs provided by the energy sector are much better paying jobs than those provided by the tourism sector. The citizens and families of Grand County desire more than low paying tourism jobs and a yearly "boom and bust" cycle of existence that comes from a recreation only economy.

I would also hope, as you write your proposal, that you will avoid or eliminate all reference and use of such terms as "view shed" or "visual resource". They are open-ended terms that mean nothing except to those special

interest groups who use them to stop "multiple use" and energy extraction. To a man making his living off the land and putting fuel on the table for his family, an oil rig may be the most beautiful site in the world!

I would also hope that no more restrictions are placed on grazing in Grand County.

The use of public lands is critical to the sustainability of agriculture in this region. Grazing on public lands is a necessary and renewable resource and helps with fuel reduction and fire control on public lands. Not to mention that many of us still enjoy a good steak now and then.

I would also hope that you would not entertain the idea of any more road closures in the county, do not decrease or make it more difficult

to access our public lands.
Roads are a vital part of
the infrastructure of public
lands and need to be protected
and maintained, not closed.

Thank you for the opportunity
to speak to these issues and
thank you for your willingness
to serve the people of Grand
County.

Sincerely,
Steve C. Lightfoot

P.S. I've enclosed an article that
was written from the findings
of the Government Accountability
Office that hopefully shows
just how high the stakes are
for keeping our lands under
multiple use.

The Colorado Observer

Colorado News, Analysis and Commentary from a Fresh Perspective



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State & Local

Editorial

Trillions of Barrels of Recoverable Oil in Colorado, Utah: GAO

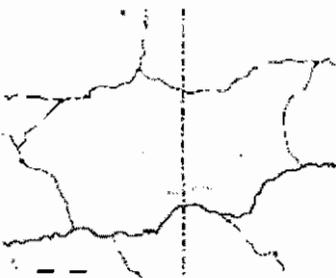
May 13, 2012

By

Tweet 17

283

Like 287



Source: Adapted from BLM

DENVER – Trillions of barrels of potentially recoverable oil lies within the Green River Formation of Colorado and Utah, and perhaps as much or more than the current proven oil reserves for the entire world, according to a new report from the U.S. Government Accountability Office.

In it's "Unconventional Oil and Gas Production: Opportunities and Challenges of Oil Shale Development" that covers testimony provided by Anu K. Mittal, Director of Natural Resources and Environment to the House Subcommittee on Energy and Environment, the GAO updated a 2010 report, confirming that more than a trillion barrels of recoverable oil exist in the world's largest oil shale deposits on Colorado's Western Slope.

Mittal's testimony began with the prospect of

“Increasing domestic oil production. Being able to tap the vast amounts of oil locked within U.S. oil shale formations could go a long way toward satisfying the nation’s future oil demands. The Green River Formation—an assemblage of over 1,000 feet of sedimentary rocks that lie beneath parts of Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming—contains the world’s largest deposits of oil shale. USGS estimates that the Green River Formation contains about 3 trillion barrels of oil, and about half of this may be recoverable, depending on available technology and economic conditions. The Rand Corporation, a nonprofit research organization, estimates that 30 to 60 percent of the oil shale in the Green River Formation can be recovered. **At the midpoint of this estimate, almost half of the 3 trillion barrels of oil would be recoverable. This is an amount about equal to the entire world’s proven oil reserves.** [emphasis added] The thickest and richest oil shale within the Green River Formation exists in the Piceance Basin of northwest Colorado and the Uintah Basin of northeast Utah. Figure 1 shows where these prospective oil shale resources are located in Colorado and Utah.”

Mittal also concluded that socioeconomic benefits “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.”

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 in the past, with an unpredictable “boom and bust” cycle.

The GAO’s best estimate of oil shale development is projected to occur at least 15-20 years from now, but notes that preparations to account for many of the environmental concerns—a factor, in part, for the longer time frame—should begin as soon as possible.

The GAO included recommendations directed at the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Geological Services, and the Department of Energy to develop baseline measurements and inter-agency collaboration frameworks to ensure that “potential opportunities for commercial development of large unconventional oil and gas resources, such as oil shale” be undertaken in such a way to so as to “be balanced with other potential technological, environmental and socioeconomic challenges.”

This post was written by

— who has written posts on

Comments made by visitors are not representative of The Colorado Observer staff.

**7 Responses to Trillions of Barrels of Recoverable Oil in Colorado, Utah:
GAO**

- 1. Pingback:
- 2. Pingback:
- 3. Pingback:
- 4. Pingback:

- 5. Pingback:
- 6. Pingback:

7. gwhh
July 29, 2012 at 11:08 am

Here an article the mainstream old media will never print!!

Comments

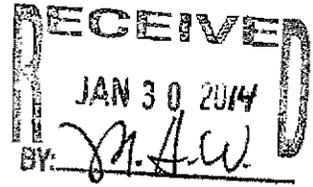
Your email address will not be published. Required fields are marked *

Name *

Email *

Website

Bruce Hucko
Photographer, Educator, Children's Art Coach
668 Mountain View Moab, UT 84532
bhucko@frontiernet.net



Greetings to the Grand County Council,

I write to you as a tax-paying, home-owning, school district employee and independent business owner, 15+ year resident of Grand County. I am writing with comments for the Council's participation in the "Bishop Bill" and the council's special committee on public lands.

Thank you for considering my thoughts.

First and foremost I believe that WILDERNESS IS GOOD FOR GRAND COUNTY. As a freelance photographer and photographic educator I have traveled in, hiked in and camped in most of Grand County, whether it is currently considered for wilderness or not. I have taken hundreds of clients into the country and with 100% accuracy I can truly say that our county's natural landscape is our greatest economic asset. We would not be the community we are right now if all of Grand County looked like.....say.....Crescent Junction. Because of the international appeal of our landscape we are the community we have come to be. The protected federal and state lands that abound in our county are our bread and butter. National Parks, State Parks and Monuments, BLM Lands and our Forest Service lands are what people come to see. And when they come to see it they stay in motels, eat at our restaurants, shop at our stores and employ the services of our bike shops, gas stations, tire stores, food stores and more.

It is incumbent upon us to protect that lands that nurture us economically and otherwise, not only for those living in Grand County now, but for those of our children and others who will live here in the future. I recently led an HMK School project where we had all 3rd and 4th grade students visit the Island-in-the-Sky District of Canyonlands to paint the landscape as part of an intergrated curriculum based in the common core.

Prior to the fieldwork I conducted a simple classroom survey where we had all students stand and then sit down once they found themselves part saying yes to the following statements.

- * Your parents work for the NPS or BLM (2-3 kids sit)
- * Your parents work for or own a local jeep, raft, hiking, biking, canoeing guide service or company. (2-3 more kids sit)
- * Your parents work for or own a motel/hotel or restaurant (2-3 more kids sit)

By now the kids are asking "Why are we doing this?" to which I answer, "well, if the landscape around here was not so wonderful and protected the chances are that those kids sitting down right now WOULD NOT BE HERE as their parents would not have a job!

We go on to add -

- * If your parents work in home construction including being electricians, plumbers or concrete layers then sit down as they might not have work if there were not people wanting to build here related to all the elements above.

* We do that for convenience stores and all the support services that create business in our county.

In the end, out of a class of 22 students, on average, only 5-7 are left standing as their parents work in energy development, ranching or are somehow immune from tourist/landscape related business.

The point this make to me is – Moab exists in its present population and economic state DUE TO THE NATURAL BEAUTY AND PROTECTION of AREA LANDSCAPES.

The point I wish to make to the council is that Wilderness Protection is good for the long-term economic health of Grand County. Whether Public/Federal lands or not, we are dependent on those who come to see untrammeled landscapes for our bread and butter.

Therefore, I support wilderness designation in Grand County and I also support the overall position of not despoiling the natural beauty of our area like the O&G wells near Dead Horse Point do. Numerous and endless are the times I've taken clients to that area and have them comment on how wrong it is to have wells there.

Of the areas proposed for wilderness in Grand County I have a personal affinity for the following – Desolation Canyon, Hideout Canyon, Hells Hole, Westwater Canyon, Beaver Creek, Fisher Towers, Mary Jane Canyon, Porcupine Rim, Morning Glory, Millcreek, Behind the Rocks, Hunter Canyon, Goldbar Canyon, Labyrinth Canyon, and Dead Horse Cliffs. I believe all wilderness area proposed by the Citizen's Red Rock Wilderness Act are worthy of wilderness designation.

Furthermore I would ask that there should be no "release language" for the Antiquities Act. Some counties want this valuable archaeological protection to be dismissed.

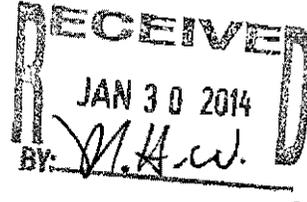
And finally, I would ask that county officials cease in using the rhetoric of "giving lands BACK to the states." If you follow history these lands were NOT the state's to begin with. The US government had the foresight to purchase them and allow for states to be created within them. I'm sorry that states in the west were created in a different manner than most of those back east. The situation changed. To continue using language that states the current federal lands once belonged to the states and should now be given back is misleading and just pure wrong!

Thank you for considering and including my comments.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce Hucko". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

Bruce Hucko
1/28/2014

January 28, 2014



Members of Grand County Council:

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Bishop Initiative for public land protections and development, and specifically concerning wilderness designation within Grand County.

As a long-time visitor and resident, I enjoy and use these lands due to their unspoiled nature. Family and friends return to the area for the same reasons: to enjoy the natural, undisturbed, peace, quiet and solitude of this special place. We especially enjoy the river corridors of Desolation and Labyrinth Canyons, and strongly support the designation of these areas as wilderness, to preserve them in their most natural state. The quiet and solitude, opportunities for wildlife viewing, and visiting of historical sites are the qualities we seek out in adventures, year after year. This is an amazing opportunity to set aside these areas for generations to come.

As a commercial river guide, guests are amazed at the beauty, and at the same time puzzled by the lack of official protection. The thought of seeing development in Labyrinth or Desolation would ruin the experience.

I fully support a balanced approach of protection and resource extraction, yet I do believe that responsible recreating in the wilderness is a better investment than short-term, limited extraction of finite resources.

The surrounding area of Moab is some of the most spectacular in the entire world and it deserves wilderness (both BLM and Forest Service) protection at the highest level. We cannot continue to destroy this area at the expense of the climate and future generations. It is too sacred, too special, too beautiful, and too important.

Again, thank you for the opportunity for input, and I hope you will consider wilderness the better choice.

Ed DeFrancia

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed DeFrancia".

4348 Heather Ln

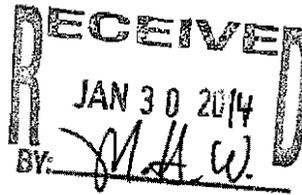
Moab, Ut

January 30, 2014

Grand County Council

125 E. Center Street

Moab, Utah 84532



RE: Public Land Solutions

From: Tracy Reed – Board Chairman

Moab Mountain Bike Association, PO Box 1619 Main Street, Moab, Utah

Dear Council Members:

Careful consideration needs to be given to how our lands will be used presently as well as for future generations. With the growth of visitors to our area that seek out a place that is as unique as Moab with its beauty and peaceful surroundings, clean air, clean water and star filled nights; it would be extremely detrimental to our community as a whole to allow an excessive amount of natural resource extraction. Our landscape needs protection from those who seek to harm it and it is in the hands of community leaders such as you to see to it that it is protected.

Visitors to the National Parks, OHV users, mountain bikers, river runners, endurance trail runners, hunters, wildlife, our water shed, as well as our community would suffer the consequences of changing our landscape into oil and gas wells and gas flares. In addition, a great deal of time and effort has gone into making Moab a destination for recreational users of all types and mountain biking is a huge part of this. The sport of mountain biking is growing and Moab has certainly benefited from this growth.

The areas that need protection are shown on the maps within the Public Land Solutions document, which you will be reviewing. An area of concern that hasn't been included on the maps would be Amasa Back or Cliff Hanger Trail areas. This area is heavily recreated on by all types of motorized as well as non-motorized users and it would be a shame to see this area damaged or significantly changed by natural resource extraction.

We ask that protecting the future of all types of recreation in our area to be the greatest concern. It is your responsibility, not only to our local community, but to the rest of the world that views Moab as one of the most beautiful places on the planet, to protect it.

With kind regards,

Tracy Reed

On behalf of Moab Mountain bike Association, a chapter of the International Mountain Biking Association

January 30, 2014

Grand County Council

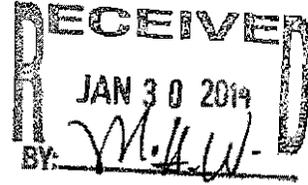
125 E. Center Street

Moab, Utah 84532

RE: Public Land Solutions

From: Tracy Reed – President/Owner

Chile Pepper Bike Shop 702 S. Main Street, Moab, Utah



Dear Council Members:

I wanted to express my concerns for the future of our public lands surrounding the Moab area as well as within Grand County. As a small business owner that relies solely on the recreation assets that our area has to offer to sustain my business as well as to sustain the quality of life that I seek, I ask that careful consideration is given to how our lands will be used presently as well as for future generations. With the growth of visitors to our area that seek out a place that is as unique as Moab with its beauty and peaceful surroundings, clean air, clean water and star filled nights; it would be extremely detrimental to our community as a whole to allow an excessive amount of natural resource extraction. Our landscape needs protection from those who seek to harm it and it is in the hands of community leaders such as you to see to it that it is protected.

Visitors to the National Parks, OHV users, mountain bikers, river runners, endurance trail runners, hunters, wildlife, our water shed, as well as our community would suffer the consequences of changing our landscape into oil and gas wells and gas flares. Just today, I heard a report on folks who used to live in a quiet and peaceful community in North Dakota and all of that has changed due to the oil and gas industries and these communities are now in a fight with the corporations that are destroying their quality of life.

Some of you might feel that these types of industry would bring income to our small community by bringing more people to Moab to live. But I would argue that they would not. The people who would be employed to work in these facilities do so transiently. They most likely wouldn't live in our community, the income they would derive from their extraction jobs would be sent back home to support their local community and families. This seems to be the case with places such as North Dakota.

The areas that need protection are shown on the maps within the Public Land Solutions document, which you will be reviewing. An area of concern that hasn't been included on the maps would be Amasa Back or Cliff Hanger Trail areas. This area is heavily recreated on by all types of motorized as well as non-motorized users and it would be a shame to see this area damaged or significantly changed by natural resource extraction.

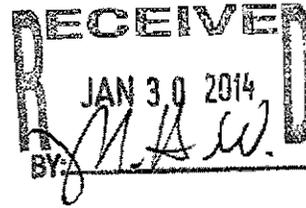
I ask that protecting the future of all types of recreation in our area to be the greatest concern. It is your responsibility, not only to our local community, but to the rest of the world that views Moab as one of the most beautiful places on the planet, to protect it.

Sincerely,

Tracy Reed

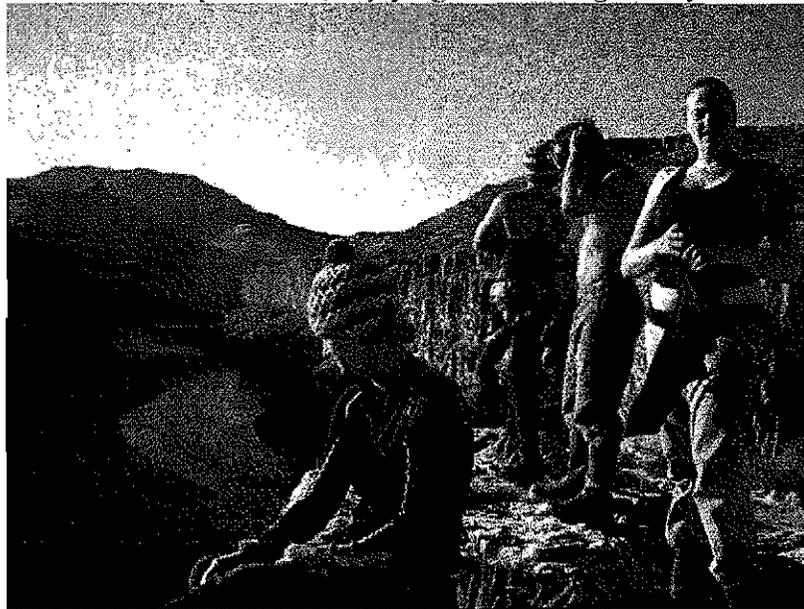
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tracy Reed".

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



I am writing as a proud Grand County resident who is concerned with the future land use planning in this area. I strongly support protecting a large amount of wilderness in Grand and surrounding counties. I fell in love with this area and worked hard to be able to move to the Moab community primarily because of the amazing and unusual amount of wild lands that surround us. We are lucky enough to be in one of the few spots left on the globe that has so many wild and pristine areas. It deeply worries me that these areas are at risk. The Mill Creek Wilderness area is one of my favorite escapes, and is treasured by many residents of Moab. River trips in Desolation and Labyrinth canyons are some of the rare places that people can truly escape into the wild and get that amazing wilderness experience. Hunter Canyon, Goldbar Canyon, Porcupine Rim, Fisher Towers, these are all treasured areas that should not be sold out for short-term gain.

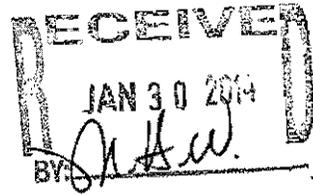
Here is a photo of a recent trip on Deso, enjoying the amazing beauty of the area:



Please keep in mind all of the people, residents and visitors alike, who treasure these wild areas and do not want anything to compromise their spectacular beauty and serenity. Decisions made now have the potential to forever change the quality of this land. Do not waste this opportunity to protect these amazing places.

Thank You,
Abby Scott
abbyjeanscott@gmail.com
801-718-6080

January 29, 2014



Dear County Council,

I have been a resident in Moab since 1979 and a homeowner since the early 1980s. For about ten years I have traveled out of state to work but have not relocated because I love the town, the landscape, and the people who live here because they love our canyon country. Over the past couple of decades it has become clear that outdoor recreation is a crucial component of Grand County's economy and that the primary draw that brings tourists, as well as new residents, to Moab is our spectacular landscape. I believe that Grand County should make every possible effort to protect a large portion of the County's public lands as wilderness. Such protection is a fundamental requirement to protect our County's economic future.

My favorite outdoor recreation is hiking. For much of the past 30 years I have made at least one full-day hike in Grand and San Juan Counties with my local friends almost every week when I am in town. My friends and I have hiked many times in each of the following proposed wilderness areas: Granite Creek, Beaver Creek, Fisher Towers, Mary Jane Canyon, Porcupine Rim, Morning Glory, Mill Creek, Behind the Rocks, Hunter Canyon, Goldbar Canyon, Arches Adjacent, Yellow Bird, Labyrinth Canyon, Horsethief Point, and Dead Horse Cliffs. These are stupendous locations which deserve protection as designated wilderness. For example, on January 27 of this year six of us hiked in the Behind The Rocks proposed wilderness area. The week before, we hiked in the Hunter Canyon proposed wilderness area. Having such beautiful and relatively undeveloped wildlands close by in our County is what makes Moab the place to live for many residents and is what draws most of our visitors. We should designate as much wilderness in Grand County as possible.

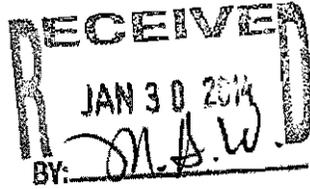
Thanks for your attention to my concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bret Blosser".

Bret Blosser

P.O. BOX 884
MOAB



Logan Hansen
503 E 200 S
Moab, UT 84532

Dear Grand County Council,

As a resident of Grand County, and a geologist and environmental scientist, I am concerned about the Bishop Initiative and its impacts on this area. I understand the benefits of developing what may be, in the opinion of some, unutilized or underutilized land for mineral extraction. I understand the reality of the need for money and for jobs, and I know that any plea for you to restrict any and all additional development will fall on deaf ears. In that vein, I encourage you to very carefully consider potential developments with their intrinsic impacts.

This area is special to many people for many different reasons. It attracts outdoorsmen of all shapes and sizes who have strikingly different priorities; nearly all can surely agree that the red rock wilderness is the main attractor, whether one likes to drive ATVs on it, jeep on it, hike on it, climb, bike, crawl, rockhound, raft, swim, canyoneer, whatever. The wilderness is the main attractor here, especially for tourism monies.

If the wrong place is selected for development, it could have cascading effects that permanently alter everything downstream from it. For example, if mineral development were to spoil a tributary to the Green River above Desolation and Grey Canyons, it could deter tourism and farming in that area by killing off flora or fauna that are important to the ecosystem of that tributary, or even the larger river itself. Additionally, the sight of mine runoff or drilling pads could ruin the backcountry experience that many seek here.

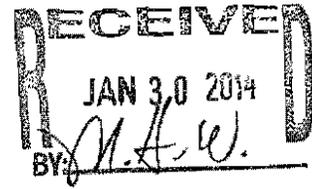
On and near the Colorado Plateau, as you surely know, drainages rule everything. Every slope and canyon drains into another, which drains into another, etc. Any impact on one is an impact on everything downstream. Ecology is a result of the chemical and biological inputs, which depend on drainages. Tourism dollars are a direct result, here, of geology, biology, ecology, and hydrology. I fear that a poor choice now will permanently alter those delicate systems; a more general fear that you should have is that a poor choice for mining and extractive dollars in the near future will drastically reduce your tourism dollars by spoiling bits of why we are all here.

Many of my favorite places here are under proposed protection under the Red Rock Wilderness Act and Forest Wilderness protection proposed by Grand Canyon Trust, and I hope you take both proposals seriously. Desolation Canyon, Mill Creek area, Fisher Towers and Mary Jane Canyon, Westwater Canyon, Labyrinth Canyon, Behind the Rocks, Mt. Peale, and Grand View/Mt. Wass are particularly important to me, as is everything in drainages above and below these areas.

Again, I encourage you not to exchange a few near-term dollars for the risk of permanent damage to what makes this area special. I hope you are prudent enough to consult experts on this issue, to take significant scientific input, and not to just take at face value the word of those that stand to profit from it.

Thank you,
Logan Hansen

January 30, 14



Grand County Council
125 E Center St
Moab, Utah 84532

Dear County Council,

We understand that you are preparing a plan for Grand County's participation in the Utah Public Lands Initiative. We are concerned that this plan will include more wilderness lands, further harming our local economy. We urge you to move our county in the direction of creating more lands accessible for multiple use. At best, the creation of more wilderness in Grand County will postpone extreme environmentalism briefly, before making another push to take more lands away from our good citizens.

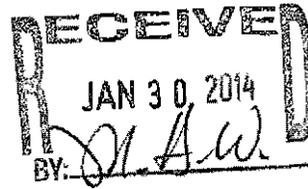
Sincerely,

Sagebrush Coalition

A handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to be "Curtis Wells".

Curtis Wells
Chairman

January 29, 2014



Grand County Council
125 E Center St
Moab, Utah 84532

Attn: Public lands bill

County Council Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input 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.

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.

We look forward to attending future meetings where we can see draft maps of proposed uses recommended in the lands bill.

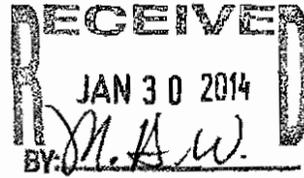
Sincerely,



Pete and Pat Byrd
Byrd Farm
850 Byrd Ave
Moab, Utah 84532

30 January 2014

To: Grand County Council
Subject: Public Lands Bill



Thank you for allowing the public to comment on this important initiative.

As a member of Red Rocks 4 Wheelers and Moab Friends-
For-wheelin' (MFFW) and a full-time resident of Moab,
I want to state that I believe every attempt must be
made to keep Moab's amazing collection of extensive and
exciting off-highway 4x4 routes intact. Very few other
places exist in this country that offer to the four
wheel drive community what Moab does.

I would like to see safe, responsible extraction of
natural resources promoted in SE Utah to encourage
economic sustainability.

I would like to see more efforts to promote sharing
of off-highway routes and less pondering to special-interests
intent only on closing access to parts of this region to all
but a fraction of all user groups.

I believe it is time to either finalize WSAs as wilderness
or return them to the public for responsible recreation.

I would like to see Grand County take a stand that for
any ^{4x4} trail or route closed in the process of reaching a
workable solution regarding usage of public lands that a
new trail, or 4x4 route, or play area of equal challenge and
length be created to replace it.

Thank you,

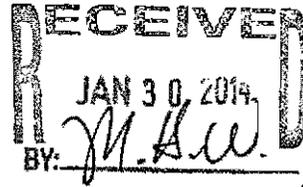
Dee McNenny

1261 N. Hwy 191 M-21

Moab, UT 84532

970-274-0447 (cell)

Grand County Council
Attn: Public Lands Bill
125 E.Center St.
Moab, Utah



To the members of Grand County Council, the legislation that would swap wilderness designations in the state of Utah, only seems to be a avenue to which would lead to fossil fuel extraction from the lands that belong to all of us to enjoy and prosper from, I contend that the gate has already been open to enough for fossil fuel industry in this state, and if we adopt the "Bishop Process" the balance of enjoyment and prosperity would shift to those who are only shareholders in lieu of citizens who work and play in the areas affected by this proposal.

You do not have to look to for back in time or look to far away to understand the consequences of this type of industry making life unpleasant or unsafe for the communities where these industries employ there devastating techniques to extract fossil fuels. In Salt Lake City every year the citizens there have to deal with leaks, spills, and explosion.

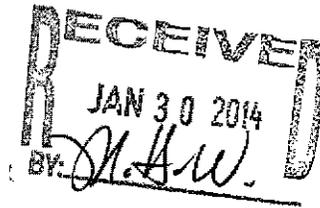
I ask you to consider the long run, this bill may bring a few jobs to our state, but the future consequences for those who live after us would be less clean water in a time when our climate is not producing enough water for us now, more cancerous diseases that our community seems to have its fair share of.

When the resources are gone, the air is foul, and population is sick from the residue of profits, who will be left with suffering and clean up? I oppose this bill.

Sincerely
Louis Williams

Michael Carter
457 Walker St.
Moab, UT 84532

Grand County Council
125 E Center Street
Moab, UT 84532



Re: Public Lands Bill

Dear Councilmembers;

I'm a resident of Grand County, and would like to comment on Congressman Bishop's public lands bill proposal. As a small business owner living in Moab, I value our area's relatively undeveloped character and scenic beauty, and support protecting any remaining wilderness in Grand County.

I personally visit these areas on a daily to monthly routine, such as Mill Creek, Fisher Towers, Mary Jane Canyon, Behind the Rocks, and Goldbar Canyon. Other proposed wilderness areas in Grand County, such as the Book Cliffs region and Labyrinth Canyon area, are particularly threatened and should be protected from short-term development threats that will permanently impair their wilderness values.

As you're aware, these are on a list of proposed wilderness areas in Grand County, as are Hunter Canyon, Granite Creek, Desolation Canyon, Horsethief Point, Mexico Point, Sweetwater Canyon, Duma Point, Bitter Creek, Westwater Canyon, Renegade Point, Big Triangle, Hideout Canyon, Beaver Creek, Dome Plateau, Hells Hole, Porcupine Rim, Morning Glory, Arches Adjacent, Yellow Bird, Survey Point, and Dead Horse Cliffs. I support wilderness protection for all of these places.

I thank you for your attention to these concerns.

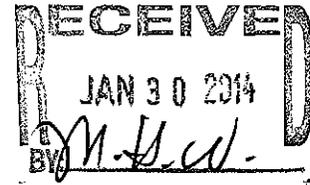
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be "Michael Carter".

Michael Carter

Cc: Fred Ferguson
Legislative Director, Rep. Rob Bishop

Sara Melnicoff
602 East Center Street
Moab, UT 84532
435.259.0910



To: Lynn Jackson
Rory Paxman.
Jim Nyland

Re: Input on Bishop Land Initiative

For what is a man profited if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?

Dear Lynn, Rory and Jim,

I wish I had spent my entire life studying words and how to put them together in such a way that I could make you feel what I feel while I attempt to express complex feelings on complicated issues such as what should happen to the lands surrounding our gorgeous and fragile desert home.

For if I had, I would be able to convey to you the intense satisfaction I feel as my severed connection to the natural world strengthens each day I live in this incredible place. This connection guides me in everything I do, and never steers me wrong. But it is not about me, and my short-term selfish needs, but rather about my place in the intricate universe shared by many forms of life.

I would also have to adequately express the intense heartbreak I live with everyday as I watch unmolested areas, one after the other, fall victim to violent exploitation and destruction, all in the name of money/energy/progress, when what we are really doing is sounding the death knoll for the planet. And when all the fresh water is gone? And the birds aren't here to sing? What will become of us then?

I have spent the last 14 years exploring many of the nooks and crannies of the lands surrounding Moab. They are heartbreakingly beautiful – that is obvious. I know the anthills, the flowers, the smell of the earth – the places where the Great Blue Heron hunts. Every single inch of earth is bursting with life, all of which is necessary for the good health of the planet. Yet I stand by and watch as it is ruined, exploited, disrespected, and will, eventually, be unable to recover. Like the smoker who has ruined her lungs beyond repair, or the alcoholic whose pancreas can no longer recuperate, when the earth is damaged beyond repair, we are all doomed.

I beg of you to consider the fact that we have some of the most spectacular lands in the world right before us. That they would be sullied by exploitation so that wasteful Americans can sit and idle in their cars is beyond ludicrous. We are the architects of our own demise.

We would do well to protect every single inch of land around us and leave it forever untouched, because that is when it is the most renewable resource. That is how we get back to making a healthy planet for humans, plants, insects and animals. We are all in this place together.

I know many others, more versed than me, have written in about specific areas, and impacts to water and air quality. I admire their ability to express so well what I have feebly attempted here.

Please, just consider what we are losing when the unmarred beauty of our land is gone forever.

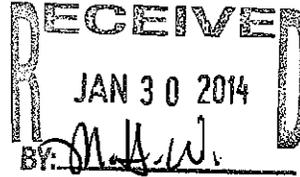
Most Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sara Melnicoff".

Sara Leah Melnicoff
602 East Center Street
Moab, UT 84532
melnicoff5@hotmail.com

Joshua Doucette & Porscha Doucette
521 Bowen CIR., #3
Moab, UT 84532

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



Dear Grand County Council Members,

We are residents of Grand County and are writing to encourage the Council study group to adopt alternatives for the "Bishop process" that maximize our counties need for protecting our most precious resources; those being the unique natural resources that make this area a one of a kind destination for millions of people every year. We encourage the council to strongly support the designation of wilderness areas as proposed by the "America's Red Rock Wilderness Act" proposal, as well as wilderness areas in the La Sal Mountains as proposed by the Grand Canyon Trust's "Proposed Forest Wilderness." We would also like to encourage you to limit the amount of land area that is allocated for resource extraction. It is our belief that it is mainly tourism generated dollars that are most crucial to our county, and that with the large amount of extractive facilities that have been put into our county in the last several years alone, we are already tipping beyond the "balance" in favor of more extraction. We feel that the true long term financial resources of our county are those that can be enjoyed forever, as long as we allow them to last that long, and that resource extraction actually represents only relatively short term gain. However, the results of that resource extraction may be a negative impact for many generations. We also request, in particular, that any land swaps pertaining to SITLA lands and tars sands/oil shale development here or in any other county in Utah be excluded from any deal. We request that the Council also take special care in the designation of areas that may have an impact on the water resources, particularly ground water, of Grand County and the Moab valley especially.

Lastly, we simply wish to ask that you consider the truly long-term effects of these choices. Not simply how they will affect us or even our children, but how our grand children and their grand children will be affected by our choices. This place is one of a kind, and it is not ours to irrevocably harm.

Thank you very much for your time, consideration and dedication,
Sincerely,

Joshua Doucette

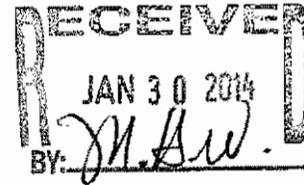
Handwritten signature of Porscha Doucette.

Porscha Doucette

Handwritten signature of Porscha Doucette.

January 29, 2014

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



Re: Public Comment on the Bishop Initiative

Dear Grand County Council Members,

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.

At the outset, I believe that all of the lands identified in America's Red Rock Wilderness Act, located Grand County, are deserving of wilderness protection as part of the Bishop Initiative. Some of you will undoubtedly roll your eyes at this proposition and, if that is your knee-jerk reaction, maybe you're not suited to be the arbiters of this process. We live in an area that is blessed with some of the most awe-inspiring and remote landscapes in the world. Yes, we already have the National Parks, yet those areas are but a fraction of the immense wilderness that surrounds our community. While generating immense economic activity, National Parks often do not provide the primitive, undeveloped experience that is inherent in wild lands. As our population continues to increase at an ever-growing rate, solitude and silence will be some of the most valuable assets we will have as a nation. A sane society requires the ability to escape into the wilds. Without it, we will lose all connection to wild nature and, in turn, our most basic beginnings and primal connection.

Of particular interest to me is wilderness protection for the lands identified in America's Red Rock Wilderness Act (ARRWA). These lands have been identified as possessing wilderness character through numerous citizen inventories over the past 20 years and they still retain those characteristics to this day. In fact, the Bureau of Land Management identified nearly all of the lands within ARRWA as possessing wilderness character, validating the previous citizen inventories. Specifically, with regard to ARRWA lands in Grand County:

- I have extensively hiked and backpacked throughout the Labyrinth Canyon proposed wilderness unit, including within the canyons or on the rims of Ten Mile Canyon, Hell Roaring Canyon, and Spring Canyon. The remote setting of the Labyrinth Canyon unit, with its vast silence, solitude, and scenic beauty, is nothing short of awe-inspiring. Contrary to the belief of some of our county council members and outside developers, the

Labyrinth Canyon area is not a suitable location for oil, gas, and potash exploration. Water appropriation issues aside, it is a foolish idea to push industrial development into this wild and remote landscape.

- I have hiked and backpacked extensively within the Horsethief Point proposed wilderness unit. The views into Canyonlands National Park from this area some of the best in southern Utah. From certain vantage points, one can be looking into the Green River or Taylor Canyon with its formidable Moses tower. Truly wild and amazing. Any development in this area would also have tremendous negative impacts on the dark night skies within the Park.
- Gold Bar Canyon, Hunter Canyon, Behind the Rocks, Mill Creek, and Morning Glory proposed wilderness units are quite literally Moab's back yard. I can't begin to count the number of days that I sneak out into these areas for a post-work walk with the dog or a daylong weekend hike. Even with the amount of use that these areas receive, they nevertheless retain a wild and remote character. To ensure they are not slowly degraded by ever-increasing tourist use, they should be protected in perpetuity as wilderness.
- There's nothing like taking a Moab visitor out to the wonders of the Porcupine Rim, Mary Jane Canyon, or Fisher Towers proposed wilderness units for a hike, backpack, or bike ride. There's nothing quite like these areas in the world (which, admittedly, can be said for most of our beloved landscapes). Wild, primitive, remote, and quiet can all be used to describe these worthy wilderness areas.
- The first time I travelled into the Big Triangle, Renegade Point, Granite Creek, and Beaver Creek proposed wilderness units, I couldn't quite believe it. These areas, though well off of the radar of most Grand County residents, constitute some of the breathtaking landscapes in the area. The lack of attention given to these areas is exactly why they should be preserved as wilderness. Lack of access is not a negative. The absence of humans allows for high-quality wildlife habitat, including that of mule deer and elk. If you haven't been into these areas, I request that you do so before hastily deciding that they do not deserve wilderness protection.
- The Book Cliffs proposed wilderness units, Desolation Canyon, Diamond Canyon, Survey Point, Mexico Point, Hideout Canyon, Sweet Water, Bitter Creek, and Hells Hole combine to form some of the wildest country in Grand County. Although they typically do not fall within the umbrella of the iconic redrock of southern Utah, these areas are as wild as wilderness gets. Big is just one way to describe these landscapes. These areas include some of the absolute best wildlife habitat in Utah. Preserving large tracts of wilderness will allow adequate buffering against

changing climatic conditions and the pollution associated with oil and gas activity in Uintah County.

- The Arches Adjacent, Yellow Bird, and Dome Plateau proposed wilderness units should be an easy decision as they abut our beloved Arches National Park. Visited rarely, these areas epitomize wilderness in southern Utah with their slickrock domes, amphitheaters and side drainages. Wild indeed.

Second, we are a community that does not want to be the next oil and gas boomtown. We don't want to see white Halliburton trucks driving up and down Main Street. We don't want to see Fidelity setting up shop next to the BLM office. We don't want to see Potash exploration near Green River. And we don't want oil and gas industrialization on Big Flat. Now, mind you, I am not a promoter of more industrial recreation in Moab either. I think we've grown too big to be sustainable for the town and the land already. That said, I'm also not foolish enough to think that resource extraction doesn't have an impact on our main economic driver. When someone tells me that "you can't even tell when the oil and gas drilling is done," I stand in a state of disbelief. Open your eyes. I work out there frequently and I see it day in and day out. Tourists don't camp on Sand Flats to watch oil and gas drilling on Big Flat all night. Don't believe me. It's there. Go look for yourself.

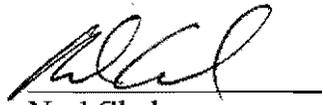
Now, you may be inclined to disregard this notion as hyperbolic, thinking that we don't possibly have the resources to turn into an oil and gas boom economy. I ask you, then, why is Fidelity spending millions for 3D seismic surveys surrounding our town? Why are we allowing potash exploration near the Green River (and even closer to home on Hatch Point in San Juan County)? As the amount of oil decreases, the price of oil goes higher, the use of natural gas becomes more desirable, and technology increases, once overlooked areas will become the new frontiers for industrial development. Moab is clearly on that radar. Look only to Big Flat for just one example. The entire area is slowly being turned into an industrial zone, with truck traffic and light pollution becoming pervasive. This is the gateway to Island in the Sky and Dead Horse Point State Park. Millions of people pass through Big Flat every year. What in the world are we thinking? It's beyond ridiculous.

All that said, you are about to make an immensely important decision that has the potential to permanently alter the future direction of our community. The gravity of the decisions you make when you start to draw lines on a map should not be understated. I hope that, at the outset, this process you are engaging in is as community-driven and transparent as possible. Tremendous public suspicion already exists with regard to the ability of our county council to be objective and open-minded through this process. They see good ol' boys and girls, and ex-BLMers, and it doesn't make them very comfortable. At the very least, I truly hope that you have not already formulated a map in your heads and that this is more than the all-too-familiar, tail wagging the dog, required exercise in public involvement. A great process is completely meaningless if the opinions expressed by the public throughout that process hold little weight. Furthermore, just because people

on both sides of the political spectrum are upset with a decision you make does not, in fact, mean that you are making the right decision. That approach to decision-making is pure fallacy.

Finally, try to hold back the oft-experienced inclination to write off those in support of vast wilderness protection as “not real Utahans,” or “not representative of southern Utah.” That outmoded mindset does more disservice our community and this process than you can even imagine. Moabites have come from all over the country to be here because they love the place. We live here, we work here, we raise families here, and we own property here. Simply put, we are Utahans. We are also the people you serve. Don't forget that for a second.

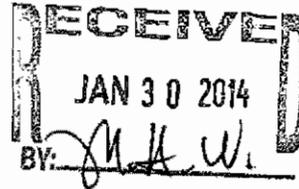
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neal Clark', written over a horizontal line.

Neal Clark
433 Huntridge Dr.
Moab, UT 84532
435-259-7090

January 30th 2014

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



Dear Commissioner

I am a resident of Castle Valley and Grand County. I am writing this letter in the context of the "Bishop Plan." My concern/suggestion 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 that 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 bottom line for me is that any plans/suggestions submitted by Grand County to the Bishop process should focus first and foremost on protecting our watershed from the La Sal Mountains. Any other focus should be secondary. That means getting developable lands in that watershed protected from development of any sort that threatens that watershed (likely land swaps). Without additional protection to those watersheds – I do not think the Bishop process is all that important to Grand County. The process by itself (without targeted protection of the watershed) would likely add to more development, more population, more strain on the supply of water, and no additional protection for our water supply.

I want to thank the commissioners for your work on the "Bishop Plan" and your interest in protecting our watershed

Sincerely,

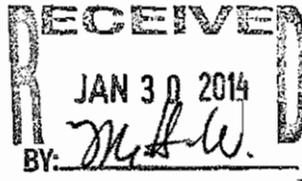
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert M. O'Brien".

Robert M. O'Brien
HC 64 Box 2604
Castle Valley UT 84532

1/30/14

Joan Gough
441 East Center Street
Moab, UT 84532

Grand County Council
Moab, UT 84532



Dear Council Members,

I appreciate the extension of the comment period on the Bishop bill so that a procrastinator such as myself could get my comments to you.

I urge you to support undeveloped wilderness to the extent you have influence and the power to, not for some new age idea of the wonders of nature, but because our very lives depend on it. Wilderness is just the natural world as we humans were born into it. Wilderness is the balance that created our relatively stable climate and predictable seasons and weather patterns over millions of years. We need every scrap of that world that is left to clean and store the water we drink, renew the air we breath, and stabilize our climate.

The second reason to support wilderness is actually over one million reasons--the tourists. It isn't for the oil, nor the potash, nor the natural gas they come. Without clear skies free from the dust storms of the last few years and the polluted air of the last two winters, we wouldn't have so many visitors because they wouldn't be able to see the features they come to marvel at. They are a proven resource that has sustained this community for over 40 years.

If we want to know what not to do we have to look no farther than Salt Lake Valley and the Uinta Basin--"worst air in the world" is not a branding that will bring retirees nor tourists. We do live in a hole where the air sinks and when it is full of dust and/or pollution, that is what is concentrated in the hole.

Please consider the known benefits of the proven tourist economy and the obvious critical needs of breathable air and potable water.

I know it can seem thankless and conflict ridden to serve in public office, but thank you for doing it.

Sincerely,

Joan Gough
Joan Gough

RECEIVED
JAN 30 2014
BY: [Signature]

Dear Council Members,

I am writing in regard to the Bishop Public Land Initiative.

I do not believe oil and gas or mineral extraction is an appropriate use of the public land surrounding Moab. In particular the drainages leading into the Green and Colorado Rivers, including the Labyrinth Canyon area, Kane Creek canyon, Behind the Rocks, Castle Valley, Colorado River Road and the LaSal Mountain Basins.

I climb, mountain bike and hike in these areas. The land around Moab is the reason I ~~live~~ live in Moab.

Also, please Do Not use
Moab's water supply for
oil and gas development.

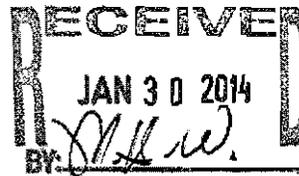
I am a Grand County
Resident for 20 years.

Thank you.

Ralph Ferrara

261 E. 200 S.

Moab, UT 84532



Dear Grand County Council,

I am a resident of Grand County and live right here in Moab. I have lived in Moab for multiple years and the reason I live here is because of the access to wilderness areas. I whole-heartedly support protecting as much wilderness as possible within our county. Wilderness areas are the core of what makes this place so special, and what allows our ecosystems to function effectively. Wilderness areas provide large unbroken areas where ecosystems can perform the vital services that they provide to keep the rest of our environment healthy. Keeping dust down, effectively recycling water and refilling our underground reservoirs, keeping invasive plants at bay, keep nutrients in our soils and giving habitat for wildlife are just some of the vital roles that undisturbed unbroken pieces of land provide. Places like Mill Creek Wilderness Area provide these services, Labyrinth Canyon, the Bookcliffs, and Goldbar Canyon all provide these services. On top of that, these places provide beauty and a connection to the natural world in a way that other pieces of land cannot, because of obvious human impacts associated with non-wilderness areas. Once wilderness is disturbed, it can take many years to get back to a place where it provides all the abovementioned services, sometimes it can never get back to that place. I ask you to please protect as much wilderness as possible in our county, to ensure the health and happiness of our community for years to come.

Thank you,

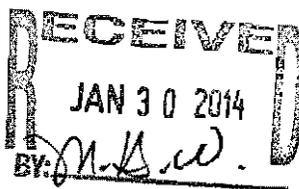
(Kristina Young)



CANYONLANDS WATERSHED COUNCIL

Chris Baird
Executive Director
PO Box 1024
Moab, UT 84532
(435) 260-1431
chris@farcountry.org

January 30, 2014



Grand County Council
125 East Center St
Moab, UT 84532

RE: Bishop Lands Bill

Dear Council Members,

Thank you for opting to participate in Rep. Bishop's proposed lands bill process. The members of the Canyonlands Watershed Council (CWC) believe that a solution to multiple use conflicts can be worked out to the general benefit of the community.

CWC is primarily oriented toward watershed health and strives to help maintain both the quality and quantity of our most fickle and necessary resource. Our views regarding landuse designations will be from the view point of water management. While many of CWC's members are concerned about wilderness, recreation, and oil/gas/mining development, CWC only addresses such designations as pertains to watershed protection and management.

You are undoubtedly aware that Grand County is in a drought, and has been steadily trending toward ever drier conditions for the last 15 years. This situation is not unique to us, the entire Colorado River Basin is extremely stressed. Several authoritative studies have been presented by the USGS and Bureau of Reclamation indicating that the Colorado River Basin may expect to lose 10-30% of its average moisture within a few decades.

We urge you to consider the current and predicted water conditions when designating areas of growth. To designate growth in an area that doesn't have adequate water resources is, at the least, pointless, and perhaps worse, may create undo competition between a wide variety of uses for a limited resource.

In specific please consider the below:

Ground and Surface Water Protection Zones:

The state of Utah administers the ordinances of the clean water drinking act. This includes water source protection plans for all applicable water supplies (generally, although not entirely,



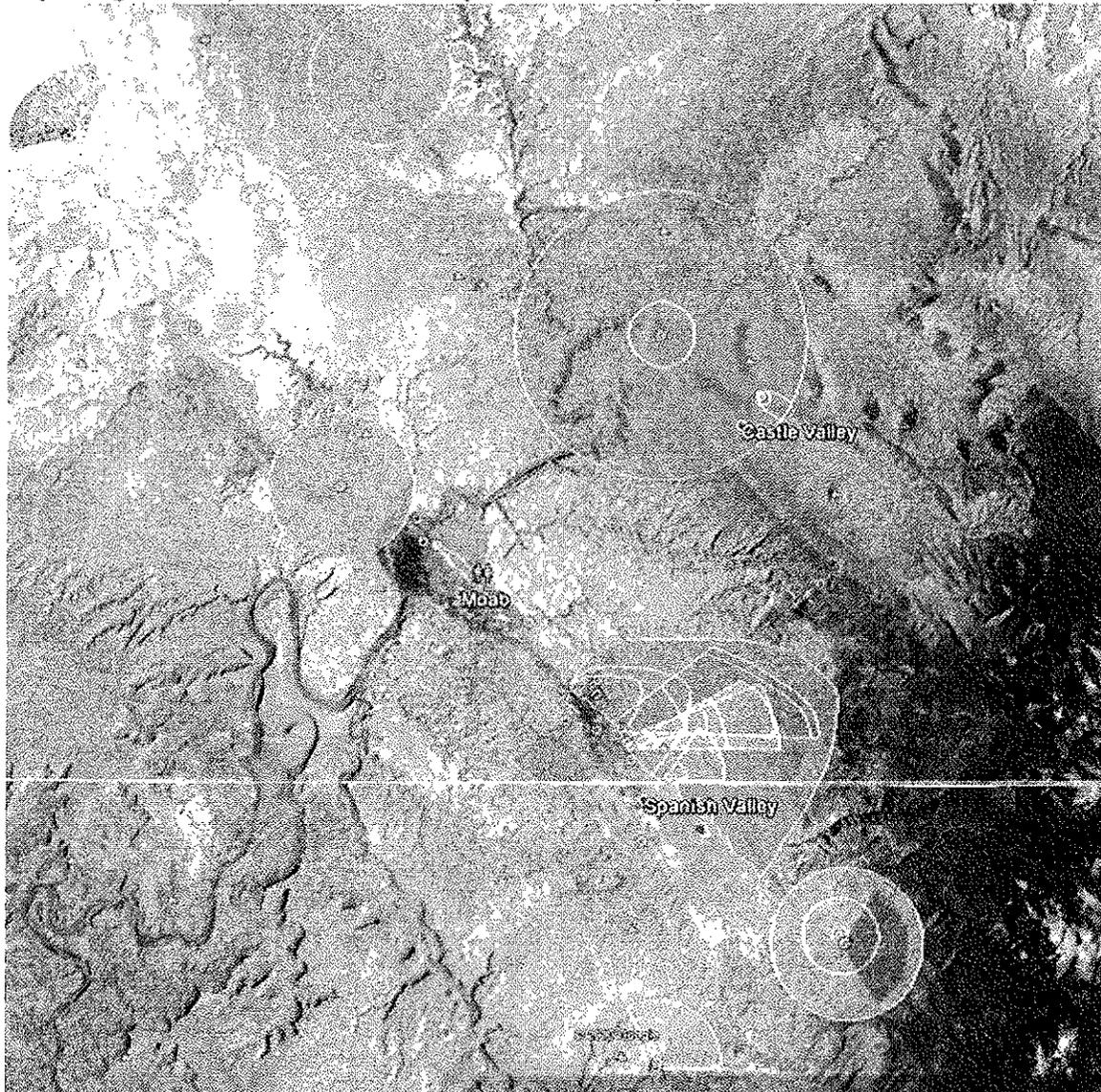
CANYONLANDS WATERSHED COUNCIL

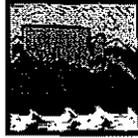
municipal). These zones are rated from 1 to 4 in sensitivity, 1 being the most sensitive and 4 the least. These are geographically defined and I believe the Community Development Department has shape files for these areas.

A similar system is established for surface water protections zones.

There are also a couple main watershed areas in Grand County. The Moab area watershed encompasses the La Sal Mountain's western slopes, descends down the mesas, across the Moab Valley and ends at the boundary of the western rim. The Castle Valley watershed encompasses the La Sal Mountains northern slopes and descends to the Colorado River,

It is important that attention be given to these protection zones and sensitive areas when considering land use designations. Please be sure that the above shape files are overlaid with any designations you draft such that you can see any potential conflicts and remedy them.





**CANYONLANDS
WATERSHED
COUNCIL**

Water Budget, Planning, and Studies:

There are a couple primary water studies for the area, based largely on modeling (Solomon, Downs). These studies indicate a water budget from between 13,000 acre feet to 17,000 acre feet of available water to beneficial use. Unfortunately, these studies also have very low statistical confidence. This means that they could easily be wrong.

The state of Utah Division of Water Rights has appropriated over 20,000 acre feet from within our watershed.

The term "mining water" is often used when withdrawals from aquifers exceeds their input. This is obviously an unsustainable use and can permanently damage aquifer capacity and function. The primary value in having a dependable water budget is to avoid "mining water" and the deleterious effects to the aquifer (not to mention community and economic development).

In 2007 Congress passed a Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) that included authorization for a study of Grand County's water resources. Unfortunately, WRDA bills do not come with funding approval and money was never appropriated for the study. At the time the study's cost was estimated at around \$2 million.

At this time there is a lot of uncertainty regarding available water resources. Under such circumstances it is prudent to be conservative with regard to enabling growth that may exceed our water system's ability to provide.

Wilderness and other Designations:

From the perspective of watershed management wilderness has value as a way of protecting critical aquifer recharge areas from potential pollution or surface disturbance that may reduce recharge rates.

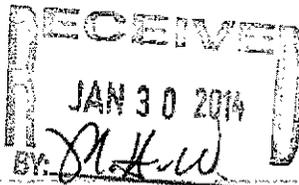
Some proposed wilderness areas, particularly in Mill Creek Canyon, would help achieve watershed management goals.

Also, proposed wilderness in the La Sal Mountains would serve to protect Moab and Castle Valley's most vital aquifer recharge zones.

From the standpoint of water source protection, the higher elevation areas of the watershed are without any kind of designation that provides protection. I would encourage you to consider a land use designation that would offer a greater degree of protection for the watershed, wilderness or otherwise.

Thank you for considering our comments. Please remember that water is necessary for all things, whether it be conservation or development. It is in everyone's interest that water be managed well.

Regards, Chris Baird



1.29.2014

GRAND COUNTY COUNCIL
RE: BISHOP INITIATIVE/PUBLIC LANDS INITIATIVE

DEAR GRAND COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS,
I ENDORSE THE PROPOSED FOREST
WILDERNESS AND LASAL MOUNTAINS NSA-
(GRAND & SAN JUAN COUNTIES), AND AMERICA'S
RED ROCK WILDERNESS ACT (GRAND COUNTY)

THE GREATEST GIFT I HAVE EVER
RECEIVED IN MY LIFE WAS GIVEN TO
ME IN 1968. A GIFT FROM MY FATHER,
GIVEN WITH GENEROSITY AND DEEP LOVE INCLUDES
THE PROPOSED WILDERNESS LANDS ~~MAPS~~ ON
BOTH PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED MAPS (AND BEYOND).
MY DAD, EVEN THOUGH HE IS NOW DEAD,
STILL GIVES ME THESE GIFTS ALMOST EVERY
DAY. ECOSYSTEMS, GEOLOGY, SOLITUDE,
SHARING WITH MY CHILDREN, EDUCATION,
UNINTERRUPTED BEAUTY, UNINTERRUPTED THOUGHT,
THINGS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN CORRUPTED
BY TODAY'S MAN AND INDUSTRIES.

PLEASE ALLOW ME THE CHANCE TO GIVE
THIS PRICELESS GIFT TO MY GRANDCHILDREN.
MY DAD USED TO ALWAYS SAY TO ME:
"THEY CAN PRINT MORE MONEY AND THEY CAN
PRINT MORE STOCK CERTIFICATES, BUT
YOU CANNOT PRINT MORE LAND. PLUS,
IT'S NOT VERY FUN TO WAST YOUR MONEY." //

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION IN
PRESERVING OUR PRESENT IN ORDER
TO ENABLE ANY WILDERNESS FUTURE.

CAROL STOCKHAM

BS. GEOLOGY

BUSINESS OWNER

MOTHER

DAUGHTER OF THE BEST DAD EVER!

322 PARK ROAD

MOAB, UT 84532

January 22, 2014

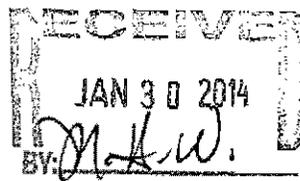
Fred Ferguson

Legislative Director

Rep. Rob Bishop

123 Cannon HOB

Washington, DC 20515



RE: Proposed Public Lands Bill (Initiative) for Eastern Utah

Dear County Congressman Bishop,

We fully support the positions presented by Living Rivers of Moab, Utah and would like to add our voices to those for constraint, for a myriad of reasons. Water usage demands of any development and the lack of sufficient water for CURRENT NEEDS alone should caution against ANY development that would incur further demands on the water supply. Then ADD to that any negatives that may occur from possible chemical contamination to water supply (See Elk River in West Virginia for details!) Then ADD to that any chance that climate change problems will be further enhanced (to our detriment!) by the projects under consideration.

The "development" projects you are considering for "our" public lands will FOREVER diminish the value of that land. Even if the worries listed above are unfounded (and they are NOT!...check the stats on the water flow problems we ALREADY have!), the value of the resources being extracted can only INCREASE as time goes by. You are stealing the value of those resources from your own grandchildren, as they will be gone FOREVER! In addition to the direct devaluation of the lands by material extraction, you will further devalue the land and areas around with the pollution released by these inherently dirty industries. Stealing again from future generations AND those here now the chance to use the resource of the land UNUSED and unspoiled! You are not figuring in the value of the land UNUSED, or more accurately described as used for it's natural state, as scenery for tourists, as land for animals to live on, as a wild place for nature to use for it's own varied and INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT needs, which needs we are not separate from. I would ask you to consider that only recently it was discovered that Alzheimer's disease has a direct link to the pesticide DDT. The inventors of and users of the pesticide had the BEST of intentions to help people...to increase prosperity, decrease hunger and disease. In the short run it appeared to do what it was supposed to do. Then it was noticed that there were some OTHER effects as well...harsh, horrible effects that were spreading into the environment. Unintentionally, other things were affected so harshly that the chemical known as DDT was banned (in the USA at least... it is still used in some places in the world!) But it was not until DECADES later that science proved that WE were among the "things that were UNINTENTIONALLY affected" by DDT. That effect being a horrible deteriorating disease, that we have no way to cure. What would you do if you had made the decision to widely use this pesticide? How would you feel? You may very well be on the precipice of just such a decision. Our world is in jeopardy of too many changes too fast

with out enough caution for unintended side effects. Fracking uses many poisonous chemicals that have not been tested AT ALL on us or the world at large. Tar sands processes also will expose millions of future humans to the potential for ????

Want the new disease named after YOU? *I know I wouldn't!*

Most importantly is the fact that these projects that are being considered are completely unnecessary. I would ask you to listen not to me but to the experts in this area. Please read this article published by Scientific American describing a plan to power 100 of the planet with renewables and WHY we should:

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/a-path-to-sustainable-energy-by-2030/>

Sincerely,

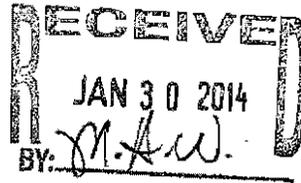


Michael and Donna Rivette

1860 Plateau Circle

Moab, UT 84532

Grand County Council



I'm writing this comment letter urging the council to protect the Greater Canyonlands , La Sal Forest Service Wilderness & halt all future extraction in the region. To industrialize this region would be a grave mistake. The great majority of our economy revolves around conserving the integrity of these lands, bringing in tourist dollars, 2nd homeowners, retirees & others searching for a rural quiet healthy lifestyle.

Does the council even have the resources to make an informed decision? The county has not done water studies; we do not know how much water these oil, gas & potash projects will require. It is extremely foolish to provide millions of gallons of our culinary water to these projects. We must also consider the impact of water tanker trucks driving through our neighborhoods, impacting city/county infrastructure & worsening air quality. There is also the effect of the additional roads, pads & wellheads; this will degrade our air quality even further, by increasing particulate matter, methane, Hydrogen Sulfide Gas (H₂S), ozone levels, & dangerous carcinogens into the air.

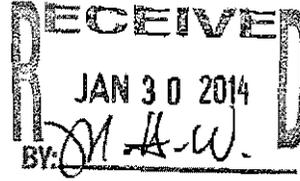
Until the county does a thorough & extensive study of these impacts, it does not have the right to make decisions that will affect the community for decades to come.

Please do not ruin what we have by creating a situation that cannot be reversed. Stop the raping & pillaging of these amazing rare wild lands.

Kiley Miller

Moab, Utah

Grand County Council



I'm writing this comment letter urging the council to do as much as possible to protect the Greater Canyonlands & La Sal Forest Service Wilderness area, to industrialize this region would be a grave mistake. The great majority of our economy revolves around conserving the integrity of these lands, bringing in tourist dollars, 2nd homeowners, retirees & others searching for a rural quiet healthy lifestyle.

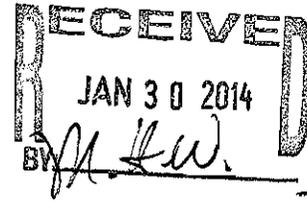
Does the council even have the resources to make an informed decision? The county has not done water studies; we do not know how much water these oil, gas & potash projects will require. It is extremely foolish to provide millions of gallons of our culinary water to these projects. We must also consider the impact of water tanker trucks driving through our neighborhoods, impacting city/county infrastructure & worsening air quality. There is also the effect of the additional roads, pads & wellheads; this will degrade our air quality even further, by increasing particulate matter, methane, Hydrogen Sulfide Gas (H₂S), ozone levels, & dangerous carcinogens into the air.

Until the county does a thorough & extensive study of these impacts, it does not have the right to make decisions that will affect the community for decades to come.

Please do not ruin what we have by creating a situation that cannot be reversed.

John Rzczycki

Moab, Utah



Dear Grand County Council Member,

I love where we live. I am a permanent resident of Grand County, Utah- which means I live in one of the most beautiful, open wild places in the lower 48. I bought a home here, work at the elementary school, volunteer my time for various local groups, and recreate outdoors almost daily. Having come from the east, I lived on both coasts and several places in between before I chose Moab to settle down in. A lot of my decision to make a home in this area had to do with how free the landscape makes me feel. The pristine hidden valleys, wonderfully desolate mountain peaks, and the secret grandeur of spaces just beyond the Moab valley speak to my soul. I feel infinite and miniscule all at once when I really consider where we live. We are very lucky to be surrounded by so much open space.

I know a lot of our neighbors feel similarly about this land, or else they might not choose to live here. The purpose of this letter is to let my representatives know that I am a supporter of the Red Rock Wilderness Act, and that I do not support the oil and gas companies who would destroy the pristine wilderness of Grand County by further developing their interests here. I believe in a multi-use public land ethic- that we need to preserve and manage these lands into the future so that all responsible users can enjoy them. I do not believe that further developing the fragile public lands of southern Utah is a responsible use of the land and do not support the opening of said lands to resource development.

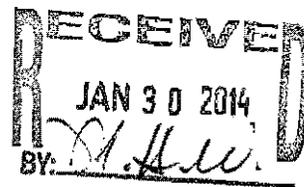
Chief Luther Standing Bear, a legendary leader of the Oglala Sioux, once said that man's heart away from nature becomes hard. Wilderness is essential to the human experience and southern Utahns are blessed with an abundance of it. The areas proposed as wilderness must be officially recognized by the state and federal government in order to protect them. This includes all of the areas that are currently managed by the BLM and also the Forest Service's tracts up in the La Sal mountains. This is essential to Grand County's survival on not only a spiritual and aesthetic level, but also economically speaking. I cannot imagine how our tourism industry, which is one of the only sustainable industries left in this area, would suffer if Mill Creek, Porcupine Rim, Labyrinth Canyon, and like areas surrounding Moab were to be open for resource development. I myself run almost daily in the Mill Creek area in all seasons. I hike, run, bike, paddle, climb, and canyoneer all throughout the proposed wilderness areas. I walk with my dogs through the washes of the Behind the Rocks area. I bring my sketch book to the Fisher Towers at sunset. We hunt elk in the La Sals, gather wildflowers, jeep on the trails, and camp for days on end in the gracious solitude of the rugged mountains. We support all responsible land use.

If southern Utahns adopt the resource-grabbing mentality that has already beleaguered the mountains of Appalachia, we will end up much like them in the end; impoverished, polluted, and without beauty or long-standing wealth of any kind left to residents. My heart breaks for my homeland which is forever scarred by irresponsible land use and left to rebuild after the corporate mining companies got what they wanted then bailed. I will never return to the mining country of my youth and I will not stand idly by as the elected officials representing my chosen home consider adopting similar practices.

Please designate these sacred lands as wilderness. Please consider the residents of Grand County as your neighbors and do what is best for our lands and our people.

Thank you for your time,

Kate Cusimano 346 Riversands Dr Moab, UT 84532



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

January 29, 2014

To the members of the Grand County City Council;

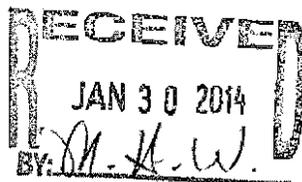
I am writing this letter because it has come to my attention that some decisions are to be made about the lands in Grand County. As a resident and homeowner of Moab our public lands are extremely important to me.

I moved out west (to Colorado) in 2004, and started coming to Moab to play in the beauty of the desert. I spent so much time in the car driving out to this area to climb, bike and explore that finally, in 2011, I moved to Moab. This past year I secured a job teaching at the high school and bought a house. I love it here! The main reason that I love it here is all the places around that are available to me to recreate, explore, and get "lost" in our natural world. I hate seeing the oil rigs up on the way into Canyonlands! And anyone that has come to visit me, who I have taken up there, has commented on them negatively. They are an eyesore and ruin the natural landscape.

I would like to see the land in and around Grand County preserved as wilderness areas to give them protection for our future generations and ourselves. Additionally, from a purely practical standpoint, the main income of Moab is tourism. If we allow these lands to be developed and taken advantage of the town will suffer for it. Some of the areas I would like to see preserved include, but are not limited to: Desolation Canyon, Diamond Canyon, Mexico & Survey Points, Hideout Canyon, Hells Hole, Sweet Water, Westwater, Big Triangle, Renegade Point, Granite Creek, Beaver Creek, Fisher Towers (a personal favorite), Mary Jane Canyon, Dome Plateau, Porcupine Rim, Yellow Bird, the area adjacent to Arches, Morning Glory Canyon, Mill Creek (another personal favorite), Goldbar Canyon, Behind the Rocks, Hunters Canyon, Labyrinth Canyon, and Horsetheif Point. Some of these areas I am very familiar with, while others I look forward to hopefully having the opportunity to explore in the future. I'm sure there are other areas that I haven't even thought to mention. In addition, I would love to see the La Sal Mountains made into a wilderness area. I have heard countless people say that they could never live in Moab if it were not for the La Sals. They offer a break from the heat in the summer and winter fun during the winter months.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me on my cell phone at 303-842-2910.

Megan Arzt
434-1 Andrea Ct
Moab, UT 84532



Dear Grand County Council,

As a recent resident (3 years) to Grand County but a steady fixture in southern Utah for at least 15 years, I am both hopeful and concerned by what may develop in Grand County through Congressman Bishop's public land bill proposal.

I have been doing environmental education with students and adults for 2 decades, and I often like to cite one study regarding how to foster good stewardship and good citizens. Here's is a quote from the study:

Sobel (1996) writes "Most environmentalists attributed their [political] commitment to a combination of two sources: 'many hours spent outdoors in a keenly remembered wild or semi-wild place in childhood or adolescence, and an adult who taught respect for nature' [Chawla, 1988]. Not one of the conservationists surveyed explained his or her dedication as a reaction against exposure to an ugly environment" (p.10). The implication here is that the values of ecological literate and politically motivated adults are shaped by significant life experiences that foster connection - in this case connection with the natural world.

The 2 points of note in the quote are:

1. The idea of protecting beautiful places for their social, environmental, and economic value (as published in the findings by Headwatereconomics here: [http://www.headwatereconomics.com/2012/05/01/protecting-beautiful-places-for-their-social-environmental-and-economic-value/](#)). People come to enjoy Grand County for the world-class natural beauty, but this low hanging fruit can be easily ruined by extractive industries if not protected. The only benefit they would provide is temporary, unsustainable, economic value, and in the long run, would jeopardize the value of what sustainably helps the people County.
2. The quote also touches on the idea of a changing baseline by referencing the words "wild" and "semi-wild". This generation's sense of wild, is not that of the previous generations' and the generations before that. I've worked with inner city kids who think Central Park represents wild nature. Slowly we are moving towards that end of the spectrum with every road built and drilling rig allowed.

All this is just a lengthy way of voicing my support for large tracts of designated wilderness area for beneficial ecological, social, and economic reasons with far less harmful impacts than extractive alternatives. Areas such as the Labyrinth Canyon area (Spring, Hellroaring, Mineral), Goldbar Canyon, and wilderness areas in the Book Cliffs region as well as the many wilderness tracts from westwater canyon to the Confluence of the Green and Colorado.

Thank you for your consideration and time. Hopefully yours,

Hau Truong 1/30/14
Hau Truong, January 30, 2014

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:

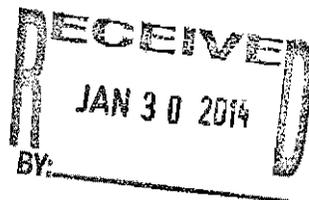
Labyrinth Canyon, Upper Horseshoe Canyon, Hellroaring Canyon, Spring Canyon, Three Canyon, Tenmile Canyon, the Spur, Island in the Sky, Deadhorse Point, The White Rim, the Desolation-Book Cliffs Wilderness and surrounding region including: Turtle Canyon, Hill Creek, Roan Cliffs, Range Creek, Willow Creek, 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.

All of this land is frequented by myself and many others. As a citizen of Grand County, I am entitled to this land. The vastness of this place and it's uninterrupted, raw natural beauty is why I moved here. It is why people from all over the world flock here in the high season. Exploiting this magnificent land for oil and gas development, potash mining, tar sands extraction and cattle grazing is downright shameful. In my eyes, the act of my governing officials approving this type of development and putting my health and my entire community's health at risk is an absolute betrayal of trust and an act of violence against myself and my community.

I thank you for inviting us to comment on what we desire for the future of Grand County. I spent a lot of time away from my personal work of my own small business in order to write you this letter. I hope that you will hear my words and take them into deep consideration when assessing the fate of our land and community.

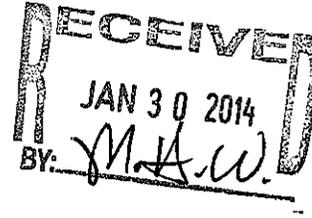
Sincerely,

Cherrise Morgenstein



January 29, 2014

Grand County Council
125 E. Center
Moab, UT 84532



Dear Grand Country Council Members:

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed wilderness areas in Grand County. I believe strongly in finding a balance when it comes to public land management, especially since Utah's public lands cover 64% of the state. I believe they can be managed for multiple use through wise decisions. I have lived in Moab for over 20 years and feel I can speak to the value of our land to both the state and the nation as a whole.

I support wilderness designation for the identified parcels in Grand County. I am an avid hiker and was drawn to this area due to its scenic beauty and silence. Grand County is rich in extraordinary places that offer solitude, untrammled nature and solace in this busy world. It is also rich in gas and oil deposits and various minerals and salts. The extractive industries have found a home here and I believe they can be balanced by protecting areas that offer superlative beauty as well as healthy wildlife habitat.

Recreation is the new economy of the west. Wilderness protections will secure Utah's future in outdoor recreation and enjoyment, and promotion of these lands will send the message that this state does value the health of its people, wildlife and the natural surroundings that draw people here in the first place. Utah is perhaps the only state that does not have protected wilderness areas, which astonishes me. Areas like Morning Glory, Porcupine Rim, Mill Creek, Goldbar Canyon, Hunter's Canyon, Behind the Rocks could offer a retreat from the noise of motorized vehicles which surrounds Moab—places to find relative peace and quiet. River trips down Labyrinth Canyon and Westwater will only grow in value if they are protected by wilderness designation. The Bookcliffs parcels are critical to protecting the prime wildlife habitat that we are so lucky to have. The parcels around Arches can offer greater protection of the amazing viewsheds and wildlife habitat—making it less of an "island".

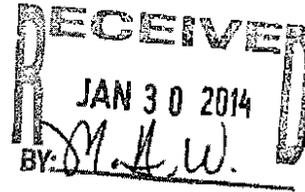
I believe in these designations because huge areas of public land still remain for the many other uses—extractive industry, grazing, motorized travel and exploration,—and the other many activities these lands offer.

I strongly urge the council representatives to support the proposed wilderness designations in Grand County as part of the public lands initiative.

Sincerely-

Sharon Brussell
4348 Heather St.
Moab, UT 84532

Subject: Bishop Initiative
To: Grand County, Utah's elected voices
From: Guy Gilleshammer ThM



I am a member of the Moab, Utah community and wish to express my views on the Bishop Initiative called land development. My comments address the holistic health of wilderness eco-systems and their rights to sustain all life. This can be achieved by re-generation of the natural intelligence that directs consumption and the return of resources that can be composted into usable food for the eco-system. My concerns have a global and local focus pertaining to the watershed, water quality, water volumes and the general ability to re-generate populations in the wilderness and the human occupations. Water is life's blood for all species. I believe that water is a resource more valuable than minerals. However one does not evolve without the other. Take away the minerals; you take away the properties of earth to cleanse the water. Therefore I believe protection from motorized use is paramount.

I would vote no to any development and joyfully support any efforts to reduce consumption and give back a bio-gradable food to the earth.

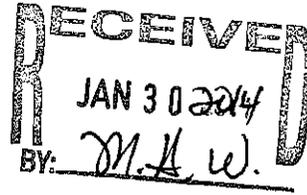
My second concern on the Bishop initiative is the double messages on the educational issues. On one side it speaks to the monetary needs for education. This idea seemingly is considering the future. The problem with a tradeoff is there is less land to trade that is not impacted by human mechanical inputs. If we only address the future costs of schools from a trade-off concept, and not the costs to the consequences of polluting the waters and air then how do we truly assign a cost measure in dollars. The children will only learn what they trade with other humans and not from future lives...and certainly not from what they are experiencing. They will only learn when looking back from an older age. This is not an efficient way of learning. This lack of vision erodes the human spirit of hope and then creates an increased need for human intervention from medical, social, insurance and legislative services. In the end whoever can twist the words of social and civil laws will get their agendas met. So in summary, how is education being evaluated? Is it a privilege of the living or something to be bought?

I have witnessed eradication of other homelands from this type of decision making. Without the consideration of the eroding earth's resources, the future will be a dependence on western medicine, lawyers, academic sciences, pharmacies to define the values. Whether we want this cognitive and economic imperialism is the decision we are faced with here.

If I look at the imprints that make up the history of existing recording in the layers of red rocks, I wonder how our time in the area will be recorded. Will those stories be of conquest or of harmony?

Sincerely

Guy Gilleshammer aka Lone Eagle
1/29/14



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.

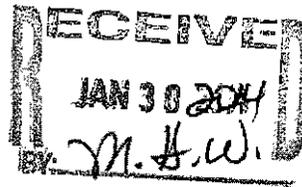
Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Will Petty".

Will Petty
The Jailhouse Cafe
101 North Main
Moab

January 29, 2014

Grand County Council
125 E. Center
Moab, UT 84532



Dear Council Members,

We own property in Grand County. Castle Valley is our spiritual home. We've also had the good fortune to visit many of the Earth's spectacular, wild landscapes. Here is what we have come to understand: No place compares to the public lands surrounding Moab in terms of wildness, solitude, biological diversity, and access.

As the world changes—as the climate shifts, and as the pressures generated by a culture becoming faster and louder increase—the quiet and serenity available only in wild places becomes more precious, more valuable. Future generations will thank us and you, in particular, for your civic role in protecting as many of these wild places as possible.

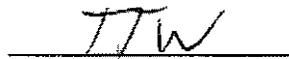
Indeed, the best available information suggests that Grand County's economic future will prosper in direct proportion to the amount of wilderness and wildlands that have been set safely aside from non-renewable development such as oil and gas extraction.

As Congressman Rob Bishop's process moves forward, please act courageously on the knowledge that you as our representatives are conserving our incredible wild lands—public lands—for Grand County residents, American citizens, and international tourists who treasure these landscapes now and for those who will depend on them in the future.

The natural beauty of Grand County is our greatest wealth and our greatest heritage. We feel blessed to be able to call these red rocks home.

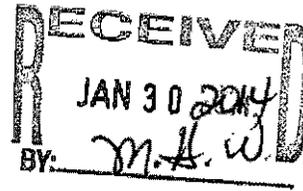
Respectfully yours,


Brooke Williams


Terry Tempest Williams

January 30, 2014

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



RE: Congressmen Bishop's Public Land Initiative

Grand County Council:

I am writing to provide input to Congressman Bishop's seven county public lands bill. As a resident of Grand County, I appreciate the invitation to comment on this historic piece of legislation. I have lived in southeastern Utah for many years and care deeply about its future. I am a doctoral candidate in ecological planning at the University of Utah. I have experience in Earth science, urban ecology, planning processes, statistical modeling, and public health.

Congressman Bishop and his team of collaborators are attempting to balance many competing interests. Undoubtedly, some interests clash—in spirit, in space, in economics, and in feasibility. I commend the Congressman's team for attempting to balance such a complex set of interests. Your Council, too, must construct just one letter that represents the wide range of perspectives and interests present within Grand County, which is an equally difficult task. It is my hope, however, that your Council's letter captures a very important message: Grand County residents want long-term ecosystem health in the broadest sense of its meaning, which includes human health and quality of life, economic resilience, and environmental quality.

Where does the public lands initiative fit into a conversation about long-term social, economic, and environmental health? Generally speaking, controversy over public lands development is driven by the belief that outdoor recreation and resource extraction cannot coexist within the same space. In most instances, this is probably true. But I suggest that it is narrow thinking that leaves us with an artificial and unnecessary binary (outdoor recreation vs. resource extraction). In preparing to write a letter to Congressman Bishop, your Council should consider that any public lands bill is only part of a much larger visioning effort for the future of our region.

What mix of economic activities has the highest likelihood of ensuring long-term resilience? The degree to which resource development introduces new revenue, jobs, and growth to Grand County depends on global market forces beyond the control of any legislator in Utah. History has shown the boom-bust nature of resource extraction tends to cripple local communities and leaves land in unsafe and unusable conditions. Extraction booms threaten local water supplies, social services, and infrastructure budgets. The types of unconventional oil development proposed for the areas in question have very low Energy Returns on Investment (some processes yield a net loss) that make long-term financial ROI minimally feasible at best. They also call for millions of gallons of water that cannot be recycled. Have you read the growing stack of reports on current and future drought (and megadrought) conditions in the Colorado River Basin? Chasing short-term gains at the expense of long-term social, economic, and environmental health is irresponsible and myopic. On the other hand, industrial tourism has its own shortcomings. The industry operates on large energy inputs, provides seasonal employment, and also depends on global market forces. However, its economic productivity does not have a finite lifetime in the same manner as resource extraction. Attached is a longer report that I authored, which expands on these ideas.

For these reasons, I recommend the council designate clear boundaries for acceptable land uses. I support the maps drawn by Public Land Solutions and Grand Canyon Trust as starting points for a follow-up process that allows for public input and approval. Ultimately, Congressman Bishop's Initiative will probably come down to lines on a map. I urge you to think more deeply about this question. It would behoove us to also consider that Utah's public land is not just a commodity to be parsed, sold, traded, and used to exhaustion. Undisturbed, it holds a place in our collective conscience, cultural identity, and quality of life.

Choosing the right thing to do is never a matter of fact, it is a matter of choice. What kind of future do we want to co-create in southeastern Utah? What legacy does *this* Council want to leave behind? My objective in writing this letter has less to do with the cartographic lines that appear in a final bill and more to do with deep thoughtfulness about the future of southeastern Utah. I hope you consider all of the comment letters received and accurately depict the desires of your constituents.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'ZL' or similar initials, written in a cursive style.

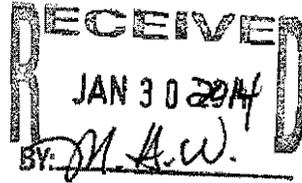
Zacharia Levine
Ecological Planning Center – Metropolitan Water Lab
Global Change and Sustainability Center
University of Utah

z.levine@utah.edu
760-889-2623

604 Bartlett Ave.
Moab, UT 84532

1/29/14

To The Grand County Council,



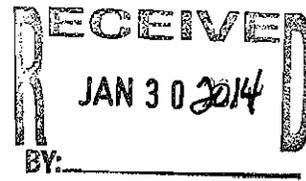
In the spring of 2009 I came to Moab for the first time. After only one day, I was hooked. I came again in the spring of 2012 to spend a month exploring the desert that had so enchanted me years earlier. That fall I moved here with the intention of spending only the winter before moving on again. Now I find myself spending my second winter here and considering this beautiful red rock desert my new home. I am incredibly grateful to get to live here, this place that millions of people are drawn to every year. The wilderness surrounding Moab is what makes it such a draw to people like me who decide to call it home, and to all those folks visiting from around the world who contribute to our local economy.

Keeping these wild areas intact and protecting them from extraction and overuse by ORVs will ensure that people will want to keep coming back. Grand County has some of the most spectacular scenery and sought after recreation areas in the country, with world class hiking, biking, climbing, and boating experiences that cannot be found anywhere else. If we lose these areas to extraction industries, Grand County's reputation for amazing wilderness will be forever damaged. What would it feel like to spend a beautiful afternoon hiking, biking, or climbing to get to an amazing vantage point, only to find that the landscape is dotted with extraction sites. Will that person want to come back? How will that affect their opinion of Moab? What might they tell the folks back home?

I have gotten to spend a lot of time exploring my new desert home and have come to love it immensely. My wish is that these places will be given the protection they need so that others who have never had the same kinds of experiences in the red rock desert that I have, get to have that chance.

I ask that the members of the Grand County Council recommend to Representative Bishop to increase protection of wilderness in southeastern Utah. In my opinion, all the lands included in the proposed America's Red Rock Wilderness Act are deserving of protection; however I have especially personal connections with the Hunters Canyon, Behind the Rocks, Porcupine Rim, and Fisher Towers areas. I visit these areas often for long rejuvenative hikes alone with my dog, or to enjoy the desert environment with friends. For me, living in Moab would not be the same without these places. Please consider seriously supporting America's Red Rock Wilderness Act for those of us who call this place home, and for all the people who come here to enjoy this amazing place!

Brandy Bowmaster



Grand County Council,

This letter is written in support of maintaining and protecting wilderness space in Grand County, and as a warning of the repercussions should you fail to do so. First of all, the energy industry boom here is old news and a poor fallback for an excuse to support a population. It lacks innovation, and its results are historically messy to large numbers of people (big dirt pile north of town). Gas and oil expansion here or anywhere is an irreversible mistake that you have the power to steer away from. It is in your best interest, and the interest of the county to embrace our tourism industry, and to embrace the future in energy. That is my request to the board, and here is my warning.

If you fail to protect the fragile resources that actually support the humans living in this county you will be blamed. That decision will not be forgotten. If you are not around to face that blame, your families, and friends will deal with the memory of a failed leader, and someone that let down the masses, at the critical moment when you could have mustered up the power and innovative thinking to find another path. That is what we elected you for. We did not elect you to mindlessly drivel out excuses while big business fills your pockets and they exploit a place known to millions of people as "Gods Country." If exploitation is the path you choose, then be prepared to face the consequences. It baffles me that we even have to argue with you to keep an industry away from here that historically has trashed everything in its path, from air and water to communities left behind by the boom and bust nature of its business. Nonetheless here we are, trying to keep the democratic process alive, I do not have money to lobby your support for our cause but I do have insight. Heed my warning County Council; Lynn Jackson, James Nyland, Pat Holyoake, Elizabeth Tubbs, Rory Paxton, Gene Ciarus, Ken Ballentyne, your decisions do not go unnoticed now and they will not be forgotten. Thanks for your time.

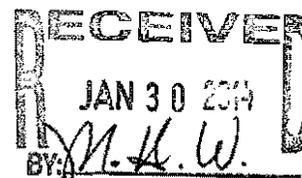
Sincerely,

Colin Evans

346 Riversands Dr.

Moab, Ut. 84532

Council Members Lynn Jackson, Jim Nyland and Rory Paxman:



As fellow Grand County residents, it is very obvious that we all love the land on which we reside. It is a special place to people us as well as people who have visited here from all over the world. In this collective way, the choices we make in our area play out on the bigger picture. We have the opportunity to protect our beautiful home with this significant opportunity given us with the formation of the House Natural Resources Committee. We have an opportunity to be an example for responsible land management. The potential of the newly formed committee is to change the way many lands in our state, region, and county are managed.

I am writing to express my support The Red Rock Wilderness Act as well as the Grand Canyon Trust's Proposed Forest Wilderness of the La Sal Mountains. The Red Rock Wilderness Act. It is about time this act came into fruition and the protection of these iconic and sacred lands become part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. For example, Mill Creek Canyon would be protected from development. This is a place that is a short bike ride from my home and allows so many people a quick escape to a beautiful and fun place to be. The Grand Canyon Trust's proposal would protect our watershed, our source to life. I stand behind these proposals. They represent how I would like to see our land managed.

The use of the word "compromise" is used frequently by the Public Lands Initiative and by Congressman Bishop in an effort to pursued us of his moderation. If the compromise he is suggesting includes giving vast swaths of land to be extracted and emitted then what he is asking to compromise is our future.

We are all in this together and it is not just the beautiful places that hold importance. We live in a time of uncertainty with a changing climate and the onslaughts of ecosystem destruction. Because of this the increased extraction, possessing, use and emission of fuels is not acceptable. It is going to push us over the edge of a livable planet. If a trade of BLM/ SILTA lands occur, it is my strongest hope that the consolidated lands not be used for destructive practices such as tar sands and hydraulic fracturing.

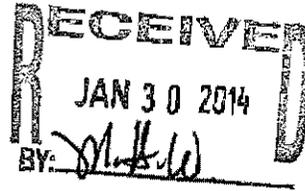
I do not want to walk through my favorite canyon knowing that my peace is a shallow one because while I am enjoying the beauty of the place, somewhere else in this state somewhere else is being destroyed.

Please consider these thoughts when representing our community.
Thank you for your work.

Claire Core
Moab, UT

29 January 2014

Grand County Council
125 E Center Street
Moab, Utah 84532



Subject: Utah Public Lands Bill for Eastern Utah

I love the spectacular landscape and diverse scenery of our lands in Grand County. It's why I moved here 23 years ago and why I live here still despite all the contentious battles about whether or not and how to destroy it. It is unique, outstanding, a world-wide magnet for tourists and a driver of our economy.

Tourism is not a completely benign industry; there is some damage to the ecosystem from visitation. But that disruption is miniscule compared to the destruction from extractive gas and oil and mining industries, who leave a legacy of torn apart landscape and air pollution, a dearth of water, and visual impediments such as oil rigs, large holes in the ground and mounds of misplaced soil, expanded roads and heavy traffic in areas that should be wilderness. These are visual distractions and depredations to areas that are important to our tourism and to the spirits of many of those of us who live here.

To sacrifice these extraordinary lands for destructive and speculative energy exploitation is harmful to the land, air, water and people and wildlife. It is also unwise. Boom and bust scenarios from extractive industries are not uncommon, and we should recall the consequences. Modern booms also come with a gigantic social cost to the areas affected, as local residents are pushed from their homes by transient populations. I was in North Dakota last year and stopped at the State tourist center, where I showed the person behind the desk a map of places where I thought I would like to go. She said "Don't". The area was full of large trucks, industrial rigs, ponds and machinery, pollution, tainted water, "roughnecks" and filled campgrounds and cheap motels. This may be great for the campground and motel owners (and bars), but it is detrimental to the families in the area. And it sure doesn't help tourism when the official tourist person steers one away from the area.

There are so many special areas in Grand County. Many of them have been proposed as Wilderness Areas, and that designation should be realized for those

places. Fisher Towers, Mary Jane Canyon, Negro Bill Canyon, Mill Creek, Goldbar Canyon are all areas I hike frequently, and there is good reason they have been proposed for wilderness. There are also a lot of areas that are extraordinary and should be protected but are not. One of my favorites is the locale around Rainbow Rocks, Spring Canyon and Secret Spire. Unfortunately, that incredibly beautiful area is one that is being destroyed right now. I have enclosed a few photos of the area to show both its uniqueness and the viewshed that will be destroyed by potash exploration and mining.

One of the most important aspects of preservation of our environment in Grand County is water and watersheds. It is critical to protect the important watersheds of the La Sal Mountains. The proposed Forest Wilderness and LaSal Mountains National Scenic Area (NSA) should be enacted for protection of watershed, wildlife management, and its many scenic values.

It is critical to protect our Glen Canyon Aquifer from overuse, and any application that depletes this resource should be prohibited. Extraction industries require excessive water use. We do not have this extra water to subtract from our residential and agricultural needs.

As well as preserving this special place for our own enjoyment, we have a responsibility to the next generations to ensure they, too, can enjoy the beauty and uniqueness of our area.

Sincerely,



Karen Robinson

2871 E Bench Road

Moab, Utah 84532

sombra@frontiernet.net

435-259-4626

cc: Fred Ferguson

Legislative Director

Representative Rob Bishop

Fred.Ferguson@mail.house.gov





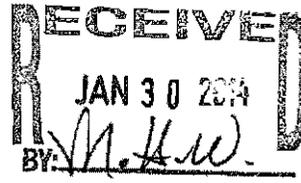
Tourist are seeing oil wells off the road to "Dead House Point," in Utah, a place said to be as great as the Grand Canyon in Az. Stop this NOW, ON HWY 313 are you kidding me, If they work their way to Fisher Towers On HWY 128 game over, that would distort are 2 million European visitors from having a good time, distressed visitor don't come BACK , I can not stress that enough.

Thank you,

Davin Pilling
2701 s hwy 191
Moab Utah 84532

Cell 1-435-322-0107

RECEIVED
JAN 30 2014
BY: M. A. W.



To Whom it May Concern,

This debate over Utah Wilderness has been going on for over 25 years and it is time to resolve it. I am a bit of a middle of the road type but I do believe the majority of the proposed lands have been whittled down to those parcels that really do deserve protection. The "best use" is truly to protect them not for just the future generations of humans, but also for the all the varied life that is dependent on undeveloped lands for a healthy future. Our world needs pristine, healthy ecosystems to survive in order to continue supporting any life. I grew up on the south side of Chicago where there was no remaining "natural lands". Please act now to bring this debate to a close and protect these lands.

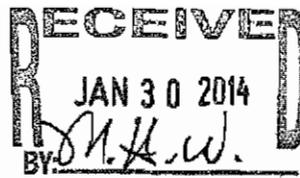
Sincerely,
Stacy Dezelsky
30 year resident of Grand County, UT

RECEIVED
JAN 30 2014
BY: *M.H.W.*

To Whom it May Concern,

This debate over Utah Wilderness has been going on for over 25 years and it is time to resolve it. I am a bit of a middle of the road type but I do believe the majority of the proposed lands have been whittled down to those parcels that really do deserve protection. The "best use" is truly to protect them not for just the future generations of humans, but also for the all the varied life that is dependent on undeveloped lands for a healthy future. Our world needs pristine, healthy ecosystems to survive in order to continue supporting any life. I grew up on the south side of Chicago where there was no remaining "natural lands". Please act now to bring this debate to a close and protect these lands.

Sincerely,
Stacy Dezelsky
30 year resident of Grand County, UT



Dear Grand County Council members,

Thank you for hearing the views of the community in this incredibly important matter. My name is Jeff Gutierrez and I have lived in Moab full time for five years. I moved here and plan on staying long-term because to me, this is the most beautiful place in the world. Grand County's most valuable asset is its wilderness and it would be wrong to cheapen it for short-term profits for destructive, unsustainable industries. I believe the more wilderness we can pass on to future generations, the richer the world.

I do not support trading local wilderness designations for consolidation of land in the Uinta Basin for tar sand/oil shale development. Extracting that dirty oil would have a devastating effect on the climate and I am furious that the Colorado River system and its +30 million dependents downstream would be put at risk. I hadn't explored the Book Cliffs much until hearing about the threat of the tar sands mines. I was astounded by its beauty and I want to protect as much of it as we can (Desolation Canyon, Diamond Canyon, Survey Point, Mexico Point, Hideout Canyon, Sweet Water, Bitter Creek, Hell's Hole) for its value in wildlife, solitude, and its location in the watershed. There's no good way to get that oil out of the ground and there's no clean way to process and burn it. If this is what the Bishop process hinges upon, then it's shameful and I can't back it.

I make the majority of my income in the outdoor tourism industry and I spend a lot of free time hiking, mountain biking, and river running. The areas around Desolation Canyon, Labymith Canyon, and the Colorado River corridor (Westwater Canyon, Dome Plateau, Fisher Towers, Mary Jane Canyon, Porcupine Rim, Morning Glory, and Goldbar Canyon) deserve protection so the high quality wilderness experience can continue. I hike in Hunter Canyon, Behind the Rocks, and Mill Creek several times a week during the warm months.

I am for the inclusion of Forest Service Wilderness in the Grand County proposal for increased watershed protection, and recreation and wildlife management.

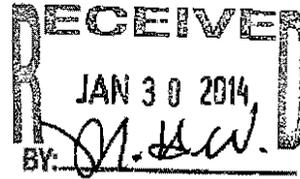
I support the Red Rock Wilderness Act.

Please, let's be responsible stewards of this beautiful place and allow future generations to experience it how we have.

Sincerely,

Jeff Gutierrez
687 Mulberry Lane
Moab, UT 84532
435-494-8119

Grand County Council



I'm writing this comment letter urging the council to do as much as possible to protect the Greater Canyonlands & La Sal Forest Service Wilderness area, to industrialize this region would be a grave mistake. The great majority of our economy revolves around conserving the integrity of these lands, bringing in tourist dollars, 2nd homeowners, retirees & others searching for a rural quiet healthy lifestyle.

Does the council even have the resources to make an informed decision? The county has not done water studies; we do not know how much water these oil, gas & potash projects will require. It is extremely foolish to provide millions of gallons of our culinary water to these projects. We must also consider the impact of water tanker trucks driving through our neighborhoods, impacting city/county infrastructure & worsening air quality. There is also the effect of the additional roads, pads & wellheads; this will degrade our air quality even further, by increasing particulate matter, methane, Hydrogen Sulfide Gas (H₂S), ozone levels, & dangerous carcinogens into the air.

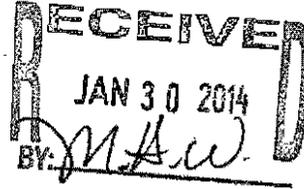
Until the county does a thorough & extensive study of these impacts, it does not have the right to make decisions that will affect the community for decades to come.

Please do not ruin what we have by creating a situation that cannot be reversed.

Rob Gowler

Moab, Utah

January 29, 2014



To: Members of the Grand County Council
Regarding: The Bishop Initiative

Thank you for considering my comments regarding the Bishop Initiative to preserve lands in Grand County for those values that my neighbors, friends, and I so love about our homeland.

The natural beauty and wide open spaces of our environs are what has put us on the map. While the blight of too much tourism is one bugaboo we must take responsibility for and seek to curtail, the irreparable damage and degradation of our home due to oil and gas drilling must be reconsidered and slowed considerably.

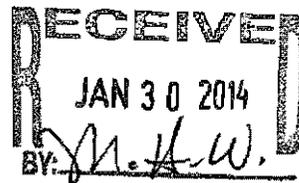
I am conscious of the toll that America's endless thirst for oil and gas takes not only on our fighting forces but also on ravaged countries, so the quest for domestic energy is not lost on me; however, the greedy pace at which oil wells are pocking the landscape, and the grisly polluted air that is resulting from the nonsensical release of natural gas into the atmosphere, must be stopped.

The Bishop Initiative will, hopefully, give Grand and San Juan Counties more Wilderness, which is an ideal that would be very satisfying to so many residents and guests of our wonderful area. Please consider preserving the natural landscape, embracing energy reduction and conservation as a County policy, and seek long-term solutions that will save the remaining unmarred landscape for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Eve Tallman
Grand County Resident and Taxpayer

To: Grand County Council
Re: Public Lands Bill



My name is Jessica Dye. I have resided in Grand County for the past seven years. In that time here I have been fortunate enough to experience the majestic beauty that is offered the by wilderness in Grand County. Whether, on the river in Desolation, Labyrinth and Westwater Canyons or hiking Fisher Towers, Goldbar, Behind the Rocks and Mill Creek, to name a few, I am awed by their magnificence. There is so little untouched wilderness left in this country, I believe that it is important to preserve all of the lands in America's Red Rock Wilderness Act.

One of the draws of Grand County is the surrounding red rock wilderness, a unique wilderness unlike any in the world. I think that is a valid reason not to potentially contaminate it with oilrigs or miles of roads with semi's kicking up dust. Not to mention that it is an extremely delicate ecosystem that can be devastated by our interference. I cannot fathom how the bottom dollar has become more important than the earth we live on. I believe in the importance of the red rock wilderness and the need to protect them.

For those who are more concerned about the economy it is important to point out that Grand County relies on tourism dollars. People do not come from all over the world to see extraction sights from amazing overlooks. They come to see landscapes unsurpassed by any other in the world. This is not an exaggeration. It is a mistake to underestimate the long-term value of tourism. The natural resources that are so attractive to corporations and not sustainable and what we are left with is a destroyed landscape, worthless to all. Keep in mind, when we talk about extracting natural resources we are talking about only a few decades of economic benefit, if that. As supposed to centuries of the economic benefit of preserved wilderness that will bring millions of visitors.

Please consider the all of these points when deciding the fate of the Red Rock Wilderness. Do not casually destroy exceptional land that thousands currently enjoy in favor of a quick profit for a few. Protect the Red Rock Wilderness, this delicate, irreplaceable place.

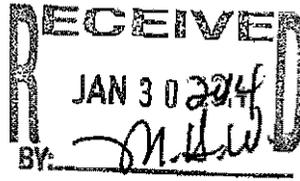
Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jessica S. Dye

462 Kiva Drive
Moab, UT 84532
January 29, 2014

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



Dear Council Members:

As a Grand County resident, I am writing to you in support of protecting significant areas in the county as part of the public lands bill process. The principal motivation for my move to this region was the irreplaceable natural beauty here that allowed me to gain sustenance through the sheer joy of being in it – viewing, hiking, breathing, wondering, appreciating, rafting, kayaking, and so on.

Over the past 5 years, I have hiked, usually 2 or 3 times a week, with the Sierra Club's Glen Canyon group, other impromptu groups, and by myself through many of the designated areas that appear on the ARROWA map.

Wherever imminent threats to natural beauty are present, more rapid action to eliminate them is needed, and I encourage you to act accordingly. For example, I have hiked, and wish to continue to enjoy without commercial intrusion, various canyons within the Labyrinth designation, such as Hellroaring, Mineral, and Spring.

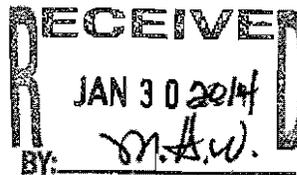
Other designated canyons and areas that I have been frequently active in as a hiker or kayaker are Desolation, Fisher Towers, Mary Jane, Porcupine Rim, Morning Glory, Mill Creek, Behind the Rocks, Hunter, Gold Bar, Arches Adjacent, Yellow Bird, Dome Plateau, and Dead Horse Cliffs. All of these areas deserve your efforts to protect them from harm.

Very truly yours,

Jack Edwards

Jack Edwards

Jane Butter
2589 Cactus Rd. Unit M
Moab, UT 84532
(801) 232-5706



Dear Grand County Council,

Thank you very much for your consideration of my comments for the Bishop Initiative. I also want to extend a huge thank you for extending the comment period so that you can hear from more Grand County residents.

The most important thing that I wish to get across to you is that we need WILDERNESS in Grand County. WILDERNESS, WILDERNESS, WILDERNESS. This area is too special to give up to short-sighted economic development. The best thing for the land and the people here is to protect the international treasures that we have.

I endorse the Grand Canyon Trust's Forest Service Wilderness Proposal, also included in this letter. I encourage you to take very seriously this proposal and include as much Forest Service Wilderness as possible when crafting your proposal to Bishop. This is extremely important for the people of Grand County and is the best way we can protect our precious watershed. The La Sal's deserve this level of protection not only for watersheds, but for recreation and wildlife management. Please include this proposal and as much Forest Service Wilderness as possible when communicating with decision-makers about the Bishop Initiative.

I also endorse SUWA's Redrock Wilderness Act, and encourage you to protect all of the land in Grand County that qualifies for Wilderness, both BLM and Forest Service. These wild places are why Moab is so popular and spectacular and why people from all over the world are drawn here every year to generate millions of dollars for the county. If we are short-sighted and do not protect these areas, people will no longer wish to come here and the county as a whole will suffer greatly. No more expansion for oil and gas or potash mining.

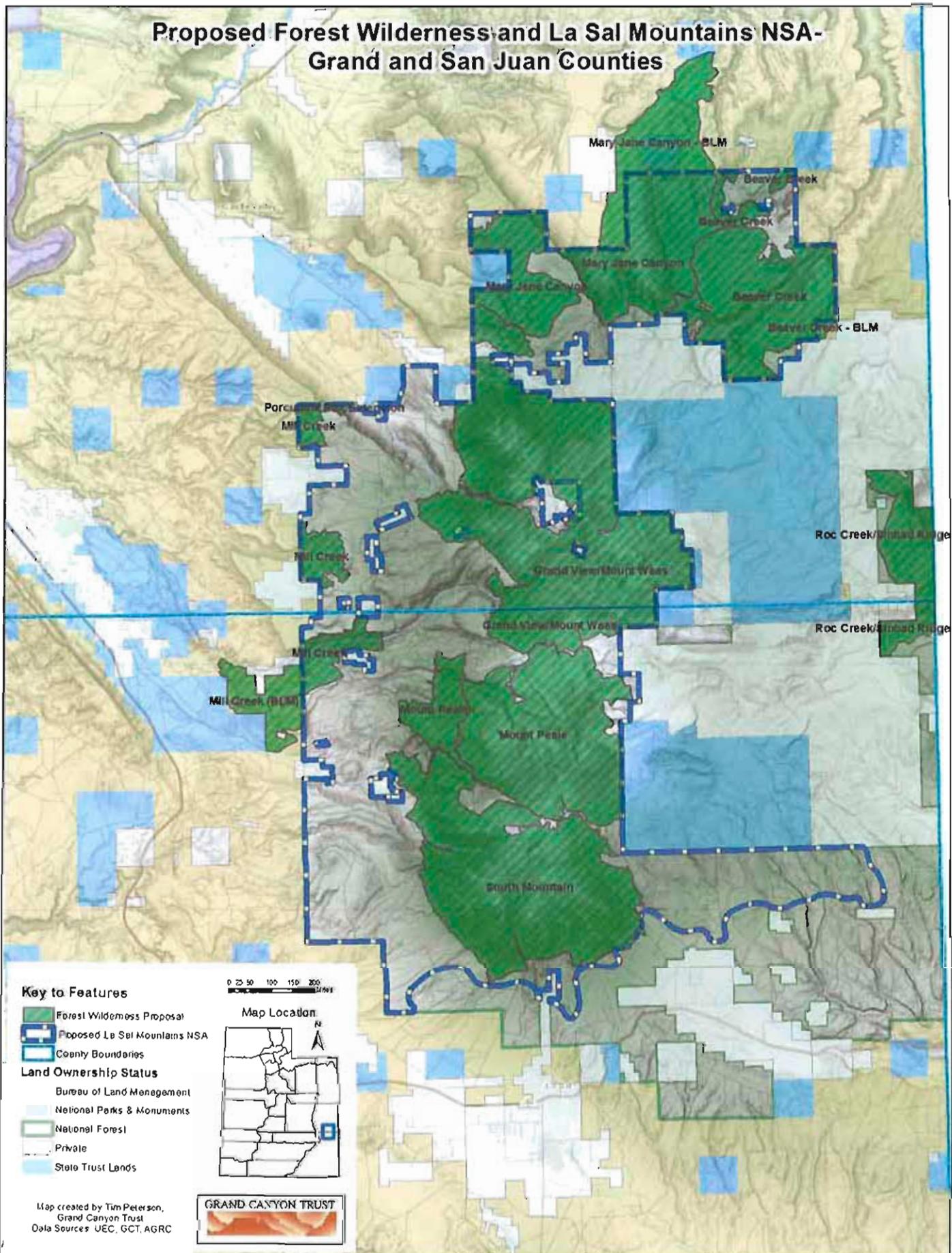
Please include these carefully crafted Wilderness proposals in your proposal to Congressman Bishop. He needs to know that the people of Grand County support the idea of public land protection and Wilderness and support these proposals.

Also, at all costs avoid consolidating and trading SITLA land to the Uintah Basin for tar sands/oil shale. I recognize that compromise is a part of this process and that's fine, but ABSOLUTELY no tar/sands oil shale. These are lose-lose deals and will destroy everything we hold dear in our home. Thanks for your time.

Jane Butter

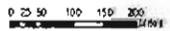
A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name "Jane Butter".

Proposed Forest Wilderness and La Sal Mountains NSA- Grand and San Juan Counties



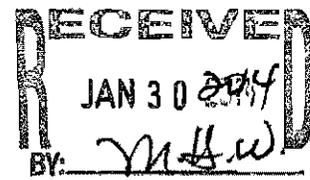
Key to Features

- Forest Wilderness Proposal
 - Proposed La Sal Mountains NSA
 - County Boundaries
- Land Ownership Status**
- Bureau of Land Management
 - National Parks & Monuments
 - National Forests
 - Private
 - State Trust Lands



Map created by Tim Peterson,
Grand Canyon Trust
Data Sources: UEC, GCT, AGRC





To the Grand County Council –

I grew up in Castle Valley as a seventh generation Utahan. I have travelled the world and lived in numerous “top 10” places, yet the Moab community and surrounding landscape have brought me back and kept me here. I understand that the ‘Bishop process’ has brought to light many classic issues; hitting the sensitive nerve that runs directly to a multitude of areas considered for either protection or energy development.

At the outset, all of the lands that are included in America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act should be protected as Wilderness. You may be quick to discount my opinion from this point forward. If that was your gut reaction, then it is unlikely that you will be able to represent the interests of a large percentage of the population you serve. From my own personal experiences and growth within many of these areas, I would like to illustrate at least a few that are immensely important to me.

Of course, the areas immediately around Castle Valley and Moab need to be protected. These include Fisher Towers, Mary Jane Canyon, Porcupine Rim, Morning Glory, Mill Creek, and Dome Plateau proposed wilderness areas. High traffic areas are important to spare from development, not only for the sanity and health of those that live here, but also with respect to the major boon of our economy. For instance, the oil and gas development that has happened along HWY 313 is unbelievable. Not only is it damaging to our tourist economy, but every night that I see those blazing drill rigs ruining our pristine desert night sky, it breaks my heart.

I have grown up with floating down the river as a way for my family to spend time together and enjoy being outside. Labyrinth Canyon, Desolation Canyon, and Westwater Canyon are areas that are enjoyed by numerous people every year and are national gems. Last year, my family and I spent a week on Desolation Canyon. The worst part was driving down into the canyon in Uinta County, as it was a bizarre and toxic landscape filled with dipping drill rigs. Have you been out there? It looks like science fiction. However, beginning our trip into the canyon on the river, we were exposed to a wild, natural and very old part of our world. These wild river corridors need to be protected.

The Bookcliffs area is another area that needs to be mentioned. This is inclusive of Desolation Canyon, Diamond Canyon, Survey Point, Mexico Point, Sweet Water, Bitter Creek, and Hells Hole proposed wilderness areas. These areas are important for a wide range of constituents within many counties in Utah: hunters, anglers, horseman, backpackers, and campers. The Bookcliffs include more than these proposed wilderness areas as well! I am highly concerned about the possibility of tar sands and oil shale development anywhere, anytime. Any concentration of leases within areas of the Bookcliffs could lead to such development. Please understand that developments of this nature will change your own lives as you know it. Just as in the case of the tar sands mine in Alberta, Canada, your daughters and

granddaughters could have a 1 in 3 chance of ovarian cancer, and every other member of your family could be wrought with various forms of aggressive cancers from the air and water contamination of the development of these projects. Please look up more information on the Alberta, Canada tar sands mine, and the impacts to the communities that surround the mine.

I must mention Goldbar Canyon, Hunter Canyon, Horsetheif Point, and Behind the Rocks proposed wilderness areas because these are areas that I frequent in order to enjoy the quite, vast desert. I'm sure that you do, as well. I would hate to see these areas pocked with resource extraction.

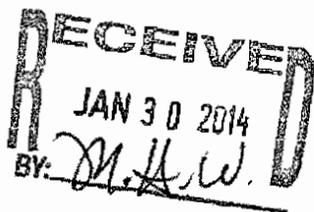
By this point, I don't think that I need to mention the fact that I am opposed to major resource extraction in this area. We are living in a time of national catastrophes that have been instigated by the fault of energy development. The risk of serious degradation of our aquifer is real. The companies that could be developing these 'resources' have no allegiance to you, or to our community. Please be wary of their promises of clean development, as we have been shown this does not exist.

I am frustrated by the fact that the majority of your council is clearly in favor of energy development, for the illogical reasons common in the stubborn 'old Utah' mentality. However, this is not representative of the majority of this community that I have known all of my life and that I see on a regular basis. I know Moab. I know Castle Valley. I am aware of the intense backlash that will take place if the calls for the protection of our land, our water, our air, and our lives will not be heeded. Please take careful consideration in your decisions and know that you are supported in opening your heart to the health and well-being of our community.

Thank You!

Emily Stock

In 1999 Gov Leavitt asked the Counties to inventory areas for inclusion as Wilderness Areas. Grand County sent him a very specific proposal down to the last acre that was approved by environmentalists, the mining Companies and the County Council, but it was never acted upon. I think we should use that plan as a starting point with areas either added or subtracted. I would like to have information from the 1999 plan published as a reference point for all of us. I support having large areas preserved as wilderness



Ed Brandstetter
2840 Angel Rock Rd.
259-9427

Grand County resident
since 1990

January 29, 2014

Dear Grand county (Land use) Council,

I am writing you as a concerned citizen of Grand County. I am concerned that the beautiful wild places here are under threat of development, encroachment, & extractive businesses.

RECEIVED
JAN 30 2014
M.A.W.

I moved to the area in February 2010, but that was by no means the first time I set foot here. The first time I came to Moab I was five years old. Every year thereafter my family came back to Moab to explore & re-explore the canyons and mesas. From Jeeping to hiking I never got enough. It was always a sad day for me when we'd get home & I'd help my dad wash the red dirt off of our Bronco. Thankfully my memories never washed away.

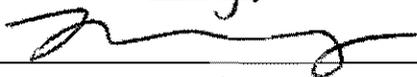
Now I am a homeowner here in Grand County with my husband. When we talk of having children, I always smile and think of the places here in Utah's Canyon County I will take them. Hiking out to Fisher Towers, into our "backyard" of Millcreek, floating down Labyrinth Canyon & Westwater - all of the places my parents took me. But what if these places don't look the same when my kids are five years old as they did when I was that age? the feelings ~~that~~

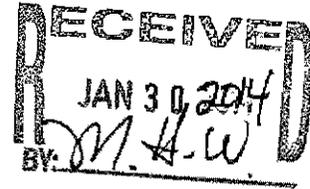
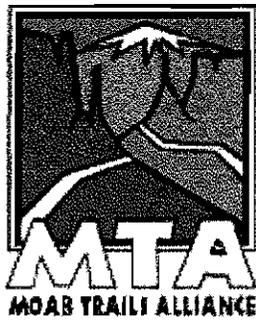
this place inspired in me at that age were ones of Beauty, open-ness & freedom. That is what I need you, as the Grand Co. Land-use Council, to help protect. The openess, the views that stretch as far as you can see, the austere beauty of the desert. I cannot help but think that I would cry if I took my child to hike the primitive loop in Arches, but that the book cliffs view was obscured by sprawl, or if Labyrinth canyon was developed for Potash. and strange blue pools lined the river.

Please, I cannot protect these places by myself. Please do your part and protect them for our children.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


Lillian Houghton
3324 Spanish Valley Dr.



January 30, 2014

Dear Grand County Council Members,

We have been presented with Congressman Bishop's land management bill concerning Grand County. While most of the recreation management areas represent our concerns well, the Amasa Back area remains undesignated. This is a serious oversight for many reasons. Amasa Back contains six bike trails, Amasa, Captain Ahab, Rockstacker, Pothole Arch, Jackson, and Hymasa. The Cliff Hanger Jeep Trail, one of the most popular Jeep Safari routes, climbs up the Amasa Back road. Numerous other events including foot and bicycle races attract thousands of participants. Hikers explore the well preserved rock art sites and climbers and base jumpers visit this canyon in increasing numbers. Amasa Back uniquely serves the recreation community throughout the year as the sun melts snow and ice sooner here in the winter and the tall cliff faces offer cool shade thru the summer months. It has been the focus of a concerted effort by Trail Mix to designate and build new single track trails that instantly attracted national media attention for their spectacular setting and well designed lay out. This gem of land, close to town, should be protected as an irreplaceable recreation asset that contributes greatly to the economy of Grand County.

There is much debate over the benefits of recreation versus oil and gas development. Grand County has chosen to showcase its public lands through projects like the North Moab Recreation Areas Alternative Transportation System, the county sponsored Trail Mix Committee with 80 plus new miles of dirt single track trails, and the ongoing effort of the Grand County Travel Council. These examples represent millions of dollars of investment and have reaped many more millions in return. The people that spend those dollars here did not come to look at oil and gas wells and they will not come back if their favorite places are overshadowed with resource extraction. Our reputation that keeps on giving is one of unparalleled scenery that offers open space, untrammled desert, pristine vistas, and the opportunity to experience the outdoors like no where else. We cannot afford to jeopardize this prize and must show responsible stewardship to protect it.

Resource extraction will come and go, leaving many scars and impacts as evidenced by other towns like Rifle in Colorado and Williston in North Dakota. These communities offer valuable lessons that Grand County should learn. Our seat at the table of land management should be used to protect what we have worked so hard to grow, a successful and thriving recreation industry that serves the citizens and visitors to Grand County extraordinarily well. So well, that other communities like Roosevelt and Vernal and Green River in Utah, Grand Junction and Montrose in Colorado, Sedona in Arizona, to name a few, are looking to Moab as an example they want to follow.

Sincerely,
Kimberly Schappert
Executive Director

To Grand County Council members,

Thank you for hearing the views of the community in this incredibly important matter. My name is Rolf Hebenstreit and I have lived here for 10 years & been coming here for 20 years. I moved here because to me this is the most beautiful place in the world. Grand County's most valuable asset is its wilderness and it would be wrong to cheapen it for short-term profits for destructive, unsustainable industries. I believe the more wilderness we can pass on to future generations, the richer the world.

I do not support trading local wilderness designations for consolidation of land in the Uinta Basin for tar sand/oil shale development. Extracting that dirty oil would have a devastating effect on climate and I am furious that the Colorado River and its +30 million dependents downstream would be at risk. I hadn't traveled the Bookcliffs much until hearing about the threat of the tar sands mines. I was astounded by its beauty and I want to protect as much of it as we can (Desolation Canyon, Diamond Canyon, Survey Point, Mexican Point, Hideout Canyon, Sweet Water, Bitter Creek, Hells Hole) for its value in wildlife, solitude, and its location in the watershed. If this is what the Bishop process hinges upon, then its wrong and I can't back it.

I spend most of my days off hiking, mountain biking and river running. The areas around Desolation Canyon, Labyrnith Canyon, and the Colorado river corridor (Westwater Canyon, Dome Plaueau, Fisher towers, Mary Jane Canyon, Porcupine Rim, Morning Glory, and Goldbar Canyon) deserve protection so the high quality wilderness experience can continue. I hike in Hunter Canyon, Behind the rocks, and Mill Creek all summer long.

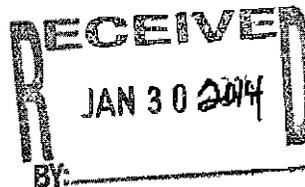
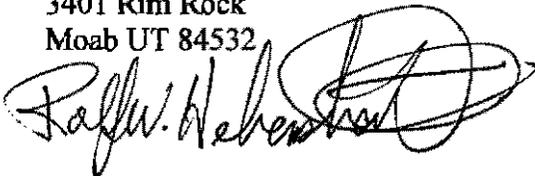
I am for the inclusion of Forest Service Wilderness in the Grand County proposal for increased watershed protection, and recreation / wildlife management.

I support the Red Rock Wilderness Act.

Please, let's be responsible stewards of this beautiful place and allow future generations to experience it how we have.

Thank you for your consideration,

Rolf Hebenstreit
PO Box 1201
3401 Rim Rock
Moab UT 84532



To Grand County Council members,

Thank you for hearing the views of the community in this incredibly important matter. My name is Rolf Hebenstreit and I have lived here for 10 years & been coming here for 20 years. I moved here because to me this is the most beautiful place in the world. Grand County's most valuable asset is its wilderness and it would be wrong to cheapen it for short-term profits for destructive, unsustainable industries. I believe the more wilderness we can pass on to future generations, the richer the world.

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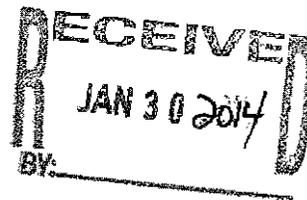
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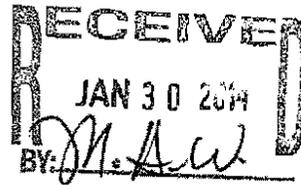
Please, let's be responsible stewards of this beautiful place and allow future generations to experience it how we have.

Thank you for your consideration,

Nancie Powell
PO Box 1201
3401 Rim Rock
Moab UT 84532



To: Grand County Council
Date: January 29, 2014
Re: Land Use



Dear Grand County Council,

I consider myself an environmentalist, however, I am not against drilling on our public lands. I think some drilling would be acceptable.

I would, however, strongly urge you to consider the density of the oil wells. Seeing one oil well up on highway 313, say, every 5 miles is not a problem or an eyesore. But seeing rows and rows of oil wells would be a tragedy.

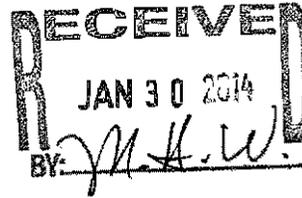
I am more concerned about the numerous trucks and ATV's that continue to drive all over the place, off designated roads, making their own new roads. Oil drillers and workers drive directly to and from their well, not all over the desert, and that's primarily why I am ok with them. But the amount of illegal off-road driving in this area is truly a problem, and it does create an eyesore of numerous, criss-crossing trails that affects people's outdoor experience.

I've seen these tracks at Sand Flats, Upper Muleshoe, Flat Iron Mesa, by Blue Hills Road, all over the place. Hopefully your land use plan can contain some legislation to more effectively curb the illegal off-road driving. From the letters in the TI, that is the main reason most people don't want these lands to become national monuments or protected outdoor areas: because they want to retain the right to four-wheel and they don't want roads closed. But they're not taking care of the off-road areas they currently have access to! So in order to deserve the right to use four-wheel roads, I feel there should be stronger deterrents to those who illegally make their own roads.

Thanks for listening,

Tara Collins,
former attorney at law
Moab, Utah
259-3322

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



Dear Grand County Council members:

I feel compelled to write to you as a concerned Grand County resident and supporter of the American Red Rock Wilderness Act. Although I have only lived as a permanent Grand County resident for just over a year now, I have been enjoying the extreme beauty and resources of this county and the surrounding areas in Southeastern Utah for most of my life. Living in Utah for over twenty-three years has cultivated a great love and appreciation for the wild places it possesses and has allowed me to enjoy. For this reason—and many more, which I hope to explain further—I wanted to express my support to protect certain wilderness areas from future development.

Recently, it was brought to my attention that the American Red Rock Wilderness Act will soon be up for review again. I support protecting the proposed designated wilderness areas in Grand County, such as: the Mill Creek Wilderness area, Behind the Rocks area, Hunter Canyon, Goldbar Canyon, Cedar Mesa, the Book Cliffs region, Westwater Canyon, etc. I make my living through the outdoor recreational use and tourism these locations offer. As an employee of an outdoor guiding company, we regularly use the sandstone cliffs and canyons in the Morning Glory, Goldbar Canyon, Mill Creek, Cedar Mesa, the San Rafael Swell, and Hunter Canyon areas, sometimes on a daily basis through the months of February-November. The local restaurant I work for relies on the business of tourists and locals who also use and enjoy these areas. Not only could my ability to make a living be endangered but also my sense of peace and happiness I gain from my personal recreational use/education about these areas if they are not protected.

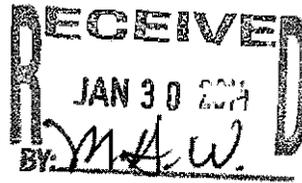
I firmly believe these areas need to be protected from development because the future resources, money and jobs organizations propose may be extracted from these areas do not compare or outweigh the benefits of sustaining them for future generations. I believe developing these wilderness areas in Grand County could have extremely negative effects on the environment and ecosystems as well as the county's economy.

Thank you for your consideration of a concerned resident. I hope my opinion and the many other supporters of the Red Rock Wilderness Act help expedite the process to pass and enact this extremely important bill.

Sincerely,


Mandy Eskelson
102 N 300 E
Moab, UT 84532
801-707-4016
mne0719@gmail.com

To:
Grand County Council
Moab, Utah



January 29, 2014

From:
Stephen Schultz
Po Box 96
La Sal, Utah 84530
Srschultz@hotmail.com

Honorable Council Members...

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on representative's Bishop's proposal. I am local horseman, hunter, fisherman and long-time member of the Back Country Horsemen (Canyonlands Chapter). I have lived in La Sal for 24 years. I DO realize that this is a Grand County forum but feel that my comments are informed, local and personal.

I understand that you would like a focus on one area personal of concern. That would be the "South Mountain Group" of the Manti_ La Sal_ National Forest (MLSNF). I am referring to the mountain lands between La Sal Pass and south to Carpenters basin and the town site of La Sal. I realize that most of these lands are USFS administered. Other sections are managed by the BLM.

1. La Sal Mountains usage trends

The south end of the range has been one of the few areas in the La Sal's where solitude can still be found. Most of the recreational opportunities are centered in the middle and northern groups of the mountains. It seems this is de-facto rather than a conscious decision.

There are only a few canyons without roads or trails in the La Sal's. Two of these canyons are in this area. They are Carpenter's basin and the west facing Pole Canyon. (Note: There are two Pole Canyons on South Mountain, the other one faces south has USFS trail 35 in it).

A major concern is that IF this area is opened up to motorized travel, illegal trails will spring up pushing into these areas. The MLSNF forest should offer **some opportunity for solitude and quiet**. I think this is our best option for a small but necessary Wilderness quality "Quiet Area" on the range.

2. Wildlife / Hunting

The west side of South Mountain has had very limited human usage in recent decades. It is rocky, steep and has little water. It is an area where a hunter can have a quiet, primitive and traditional hunting experience. During the rifle hunting seasons when the pressure is on, wildlife migrate onto this area to escape the motorized hunt. Opening this area to motorized usage would eliminate the solitude and pressure wildlife further.

3. Travel plan and access issues

It is un-necessary to open a motorized trail corridor into the area. for access or travel plan connections, there are several roads that bisect the Carpenter's Basin trail and dead end at the base of the mountain. These offer access to the area without offering drive-through privileges. There are several well-established trails that parallel this trail further down slope. These include the Black Ridge road, the Browns Hole road and the Mule shoe Canyon trail etc... (BLM # 254, 714, 716, 718 etc.)

The area has seen some illegal motorized usage. It would be a poor policy to reward illegal motorized usage by legitimizing the user made (illegal) trails.

On top, the La Sal Pass Road offers many points of access to this area. These include the South Mountain Trail head, Medicine Lake, Pack Creek, and others.

4. History

The Carpenter's Basin trail has over 125 years of documented horse and pack use. It was already a well-worn trail when those settlers arrived. It was the primary trail from the early La Sal settlements to the Moab valley. In Frank Silvey's book *"History and settlement of Northern San Juan County"* the author makes many references to "the trail from Pack Creek to Coyote (La Sal). Example on Page 10, speaking about Philander Maxwell "...He left Moab at an early hour and arrived at the head of Pack Creek near the old Indian trail that lead up the hill to Coyote". The book comment's that A few hours later, Joe and Ervin Wilson where shot by Ute Warriors on this very trail. (Circa 1880)

The earliest Topo maps of this area show very clearly several trails designated "Pack Trails". The South Mountain Group has had historical saddle horse and packhorse use since the first recorded activity in our area.

5. Travel plan and access issues

It is un-necessary to open this Mountain area for access or travel plan connections. There are several roads that bisect the Carpenter's Basin trail and dead end at the base of the mountain. These offer access to the area without offering drive-through privileges. There are several well-established trails that parallel this trail further down slope. These include the Black Ridge road, the Browns Hole road and the Mule shoe Canyon trail etc... (BLM # 254, 714, 716, 718 etc.)

Additional comments on South Mountain Trails

To further expand on my argument made in point 1 (the south end of the range remaining the "quiet area"), I would like to see all the trails on South Mountain stay non-motorized **and** non-mechanized. This includes the Pole and Doe canyon trails (USAF 100 and 35) as well as the south mountain trail (USAF 029) and the Pack Creek Trail (USAF 041).

We use this area regularly and rarely encounter other people. We have unofficially adopted trails 35 and 100 and keep them open to horse travel. This is the current status of that area and I feel it should remain the same. I do not see it being a huge controversial issue; it is basically keeping it the way it is now. A wilderness designation would nice but not necessary. My experience has been that some users intentionally target area designated as Wilderness and use may actually increase.

Since the USFS (United States Forest Service) started enforcing the trail system / travel plan in the MLSNF. We are seeing less and less illegal motorized use on these trails. I realize there has been considerable "push back" from the motorized community to this effort and commend you!

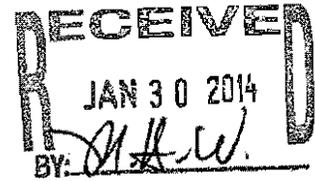
It always makes me shake my head when people write in to the paper claiming you "closed a trail they have been using for 20 years!" They are basically admitting to intentional illegal usage over a long period of time. This should not be rewarded!

Thank for the consideration
Stephen Schultz
La Sal, Utah



JAW 29 2014 ~

BISHOP'S PUBLIC LAND INITIATIVE
Grand County Council Wilderness Study Committee
29 January 2014



My feelings about the Bishop Public Land Initiative are intensely conflicted. I see the Initiative as an impressive, ambitious, and extraordinarily complex process with the goal of bringing some resolution to a collection of challenging public land disputes that have gripped Utah for decades. I like many others have grown weary of these disputes, although the issues precipitating them I care deeply about. On one hand I very much hope for a resolution even if it involves some extremely distasteful compromises of my values. On the other, I assume the driving force for this initiative is to break the "Wilderness Stalemate" and create a political environment, which would enable the rapid exploitation of carbon bearing geologic formations in the eastern Utah.

Given my conviction that the most serious threat facing our way of life, humanity in general and the stability of earth's entire biosphere, are the inevitable upheavals that will be created by a rapidly changing climate, which is clearly the result of the transfer of massive amounts of subsurface carbon into the atmosphere and the oceans. Having any involvement in a political process, (even simply voicing my opinion) that will accelerate carbon extraction, creates disgust and bitter sense of cynicism. In addition, one of the related issues is the discussion of federal vs. state control of public lands. I sincerely believe the most important thing we can do, is to maintain the current system of public land management by the federal government. I find it madding that the same congressmen involved in this initiative indicate that they will actively work for the transfer of federally managed lands to the state of Utah, a scenario I find nightmarish and which that I am violently opposed to. This fact adds deeply to my cynicism of the Initiative. Nonetheless remaining silent when given the opportunity to speak up about issues that I care deeply about seems foolish.

I will attempt to keep the comments that I would like to make to the Grand County Council, Bishop Initiative Study Committee quite simple.

I strongly support a maximum amount of designated Wilderness in Grand County as well as the entirety of Utah. The minimum amount that I would find acceptable would be all of the existing Wilderness Study Areas, but I favor all qualifying wild lands with Wilderness characteristics to be seriously considered for inclusion, in general I agree with Wilderness establishment in those areas delineated in America's Red Rock Wilderness Act. I believe the best legal process for the preservation of this land is via the Wilderness Act, and the next best way is to incorporate land into the National Park System. Thus if this Initiative fails to designate a meaningful amount of Wilderness, I would be supportive any number of Antiquities Act actions and the creation of a Greater Canyonlands Monument and other monuments.

In addition although it is not in Grand County I request that the Grand County support the Navajo Nation's proposal for the Dine Bikeyah National Conservation Area in San Juan County.

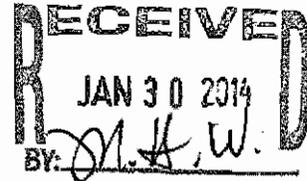
Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Paul Frank

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Frank".

329 Hillside Drive
Moab, Utah
435 259 5381

January 28, 2014



To the Grand County Council Bishop Initiative Committee

Thank you for allowing us some participation on this issue. I have lived in Moab since 1984 and I have long supported wilderness and followed the Wilderness debate in our state.

This initiative is mostly about delineating the land so mineral extraction can begin. But please remember that once the land is developed it can never be the same again. My values force me into begging for protection as I believe we need to find other ways to survive without continuing to burn fossil fuels.

I am in favor of designating as much land as possible as wilderness. At a minimum, I would like for you to support all the land currently designated in America's Red Rock Act. This land should all be protected under the Wilderness Act of 1964 to have maximum preservation.

I appreciate this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
Anne Clare Erickson

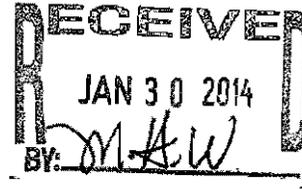
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne Clare Erickson".

329 Hillside Dr
Moab, Utah 84532

January 30, 2014

Grand County Council
125 E. Center
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:

I understand that Congressman Rob Bishop has proposed a public lands bill that would create national legislation to create an array of public land management designations in southeastern Utah, including Grand County. I have lived in Moab, in Grand County, for 18 years, and love this area of the world, its unspoiled beauty, the community of people who have lived here and live here now, and the fact that our county is largely economically based on a variety of tourism opportunities. For the most part, I think that the millions of visitors to this area share our love for the high desert beauty and help us take good care of it. Therefore, I thank you for inviting the public to submit written comments about this proposed public lands bill.

My letter is a plea to you, Congressman Bishop, and Grand County Council, to take the large overview of the future of this area, and to make it possible to protect much of the county as wilderness. My family and I hike in the Mill Creek Wilderness area, weekly, and often hike in Labyrinth Canyon, Goldbar Canyon and wilderness areas in the Book Cliffs. It is important to protect these areas from fossil fuel extraction.

My letter is also a plea to you to reconsider the demands that various fossil fuel extraction companies are making on you, and rather, to take into account the futures of those of us who live and work in Grand County, of our children, grandchildren and posterity. My fear is that you will take the short term view, sacrifice lands for the profit of a few at the cost of all of our futures. My guess is that most of the fossil fuels left to extract will require much of our water and not even go to meeting our needs, but instead be shipped off to China or somewhere else. Is this really how we want to leave our home for future generations? We need to protect the little water we have in this high desert, and we need to protect the ecosystem developed over millennia that provides for the health of our soil and air and the other species that help keep this all in balance. We live in an area where both solar and wind power could be utilized – certainly on an individual basis, and where conservation of energy in our homes could go a long way toward less dependence on fossil fuel.

Thank you for your consideration of these thoughts,

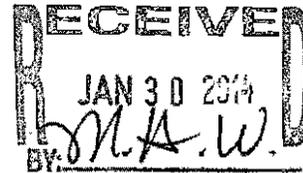
Marcia Tendick
Marcia Tendick

*1889 Plateau Circle
Moab, UT 84532*

From: Marcy Till, POBox 368, Moab, UT 84532

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

1-27-14



Dear Council members:

I would like to share my opinion that we should be actively pursuing the designation of Wilderness within Grand County. The Bishop Public Lands Initiative presents me with an opportunity to share my opinion and reasons for it. Through Wilderness designation we will be working to preserve and protect air and water quality, as well as the magnificent landscapes that we treasure.

I have lived in Grand County for 26 years, raising two children here, working for Grand County, the City of Moab, and Grand County School District at various times, as well as being a co-owner of a local retail business on Main Street. Moab is my forever home. Currently, I co-own the Tom Till Gallery on Main Street, as well as provide accounting services, and teach horseback riding lessons in Spanish Valley.

I have spent a lot of time outdoors, in the backcountry of Grand County. I currently routinely ride horses 15-20 miles at a time over dirt roads, across the desert, and up the mountain, in preparation for endurance rides of 50 or 100 miles. In the past I have hiked hundreds of miles through canyons, over slickrock, up mountainsides, across streams, through deep sand, and into pristine, densely silent places. I have floated and navigated rafts through many river miles – meditatively on the flat water, exuberantly through the rapids. Customers that come into my store are awe-struck by our landscapes and their ability to go to a place that is “all to themselves” if even for a few hours – by foot, in their campers, by jeep, by bicycle, by horseback. (And yes, it is my understanding that there can be areas that are accessible by vehicle. Or it is up to us to make some of those areas! We can have it all if we work together.) This is the beauty of wilderness. This is the necessity of wilderness to our society – a reminder of the vast natural mystery, peace, and sacredness that still exists in this fast-paced, hectic, electronic, digital world. It is accessible to us all. It is vital to my well-being.

From a business owner’s point of view I would like to voice my concern about the degradation of our community by the unprecedented oil and gas development on our public lands currently. We can destroy and change the view of a landscape for the next hundred years with a bulldozer in a matter of days. These industries use our water supply at a rate that is alarming and a genuine threat to our health and safety. Future water availability is a real concern. These industries diminish our air quality. They destroy wildlife habitat. All these things contribute to the VERY REAL THREAT that our tourism industry will suffer. The tourism industry, whether we like it or not, is the staple of the economic health in our community. Tourists come here from all over the world to see and become a part of our fantastic environment, even if just for a brief time. We cannot afford to jeopardize this trend.

I urge the Grand County Council to recommend as much Wilderness designation as possible in our county. We have the opportunity to voice this opinion now. Let’s use it to our advantage.

Sincerely,

Marcy Till

Marcy Till

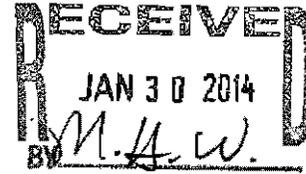
4150 Spanish Valley Dr.



WAYNE Y. HOSKISSON
MOAB, UTAH

Jan. 28, 2014

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



Dear Council members and Public Lands Committee,

For many years I have been involved in advocating for wilderness. Whenever I discuss wilderness I always quote portions of the first section of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

"In order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States and its possessions, leaving no lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness."

"A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."

It is important to remember what we are talking about. The Wilderness Act is unique in using beautifully descriptive language to describe a human aspiration. I have yet to find such language in other Congressional legislation. The Wilderness Act remains the best tool for conserving nature and for keeping nature the way it is today.

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. In Grand County we are fortunate to live in a place where much of the land retains these kinds of characteristics. We have a responsibility to retain this naturalness for future generations of Americans. We cannot make good decisions based on narrow and parochial interests of some of us in the present day. This is an opportunity to consider not just what our world will look like now but what the future will look like.

As a volunteer I was involved in the changes made to America's Red Rock Wilderness Act in 1998 and subsequently. I was involved with a large number of citizens in creating this act. It has the support of many in Utah and across the United States. As a volunteer leader in the Sierra Club I helped shepherd America's Red Rock Wilderness Act through the formal process of getting the Sierra Club Board of Directors to endorse the Act. In fact, the Sierra Club was the first organization to formally support the expansion of the Act in 1998. While America's Red Rock Wilderness Act has not yet been enacted by Congress many parts of it have been protected in different ways since it was first introduced in Congress by Utah Rep. Wayne Owens. The Cedar Mountains Wilderness

was created in 2006. A number of wilderness areas in Washington County were designated in 2009. The Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument was created in September 1996. I was there with my wife to hear President Clinton announce the proclamation to create the monument. We were thrilled to see the President create a new monument in Utah. There was a local and statewide furor over the monument. But even at the time there were people who approved, undoubtedly more statewide than locally but still even in southern Utah somewhere between every tenth and every fifth person you met on the street approved of the monument. They just didn't drte speak up in public. Within a short time the majority of people in Utah supported the monument. Sometimes there was the caveat that they just did not like the way it was done. Today the town of Escalante thrives in a way that was inconceivable in 1995. Strangely this sequence has accompanied the designation of every single National Park/National Monument in Utah. There were similar reactions to the 1984 Utah Wilderness Act. This has been going on for almost 100 years and people in Utah never seem to learn anything from the last monument or national park.

The Grand Staircase-Escalante NM happened in exactly the same situation we see today. The president created the GSENM because Congress failed to act. The created the GSENM because the BLM failed to use the authority it has to protect the land. We are in that situation right now. I believe Rep. Rob Bishop wants something different to happen this time. He displayed remarkable integrity when dealing with conservation organizations when he created the Cedar Mountains Wilderness. I want to see him have a chance at success.

I have hiked in or visited most of the wilderness units proposed by the Sierra Club and the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance. Some wilderness units I use regularly such as Goldbar, Mill Creek, Behind the Rocks, Hunter, Porcupine Rim and Morning Glory. Some I see less often such as units adjacent to Arches NP, Mary Jane, Fisher Towers, Desolation Canyon, Diamond Canyon, Mexico Point, Horsethief Point and Labyrinth Canyon. I would like to see all of these areas designated Wilderness. I would like to see all proposed wilderness in Utah designated as Wilderness. When the BLM completed a re-inventory of proposed wilderness in 1999 they largely agreed with the inventory of conservation groups supporting America's Red Rock Wilderness Act as it was in 1996. There were some oddities in the assessment of the BLM in Grand County. For instance the 1999 report stated that the lower portion of the south or right hand fork of Mill Creek did not qualify as wilderness "because of the ease of access from Moab." Inaccessibility is not a requirement for wilderness. Difficult access is not a requirement for wilderness. Remoteness is not a requirement for wilderness. Most of the people in Utah can see designated Wilderness from their home.

In 1984 Congress passed the Utah Wilderness Act. This act specified that the Forest Service "shall review the wilderness option when the [Forest management] plans are revised, which revisions will ordinarily occur on a ten year cycle, or at least every fifteen years..." Today is thirty years later and now is the time to look at expanding the National Wilderness Preservation System to include National Forests in Utah and Grand County. Since the mid 1990s I have been involved in developing wilderness proposals for National Forest lands in Utah. There is one generally agreed upon proposal for Forest Service wilderness in Utah. At the end of this letter is a map showing the portion in Grand County. The Grand Canyon Trust created usable maps of this proposal. If you do not already have GIS information for proposed Forest Service wilderness I would be glad to make sure Grand County receives it. I have hiked in all of these areas and cannot conceive of a better use for these roadless Forest Service areas.

Rep. Bishop and Rep. Chaffetz have said we all need to give up something if we are going to pass a public lands bill for southeastern Utah. I recognize this reality. I really

will not be able to make a decision about whether I would support a legislative proposal until I see the entire package. Conservation as outlined above is my objective in this process. Grand County can try to be creative in accomplishing this but it must present something that results in real, on the ground protection for a lot of areas. And it must be permanent protection. I truly cannot know what or where I might be willing to compromise until I see a proposal that is headed in a balanced direction.

On Oct. 22, 2013 Phil Taylor reported on Rep. Bishop's plan to create comprehensive lands legislation for southeastern Utah in *Environment and Energy News*.

So instead of knee-jerk opposition to wilderness designations, Bishop is urging county officials to view them as "currency" that could be traded for "tangible benefits" such as control over roads, energy projects, timber development and acquisition of federal lands for parks or airports. "Instead of instinctively pushing for as little wilderness as possible, I would hope you would approach it this time with a different mindset," he wrote to the Wayne County Commission. "The more we're willing to designate, the more we can expect on the other side of the ledger."

The difficult part is knowing how wilderness designation can be used as "currency." What does Goldbar buy? What does Labyrinth Canyon buy? I think the idea of using wilderness as currency is a relatively crude analogy. I find it difficult to think of wilderness as currency. I think what we all want is certainty. So that is the quest: find all the pieces that will fit together to create certainty. Commissioner Jackson expressed this concern in Taylor's article.

"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.

Getting to this certainty will take more than "good faith." It will take moving towards a balanced proposal.

Right now I think the process looks rushed. I do not believe that the Grand County Council can get to a balanced proposal without taking some time to communicate with a lot of people. I am relatively certain that if you are not talking to conservation organizations your chances of success are dismal. You can push all of the hard part of looking at all sides to the offices of Rep. Bishop and Rep Chaffetz or you can assume some responsibility for accomplishing some of the hard work to reach the desired certainty. I do not see other counties doing this. From my point of view it looks like local politicians are trying to undermine this process.

Two weeks ago I met with the Wayne County Commission. Even after Rep. Bishops's urging, the Commission still proposes a very little land for wilderness designation.

I would like to see Rep. Bishop and Rep. Chaffetz succeed. I would like to see them walk away with a prize no one else has been able to claim. I want them to achieve a comprehensive package of legislation to deal with the largest chunks of wilderness in Utah. Two thirds of all proposed BLM wilderness in Utah lie within the six counties involved in this process.

From all points of view, if this process fails then America's Red Rock Wilderness Act and the possibility of a new national monument remain. In fact, southeast Utah contains at least three easily identifiable potential national monuments. Or one really stupendous monument. If Rep. Bishop does not pass reasonable legislation then America's Red Rock Wilderness Act will continue being introduced in Congress. The president may yet

designate a monument to overcome an inadequate attempt at protective measures.

I also have deeply personal reasons for desiring Wilderness. When I was 14 or 15 I went on a 10 day backpacking trip in the High Uintas Primitive Area. Images from that trip have lasted my entire life. Later after returning home from Viet Nam in 1969 I was bitter, depressed and a little self-destructive. I started hiking and camping in the mountains above home. One of those places became Utah's first Wilderness in 1978. During that time I felt better. It was always those childhood memories that allowed me to find some peaceful place in my own thoughts. I started taking my own children camping and hiking. I hoped they could find that kind of life affirming experience. It worked. Later my wife went in to a multi-year episode of severe depression. I think she never started to really recover until she started camping and hiking. In the 1980s we discovered the deserts and mountains of southern Utah. Two months before her 48th birthday we went on an 8 day backing trip in the desert of southeastern Utah. It was supposed to be a 7 day trip but I over estimated how fast we would be able to move. I had hiked the same route in 5 days the year before. After this she was totally on fire. She soon went to work for the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance. Without doubt I will continue to advocate for wilderness until I am dead or speechless.

For over 20 years I have been a dedicated volunteer in the Sierra Club not because I love the Sierra Club but because we so often have the same objectives. The Sierra Club existed before my father was born and I am sure it will be around long after my 10 month old grandson has children.

If you want certainty from Rep. Bishop's initiative it will only happen if you take that long view.

Some things are essential. The current wilderness study areas are the absolute bottom line for wilderness designation. It will also take looking at the 1999 BLM wilderness inventory. But you will also need to look at places like the Dome Plateau. Proposed wilderness boundaries there were drawn carefully to avoid significant impacts and potential for development. You will also need to look at Forest Service wilderness.

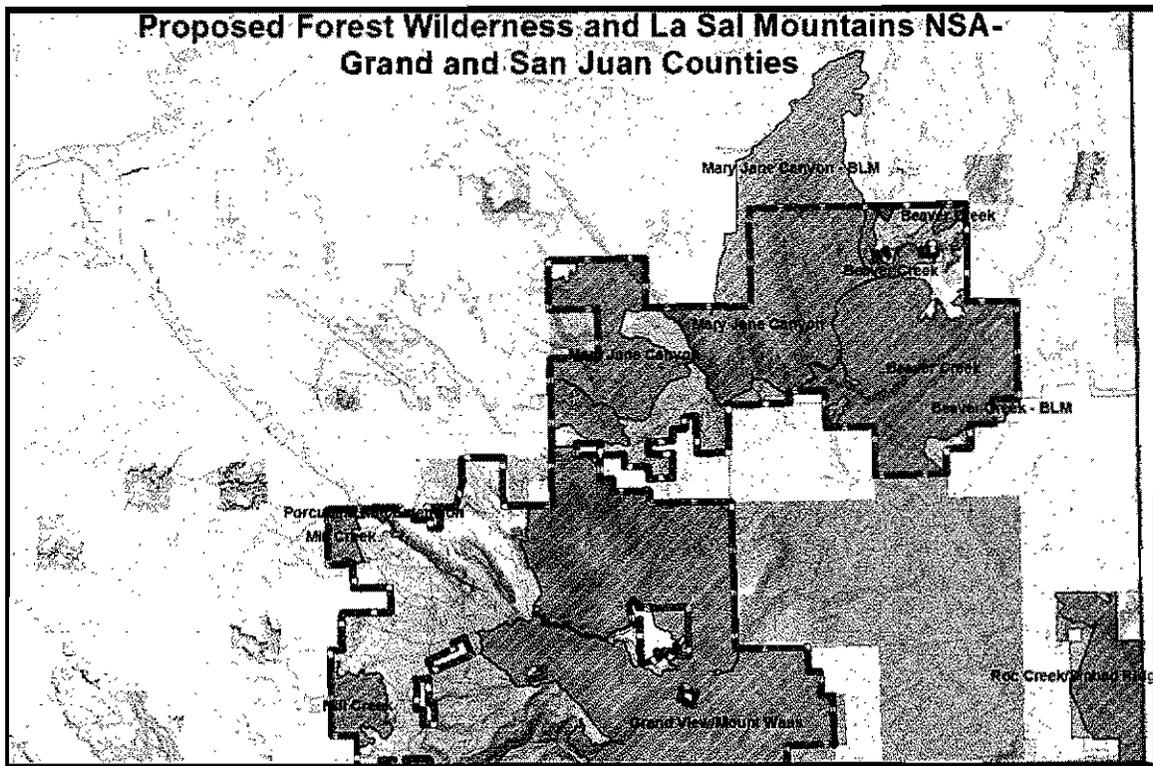
I am writing to you as an individual and as a resident of Grand County. This letter does not represent the Sierra Club or its position on the process created by Rep. Bishop and Rep. Chaffetz.

Thanks for your attention,

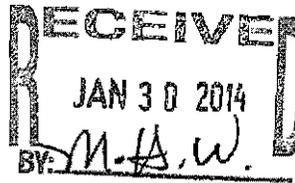


Wayne Y. Hoskisson
PO Box 14
Moab, UT 84532

cc. Fred Ferguson



Map of proposed Forest Service wilderness in Grand County.



To whom it may concern

I am writing regarding public land use in Grand County, UT. As stated in the Utah Public Lands Initiative status report, responsible balance is necessary between conservation and the extractive industry. I appreciate the call for compromise and creativity. As evidenced by the recent government shutdown, our local economy is heavily dependent on our public lands. People come to enjoy our public lands in their unadulterated state and support our local economy while doing so. If we chose to put mines, oil rigs, gas wells and nuclear power plants in our view shed and our watershed we will compromise the economic and ecological viability of our public lands. The argument that the extractive industry is good for jobs is one with a short fuse. Most mining is boom and bust and can not be depended on for long term economic support. Ruining our air and water for short term gain is unconscionable. Our families deserve more than that. I think here is where the compromise and creativity must enter. Grand County should promote alternative energy industry as a magnet for jobs. Not only is this more sustainable in the long run, more palatable and visually pleasing, it can be the source of jobs in a visionary way. Attracting other sources of income for ourselves and our offspring is an important part of our moral responsibility. Relying on traditional extractive industries whose bottom line grows fat, while our environment suffers is an outmoded paradigm. I do not support use of our lands for oil shale and tar sands development. I believe all current Wilderness Study Areas should become official Wilderness areas. Our watershed should be protected at all costs, not auctioned off to the highest bidders. I support multiple use opportunities on our public lands. I advocate for conservation and recreation above all else. Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion
Cassandra Paup
2409 Old City Park Rd
Moab, UT 84532

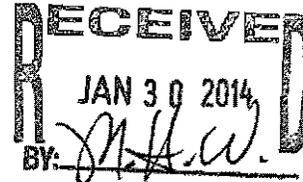


The Nature Conservancy
Moab Project Office
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tel [435] 259-4629
fax [435] 259-2677
nature.org/utah

January 28, 2014

Grand County Council
125 East Center
Moab, UT 84532



ATTN: Public Lands Bill

Dear Grand County Council Members:

Thank you for your recent request for public comments and suggestions regarding the Eastern Utah Public Lands Initiative (the Initiative) being proposed by Congressman Rob Bishop. We very much appreciate your leadership in moving this process forward, and the opportunity to share our views.

The Conservancy is hopeful that the Initiative will resolving a range of public lands issues with input from local government leaders, environmental organizations and other special interest groups. We believe that a balanced approach will make economic sense for Grand County, and can support current and continued commercial uses of the public lands while conserving our natural heritage for future generations.

The Nature Conservancy

The Nature Conservancy is a leading conservation organization working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people. The Conservancy and its more than 1 million members have protected nearly 120 million acres worldwide. Our success is due in part to our ability to seek conservation solutions that recognize the social and economic needs of people. We have been active in Utah for over 30 years with conservation projects spanning the State. The Conservancy's Utah programs are supported by more than 6,000 members, 400 volunteers and an active board of 37 business and civic leaders. Our State Office is located in Salt Lake City.

Grand County has been a special focus of Conservancy's efforts since the early 1990's when we established the 900-acre Scott M. Matheson Wetlands Preserve located on the shores of the Colorado River. Today the Conservancy owns close to 3,000 in acres in Grand County and holds conservation easements on an additional 1,426 acres. Although a non-profit organization, the Conservancy voluntarily pays property taxes on the properties it owns in Utah, including substantial taxes paid in Grand County.

Our signature project in Grand County is protection and restoration of the Colorado River corridor. By protecting lands along the corridor, the Conservancy helped to conserve one of the West's most scenic and economically important stretches of the Colorado River. The

Conservancy is now facilitating an innovative partnership of private, state and federal entities committed to restoring, protecting, and maintaining a healthy riparian ecosystem in southeastern Utah's Colorado River watershed.

To advance a balanced approach, the Conservancy recommends that any proposed legislation should be built with the following provisions in mind:

- Assurance that the conservation of public lands and natural amenities found in Grand County will provide an economic advantage by attracting businesses across a range of sectors critical to the county's economic future.
- Assurance that people from all parts of the spectrum collaborate in the process.
- Assurance that Grand County continues to benefit from appropriate mineral exploration, cattle grazing, and production on lands throughout eastern Utah.
- Assurance that the final legislation is a locally-crafted solution that has support from the people whose lives and livelihoods are linked to the lands we wish to conserve.

Grand County's Outstanding Natural Features

Encompassing over 3,684 square miles, of which 3% is water Grand County boasts some of the most striking scenery found anywhere in the American Southwest. From the La Sal Mountains to the Colorado River, from aspen forests to red rock canyons, Grand County is also a region rich in biological diversity. Among many hundreds of native plant and animal species within Grand County, 42 have some type of federal or state special management status. Watersheds support valuable riparian lands and key aquatic habitats, and relict sites on mesa tops are of special value to science. The County has a long and rich human heritage; thousands of cultural sites dot the land, and more-recent settlers have sustained themselves from the area's natural resources. Nearly 90% of lands in the county are under federal or state ownership among five primary agencies, whereas private lands constitute less than 5% of the land base. While we salute Grand County's current federal, state, tribal and local land stewards, additional protection for certain attributes on public lands and waters, as could be achieved through a lands bill for eastern Utah, could greatly enhance the conservation of Grand County's outstanding natural resources, while also helping to sustain the county's local communities and economies at the same time.

Grand County's Economic Assets

The public lands and waters 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. A key challenge facing Grand County leaders is how to maximize the long-term return from this valuable asset. Today tourism and recreation on public lands and rivers are the largest economic sector in Grand County. Businesses operating in these areas are the main drivers of the local economy and also produce a significant amount of tax revenue. In effect, a significant reason for the county's economic success stems from the diversity found today within its tourism and recreation economy. Finding ways to sustain and develop tourism and recreation that appeals to a wide mixture of visitors and residents is paramount to long-term well-being and economic resilience. The Conservancy believes that the Eastern Utah Public Lands Bill provides

Grand County with an opportunity to decide how best to utilize public lands to remain economically competitive.

Summary of the Conservancy's Priorities

The Conservancy responded to Congressman Bishop's invitation to submit priorities for a public lands bill in eastern Utah on March 22, 2013. A copy of our letter is attached. In summary, the Conservancy suggests conservation of four landscapes of particular biological importance as follows:

- **Eastern Canyonlands** - encompassing the lands to the east and south of Canyonlands National Park in San Juan County which include the Dugout Ranch and associated grazing allotments, now home to our Canyonlands Research Center. The Conservancy recommends a designation to further joint research efforts at the Center and protect imperiled ecosystems and species of concern.
- **Greater Green River** - including Desolation, Gray and Labyrinth Canyons and portions of the adjacent highlands of the West Tavaputs Plateau, Uinta Basin and Book Cliffs. The Conservancy recommends a combination of designations to protect the lands and waters in this area, including legislated provisions to inventory and safeguard a number of small sites in the Uinta Basin which support imperiled and rare wildflower species.
- **Colorado River Corridor** - comprising lands adjacent to the Colorado River from Westwater Canyon – where the Colorado River enters Utah – to Canyonlands National Park. The Conservancy recommends a combination of designations to protect the lands and waters in this area thus creating a continuous protected corridor from Grand Junction Colorado to the Grand Canyon.
- **San Juan River Watershed** - containing lands adjacent to the San Juan River and critical habitat for the Gunnison sage-grouse. The Conservancy recommends a federal and state land and mineral trade to protect grouse habitat.

These four landscapes represent priorities for the Conservancy, based upon our long standing history of protecting plants, animals and natural communities by conserving the lands and waters important to nature and people. We recognize that in any federal legislation process, the exact boundaries or type of designations will need additional thought, discussion, and refinement.

In our March letter to Congressman Bishop, the Conservancy also suggested three priority programs as follows:

- **Development by Design:** Utilizing the Conservancy's Development by Design, a science-based planning process to help balance the needs of planned development, such as mining, oil and gas, and infrastructure, with those of nature conservation.
- **Utah Conservation Trust Fund:** Creation of a Utah Conservation Trust Fund modeled after Wyoming's and funded through contributions from energy companies, a small

increase in royalty taxes and/or the sale of non-ecologically significant BLM land or mineral rights to the State or private interests.

- **Community Impact Fund:** The establishment of a Community Impact Fund also funded through contributions from energy companies and private foundations to further bolster the economic future of counties participating in the Eastern Utah Lands Bill Initiative.

Protecting the Colorado River

The Conservancy's number one priority in Grand County is to protect the outstanding resources that have bearing on viable populations of the four endangered fishes (Colorado Pikeminnow, Razorback sucker, Humpback chub, and Bonytail), riparian habitat, and scenic and recreational values of the Colorado River. To this end, we recommend a designation through the Wild and Scenic River Act in Westwater Canyon and a National Conservation Area for the remainder of the corridor. Such designations would utilize the national and international visibility created by the Colorado River and safeguard the economic impact of recreation along the river (see attached handout titled *Utah Colorado River, Inc.*). Further increased protection will help to attract visitors or retirees with the potential to relocate and bring new businesses and wealth to the region.

Of special note is Westwater Canyon. In 1989, Senator Jake Garn introduced the "Colorado River Westwater Canyon Wild and Scenic River Addition Act" The Bill was co-sponsored by Orrin Hatch with support from then Grand County Commissioners and passed both bodies of Congress. However, it was never signed into law. The Conservancy believes local support remains strong for protection of Westwater Canyon, and thus a feasible candidate for protection under Congressman Bishop's public lands initiative. If warranted, we would be happy to invite former Senator Garn, who is a member of the Conservancy's Utah Chapter Board of Trustees, to speak to the Grand County Council regarding this effort to protect Westwater Canyon through the Bishop legislative process.

Value to Grand County

The Conservancy believes that our recommendations for the proposed legislation would be of great value to Grand County and the State of Utah for at least the following reasons:

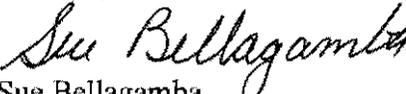
- Special federal designation for the lands and waters along the Colorado and Green Rivers would contribute to the economy of Grand County by publicizing and promoting their values and special protective status with tourists throughout the world.
- Special federal designation for the lands and waters along the Colorado and Green Rivers would assist resource managers by increasing funding and resources to meet specific management objectives.
- Special federal designation, such as National Conservation Area, Wild and Scenic River designation or similar concept, for the Colorado River and Green River corridors would provide a management alternative less restrictive than some other designations that may be considered.

- Certain recommended actions are aimed at *removing* Colorado Pikeminnow and other listed fish species, and *precluding* the Yellow-billed cuckoo from listing as Endangered or Threatened.

Summary

The spectacular public lands of Grand County give the region a natural competitive advantage to enhance economic prosperity and resiliency. Building on the success of past wilderness and land legislation such as the Washington County Growth and Conservation Act of 2009, the Conservancy hopes similar legislative initiatives can address both growth and conservation needs in eastern Utah. The conservation of Utah's natural and human heritage will depend on multiple stakeholders working cooperatively. The Nature Conservancy looks forward to being part of this process and is pleased to assist Grand County in any way.

Sincerely,


Sue Bellagamba
Canyonlands Regional Director

cc: Dave Livermore, TNC, Utah State Director
Congressman Rob Bishop
Congressman Jason Chaffetz
Alan Matheson - Utah Governor's Office

att: March 22, 2013 Letter to Congressman Bishop
Utah Colorado River, Inc.

March 22, 2013

Honorable Rob Bishop
123 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Fred.Ferguson@mail.house.gov

Dear Congressman Bishop:

Thank you for your letter of February 15th inviting The Nature Conservancy's input regarding public lands designations and conservation initiatives in eastern Utah. We appreciate both the opportunity to comment, and your leadership in initiating a stakeholder process that will potentially lead to federal legislation.

The following narrative is intended to highlight general concepts and initiatives we would like to see enacted. This information is preliminary in nature and is not intended to capture all concepts and programs. Rather, it offers an outline to serve as a basis for further discussions. Please also note that any formal endorsement from the Conservancy for specific legislation will require approvals from The Nature Conservancy's Utah Chapter Board of Trustees and our Executive Leadership Team in Washington. This said, we are pleased to offer initial comments focusing on four areas: 1.) Priority Landscapes, 2.) Priority Programs, 3.) Stakeholder Process Design, and 4.) Other Congressional Priorities. We hope this information will be helpful in your deliberations, and we look forward to continuing to participate in the dialogue you have initiated.

Background Information

The Nature Conservancy has been active in eastern Utah for over two decades. Our major projects in the region have included the 900 acre Scott M. Matheson Wetlands Preserve near Moab, the 300,000 acre Dugout Ranch outside of Canyonlands National Park, over 4,000 acres of conservation easements and fee lands along the 30 mile stretch of the Colorado River Corridor in Grand County, and a major public/private conservation initiative in the Book Cliffs.

Beyond eastern Utah, the Conservancy has experience in southwestern Utah that may be relevant to the process you are initiating. In Washington County we have helped to: a.) implement the Washington County HCP, b.) establish the 60,000 acre Red Cliffs Desert Reserve, c.) launch the Virgin River Headwaters project on the Kolob Plateau, d.) sponsor Envision Dixie establishing a grassroots vision for growth and conservation, and e.) assist in passing the Washington County Growth and Conservation Act of 2009.

Elsewhere, our staff works closely and collaboratively with the Forest Service, the BLM, private landowners, local communities and other federal and state partners. We have experience in major science-based public lands planning efforts including Landscape Conservation Forecasting and Energy by Design. Our State Office is in Salt Lake City, and

we have maintained a Moab Project Office since 1992. Our Utah efforts are supported by 20 staff, 400 volunteers, 6,000 Utah members and a 30 person Utah Board comprised of business and civic leaders statewide.

Priority Landscapes

Following, in order of priority, are four landscapes of interest to the Conservancy in eastern Utah. Guided by our science based work - we develop, analyze and use the best available conservation science and a science-based rigor to set priorities, make decisions, and take action - and our non-confrontational approach, we believe these are the places with the greatest opportunity to craft innovative solutions to complex problems at scales that matter and in ways that will endure.

Priority Landscape #1 – Eastern Canyonlands

Overview

Some of the most spectacular canyon country in America, the Eastern Canyonlands landscape stretches from the Dark Canyon Wilderness Area northward through the archaeological treasure troves of Fable Valley and Beef Basin, across the dramatic cliff-walled summits of Lavender and Bridger Jack Mesas, to the Colorado River in Canyonlands National Park. This rugged landscape is where Al Scorup carved out his cattle ranch in the early 1900s. Now owned by The Nature Conservancy, the 300,000 acre Dugout Ranch is the only large block of private land in the Eastern Canyonlands landscape, which spans over a million acres. The Dugout is now home to the Canyonlands Research Center, a collaborative partnership among scientists, public land managers and local land users to solve the issues that matter most to people who rely on Utah's public lands (see attached handout).

Importance to People & Nature

From redrock canyons and winding streams to snowcapped peaks, this region and its resources support communities, working ranches, businesses, and provide recreation opportunities for thousands. Each year, people flock to ride off-road vehicles, bike the remote dirt roads, hike the meandering canyons, climb the Wingate cliffs, and find solitude in a place of rare natural beauty. The Eastern Canyonlands region also provides crucial habitat for seven vanishing wildlife species and eleven globally-rare plants. Perennial streams such as North Cottonwood Creek, Indian Creek and Salt Creek sustain remarkable freshwater environments as they descend from the Abajo Mountains to the Colorado River. Lining these streams are cottonwood and willow woodlands – prime examples of plant communities that are scarce in this arid region.

Need for Action

Southeastern Utah boasts a rich and proud heritage of ranching, farming, hunting and native peoples connecting to and living off the land. The lands of the Eastern Canyonlands region still support these traditional ways of life, from active beef cattle operations to renowned elk, turkey and deer populations. Action is needed now to secure a sustainable future for the people who rely on this region's resources, and to safeguard our state's economy, which relies on the natural treasures that draw visitors from around the world.

Eastern Canyonlands Recommendations:

For the Eastern Canyonlands landscape the Conservancy proposes a combination of federal land designations that could yield important lasting solutions for both human and natural communities. Our recommendations for the Eastern Canyonlands region include:

- National Conservation Area (NCA) or similar designation for land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. National Forest (USFS), and National Park Service (NPS) incorporating the goals and lands of the Canyonlands Research Center. The focus of an NCA or similar designation would be threefold: 1) Enhanced protection for key species, natural features and natural communities, 2) A structure for new science and practical land-use solutions to sustain livelihoods, economies and natural resources, and 3) A framework for coordination and resource sharing among public land management agencies.
- Of special interest to the Conservancy is the Canyonlands Research Center as mentioned above. We recommend that any federal land designation in the Eastern Canyonlands region promote the vision and work of the Center by codifying commitment of and funding to support to the Canyonlands Research Center. Further, we recommend that proposed legislation ensure the continued private ownership of the deeded lands owned by the Conservancy at the Dugout Ranch. In order to enhance research efforts at the Center we recommend the Conservancy maintain our existing federal grazing privileges in the area, while also allowing for special grazing considerations such as extended non-use or other grazing systems for science purposes without the risk of temporary or permanent use by other permittees.
- Specially designated Wilderness Areas embedded in the proposed NCA for portions of Lockhart Basin, Indian Creek, Bridger Jack Mesa, Beef Basin and Dark Canyon Plateau and other key sites adjacent to Canyonlands National Park.
- Exchange of all School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) surface parcels and mineral rights (with BLM) within the NCA (or similar designation). Further, the Conservancy recommends that the proposed legislation not result in new acquisition by SITLA of lands within the NCA or similar designation.

Priority Landscape #2 – Greater Green River: White River/West Tavaputs Plateau/Book Cliffs/Labyrinth and Stillwater Canyons

Overview

Desolation Canyon and adjacent highlands of the West Tavaputs Plateau and Book Cliffs are some of the most rugged and remote lands in the continental United States. Home to bison, elk, moose, and Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, these lands also harbor one of the world's greatest collections of rock art and prehistoric sites – and through it all runs the Green River and its tributary the White River.

Importance to People & Nature

At more than one mile deep, Desolation Canyon is Utah's deepest canyon and habitat for seven native warm water fish species. Whitewater enthusiasts enjoy boating the rapids and

exploring Utah's famous outlaw hideouts, ancient dinosaur habitats, and Fremont Native American petroglyphs, all found in Desolation Canyon. Downstream, south of the town of Green River, are Labyrinth and Stillwater canyons, where the Green River meanders through a deeply incised canyon bounded by steep, sandstone cliffs. Explorer John Wesley Powell named the first canyon "Labyrinth" for its many intricate twists and turns, and the second "Stillwater" for its placid river flows. Completely different from that of Desolation Canyon, this stretch of river has no rapids, making it an excellent experience for canoe paddlers of all abilities. In this remote river stretch one can find nesting Mexican spotted owls, lambing areas for desert bighorn sheep and roosting areas for burrowing owls.

The White River, the second largest tributary of the Green, cuts a rugged scenic trough into the high desert plains of the Uinta Basin. The White River is unusual in that it has nearly natural flow conditions and thus is an essential component of native fish conservation in the Upper Colorado River Basin, especially for the recovery of endangered Colorado pikeminnow and razorback sucker. Due to the river's mild rapids, the White provides a special river boating experience for families to view sights not often seen on most Western rivers.

Need for Action

The spectacular regions of Green and White Rivers includes areas that are widely recognized as supporting important cultural, biological and recreational values. Water demands, recreation and resource development are all on the rise in different places and at different paces within this region. The most vital elements of the Greater Green River landscape – those valued both by residents and visitors – are not sustainable without a new protection plan that recognizes and links the entire system.

Greater Green River Recommendations:

The Conservancy proposes using federal land and water designations to complement existing recommendations, successfully protecting the "system" versus the "parts" of the Green River basin. Our recommendations for the Greater Green River include:

- Wilderness, Wild and Scenic River, National Conservation Area or similar designation or combination of designations for the lands adjacent to and waters of Desolation Canyon, including portions of the West Tavaputs Plateau (i.e. Range Creek, Rock Creek, Beckwith Plateau) and the Book Cliffs (i.e. Tusher Canyon, She Canyon).
- Wild and Scenic River, National Conservation Area or similar designation or combination of designations for the White River, the Green River from Little Hole to the Utah state line, and the reach of the Green River south of Ouray to Sand Wash.
- Natural Heritage Sites or some similar designation to protect nine rare plant species in the Uinta Basin (see page 8 below).
- Wild and Scenic River, Wilderness, National Conservation Area or similar designation or combination of designations for Labyrinth and Stillwater Canyons from the town of Green River to the confluence with the Colorado River in Canyonlands National Park (approximately 120 miles).

- Exchange of all SITLA surface parcels and mineral rights (with BLM) within the specially-designated areas. Further, the Conservancy recommends that the proposed legislation not result in new acquisition by SITLA of lands within the specially-designated areas.

Priority Landscape #3 – Colorado River Corridor

Overview

From Westwater Canyon – where the Colorado River enters Utah to – Canyonlands National Park, the Colorado River flows past some of the world's most stunning canyon landscapes with names such as Fisher Towers, the Priest and Nuns, and Castle Rock. Of special note is Westwater Canyon, one of the most scenic and pristine river reaches in the West. The oldest exposed rock in Utah forms Westwater's dramatic inner canyon. This extremely hard rock narrows the river canyon, resulting in rapids of international reputation.

Importance to People & Nature

The Colorado River has shaped the landscape of eastern Utah as well as the human communities of the region. The river system is vital for agriculture and for the local tourist economy, boasting unparalleled recreational opportunities. Visitors from all over the world consider this river segment one of the most scenic resources in the United States. From Westwater to Moab, the Colorado River Corridor draws more than one half million people every year. The river corridor also sustains rare native wildlife and scarce plant communities including seven imperiled fish species endemic to the Upper Colorado River basin, cottonwood and willow riparian forests, Mexican spotted owls, peregrine falcons, desert bighorn sheep and bald eagles.

The Need for Action

Rural Utah communities dependent on the adjacent lands and healthy waters of the Colorado River face an unknown future from record drought and the realities of land uses such as recreation, mining, and grazing. With the Moab area growing in popularity as a second-home site and with the tourism industry booming, the urgency to protect the integrity of the Corridor landscapes is very real. The Colorado River from the Utah/Colorado border to Canyonlands National Park is one of the most important river reaches in the Colorado River Basin in terms of imperiled species, and yet it is the only significant stretch on the Colorado Plateau that remains unprotected by federal designation.

Colorado River Corridor Recommendations:

The Conservancy believes the Colorado River Corridor is deserving of additional protection to permanently safeguard the scenic, biological and recreational values of over 100 miles of river. Success in the Colorado River Corridor would mean a new future for the last significant unprotected stretch of the Colorado River by creating a continuous protected river corridor from the Grand Valley in Colorado to the Grand Canyon in Arizona. Our recommendations for the Colorado River Corridor include:

- National Conservation Area, Wild and Scenic River, or similar designation or combination of designations for lands and waters managed by the BLM from the

Utah/Colorado state line to Canyonlands National Park.

- Wilderness designation for approximately 32,000 acres surrounding Westwater Canyon.
- Wilderness designation in the vicinity of Mill Creek, Negro Bill Canyon, Behind the Rocks, and Beaver Creek per Grand County's 1999 Wilderness Plan and BLM's Moab Field Office Resource Management Plan.
- Exchange of all SITLA surface parcels and mineral rights (with BLM) within the specially-designated areas not already included in the Utah Recreational Land Exchange Act of 2009. Further, the Conservancy recommends that the proposed legislation not result in new acquisition by SITLA of lands within the specially-designated areas.

Priority Landscape #4 – San Juan River Basin

Overview

The San Juan River, as it incises through the heart of the Colorado Plateau, evokes wonder, splendor and solitude like few places on Earth. The river's serenity offers visitors from all over the world a chance to relax and enjoy the natural wonders of Utah's red rock desert.

Importance to People & Nature

The San Juan River Basin has a long and rich human heritage. This is the rugged landscape that in 1879 challenged early Mormon settlers as they sought to establish new communities in southeast Utah. More recent communities of Bluff, Blanding, and Monticello have sustained themselves with remarkable self-reliance by depending on the wide diversity of natural resources. The river is a continual source of water in an arid region, a lifeblood for the quality of life and economy of people who live along its route.

The lands and waters of the San Juan River basin also harbor rich biological diversity, including endangered fish species, Southwest willow flycatcher, and Utah's only population of Gunnison sage-grouse. Lowland riparian areas represent less than 0.2% of the total area of Utah, rivers and streams less than 0.1%, but these systems support a significant portion of Utah's native species. This is the case for the San Juan River's riparian woodlands, an aquatic ribbon of life through a harsh but beautiful landscape.

Need for Action

Like many rivers in the West, the San Juan faces increasing impacts from pollution, water diversions and invasive species such as tamarisk and Russian olive. A healthy river and a healthy economy go hand in hand. With strategic protection now, communities along the San Juan, and all Utahns, will reap the benefits of a healthy, resilient river, which can continue to support local livelihoods, a recreation-based economy and a haven for endangered species.

San Juan River Basin Recommendations:

For the San Juan River Basin, the Conservancy suggests a combination of federal land and water designations and SITLA/BLM land exchanges in key areas that benefit the most imperiled wildlife species and enhance favorite recreational opportunities. Our

recommendations for the San Juan River Basin include:

- **Wild and Scenic River or similar designation for the San Juan River downstream of the town of Bluff.**
- **Wilderness designations or similar designation for Grand Gulch, Road and Fish Canyons.**
- **Transfer of two SITLA parcels within the core occupied habitat for Gunnison sage-grouse to Utah Division of Wildlife Resources to strengthen the case against listing for the San Juan County population by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).**
- **Exchange of all SITLA mineral rights (with BLM) within the core occupied habitat for Gunnison sage-grouse to strengthen the case against listing for the San Juan County population by the USFWS.**
- **Exchange of all SITLA surface parcels and mineral rights (with BLM) within the specially-designated areas. Further, the Conservancy recommends that the proposed legislation not result in new acquisition by SITLA of lands within the specially-designated areas.**

Priority Landscapes Conclusion

In conclusion, these four landscapes and suggested federal actions represent priorities for the Conservancy, based upon our long standing history of protecting plants, animals and natural communities by conserving the lands and waters important to nature and people. We recognize that in any federal legislation process, the exact boundaries of these designations will need additional thought, discussion and refinement. Further, while the priority landscapes listed above focus on Utah's outstanding ecological features, the Conservancy is well aware of eastern Utah's cultural and archeological resources. Though cultural resource conservation is outside our area of focus, the Conservancy will support measures and designations that serve the twin goals of protecting archeological sites and ecological features at priority locations. One such designation would be a National Historic Trail or similar designation for the Hole-in-the-Rock Trail from Lake Powell to Bluff.

Priority Programs

Adopting specific land management protections within the landscapes described above is desirable, but so is the notion of properly mitigating ongoing energy development in the Uinta Basin and other energy-rich areas in eastern Utah. At this time, mitigation programs are not well coordinated and do not take into account the cumulative impacts of energy development in the Uinta Basin as a whole. To the extent eastern Utah development provisions are included in the anticipated legislation, as they were in the Washington County Growth and Conservation Act, the following programs should be authorized and funded as well:

- I. **Energy By Design** – Energy by Design (EBD) is a computer-modeling framework developed by the Conservancy in Wyoming, and now used globally, which seeks to

achieve “no net loss” of sensitive wildlife habitat or plant species within energy development regions. Data sets are collected on natural features and wildlife (e.g. sage-grouse strutting grounds, migration corridors, riparian areas etc.) and overlaid upon energy resources. Through a computer modeling analysis, recommendations result on how to avoid, minimize and/or offset the effects of energy development. A pilot EBD project has been completed with QEP Resources for a small portion of the Uinta Basin. The legislation proposed should require an EBD analysis for the entire Uinta Basin and other areas where energy potential is high. Again, the primary goal in using this modeling process is to achieve no net loss of biodiversity through avoidance, minimizing and/or offsets.

2. **Utah Conservation Trust Fund** – Once an EBD analysis is completed, it will likely be evident that significant offsets are needed for energy development in eastern Utah. In Wyoming, faced with a similar situation, the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust was created with a +/- \$50 million contribution from energy companies. Similarly, the legislation proposed should create a Utah Conservation Trust Fund (UCTF) in an amount at least similar to Wyoming’s and likely considerably more. UCTF could be funded through contributions from energy companies, a small increase in royalty taxes and/or the sale of non-ecologically significant BLM land or mineral rights to the State or private interests. The Fund could be administered by a new commission similar to the Utah Reclamation, Mitigation and Conservation Commission (URMCC) – which was established to mitigate the impacts of the Central Utah Project – or could be transferred for management to URMCC itself. Another potential manager/recipient is the State sponsored Utah Quality Growth Commission.
3. **Eastern Utah Community Impact Fund** – Knowing that energy development also causes significant social and community impacts as well as environmental concerns, the Conservancy would also support the establishment of an Eastern Utah Community Impact Fund (EUCIF) modeled after the Conservation Trust Fund described above.
4. **Eastern Utah Natural Heritage Sites** – Because the goal of EBD is no net loss of sensitive wildlife habitat or plant species, legislated provisions are also needed to inventory and protect the several small sites in eastern Utah which support imperiled and endangered wildflower species. The Conservancy recommends that legislation authorize the establishment of relatively small “Natural Heritage Sites” to protect these areas as well as key habitat for the Greater sage-grouse.

Stakeholder Process Design

The Conservancy is aware of recommendations made by other conservation groups calling for a facilitated stakeholder process to help develop legislation. We would be willing to participate in such a process if it is implemented. This said, with or without a formal process, we are still interested in providing input and comments on proposed legislation. In this regard, we also have the following observations/requests:

1. **Congressional Delegation Involvement** – Any stakeholder process must have your

full involvement and participation along with interested members of the Utah Delegation. A process that is conducted independently from your involvement and/or does not have the support of the Utah Delegation is not likely to be successful.

2. **Early Disclosure of Development Provisions** – We assume that, whatever its geographic scope, the legislation you are considering would be based on the model of prior public lands bills in Nevada and the Washington County Growth and Conservation Act here in Utah. As you may know, the Conservancy worked closely with Senator Bennett, the Washington County Commission, and others to advance this measure. Accordingly, rather than a “pure wilderness bill,” we assume the measure you envision sponsoring would seek to balance “conservation provisions” and designations with “development provisions” requested by county governments and industry. Again, assuming this is the case, it is vital that the “development provisions” requested by the counties and others be shared openly at the outset, and at the same time as the “conservation provisions.” The reason is simple: If the “development provisions” requested are viewed by the conservation community as extreme and unacceptable, and vice versa, this applies to how the conservation provisions are viewed by the counties/industry as well – the chance for consensus may appear a long ways off, and thus not a good use of your time nor of ours.
3. **Early Disclosure of Land Tenure Provisions** – Similar to #2 above, it would be helpful to know early on if you envision the large-scale transfer of federal lands to state ownership, as envisioned by Governor Herbert and the Utah Legislature (HB 148), to be an important component of the legislation you are considering.

Other Congressional Priorities

While working towards a successful lands bill “sequel” to the Washington County Growth and Conservation Act, it is worth mentioning the Conservancy’s interest in several other areas where your leadership has been, and could be, key (a partial list):

1. **Colorado River Endangered Fishes Recovery Programs** – Thank you for your support of these initiatives, also strongly supported by water users, which have resulted in significant habitat and conservation gains for the Colorado River and its tributaries.
2. **Federal Lands Management Facilitation Act (FLMFA)** – Your support of renewing this legislation, which currently has lapsed, is much appreciated. If re-authorized, it is conceivable FLMFA could play a role in supporting conservation goals for the landscapes described above.
3. **Department of Agriculture Conservation Provisions** – Though outside of your committee, we would appreciate your support as a member of the Western Caucus for conservation provisions in the Farm Bill, such as the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program and the Grassland Reserve Program, which help ranchers and farmers. This would apply as well to the NRCS and its efforts to create dedicated funding for a new NRCS Initiative committed to the Colorado River Basin.

Note on Conservancy Staff

While several of our staff will be involved in any stakeholder based process you may plan to sponsor, I would like to highlight the participation of Chris Montague, Director of Conservation Programs; Joel Tuhy, Utah Science Director; Sue Bellagamba, Canyonlands Regional Director; Joan Degiorgio, Northern Mountains Regional Director; and Dr. Barry Baker, Canyonlands Research Center Director.

The Conservancy's lead on federal land designations and county lands bills is Sue Bellagamba. Sue would be happy to meet with you and discuss our priorities. She can be reached as follows:

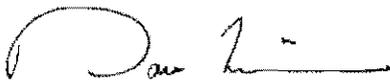
Sue Bellagamba
TNC Moab Project Office
P.O. Box 1329
Moab, UT 84532
435-259-2551
sbellagamba@tnc.org

Physical address for packages:
820 West Kane Creek Blvd
Moab, UT 84532

Summary

Utah is one of our nation's most scenic and biologically rich states. It is also a popular tourist destination with historic local communities seeking a brighter future. Building on the success of past wilderness and land legislation such as the Washington County Growth and Conservation Act of 2009, the Conservancy hopes similar legislative initiatives can address both growth and conservation needs in eastern Utah. The conservation of Utah's natural and human heritage will depend on multiple stakeholders working cooperatively. The Nature Conservancy looks forward to being part of this process and is pleased to offer the initial recommendations described here.

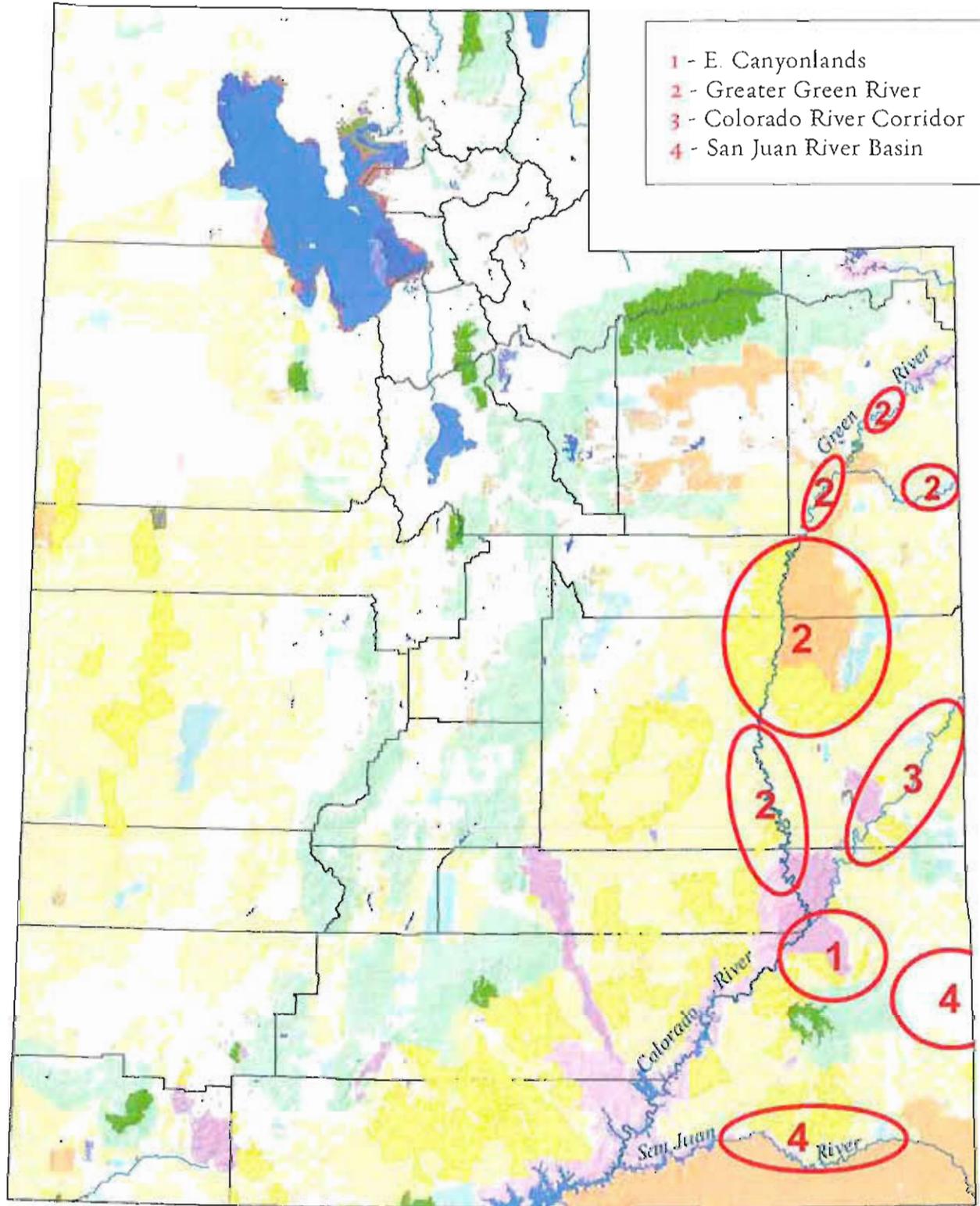
Sincerely,



Dave Livermore
Utah State Director

cc: Governor Gary Herbert, Congressman Jim Matheson, Congressman Jason Chaffetz, Congressman Chris Stewart, Utah Chapter Board Executive Committee

att: Map of Priority Landscapes
Canyonlands Research Center brochure
Photographs



Canyonlands Research Center



The Colorado Plateau, America's canyonlands region, is home to world-class natural treasures that support and attract millions of people.

Today, unprecedented human demands coupled with rising temperatures and prolonged droughts are impacting the lands, waters and communities of this region.

The Canyonlands Research Center brings together scientists, public land managers and local land users to develop science-based solutions that will protect resources and preserve the Plateau's unique quality of life.

What's at Stake

Spanning 76,000 square miles across portions of Utah, Arizona, New Mexico and Colorado, the Colorado Plateau is becoming one of our country's most popular and conflicted regions – a coveted remnant of American wilderness, a hotbed of growing human pressures and a home for unique species. Boasting some of the country's most popular national parks and a pathway for the West's largest river, the Colorado Plateau influences the health, economy and quality of life of millions of Americans. Utah's portion of the Colorado Plateau, including San Juan County, supports a rich and proud heritage of people connecting to and living off the land. The Colorado Plateau still supports traditional ways of life, as well as attracting millions of tourists and recreationalists from around the world.

The Challenge

Decades of change and use are taking their toll on the lands and waters of this special region. Invasive plants and animals as well as intense and sometimes inappropriate recreation, development and grazing are disrupting ecosystems, threatening water sources and devastating native species. As scientists predict rising

temperatures and more severe droughts for this area, communities, public land managers and policy-makers are searching for practical and realistic solutions to sustain the resources and wonders of the Colorado Plateau

Pressure on the West

According to the Natural Resources Defense Council, the American West has warmed 70 percent more than the planet as a whole. The West's most pronounced temperature increase is in the Colorado River Basin, which has warmed more than twice as much as the global average.

Higher temperatures, combined with prolonged droughts, will reduce soil moisture causing a decrease in plant cover and soil stability on lands that are already compromised by activities such as grazing and recreation. Loose soils lead to more wind-deposited dust on western snowpacks, accelerating snowmelt and decreasing runoff—threatening the quality and quantity of Colorado River water. Decreased soil moisture will also lead to a loss of native vegetation and wildlife habitat, as well as an explosion of invasive species such as cheatgrass.





photo: ©Ted Wood

Hope & Action

The Canyonlands Research Center is a new collaborative effort to develop science-based strategies that will help people better live on and manage the natural resources of the Colorado Plateau. Backed by powerful private and public partners and situated in an ideal location for land and climate research, the Center is uniquely positioned to bring together scientists, land managers and land users to confront the region's most pressing land and water challenges.

What Makes this Center Work?

Ideal Location & Facilities: With The Nature Conservancy's Dugout Ranch at its core, the Canyonlands Research Center site spans lands managed by the USDA Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and Canyonlands National Park, giving scientists the opportunity to study wide gradients of elevation, ecology and land-use histories. The Center is also situated along the boundary of the Southwestern monsoon climate zone, making it particularly sensitive to climatic variation. A newly constructed field

science that improves lives

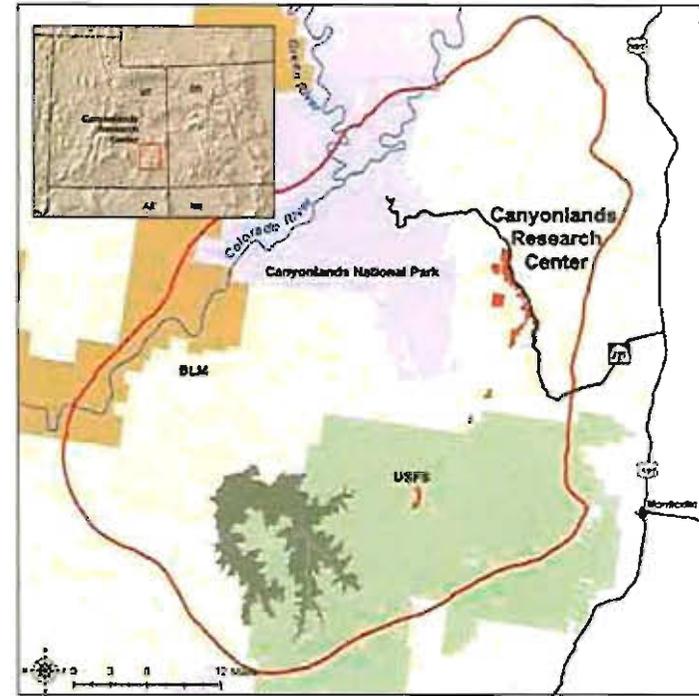


photo: ©Ted Wood

Guided by a diverse group of stakeholders and partners, the Canyonlands Research Center pursues science that translates into practical solutions to help sustain the region's human and natural communities. Current efforts underway include research projects on water quality, snowpack and dust, sustainable grazing, carbon sequestration, recreation impacts and endangered species.

"There's always been research going on at the Dugout Ranch, but never before have we been able to apply that to our daily lives, as we work cattle and manage land. So to be working hand in hand now with the scientists, being able to tell them what changes we're seeing on the land, them telling us what they're finding, and maybe together, finding some remedies... it's just so exciting to me."

—Heidi Redd, Indian Creek Cattle Company

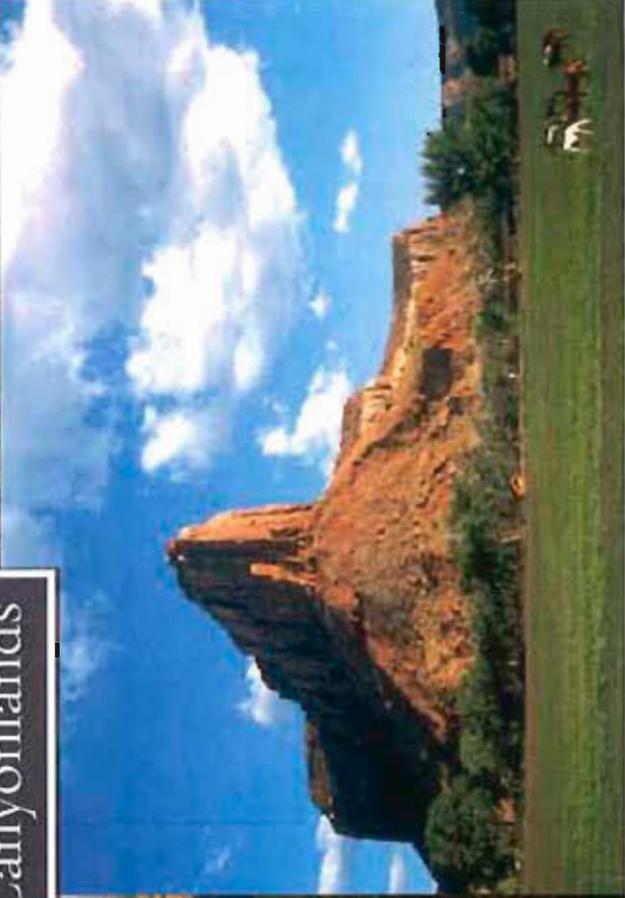
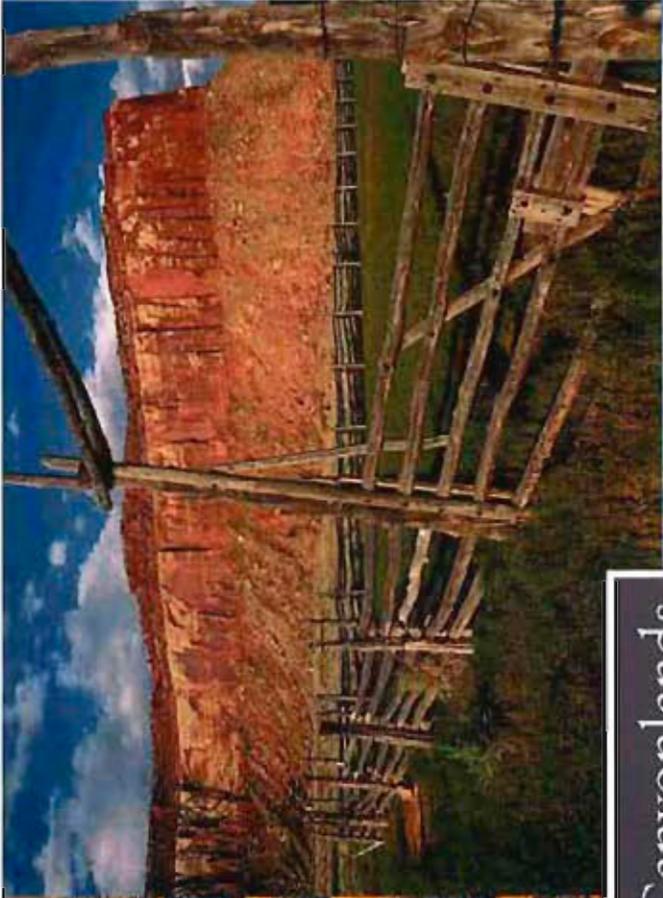


station now provides scientists a year-round space to live, study and collaborate. Future construction phases will expand the field station's capacity and capabilities.

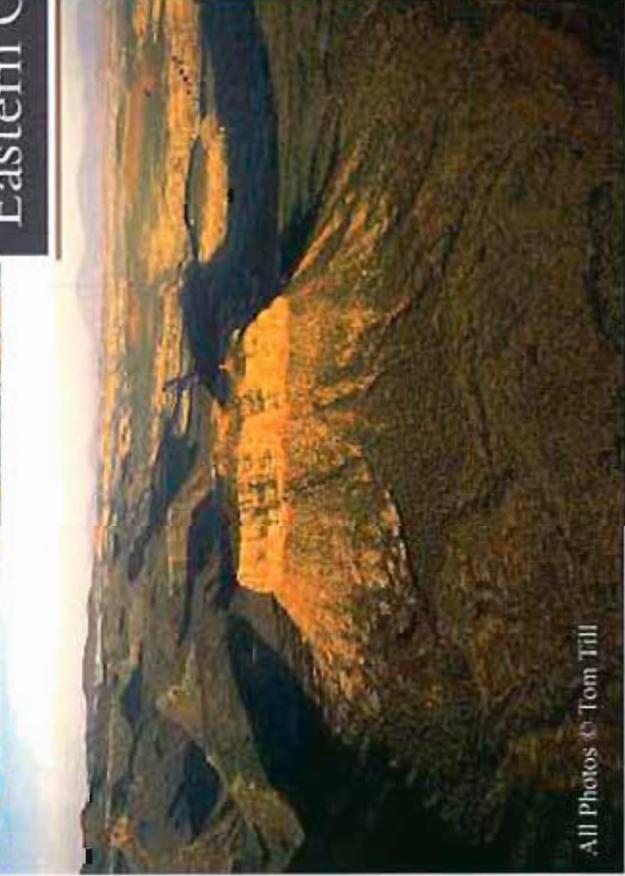
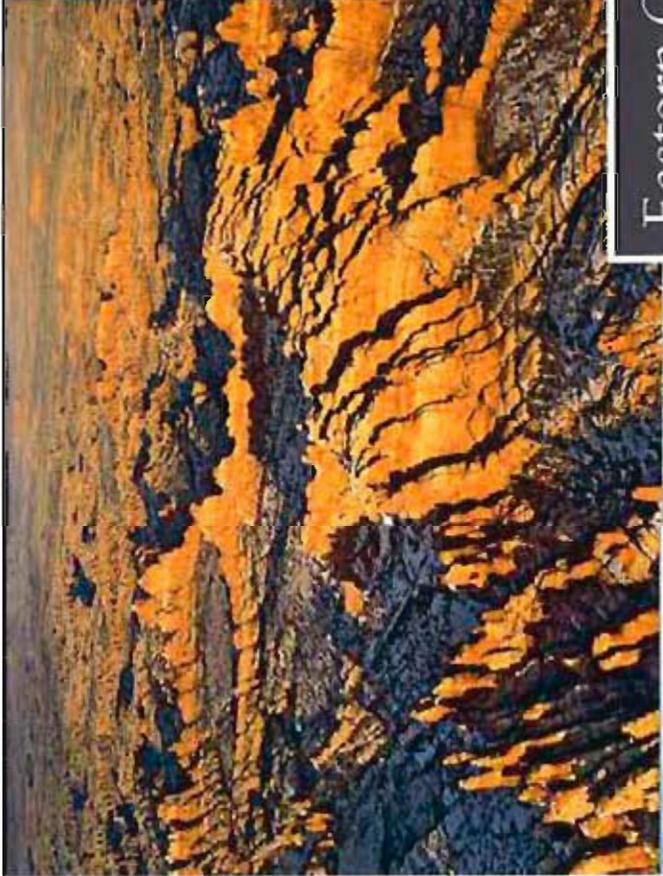
Powerful Partnerships: The Center is formed by a suite of diverse partners who support the importance of its mission and research. Founding partners and participating organizations include: The Nature Conservancy, Utah State University, U.S. Geological Survey, National Park Service, USDA Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Indian Creek Cattle Company, as well as University of Colorado, NOAA, and NASA.

Learn More

Barry Baker, PhD
 Director, Canyonlands Research Center
 The Nature Conservancy
 (435) 259-4183
 bbaker@tnc.org



Eastern Canyonlands



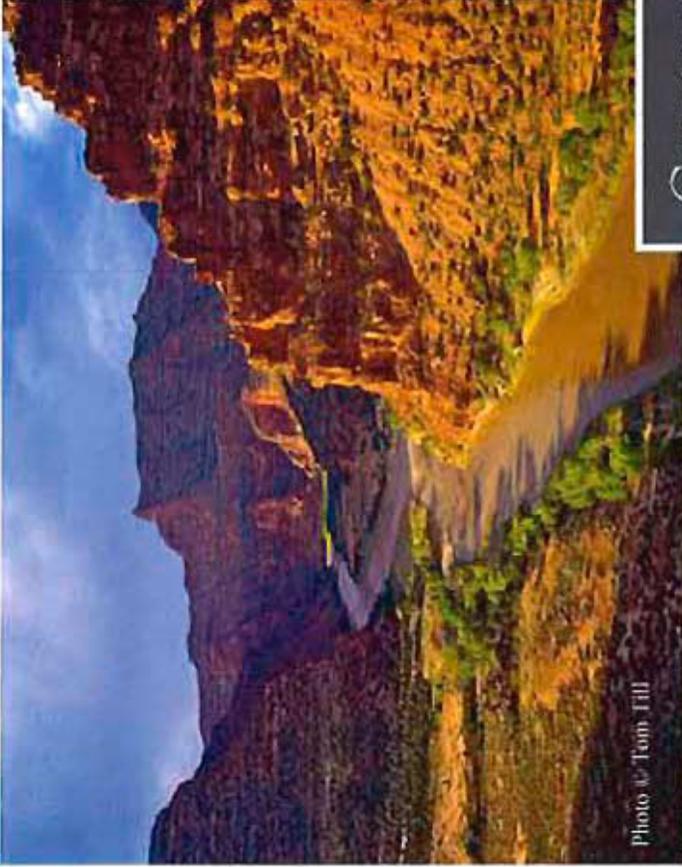


Photo © Tom Till



Photo © Brian Stetler

Greater Green River



Photo © James Kay



Photo © James Kay



Photo © Paul Berquist

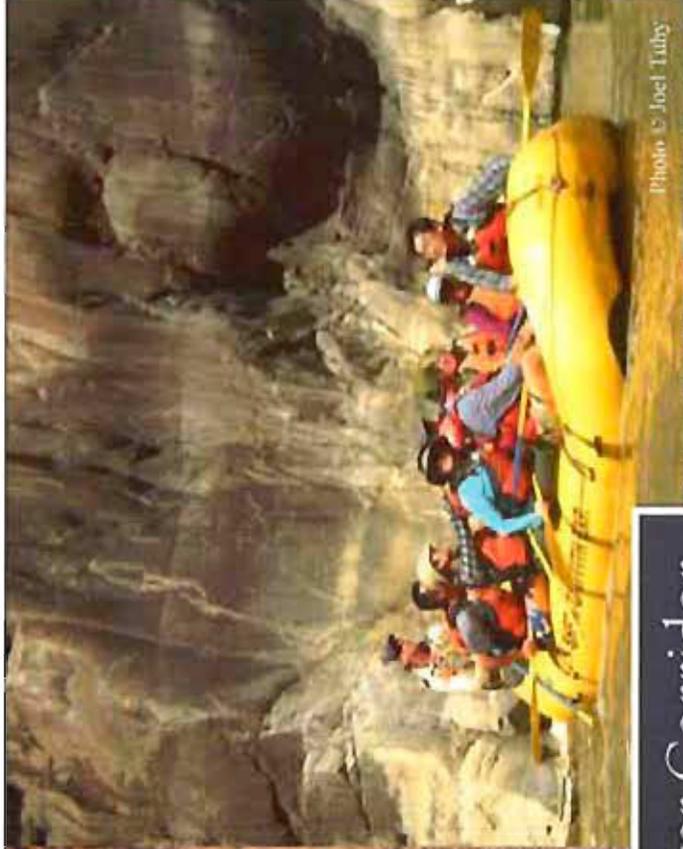


Photo © Joel Tuby

Colorado River Corridor

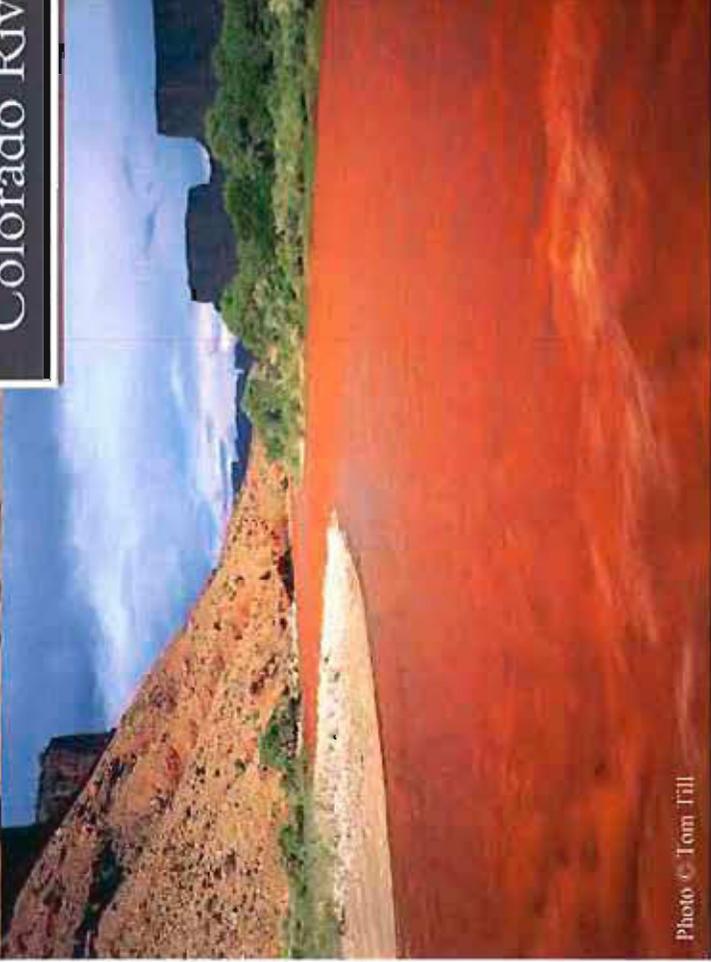


Photo © Tom Till

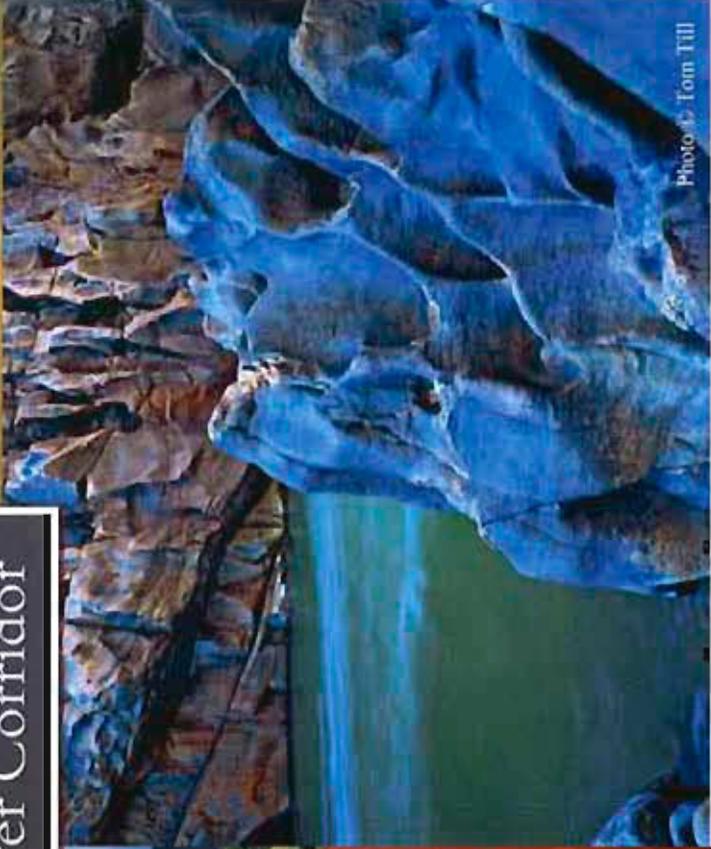


Photo © Tom Till

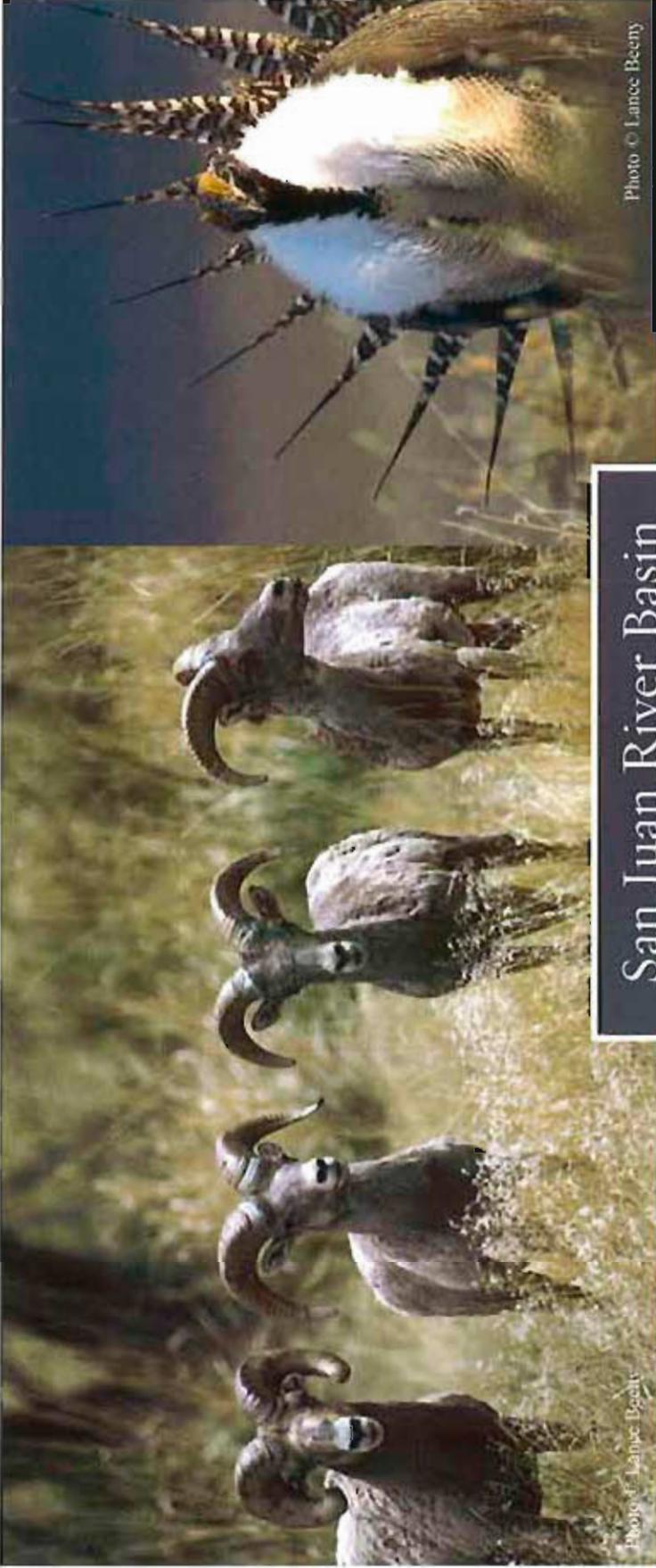


Photo © Lance Beeny

Photo © Lance Beeny

San Juan River Basin

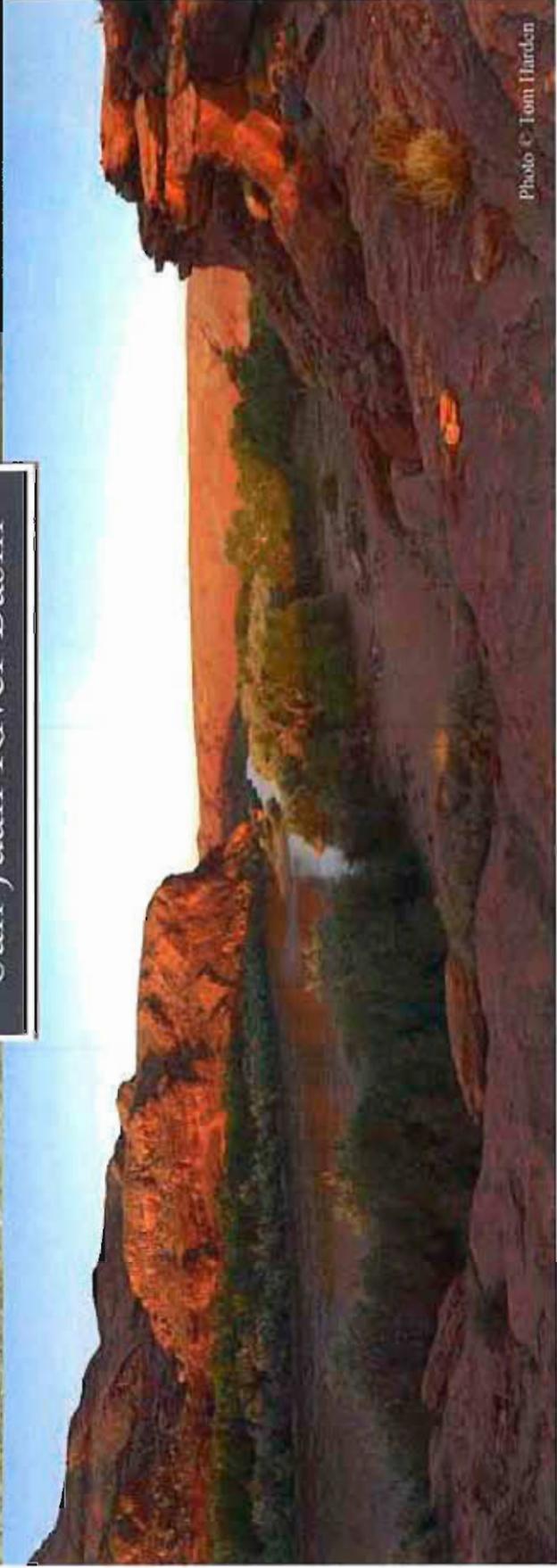
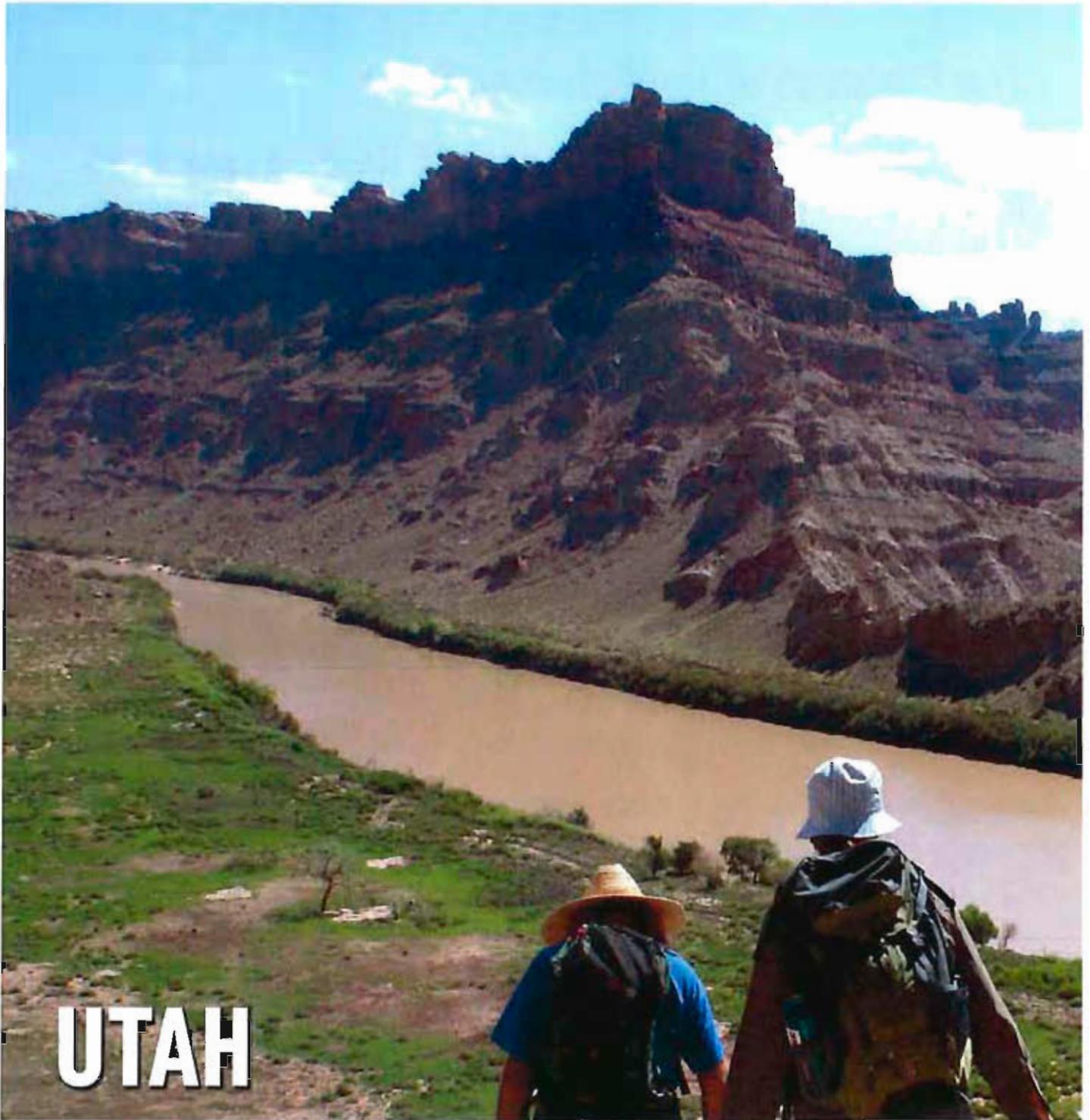


Photo © Tom Harden



UTAH

Colorado River, Inc.:

The \$26 Billion Recreation Resource Employing a Quarter Million Americans

Please visit www.ProtectFlows.com to view our full technical report.



The Business of the Colorado River

If the Colorado River were a company, **it would rank #155 in the 2011 Fortune 500** ahead of companies like General Mills, USAirways, and Progressive Insurance, and be the **19th largest employer** on the Fortune 500.

Economic Impact of Recreation Along the Colorado River

-  5.36 million adults use the Colorado River for recreational activities each year
-  Supports **234,000 jobs** across Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming
-  Produces **\$26 billion** in economic outputⁱ
-  Generates \$17.0 billion in retail salesⁱⁱ
-  Out performs regional farming revenues by 14.6% on average
-  Contributes \$3.2 billion in federal, state, and local tax revenue annually
-  State and local tax revenues are enough to fund over 29,000 teacher positions
-  Creates \$10.4 billion in annual earnings, salaries, and wages

The Bottom Line: When Supply & Demand Don't Add Up

You can't run a business without watching your bottom line. The river works the same way. Right now:

- Stored water on the river has dropped 35% in the last 12 yearsⁱⁱⁱ
- Demand now far outweighs the river's supply^{iv}
- The river now dries up in the Sonoran Desert, miles before it reaches the sea

ⁱTo estimate the economic impacts, the data were analyzed with the IMPLAN input-output model. Input-output models describe how sales in one industry impact other industries. For example, once a consumer makes a purchase, the retailer buys more merchandise from wholesalers, who buy more from manufacturers, who, in turn, purchase new inputs and supplies. In addition, the salaries and wages paid by these businesses stimulate more benefits. Simply, the first purchase creates numerous additional rounds of purchasing. Input-output analysis tracks how the various rounds of purchasing benefit other industries and generates economic benefits.

The relationships between industries are explained through multipliers. For example, an income multiplier of 1.29 for industry X would indicate that for every dollar of income generated by the industry under study, \$0.29 would be paid to the employees of industries impacted by the indirect and induced effects. The IMPLAN model provides multipliers for all major industries in the U.S. and for each state. The IMPLAN model includes output, earnings and employment multipliers. The output multiplier measures the total economic effect created by the original retail sale. The earnings multiplier measures the total salaries and wages generated by the original retail sale. The employment multiplier estimates the number of jobs supported by the original retail sale. IMPLAN also estimates federal, state and local tax revenues.

To apply the IMPLAN model, recreational expenditures were matched to the appropriate industry sector. The resulting estimates describe the salaries and wages, total economic effects, and jobs supported by the purchases made by Colorado River recreational users. This same process is repeated for all reported expenditures for all activities, and then summed to arrive at state and regional totals.

ⁱⁱSales include not just recreational equipment, but also include travel expenses (restaurants, lodging, fuel and transportation, etc.), apparel, maintenance and repair of equipment, and more.

ⁱⁱⁱU.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation. 2012. Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study

^{iv}Bureau of Reclamation. 2011. Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study, Interim Report No. 1.

What's At Stake

If we stay on our current course, the Colorado River will slow to a trickle. Fish won't be beckoning anglers to book a weekend trip. Rafters won't show up to brave the rapids. Hikers and scenery seekers will go elsewhere. Local communities will become a less attractive place to live. State and the federal economies will suffer.

Without water flowing in the Colorado River and its tributaries to attract recreation and tourism:

- Basin state unemployment rates would increase by **an average of 3%**
- State treasuries would risk losing **\$614 million** in taxes
- Federal government would risk losing **over half a billion dollars** in tax revenue
- The six state area's economy would shrink by **\$25.67 billion**—equivalent to the entire economy in Wyoming

Utah

Utah provides a large share of recreational activity (40% of the state's adult population) along the Colorado River and its tributaries, the Green, Uinta, White, Willow Creek, Lake Fork, Price, San Rafael, Fremont, Escalante, Duchesne, San Juan, Virgin, Muddy Creek, and Dirty Devil Rivers.

Utah's River Economy

- 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.
- Employs 34,100 Utahns; that's nearly times greater than Huntsman, the state's only Fortune 500 company, which has 12,000 employees.
- Retail sales associated with the Colorado River are 45% greater than the value of the state's annual agricultural production.
- If people stopped using the Colorado River and its tributaries for recreation, and did not spend their dollars elsewhere in the state, Utah's unemployment rates would increase by approximately 2.8%.



Economic Gains of River-Related Recreation

Arizona

Direct Spending	\$3,794,644,820
Total Output	\$5,962,031,159
Labor Income	\$2,456,958,038
Employment	53,508 jobs
Fed., State, Local Taxes	\$763,857,410

Colorado

Direct Spending	\$6,364,292,781
Total Output	\$9,577,271,371
Labor Income	\$4,046,382,438
Employment	79,585 jobs
Fed., State, Local Taxes	\$1,188,371,868

Nevada

Direct Spending	\$1,996,169,031
Total Output	\$2,888,735,494
Labor Income	\$1,178,298,209
Employment	25,329 jobs
Fed., State, Local Taxes	\$358,613,631

New Mexico

Direct Spending	\$1,206,132,350
Total Output	\$1,684,428,434
Labor Income	\$666,992,155
Employment	17,129 jobs
Fed., State, Local Taxes	\$191,158,581

Utah

Direct Spending	\$2,089,492,177
Total Output	\$3,351,775,769
Labor Income	\$1,347,511,505
Employment	34,100 jobs
Fed., State, Local Taxes	\$428,485,240

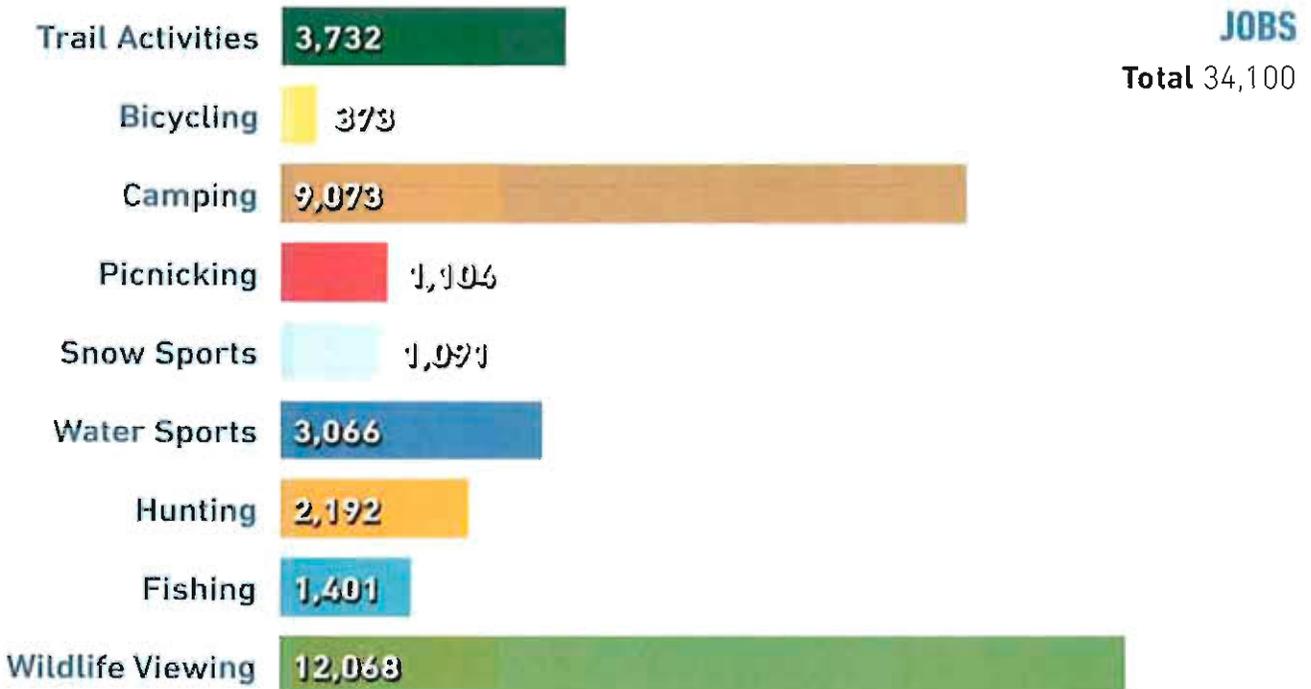
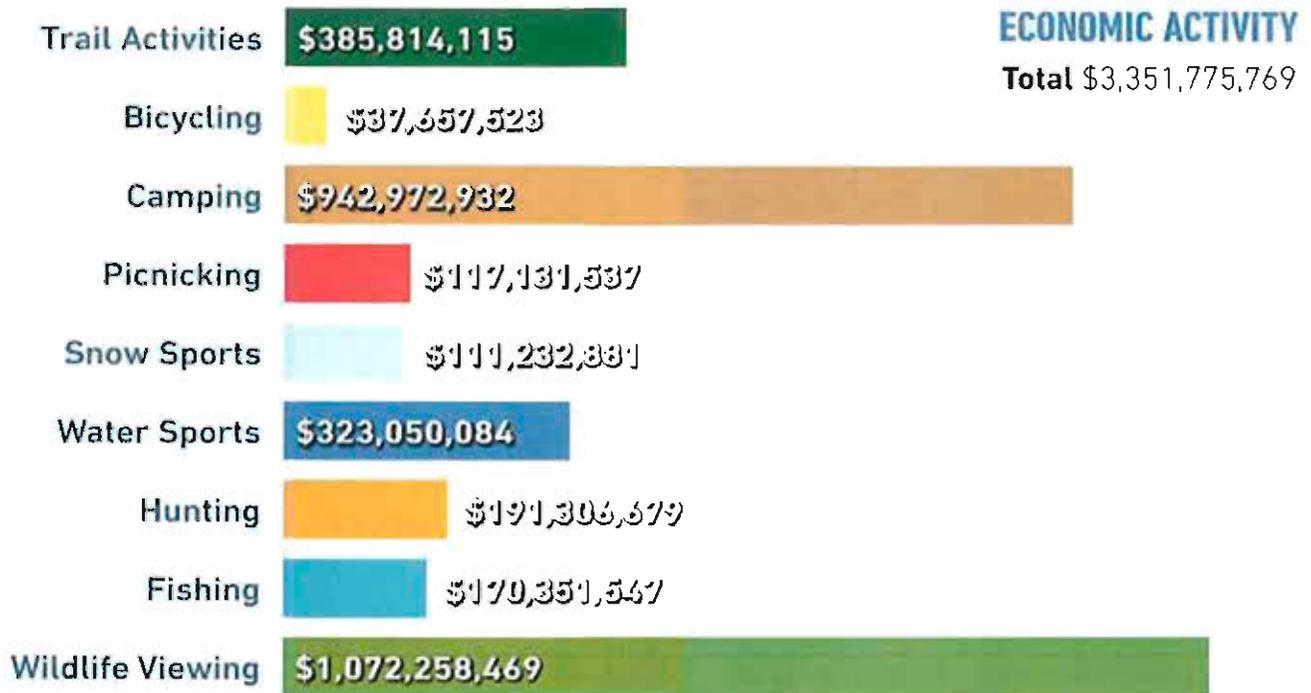
Wyoming

Direct Spending	\$1,587,748,500
Total Output	\$2,208,194,838
Labor Income	\$741,102,520
Employment	24,681 jobs
Fed., State, Local Taxes	\$302,732,874

REGIONAL TOTALS

Direct Spending	\$17,038,479,659
Total Output	\$25,672,437,065
Labor Income	\$10,437,244,865
Employment	234,332 jobs
Fed., State, Local Taxes	\$3,233,219,604

Utah Economic Gains of River-Related Recreation by Activity



Methodology

Southwick Associates, Inc. conducted a telephone survey from among randomly selected, English-speaking adults, 18 years and older, residing in Arizona, Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, Nevada, and Wyoming in January and February 2012. 1,050 participants were considered "qualified respondents," meaning they had participated in at least one of the outdoor activities within the past year. 175 respondents from Utah completed the survey. The data reflects 2011 activity.

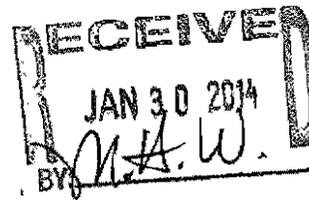
The economic study covered recreational activity on the Colorado River and all its tributaries in the six states that represent the Colorado River system's primary region: Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming. California also has part of the river basin within its extreme southern section, but based on the limited population in this area and the expected low economic contributions from Colorado River-based recreation to the State's economy, California was not included in this study. To any degree economic impacts are generated by the Colorado River within California, the results in this report are understated.

Similarly, out of state tourism is not a part of the estimates. The results reflect only residents' in-state travel. While many are still tourists, they are not out-of-state residents. Considering the tourists who head west every year for vacation, it is important to note that the study findings are much more conservative with the exclusion of out-of-state tourism.

Southwick Associates, Inc. The economic analysis was conducted by Southwick Associates, Inc., which specializes in quantifying the economics of fish, wildlife, and outdoor-related activities for government agencies and industry. www.southwickassociates.com

Protect the Flows is a coalition of more than 400 businesses from the seven Colorado River basin states of Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, Wyoming, California, and Utah who directly depend on the river for their livelihood. www.ProtectFlows.com

Monday January 27, 2014



Grand County Council
125 East Center St
Moab, Ut 84532

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

Re: Public Lands Bill for Eastern Utah

Dear Council members and Congressman Bishop,

First thanks to you for addressing the difficult issue of Public Lands uses.

I am a longtime backcountry hiker who lives in Grand County. I have seen many of the RS 2477 'roads' that are nothing more than a trace on the ground. This law needs to be revised. It is important to me to limit ORV damage in the backcountry. Our land is being torn apart by off road drivers. Antiquities are being looted. In the interests of land and wildlife preservation, let's limit it.

SITLA lands should be consolidated into 'sacrifice areas' where they could be used to generate income.

History in Grand County shows that dirty extractive industries are boom and bust, leaving behind trashed land, wrecked economies, social upheaval and taxpayer liabilities. Projects for short term gain benefiting extractive industry companies are laying waste to our land, water and wildlife now. While hiking I have seen dead wildlife in the waste water ponds in the Island in the Sky area. Location and numbers of leases need to be carefully considered, hopefully curtailed. The damage to sensitive desert lands cannot be reversed.

I encourage development of renewable energy. After all we have abundant sunshine.

Visitors come to enjoy our beautiful land and water. They are the mainstay of our economy. Witness the impact on our community when the Government shut down Parks and recreation areas.

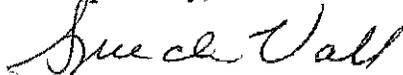
There are landscapes in our County that are not found anywhere else. The

land survey done by proponents of the Redrock Wilderness Act does an excellent job of defining some of the areas most deserving of protection. I know many of these places well. Redrock Wilderness Act is not all inclusive but an excellent guideline for lands that deserve to be designated Wilderness.

Let's preserve as much of our precious county land as possible. Federal land belongs to all of us, including future generations.

I urge you to keep the decision process open to the public.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sue deVall".

Sue deVall

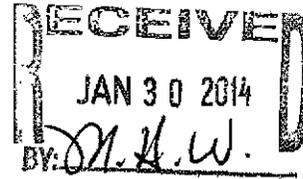
HC 64 Box 1902

Castle Valley, Ut 84532

January 27, 2014

To: Grand County Council

Re: Public Lands Bill Input



As a resident of the Moab area and an active off road enthusiast I would like to offer my input on the land use issues that face our community.

My wife and I chose to retire in Moab two years ago after vacationing here since 1985. We originally came to Moab as a result of my wife's life-long interest in photography. Upon arriving in Moab the first time we were struck by the natural beauty of the area, and I was intrigued by the opportunities to do 4 wheel off-roading. We do not see the beauty of the landscape and organized off-roading as being in conflict with, or in opposition to, one another.

During the 28 year period since our first trip to Moab we have seen the town grow and develop as a quality place to live and play, and as a tourist destination. Has the area become more inhabited in that time period? Well of course it has. Has it become so overrun with people and diverse interests that any one group or activity must be excluded? I think not.

The vast area that is here to enjoy is so large that conflicts for the use of the land are much more perceived than real.

Will there be the need for some compromises? As with all things in life there will no doubt be some need for give and take. My opinion is that the reasonable compromise that the off-road community would be willing to make would center around the concept of no net reduction in trails. If we need to give up access to an established trail for the good of the community at large we would be willing to accept a new trail of equal distance and composition as a substitute.

I don't see a need for new Wilderness Areas to be created, with the possible exception of officially designating current WSA's as Wilderness.

In an area such as ours that is mineral rich, there will inevitably be the need to allow mineral extraction. All that we ask is that the mineral extraction be done in the "best" manner to minimize destruction of the land. The economic benefits will dictate that extraction occur. Let's just do it as wisely as possible.

I believe that the current BLM Resource Management Plan is a good compromise between environmental protection and recreation/extraction. The problem is the uncertainty of the current plan, and how future changes in designation and management will affect the economy of the local area and the lifestyle of the people who live and recreate here.

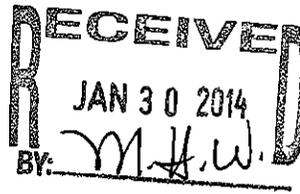
Thank you for the opportunity to express these views,

Glen Richardson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glen Richardson".

15 W. Blue Mountain Court, Moab, UT 84532
435-260-1789

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



January 29th, 2014

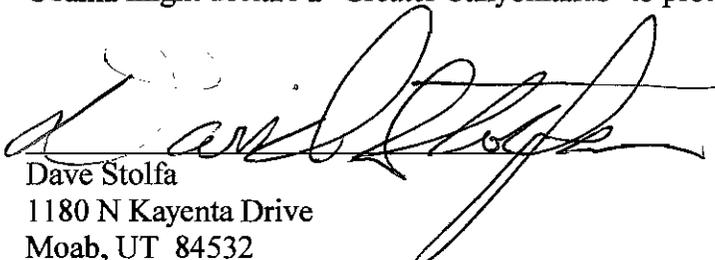
Dear Council,

I have been a resident of Grand County just outside Moab for 14 years. Our subdivision is bordered by BLM land. A short distance from our house is Mill Creek and the Mill Creek WSA. I hike here when I can. I also raft and use Stillwater and Labyrinth Canyons, Desolation Canyon, and Westwater Canyon. I retired here, as I believe many senior citizens did, because of the beauty of the region. If we fail to protect this I think we will negative economic impact on our county both in regard to tourism and population influx.

I hate to see effects of the rapidly expanding extractive industry especially to the north of us in Uintah county. In going to the rafting put-in for Desolation/Gray Canyons from Myton to Sand Wash that area has become it's own labyrinth of wells, gas lines, and storage tanks. I believe if that were to occur in this county we would kill our beauty and greatly discourage tourism. I was particularly upset by the recent SITLA proposed lease for oil exploration in the Book Cliffs region northeast of Green River.

I am a supporter of "America's Red Rock Wilderness Act". I believe all areas in Grand County as proposed in this bill should be designated as wilderness. If I had to prioritize the areas that I would like to see protected I'd like wilderness designation for the those regions around Moab, Arches NP, and the Green and Colorado River corridors.

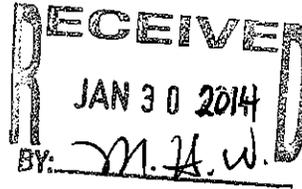
I would hope that if nothing much in the way of wilderness protection comes of this proposal (I believe the Bishop proposal is meant to deflect a possible executive designation) that President Obama might declare a "Greater Canyonlands" to protect a large region of this desert region.



Dave Stolfa
1180 N Kayenta Drive
Moab, UT 84532
dave@stolfa.net

January 30th, 2014

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



Dear Council,

I have been visiting Utah since 1954 as a resident of adjoining states. Because of its beauty and opportunities to explore and live in an inspiring state with wonderfully preserved wild areas, I have chosen to retire and live here permanently. For 15 years, we have explored BLM land and volunteered in this area, cleaning up, restoring, and inspecting trails, camping areas, and wilderness areas. Mill Creek and the Mill Creek WSA are close to our home.

I am a former elementary school teacher and have taken my own class on exploratory trips in the wilderness. As a volunteer in Arches, I accompanied groups of Moab's own school children on hikes and have witnessed the thrill of a child's experiencing wilderness for the first time. I have taken groups of local children and our own grandchildren on rafting trips along Deso/Gray Canyons from Myton to Sand Wash, where they have seen the increasing number of wells, gas lines, and storage tanks. The impact of this development will surely decrease tourism in our area, and it will impact future generations, children who will no longer be able to experience the thrill of quiet wilderness and wild animals along a roaring river.

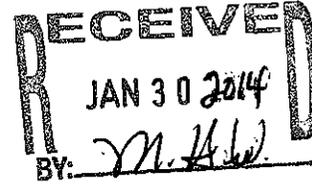
Decreased tourism will not mean fewer young people able to experience wilderness in "Greater Canyonlands," but it also will have an economic impact on this area, on all businesses supporting such visitors.

I support "America's Red Rock Wilderness Act" and believe all areas in Grand County as proposed in this bill should be designated as wilderness. I am especially familiar with those areas around Moab, Arches NP, and the Green and Colorado River corridors.



Marilyn Stoffa
1180 N. Kayenta Drive
Moab, UT 84532
marilyn@stolfa.net

January 25, 2014



Grand County Council

Attn: Public Land Bill

125 E. Center St

Moab, Utah 48532

Dear Members of Grand County Council,

For a while now I have been hearing that there is a proposal to mine a huge area of Utah on the other side of the interstate. My understanding and belief is that would destroy a beautiful wilderness area that I enjoy every time I visit the Moab area.

There are a lot of places in this country that have been eaten up by development, mining, population, and pollution. North Dakota is a prime example of the unintended consequences that happen when (the wrong) type of economic development goes unchecked.

I have been coming to Moab for more than 30 years, sometimes twice a year, sometimes once a year, sometimes every other year. The reason I keep coming back is because of the amazing red rocks, the wilderness and the pristine landscape. I would hate to see that ruined for the sake of "economic development" and "energy independence".

I have read the America's Red Rock Wilderness Act that was reintroduced in April of last year. I support it, and I intend to write, e-mail and call my Congressional representatives and ask them to support it to.

Grand County is a very unique and amazing place. I urge you to keep it that way so I will feel good about returning again and again to the Moab Area.

Sincerely,

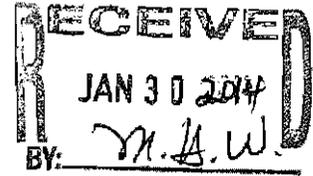
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Charles Moe", written over the word "Sincerely,".

Charles Moe

Box 198

Rosebud, SD 57570

MICHELE MURRAY-HEDLUND



January 26, 2014

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

Dear Council Members Jackson, Nyland and Paxman:

I am a part time Grand County resident. My husband and I ruled out numerous other towns for our part time home and chose Moab primarily because of the vast public lands, recreational opportunities, unencumbered vistas, as well as the unique, diverse population.

We have the good fortune to live downtown thus many of the areas that we enjoy passing the time in are a short distance away. One of my favorite places to run in the early morning is the Mill Creek area because of the solitude, beauty and history—it is a unique area and should be protected from development. The Morning Glory area draws people from around the globe to celebrate its pristine beauty and is another of my favorite areas to visit and would also be a shame to see it not protected. Goldbar Canyon, although close to town, seems worlds away and should remain as such.

Last Fall we visited, for the first time, the Desolation Canyon area and our initial reaction was, “why haven’t we been here before?” because of its magnitude, vastness, and colors. To allow development in such a magical place would be horrendous.

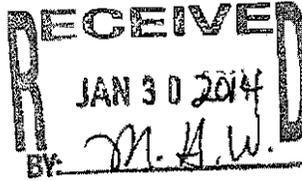
One quality that Moab has, which I’m certain you’re aware of, is how different public interest groups have found a way to coexist and work with each other. Because tourism is such a predominant source of Moab’s economy, protecting the places that draw people from all over the world seems like a complete no brainer. You have a tremendous opportunity to protect iconic places for perpetuity so that generations for decades to come can experience these wild lands as they should be experienced.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Hedlund".

455 Juan Ct., Moab, UT 84532
970/531.0585

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



Dear Grand County Council,

Jan. 23, 2014

I am a resident of Grand County. I live at 282 Riversands Rd, Moab Utah. Me and my husband have been here for 7 years now.

The reason I came to Moab was for the back country hiking. It is some of the most spectacular in the world. We should be proud of the beautiful landscape that we have here. People from all over the world come to enjoy our scenery.

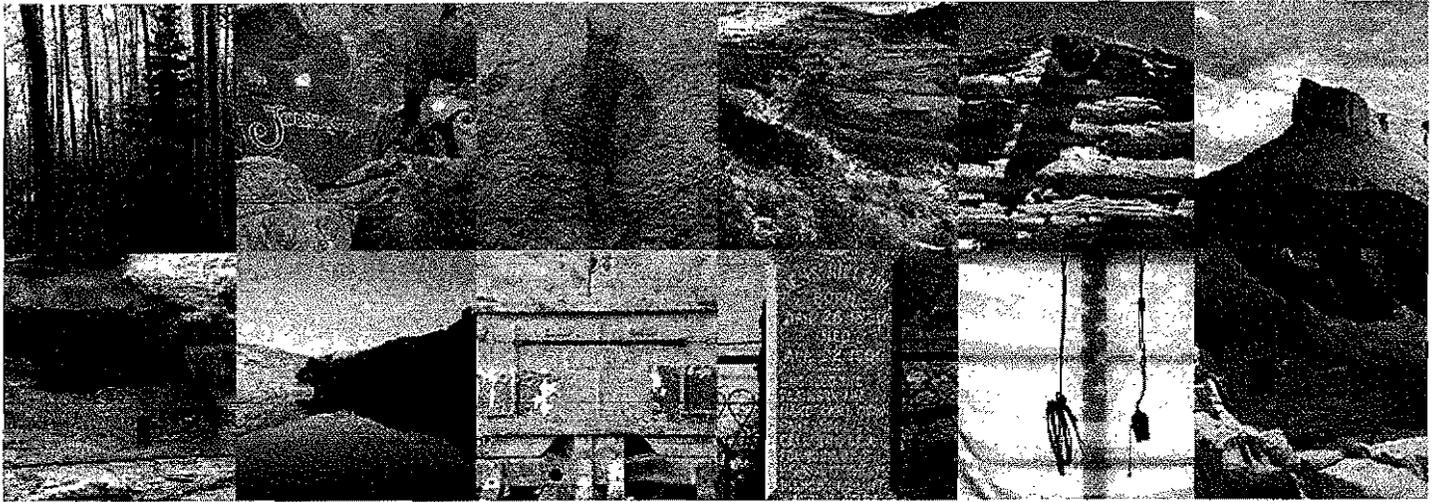
I really strongly encourage you to allow for substantial wilderness area in and around Moab, including some of the most stunning areas Millcreek, Morning Glory, Behind the Rock and Labyrinth Canyon.

Please protect proposed wilderness areas in Grand County as part of Rep. Rob Bishop's proposed Public Lands Bill for Southeastern Utah.

Sincerely and respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beth Malloy".

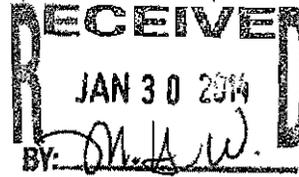
Beth Malloy
282 Riversands Rd.
Moab, Utah 84532
435-259-5272 home
801-699-8991 cell



Larry and Sharon Long | 11850 South Highway 191 C-7 | Moab, Utah 84532 | 435-210-8366 |

To: Grand County Council
Subject: Public Lands Bill

January 29, 2014



We relocated 3 years ago to Moab, Utah. The main decision to move here was the scenic beauty and access to recreational opportunities on public land. In doing so, we are now spending income and paying taxes in Utah instead of the State of California, contributing to a stronger local economy.

Many others have done the same. Not to mention 100's of recreational 4WD and OHV trail users bringing income to Grand County.

Despite what extreme environmental groups will tell you, off road trail riding and exploration have a very positive impact on the lands we use. We educate the public about treating the land with respect, clean and maintain the roads that historically made Moab what it is today.

As members of both Red Rock 4 Wheelers and Moab Friends-For-Wheelin' we believe that no new Wilderness Areas should be created, with the possible exception of officially designating current WSA's as Wilderness. 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.

We believe that the current BLM Resource Management Plan is a good compromise between environmental protection and recreation. As we see it, the problem is the uncertainty of the current plan, and how future changes in designation and management will affect the economy of the local area and the lifestyle of the people who live and recreate here. The issues at stake are complex and multifaceted, but as members of local 4-wheel drive clubs, we ask that OHV recreation is given equal consideration to other concerns in any new public lands bill.

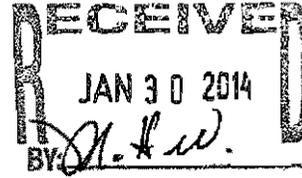
Larry + Sharon Long

Grand County Council

125 E. Center St

Moab UT 84532

Attn: Public Lands Bill



Dear Grand County Council:

I moved to Moab in February 2012 as a permanent resident, to enjoy a variety of outdoor activities, including hiking, mountain biking, canyoneering, photography and Jeeping.

I would like to see land use that would not restrict any of these activities particularly not eliminating any of the current four wheel drive routes.

I appreciate all of the new bike trails but would like to see some development of additional off road vehicle trails also.

The one thing that I feel is largely missing for outdoor recreation in the area is a formal shooting range.

Carbon County has a large modern facility, the North Springs Shooting range which is a goal to aspire to.

I understand that some development for energy and mining is necessary, but keeping certain areas pristine for the future should be a high priority.

Respectfully submitted

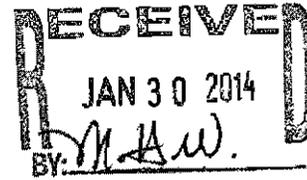
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter A Kaufman".

Peter A Kaufman

762 Doc Allen Drive

Moab, UT 84532

January 29, 2014



Re: long term designations for public lands in Grand County

Dear County Council study group:

I live here in Moab. I am submitting my concerns regarding the future of public lands here in Grand County.

I originally sat down with a map, and a list of proposed Wilderness areas. I was about to head down the list....please protect this area because... please protect that area because... etcetera etcetera. Yes, I have hiked and boated through many areas in Grand County, but I don't think how I personally use the land should be of any concern in this process. What was solicited, and I hope what matters, is my opinion.

I realized that to pick and choose which areas should be "saved" and which "sacrificed" is not following my beliefs, it wouldn't be my true opinion. My true opinion is this: NO public land in Grand County should be developed. NO public land in Grand County should be drilled. Don't disregard this letter as not specific enough. Whatever method you are using, I want a tick mark under NO development for each and every area on your list.

I'm weary of the development argument. Number one reason: EVERYTHING is NOT about economics, though that is what it's been reduced to. "Oh but it will create jobs" does not trump all in decision-making. Jobs will come, jobs will go, destroying these lands is forever. In one, short generation, we have managed to do just that in parts of our county, our state, our country, our world. What will it take to realize that we NEED this world, healthy, to survive - clean water, abundant water, healthy soil, breathable air, the balance of multiple species. Somehow people still trust big corporations to protect the environment and their employees, despite innumerable examples of them doing just the opposite. (Speaking of, these "jobs" promised so often end up being fleeting, but the damage left behind is permanent.)

So put me down for a NO to allowing any drilling or mining in Grand County. It only means truck traffic, increased crime from the population influx, temporary workers who's wealth doesn't stay here, dirty wastewater, contaminated drinking water, noise, destruction of the plants and animals, and just plain ugliness that deters tourists.

Put me down for a NO to large scale developments of any kind for the same reasons.

Put me down for a NO to ORV use. I have seen too much destruction from this land use too. It's noisy, it pollutes, it scares off animals and destroys plants. The earth is not just a playland.

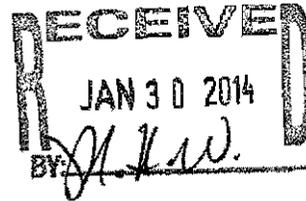
Perhaps this is a "radical" opinion. But dire times call for bold decisions... long-term over short-term. Respect for this earth over disrespect.

Wendy Haff

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wendy Haff", written over a horizontal line.

January 28, 2014

Re: Public Lands Bill



To the Grand County Council,

We want to voice our support for recreation in Grand County. We moved to Moab a year ago in large part to have daily access to the awesome, unique mountain biking trails, and also to enjoy the remote landscapes accessible via hiking. We have been saddened by the appearance of so many drill rigs at the Mag 7 trail area as well as the area outside of Deadhorse Point (and many of our friends that have visited from out of state have expressed concern). We would like to ensure that this does not happen to the other popular trail areas in Grand County, especially Amasa Back and Kane Creek. The Amasa Back area includes six bike trails, (Amasa, Captain Ahab, Rockstacker, Pothole Arch, Jackson and the new trail being built who's name is Hymasa). There is also the ever-popular Cliff Hanger Jeep Trail. This area hosts several events including foot races and bike races. It is also used by hikers, and includes terrific rock art sites and even a ruin. This area has always been very popular for recreation, and now is extremely popular with the addition of the Captain Ahab and soon to be included the Hymasa Trail. Captain Ahab has put Moab back on the radar of mountain bikers who were riding more often in Fruita.

Moab holds a very rare and special place in the mountain biking world, but there are a lot of towns who would leap to fill the void of mountain biking mecca should Moab decide to become more known as the oil rig capital of the desert. More extraction will scare away the very sustainable and long term recreation economy as well as spoil one of the main reasons that many of us live here.

Thank you for your attention,

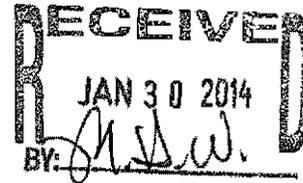
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laurel Hunter".

Laurel Hunter
Rodney Kopish
559 Sundial Dr.
Moab, UT 84532

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rodney Kopish".

Jan. 29, 2014

Grand County Council
125 E Center Street
Moab, UT 84532



RE: Public Lands Bill

Dear Grand County Council Members,

I am writing to urge you to oppose additional Wilderness designation on public lands located within our county, and support instead multiple use of these lands, in particular Labyrinth Canyon and Horsethief Point. Public lands are meant for the wider benefit of all Americans, not just for a select few. This means that oil and gas development, potash and uranium mining, and other economic uses that benefit the local, regional and national economy need to be allowed to operate responsibly on these lands.

Wilderness designation, with all of its attendant and harsh restrictions, would prevent almost any activity from happening on these lands, and this is not limited to extractive economic development – Wilderness designation will also impact mountain biking and OHV use, and prevent access to these lands to people who require roads – the elderly, families with young children, and the disabled, for instance. Why should these groups of people not be allowed to enjoy their country's public lands just the same as a backpacker?

There are also property rights issues to take into account; there are mining and oil and gas companies that own valid existing leases in the Labyrinth Canyon and Horsethief Point areas. Making these areas Wilderness would arbitrarily void these rights.

Public lands are meant for all, and for the greater good. They are not supposed to be set aside for a single user. Oil and gas development, as well as potash and uranium mining, can operate in conjunction with other uses, and will not exclude other users, as Wilderness would.

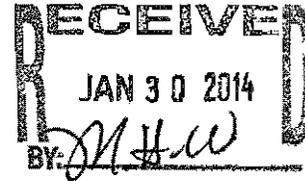
For these reasons I ask you to join with the people of Grand County in opposing overly restrictive Wilderness designation for Labyrinth Canyon and Horsethief Point.

Sincerely,

Julia Bates
Julia Bates
3021 Spanish Valley Drive
Moab, Utah 84532

January 29, 2014

Grand County Council
125 E Center Street
Moab, UT 84532



ATTN: Public Lands Bill

Dear Council Members,

Please oppose any efforts to designate any additional public lands within Grand County as Wilderness. Such a designation would effectively lock down these lands and prevent any economic or recreational use of them.

It is difficult to see what the benefit of this would be. Many areas within Labyrith Canyon and Horsethief Point already sport roads and trails. Allowing these lands to stay open for multiple uses does not in any way prevent someone from hiking within them, or otherwise enjoying their natural attributes. But designating them as wilderness will prevent recovery of the valuable natural resources located with them, as well as prevent any motorized access by tourists and recreation-seekers. Allowing responsible development to occur on these lands will not result in every acre being torn up, or even 10% of the acreage. Mining and oil/gas development will only account for a fraction of total land use.

The management of public lands should not be done for the sole, narrow benefit of one particular user group. These lands technically belong to ALL Americans, and their use should reflect that. Energy and mineral development provides many benefits that go beyond the borders of our county. Attracting tourists who may want or need roads to access these lands will also provide external benefits in addition to local ones. But shutting these lands down in a way that permits access to only a few users and excludes everyone else, goes against everything that most people believe public lands are about.

Please support leaving our public lands open for multiple use, and oppose Wilderness designation in these areas.

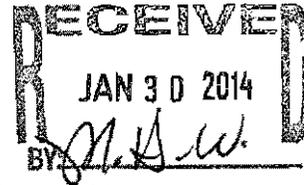
Sincerely,

Kenneth Bates
Kenneth Bates
3021 Spanish Valley Drive
Moab, Utah 84532

Grand County Council
125 E Center Street
Moab, UT 84532

Attn: Public Lands Bill

Dear Council Members,



I am writing to urge you oppose, as I do, the designation of areas within Labyrinth Canyon and Horsethief Point as Wilderness.

Wilderness designation is essentially nothing short of a lockdown of public lands. No trails, no access roads, no off-road vehicle use, no economic activity of any kind, is permitted in Wilderness areas.

Think about what that would mean to the economy and culture of our region. Mining and oil and gas development would be prohibited – these are the industries which keep our community alive. The wages that they pay are substantially above the average in Moab, and they provide their workers and their families with good benefits, including health care – one of the few industries in this region that can offer that. These industries support many of the small businesses that exist in the county. Locking out mining and drilling will hurt more than just the companies and their workers; it will negatively affect all of us.

But it is not just mining and oil and gas that will be impacted. Wilderness designation means that many tourist activities, for which our area is widely known for providing, will also be prohibited. No roads or trails will be allowed, nor any bikes. OHV use will be prohibited as well. And since these lands border the Green river in many places, river use and traffic could be affected as well.

Nobody wishes to see our public lands damaged or over exploited. That is not at issue here. What many of us are asking for is simply that they be allowed to continue to provide multiple uses for the American people. This includes recreation, including motorized recreation, economic development in the form of mining and oil and gas recovery, and other uses as seen fit. There are ways to balance the needs of economic development with those of conservation, as has been successfully done in other parts of the country. But denying these uses by declaring them “wilderness” is not balance.

Please weigh the benefits of multiple land use against the many costs of forever barring access to most people.

Sincerely,

Joshua Shumway

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Joshua Shumway".

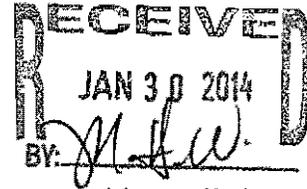
48 N. Althausen Ln
Moab UT 84532

January 28, 2014

Grand County Council
125 E Center Street
Moab, UT 84532

RE: Public Lands Bill

Dear Council Members,



This letter is intended to inform the Grand County Council of my opposition to listing additional public land in the region as "Wilderness", especially those lands around Labyrith Canyon and Horsethief Point.

For one thing, most of these lands do not qualify as "wilderness" in the first place. Labyrith Canyon, for example, is home to a multitude of roads and trails, which precludes it from being categorized as "Wilderness". The presence of existing development is contrary to the concept of wilderness, which is intended to preserve pristine areas, that have seen little, if any, human interaction. That does not describe most of our local public lands.

Second, it needs to be remembered that energy and extractive companies own valid existing leases within both of those areas. Denying these companies access to their leases by designating the land as wilderness is not right, and frankly is contrary to the economic wellbeing of the county. Extractive industries, such as potash and uranium mining, as well as oil and gas development, provide good, well-paying jobs, and considerable revenue to the county. Much of the infrastructure, public safety, and school and hospital development in Grand County is thanks to the drilling and mining community.

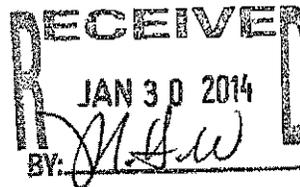
Wilderness designation is not a light decision. Applying that label to public lands means that the various uses they once offered off the table, forever. There is simply no reason to take that sort of radical, extreme approach to public land management. These are not untouched swaths of pristine land... they are the backyard of a region and a county that is known for, and lives because of, resource development and tourism. Please do not let them shut the door on these two vital local industries.

With thanks,

Jick V. Taylor
Jick V. Taylor
2971 Desert Rd,
Moab ut 84532

January 28, 2014

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



Dear Council members,

As a Grand County resident, I am opposed to additional Wilderness designations within the county, and support instead the idea and principal of multiple uses of public land.

Wilderness designation negatively impacts many uses, not just development; mountain biking and off-highway-vehicle use would be prohibited, impacting our local tourism industry. Road use would also be banned, barring many people from access to these lands, including children, the elderly, and disabled. Since much of the proposed wilderness area borders on the Green River, recreational use of the river, as well as water development for municipal and agricultural use, could be severely limited.

In terms of economic development, additional Wilderness designation would have a devastating impact; this would affect various industries, including oil and gas, potash mining, and uranium mining. Each of these industries are major employers in the region, and provide high paying jobs and good benefits to their workers. The consequences to the economy of shutting down these lands would hurt individual families who live in Grand County more than anyone else.

We do not need to be lulled into thinking that this is a choice between development and protection. The fact is that both can occur, alongside other uses such as recreation and tourism. Leaving our lands open and available to the public for multiple uses is one of the bedrocks of public land management, and ensures that the citizens get the best return for the lands we host here. I urge you to embrace this principal, and not put our public lands under lock and key.

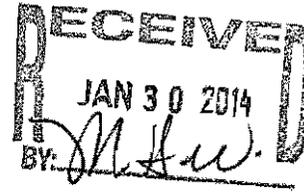
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris & Carter".

Chris & Carter
3751 Kerby Ln
Moab, UT 84532

1/28/14

Grand County Council
125 E Center Street
Moab, UT 84532



Re: Public Lands Bill

Dear Council members,

In regards to the management of public lands located within Grand County, I would like to point out that designating land as Wilderness is the most restrictive management tool available. Contrary to the multiple-use principal which should guide public land management, Wilderness designations prohibit virtually all uses.

Of course, this means that any economic activity on these lands would come to an abrupt halt. The mining and oil and gas drilling that provide the backbone of our local economy would be forbidden, along with the jobs, wealth, and revenue they provide. This is despite the fact that a number of companies own current leases on the lands in question -- Labyrinth Canyon and Horsethief Point. If these lands are designated as wilderness, these companies will permanently lose access to their legally acquired leases. Does this sound right to you?

Meanwhile, the local workers who are employed in the extraction industries are left with the choice of trying to find jobs -- generally for substantially lower pay -- in a struggling economy.

But it is not just the mining and drilling jobs that are at risk; Wilderness designation will adversely impact recreation too -- the other jewel in our regional crown. Essentially all uses that may have some impact -- including camping, biking, and off-road vehicle use -- are also banned from Wilderness areas. This means no roads, no trails, essentially no access. Is this the really the way we want public land in Grand County to be managed?

These areas in question are not pristine, untouched areas; they are lands that have long provided the public the advantages of multiple use, and have been managed as such with no degradation to their environment and character.

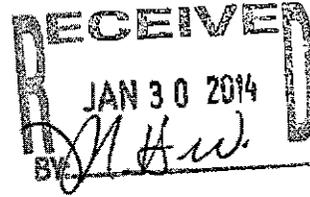
Economic development and conservation can, and in many places do, go hand in hand. Please do not allow a handful of short-sighted special interest advocates jeopardize our economy, and our access to the public lands we host.

Cordially,


Charlie Knowles
1895 Spanish Valley Dr.
Moab, UT 84532

January 28th, 2014

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



Dear Council members,

As a Grand County resident, I am opposed to additional Wilderness designations within the county, and support instead the idea and principal of multiple uses of public land.

Wilderness designation negatively impacts many uses, not just development; mountain biking and off-highway-vehicle use would be prohibited, impacting our local tourism industry. Road use would also be banned, barring many people from access to these lands, including children, the elderly, and disabled. Since much of the proposed wilderness area borders on the Green River, recreational use of the river, as well as water development for municipal and agricultural use, could be severely limited.

In terms of economic development, additional Wilderness designation would have a devastating impact; this would affect various industries, including oil and gas, potash mining, and uranium mining. Each of these industries are major employers in the region, and provide high paying jobs and good benefits to their workers. The consequences to the economy of shutting down these lands would hurt individual families who live in Grand County more than anyone else.

We do not need to be lulled into thinking that this is a choice between development and protection. The fact is that both can occur, alongside other uses such as recreation and tourism. Leaving our lands open and available to the public for multiple uses is one of the bedrocks of public land management, and ensures that the citizens get the best return for the lands we host here. I urge you to embrace this principal, and not put our public lands under lock and key.

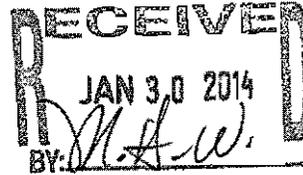
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Ray Smith".

49 East Mount Peck
MOAB, UTAH 84532

January 29, 2014

Grand County Council
125 E Center Street
Moab, UT 84532



ATTN: Public Lands Bill

Dear Chairman and Council Members,

In regards to the above referenced bill, I hope the Council will recognize the value of managing our federal lands for multiple uses. This ensures that both environmental protection and responsible energy production are given equal footing, without one compromising the other. It also ensures that these lands remain open to all who would like to enjoy them for responsible recreational purposes.

Designating lands as wilderness, on the other hand, would deny most of these uses. Wilderness is not a balanced approach – it is a complete lockout of public lands from virtually all use, other than possibly hiking. It would leave millions of dollars of resources untouchable, which will have direct and deleterious impacts on the local, regional, and national economy.

It is not as though these lands are pristine and untouched as they stand – there are many roads currently located on Labyrith Canyon, one of the areas under consideration for the designation. There are currently valid, properly acquired energy development leases on both Labyrith Canyon and Horsethief Point. It is difficult to see how these lands qualify for wilderness designation, and especially how they can achieve that designation without infringing severely on the rights of the existing leaseholders.

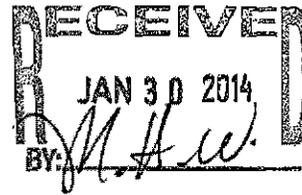
There are many questions to be answered in regards to wilderness designation, and how it will impact the local community. Please make sure these questions are asked, and answered, before anyone tries to lock down our public lands.

Sincerely,

[Handwritten signature]
3269 South East bench Road
Moab UT 84532

January 29, 2014

Grand County Council
125 E Center Street
Moab, UT 84532



Dear Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on proposed land use plans for public lands in Grand County. I, and many others in the county, am vehemently opposed areas. A wilderness designation will severely limit access to our public lands, and eliminate any economic recovery of the resources those lands hold.

Wilderness designation prohibits any road or trail access, which will seriously impede people with disabilities, and others who wish to enjoy our public lands who are limited in their mobility. It also prohibits any OHV use, and even mountain biking. It would be the equivalent of putting a lock and key on land that is supposed to be owned by all of us, and leave access available only to a few hikers. It should go without saying what harm that would do to our tourism industry.

Of course, the economic impacts will extend beyond tourism. A great deal of the local wealth and governmental revenue is based on extractive economies – mining and oil and gas development. Wilderness designation would bar any such development, ever. It would also prohibit construction of roads, transmission lines, or any other infrastructure to support economic development on adjoining and nearby lands.

It is hard to overstate how damaging that would be to the local economy. The jobs that these industries provide are good paying jobs, that support many other jobs and businesses in the region. These jobs, and the wages, benefits, and taxes they provide, will be unnecessarily risked if the public land, which makes up so much of our county, is locked down.

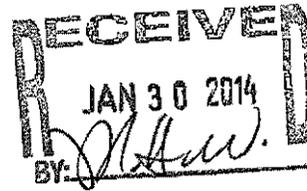
Public lands should be managed for multiple uses, including economic development, and access to all who would seek to enjoy them.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cody Park".

1520 Murphrey lane # 23 moab UT 84532

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



Dear Council,

I am writing to ask you to resist attempts to designate Labyrinth Canyon and Horsethief Point as wilderness. Doing so would present terrible consequences for our local and regional economy, which is dependent to a large degree on resource development and tourism.

Allowing multiple use of these public lands is a time-honored tradition, and a management system that best ensures the lands are put to the best and highest public use. Management for multiple use also strikes the best balance between economic development and conservation, two things which are equally and deeply important to residents of Grand County.

The mining and hydrocarbon development that occurs in Grand County is the backbone of our local economy. These are industries which provide long-term, high paying employment – higher than the average wages for Moab – along with good benefits for workers families (including health care), and a substantial part of the revenue that the local and County governments rely on to provide essential services. With a large percentage of our county's land under federal control, designating large amounts of it as wilderness, with all the stipulations and restriction that such a designation brings, would in essence be prohibiting all of these economic benefits.

Economic development and conservation are not mutually exclusive. The industry, in cooperation with the government and citizens of Grand County, can do their business in a way that respects the local environment, while still providing all the benefits of a healthy economy.

Wilderness designation could also have consequences on water usage in the region, as the proposed lands border on the Green River.

I urge you to keep all of this in mind, and to join with the people of Grand County in demanding that the federal lands we host be properly managed for multiple uses.

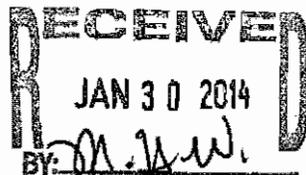
Regards,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Ben Linn".

2589 Cactus RD unit 'N'
Moab UT 84532

Patty Tyler
3885 Maynard Lane
Moab, UT 84532

January 29, 2014



To Whom It May Concern,

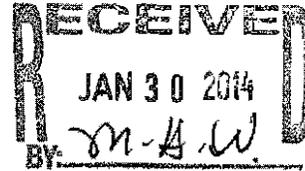
I would like to make a petition and pray my voice will be heard. We as the residents of Moab and Grand County, need to think long and hard about the short and long term effects that drilling and harvesting of tar sands, could potentially have on us and our families. I'm not sure from where the self-entitlement comes. Do we have the right to destroy the environment for hundreds or thousands of years? Are the short term monetary gains worth the destruction of our wilderness? Once the wilderness is destroyed, can we ever get it back? I for one, believe we need to protect the beautiful wilderness in Grand County, not destroy it. With some of the proposed projects, our clean air will be gone. I personally don't want to live close to an open pit mine, do you? We live in a desert. Where will these proposed projects get their water? How long will it take, before all our water is polluted from toxic waste?

We are the stewards of this land. We need to protect it. Please hear our voices.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

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



From: Theresa Butler 411 N. 500 W. Moab, Utah. 84532

- I would like to state that you support protecting a large amount of wilderness in Grand County
- Specific all wilderness areas.
- I value all wilderness areas. Wilderness areas I want to see protected from development".
- Including the canyons in the Labyrinth Canyon area (Spring, Hell roaring, Mineral), Gold bar Canyon, and wilderness areas in the Book Cliffs region.

Thank you for your time.

Truly Theresa Butler

MEMO

RECEIVED
JAN 3 0 2014

BY: M.H.W.

Grand County Council
Attn: public Lands Bill

I am a Grand County resident and have been for 19 years. I spend my weekends away from work, hiking and camping in all of the proposed wilderness areas in and around Moab. The availability of these areas is the reason I live here. I am very much in support of protecting these areas from future development or closure so I can continue to enjoy + savor the peace + quiet.

DESIGN ■ COPY ■ PRINT

Janet Winderhalder

alphagraphics®

Printshops Of The Future

5039 North Academy
(719) 531-5185 ■ FAX (719) 531-5256
7:30 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. Mon. - Fri.
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Sat.

of these vast expanses of
wilderness.

For those of us lucky enough
to live in this breathtaking
corner of America, we
count on these open spaces
to recharge + renew in a
country of dwindling wilderness.

Please take the initiative
to protect these spaces for
all of us to enjoy.

Thank you,

Mary Jane Klailk
286 S. 400 E
Moab, UT
84532

Subject: Comment Letter/Bishop Bill

From: S_Freethy <sngmoab@preciscom.net>

Date: 1/30/2014 6:18 AM

To: ljackson@grandcountyutah.net, "Dillon, Ruth" <rdillon@grandcountyutah.net>

Council Members

I am writing this as an email, but will hand deliver the comment letter to Council Chambers today.

1. First let me state that I am not in favor of creating a Greater Canyonlands Monument.

2. I am not in favor of privatizing Public Lands.

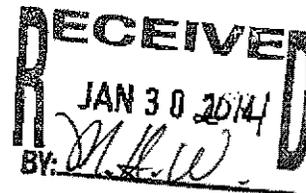
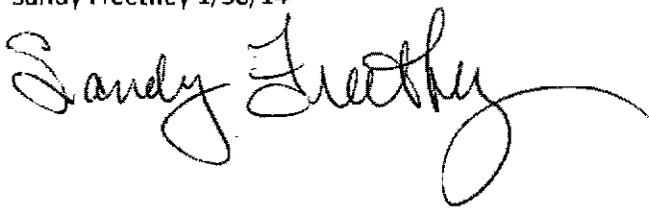
3. I am in favor of creating Wilderness out of the current WSA sites, so that we can finally move on with a real designation. Please do not add the Red Rock/SUWA proposal to include the Gold Bar area as wilderness. This area already has too much protection from the BLM with a Hiking Focus Area Designation. The area is widely used by motorized users and bikers, along with a few hikers. It wouldn't even qualify as Wilderness.

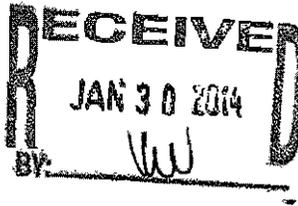
4. I am satisfied with the current way the Moab Field Office of the BLM is handling the 2008 RMP which regulates multiple use of our Public Lands in Grand County. The Bishop Plan seems to want to carve up designated areas for specific uses. On the surface this may be somewhat reasonable, but I really believe that we can live with multiple uses of the land without segregation. I believe that recreation can be fulfilled along with a few oil and gas wells. If the wells become so numerous as they are in Vernal, then no I would not be in favor of that. This example is unlikely to happen in Grand County because of our geology.

5. Now specifics with regard to the Public Land Solutions Maps that you have received which I realize is a draft map. One area I believe definitely needs to be changed if we are carving up "use" segments for the Bishop Plan: **The Amasa Back area needs to be designated for Recreation.** The "Public Land Solution" map shows the Amasa Back Area has not been set aside for Recreation. This would be a horrible mistake. Amasa Back is currently home to six mountain bike trails. Yes, six. Rockstacker, Pot Hole Arch, Jackson, Amasa, Captain Ahab and Hymasa. The one year old Captain Ahab trail is wildly popular! People are coming from all across the nation to ride this trail. We need a bigger parking lot! The sixth trail is currently being built, named Hymasa, to compliment the Ahab trail. We expect this to also be extremely popular. Even during these cold winter months Amasa Back is THE place to ride. But biking is not the only recreational activity going on here, the Cliff Hanger Jeep Trail crosses Amasa Back and hikers use the area frequently. Amasa Back also has some excellent Rock Art panels, and at least one ruin.

Thank you for considering this comment letter, and all others that you receive.

Sandy Freethy 1/30/14





January 29, 2014

To: Grand County Council
Subject: Public Lands Bill

I am writing in response to the desire by the County to receive public input on what should be included in a possible land use bill for our area.

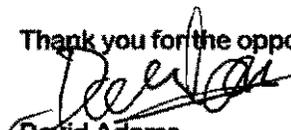
My wife and I, as well as hundreds of our friends, enjoy driving and exploring the roads and trails around Moab, and have spent considerable time helping to maintain and improve these routes. A balance can be achieved in SE Utah that not only protects our unique landscapes, but also allows for both sensible resource extraction as well as the varied types of recreation that has become so important to the local economy.

Our concerns are obviously related to the continued access to the off-highway routes that are so loved by so many. I believe that the routes we currently enjoy should be preserved. I understand that compromise must be made by all stakeholders in order to achieve a workable solution, and that some OHV routes may be closed. However, any routes that are closed must be replaced with similar routes of equal or greater length. When replacing routes, it is important to consider the type of route. There is a difference between improved and unimproved dirt roads, rock-crawling trails, atv tracks, single track trails, etc., and all types are important to their respective users. This would be a perfect opportunity to create new "focus areas" for OHV recreation where it would be possible to establish new motorized routes, similar to what has been provided recently for mountain bike use. One area that comes to mind is near Area BFE off of Black Ridge Road in San Juan County. There are numerous old roads and surface disturbance in this area due to past mining activity that might be appropriate for 4-wheel drive, rock-crawling and exploration. A designated focus area such as this could increase revenue opportunities for SE Utah, as well as help reduce pressure on other nearby motorized recreation areas.

There should be no new Wilderness Areas created, with the possible exception of officially designating current WSA's. And that any current WSA not deemed acceptable to be made Wilderness should be restored back into the BLM's general land inventory. The vast majority 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.

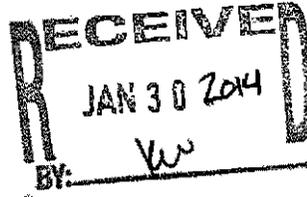
Personally, I believe that the current BLM Resource Management Plan is a good compromise between environmental protection and recreation/extraction, and it should serve as a bare minimum to what activities should, or should not be allowed to occur in our area. As I see it, the problem is the uncertainty of the current plan, and how future changes in designation and management will affect the economy of the local area and the lifestyle of the people who live and recreate here. The issues at stake are complex and multifaceted, but as a 4-wheel drive enthusiast, I ask that OHV recreation be given equal consideration to other concerns in any new public lands bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the public lands initiative.


David Adams
1336 Red Valley Court
Moab, UT 84532
435-327-2880

January 29, 2014

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



Dear Grand County Council,

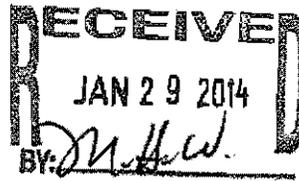
I am writing in support of protecting our county's precious wilderness. As a resident of Grand County for 18 years, I feel very deeply about both preserving the natural beauty that sustains us and our economy and preserving the habitat that is home to all our non human neighbors for whom it is our responsibility to steward.

While I advocate protecting all the lands under consideration, of particular importance to me are areas that I visit often such as Mill Creek and Hunter Canyon as well as around Fisher Towers, Arches Adjacent and Goldbar Canyon. Desolation and Labyrinth also hold a special place – the former where I have long wanted to go but have not yet, and the latter which has long been a place of peace and tranquility.

I urge you to protect these lands – both precious resources in their wild state and vital habitats. Furthermore, the development of these has very short term economic benefits with devastating long term consequences for the areas themselves and for our global climate. Please act as stewards for future generations.

Sincerely,

Sarah Heffron



29 January 2014

This letter is about the Grand County long term land management and my interests with the Congressman Bishop's public lands bill.

I have been a resident of Moab for about nine years and before that have been visiting the area frequently since the middle 1950s. I am attracted to the unparalleled scenery, recreation and the people here in the county and surrounding areas. I hike, bike, jeep and run the Colorado river as well as support the local businesses the best I can. Family and friends visit regularly to participate with me in all my activities in the area.

Today I visit in all areas within the county and beyond. I love the beauty and variety that I see every time I leave my home. One part of the outdoors I particularly like and find unique to this area is the quiet. No motor vehicle or machinery distract from the enjoyment of this spectacular country.

I regularly hike in the Behind the Rocks, Mill Creek and Gold Bar Canyon areas. These are very wild and hard to get to places that offer all that I moved to Moab for. In addition I frequent other wild areas such as Morning Glory, Porcupine Rim, Fisher Towers and Labyrinth Canyon areas. As I explore I have been finding numerous archeological sites that have flaked chert, granaries, petroglyphs, pictographs, and other indication of ancient habitation. These provides additional interesting aspects to all the other things I do here.

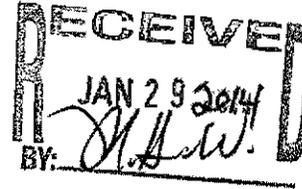
I have been going to the Dead Horse Point and Island in the Sky areas since the 50s. This rugged and spectacular country is rightfully State and National Park designation. Today I am disappointed with the growth of oil exploration and pumping wells and the infrastructure needed to maintain this activity. Oil exploration and extraction are important to our way of life here in Grand County and the rest of Utah and the US. There are huge areas that have potential or proven oil and natural gas reserves that do not intrude on the enjoyment of the naturally beautiful country with in the county and the surrounding area. I believe that these areas can provide the jobs and natural resources desired by industry and our people.

I hope you consider insuring Behind the Rocks, Mill Creek, Gold Bar Canyon as well as all the other potential wilderness areas in the county are protected for all in their wild and pristine state as they are today.


Michael Stringham
Moab

January 29, 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 giving Grand County residents this opportunity to present our vision on which land uses are appropriate for federal land in the county and just how much of it should be permanently protected from the threat of industrialization. I know that Commissioner Jackson has spoken in the past of a special area he frequents and wants to see left undisturbed, and I would like to take this opportunity to do likewise.

I recently took a two-day field trip into areas between Hwy 191 and the Green River at the north end of Island in the Sky that I often frequent. On roads where I normally see Jeeps, they were now overrun with oil rigs, and massive trucks carrying water, chemicals, and pipe. There were new oil and potash pads and a natural gas compressor station being staked out and excavated. The proposed route of an above ground pipeline was flagged all the way from Dead Horse Point to Blue Hills Road. To me, it seemed like an incredibly large tract of land that extended from the northern reaches of Canyonlands National Park and Dead Horse Point State Park all the way up to Blue Hills Road was well on its way to becoming industrialized, with giant mechanized insects servicing the sites that were in various stages of development.

As one example, in an addendum to this letter, I've added photos of what an American Potash mining test site sitting on SITLA land north of Spring Canyon Bottom Road looks like, both from a distance and up close. Its footprint is huge, the size of several football fields, with all ground cover bladed away, and containing a large potash pit dwarfed by the size of the rest of the pad. A popular single track horse trail, previously part of the course for the American Endurance Horse Race, now comes to an abrupt end when it bumps into one of the site's perimeter berms.

It is my understanding that American Potash has the right to excavate seven other sites just like this one, split evenly between SITLA and BLM locations. That same day, I drove to two more of the test sites on BLM land west of Tombstone Rock. They have already been staked out, as my addendum photos document. One is along Dripping Springs Road and the other is farther along Spring Canyon Point Road on the way to a spectacular overlook of the Green River. The stakes on the sites read "NW corner of Pad" or "Center Line of Pad" or "SW corner of Pit", so the large dimensions for the forthcoming test pads and potash pits have been set.

Added to the new oil pads I saw that are being excavated on Big Flat north of Dead Horse Point and above Day Canyon, the Fidelity Oil pipeline that will run above ground along Hwy 313 and Dubinky Well Road to Blue Hills Road, the building of the compressor station at the junction of Dubinky Well and Blue Hills Roads, and all the big trucks carrying pipes, water, and chemicals to these sites, my concern is that the industrialization battle may already have been lost on the north end of Island in the Sky between Arches, Canyonlands, and the Green River.

I've walked up Day Canyon from its mouth to its head on Big Flat. I've jeeped to both Spring Canyon Point and Deadman's Point for magnificent overlooks of the Green River, I've hiked in the Rainbow Rocks, Lost World Mesa, and Hellroaring Canyon areas, occasionally finding both stone arches and ancient Indian spear points. I have friends who've ridden horses on Dripping Springs Road and the single track that is now cut-off by the SITLA potash pad test site. I've visited the Bartlett rock art panel and explored other pictograph sites on public land below Blue Hills Road. On our very first outing after moving permanently to Moab in 2006, my wife and I ate lunch at the Secret Spire. My concern is that access to all these sites and activities will be compromised by the mineral extraction expansion now occurring on BLM and SITLA parcels that range across Big Flat and the proposed Labyrinth Canyon wilderness area all the way north to Blue Hills Road.

In the last two decades, Grand County residents have repeatedly stood up to protect their public lands from industrialized encroachment. In the 1990's, they voted in favor of and implemented a restructuring of the county council, in large part to kill off the Grand County Special Services Road District and its plan to pave a highway to Vernal through the Book Cliffs wilderness area. In 2002, it was Grand County residents that pressured the Interior Board of Land Appeals to shut down the thumper trucks roaming across the Dome Plateau east of Arches National Park. County residents vociferously opposed the December 2008 BLM oil and gas lease that was later voided by the Department of Interior. Recently, county businesses have also raised their hands in support of public lands protection, with nearly 20 of them signing on to the November 2012 letter to President Obama urging him to establish a Greater Canyonlands National Monument in our area.

Once it becomes better publicized that oil and gas drilling is becoming rampant in the Big Flat area above Dead Horse Point, that both the pipeline between Dead Horse Point and Blue Hills Road and the new compressor station are flagged and ready to go, and that American Potash is already doing exploratory drilling in the Labyrinth Canyon area, I believe there will be upswing of outrage from residents, visitors, local outfitters, and national stakeholders alike. I beg that the Grand County Council pay heed to the continued support county residents have demonstrated for the past 20 years in favor of protecting all public land near Arches & Canyonlands National Parks, and come out in favor of doing much same this time around. I know that all of us want to protect and provide public access to the very lands that drew us here as residents and business owners — and now make Grand County a destination site for the rest of the world. With my apologies to songwriter Joni Mitchell, I hope it doesn't come to pass that:

"Don't it always seem to go
That you don't know what you've had
Till it's gone.
They bladed paradise
And put up a potash pad."

My thanks once again to the Council for providing public comments on what's ahead for the future of federal land in Grand County. It is only by keeping Grand County residents actively involved in this process that you can hope to legitimize it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marc Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "M".

Marc Thomas
827 Palisade Drive
Moab, Utah 84532

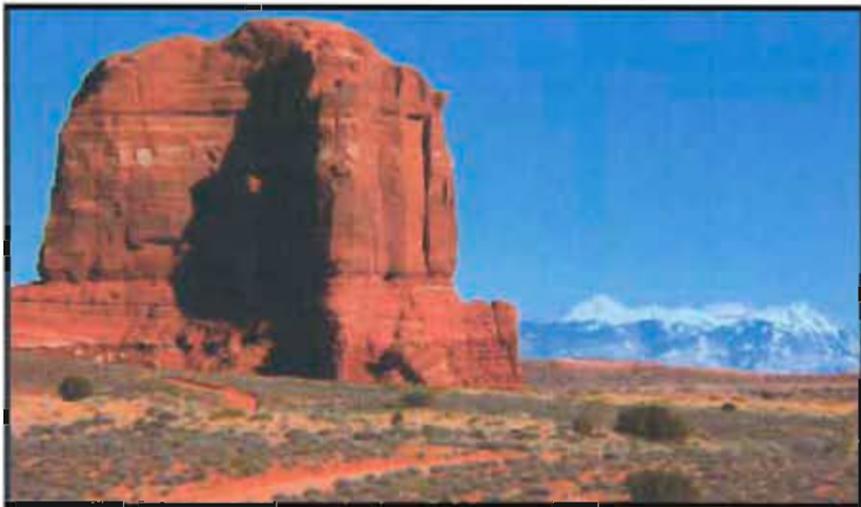
Attachments



The viewshed behind an oil pad excavation includes the Merrimack & Monitor Buttes.



What excavating a new oil pad looks like on the rim above Day Canyon.



Tombstone Rock Butte is a popular area for hiking, jeeping, rock climbing, horse riding, & camping that may soon be the gateway to potash mining north of Canyonlands.



When you hike out of Day Canyon, this is what greets you.



One end of the pit or evaporation pond at the edge of the pad footprint.



Aerial view of a freshly constructed potash test site on SITLA land in the proposed Labyrinth Canyon Wilderness Area.



The pit's other end is seen in the distance.



Water has to be trucked into the site from Moab.



Because the pad is so large, it makes the pit seem smaller than it really is.



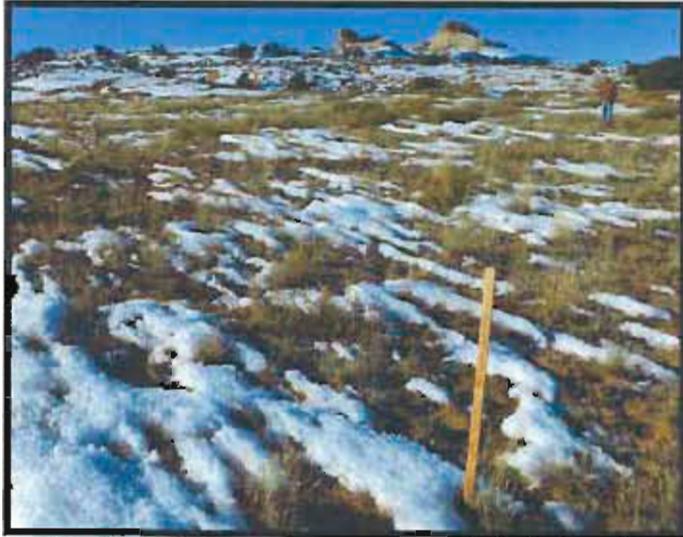
Up close, this bladed pad could hold several football fields. It's on SITLA land. The 8 test sites are split evenly between SITLA & BLM lands.



This popular single track horse trail, used in previous years for the American Endurance Race, now dead ends into a pad site berm.



Up close, you could hear water gurgling in the pipes going down the test hole.



Small sandstone domes are west of what could soon be the NW corner of a test potash pit.



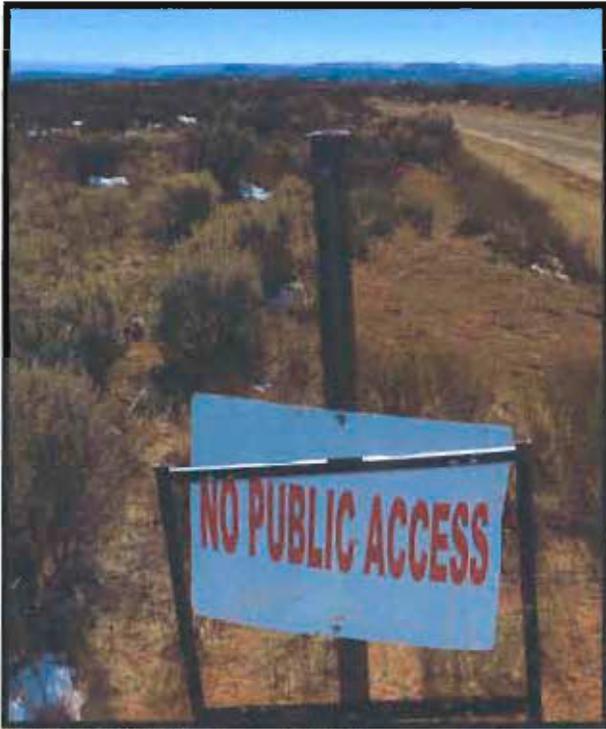
The viewshed from the pad corner at a staked-out potash test site along Dripping Springs Rd.



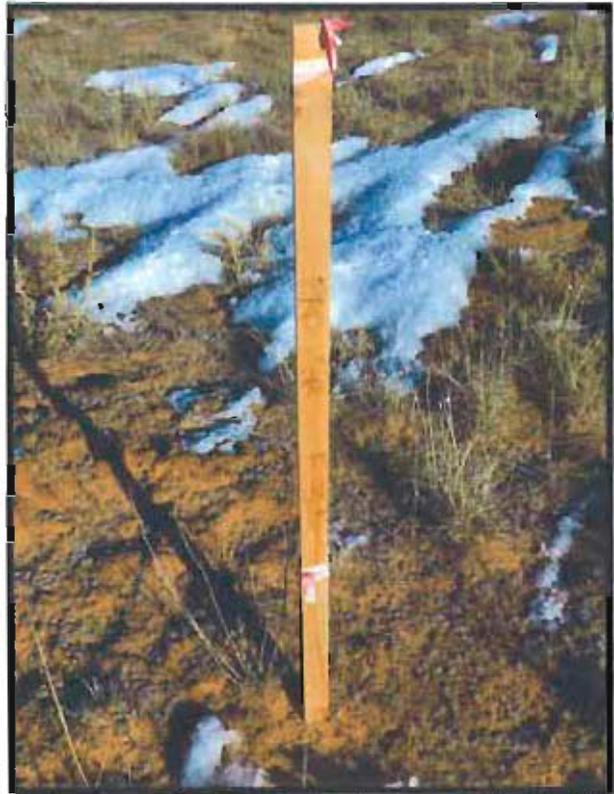
Dripping Springs Rd. - soon to be widened & compacted for the big rigs going to the test site.



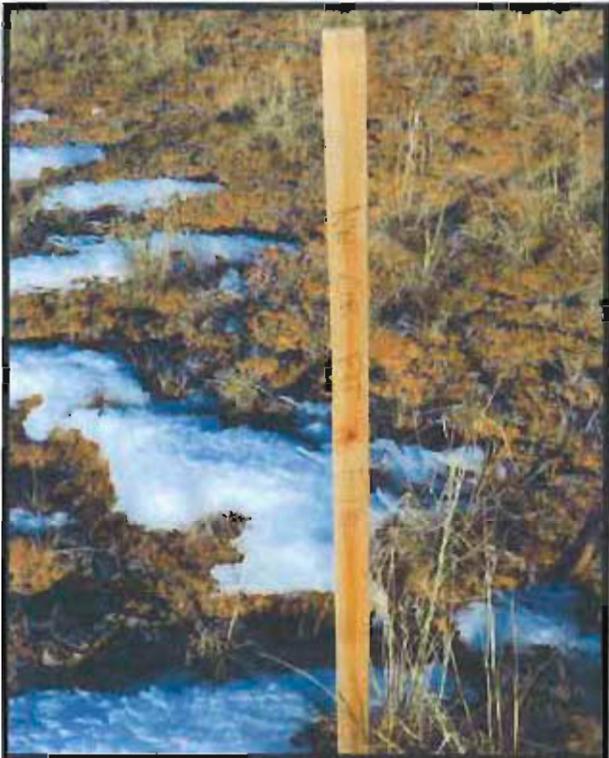
Another staked pad corner. The popular Lost World Butte rock climbing area is in shadow at top right.



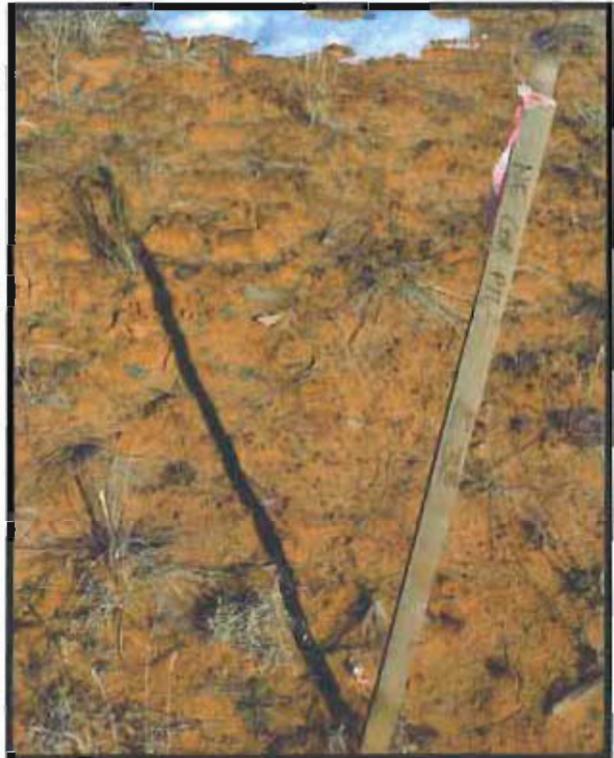
This & "No Trespassing" signs are what you see more & more on BLM lands near Dead Horse Point State Park. Is this the future of the north end of Island in the Sky?



A close-up of a potash pad corner stake. This test site is on BLM land.



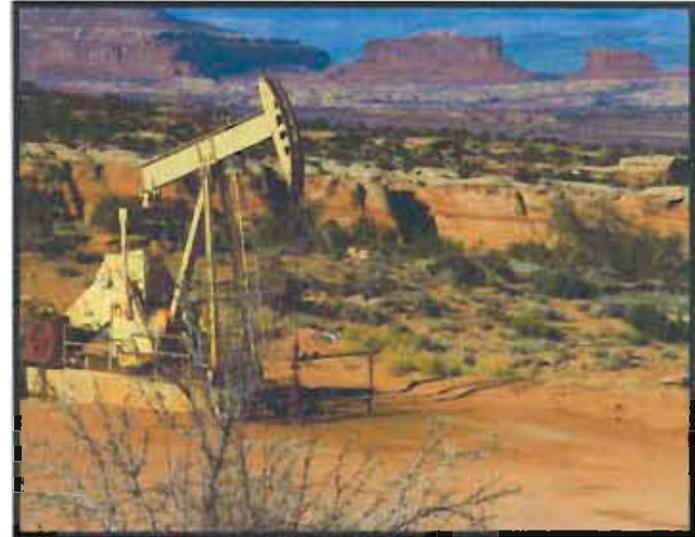
A close-up of a potash pit stake within the pad. Say good-bye soon to the site's ground cover.



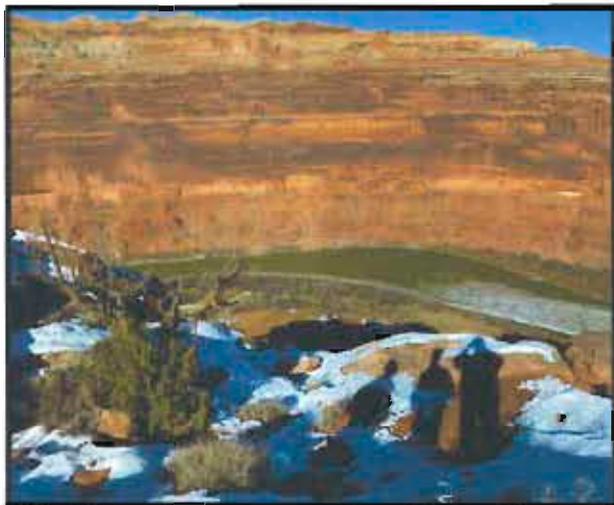
The northeast pit corner staked out at a second test site on BLM land near Hey Joe Canyon.



The viewshed at a staked out potash mine test site where the ground cover could soon be lost.



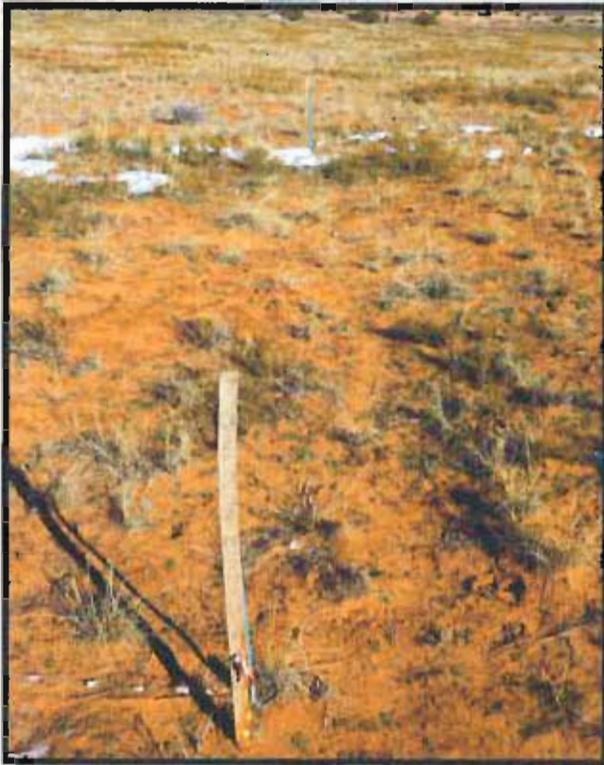
Is this oil pump on Big Flat out of place among the Entrada & Navajo sandstone shapes north of it?



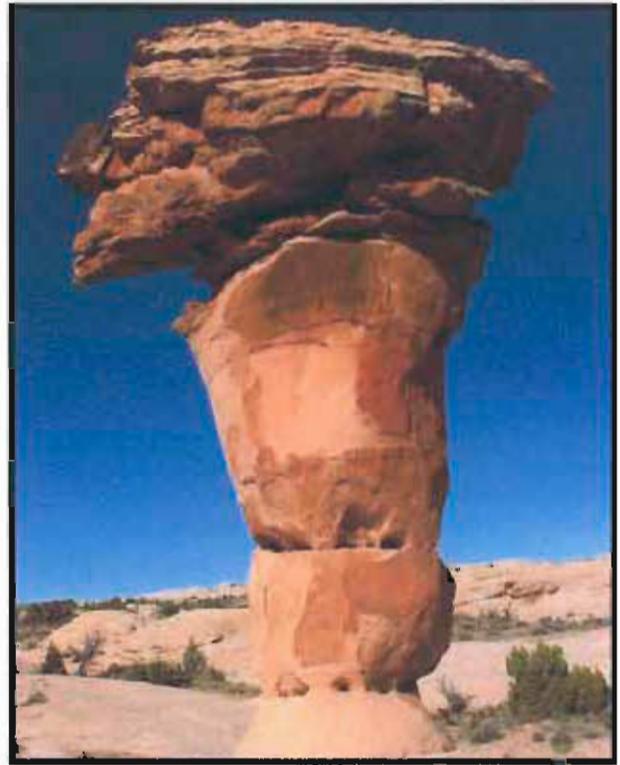
The Green River as seen from Spring Canyon Point above Labyrinth Canyon. The road to this overlook goes by a potash mining test site.



The Fidelity Oil pipeline will run right behind the Dubinky Well site built by the CCC in 1937.



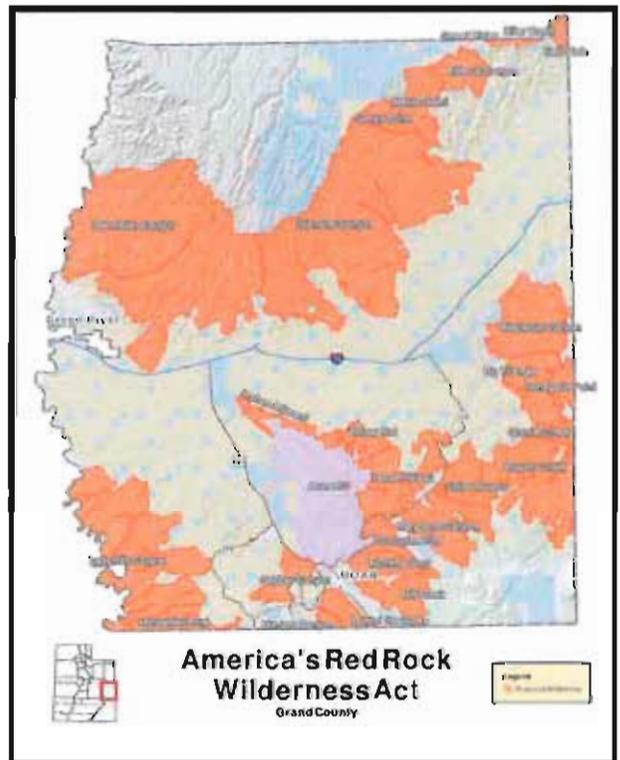
The center line for the test potash site on Spring Canyon Point Rd. near Hey Joe Canyon.



The Secret Spire rock formation near Tombstone Rock is about to be hemmed in by several potash test sites.



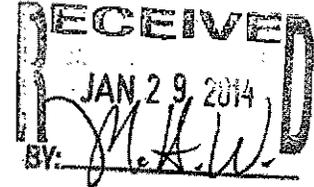
In red is the location for the Magna Resources/American Potash "Green River Project." It's just north of Canyonlands "Island in the Sky" section in an area that currently allows access to a multitude of recreational uses.



The "Green River [Potash] Project" conflicts with the proposed Labyrinth Canyon Wilderness Area.

29 January 2014

Grand County Council
125 East Center Street
Moab, UT 84532-2354



Re: Public Lands Bill

Thank you for soliciting public comment on the proposed Bishop lands initiative, and especially for extending the deadline for submissions. I appreciate your efforts in working with Representative Bishop in his attempts to button down land use designation in our incredible state.

I bought my house in 1998 and have lived full time in Moab since 2003. The National Parks and designated/proposed wilderness areas of this part of the state were primary considerations in my decision to make Moab my home, and I am in favor of protection and preservation of as much wilderness as possible. My childhood in Appalachia gave me unpleasant insight into the environmental destruction and workforce abandonment that seems to be the usual operating mode of extractive industries: copper and coal mining in eastern Tennessee left the landscape and local rivers severely polluted and many towns that thrived during the mining boom were later ghost towns when the mining companies pulled out for greener pastures. Allowing extractive industries to reap the short-term benefits of local resources means that we forever lose the intrinsic benefits of wilderness ~ it's difficult to quantify the benefits of scenic splendor and undeveloped lands, but the thriving tourist industry here and in other parts of Utah should be a strong indicator that our wilderness is well worth preserving.

As a licensed river guide and whitewater enthusiast, I am particularly in favor of protection for river corridors and their tributary canyons. On the Colorado River, I regularly run Westwater and Labyrinth Canyons; ~~Deception Canyon~~ and other sections of the Green River are also regular destinations. These river corridors are spectacular, and should be preserved not only for their scenery and history, but also for the necessary and important role that riparian areas fulfill in this desert ecology. Allowing development/mining anywhere within these watershed areas risks pollution of our environmental bloodstream; consider the recent emergency action required in West Virginia when the Elk River was polluted (twice in one week!) by the chemicals used by the coal industry there.

I love hiking in Hunter Canyon, Behind the Rocks and the Mill Creek area and often see other community members also reveling in the relatively unspoiled beauty there. I treat my out-of-town visitors with hikes to Morning Glory Arch, Mary Jane Canyon, Porcupine Rim and Fisher Towers; they are typically incredulous that these areas are not already protected as wilderness or parks. I believe it is important to have a buffer area around Arches National Park, such as Arches Adjacent, Dome Plateau and Yellow Bird areas;

allowing extractive industries access to those areas would detract from the beauty of the park and create pollution threats similar to the problems already present in the eastern U.S. Perhaps it would behoove those of us in the West to pay attention to many of the environmental problems that already exist in this country, and to be proactive in avoiding a similar fate in this land that we so cherish.

Wilderness opponents continue to insist that development and wilderness can co-exist. From my understanding of the 1964 Wilderness Act, the presence of development negates the potential for wilderness designation. We cannot "undo" development and return an area to the pristine state required for wilderness designation.

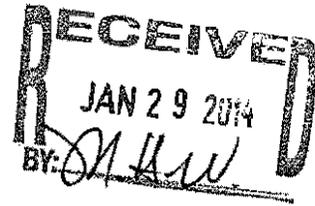
We appreciate your efforts on behalf of the people of Grand County. Remember that the steps you take will have a lasting impact on future generations. Please do not forever trade away our wild lands for short-term benefits of resource extraction.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nancy Orr', with a large, stylized circular flourish at the end.

Nancy Orr

Faylene Roth
93 Bailey Lane
HC 64 Box 3713
Castle Valley UT 84532



January 29, 2014

Grand County Council
125 E. Center Street
Moab UT 84532

Re: Comments regarding the Public Lands Initiative

Our public lands are an asset whether they are owned and managed at the national, state, county, or municipal level, whether they are developed (parks and mineral extraction) or undeveloped (wilderness). We must remember that our undeveloped public lands are like a savings account for the future—for our children, great grandchildren, and beyond. This is not a “touchy-feely” sentiment. These lands belong to the future as much as they do to the present. The decision to “use them all up” is not entirely up to us. Therefore: wilderness designation should be a significant percentage of the land allocation. Some wilderness designations will be made because the regions are unique in natural beauty, sensitive wildlife and plant habitat, and are essential recharge areas to maintain surrounding air quality and high quality drinking water to surrounding communities. Other natural areas should be designated as wilderness for the purpose of putting additional land aside for future generations to decide how to use.

We live in a beautiful and bountiful country with an intelligent, creative, resourceful, and—yes—opinionated population. Can we agree on some basic management guidelines? I would like to call on the Declaration of Independence which calls for the right to the “pursuit of happiness” for all. To me that means the right to health, to a means to make a living and support a family, and to fair opportunity for all. Management of air quality and water quality should prevent contamination, period. There is no place on this earth where we should pollute our air, water, or ground—not our communities, not our water supplies, not our air, not our playgrounds, not wildlife and plant habitat. Is that possible to achieve? Yes, if we apply our creative, resourceful intelligence to requiring that all mining, industry, commercial, and private concerns adhere to the highest standards of best management practices that prevent contaminants from spilling over into the environment. We have the intelligence and expertise to create the technology and legislation to accomplish this. Yes, we do have to pay for it, but a resourceful, working population should be able to pay for it and be proud to live in a county and country that preserves the physical and economic health of its people and its land.

One major guideline missing from the discussion is conservation. Before we over-designate much of our public land to mineral extraction and grazing, we should first promote a culture of conservation that develops and uses its resources responsibly (with best management practices to prevent pollution) and preserves the remainder for future generations. Grand County and the Public Lands Initiative can play an important role here by not using land exchanges to create "islands" of land for deleterious types of mining extraction—such as in tar sands and oil shale—and recognizing that we don't have to just keep supplying more and more raw materials for energy production; we can instead hold back on lands designated for the extraction of the old, traditional, polluting fossil fuels and promote new technology that produces renewable energy resources on public lands where they are appropriate while at the same time encouraging responsible conservative use of resources.

Much of the discussion I hear around the use of public lands revolves around local economies and the availability of jobs. I think it is short-sighted for the state, counties, and municipalities to use the Land Use Initiative as an easy out for jobs. Mineral extraction jobs move in then out of a community. Communities instead need to take long, hard looks at what suits the health of their economy and protects the health of its population. Light manufacturing, recreation, service, and higher education facilities are all promising opportunities for Grand County and many of these opportunities take place off the public lands.

As a resident of Castle Valley, Grand County, and as discussed in Paragraph 2, I think it essential that the recharge area for my community's sole-source aquifer on the north side of the La Sal Mountains and through Pinhook Basin should be protected as presented by the Grand Canyon Trust in its La Sal Wilderness Proposal: Proposed Forest Wilderness and La Sal Mountains N.S.A.—Grand and San Juan Counties.

I also support the Town of Castle Valley in its expressed support for designating as wilderness and/or conservation areas the region from the Book and Roan Cliffs southward across Yellow Cat and Dome Point through Arches and across the Colorado River to include Porcupine Rim and surrounding areas in order to maintain the integrity of our air quality in Castle Valley.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this discussion. I hope there will be more opportunities before the discussion is over.

Sincerely yours,

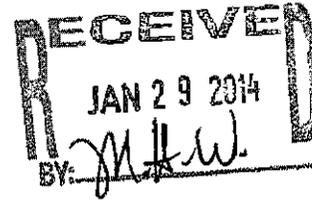
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Faylene Roth". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Faylene Roth

cc: Congressman Rob Bishop

January 27, 2014

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



Dear Council Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Congressman Bishop's "Public Lands Initiative" (PLI) to present a Wilderness Bill to the nation.

We all have a story about how we arrived in Grand County.

I learned to love the outdoors from my family on extended jeeping camp-outs into the High Sierra. I cherish a photo of my grandfather, a professional engineer, taken in 1905 with a deer slung over the saddle of his horse. I learned so much from him and my father about living in the backcountry. It sparked the love of and dedication to observation. These things started me on my education and career in science.

Now, I am a Grand County resident and have owned property here since 1999. Prior to settling here, I had spent many years visiting and exploring the heart of the Colorado Plateau on its rivers and by foot. The opportunity to experience solitude and the sheer magnitude of the landscape and its awesome beauty captured my spirit. Everyday, I express grateful thanks to be able to live in such a beautiful place that offers clean air and water. We have a great community and I believe that each person cherishes the opportunity to work, play, and just be in the 'back of beyond'.

I have not been on every square foot of ground in Grand County but when I take a hard look at the places I have visited and spent time – it covers a lot of territory! For example, I have been to some portion of each the areas proposed as wilderness in the America's Red Rock Bill and the National Forest Wilderness/La Sal Mountains NSA proposals. Some areas I have returned to regularly and in all seasons. The river corridors and the uplands that surround them are extra special for me but all places I have been to are unique and provide their own special something. I live in a vital watershed that produces clean water and air, where I can see mule deer, golden eagles, jack rabbits, and bobcat (when lucky) living on their lands and still enjoy the companionship of friends and neighbors.

But it is not just about designated wilderness.

I want to share that I come from the perspective of a soil scientist who has spent over 30 years consulting on a wide variety of development projects in the West. A good percentage of my jobs were focused on reclaiming drastically disturbed lands developed for extraction of commodity resources such as coal, hard-rock minerals, oil & gas, coal-bed methane. I worked with collaborative teams representing academic and agency expertise to find the best methods to achieve reclamation success. My findings have been that, yes, the land can be reclaimed to simulate pre-disturbance topography and vegetation that may resemble the undisturbed ecosystem. However, the process always requires great effort and cost, and more often than not, requires multiple 'entries' before 'success' can be proclaimed. And still, these reclaimed

landscapes are a very long way from functioning as the pre-disturbance, intact ecosystems. At best there is soil cover to support vegetation that minimizes wind and water erosion but the productivity of the living soil, and what it ultimately can support, is not recoverable for many, many years. We still have much to learn through research and applied technology. Land is put 'out of service' for long periods, beyond lifetimes in some circumstances, and results in habitat fragmentation at all scales of the biological and physical. So, I come from a position of great respect for intact landscapes as well as caution when it comes to disturbing the soil.

I am very concerned that the PLI effort is not in concert with Grand County's on-going planning processes. 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.

As stated on Congressman Bishop's site - He "will consider wilderness designations when they have the support of the local communities in which the designations occur. The people that live in these areas know the land best and are better equipped to decide what should and should not be wilderness." I agree with this statement to a degree. Yes, we, as locals, likely have a greater depth of knowledge of the land in the context of experience and local planning. But public lands belong to all citizens of the US and there are many visitors, part-time residents, etc., who spend a lot of time exploring Grand County and know the land and have important input to provide. Everyone should be given equal opportunity to participate in the already established and ongoing Federal land management agency processes no matter how slow these processes are. So wide-ranging input should be included in the mapping that the Council proposes to do now.

Congressman Bishop further states "...In addition to local support, wilderness designations should also be accompanied with other specific, tangible benefits elsewhere; such as local or state control over one or many roads; designation of zones for energy, timber and other resource development; transferring lands to local control for a new park or airport; or dedicated revenue streams generated by swapping school trust lands for energy-rich lands in other areas." I disagree with this assessment because it doesn't comport with other planning processes that are in the works in our region. Also, I think that this statement implies that once areas are designated as wilderness that it gives the go-ahead for development scenarios on all other lands.

It's About Planning

As you know, Grand County adopted the updated General Plan in February 2012. The Plan is meant to be an active tool for our community to guide development and land management options.

The General Plan is written to provide general policy direction while also providing enough detail to guide decision-making and set priorities. Five factors make a General Plan "general":

- covers the entire area of the unincorporated county.
- integrates authentic and diverse community participation spanning the full-range of perspectives and interests.
- time horizon considered in the plan is long-range, extending two decades into the future, well beyond the pressing concerns of today.
- provides general guidance on where and how growth and various land uses should occur.
- clarifies the relationships between social and economic goals, such as economic development and physical development goals, such as land use and infrastructure.

Grand County has grown into an economy supported by recreation and tourism. This was clearly identified in the plan in Chapter 2 and is more fully supported by the study The Economic Value of Public Lands in Grand County, Utah (Headwaters Economics, 2011).

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.

Grand County residents have embraced their public lands. More than one-third of households have a member that works in a tourism and recreation business related to public lands, and nearly two-thirds of local residents indicate that public lands are “extremely important” to their business.

This study examines a wide range of public lands uses, including mining and agriculture, but focuses on recreation because this type of use represents the largest, most complex, and least well understood activity on public lands in the county. (Summary and Discussion)

Full Report: <http://headwaterseconomics.org/land/reports/economic-grand-county/>

The report also shows that recovery from economic downturns are faster for the amenities vs extractive sectors of our economy. Not without its own drawbacks, an amenities economy is more sustainable for local jobs and economy and assures that dollars spent here stay here.

Further, our General Plan incorporates by reference specific plans with goals and guidelines pertaining to land preservation and conservation.

1) The Wilderness Plan adopted as an amendment to the General Plan in 1995 is the county’s policy document for the designation of wilderness on federal lands. It includes recommendations for wilderness and additional lands for alternative methods of protection.

2) The 2008 Grand County Scenic Byways Corridor Management Plan provides planning guidance along the scenic byways in the county. Goals:

- Preserve open spaces and scenic integrity
- Preserve pastoral character of the corridors, including cultural landscapes of existing agricultural fields
- Promote recreation practices compatible with resource management and byway character goals
- Preserve and restore native ecosystems, wildlife habitat, soils, and threatened and endangered species
- Protect archaeological, historical, and paleontological resources
- Protect dark night skies, clean air and water, and natural sound-scapes
- Promote quality visitor experiences

3) The 2011 Grand County Non-motorized Trails Master Plan (Trails Master Plan) identifies non-motorized recreation and commuter routes throughout the county. The General Plan update aligns with the trails plan and supports the implementation of it by recommending multimodal pathways or bike lanes along major county roads and highways. The Future Land Use Plan places trail corridors as a high priority for open space conservation and offers incentives for developers to preserve them.

These sub-plans, based on extensive research and public participation, support a good case for land conservation and protective measures that include and go beyond wilderness designation. And they also recognize Grand County’s interdependence with our neighboring counties, region, the nation, and the world.

Throughout the General Plan, there are many references to the community's vision to protect basic resources such as air, water quality and quantity, scenic vistas, and to conserve developable resources. As above, these views and community values were gathered through an extensive and well-attended input process that was on-going during the Plan's development. And the Plan recognizes the robust cooperative relationship with the federal land management agencies that will continue into the future and has set policies on this – see p55.

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.

Therefore, if the County is to proceed with the PLL, we should be doing it in the context of our General Plan. I would then look forward to Congressman Bishop's help to guide our community decision through the national legislative process.

If we are to start drawing lines on a map for wilderness I advocate that we go 'large'.

We also need to consider associated lands that can protect our future and enhance our quality of life and that would benefit from administrative/legal protections that are not wilderness designation. There are many creative land protection and conservation tools that have been successfully applied in the West and in Grand County. These need to be more fully explored and implemented.

Protecting lands now leaves them whole for the future – like a bank savings account or trust to be used for that rainy day. I don't think the rainy day is here yet to justify extension ground-disturbing fossil fuel extraction especially for tar sands, oil shale, and potash.

Please consider the following points. I offer these as a very few of the examples as to why we need to engage the larger planning context to make sound decisions.

Wilderness and water

Here are 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.

House Status: Introduced in the House by Rep. Jim Matheson (D-UT) on July 24, 2013. Referred to the House Natural Resources Committee's Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation on July 29, 2013.

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.

Senate Status: Introduced in Senate by Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO) and co-sponsored by Sen. Mark Udall (D-CO) on April 25, 2013. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee's Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests and Mining held hearings November 20, 2013.

House Status: Introduced in House by Rep. Scott Tipton (R-CO) on April 25, 2013. Referred to House Committee on Natural Resources on May 6, 2013, and that committee's Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources and Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation on May 8, 2013.

Recently, the U.S. Forest Service released a national map depicting the condition of all 15,000 watersheds located in the 193 million-acre National Forest Lands System. Pieced together by specialists on every national forest, the Watershed Condition Classification Map was the first nationwide assessment of its kind. Further analysis shows that there is an association between watershed health and protected lands. I have included the map for Region 4 that includes Utah.

Using this information, The Wilderness Society (2012) commissioned a computerized map overlay analysis to investigate the spatial relationships between watershed conditions and land designations. They took the Forest Service's maps identifying the three watershed condition classes -- High, Moderate, and Poor watershed health (based on well-scrutinized criteria) - and matched them with maps of three land use categories - Wilderness Areas, Roadless Areas, and all other National Forest System lands. They found that 80 % of the Wilderness land is located in the healthiest watersheds, while 18 % is in moderately healthy watersheds. Roadless Areas are associated with 64 % of the land in the healthiest watersheds. The remaining NFS lands are associated with only 38 % in top watershed condition.

These studies support the notion that protected, undisturbed lands sustain healthy function of watersheds. In this big picture analysis, we are fortunate that the LaSals and Abajos do not show impaired function. A very good reason to ensure that these watersheds do not decline further.

Climate Change

In the West, climate change threatens many watersheds. Watersheds provide most of the water (surface and ground sources) for culinary and other beneficial uses. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2007) reported a likely 2°C to 4.5°C temperature rise in the upcoming decades. This warming is likely to affect watershed ecosystems and their ability to provide services that benefit human well-being. The Colorado Plateau is predicted to experience the more extreme ends of these impacts. Among other effects, climate change decreases the amount of snow stored in the mountains, introduces invasive species, changes the vegetation, and increases the risk of wildfire and, in turn, flooding.

With respect to this latter point, we have seen the flooding played out in the Placer Creek watershed following the Porcupine Rim Fire. We really must pay attention and incorporate climate change projections as best we can into our planning processes.

A comprehensive water study for the Glen Canyon/Spanish Valley Aquifers is more needed now than when originally proposed. This is a vital step in making sound decisions on providing water for baseline uses, existing culinary uses, and development.

Economic value of ecosystem services

The importance and contribution of healthy ecosystems to human well-being has gained increasing awareness and attention in recent years. Ecosystems are defined as “a dynamic complex of plant, animal, and microorganism communities and the nonliving environmental interaction as a functional unit” (Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA), 2005). The components of ecosystems, such as soil and trees, interact in complex processes that create functions that produce environmental goods and services. Ecosystem services are the benefits that people obtain, directly and indirectly, from ecosystems. There are various types of ecosystem services, including provisioning services, such as food, water, air, and timber; regulating services that influence climate, water quality, floods and diseases; supporting services, including soil formation, photosynthesis and nutrient cycling; and cultural services that provide recreational, spiritual and aesthetic benefits (MEA, 2005).

The health of our communities depends on the health of our natural resources. In the broad view, America’s forests, wetlands, and other natural areas provide our communities with tremendous benefits, including clean water and air, and defending against weather-related disasters. ‘Ecosystem services valuation’ has emerged as a way to recognize the economic value embodied in these services that is not currently reflected in markets, and, to understand the impacts of climate change on these values. Our forests, for example, capture about 14% of the domestic carbon emissions (USEPA 2009) and our national forests alone provide 58% of the nation’s water supply (A. Kimbell, Chief, USFS, 2009). Wetlands are estimated to provide the equivalent of \$23.2 billion in storm protection services every year and translates to an average of \$33,000 an acre (Costanza et al. 2008).

The Mapping

As you are well aware, there are numerous proposals for land protection in Grand County. I think that all of them should be brought to the table. Be bold and go large for wilderness. This is a ‘starter’ list and not meant to be all inclusive. Note that most of these crossover political boundaries.

- Grand County Wilderness Plan
- Water Source Protection Zones for Grand County (General Plan pp71-73)
- Castle Valley Sole Source Aquifer Watershed Designation
- Glen Canyon Sole Source Aquifer Aquifer Watershed Designation
- Trail Mix Plan
- Scenic Byways Corridor Plan
- America’s Red Rock Wilderness proposal (Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance)
- National Forest Wilderness and La Sal Mountains NSA (Grand Canyon Trust)
- Utah Outdoor Business Network proposals (presented to Council May 7, 2013)
- 1999 BLM wilderness inventory

Conclusion

Speaking later in his life on just one component of our surrounding landscape, Stewart Udall said “If I were young enough, I would work to expand Canyonlands National Park to its original million acres. I have been saying for decades . . . the most beautiful scenic area in the world is the Colorado Plateau.”

And I hope you have had the enormous pleasure of seeing the plein air paintings by HMK 5th and 6th graders celebrating the creation of the Park that are on display at the MARC. Each painting is wonderful but seen all together it will take your breath away.

In the end we are stewards of the land and should err on the side of careful deliberation and conservation because this protects the future for our children's, children's grandchildren.

I encourage the Council to slow the process down and broaden the community input. In the absence of more disclosure on a process for the PLI in Grand County, I can only conclude that the Council is, in effect, creating new land use maps. 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. Let's work together to foster a legacy that will be admired and honored by our descendants long after we are gone. Please let me know if I can provide you with any of the references noted in my letter.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment. You have inspired me to express more than justification for wilderness. Thanks for listening and I would love to learn your story.

Sincerely,



Pam Hackley
HC 64 Box 3208
Castle Valley, UT 84532

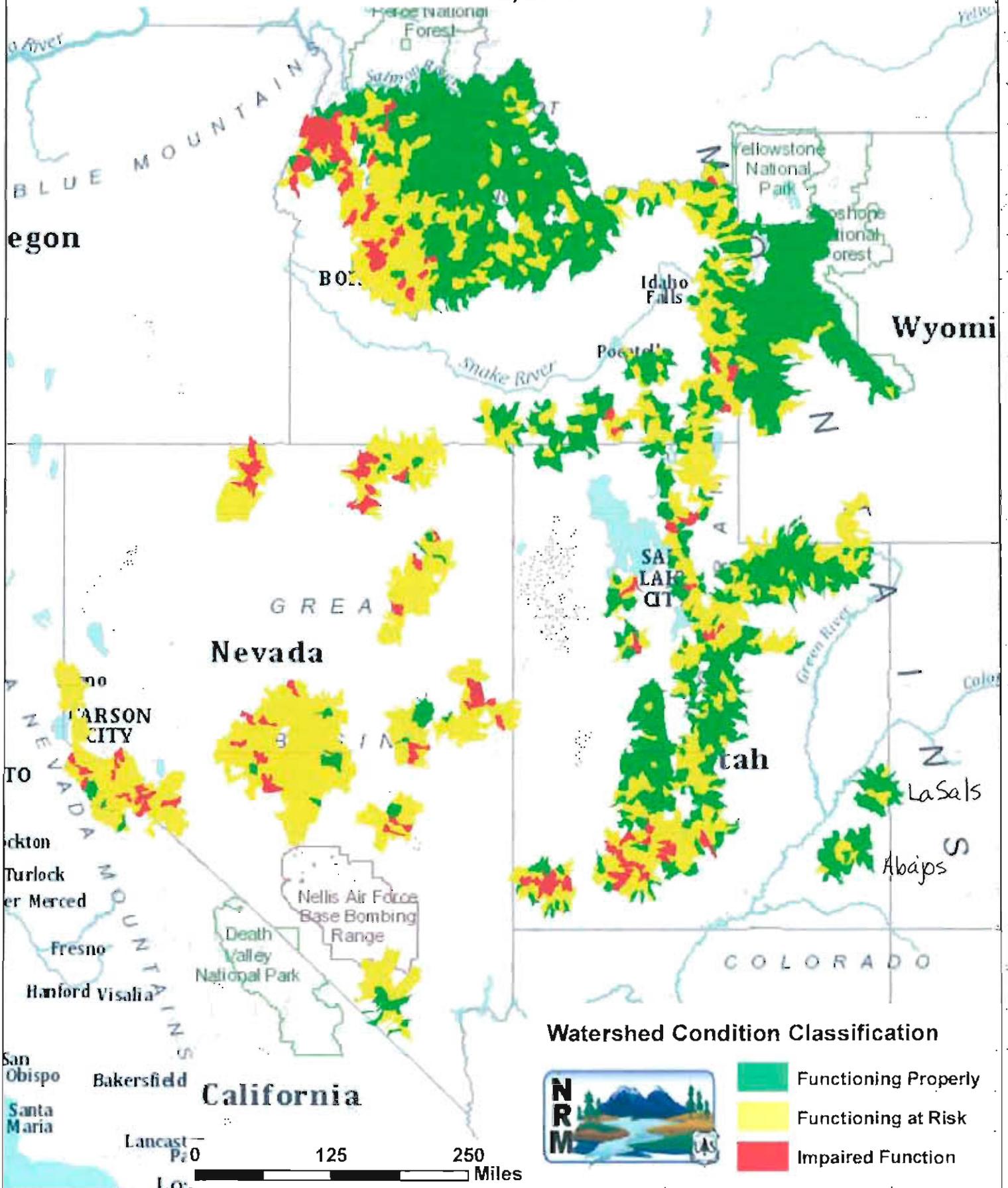
"We cannot create more wilderness, but we can destroy what miraculously remains." Terry Tempest Williams

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

USDA Forest Service Watershed Condition Classification - Region 4

Ratings based on assessments of National Forest System land in sixth-level watersheds

MAY 12, 2011



To: Grand County Council

Subject: Comments on Bishop's land proposal

From: Bruce Keeler, 78 Bailey Lane, Castle Valley, UT 259-2298

January 28, 2014

Council Members,

I appreciate the opportunity to give comments on the use of public lands here in Grand County. Congressman Bishop's proposal of legislation to manage public lands is a worthwhile process to be involved in. Even if no workable legislation comes out of it on a national level here at home we can use the input to better work together.

There is a great balancing act to perform if we are to be successful locally and serve our present and future community. We need clean water and air and a diversified economy to support those of us who have chosen to be here. Because of our geographical location most of our residents are clustered in the southern most area of the county.

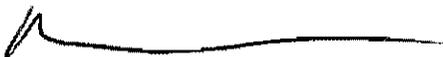
Clean drinking water and irrigation water are the most crucial elements of existence here. I feel we need to protect our aquifers and the watersheds that supply us so that they are not contaminated from industrial processes. Much of the watershed is on federal lands.

Health and public safety are the reasons for clean air and as with water it is necessary to ensure that industrial processes do not make our air unhealthy. Areas bordering residential zones need protection from industry.

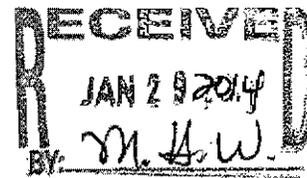
That said, we need a vital economy that is not reliant on any one industry. At present we basically have a two-sided economy, one being tourism and the other being some form of extractive process. What could be more diametrically opposed than the two elements of our economic base? Tourism relies on our state and national parks, rivers and backcountry. We need to create buffer zones around the parks and rivers that allow light to moderate impacts to nurture our tourist industry as well as help with the clean water and air. More impactful types of industry could then be allowed past these buffer zones where they are appropriate. Heavy industry and tourism are like oil and water.

We have been given a great gift in Grand County and we hopefully have the ability to work together and come up with a means of nurturing a good healthy economy without sacrificing the basic needs of our residents. This is the great balancing act, protecting our clean water and air while providing for a two-pronged economy.

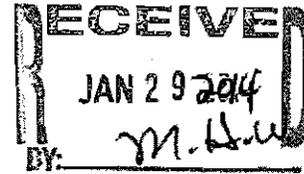
Thank you



Bruce Keeler



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



From: Robert Lippman
Date: January 28, 2014
Subj: Comments on Public Lands Initiative, Bishop Bill

Dear Councilmembers,

Thanks you for your consideration of Grand County's future in the context of public lands, and for the opportunity to comment.

I live and breathe in Grand County; have been doing so for 40 years. My garden and local agriculture feed my family and I; enjoying our public lands keeps us fit and healthy; and living immersed in the beauty and quietude of our dynamic landscapes feeds and uplifts our spirits. Virtually everyone I interact with locally agrees with these sentiments. Our recreational economy and outdoor studies opportunities have also supported my economic well being for much of my life. It is wilderness and open space that maintain all these blessings, while unplanned industrialization degrades them. Can everything we hold dear - our local quality of life, and our strong economic base of parklands, recreation, tourism and amenities - truly "co-exist" with oil and gas? Experience clearly answers with a resounding no, and an overwhelming number of residents and visitors are frustrated and angry over the County's lax and negligent approach to planning and to the protection of public, community and environmental health and welfare.

THE INITIATIVE PROCESS

While any well-intended effort to resolve land use conflicts is worthy of detailed consideration, a sound process for designating public lands for protection, development or use should not be framed by "referendum," but more properly through a rational, objective, and scientifically-based planning process, supported by social, economic and environmental data and studies.

I would therefore urge the County Council to focus its efforts and resources on instituting a watershed-based study and comprehensive long-term planning process, guided by values and directives articulated in the existing General Plan for Grand County. Such a process would not be narrowly drawn and limited to an antiquated and obsolete, "wilderness vs. multiple use" paradigm, but should holistically evaluate the larger realm of social, economic, environmental and ecological benefits and impacts of a spectrum of alternatives. Such a broader and more comprehensive approach would far better ensure sound decision-making and a more sustainable and healthy future for Grand County, its residents, and its resources.

In visioning such a process, it should be recognized that Grand County has developed a viable recreational/tourist/amenities economy, which has been documented as providing a stronger, healthier and more diverse economy by far, than the extractive industry has ever provided. Simply do the real math, and add in the environmental and intangible benefits.

But more importantly, any "balance" that needs to be sought should first and foremost articulate the needs and goals of sustainable and healthy communities, functional and healthy watersheds, environmental quality and public health, carrying capacities of land and water resources, and quality of life. Seeking and finding common ground within such a watershed framework would provide a sounder basis for planning and land designation than a "grand /compromise/bargain" would, as proposed by Rep. Bishop in his "all-of-the-above" approach.

I therefore urge Grand County to build upon values and directions articulated in its publicly driven General Plan, and to partner with Federal, State and private agencies and concerns, in studying and recommending legislation that primarily preserves the quality of life and our public lands in Grand County.

Sound legal processes and standards for designating public lands and uses were mandated and developed decades ago, utilizing scientific and economic methodologies, to guide rational decision-making. Comprehensive environmental reviews help and guide agencies and decision makers to make better choices, based upon full consideration of the pro's and con's of proposed actions, and upon what serves the greater good and benefits and works best in the long term.

The present "Public Lands Initiative," despite its seemingly well-intended goal of breaking deadlocks and resolving land use conflicts, will simply exacerbate such conflicts and create newer, more egregious ones, if it fails to incorporate these established and tested, legal and environmental review processes, standards and methodologies. This will only destabilize communities, watersheds, infrastructures, public health, and quality of life in the long term.

THE CLEAR AND PRUDENT PATH

Having commented on the process and goals themselves, I would also offer a few substantive remarks.

Any proposal for legislation, *after* having been subjected to a meaningful and comprehensive review process, should first consider wilderness or other protective designations for all primary watersheds and aquifer recharge areas. As Grand County's unique and wild landscapes have become by far our greatest economic (and aesthetic/spiritual, I would again add) asset, they must also be protected as such. America's Red Rock Wilderness Act is predicated upon such protections and goals, and should be incorporated into any legislation. The La Sal Wilderness Proposal is also predicated on healthy, community watersheds and should thus be incorporated into any proposal. Southern Utah's national parks and the Colorado and Green River corridors

and tributaries must be protected from industrialization and development adjacent to these wildlands and recreational resources. Recreation and tourism fuel a diverse amenities economy for local businesses, whereas industrial development tends to take money out of the community and county, and leave them with more infrastructure costs and impacts. Such public lands protections not only serve a more diverse and viable local economy, but they are necessary to maintain clean water and air quality.

A comprehensive planning process, as noted above, has the potential to partner the County with Federal (BLM and National Forest Service) and State (SITLA) agencies as participating entities to facilitate coordination of management goals and strategies. Legislation could then assist in surmounting any legal hurdles raised by conflicting agency missions or management schemes.

The underlying concept of Rep. Bishop, that "wilderness is currency," taken alone, is a flawed premise upon which to base meaningful, long-term legislation or prudent planning. A "dollars-for-dollars" bargain may look pragmatic on the table, but it will not protect the commons or our community health and welfare. And it would undermine the values and intentions articulated in the Grand County General Plan.

Wilderness or other land and water protections/designations should not be held hostage for opening up crash development of antiquated and polluting fossil fuels (oil and gas, tar sands, shale oil). Utah's experience in fossil fuels development overtly demonstrates that oil and gas development rapidly degrades air quality to unhealthy and unattractive levels, and fracking has already destroyed culinary aquifers and water supplies around the nation. Grand County is on a fast track to compete with other areas of the state that have the worst air quality in the nation due to rampant oil and gas. Is this really a meritorious "goal" that can be justified by "balanced" land use? Again, can our local quality of life and the recreational/tourist/amenities economy truly "co-exist" with oil and gas? Both science and experience overwhelmingly demonstrate not.

In addition to the spectacular public lands and recreational resources that Grand County is blessed with, we are also the beneficiaries of sufficient solar resources to allow for the local production and distribution of viable, renewable energy; energy that can power clean cars and public transportation while providing good employment opportunity and local money turnover, and enhancing the recreation/amenities economy.

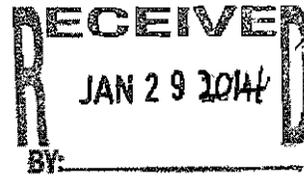
Grand County holds a great potential to become an international model for sustainable watershed community habitation and economy. Let's refine our vision and expand our creative horizons beyond old, unworkable paradigms for planning, land use and management, and take the lead with innovative responses to the unprecedented and pressing challenges of climate change, air and water pollution, and degradation of community and public health due to the continued frenzy to exploit fossil fuels for non-local, corporate profits. Grand County can take a leading role in the global energy transition, and make a great statement by truly embracing renewable energy and replacing fossil fuels with a clean future. It's in the General Plan; now it needs to be put into place on the ground, and with the air and water.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of these challenging issues and opportunities.

Sincerely,



Robert Lippman
HC 64 Box 3208
Castle Valley, UT 84532



Grand County Council

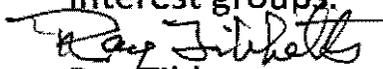
Subject: Land Use Plan

I am writing to express my concern on this matter. In the fall of 2013, we met with Congressman Bishop and his staff out at Hatch Point and other meetings here in Moab. We reiterated to him our desire for multiple use.

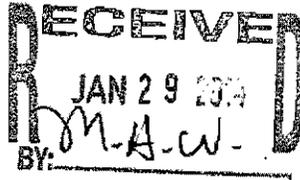
For many years this land has been managed under the concept of Multiple Use, which means the people of Grand County can use it for many purposes.

We do Not need more Wilderness areas. We now have 350,000 acres locked up for Wilderness study areas that has never been approved by Congress. This land should be returned for Multiple Use.

I respectfully ask that your decision be made for the good of all the people of Grand County and not be decided in favor of special interest groups.


Ray Tibbetts

Member of the Sagebrush Coalition



1996 Highland Drive
Moab UT 84532
January 28, 2014

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

Dear Committee Members:

I'm sure that you will be receiving many different ideas on how to use our public lands. These lands belong to all the people of this nation. Greed and self-interest shouldn't dictate the use of public land.

I would like you to keep in mind the words of that visionary Republican statesman, Teddy Roosevelt: "I hate the man who skins the land."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John S. Covey". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

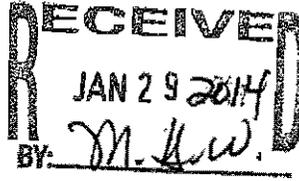
John S. Covey

John S. Covey
1996 W. Highland Dr.
Moab UT 84532

187 East Shafer Lane
Castle Valley, Utah 84532

January 29, 2014

Grand County Council
Attn: Public Lands Bill
125 East Center Street
Moab, Utah 84532



Dear Council Members,

As a resident of Grand County, I urge you to support the America's Red Rock Wilderness Act (H.R. 1630/S. 769) as the best proposed legislation to protect our public lands. For over twenty years my family, friends and I have hiked, camped in or rafted down numerous canyons, including Desolation, Labyrinth, Spring, Hellroaring, Mineral, Goldbar, Mary Jane, Hunter and Sweetwater Canyons. I am surrounded by the Porcupine Rim, Beaver Creek, Fisher Towers and the Dome Plateau and have spent countless hours exploring them, as well as Mill Creek, Behind the Rocks, the Book Cliffs and many, many more incredible places here in Grand County.

But I have seen the extractive industries exerting more pressure to exploit and remove oil, gas and the minerals buried under our public lands. Those industries take away far more than they give back in revenues and jobs. People come from all over the world to experience the natural beauty of this area. The problem is putting a price tag on our most valuable resource, God's handiwork: unmarred scenery, clean air, clean water, starry nights, peace and quiet undisturbed by running motors and other industrial noises.¹ We have all this now. It is a rare thing in today's world. It was once abundant and taken for granted. Now it is lost in most of the world. How can we not try to preserve this truly priceless resource? Do we so desperately need the temporary jobs and payments from corporations that only want to strip the land to find tar sands, use our precious water and contaminate our watershed to extract the scant oil, so they can sell it to foreign countries where it will then contaminate the air we all breathe? Look at Alberta, Canada. No one I know wants that to happen in our backyard.

There are other more productive, less destructive alternatives for providing tax revenues and economic opportunities for the citizens of Grand County and Southeastern Utah. As the representatives for the people of Grand County, it is your duty to protect these public treasures from the destruction inevitably caused by such extraction. Preserve wilderness, protect our water and protect our public lands from extractive exploitation by supporting America's Red Rock Wilderness Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pamela A. Gibson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Pamela A. Gibson

¹ While hiking to Jewell Arch and in the area above Seven Mile Canyon, the noise from those oil wells off Hwy 313 mars the experience, not to mention the flaming gas burn or the pipeline that will soon run for miles across area.

29 Jan 14

To the Grand County Council
Re the Public Lands bill, under consideration

My name is Karou'oris' Coffey, and I've lived in Castle Valley, Grand County, since I bought property here in 1988 and then took possession of my home here in 1989. It has been my full-time residence ever since.

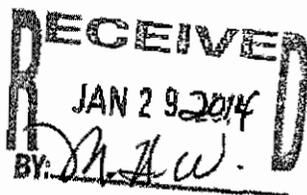
Although I grew up and raised a family in the Provo and Salt Lake City areas, it was not until 1983 that I discovered southeast Utah's high desert treasures, and I have sought peace and solitude there for all the succeeding years. I have learned the healing available in these isolated spots - Mill Creek canyon, Fisher Towers, Porcupine Rim (which I look up to every day), Mary Jane Canyon, Goldbar and Drainpipe canyons, Hunter, Mineral Bottom and Hellroaring canyon, plus nameless and countless others which have never failed to offer their solitude and their secrets, away from the ordinary stresses and challenges of life.

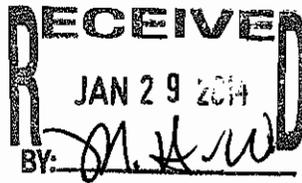
People need wild places to stay sane. Please help us keep them safe.

Sincerely, and thank you,

CNS Coffey
HCB #2607

Castle Valley UT 84532





HC 65, Box 3706
Castle Valley, UT 84532
January 29, 2014

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

Re: Congressman Rob Bishop's Public Lands Initiative

Dear Council Members,

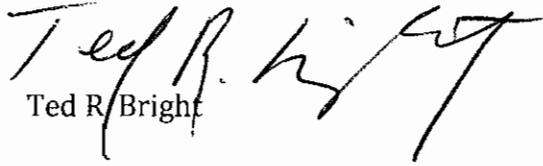
I encourage the Grand County Council to support and promote the designation and protection as wilderness all areas lying within Grand County included in Section 103 of House Bill 1630, America's Red Rock Wilderness Act. I recognize that there are other "uses" proposed for these lands, including exploration and the extraction and transporting of mineral resources, but I urge the council to support limiting these and all other activities inconsistent with wilderness as defined in the Wilderness Act of 1964 to the considerable public lands in Grand County that lie outside of the wilderness areas identified in H.R. 1630.

Though I believe that the long term economic health and overall quality of life of the residents of Grand County will be best served by a commitment to supporting the designation and preservation of the areas identified as wilderness in the house bill, it is the value of wilderness to the nation as a whole and to future generations that I believe is most critical. The opportunity to preserve and protect any significant wilderness in the Northeast, the South or the Midwest was, for the most part, lost long ago. And with few exceptions in those areas of the country, there is no turning back. In the Southwest, we still have the opportunity to make different, wiser, more far-sighted decisions about the fate of the remaining undeveloped, roadless areas that qualify for wilderness designation. To my knowledge, no generation has ever resented or scolded a prior generation for the wilderness that it has left behind untarnished.

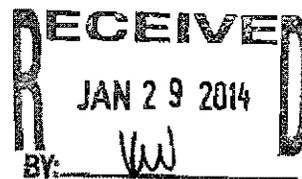
To maintain the unparalleled quality of life provided by the natural assets of the Colorado Plateau, we must be committed to preserving the areas of wilderness that still remain in this region. For ourselves and for the land itself, we must be committed to protecting the landscapes and the biodiversity of these fragile ecosystems from harm. The greatest threats to the relatively pristine lands of the Colorado Plateau, and Grand County in particular, come from the activities of the extractive industries. The question that Congress must ultimately grapple with is whether or not the value of the short-term economic benefits to be reaped from mining these lands for energy resources outweighs the value we place on preserving these same lands as wilderness for ourselves and future generations and our

responsibility to the land itself. For me, it's not a close call. It is my hope that the Grand County Council will reach a similar conclusion in support of wilderness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted R. Bright". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ted" being the most prominent.

Ted R. Bright



Dear Grand County Council,

I have lived in GC for over 22 years. I relocated here for very specific reasons, wilderness and clean air & water. Raising our family here we visited as much of the area as we could and continue to do so. We are avid river runners, hikers, bikers, campers, and all around desert rats.

I worked in property management for over 10 years and spoke with literally thousands of people about moving or visiting us in Grand County. Most of the people I know or have met, have remained here, or moved here, or even visited here, for the very same reasons.

Our wilderness brings people from all over the world and will continue to do so FOREVER if we all help to protect it. Tourism from our wilderness is something that is sustainable, unlike oil extraction and tar sands mining. But it will only be here if we protect it and KEEP it wild.

The recent water contamination in W.V. is a dire warning to all of us about how precious our water is and how important it is to protect it. We are in a drought that may or may not end. There is only so much water and probably less to come. Please don't risk what little we have on DIRTY, DIRTY energy that when extracted will leave only polluted, ruined, and even removed wilderness.

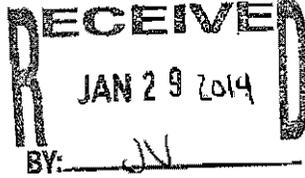
Please take the time to drive up to the Book Cliffs and see for yourself the elk & deer and unmolested wilderness. Then drive up to PR Springs and witness firsthand where/what the tar sands mine is. Witness for yourselves the beautiful draw that is full of fresh water springs (clean water) that is being bulldozed and REMOVED as I write this for a little bit of oil. Walk up the monstrous new highway eating into the mountains. This huge road is being built to, yes, to *remove the mountains*. It really is bigger than Hwy 191. Not only that they want to refine this dirty oil in SLC valley.

Yesterday over 4000 people met at the capital to demand clean air. The air on the Wasatch front *is* killing them. You as elected public officials have a duty to your people not a Canadian oil company who could care less if we have water to drink or air to breathe. Our lives depend on it. Please do everything you can to protect this very important and vital resource and protect as much of it as you can.

Thank you,

Tory Hill

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Tory Hill". The signature is written over the printed name "Tory Hill" and extends upwards and to the left.



HC 64 Box 3612
Castle Valley, UT 84532
January 27, 2014

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

Dear Council Members,

I would like to urge you to support the protection of the largest possible amount of wilderness lands in Grand County.

In the 1970s, I had the great good fortune to live in Utah. I traveled south from Salt Lake City to Grand County to hike two or three weekends each month for seven years. Later, after I had to move to the east coast, I and my family reserved school holidays and work vacation time for returning to explore these incomparable lands. Not quite two years ago, I moved to Grand County permanently.

Now, Porcupine Rim, Morning Glory, Mary Jane Canyon, and Fisher Towers are nearly in my yard. I visit them all regularly. Just a bit farther, I see the Dome Plateau from my home. As often as I can, I explore the Arches Adjacent area, and have worked up enough stamina to start to make Labyrinth Canyon, especially Spring Canyon, my own.

As I've tried to fulfill what I perceive to be my responsibilities as a citizen, I have visited the Book Cliffs a half dozen times in the past year, while also researching water availability, and water and air pollution issues. I have been shocked to learn of the climate changes that are already here, and that are coming, especially rising temperatures and lessening rain and snowfall. The Book Cliffs are too precious to ruin.

I believe that we, as a responsible County, must plan usage and protection of our water and of our air, for at least 50 years into the future. I do not believe that we have, as yet, done the research or made the plans that will ensure we do no further harm to the Colorado River watershed and to these lands that we all are so lucky to live near.

Therefore, I ask you to act now to protect the water, air, and land that can never be protected once they are over-used and contaminated. Please work with us, your constituents, to keep these public lands as part of our neighborhood. Protect as many of our public lands as possible.

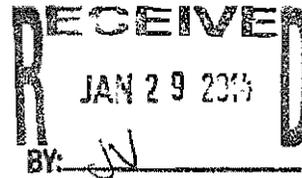
Thank you for this opportunity to communicate my concerns about our water and our air.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Roche".

Susan Roche, Ph.D.

January 24, 2014



Re: Bishop Public Lands Initiative

Dear County Council Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide insight on ways for our land to be responsibly developed and preserved for all of the uses it has to offer in the many years to come.

According to water.utah.gov Utah is the second driest state in the nation. This naturally limits many of our options for development that could continually sustain our state. Water is essential for everything thus these decisions should be most heavily weighted on how much water would be required as well as the state of the water after it is used and eventually returned to Utah's aquifers.

The amount of water needed to produce 1 barrel of oil is 2.5 barrels of fresh water, according to www.oilsands.alberta.ca/water.html. (The company behind the Tarsands in the Bookcliffs, 60 miles from Moab) Water and energy resources are a real concern in our growing State and there needs to be a way to continually provide both of these resources for the public. Not only should the state be looking at resource development but also for ways to reduce energy need. In land development we could reduce our energy need with slight adjustments to building code that would require or at least offer incentives with strict insulation standards and passive solar designs. This could easily be done by requiring a few south facing windows and the proper length eaves. These equations already exist and are proven to work perfectly and passively.

Since Utah has an abundance of sunlight and wind, they are natural choices for energy development. These resources will not pollute the soil, water or breathable air. We all know these things are essential to fully enjoy the beauty that surrounds us. As a major outdoor tourist based economy these things should matter greatly to us in order to ensure our economy stays viable. Deep blue skies, clear dark nights, and bright crisp stars are elements that are becoming more and more rare. Worldwide population and pollution are making these elemental aspects a priceless resource. Many people already come to this part of the world just to experience our amazing skies. Our area already tends to gather ours' & our neighbors poor air, smoke, pollution and dust. We do not ever want to face the reality that Salt Lake already faces due to their poor planning. Let us not forget we share topographical similarities to the Wasatch Front.

Local economy is key to a sustainable economy. Local businesses whose resources are grown locally need to be supported by all means possible. . These businesses will not just dry up and in the process harm other business opportunities in the future. Impacts from other industries need to be seriously considered with strict mitigations required to be in place to lessen the harmful impacts. Local farmers, responsible ranchers, and niche producers need to be supported by ensuring clean and healthy land, air and water where their goods and animals can grow and prosper for years to come.

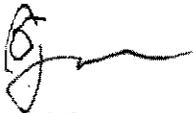
The oil and gas industry have proven to pollute air, water and soil. I do not support the development of these industries since we should be looking for alternate ways to provide for our society, and not feed the current oil addiction. If these industries are allowed, strict guidelines should be placed on location and mitigation efforts as well as a mandatory renewable energy match. For every drill site there should be "X" amount of trees and natives planted with responsible land rehabilitation to follow. Each site should be required to run on solar or wind power with the ability to use the power in the future for possible power transmission. For each site developed there should be "X" amount of solar panels installed at a solar or wind farm meant to power the closest populated area. This compromise would ensure energy now, as well as energy for decades to come. It

should not be overlooked that industry that produces carbon emissions does play a role in global warming and subsequently our local weather patterns. Creating such industry could directly effect the amount of water Utah receives and therefore among the many other previously stated reasons, I strongly object to any oil and gas drilling, with the Tarsands development being the largest concern of our State.

All land users should be considered in planning new land development. Hunters, climbers, ranchers, boaters, hikers, wildlife, plants, and ecosystems should not be heavily impacted by any new land developments. Users should still have access and the feeling of wide open space that is unique to this State. Water contamination should play the highest role in deciding upon an area for development as well as wind patterns. Unique circumstances to each area should be considered as well, such as native breeding grounds, endemic species, or historically sacred areas. Studies should be done to continually document air, soil and water quality through this process and strict regulations should be in place to ensure clean water and air. Southern Utah is not yet polluted like the northern parts of this State, please ensure that it stays that way!

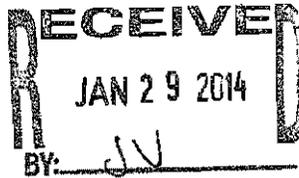
As the population grows, so will tourism for Utah. We need to prepare for that increase by ensuring that part of what tourists come to this area for will still be here. With population growth clean air & water, beautiful clear skies, and wild open space will become exceedingly more rare everywhere else and will become a more valuable resource than anyone can yet imagine. I have traveled the world and there are few places that still exist like this place we call home, we are all very lucky and should not take what we have for granted. Thank you again for your hard work and time in your positions and for this opportunity to comment on this imperative decision. Please continue your stewardship to the land and people and protect what we all love so dearly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason Matz', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Jason Matz

January 24, 2014



Re: Bishop Public Lands Initiative

Dear County Council Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide insight on ways for our land to be responsibly developed and preserved for all of the uses it has to offer in the many years to come.

According to water.utah.gov Utah is the second driest state in the nation. This naturally limits many of our options for development that could continually sustain our state. Water is essential for everything thus these decisions should be most heavily weighted on how much water would be required as well as the state of the water after it is used and eventually returned to Utah's aquifers.

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The amount of water needed to produce 1 barrel of oil is 2.5 barrels of fresh water, according to www.oilsands.alberta.ca/water.html. (The company behind the Tarsands in the Bookcliffs, 60 miles from Moab) Water and energy resources are a real concern in our growing State and there needs to be a way to continually provide both of these resources for the public. Not only should the state be looking at resource development but also for ways to reduce energy need. In land development we could reduce our energy need with slight adjustments to building code that would require or at least offer incentives with strict insulation standards and passive solar designs. This could easily be done by requiring a few south facing windows and the proper length eaves. These equations already exist and are proven to work perfectly and passively.

Local economy is key to a sustainable economy. Local businesses whose resources are grown locally need to be supported by all means possible. These businesses will not just dry up and in the process harm other business opportunities in the future. Impacts from other industries need to be seriously considered with strict mitigations required to be in place to lessen the harmful impacts. Local farmers, responsible ranchers, and niche producers need to be supported by ensuring clean and healthy land, air and water where their goods and animals can grow and prosper for years to come.

I have a flourishing herbal company, Sister Root Medicinals that relies on these clean elements to grow organic herbs for remedies as well as for our honeybees who produce pure clean wax for our products. Sister Root Medicinals is in over 20 shops and sends products all over America to people who visited my booth at the Moab Farmers Market. Local people have infinite talents and skills that are made widely & extremely available through the Internet and should not be overlooked as a major resource. With support and careful planning these industries can provide many local long-term jobs for Utahans.

The oil and gas industry have proven to pollute air, water and soil. I do not support the development of these industries since we should be looking for alternate ways to provide for our society, and not feed the current oil addiction. If these industries are allowed, strict guidelines should be placed on location and mitigation efforts as well as a mandatory renewable energy match. For every drill site there should be "X" amount of trees and natives planted with responsible land rehabilitation to follow. Each site should be required to run on solar or wind power with the ability to use the power in the future for possible power transmission. For each site developed there should be "X" amount of solar panels installed at a solar or wind farm meant to power the closest populated area. This compromise would ensure energy now, as well as energy for decades to come. It should not be overlooked that industry that produces carbon emissions does play a role in global warming and subsequently our local weather patterns. Creating such industry could directly effect the amount of water Utah receives and therefore among the many other previously stated reasons, I strongly object to any oil and gas drilling, with the Tarsands development being the largest concern of our State.

All land users should be considered in planning new land development. Hunters, climbers, ranchers, boaters, hikers, wildlife, plants, and ecosystems should not be heavily impacted by any new land developments. Users should still have access and the feeling of wide open space that is unique to this State. Water contamination should play the highest role in deciding upon an area for development as well as wind patterns. Unique circumstances to each area should be considered as well, such as native breeding grounds, endemic species, or historically sacred areas. Studies should be done to continually document air, soil and water quality through this process and strict regulations should be in place to ensure clean water and air. Southern Utah is not yet polluted like the northern parts of this State, please ensure that it stays that way!

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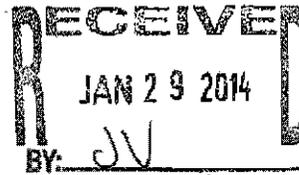
Respectfully,



Alison Fuller

TOWN OF CASTLE VALLEY

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



January 22, 2014

Re. Castle Valley Comments to Grand County, Utah, for protection of wilderness and open space

Congressman Rob Bishop has stated that the Public Lands Initiative for eastern Utah intends the planning to be a "locally-driven process with designations and proposals being generated by those closest to the land." The Town of Castle Valley appreciates this opportunity to promote land use and public land management practices that reflect the values of Castle Valley residents and property owners.

We feel that local input and views are important. At the same time we recognize that public land belongs to all Americans. The perspectives, opinions, and rights of others than ourselves must be adequately factored into any potential outcomes of the Public Lands Initiative.

A 2012 survey of residents and non-resident property owners in Castle Valley found that clean air, quality water, and the natural landscape continue to be top values and priorities for Castle Valley property owners. These values will be incorporated into the 2014 Castle Valley General Plan. In many respects these values coincide with those expressed in the Grand County General Plan of 2012.

The Town of Castle Valley is very sensitive to the need to actively protect the natural landscape, the air quality, and an adequate and clean water supply within and surrounding the Town, as well as across the County and beyond. At the same time, the Town recognizes the importance of the opportunity for people who live in the Town and County to earn an income through jobs that offer a consistent living wage.

Castle Valley provides basic services to its residents on a limited budget drawn primarily from property taxes. The Town recognizes that Grand County and select Special Service Districts depend on several sources of income to carry out their functions. The Town recognizes that mineral extraction is one source of income for the County (through property taxes and mineral royalty payments), albeit providing only a small fraction (c. 2%) of the total jobs available in the County and a far smaller amount of tax revenue than the travel and recreation sectors. Grand County income from mineral extraction makes up just 5% of its total income.¹

While the Town is not opposed to mineral extraction per se, we recognize that expansion of potash and fossil fuel extraction in particular threatens the County's water supplies and water quality; the air quality (not only from extraction methods but also increased heavy truck traffic); and the unique natural landscapes, open space, and scenic/recreational values of the County and much of Southeastern Utah. Fossil fuel extraction also exacerbates climate change during extraction, processing, transportation, and

¹ *The Economic Value of Public Lands in Grand County, Utah.* Headwaters Economics, 2011, p. 21-24.



end uses. Thus, the Town supports a long-term moratorium on any further drilling and mining in the County (and most especially its community watersheds and aquifer recharge areas) for fossil fuels and potash, and a total ban on mining in any form of tar sands and oil shale found in the northern sections of the County. The Town is strongly opposed to any County investment in, planning of, or support for new or existing road development from the existing tar sands mine at PR Springs in Uintah County to I-70 or county or state roads within Grand County.

Castle Valley understands that existing mineral leases are in place and their development will continue to provide Grand County with a source of income in years ahead. At the same time, the Town recognizes the potential impacts of new fossil fuel extraction on climate change and long-term community sustainability. Castle Valley and Grand County are at one of the critical geographic hot spots for climate change where decreased precipitation, increased heat and evaporation, and more intense monsoon storms are likely to occur in the coming decades. Fossil fuel extraction and use are major contributors to climate change. Thus, the Town supports a long-term moratorium on further oil and gas development in the County.

We, as a society, are entrusted with preserving and improving the land resource base for future generations whose needs are not known to us now. This planning process is an opportunity to invoke the "Precautionary Principle" which states that if an action or policy has a suspected risk of causing harm to the public or to the environment, in the absence of scientific consensus that the action or policy is harmful, the burden of proof that it is *not* harmful falls on those taking an action. Every decision made can be evaluated using this key measuring stick.

Protecting lands as wilderness ensures that ecological diversity, upon which our society depends, will be maintained and that opportunities for the future are kept open. Lands we use are also important for preserving options for the future. Therefore, it is also critical to ensure that lands that we develop do not become sacrifice zones and their biologic, cultural, and natural conditions be sustained far into the future.

Identifying New Employment and Revenue Opportunities

The Grand County economy is sustained primarily through tourism and the recreation sectors. Castle Valley recognizes the seasonal nature of employment imbedded in those sectors. Employees in these sectors, in general, receive low wages and non-regular employment. For some employees the wages and seasonal nature of employment is accepted as part of the trade-off for living and working in this region. However, low wages and irregular employment do impose a hardship for residents of the County.

The basis of the County's economy depends on maintaining lands attractive to visitors and residents, both existing and potential new. To maintain those lands, other sources of income and employment need to be explored in creative and innovative ways, especially with a focus on the future attributes of the economy rather than those of the past.

Much of the debate about the disposition and use of public lands is based in economics: essentially, choice is expressed as tourism/recreation or mineral extraction. Yet, neither source of County income is complete by itself.

With an estimated 2 million visitors to Grand County every year, the County can explore ways to produce home-grown goods of interest and value to those people who come to the County. It is not necessary to export goods; consumers are coming to the County, and unique, locally produced products command a premium. It is also noted that mining activities are generally incompatible with sustainable economic activity and the recreational/tourist and amenities/services economy.

Support for the Preservation of Natural Landscapes and Open Space on Public Lands

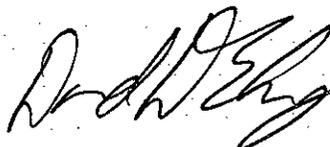
Against this background, the Town of Castle Valley offers the following points for treatment of public lands in Grand County:

- 1) Identification of wilderness and conservation areas within Grand County based on those areas that are included in the America's Red Rock Wilderness Act, a bill currently before Congress (see the maps at <http://www.protectwildutah.org/proposal/index.html>). The values of the Act coincide with the broader values expressed by Castle Valley residents, including protection for biologically endangered and sensitive species, sites of prehistoric and cultural importance, and the unique and diverse landscapes that offer tourism, recreation, and solitude opportunities.
- 2) Designation of the Book Cliffs and the Roan Cliffs in the northern part of Grand County as wilderness or conservation areas. That will include consolidating existing Wilderness Study areas with adjacent areas, including Desolation Canyon, Survey, and Mexico Points. Protection of these areas will help preserve the air quality within Castle Valley and will prevent any short-term or long-term industrial development that will negatively impact both Castle Valley and Grand County as a whole.
- 3) Development by the BLM (upon completion of the BLM/SITLA land exchange in Castle Valley) of a publicly- and scientifically-guided management plan to restore and preserve the land acquired along with its open space values.
- 4) Continued protection and restoration of public lands along UT 128, the state scenic byway that parallels the Colorado River, including Porcupine Rim, all of Beaver and Granite creek areas, and the area around Renegade Point.
- 5) Continued protection of public lands on the north side of the Manti-La Sal Mountains in order to properly protect the EPA-designated Sole Source Aquifer that serves Castle Valley residents.
- 6) Inclusion of areas adjacent to Arches National Park, such as Yellow Cat and Dome Point, as wilderness.
- 7) Incorporation in any new public lands legislation changes that make it easier to designate wilderness areas, such as reducing the minimal size for consideration from 5000 to 2500 acres.

In conclusion we would like to thank Grand County for all the work they've done on this issue and the Bishop Public Lands Initiative for the opportunity to comment on this important topic.

Sincerely,

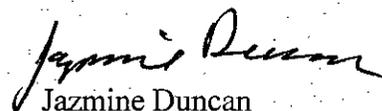
The Town of Castle Valley Town Council



Mayor, David D. Erley



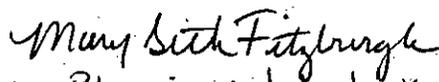
Tory Hill



Jazmine Duncan



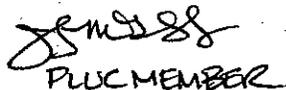
PLUC



Planning and Land Use Commission



Planning + Land Use Commission



PLUC MEMBER

RECEIVED
JAN 29 2014
BY: M. H. W.

Dear County Council Members,

I am grateful to have the opportunity to express my opinions concerning the Public Lands Bill.

The bottom line for many of us who live in Grand County is the health of current and future residents of this beautiful area of Utah. And it is because of this bottom-line that I will advocate for non-polluting energy industries. Congressman Rob Bishop has written that there is "uncertainty" concerning land-use designation that must be resolved. However, the greatest uncertainty is what we are doing to our environment, and thereby our health, by promoting and allowing the increase of polluting extractive industries.

Fracking and tar sands both use vast amounts of water and both leave this water extremely polluted with toxic substances. It's interesting that the identity of the chemicals used in fracking has never been released by these companies. Both industries also create significant air pollution. And in addition to this, trucks exploring and hauling equipment to extractive sites disrupt fragile desert soils. Wind then fills our air with dust, another significant health issue. Are these the industries that we want to invite to Grand County via land use designation. These industries DO NOT bring the certainty (that of our health and a clean environment) that we want for our county!

I ask you to work to craft a land-use bill that protects Grand County from these extractive industries. If the only way to prevent the spread of fracking and tar sands extraction in Grand County is to increase the amount of acres designated as wilderness, then I support greater wilderness. However, I firmly believe that there are viable means of bringing jobs and income to this county without poisoning ourselves. Let's work together to bring clean industry and clean jobs to Moab.

I ask that you advocate for a multiple use Public Lands Bill that ensures the health of current and future residents. There is wisdom in making decisions with the next seven generations in mind.

Sincerely,

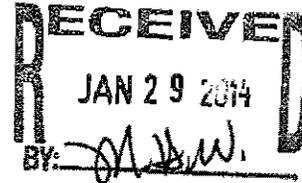


Lisa P. Paterson

GLEN J. LATHROP

P.O. BOX 126 • MOAB, UTAH 84532

Grand County Council
Public Lands Bill
125 East Center
Moab, Utah 84532



Dear Sirs;

I am writing in regard to your request for public input on the Bishop Lands Bill.

For 30 years now the matter of Wilderness has dragged on and on. I can only assume that the lack of input from the public this time around is because of feeling of frustration by the public about the process.

For 30 years every time there has been a wilderness proposal people have yelled that they didn't want the land "locked up." They wanted development. Well over the past 30 years we have had development despite the fact that the BLM has held huge amounts of acreage in W.S.A. status.

Please drive out to the island and see all the new oil and gas wells. Drive out by the airport and see the hundreds of miles of bike ATV and Jeep trails that have been put in. Drive out to Lisbon Valley and see the huge copper mine. Look at that proposal for the new Potash Mine out on Hatch Point. In the past 30 years we have had development in Moab despite all the proposed Wilderness areas. We can have both!

A number of years ago the Grand County Council adopted a Wilderness inventory plan. At the very least you should use that as your starting point. But I think you should also add areas to it. It's rather obvious that one of Moab's drawing points for tourists is the vast amount of public land and we have got to save as much of it as we possibly can.

Some area of special concern:

The Behind the Rocks, Negro Bill Canyon and Mill Creek areas needs to be at least doubled in size. They can barely be managed as Wilderness areas the proposal are so small. From the very beginning these areas were seen as so outstanding that there was almost no discussion by anyone that they should be saved.

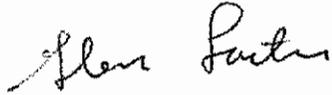
The Green River Corridor needs to extend all the way from the Canyonlands National Park boundary North to Ruby Ranch. Thousands of people come every year to canoe this stretch of river. Three river companies depend on the wildness of this canyon for their business. We have got to protect it.

The Dome Plateau, this area once was in Arches but later it was dropped out. But it should be saved as a buffer zone for Arches. A million people a year visit arches. I think they deserve to have their park protected. I think they deserve to look at Delicate Arch without an oil well as a back drop.

Westwater Canyon is in the original Grand County Council proposal and it like the Green River is a very important recreational asset from Moab. Numerous companies make their living in this area. The boundaries should be expanded and the area must be saved.

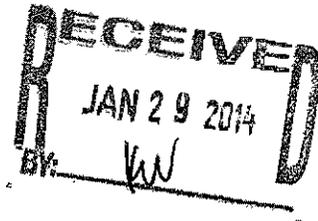
The Onion Creek-Fisher Towers areas are not in any proposals but these areas also need protection. It is unbelievable that these areas have not been protected. This area is truly an outstanding natural wonder.

I hope that despite the lack of input from the public that you will not take your job lightly. The future of tourism in Grand County for generations to come is in your hands.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Glen Lathrop". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Glen J. Lathrop

Jan. 29, 2014



Dear Grand County Council,

This letter concerns the Grand County opportunity for input into the Bishop Public Lands Initiative. Thanks you for the opportunity to comment. In short, I'd like as much land as possible in Grand County converted into designated wilderness, both on BLM land and on Forest Service land. I am aghast at the climate change consequences of oil shale or tar sands development, so am absolutely against any land trades that would facilitate that development anywhere in the state or nation.

I know many of these are BLM and Forest Service areas personally, mostly because I have been hiking in them as my primary recreational activity since I first moved to Grand County in 1988. But even more than the value of hiking in beautiful places, I value these areas for their biological diversity, and their relatively intact vegetation and wildlife communities, with their relatively intact support systems of clean water, clean air, quiet, and dark night skies. All of these attributes are becoming rarer in our nation and in the world. That is why we have so many visitors from around the world. Please don't allow energy and potash extraction to ruin these attributes in our county. If we do allow the wild nature of our lands to be ruined to an appreciable degree, tourists will stop coming and the county's economy will be destroyed. Already I have heard a few stories from repeat visitors who will not return because of the increase in industrialization of our county.

Behind the Rocks and Hunter Canyon bring memories of fantastic rock fins and incredible day-long explorations of a complex rock topography, as well as the saddest incident in my life, when a dear friend died in a fall there in 1991. I am also lucky enough that I can occasionally hike into the edge of this wilderness on my lunch break, on the Hidden Valley trail.

Negro Bill Canyon in the Morning Glory area, and especially Mill Creek, along with side canyons of both, are a treasure, and very rich in biological diversity. River birch, a tree, is common in both of these canyons, even though it hasn't been found just north of the Colorado River in Arches National Park, and is very rare in Canyonlands National Park. Birds use the riparian zones of Mill Creek and Negro Bill Canyon extensively for nesting and migration stopovers. Such lush canyon systems, with truly perennial water sources, are so very rare in this region. These exist because of their rather rare location on the flanks of the La Sal Mountains.

Twenty-plus years ago I worked for the Moab-based nonprofit organization Canyonlands Field Institute, leading school groups on hikes up Mary Jane Canyon, among other locations. I have fond memories of Moab children from that era, as well as children from Salt Lake City, Ohio, and Hawaii, finding toads and garter snakes, and learning about rocks and stream processes, before taking an afternoon swim to cool off. I still visit occasionally; I last hiked near Mary Jane/Professor Creek on New Year's Day, 2014.

The Porcupine Rim area brings more memories of hikes with kids. These were Moab sixth grade classes, hiking up a trail from the Colorado River and searching the slopes across the river for bighorn sheep. Some of the kids had never seen a bighorn before, after living here all their lives. They were excited, and thrilled to look at the animals through a spotting scope.

I also spend some time on rivers, and have done river trips on the Colorado River through Westwater Canyon, the Dolores River, including the area bounding Beaver Creek, and the Green River through Labyrinth Canyon. Besides the recreation and economic benefits of river trips, open water and riparian zones hold most of the biodiversity of our region. Biodiversity is infinitely more important than short-term gain of any development, so river canyons and their surroundings should be preserved and held sacred.

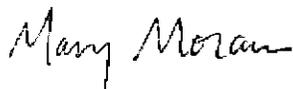
Side canyons of the above areas are also important. I've visited Hell Roaring Canyon a few times, camping on the rim and hiking into the canyon. Already I hesitate to visit there again, afraid of the new oil and gas wells, with associated bulldozed native vegetation communities, destroyed soil crusts and resulting dust storms, truck traffic, diesel air, and light pollution. How do tourists feel about this? If I encountered it as a tourist, I probably wouldn't return to the Moab area. The same concerns apply to the Goldbar Canyon area.

I haven't spent too much time on the Dome Plateau, but I've looked into it many times. It's right next to Arches National Park. Development of the area would impact tourism at Arches, possibly Moab's biggest tourist attraction. Visitors don't just come for the arches; they come for the quiet, the dark, and the lack of human impacts, things that they cannot find at home.

I spent quite a few glorious weekend days over the years and especially this past summer in the La Sal Mountains, hiking and climbing peaks. There are numerous areas with wilderness qualities in the La Sals. The Mount Peale Research Natural Area should be designated, as should South Mountain. I would like to see all of the La Sal Forest Service lands proposed for wilderness by the Grand Canyon Trust included in wilderness designation. These Mountains are the source of water for Moab, and for the perennial streams coming off the mountain flanks, including Mill Creek, Negro Bill Canyon and Pack Creek. We really do need clean water.

A final note: Whatever you do, please don't trade or give any lands to The Utah State Trust Lands. They have a proven record of disregard for any preservation values, and no mandate nor enough staff to change that. If trades are made that will create potential for oil shale or tar sands development, we are encouraging the downfall of this planet for human life. That does not serve our kids, even if they have smaller classroom sizes in elementary school. Our kids need an intact climate, fresh air, clean water, dark night skies, and diverse and intact vegetation and wildlife communities when they grow to be adults, and when their children and grandchildren do as well. Though the climate is already changing, we need to work to minimize that.

Sincerely,



Mary Moran
471 Loveridge Dr
Moab, UT 84532

Grand County Council

Att'n: Public Lands Bill

125 E. Center Street

Moab, Utah 84532

January 26, 2014

Greetings:

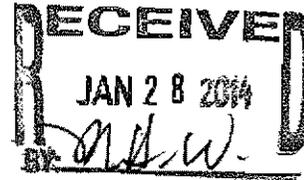
I am writing to ask that you seriously consider the damage that will be done to our community if drilling is allowed in the Red Rocks ^{wilderness} area. My husband and I moved here two years ago, in large part, because of the beauty and recreational opportunities that are part of this wonderful land. We love hiking in this area and enjoy the serenity that is part of living here. People come from all over the world to enjoy what is here. It would be a shame to spoil this because once drilling starts, the pristine nature of this region will never return. I feel that this would have a large impact on our community. Please consider the importance of keeping this area unspoiled by man, as generations follow us.

Sincerely,

Gail Jennings-Peterson

Gail Jennings-Peterson

564 Byrd Avenue

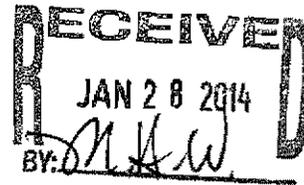


Tim and Audrey Graham

1701 Murphy Lane

Moab, UT 84532

Jan 24, 2014



Dear Members of the Land Use Committee,

Below are our frank thoughts on the amount of wilderness to be designated in Grand County. We look forward to participating in the discussion and are glad to see that decisions will finally be made. Thank you for the work that will be necessary to reach consensus.

We feel that even if large tracts of land are preserved as wilderness, there will be enough available for significant rape and pillage by mega corporations who can reap huge profits, pay a few taxes, and declare bankruptcy when anything goes wrong. Since these corporations will pass the cost of accidents, fraud and misdeeds onto the county, we don't dare leave too much land open to them.

On the downside, wilderness does not pay taxes, (except Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT), which the county and wilderness organizations should lobby to be increased for wilderness lands, letting the whole *country* pay us for "losing" that tax base), however it also does not COST money.

Wilderness does not need water, waterlines, waste disposal, or schools. It does not require expensive roads, courts, jails, or sheriff's vehicles. As you know, these are our most expensive departments.

Wilderness generates income when users buy gas and gear, eat at our restaurants, and race to hotel rooms when the weather gets bad, as well as when they need to be rescued. Visitors LOVE to see wilderness on the maps, whether they actually enter it or not. It draws them here to do stupid things and learn important lessons, like what it is like to die of a sprained ankle in the desert, miles from anywhere.

Let's be a county that recognizes its unique assets and looks beyond the next five or ten years. If our grandchildren need resources in 80 years, the land will be there with minerals intact, there's no need to greedily use them all up today. We'd like to see the majority of the qualified areas designated as wilderness so we can all rest assured of a clean future with options intact.

Let's tackle and resolve this spicy issue with eyes wide open. Thank you again for engaging county citizens,

Audrey and Tim Graham, Moab

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is on the left and the second is on the right, both appearing to be cursive and somewhat stylized.

Dear Grand County Council

RECEIVED
JAN 21 2014
M. H. W.

I would like to express my views on ~~land~~ ^{land development} in Grand County. I strongly feel that whatever lands in this area that can be protected should be protected from invasive mineral exploration/exploitation. Peak oil has already happened - oil resources are declining, especially those that were easy to extract. With China and India rapidly expanding their auto sales/usage and claims on crude oil, world supplies will dwindle further. Instead of using this as an excuse/reason to drill and explore more, it should be a wake up call to any square human that any non-renewable resource (like oil and gas) will eventually run out. Drilling and resource extraction to tap all available means is no more than a quick-fix bandaid - it will not solve the problems we face of future energy needs. The scientists who spoke of things like peak oil projections all the way back in the 50's, 60's and beyond - and were laughed at - have not only had those projections proven correct time after time, but many of those projections have now been seen to have been overly optimistic. Instead of pursuing non sustainable objectives like drilling and fracking we should be using our brains and energies to go towards renewable energy production. Want jobs and income for Grand County? Lease land parcels for wind farms and solar arrays. As far as the conflict between "environmentalists" and the "A.T.V./Seeper" contingent as to designate a large protected area around Canyonlands, Arches, etc. - I think too many on either side are seeing the picture in too "black-or-white" a way. If we all look at the big picture I think there is an intelligent way to satisfy all concerned parties. There is no reason we can't protect the beauty that is

Southern Utah without banishing all jeep trails, for instance. I see no (good) reason that we can't designate a large area to be protected (from fracking, for instance - which requires a great deal of water in an already dry and draught stricken place) in a way that all parties - "greens", "jeepers", "hikers", etc. can be satisfied. Perhaps a series of public hearings should be planned - and aggressively advertised - where all parties/viewpoints can be given time to prepare presentations, and then give those presentations to the public - in an open forum. By an open forum I mean all "parties" or viewpoints go to all the forums - not just Sierra Club members going to a "ban fracking" lecture and Jeep clubs going to a "keep the trails open" rally - but for everyone to attend whatever viewpoints are presented and join in an open forum after all views have been presented. Instead of flag waving from whatever "side" we should all sit down and rationally and truthfully address these issues. Because if we make a wrong decision now, we could be a ghost town in the future - and none of us, or our children, will be around to discuss it anymore. (This has already happened to at least one town here in the U.S.A. that aggressively pursued fracking) Thank you for your time and concern.

Jay Prentiss
Jay Prentiss
Moab Resident

The Case for a Ban on Gas Fracking

Fact Sheet • June 2011

Billionaire oil tycoon T. Boone Pickens has invested millions of dollars in natural gas, which he promotes as a promising “bridge fuel” that could help the United States transition from dirty fossil fuels to clean, renewable energy.¹ This idea has gained traction as new drilling methods using hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking,” appear able to extract gas from rock sources that were previously uneconomical to access — especially shale.² Shale gas has become one of the “hottest investments in the energy sector.”³

Unfortunately, the promise of natural gas has been a nightmare for the neighbors of fracking gas wells. Over the past 18 months, at least 10 studies by scientists, Congress, investigative journalists and public interest groups have documented environmental problems with fracking. These studies, as well as the experiences of numerous affected Americans, have made it increasingly clear that this type of drilling poses unacceptable risks to the American public and is ultimately a misguided energy policy for the United States.

The History and Next Wave of Fracking

Hydraulic fracturing is not new, but its recent application to hard rock formations and the tremendous scale of the current rush for gas is a radical departure from wells of the past. Fracking injects a mixture of water, chemicals and sand into wells to create pressure that cracks the rocks, allowing the gas to escape and flow out of the wells.⁴ Halliburton is credited with the first commercial application to produce gas in 1949,⁵ and the gas industry insists that fracking has been used safely in thousands of wells for decades.⁶ But this claim does not adequately consider the next generation of fracking, which is far more powerful — and more dangerous — than drilling methods used in the past.

Up until the past decade, most on-shore gas production came from porous conventional rocks, a method where

loosely held gas flows into vertical wells drilled straight into the ground.⁷ Other rocks such as shales, tight sands and coal beds contain gas, but it was packed too tightly to extract using economical methods until recently.⁸ Drillers have now developed a new generation of fracking that uses curved “horizontal” wells in the rock formation, adding a mix of chemicals known as “slickwater” and injecting the fluids at high pressure in stages.⁹ The pressure created by these techniques has been compared to exploding a massive pipe bomb underground.¹⁰

Fracking America: Coming to a Rock Formation Near You

These technological advances spurred a fracking gas rush across America that some energy analysts and industry insiders have called a “natural gas revolution” and a “game changer.”¹¹ Gas companies first developed the Barnett Shale reserves in Texas and gas production there skyrocketed more than 3,000 percent between 1998 and 2007.¹² Drillers then targeted other shales as well — the Fayetteville Shale in Arkansas, the Woodford Shale in Oklahoma, the Haynesville Shale in Louisiana and the Marcellus Shale, which underlies parts of Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland and Kentucky.¹³

The number of fracking wells increased six-fold in Pennsylvania just between 2008 and 2010, and the number of fracking wells nationally increased 41 percent between

2004 and 2010.¹⁴ Unconventional gas production more than doubled in the decade between 2000 and 2010,¹⁵ as shale gas increased from 1 to 20 percent of the U.S. supply.¹⁶

Asleep at the Switch

The mad rush to drill was facilitated by a lack of government oversight, as federal and state regulators largely turned a blind eye to the environmental degradation caused by next-generation fracking.

In 2004, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the George W. Bush administration released a study focused on coalbed methane reservoirs that concluded fracking posed “little or no threat” to underground drinking water sources.¹⁷ The study has been widely discredited for ignoring case studies of fracking contamination.¹⁸ Nevertheless, the flaws of the study were effectively enshrined into law when fracking was exempted from provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 exempted the oil and gas industry from a wide range of federal environmental and public health regulations.¹⁹ It explicitly excluded hydraulic fracturing from the Safe Drinking Water Act’s regulations of underground injection wells.²⁰

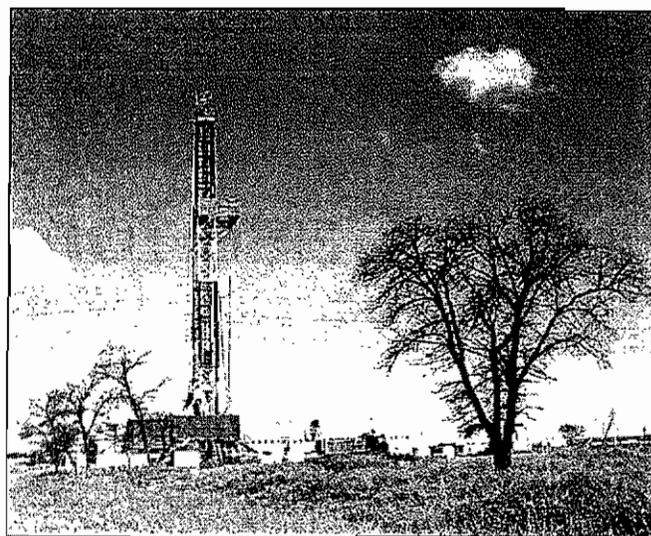
Since then, Congress has taken some steps to oversee the industry, such as commissioning a new study by the EPA and introducing legislation that would close loopholes in the Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Air Act.²¹ However, the industry has battled even these limited steps forward.

The void in federal regulation has left oversight to the states,²² whose regulatory agencies have struggled to keep up,²³ as state agencies are often understaffed,²⁴ and states also are conflicted about coming down hard on fracking pollution — they receive revenues from drilling permits, taxes and royalties

Toxic Air and Polluted Water

As the industry has rushed forward without adequate oversight, local communities have suffered the consequences.

For example, natural gas fracking extraction emits greenhouse gases, smog-inducing compounds and potential carcinogens causing dangerous health and environmental effects. A 2011 Cornell University study found that shale gas has a greater greenhouse gas footprint than conventional gas or oil.²⁵ Methane is also highly flammable and a serious safety hazard.²⁶ Methanol, formaldehyde and carbon disulfide are known hazardous air pollutants found near fracking sites.²⁷ Texas regulators found that air samples contained high levels of neurotoxins and carcinogens such as airborne benzene near wells in the Barnett Shale.²⁸ Some of the airborne pollutants from fracked gas wells, like volatile organic compounds, can react with sunlight to



create smog.²⁹ Air pollution is already evident in areas near unconventional drilling sites in Colorado, Texas and Wyoming. Sublette County, a rural Wyoming community with a high concentration of gas wells, has recorded higher ozone levels than those in Houston and Los Angeles.³⁰

The rapid increase in fracking wells has also polluted drinking water supplies and waterways. The wells can experience a rupture or blowback under tremendous pressure, spilling chemical-laden water into surface water or groundwater. Natural gas and chemicals can migrate into aquifers and wells. In fact, the public interest nonprofit group ProPublica identified more than 1,000 cases of water contamination near drilling sites documented by courts, states and local governments around the country prior to 2009.³¹ Affected communities include Pavillion Wyoming; Dimock, Pennsylvania; Garfield County, Colorado; and Parker County, Texas.³²

This is potentially very dangerous to human health. Three recent studies have documented the human health risks from commonly used chemicals in fracking fluids, including diesel fuels and benzene, a known carcinogen.³³ The methane itself can also present a health hazard because when methane saturates drinking water wells, a home’s tap water can become explosive. A 2011 Duke University study demonstrated that groundwater near fracking operations has higher methane concentrations.³⁴ If methane can migrate, it is likely that other chemicals can as well.³⁵

Fracking also produces a liquid waste product. The waste can be so toxic and concentrated that it is very difficult to dispose of safely. One method to get rid of fracking waste is to inject it in disposal wells in rock formations underground.³⁶ This method is common for most shale plays except the Marcellus Shale because Appalachian geology is unsuitable for underground injection.³⁷ Only a few injection wells exist in Pennsylvania.³⁸ Drillers near population centers can send fracking waste to local wastewater treatment plants, which treat and dilute the wastewater and

release it into surface waters.³⁹ Standard wastewater treatment cannot handle the chlorides, total dissolved solids, organic chemicals, bromide and fracking fluid chemicals.⁴⁰ The water may also contain radioactive elements picked up during its journey underground.⁴¹ In Pennsylvania, discharges of inadequately treated waste have contributed to surface water pollution. Even after 2010 rules reduced fracking pollution, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection estimated that gas wastewater was causing 5 to 10 percent of the pollution in the river.⁴²

Economic Costs

The shale gas rush is not just a danger to public health, but also to local economies. While industry promotes job creation and local investment, they typically do not account for the long-term economic damage and the significant erosion of communities' quality of life that can outweigh those benefits.⁴³

For example, new wells require fleets of trucks, and locals bear the cost of repairing the roads. Cacophonous drilling rigs operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.⁴⁴ Scenic vistas are replaced with an industrial landscape of gas wells, which lowers property values and harms tourism and recreation industries. Most economic gains are short-lived — employment, construction, housing demand and even royalty payments are large at first, but diminish quickly after the initial investment.⁴⁵ Locals do not always fill drilling jobs.⁴⁶ Farmers are particularly vulnerable. Organic farmers could lose their premium prices if industrial fracking fluid pollutes their crops or livestock.⁴⁷ Farm sales could be destroyed if pollution threatens livestock, crops or farmland. Fracking also requires pipelines to transport the gas, which can pose safety hazards from explosions.⁴⁸

A Step in the Wrong Direction

Rather than taking a strategic pause in the face of the demonstrable problems with fracking, President Barack Obama's administration is pursuing fracked natural gas full speed ahead. In an April 2011 speech, President Obama said that "the potential for natural gas is enormous" and promoted proposed legislation to shift from oil to natural

gas — the same legislation endorsed by T. Boone Pickens to subsidize natural gas vehicles.⁴⁹ The public opposition to fracking prompted the administration to launch a committee to figure out how to make fracking safe.⁵⁰ This attempt is misguided — fracking is not safe.

Rather than investing in a new fossil fuel, the United States should be aggressively pursuing energy efficiency and clean, renewable energy options. Furthermore, unsound U.S. policy could set a bad example for the rest of the world, as America's fracking fad is poised to go global. China fracked its first horizontal shale gas well in April 2011 and some European countries are considering following suit.⁵¹ But South Africa and Quebec, Canada, have imposed fracking moratoriums, and popular opposition in France and the United Kingdom has slowed development.⁵²

(France has since banned all fracking.)

Conclusion

Shale gas fracking poses unacceptable risks to the American public. Today, many municipalities around the country are banning fracking to protect their citizens from the negative consequences of this type of drilling. These local resolutions are a good idea, but they won't protect the entire country. Even if the laws on the books were strengthened, fracking poses too severe a risk to public health and the environment to entrust effective and rigorous regulatory oversight to overwhelmed regulators. Both state and federal regulators have a poor track record of protecting the public from the impacts of fracking. Congress, state legislators and local governmental bodies need to ban shale gas fracking. It is time to stop destroying public air and water in the interest of oil and gas company profits, and instead seek energy solutions that will provide a long-term, renewable energy future for the United States.

Recommendations

- Ban shale gas fracking in the United States
- Close loopholes that exempt fracking from key federal air and water environmental regulations
- Aggressively invest in energy efficiency and renewable energy sources that would result in a sustainable energy future for the country

TEN STUDIES AND INVESTIGATIONS January 2010 to May 2011

New York Times (February 2011)⁵³

House Energy and Commerce Committee (January 2011, April 2011)⁵⁴

Riverkeeper (September 2010)⁵⁵

Cornell University (March 2011)⁵⁶

Environmental Working Group (January 2010)⁵⁷

PennEnvironment Research and Policy Center (May 2010)⁵⁸

Duke University (April 2011)⁵⁹

Endocrine Disruption Exchange (September 2010)⁶⁰

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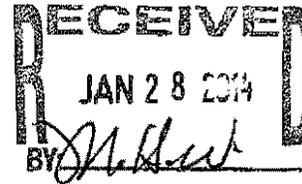
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January 26, 2014

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



Dear Council Members,

My wife and I live in Moab, and we own property in Castle Valley. Like many other people who choose this area as home, the vast wilderness canyon country here is what drew us here. We are very supportive of maintaining these remote areas as wilderness, so that they can continue to exist after we are gone.

Each year I pick one or two areas and repeatedly explore them until I feel like I understand them. Last year, I explored Spring Canyon. After about ten days of hiking the rim and the canyon below, I knew it well. I identified dependable water sources, hidden canyon descent routes, and many ancient home sites. I checked with the BLM, and the sixteen Fremont habitation sites I identified were all undocumented. The other upper canyons of Labyrinth are equally remote and hard to access, and this is actually one of the qualities that makes their value hard to calculate.

Last winter I spent a month hiking upper left fork of Mill Creek. Few people access this area, but those who do see evidence of ranchers and indigenous peoples who worked and lived here. Last fall, I did a dozen hikes into the remote domes of Behind the Rocks. If one is willing to leave the jeep trails behind and to push further, it's amazing what is in these areas. After a ten minute drive from town, and fifteen minutes of walking, I truly feel like I am in wilderness.

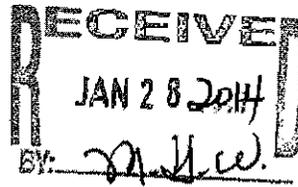
Today, I drove with friends to Prostitute Butte, and we left the jeep behind and hiked into remote terrain in Behind the Rocks. For 3 hours, we saw no other footprints. As we drove back to the Moab Highway, we passed a dozen vehicles, each parked out of the way, all with their passengers gone; all walking somewhere in the vast canyon areas around us.

Some areas get developed. Some are used for extraction, and others just need to be retained in their current state, so that future generations can experience the wonder that many of us have each time we leave our homes.

Thank you for your consideration of these wilderness areas. They are truly worth preserving.

Sincerely,

Jeff Clapp
282 Riversands Drive



To Grand County Council;

It is my hope that at some point, the Federal Gov't will follow established precedent and deed to the state of Utah the land that is now designated "Federal Land". The land or at least a fair chunk could be managed by SITLA. Understandably, there are a number of concerns including the cost of managing said lands. The reality of the Federal Gov't getting out of the business of running American citizens' lives including calling the shots on land the state of Utah should own is akin to raising the Yorktown, 72 years after being sunk in the Battle of Midway.

Without question there must be compromise. However, those with any sense and understanding of what creates balance have been compromised to death. The vocal minority (eco-terrorists, environmentalist whackos, old brainwashed hippies, young brainwashed hippies, earth worshippers, etc.) have choked Grand County and other parts of the state to the point of exhaustion.

Multi-use must ultimately triumph:

We can have our cake and eat it too if all parties are willing to look at the big picture instead of their own little ideological world or cause.

Wilderness designations of which there are plenty could be possible but very limited. Monument designation on the scale proposed by an outgoing councilman (woman) must be stopped. Monument designation on limited, well planned bases could work. Executive fiat (tyranny) must be saddled and stopped. Having lived in San Juan County for many years and now Grand for a few years, I understand many of the issues and concerns with a Fed Gov't that facilitates distrust with its "we know better than you" attitude.

For the past several decades, Grand County has experienced boom and bust because of what some may consider tunnel vision or blinders. Meaning that we get fat on one sector of our economy such as mining or tourism and we lose sight of the broader vision. When the candle goes out in the sector that drives our economy, we're screwed. We must engage in and promote the extraction industry in the county, seeking balance that would soften a downturn. Mining, energy exploration and extraction of natural gas and oil are a key part of the balance. The Feds have no clue about life in the West and have no clue of life in Grand County Utah. The decisions to grant leases for such activities should be held by the state of Utah with majority voice by the several counties.

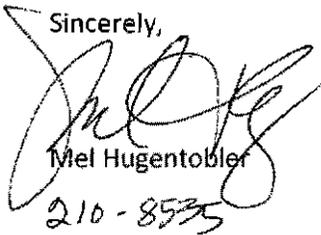
Near Dead Horse point is a great example in that the rigs etc. are "camouflaged" so that they are hard to spot. The claim that one is out enjoying nature and happens upon a rig that ruins their nature hike is absurd. What is absurd is that same person most like drove to within a short distance of the said rig in a vehicle that uses gasoline or natural gas. Does that mean it's OK to extract in North Dakota but not in Grand County because that person likes to hike or mountain bike here? That's absurd.

I believe recreation and OHV are essential components of the plan. I've had several people from outside of Moab tell me that they feel like Moab is no longer as friendly to them as OHV (dirt bike) enthusiasts. Interesting to note that many trails around the area were created by dirt bikers but have since been

hijacked by mountain bikers and subsequently designated off limits to the groups that created them. Of note, there is currently a lawsuit filed by a snowboarding group that contends that Alta (ski resort in northern Utah) is engage in discriminatory activities because it will not allow snowboarders on its slopes. The lawsuit may not have merit except that Alta resort is on public land (Forest Service land). That being said, as the popularity of our area grows, multi-use becomes as much of a micro as macro issue.

Bottom line, the long term outlook for Grand County looks bleak if we leave all of our eggs in the tourism basket. The economy is such that anything could push it over the cliff. The recent Parks shutdown is a great example of what could happen. That lasted 10 days and the impact was millions. If we leave our future to the Federal Gov't and allow them to move us as political pawns, that's exactly what will happen. We'll be sacrificed for political payback, or vocal minority pressure, or whatever they can dream up because at this point we don't matter to them.

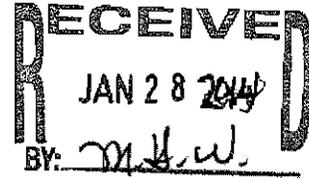
Sincerely,



Mel Hugentobler
210-8535

To: Grand County Counsel:
125 E. Center St.
Moab UT 84532

Attn: Public Lands Bill



Jan 27, 2014

Concerning the Rob Bishop Wilderness planning. I attended last summers meeting at the Grand Center with Rep. Bishop. I felt hopeful that action would match the rhetoric of openness, cooperation and impartiality promised in the meeting. Now with an opportunity to give input I hope this atmosphere of reasonableness continues.

I was amazed to read in the local newspapers that Tesla has installed a charging station in Moab. This shows as much as anything that the world recognizes southeast Utah as a special place and a destination for people looking for the experience we provide. Our unmatched wilderness is important to this experience. Some people do not actually travel into the wilderness but look at it across the scenic vistas in a National Park or from a highway. Their experience is magnified many times over by having views, distant as they may be, of true wilderness. Of course people travelling into the wilderness by foot or river raft can only have that experience in a true wilderness area.

I grew up in the west, mostly in Utah. Over my 77 years I have seen the area where we hunted pheasants given over to development. Fishing streams closed to entry. Secluded campsites over run with jeepers and mountain bikers. My family stays home during the busy tourist season. We remember the way it was and will never be again. This is why it is so important to save what we have left.

I have had the good fortune to float the Green River through Desolation Canyon twice. That is one of the best. Desolation Canyon is absolutely beautiful. If you have never been there don't let the name mislead you. It is not desolate. The rocks and vegetation are different than downstream areas, which makes it unique. Desolation Canyon deserves wilderness designation.

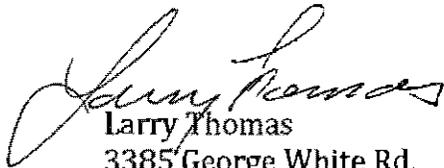
Westwater Canyon offers an opportunity to have unforgettable white water/wilderness experience in one or two days. This and other close in areas are important to the economy of Grand County. River and land based use in or near Fisher Towers, Mary Jane Canyon, Porcupine Rim and Morning Glory offer recreation close to Moab used by thousands. These areas all deserve wilderness designation. Again, people can observe these unblemished areas from a distance, outside the boundaries of a political "wilderness area" or even from a highway. Visitors from heavily populated foreign countries or even from the eastern U.S frequently comment the open, unblemished wide spaces on. These are the experiences that draw them back for to SE Utah.

Without Arches and Canyonlands National Parks we would not have the jewels that draw millions of people to this area. The proposed wilderness adjacent to arches and including Yellow Bird, Dome Plateau and Gold Bar Canyon add to the drawing power of the park and to the economic engine that powers our economy. None of them should be sacrificed to development or mineral extraction. Designating them as wilderness should protect these areas

Finally Mill Creek Canyon. I hike in Mill Creek every week. I meet many of my neighbors on these trails. Quite a few of them are newcomers to Moab. They have built new houses, pay taxes in the county and add substantially to the community. They have moved to Moab and Grand County to enjoy the outdoor recreation and wilderness offered nowhere else. Wilderness designation for Mill Creek is important for all of us.

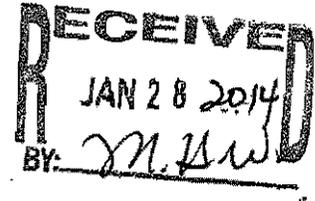
This current initiative to establish wilderness areas in Utah may be our last chance to define forever the quality of the environment in which we live.

Sincerely



Larry Thomas
3385 George White Rd.
Moab UT 84532

JOE SORENSEN CONSTRUCTION INC.
P.O. BOX 988
MOAB, UTAH 84532
435-259-5948
FAX 435-259-4336



January 26, 2014

County Council Study Group
Jim Nyland, Lynn Jackson, Rory Paxman

Dear Sirs;

I have been a resident of Grand County since 1977. I am currently a father and grandfather with family living in Grand county, a business owner and employer serving the Four Corners region.

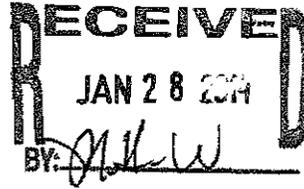
I first came to this area of Utah while I was a student at Utah State University in Logan Utah. Since that first visit with my son I have had the opportunity to regularly visit and enjoy the beauty and diversity of the lands in and around Grand County including many of the areas that are proposed as wilderness in America's Red Rock Wilderness Act. A few of my favorite hiking areas are Hunter Canyon and also Behind the Rocks. Having the opportunity to enjoy these areas over the last 35 years as both a professional guide and also in the private sector has prompted me to write this letter to inform the County Council study group that **protecting wilderness designation is extremely important to me!** Wilderness is a vital and valuable asset and needs protection as does our water and clean air. Wilderness protection is a long-term investment for the residents of and also the visitors to Grand County and is in the best interest of all Americans. I strongly urge you to protect these lands for our future generations.

In closing I would again ask you to protect the areas included in America's Red Rock Wilderness Act and thank you for your service on the Grand County Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Sorensen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Joe Sorensen



28 January 2014

This letter is in response to the Bishop Public Lands initiative which is currently under consideration by the Grand County Council.

It appears that Rep. Bob Bishop seems to care very little about anything other than developing more of our beautiful public lands than in protecting what our state has to offer. Our wilderness in itself is a valuable resource to this nation, our state and our communities and should be held on to and left untouched as it is.

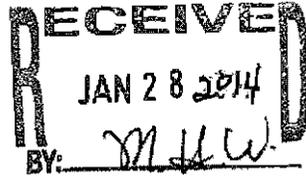
Wilderness protection is beneficial to our protecting the watershed here in our desert environment. Perhaps Rep. Bishop has not noticed the current drought cycle we are living in. Water is every bit as valuable as any gas or oil that might be extracted from our lands. Water is critical for future generations and I feel any development plan for our wild lands lacks this foresight.

Development of energy sources uses large amounts of water. It affects air quality and takes great amounts of energy itself to produce while the citizens are never the ones who receive profits; we are left with what can be devastating effects to our water, land and air. Pollution of water, air, atmosphere and noise are all by products of economic development and cannot be overlooked.

There are more important things than the money that can be made by the government and corporate executives who stand to profit at our expense. A little bit here and a little bit there might not seem like much, but it will add up and before we know what has happened we will face a very sad time in the future when we look at what we have done and ask ourselves, why did we allow this to happen? There will be no turning back.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sandy Hultgren
Moab, Utah



Pamela and Quentin Baker
1950 Roadrunner Hill
Moab, UT 84532
January 28, 2014

Grand County Public Land Comment
125 E. Center St.
Moab, UT 84532

To Whom It May Concern:

We would like to express our opinion relative to the proposed land bill that Rep. Bishop is proposing. Any bill needs to protect our resources—air, water, historic and prehistoric cultural resources, flora, fauna, viewshed, dark skies, quiet zones, etc. A balanced approach is best. However, because both our economy and our quality of life are so heavily dependent on these resources, strong measures must be in place to prevent their degradation.

Some areas are definitely important to protect as wilderness: Riparian areas such as Mill Creek and Ten Mile Wash, red rock areas with scenic values such as Behind-the-Rocks and drainages of the Colorado and Green Rivers, and critical habitats for plants and animals.

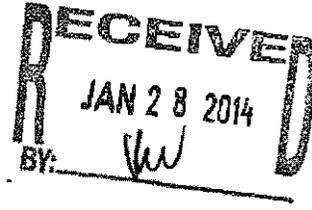
Other areas should be managed to provide more access both commercial and recreational. However, any activity which would impair air quality or water quality should not be allowed. These are survival and health issues for the residents. Anywhere it is determined that development and/or resource extraction is appropriate, these activities should be thoroughly monitored with constant oversight and measures for complete reclamation.

Sincerely,

Pamela Baker
Quentin Baker



Moab Friends-For-Wheelin'
351 East Coronado Lane
Moab, Utah 84532



January 28, 2014

To: Grand County Council
Subject: Public Lands Bill

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the public lands initiative.

Moab Friends-For-Wheelin' (MFFW) is 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 has become so important to the local economy.

MFFW's concerns are obviously related to the continued access to the off-highway routes that we love. We believe that the routes we currently enjoy should be preserved. But we do understand that compromise must be made by all stakeholders in order to achieve a workable solution, and that some OHV routes may be closed. Any routes that are closed should be replaced with similar routes of equal or greater length. When replacing routes, it is important to consider the type of route. There is a difference between improved and unimproved dirt roads, rock-crawling trails, atv tracks, single track trails, etc., and all types are important to their respective users. Perhaps there is an opportunity to create new "focus areas" for OHV recreation where it would be possible to establish new motorized routes, similar to what has been provided recently for mountain bike use. One area that comes to mind is near Area BFE off of Black Ridge Road in San Juan County. There are numerous old roads and surface disturbance in this area due to past mining activity that might be appropriate for 4-wheel drive rock-crawling and exploration. A designated focus area such as this could increase revenue opportunities for SE Utah, as well as help reduce pressure on other nearby motorized recreation areas.

We also believe that no new Wilderness Areas should be created, with the possible exception of officially designating current WSA's as Wilderness. 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.

We believe that the current BLM Resource Management Plan is a good compromise between environmental protection and recreation/extraction. As we see it, the problem is the uncertainty of the current plan, and how future changes in designation and management will affect the economy of the local area and the lifestyle of the people who live and recreate here. The issues at stake are complex and multifaceted, but as a 4-wheel drive club, we ask that OHV recreation is given equal consideration to other concerns in any new public lands bill.

Thank you for your efforts and considerations.

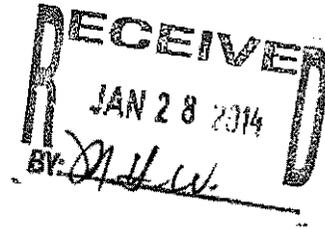
Jeff Stevens

President, Moab Friends-For-Wheelin'
351 E Coronado Ln
Moab, UT 84532
435-259-6119

PROMOTONG RESPONSIBLE AND FUN 4WD RECREATION

January 25, 2014

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



Dear Council,

We are writing to express our strong support for protecting wilderness areas in Grand County. Our wilderness areas help identify us as proud and caring residents of Grand County. Almost every day we hike somewhere in Grand County; regularly you can find us at Fisher Towers or in Mary Jane Canyon or up on Porcupine Rim. Every day we take time to see and appreciate the beautiful wilderness that surrounds our home in Castle Valley.

Please represent us. Please help to protect Grand County's wilderness.

We thank you for your continuing support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis and Mylene Dressler". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dennis and Mylene Dressler

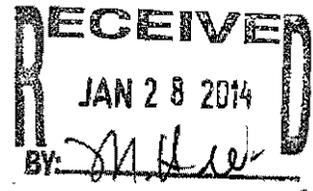
19 Chamisa Lane

Castle Valley, UT 84532

(435)327-1104

cc: Fred Ferguson

Grand County Council
Grand County, Utah
Subject: Bishop Land Proposal



Dear Bishop Committee:

January 28, 2014

The National Parks adjacent to Moab, the USFS lands in the La Sals, and the scenic BLM lands of Grand County are the most valuable, enduring resource we as citizens possess.

It appears that this Bishop Land Proposal is geared toward development of scant natural resources that lie beneath the surface. While I am unopposed to development of said resources I am opposed to their development now or in the near future.

I believe that the aforementioned lands, and especially the Wilderness Study Areas within them, must be protected from extractive industry now and beyond our natural life spans.

The oil, tar sands, shale oil, gas, potash and copper in the ground are not going anywhere. They will all be there in 50 years and in 500 years left undisturbed. What will change is the method of extraction. Footprints, carbon dioxide emissions, sound and light pollution will all diminish in the future. When this technology becomes available, that can be the time to develop said resources. Not now. Development techniques available now do damage and destroy our fundamental base resource of scenic and visual beauty.

In 100 years, in 500 years, everything will be more efficient and less invasive. When those resources can be removed from the ground and the natural beauty that our county profits from is preserved, the oil, gas, potash and copper will be far more valuable to future generations than it is to us now.

Grabbing this land now, and developing these resources now, is about greed. Decisions regarding this land should be made conservatively.

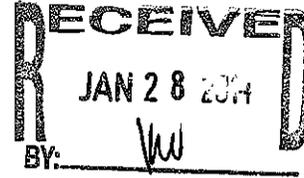
Protect the air, water, and view sheds of our National Parks, Forest Service and BLM lands. Especially protect the Wilderness Study Areas. There is no longer wilderness being created, it is our most valuable resource for the long term. Protect the scenic lands, clean air, dark night skies, and the archeology that we have built and enduring economy on, protect it now.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas Moreau", written over a horizontal line.

Thomas Moreau
399 McGill Blvd.
Moab, Utah 84532

Grand County Council
Grand County, Utah
Subject: Bishop Land Proposal



Dear Bishop Committee:

The tourist industry in Grand County provides thousands of jobs and millions of dollars to the local economy. The mining and oil and gas industry provides far few jobs, with over ninety percent of the dollars going out of state or to a foreign country. Grand County is not Uinta Basin or North Dakota and will never have a large oil and gas industry. Grand County does not have the water available for a potash industry. We must protect the resources that draw the tourists to Grand County

The national parks are Grand County's greatest assets. The Bishop Public Lands Initiative needs to protect the areas around Arches and Canyonland National Park from industrialization. Tourists do not come to see an industrial zone. The areas surrounding Arches National Park need to be designated as wilderness. This includes the areas adjacent to the north side of the park. Yellow Bird, Dome Plateau, Mary Jane Canyon, Porcupine Rim and Morning Glory east of the park and Goldbar Canyon south of the park.

Some of the areas around Canyonlands National Park that need protection are Labyrinth Canyon and Horsethief Point.

The oil and gas and mining industry should not be allowed to industrialize our tourist industry resources or reduce the value of the parks to tourism.

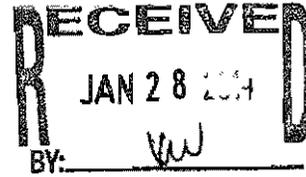
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "W Love".

William love
2871 E Bench Rd
Moab, Utah, 84532

Sat, 25 Jan 2014

To: Grand County Council
From: Darcey Brown
Re: Bishop proposal



Dear Members of the Grand County Council,

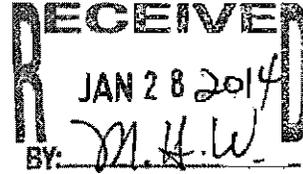
I hike weekly with a group comprised of women all of whom are over 65 and some are seventy. I also hike with a mixed, younger group once a week as well. I know the area surrounding Moab very well. Being able to hike away from ATVs, oil and gas trucks, and drilling rigs is an important part of why we chose to live here. Many places we used to hike have already been marred visually and on occasion by smell as well. We have many friends who visit the area to hike and we hear numerous complaints about the drill pads, jeeps, ATVs, side by sides, and dirt bikes. I think it is important to the tourist economy to have quiet places of solitude.

Thank you,

Darcey Brown
2931 E. Bench Rd
Moab, UT 84532

601 MILLCREEK DR
MOAB UT 84532-2843
January 27, 2014

Grand County Council
Attn: Public Lands Bill
125 E CENTER ST
MOAB UT 84532-2429



Dear Council Members:

I am a resident of Grand County.

I support wilderness protection for all the wilderness-quality lands in Grand County identified in America's Red Rock Wilderness Act. I know the council has received a map of these areas, so I am not enclosing one.

Awed by their scenic grandeur, I have hiked in the Fisher Towers, Mary Jane Canyon, Yellow Bird, Arches Adjacent, Porcupine Rim, Morning Glory, Mill Creek, Behind the Rocks, Goldbar Canyon, Hunters Canyon, Horsethief Point, and Labyrinth Canyon units, hundreds of times in aggregate. It's wonderful to be in wilderness five miles from my house in the Mill Creek unit, and knowing that it's there is a source of continuing satisfaction.

I have rafted Westwater Canyon and Desolation Canyon.

The natural beauty of this area is the reason I have retired here. Please protect it.

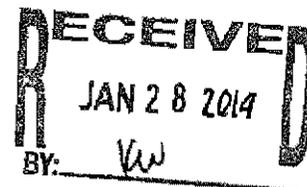
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas J. Messenger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "T" and "M".

Thomas J. Messenger

CC:
Fred Ferguson
Legislative Director, Rep. Rob Bishop
123 Cannon HOB
WASHINGTON DC 20515

Warren Ohlrich
315 E Pueblo Ct.
Moab, UT 84532



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

January 27, 2014

I am a Moab/Grand County Resident who is very concerned about protecting as much wilderness in the County for a number of reasons:

I myself spend at least 3-4 days a week hiking in the Moab area and have friends come from other places and hike many of these areas with me. Specific areas that I hike in on a regular basis and would like to see wilderness protection for are Mill Creek, Morning Glory, Behind the Rocks, Goldbar Canyon, Hunters Canyon, Porcupine Rim, Mary Jane Canyon, Fisher Towers, and the Labyrinth Canyon area.

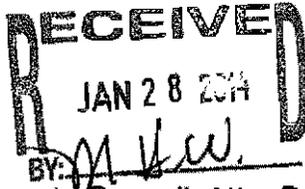
The people I know that come here and value the Moab area do so because it has so many areas unspoiled by development, drilling, roads, etc. It has a much healthier environment than most of the rest of the country. I, and many of my friends, would like to see it stay that way. Poor air and water quality are becoming very detrimental to the rest of the state (look at the air in Salt Lake City) and the country.

Protecting these areas and the environment in the county also obviously has economic reasons. Clean air and water and fantastic unspoiled scenery attract people from all over the country and the world. That is why I moved here in the first place. The tourist dollars brought in help support our economy.

I plea that you do as much as possible to protect the proposed wilderness areas and the air and water quality in our county so that Moab and Grand County will continue to be a desirable place to live and visit.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Warren Ohlrich".



4100 Easy St.
Moab, UT 84532
January 28, 2014

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

Dear Council Members,

We moved to Moab because of the healthy environment of abundant available water, clean air, spectacular landscapes and a close knit friendly community. We spend most of our time outdoors, exploring the area and being in the yard and neighborhood with friends. Now that we are here, we see these very same attributes that brought us here threatened.

The Bishop Public Lands Initiative presents us with an opportunity to comment on and work on protecting the air and water quality and the landscapes that we in Grand County treasure. This is an opportunity for us to protect them, especially the areas with wilderness characteristics.

We see many reasons to designate much of our land in Grand County as wilderness. The main reason is to protect our county against further industrial extraction and resulting water shortages and pollution, air pollution, habitat destruction, and economic and social instability.

First, we don't have enough water. The Colorado River is over allocated and lower than ever. It promises to get worse in the future. Downstream users are facing shortages, and the politics of water management of the Colorado River is standing in the way of solving the allocation problems. We cannot waste precious water on the heavy use required by potash mining and development, oil and gas drilling, tar sands and oil shale mining and processing.

Ken's Lake is going dry. At the rate the water level for irrigation is going down, we won't have access to any of that water in the near future. Already we are having to pump groundwater to meet our needs. If our ground water cannot be recharged due to continuing drought conditions, our culinary water will soon be in jeopardy. Moab can survive only if we can figure out how to allocate water within our community in a sustainable and fair way. We have definitely not arrived at that position yet. It is not the time to be giving our water to the oil and gas or potash industries.

Second, our air quality is being diminished. Already the rates of inversion are worse than they were when we first came here. The diesel truck traffic servicing all of the oil and gas wells as well as the potash mines exact a heavy toll on our community. Main Street has air that is especially polluted, discouraging pedestrian traffic which is so important to small businesses in a resort town. The dust from all the construction that comes with extractive industries adds to dust on the mountains causing quicker snow melt and less percolation into our water recharge areas of the La Sals, as well as

causing pollution in the air that we must breathe. The methane gas and the other poisonous gasses released by the oil and gas wells poison our air and add to climate change.

Third, the habitat for the wildlife must be protected to insure their continuation. The desert landscape is a fragile one that takes years to repair itself, if it ever can. Bighorn sheep, migratory and resident birds, deer, and elk are among the many animals that call this place home, and their living here not only maintains the ecological balance but also enriches our experiences here. We must speak and act in their behalf.

Fourth, the economics and well being of Moab would be destroyed. According to a New York Times article *As Oil Floods Plains Towns, Crime Pours In* from Sunday, Dec. 1, 2013, communities that are impacted by development of oil and gas all report higher levels of violent crime including murders, kidnapping, assault, robbery, not to mention DUI's. Illegal drug use, domestic violence, rising costs of rent and food, and an influx of people including drug cartels following the money are all part of the changing environment of a boom town. Tar sands and oil shale development in Canada has had the same effects.

At this time Moab is in the midst of developing a stable tourist economy that extends from early spring until late fall. Our landscapes and safe and welcoming community are what attract the tourists. To foul the air, water, and visual aspects of our county and to attract crime and inflated high prices will discourage tourists from returning here year after year.

The seldom traveled **Book Cliffs** is a prime area to protect. It is part of the watershed for the Colorado River, and we have a responsibility to protect that water quality for the millions of users downstream. The Book Cliffs is an enormous area of lands with wilderness characteristics and is home to a variety of wildlife that need protection. This is an area that is on our bucket list to visit, camp, hike, and horse back ride. In fact, we are planning a trip there this coming year. Unfortunately this area also has tar sands, oil shale, oil and gas. These especially destructive extractive industries must not be allowed here.

We have especially enjoyed riding horses in the **Labyrinth Canyon** area. That area has been identified as having wilderness characteristics, yet industrialization is happening there now with potash exploration from the Green River Project. The Secret Spire trail and the Tombstone area are one of our favorite areas in the county. As you can see from the photo below they are now being damaged by exploration for potash. It breaks our hearts to see industrialization of such a pristine area that has had so little human impact until this time. This area should be designated wilderness.



We hike and ride horses year round in so much of Grand County. We ride in the **La Sals** during the warmer months and ski there in the winter. The La Sals are what make Moab, an oasis in the desert, possible. In addition to riding in the **Labyrinth Canyon** area, we ride in **Professor Valley** and **Behind the Rocks** in the spring and fall. We are not the only ones enjoying these areas. We usually see many others recreating as well. We speak for all citizens across our country in wanting to retain access to these **public**

lands that belong to all of us, not just those of us fortunate enough to live here.



We are concerned that the quality of our water, air, our scenic environment, and our wonderful community are all being gravely threatened. Grand County must not develop any new potash mines, must not drill any more oil and gas wells, and must not allow the mining or processing of tar sands or oil shale in the Book Cliffs. Those water and energy consumptive fuels are not the future of our county or our world but would mean complete habitat destruction and the end of water and air quality.

We urge the Grand County Council to establish as much wilderness in our county as we possibly can. We have the opportunity now. Let's not lose it.

Sincerely,

Deb Walter
Dick Walter
Deb and Dick Walter



1/26/14 RECEIVED
JAN 28 2014
BY: kw

Dear Grand County Council,

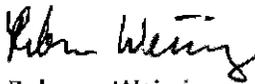
I am a resident of Grand County and the mother of two young boys. Like every mom, I dream of good futures for my children – good health, good jobs, and a place they can love and call home. I am writing to encourage the protection of the proposed Red Rock Wilderness areas in Grand County. Strongly protected wilderness is essential to preserving the health, well-being, economic opportunities, and quality of life for residents of Grand County.

Grand County is a place that we have chosen and a place that we love. My family spends considerable time recreating in the Goldbar Canyon, Hunter's Canyon, Behind the Rocks, Mill Creek, Morning Glory, Porcupine Rim, and Mary Jane Canyon proposed wilderness areas. My husband has also enjoyed hunting in the proposed Desolation Canyon wilderness area. The wise protection of proposed areas in Grand County could only strengthen the local economy, which relies on its world-class reputation as a tourism and adventure destination. Diversifying our local economy should capitalize on our most valuable resource – wide, untrammled spaces that attract visitors and potential investors from around the world. As the national workforce continues to shift to flexible work spaces, protected wilderness areas attract non-tourism businesses that value a high quality of life and access to the outdoors, as has happened in small towns such as Bend, Oregon. Preserving land and keeping it open for public use will help to make the vision of bringing a university campus to the Moab area a reality.

My youngest son was born without a connection between his heart and his lungs, and at the tender age of two he has already undergone open heart surgery and faces more procedures. The clean air we enjoy in Grand County is essential to his continued health. Protecting proposed wilderness areas protects the purity of our air and water. Proposed oil, gas, and mineral exploration and development in this area would have negative impacts to Grand County including increased dust production, decreased air quality, and increased stress on our limited water supplies. Regional dust, caused by surface disturbance such as roads, has been shown to reduce mountain snowpack and threaten the water supply upon which we all rely. Oil and gas development in the Uintah Basin has caused air quality to plummet, with known health consequences. Resource extraction is also water intensive, and potable aquifers in Grand County are limited and should be put to better use.

I support the protection of all the proposed wilderness areas in Grand County as an investment in Grand County's future and a protection of my family's health and quality of life. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

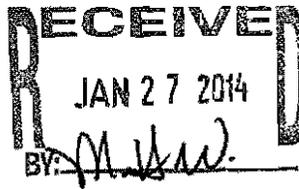
Regards,


Rebecca Weissinger
584 E 200 S
Moab, UT

cc: Rep. Rob Bishop



1 A hike in the proposed Goldbar Canyon wilderness area with our two boys.



January 27, 2014

Dear Grand County Council,

I am a tax-paying resident of Grand County. My husband and I own our own home in Moab and we also own a rental property in Orchard Villa. My husband, who is retired, works part-time for Moab Chevy and I work at Canyonlands Care Center.

We moved to Moab in April 2010 because we loved the area and wanted to spend our spare time hiking and biking. We have made many new friends in Moab and hike regularly with the Sierra Club folks. Most of our friends are retired and have also moved here to enjoy the outdoors. These people are well-educated and own homes in Grand County. The people who are retiring to Moab have money and they are concerned about the environment.

I attended the public meeting/forum with Mr. Bishop and both meetings with Jason Chaffetz. After leaving the last meeting, I felt there was no use trying to protect Grand County when the locals stated that uranium mining does not cause cancer, the environment has not been hurt by previous mining/mineral extraction and all they want is a higher paying job dropped in the laps of their children and grandchildren.

Well, we all know uranium mining causes cancer and that previous mining has destroyed the environment in some areas – Corral Canyon for example. And as for higher paying jobs, no one should expect a higher paying job without making an effort to get a higher education. I went to college at age 31 after working in dirty industrial plants and being laid off. My daughter was in third grade and I drove 84 miles round trip every day to get a college diploma. And no, it was not easy, but that is how you get a higher paying job.

Moab was in danger of becoming another ghost town after the uranium boom and was saved by the tourism industry. Moab is a vibrant little town where people want to come to retire. If you ruin the environment with tar sands, nuclear reactors, and drilling pads, people are not going to come here. In addition, the folks with the money are going to leave.

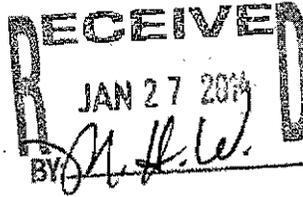
The Sierra Club has taken me to places I cannot even describe or would never have believed. I have been to places my younger co-workers, who are locals, have never been to see. I have been to Teardrop Arch, climbed the cable at Cable Arch, hiked to see the Comet Man petroglyph, and hiked to Otho Arch. I have hiked at Fisher Towers, Mary Jane Canyon, Mill Creek, Hunter Canyon and many others.

Yet, there are so many areas I have not gotten to explore. PLEASE, please, do not turn over Grand County to the oil industry. They will love you for a while and then toss you aside as they move on to the next county. The people who have moved here are paying taxes every day, we support the local restaurants and businesses. We buy our furniture at Knowles and hire local contractors and cabinet makers. We rarely go to Grand Junction to shop. Please consider the people in Grand County who are not locals- we live here because we chose this area and we want to live here.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara L. Crossan
Herb Crossan
Barbara L. Crossan

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



January 25, 2014

Comments to Grand County, Utah, regarding the Bishop Public Lands Initiative

Dear Grand County Council,

Thank you for the opportunity, and extra time, to comment on the Bishop Land Initiative. We are sure you have lots of comments to consider so we will keep our comments brief.

- 1) We believe all of the public land, federal or state including SITLA, in the municipal watersheds in Grand County should be protected from any development that could be detrimental to water quality and quantity. Fracking would be an example of something that could damage groundwater. Wilderness is one tool by which this protection could be accomplished. There are other tools for use where wilderness is inappropriate. We strongly encourage you to keep our watersheds in mind when making your decisions.
- 2) The Uintah Basin and Book Cliffs are said to contain more hydrocarbon than has been burned in the history of man. Although much of it is low-grade, and energy intensive to process, this is sobering given climate change. We believe in climate change not because we want to, we don't, but because it is real. The weird weather we are seeing globally and our extended drought locally is in line with the scientific predictions dating back into the 1980's. We are not here to argue this point, but as a public representative you have an obligation to your constituents, us, that if there is a real probability that something is possible to take it into consideration. Moreover, we would think that obligation would extend to planning for it. We are not opposed to industry. We recently passed the three large solar power plants on the California Nevada state line. They use mirrors to concentrate the sun's energy. We see them as industrial development, and "progress", that respects future generations instead of condemning them to the weird and often violent weather associated with pumping more energy into a closed system. Why not solar power plants here in Grand County in the I-70 corridor? Wilderness is a tool by which the Book Cliffs in Grand County could be protected from hydro-carbon extraction and its disastrous climate change impacts. In Utah, we do not have to push things over the brink.
- 3) Finally, we believe there are much better things to do with our precious water supplies than mine potash. For this reason, we would support wilderness or other types of protection for the scenic areas bordering Canyonlands NP. You are correct we support the Greater Canyonlands National Monument proposal.

In conclusion, we would again like to thank Grand County and the Bishop Public Lands Initiative for the opportunity to comment on this important topic and for taking my comments to create large wilderness areas in Grand County to protect our future into serious consideration.

Sincerely,


Yrma van der Steenstraeten


David D. Erley

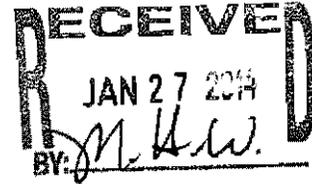
HC64 Box 2902

328 Castle Valley Drive,

Castle Valley, UT 84532

435-259-4859

January 25, 2014
Rita Rumrill
255 Park Dr.
Moab, UT 84532



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

Grand County Council,

I am a resident of Grand County. I support protecting a large amount of wilderness in Grand County and request that the Grand County Council do the same as it drafts a proposal to Rep. Rob Bishop in regards to the Bishop Public Lands Bill for Eastern Utah.

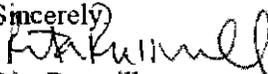
Extractive energies have a long history of polluting the air and water of surrounding communities. Our culture depends on energy production and so, as a general philosophy, I support maximizing renewable energy. As a Registered Dietitian who has worked in the health care field for more than 30 years, I feel that allowing more extractive processes into the public lands of Grand County is in opposition to preserving public health.

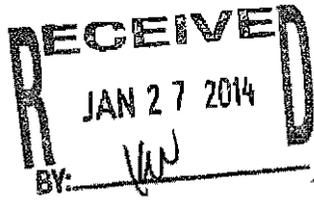
Grand County seems poised at a crux between the current level of extractive industry activity and a huge increase in extractive development. At the recent levels we have enjoyed the clean air and water which is essential to health and, I believe, is the responsibility of government to help ensure. We have also enjoyed a social climate of relative safety for most citizens.

This could change drastically if large scale extraction is allowed. Promises made by the energy companies stating that water and air quality (and quantity) will be preserved are to be questioned. I lived in Wyoming and watched many communities lose their clean air and water due to extraction processes, despite promises made to the contrary. Even here in Moab, any money gained by the Atlas mine has surely not covered the expense, that taxpayers have paid, of the UMTRA clean-up. Of equal importance is the change in social quality of a community when larger numbers of single, well paid, nonresident workers temporarily move into an area (evidenced recently in North Dakota).

My family and I enjoy recreating in wilderness quality areas, and I realize recreation represents a large part of Grand County's economy. However, the health and safety of Grand County residents remains my primary concern for asking you to protect large amounts of wilderness in Grand County.

Thank you for your time in drafting a proposal to Rep. Rob Bishop. I am hopeful that Grand County residents' health and safety will significantly factor into your document.

Sincerely

Rita Rumrill



1996 Highland Drive
Moab UT 84532
January 27, 2014

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

Dear Public Lands Committee Members:

Thank you for extending the deadline for public comments on Congressman Rob Bishop's proposed public lands bill. In an earlier letter to you I listed several areas that should be protected from industrial development because of their wilderness, scenic and recreation values. There are a few more areas I would like to add.

Rainbow Rocks and the Tombstone are highly scenic, of geological interest, and are used by many campers and hikers. The dramatic increase in the number of large trucks speeding along the Dubinky Well Road, raising big dust clouds, has already degraded the area. I am concerned that potash mining, pipeline construction and other such development will cut off access and destroy what little peace, quiet and scenic value remains in this very special area.

Secret Spire and the miles of slickrock surrounding it are treasured by many of us as a spectacular place to explore. I have encountered bighorn sheep here, and fear that gas and oil development in the vicinity would disturb and drive them out. The popular Bartlett and Tusher slickrock should also be off limits for industrial development.

Industrial noise and traffic has become a real problem along many of the roads off SR 313. Bright lights disturb the night. Large areas scraped bare of vegetation and dust from trucks and heavy equipment blight the sweeping views from the high plateaus. Two weeks ago I hiked the newly developed mountain bike trail Magnificent 7, where the noise of drilling on the rim near Dead Horse Point, well over a mile distant, was very audible and disturbing. Let's not make these problems even worse!

Please keep industrial development in Grand County to a minimum, and well away from the parks and other scenic and ecologically sensitive places. Regulate it strictly where it already exists to protect our air and water quality. Don't waste our dwindling supply of precious water on potash mining and fracking. Encourage energy conservation and development of alternative energy sources instead of continuing to hand over our public lands to industries that will transform Grand County into yet another industrial wasteland.

Sincerely,

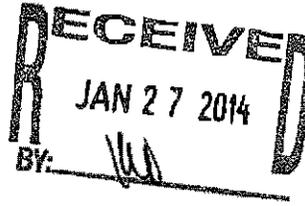
Thea K. Nordling

cc: Congressman Bishop's office

460 Rosetree Lane
Moab, UT 84532

January 24, 2014

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



Dear Grand County Council,

I am writing as a Grand County resident who supports protecting a large amount of wilderness in the county. On average I hike or backpack five days a week, and most of that hiking is done in the various Grand County wilderness areas. Because I live in Moab and also own a cabin in Castle Valley, most of my hiking is done in the Fisher Towers, Beaver Creek, Mary Jane Canyon, Porcupine Rim, Morning Glory, Mill Creek, Behind the Rocks, Hunter Canyon, Goldbar Canyon, Arches Adjacent, Yellow Bird, Dome Plateau, Labyrinth Canyon and Horsethief Point wilderness areas. I usually go to a different area on each hiking trip, and over the 23 years I have lived in this area I have been into each of these areas many times. I have spent less time in the wilderness areas in the Book Cliffs, but hope to do more exploring there in the future. Those pristine landscapes also need protection, especially from mineral development.

We are blessed to live in such spectacular country, and people from all over the world come here to enjoy it. Many of these visitors are hikers and crave the solitude and silence that these wildernesses provide. Protecting them from all types of development will safeguard our tourist economy.

There are many acres in the county that are outside these wildernesses and available for motorized use and other development. Please protect adequate wilderness to balance these other uses. Our population and our tourist base need some of each.

Sincerely,


Barbara Zinn

Cc: Fred Ferguson
Legislative Director, Rep. Rob Bishop

LIVING RIVERS

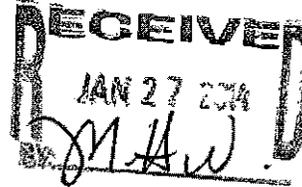
COLORADO RIVERKEEPER®

PO Box 466 • Moab, UT 84532 • 435-259-1063 • info@livingrivers.org

Friday, January 17, 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,

INTRODUCTION

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, with special emphasis on the Colorado Plateau; this includes the basin's groundwater. Our riverkeeper program is affiliated with the international Waterkeeper Alliance.

We recognize that the proposed land bill will most likely require review under the National Environmental Policy Act, which will open the process to the entire nation and the other six states of the Colorado River basin. Since this issue is of regional and national importance, we ask that the complete administrative record of this process be posted on a designated web page for the public to access freely.

We also request public meetings to be conducted by the county and the congressional representatives at appropriate times in order to keep people and the press up-to-date.

We also request that the state of Utah provide a water budget for citizens and investors to demonstrate how, or how not, the possible development of eastern Utah's natural resources can proceed with sufficient water supplies, because the proposed projects are water intensive and we live in drying times. We ask that the water budget be based on a time-period of 100-years which, for example, is the procedure for approving development projects in the arid state of Arizona. This would include an economic assessment of what the projected water

infrastructure would cost to deliver this water to communities, well pads, mines, and processing facilities.

It should be mentioned that the governor's 50-year water plan now under review, so far, is devoid of any such discussion.

Water availability is the critical lynchpin for this proposed process. The Colorado River is facing declared shortages imminently, because the demand in the basin currently exceeds the supply, and the supply has been dropping one million acre-feet every 50-years since 1906. This trend is expected to continue for the rest of the 21st century, as we will elaborate more fully in the sub-headings below.

Our organization has done an internal review, and we have decided not to support this initiative because there is no evidence in the administrative record that water surpluses are available for the extraction and processing of eastern Utah's natural resources. If the process moves forward as an act of congress, and the proposed development begins with a known risk of water curtailments occurring, then a situation of harm is created and litigation will follow. Then the State Engineer and the court system will have to make the hard choices and decide who does and doesn't get water. Since avoiding litigation is one of the main objectives of this initiative, we think the process in its present state is lacking sufficient information to address and resolve the risks and uncertainties of water insecurity in the Colorado River basin.

What our organization would support is a process that would permanently restore the function of this watershed to a healthy state.

THE REAL-TIME WATER BUDGET OF THE COLORADO RIVER BASIN

The Colorado River and its major-most tributaries all convene in eastern Utah before plunging into Lake Powell. The Colorado is also a river of national and international importance. This watershed generates 1.7 trillion dollars per year. If this hydro-society were an independent nation, it would be the 12th largest economy in the world.

Utah is a partner in an interstate agreement with six other states. The federal government has a commitment to honor water right agreements with the tribes and Mexico.

The Colorado River Compact of 1922 divided the watershed at Lee's Ferry, AZ. The lower and the upper divisions were each apportioned 7.5 million acre-feet (MAF). Since the Compact Point (Lee's Ferry) is in Arizona, this state receives water from both divisions.

The Boulder Canyon Project Act of 1928 divided the lower division states into fixed allocations and as follows: California - 4.4 MAF; Arizona - 2.8 MAF; Nevada - 0.3 MAF. The US Supreme Court affirmed these lower division allocations in 1963, and the court also affirmed federal water right obligations.

The water rights for tribes are apportioned out of the states they reside in. Since the Navajo Nation is in parts of three states, for example, they have water rights in Arizona, New Mexico and Utah.

During World War II, a treaty was approved by the US Senate to provide Colorado River water to Mexico in the amount of 1.5 MAF. The upper and lower divisions each provide 750,000 acre-feet to honor this international agreement. Therefore, every year 8.25 MAF must flow from the upper basin to the lower basin.

There is an exception to this criteria, which is related to the Shortage Criteria agreement of 2007. For the first time in history (water year 2014), the upper basin is holding water back from the lower basin in order to equally balance the contents of Lakes Mead & Powell. No other action could better convey the reality of looming water shortages for the water users of the Colorado River basin than this recent decision.

In 1948, the upper division states divided their appropriation through negotiations and chartered an interstate Compact for themselves. Northern Arizona was given a fixed amount of 50,000 acre-feet, and the remaining water was divided amongst the other upper basin states by percentages, and as follows: Utah - 23%; Colorado - 51.75%; Wyoming - 14%; New Mexico - 11.25%.

However, the water budget of the upper basin has been modified because the negotiators of the 1922 Compact over-estimated the annual yield of the Colorado River by ~2.5 MAF. This is why the upper division states decided to determine their water apportionments by percentages, instead of by fixed amounts.

In 1984, the Bureau of Reclamation officially determined the revised annual yield of consumption for the upper basin to be 5.8 MAF (this is 1.7 MAF less than the promised 7.5 MAF). In 1988, the yield was revised to 6.0 MAF, and in 2007, the yield was revised yet again to 5.76 MAF.

The Bureau of Reclamation now reports (as of December, 2013) that the annual yield of the Colorado River at the Compact Point (Lee's Ferry) has dropped from 15 MAF to 14.9 MAF. Therefore, the upper basin hydrologic determination is now 5.66 MAF.

The average consumption of the combined upper basin states from 2006 - 2010 was 4.5 MAF (the high was in year 2011 at 4.85 MAF). The amount of aggregate water that is assumed to be available for the upper basin states to utilize is about 1.1 MAF.

However, and this is a critical point, according to the proceedings of the December 2013 annual conference of the Colorado River Water Users Association, Lakes Mead & Powell are projected to be near empty for the rest of the century. Additionally, the Department of Energy stated at this conference that the turbines at the power plant of Glen Canyon Dam may go offline in water year 2015.

Moreover, a presenter at this conference advised the seven states to prepare for declared shortages and to design appropriate contingency plans for their respective states. It was suggested that a component of the contingency plans might include releasing water from upper basin reservoirs such as Flaming Gorge, the Aspinall Unit, and Navajo Reservoir to meet power and water demands downstream.

It is unfortunate that the basin's water security has come to this point in its history, but the administrative record makes it very clear that this eventuality was predicted as far back as 1952, when Arizona vs. California litigation began. Sixty-years of business as usual is why this situation exists, because the foundation documents of the basin's supply and demand are wrong, and leadership and financing to properly reconcile this situation has yet to occur.

UTAH'S WATER BUDGET

In the light of the water budget described above, the maximum water that is available for Utah to convert from paper water to project water is 1.3 MAF (23% of 5.66 MAF). Utah's highest annual consumptive use was in year 2001 at 1.06 MAF, leaving an assumed 300,000 acre-feet available for future use.

There are two tribes in Utah that have yet to receive their water rights in full: Navajo and Ute. Combined, the unfulfilled amount for these two tribes is 191,500 acre-feet. That leaves Utah with an assumed surplus of 108,500 acre-feet.

Other proposed projects waiting in line for Utah's assumed surplus water, for instance, include the Lake Powell Pipeline and the Blue Castle Holdings nuclear power plant. The combined depletion of these two projects is 124,000 acre-feet. These two projects, if approved, would put Utah's assumed water budget in the red.

Pinnacle Potash has stated that they need 20,000 acre-feet per year to operate a profitable potash facility in Grand County. They would require this annual amount of water for a period of 30-years and the total consumption would be 600,000 acre-feet.

K2O Potash and American Potash are the other two corporations preparing for permits to mine potash in eastern Utah, and it can be assumed that they need similar amounts of water as well.

The strip mining of tar sands (bitumen) and oil shale (kerogen) deposits in eastern Utah is the most speculative market ever proposed in the state of Utah. According to a recent economic study by the University of Utah, the start-up investment for a tar sands operation to produce 10,000 barrels per day is estimated to cost \$800 million dollars to put technologies and machinery on the ground (from mine to refinery). At a 10% rate of investment return, the project would not reach the break even point for another 22-years, and in the meantime 31,000 acre-feet of water would be consumed.

A production rate of 10,000 barrels per day is not a large amount of oil. For example, just two conventional oil wells in Saudi Arabia will produce an average of 12,000 barrels in one day. If Utah's goal were to match the current output of North Dakota, for example, the annual water depletion in Utah would be 139,000 acre-feet per year.

What sours this risky venture further is the realization that synthetic crude derived from bitumen and kerogen has half the energy value of Texas sweet crude, and the quality of the final product would largely serve the market that provides bunker fuel for trans-oceanic ships.

RECOMMENDATIONS & CONCLUSION

It is true that millions of acre-feet of water flows through eastern Utah in the form of the Colorado River and its tributaries. However, every single drop of this river has been allocated for a prescribed consumptive use. Additionally, as the demand for water is unwisely permitted to rise, the natural supply is falling. This imbalance is not sustainable and a watershed train wreck is the assured consequence of continuing the practice of business as usual. The best use of our time and resources at this point in Utah's history is to eliminate water insecurity and enhance the productivity of the watershed.

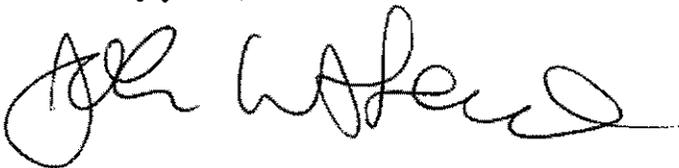
Measures that could accomplish sustainability in the Colorado River basin include the Wilderness Act, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the Clean Water Act, the Salinity Control Act, the Clean Air Act and the Endangered Species Act.

Congressional designation of wilderness and scenic river corridors would preserve the integrity and productivity of the hydrologic cycle, especially with watersheds above 7,000 feet in elevation; high elevation snow packs provide 85% of the annual yield for the Colorado River basin.

The Salinity Control Act is a component of the Clean Water Act that is specific to the Colorado River basin. Compliance for this environmental law is largely dependent on the concept of reducing saline inputs and by dilution. If more depletions are applied on salty soils, as instream flow volumes are reduced, legal interventions from the states of Arizona and California, and the nation of Mexico are highly likely to occur.

The ethics behind the Endangered Species Act is critically important to creating sustainability in the Colorado River basin, because people and wildlife will mutually prosper if our instream flows are healthy, abundant, fishable and swimmable.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Weisheit", written in a cursive style.

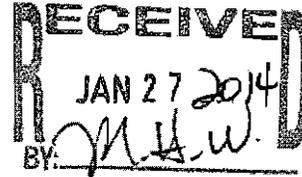
John Weisheit
Conservation Director
Colorado Riverkeeper
Moab, UT

January 24, 2014

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

Re: Public Lands Bill

Dear County Council members,



I would like you to include lands included in the Red Rock Wilderness Bill to have protection as the Council considers this important issue. I am an active resident of Grand County. You might remember me as former chair of Trail Mix. I have explored much of Grand County on foot (using existing D roads for access). Wild places are important to all of us, and I would like places I know to be available for my grandkids and their children.

Please keep this in mind when you look at other uses. These decisions you are making are forever. We cannot back up into wild once we develop an area with roads, truck, etc.

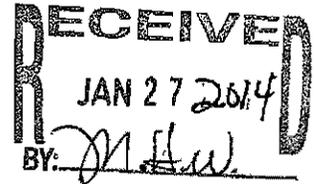
I could mention all the areas I would like protected but I am currently in India and do not have further info at my fingertips, nor a good internet connection. (I have asked a friend to submit these comments in a letter to you.)

Sincerely,

Virginia (Ginny) Carlson

cc: Fred Ferguson
Legislative Dtr, Rep. Rob Bishop
123 Cannon House Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20515

Grand County Council
125 E Center Street
Moab, UT 84532



Re: Public Land Bill

Dear County Council Members,

We are residents of Grand County, we moved here to our dream retirement and plan to live here the rest of our lives.

We want to encourage you to support protecting a large amount of wilderness in Grand County. Where we live is unique and this is the legacy we can leave to the future generations. If these beautiful areas are destroyed or degraded they can never be replaced.

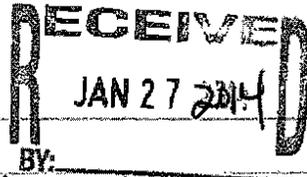
The following areas need to be protected: Desolation Canyon, Eastern Book Cliffs, Survey Point, Mexico Point, Hideout Canyon, Sweetwater Canyon, Bitter Creek, Hells Hole, Westwater Canyon, Big Triangle, Renegade Point, Granite Creek, Beaver Creek, Fisher Towers, Mary Jane Canyon, Porcupine Rim, Morning Glory, Mill Creek, Behind the Rocks, Hunter Canyon, Goldbar Canyon, Arches Adjacent, Yellow Bird, Dome Plateau, Duma Point, Labyrinth Canyon (includes Spring, Hellroaring, Mineral), Horsethief Point, and Dead Horse Cliffs.

Please stand strong and protect these areas in the Public Land Bill.

Yours truly,
Mary and Mike Suarez
PO Box 1186
Moab, UT 84532

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary & Mike Suarez".

Dear Sirs



1/24/14

My name is Jim Yeager I live here in Spanish valley. I lived here from 1981-1985 I just moved back here about 3 yrs ago.

I hike, horse back ride, 4 wheel, + Raft.

This area is so wonderful and I'm lucky to be able to live here.

I and friends hike Mill creek canyon quite a bit.

I ride horses Behind the Rock, Adjacent to Arches

By Fletcher towers, Mary Jane Canyon etc.

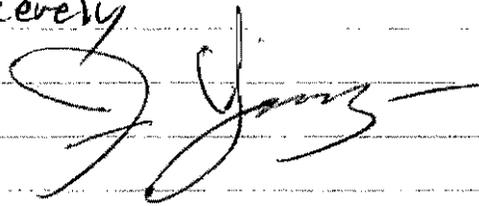
I 4-wheel, ATV many places too

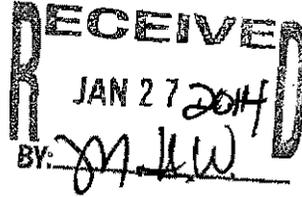
I Raft Desolation, West Water, Cataract, and the Daily in Moab.

I don't want to swap any of this land for land elsewhere just so people can exploit our land here. What do you have when you give it up?

I think we need to look at these lands for the future and not just trade off for a few greedy people to profit from.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Jones", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.



Grand County Council Members,

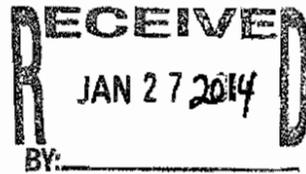
My name is Brad Woodford and I am a resident of Grand County. I believe we should preserve as much as the land as possible for wilderness and low impact recreation as possible. Extractive industry jobs are not long term, but the damage they inflict upon our land and community can be. I know there are realities of the world and need for certain types of materials and energy, but I believe we should be putting our time, money, and effort behind long term sustainable solutions and moving away from the fossil fuel led mindset.

I am a business owner and newly wed and could some day be starting a family here, and if all the plans like tar sands in the Book Cliffs, and a nuclear plant at Green River come to be I will most likely leave this area. I do not live here to see industry from my car window, floating Labyrinth and Westwater Canyons, or riding my bike on Porcupine rim and neither do the millions of people who come to this area from all over the world.

I urge the council to work to protect and preserve this area for us now and for the ones who come after us.

Brad Woodford

Jun 23, 2014



To: Grand County Council

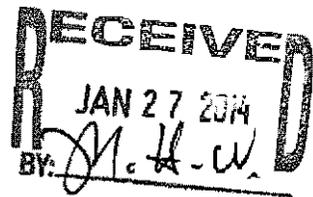
I moved to Moab to retire and enjoy the vast public lands.

I strongly support protection of wilderness and wild, open spaces.

Our beautiful county benefits economically from continued preservation of wilderness. I urge you to make protection of this priceless resource a priority!

Sincerely

Barbara Lucy
605 Jonny Way
Home owner, property owner in
Castle Valley & taxpayer!



To the Grand County Council,

I have resided in this county
on + off since 1979 + full time since
1988.

As a homeowner, taxpayer + resident
I strongly support protecting
wilderness in Grand County.

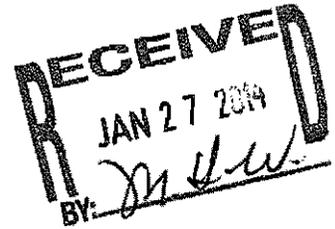
The country around Moab is what
drew me here in the 70's and it is
what keeps me here today.

Please support the protection of
wild lands in Grand County.


Bruce Dissel
Moab, ut.

Peggy Harty
2962 Desert Rd.
Moab, Utah 84532

January 25, 2014



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

To Grand County Council Public Lands Study Group,

I am a resident of Grand County having moved here in 1991. I support protecting a large amount of wilderness in Grand County as part of Rep. Rob Bishop's proposed Public Lands Bill for Southeastern Utah. I am aware that we have much controversy regarding multiple land use and bringing in industry to improve the local economy. However, I do not see the gas and oil boom currently underway helping our local economy, in fact I see it hurting our tourism and causing unsightly damage to our beautiful landscape. Island in the sky is such a magnificent place and the current development of oil pads and burning off gas is disturbing. I have been involved in education while living in Grand County and took my students on many field trips to teach them about our environment and how to respect it. When I saw recent pictures of the clear cutting and bulldozing done by gas companies it made talking about not stepping on the crypto-biotic soil seem rather silly.

I have floated the Green River on several occasions through Labyrinth Canyon and can't imagine seeing that area developed. Mill Creek and Hunter Canyon are favorite hiking places for me and many residents. I mention these places because they are special to me. In looking at the proposed wilderness for Grand County I support protecting as much as possible. The list I saw is as follows:

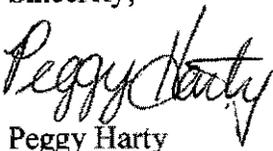
Proposed Wilderness in Grand County:



The proposed wilderness areas in Grand County are: Desolation Canyon, Eastern Book Cliffs, Survey Point, Mexico Point, Hideout Canyon, Sweetwater Canyon, Bitter Creek, Hells Hole, Westwater Canyon, Big Triangle, Renegade Point, Granite Creek, Beaver Creek, Fisher Towers, Mary Jane Canyon, Porcupine Rim, Morning Glory, Mill Creek, Behind the Rocks, Hunter Canyon, Goldbar Canyon, Arches Adjacent, Yellow Bird, Dome Plateau, Duma Point, Labyrinth Canyon (includes Spring, Hellroaring, Mineral), Horsethief Point, and Dead Horse Cliffs.

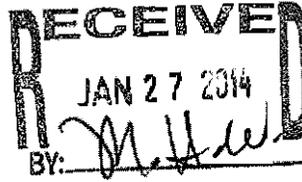
Please don't sacrifice the special places in Grand County in favor of short sighted development. The cost may well be far more than the profits to be made.

Sincerely,


Peggy Harty

January 26, 2014

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



Dear County Council Members:

I am a six year resident of Grand County. My husband and I moved here because we wanted to live in a small town and escape from the crush of people, pollution and complexities that we found in the large coastal cities. We were drawn to Moab for it's natural beauty, open spaces, and seeming desire by many townspeople to keep the scenic country as it has been for generations; undeveloped.

Our town is on the world's map. We have visitors from around the globe, many who have planned for years to visit this corner of the US for it's red rock canyons, waterways, and preserved places. Tourism will forever be a driver of the local economy, as long as these lands remain special. And to do so they must be protected. Fisher Towers, Mary Jane Canyon, Porcupine Rim, Labyrinth Canyon and Westwater Canyon are some of the scenic treasures that I've had the pleasure of visiting. These astounding lands must be preserved in order for Moab to survive as a vibrant community. Destroying these lands will ultimately destroy this town. I believe that the sooner the Council steps up and preserves their way of life, the better prepared we will all be for sharing our wonderful lands with a continuous stream of visitors.

Thank you for your consideration to this important matter. I hope you will let all your constituents' voices be heard.

Jennifer Wallace

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

Dear Grand County Council:

My name is Jonathan Wallace and I'm a Grand County resident. I strongly support protecting as much land as possible as wilderness. I deeply value wilderness personally but also believe that Grand County's future is tied to keeping as much land as possible as wilderness.

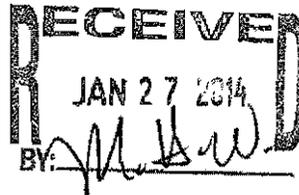
By far, the largest component of GDP in Grand County is tourism. I believe that tourists will continue to visit our county as long as we preserve its natural beauty. Once resource extraction or land development damage the natural beauty-the tourists will be gone for good destroying the town's economy.

Please vote to preserve Grand County's wilderness areas.

Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,

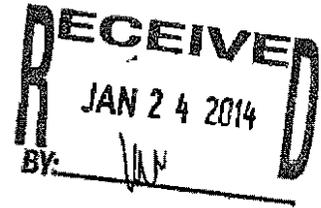
Jonathan Wallace
123 Arbor Drive
Moab, UT 84532
435-259-0814
435-654-8900



HC 64 Box 3612
Castle Valley, Utah 84532

January 22, 2014

Grand County Council
125 East Center Street
Moab, Utah 84532



Re. Representative Bishop's Public Lands Initiative

Dear Council Members,

I am a resident of Grand County and regularly and actively enjoy the public lands in our region. I am a photographer and a retired public health specialist. I am very aware of the importance of clean air, water, open space, and wilderness for individual and public health.

Any changes in public land designations and uses must be conditioned on documenting the availability and adequate quantity of surface and ground water to meet the needs of residents of Grand County, agricultural and livestock uses within the county, and the tourism and recreation businesses that work within Grand County. Only once these needs are met, for a foreseeable future of at least 50 years, should the use of available water be considered for mineral and fossil fuel extraction.

In order for Grand County and the Bishop public lands initiative to meet the above ends, scientifically determined water maps and budgets need to be developed. In many cases aquifers are known, but the capacity, sources and identified watersheds are, in many instances, not well defined or understood.

Further, by assessing water availability and quantity some 50 years into the future, the county will be proactive in understanding the evolving impacts of climate change on this region. Early projections indicate that this region will be a "hot zone" in which temperatures and evaporation will rise over the next 50-100 years. Rainfall and snow may become more infrequent over the same period of time.

The adequacy of water supplies for residents and tourism/recreation business of the county must be a primary concern in any discussion about the future of public lands. Where water supplies are likely to diminish or can not be properly documented, those lands should remain undisturbed and off-limits to any use that might disrupt water supplies or require water rights for the use to be viable—essentially remaining as wilderness or conservation areas.

Specifically, the following public land areas of which I am very familiar need to be protected from any form of mineral or fossil fuel extraction: Desolation Canyon, Eastern Book Cliffs, Survey Point, Mexico Point, Hideout Canyon, Sweetwater Canyon, Bitter Creek, Hells Hole, Westwater Canyon,

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this important issue.

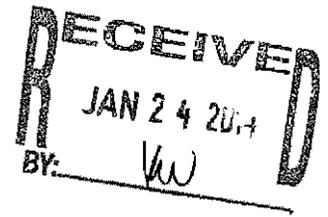
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Rau".

William Rau, Ph.D.

LIVING RIVERS

COLORADO RIVERKEEPER®



PO Box 466 • Moab, UT 84532 • 435-259-1063 • info@livingrivers.org

Friday, January 17, 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,

INTRODUCTION

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, with special emphasis on the Colorado Plateau; this includes the basin's groundwater. Our riverkeeper program is affiliated with the international Waterkeeper Alliance.

We recognize that the proposed land bill will most likely require review under the National Environmental Policy Act, which will open the process to the entire nation and the other six states of the Colorado River basin. Since this issue is of regional and national importance, we ask that the complete administrative record of this process be posted on a designated web page for the public to access freely.

We also request public meetings to be conducted by the county and the congressional representatives at appropriate times in order to keep people and the press up-to-date.

We also request that the state of Utah provide a water budget for citizens and investors to demonstrate how, or how not, the possible development of eastern Utah's natural resources can proceed with sufficient water supplies, because the proposed projects are water intensive and we live in drying times. We ask that the water budget be based on a time-period of 100-years which, for example, is the procedure for approving development projects in the arid state of Arizona. This would include an economic assessment of what the projected water

infrastructure would cost to deliver this water to communities, well pads, mines, and processing facilities.

It should be mentioned that the governor's 50-year water plan now under review, so far, is devoid of any such discussion.

Water availability is the critical lynchpin for this proposed process. The Colorado River is facing declared shortages imminently, because the demand in the basin currently exceeds the supply, and the supply has been dropping one million acre-feet every 50-years since 1906. This trend is expected to continue for the rest of the 21st century, as we will elaborate more fully in the sub-headings below.

Our organization has done an internal review, and we have decided not to support this initiative because there is no evidence in the administrative record that water surpluses are available for the extraction and processing of eastern Utah's natural resources. If the process moves forward as an act of congress, and the proposed development begins with a known risk of water curtailments occurring, then a situation of harm is created and litigation will follow. Then the State Engineer and the court system will have to make the hard choices and decide who does and doesn't get water. Since avoiding litigation is one of the main objectives of this initiative, we think the process in its present state is lacking sufficient information to address and resolve the risks and uncertainties of water insecurity in the Colorado River basin.

What our organization would support is a process that would permanently restore the function of this watershed to a healthy state.

THE REAL-TIME WATER BUDGET OF THE COLORADO RIVER BASIN

The Colorado River and its major-most tributaries all convene in eastern Utah before plunging into Lake Powell. The Colorado is also a river of national and international importance. This watershed generates 1.7 trillion dollars per year. If this hydro-society were an independent nation, it would be the 12th largest economy in the world.

Utah is a partner in an interstate agreement with six other states. The federal government has a commitment to honor water right agreements with the tribes and Mexico.

The Colorado River Compact of 1922 divided the watershed at Lee's Ferry, AZ. The lower and the upper divisions were each apportioned 7.5 million acre-feet (MAF). Since the Compact Point (Lee's Ferry) is in Arizona, this state receives water from both divisions.

The Boulder Canyon Project Act of 1928 divided the lower division states into fixed allocations and as follows: California - 4.4 MAF; Arizona - 2.8 MAF; Nevada - 0.3 MAF. The US Supreme Court affirmed these lower division allocations in 1963, and the court also affirmed federal water right obligations.

The water rights for tribes are apportioned out of the states they reside in. Since the Navajo Nation is in parts of three states, for example, they have water rights in Arizona, New Mexico and Utah.

During World War II, a treaty was approved by the US Senate to provide Colorado River water to Mexico in the amount of 1.5 MAF. The upper and lower divisions each provide 750,000 acre-feet to honor this international agreement. Therefore, every year 8.25 MAF must flow from the upper basin to the lower basin.

There is an exception to this criteria, which is related to the Shortage Criteria agreement of 2007. For the first time in history (water year 2014), the upper basin is holding water back from the lower basin in order to equally balance the contents of Lakes Mead & Powell. No other action could better convey the reality of looming water shortages for the water users of the Colorado River basin than this recent decision.

In 1948, the upper division states divided their appropriation through negotiations and chartered an interstate Compact for themselves. Northern Arizona was given a fixed amount of 50,000 acre-feet, and the remaining water was divided amongst the other upper basin states by percentages, and as follows: Utah - 23%; Colorado - 51.75%; Wyoming - 14%; New Mexico - 11.25%.

However, the water budget of the upper basin has been modified because the negotiators of the 1922 Compact over-estimated the annual yield of the Colorado River by ~2.5 MAF. This is why the upper division states decided to determine their water apportionments by percentages, instead of by fixed amounts.

In 1984, the Bureau of Reclamation officially determined the revised annual yield of consumption for the upper basin to be 5.8 MAF (this is 1.7 MAF less than the promised 7.5 MAF). In 1988, the yield was revised to 6.0 MAF, and in 2007, the yield was revised yet again to 5.76 MAF.

The Bureau of Reclamation now reports (as of December, 2013) that the annual yield of the Colorado River at the Compact Point (Lee's Ferry) has dropped from 15 MAF to 14.9 MAF. Therefore, the upper basin hydrologic determination is now 5.66 MAF.

The average consumption of the combined upper basin states from 2006 - 2010 was 4.5 MAF (the high was in year 2011 at 4.85 MAF). The amount of aggregate water that is assumed to be available for the upper basin states to utilize is about 1.1 MAF.

However, and this is a critical point, according to the proceedings of the December 2013 annual conference of the Colorado River Water Users Association, Lakes Mead & Powell are projected to be near empty for the rest of the century. Additionally, the Department of Energy stated at this conference that the turbines at the power plant of Glen Canyon Dam may go offline in water year 2015.

Moreover, a presenter at this conference advised the seven states to prepare for declared shortages and to design appropriate contingency plans for their respective states. It was suggested that a component of the contingency plans might include releasing water from upper basin reservoirs such as Flaming Gorge, the Aspinall Unit, and Navajo Reservoir to meet power and water demands downstream.

It is unfortunate that the basin's water security has come to this point in its history, but the administrative record makes it very clear that this eventuality was predicted as far back as 1952, when Arizona vs. California litigation began. Sixty-years of business as usual is why this situation exists, because the foundation documents of the basin's supply and demand are wrong, and leadership and financing to properly reconcile this situation has yet to occur.

UTAH'S WATER BUDGET

In the light of the water budget described above, the maximum water that is available for Utah to convert from paper water to project water is 1.3 MAF (23% of 5.66 MAF). Utah's highest annual consumptive use was in year 2001 at 1.06 MAF, leaving an assumed 300,000 acre-feet available for future use.

There are two tribes in Utah that have yet to receive their water rights in full: Navajo and Ute. Combined, the unfulfilled amount for these two tribes is 191,500 acre-feet. That leaves Utah with an assumed surplus of 108,500 acre-feet.

Other proposed projects waiting in line for Utah's assumed surplus water, for instance, include the Lake Powell Pipeline and the Blue Castle Holdings nuclear power plant. The combined depletion of these two projects is 124,000 acre-feet. These two projects, if approved, would put Utah's assumed water budget in the red.

Pinnacle Potash has stated that they need 20,000 acre-feet per year to operate a profitable potash facility in Grand County. They would require this annual amount of water for a period of 30-years and the total consumption would be 600,000 acre-feet.

K2O Potash and American Potash are the other two corporations preparing for permits to mine potash in eastern Utah, and it can be assumed that they need similar amounts of water as well.

The strip mining of tar sands (bitumen) and oil shale (kerogen) deposits in eastern Utah is the most speculative market ever proposed in the state of Utah. According to a recent economic study by the University of Utah, the start-up investment for a tar sands operation to produce 10,000 barrels per day is estimated to cost \$800 million dollars to put technologies and machinery on the ground (from mine to refinery). At a 10% rate of investment return, the project would not reach the break even point for another 22-years, and in the meantime 31,000 acre-feet of water would be consumed.

A production rate of 10,000 barrels per day is not a large amount of oil. For example, just two conventional oil wells in Saudi Arabia will produce an average of 12,000 barrels in one day. If Utah's goal were to match the current output of North Dakota, for example, the annual water depletion in Utah would be 139,000 acre-feet per year.

What sours this risky venture further is the realization that synthetic crude derived from bitumen and kerogen has half the energy value of Texas sweet crude, and the quality of the final product would largely serve the market that provides bunker fuel for trans-oceanic ships.

RECOMMENDATIONS & CONCLUSION

It is true that millions of acre-feet of water flows through eastern Utah in the form of the Colorado River and its tributaries. However, every single drop of this river has been allocated for a prescribed consumptive use. Additionally, as the demand for water is unwisely permitted to rise, the natural supply is falling. This imbalance is not sustainable and a watershed train wreck is the assured consequence of continuing the practice of business as usual. The best use of our time and resources at this point in Utah's history is to eliminate water insecurity and enhance the productivity of the watershed.

Measures that could accomplish sustainability in the Colorado River basin include the Wilderness Act, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the Clean Water Act, the Salinity Control Act, the Clean Air Act and the Endangered Species Act.

Congressional designation of wilderness and scenic river corridors would preserve the integrity and productivity of the hydrologic cycle, especially with watersheds above 7,000 feet in elevation; high elevation snow packs provide 85% of the annual yield for the Colorado River basin.

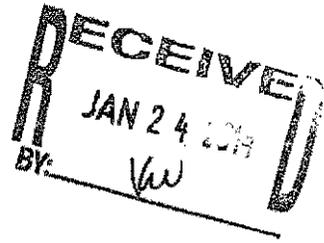
The Salinity Control Act is a component of the Clean Water Act that is specific to the Colorado River basin. Compliance for this environmental law is largely dependent on the concept of reducing saline inputs and by dilution. If more depletions are applied on salty soils, as instream flow volumes are reduced, legal interventions from the states of Arizona and California, and the nation of Mexico are highly likely to occur.

The ethics behind the Endangered Species Act is critically important to creating sustainability in the Colorado River basin, because people and wildlife will mutually prosper if our instream flows are healthy, abundant, fishable and swimmable.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Weisheit", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

John Weisheit
Conservation Director
Colorado Riverkeeper
Moab, UT



January 22, 2014

Dear Grand County Council,

I am writing to urge the Grand County Council to do whatever you can to protect wilderness as part of the proposed upcoming public lands bill that will have a huge impact on Grand County and surrounding areas.

I have lived in Grand County over the last 22 years. I have been saddened to see beautiful areas in the county and throughout southern Utah that should be designated as wilderness damaged and threatened with destructive industrial activities and inappropriate off road use.

I urge you to support expansion of national parks and the protection of other wilderness areas that deserve protection.

I am especially concerned about the Colorado and Green Rivers and the areas near them. New proposed industrial activity near these areas, including the proposed Green River nuclear power plant, mining, oil drilling and fracking and potash projects are a direct threat to this area we all cherish.

I often hike – and float – along the Green River, so I am alarmed to learn of new threats to the river and canyons including Spring, Mineral and Hell Roaring. As is obvious from the damage and waste left from past mining activities, such activities permanently scar and destroy the beautiful canyons that are the heart and soul of southern Utah. Yet these are still beautiful, incredible areas that deserve and urgently need protection.

I am also horrified to see the heavy truck traffic and oil operations on Island In The Sky that have turned the gateway to state and national parks into an industrial zone complete with oil trucks speeding as locals and visitors attempt to enjoy the formerly beautiful vistas that are now marked by oilfield operations and flames.

Lastly, the county and state should do all it can to protect the important archaeological sites that are a vital part of Utah's heritage and culture. It is simply a disgrace as more ancient ruins and petroglyph and pictograph sites are damaged and desecrated by vandals, rock climbing, ORV use and oilfield operations.

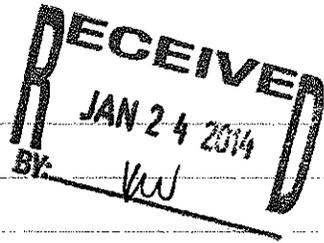
Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bradley Angel".

Bradley Angel
4463 Sunny Acres Lane, Moab (P.O. Box 1078) 84532

January 23, 2014



Dear Councilmen,

Utah is a beautiful state. It is this beauty that draws people here. If destroyed by over use there is no recovery, no natural beauty.

My first concern is the areas surrounding state and national parks. Already there are gas and oil sites visible from the Parks.

Secondly, the Wasatch Mountains are a very small range. We are already verging on over use with grazing (even in the campgrounds), extensive biking, and now the introduction of Mountain goats.

Thirdly, desert land is fragile and

I have experienced a number of bad dust storms. Over use by ATVs, new dirt roads and grazing already exist.

To summarize:

- 1) No oil and/or gas sites within view from state and especially National Parks.
- 2) Less grazing in LaSals and desert areas in S.E. Utah.
- 3) Trails in LaSals for hikers only, No more bike trails.
- 4) Restriction of dirt road development and ATV use, to existing areas.

Thank you for your time and consideration as to the use of this land of great importance to all of us,

Judy Duncombe

Judy Duncombe
Moab, Utah

January 19, 2014



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

cc: Fred Ferguson
Legislative Dtr, Rep. Rob Bishop
123 Cannon House Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20515

Regarding: Public Lands Bill

We understand that the Council wants to provide input to Representative Bishop's on behalf of Grand County citizens. As residents of the County since 1999, we are writing to ensure that this input includes our priorities. One of our reasons for buying land and building our home in Grand County was the closeness of high quality public lands, particularly those managed by the federal government.

We are familiar with many of the **Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics** which were identified by the Moab Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management and believe that they should all be managed as wilderness. In particular, we are writing about two of the most spectacular of these areas: Fisher Towers (17,235 acres) and Mary Jane Canyon (24,779 acres) which were inexplicably dropped from wilderness consideration in the BLM's 1979 inventory. We have hiked in these areas on many occasions and have often taken visiting relatives and other guests there to hike and enjoy the scenery and solitude. They should be reserved for hiking and climbing, i.e., for primitive recreation; they should never be considered for any off-road travel, mineral leasing, or other incursions. Both should be right-of-way exclusion areas for pipelines, powerlines, and corridor designations. The existing powerline right-of-way and routes which have not been reclaimed or revegetated should be cherry-stemmed out of the wilderness areas. The scenic Onion Creek which separates the two areas could also be cherry-stemmed out.

FISHER TOWERS

One of our favorite memories is taking some long-time friends from out of state hiking in Fisher Towers on December 30, 2002. The fog lay heavy on the ground as we began the climb up, but it cleared just as we reached the ridge with a sudden burst of sunshine that illuminated the valley and the wonderful rock formations below. It seemed a very auspicious beginning for the new year; we took many photographs and often remarked on it in following years.

Fisher Towers itself—and particularly the Titan have been photographed many times and have been featured for decades in travel magazines, calendars and tourism promotions. Peregrine falcons nest in the cliffs.

MARY JANE CANYON

Less well known than Fisher Towers, Mary Jane Canyon nevertheless is a beautiful narrow canyon that is home to a perennial stream which is delightful on a hot day. The adjacent area contains several famous rock spires—Castle Rock/Castleon Tower, Totem Pole, and Priest and Nuns. Deer and elk winter in the surrounding areas.

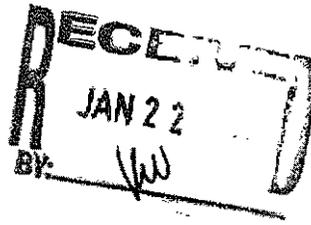
Thank you for inviting our participation in this process. We look forward to attending the open sessions on protecting our public lands in Grand County.

Michael & Jean Binyon
3057 E. Coyote Court, Moab, UT 84532
435-259-1633
binyon@binyon.us

Two handwritten signatures in cursive. The top signature is "Michael & Jean Binyon" and the bottom signature is "Jean Binyon".

Jan. 21, 2014

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



RE: Bishop Land Use Bill

Council Members,

I am a Grand County resident, residing within the Moab city limits. I pay a combination of taxes within the city and county as I am a home owner, a wage earner and a consumer. For these reasons, I believe I have a vote in how the public lands in this county are used.

My primary reason for requesting that the Grand County Council do everything possible to protect wilderness in the county is because I firmly believe that the future health and well being of the citizens of this county will depend on the amount and quality of water that is available, both culinary and agricultural. Protecting wilderness will prohibit development of industries that by necessity use large quantities of water in their processes. I believe the West will fall prey to water wars fought by competing industrial factions and the corporation with the most power over state government officials will win. By protecting wilderness now and forever, these wars may be stalled until new forms of sustainable power can be developed and the development of extraction industries will be abandoned.

My secondary reason for requesting the Grand County Council protect wilderness is because I love the wilderness that is in Grand County. I moved here from a city specifically to enjoy the small town/big country aspect that this area of the United States offers. It is the wild-ness that needs protecting and preserving. There is more "eye candy", "hiker glory" and "river wonderland" here than was ever available to me in states I have lived in up to now. They are priceless and they add immeasurably to the quality of life in Grand County. We do not need to develop more roads carving up wilderness so that people confined within vehicles using internal combustion engines can have a "wilderness experience".

Yet some of you seem ready to trade these unparalleled and diminishing wonders for the sake of industrial growth, all manners of pollution, blight and destruction for proposed monetary gains to county coffers.

I want to be a resident of a county that stands up to the pressure to industrialize; that finds creative ways to ensure that the wilderness within its boundaries is protected for the citizens today and far into the future; that promotes sustainable business growth instead of toxic, extractive boom/bust businesses; and county leadership that will be cheered by citizens throughout the United States for caring about protecting diminishing resources versus selling them to the highest bidder.

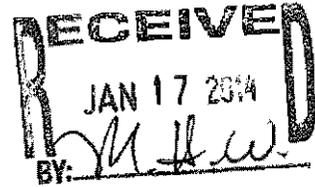
Carol Mayer
444 Roselee Moab

Copy to:

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



Ride with Respect
1310 Murphy Lane
Moab, UT 84532
435-259 8334
501(c)(3)



To: Grand County Council
From: Ride with Respect
Date: January 16th, 2014
Re: Public Lands Bill

We appreciate the opportunity to comment, and are glad to see Grand County engaging in the Utah Public Lands Initiative. We share Representative Bishop's belief that there is a real chance to resolve long-standing controversy.

Of course it could also wind up inflaming that controversy. Any resulting decisions should be balanced, and the legislation should be crafted to preserve its intent. Grand County plays a critical role in providing local knowledge, and in safeguarding a bill through the legislative process.

Ride with Respect (RwR) conserves shared-use recreation through trail work and education. Over six hundred individuals have donated their time or money to RwR in the past decade. Working with state and federal land managers, we have spent over ten-thousand hours enhancing trails and their surroundings in Grand and San Juan counties.

RwR project areas have included the La Sal Mountains, Behind The Rocks, Sovereign Trail System, the Labyrinth Rims SRMA (from Bartlett Wash to Crystal Geyser), and the Utah Rims SRMA (from Cottonwood Wash to the Colorado border). Our progress stems from (1) support via grants and donations, (2) the ability of land managers to approve our projects, and (3) a travel plan that provides enough primitive roads, ATV trails, motorized singletrack, etc. In other words, an ample quantity and quality is key to gaining visitor compliance. For an example of RwR's operations, please see our enclosed description from the Grand County field trip last August.

For a deal to be made, all stakeholders must gain something. For instance, environmental advocates might get the designation of WSA's as Wilderness, a sort of buffer around Canyonlands National Park, or the closure of a few roads and trails. The question is, for this reduction in access, what would mechanized and motorized recreationists get in return? The answer is "nothing," when it comes to most of the Wilderness and other public-land bills that were passed historically. Not only did they fail to provide new trails, but they didn't even secure access to old trails in the long run. A recent example is at Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area, where recreation is being reinterpreted to exclude off-highway vehicles (OHV's).

The language is delicate in crafting a bill, and it should direct land managers to provide opportunities for recreation of all kinds. Another pitfall is the term minimization. Traditionally this referred to using tools such as engineering and education to minimize impacts upon natural resources. Accommodating diverse recreation was a given, and it was simply mitigated. However, recently minimization has been redefined

to mean doing away with recreation opportunities, even when impacts are not significant. Legislation should direct land managers to provide for particular opportunities, and provide comparable alternatives when significant impacts cannot be mitigated.

There are a few ways that OHV trails could be given the same kind of security as protected areas. Probably the best means is codification of the current travel plan, either across the Moab Field Office or within a given planning area. To provide management flexibility, routes could be closed temporarily or rerouted permanently as necessary. A less-powerful way to secure access would be to define the minimum mileage of routes overall, or "no net loss." In this case, the types of routes should be distinguished. Graded roads, four-wheeling trails, fifty-inch (ATV) trail, motorized (motorcycle) singletrack, and mechanized (mountain bike) singletrack are important parts of the spectrum.

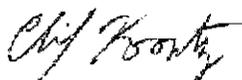
The BLM's current Resource Management Plan designated only half of the primitive roads and trails that were available prior to 2008. Yet we generally accept this travel plan across most of the Moab Field Office. That said, there are a few ways that the Special Recreation Management Areas could become more useful. For one thing, they could be expanded, since many parts of them are off-limits to trail use. For another, they could be connected to one another and to nearby towns through corridors. These connecting trails would allow day users to avoid driving so far to reach a trail system. They would also allow overnight users to connect towns via trails, such as in dual-sport motorcycling.

For specific ways to refine the existing OHV opportunities around Moab, please refer to the enclosed map from BlueRibbon Coalition (BRC). Also refer to both of BRC's letters to Representative Bishop for examples of how access to the existing trails could be secured. BRC, along with the Utah Shared Access Alliance, has attended many meetings and field trips regarding the Utah Public Lands Initiative. Thus far, these organizations have been open to negotiation so long as it provides mutual benefit and stays true to its intent. Toward this end, they can be great resources, and we would be happy to facilitate further discussion.

One final point to consider is how a proposal from Grand County will actually be used in a bill by Representative Bishop, and how it may be used by others if the bill doesn't pass. For example, let's say that Grand County proposes a National Recreation Area to be partnered with Utah State Parks. If the proposal stalls, a presidential administration could essentially coopt it as a blueprint for proclaiming a national monument. Therefore we ask Grand County to clarify what it is not proposing, along with what it is proposing.

In conclusion, thank you for your leadership in the Utah Public Lands Initiative. We realize that, as council members, your small salary will not rise in scale with the new undertaking. Nevertheless it seems like a worthwhile chance to improve the landscape, livelihood, and general quality of life in Grand County.

Clif Koontz
executive director



Grand County Public Lands Bill Field Trip - Aug 13, 2013

description of OHV management by Clif Koontz

Along with Dale Parriott, I direct Ride with Respect, a nonprofit that conserves shared-use trails and their surroundings.

You'll see a glimpse of RWR's work as we drive further. We'll pass motorized singletrack, ATV trails, and primitive roads. The routes are relatively concentrated because we're on the southeast edge of BLM's Dee Pass focus area for motorized trails.

The history of off-highway vehicle use in this area begins in earnest in the 1970s. The Utah Trail Machine Association came down here to ride motorcycles each spring. The Green River Jeep Posse hosted an annual motorcycle race dubbed the "Dubinky Still Run," which went from Crystal Geysers, through White Wash, all the way to Dubinky Well and back.

The BLM permitted these races, but did nothing to manage casual OHV use. The area was completely open to cross-country travel. In 2001, BLM limited some of it to existing routes, but little was done to define them. OHV riders went off-trail (commonly due to a lack of direction, sometimes due to a lack of education, and less commonly due to a lack of care).

Finally in 2008 the BLM limited the whole area to designated routes, leaving only the sand dunes at White Wash open for cross-country travel. The travel plan closed several trails on top of Duma Point for wildlife concerns. It closed several trails around Red Wash for riparian concerns. And it closed several trails around Tenmile Wash for cultural concerns. Fortunately, most ATV trail and motorized singletrack in the Dee Pass focus area was left open. In other parts of the Moab Field Office, most trails of these types were closed. Also, across the field office, about half of the primitive roads were closed.

When trying to get riders to comply with these closures, BLM eventually accepted the help of Ride with Respect. Together we steered riders toward the open trails, and cleaned them up in many ways. Braided trails were delineated, eroded trails were stabilized, and sensitive trails were rerouted. In almost every case, it was a win-win for the riders and the natural resources. We placed temporary messages at worksites explaining how it made the trails more sustainable, safe, and satisfying. We found this education and trail work to be effective at reducing any negative impacts.

In just three years, RWR has spent three thousand hours, and made tremendous headway. BLM has also contributed hundreds of hours alongside us, and refined its travel plan. Most of RWR's support comes from OHV volunteers, donations, manufacturers like Yamaha, and grants such as Utah State Parks. These grants come from the registration and fuel taxes of OHVs, which also fund an equal amount of non-motorized trail work across the nation.

Our progress stems from (1) this support I just mentioned, (2) BLM's ability to approve our projects, and (3) a travel plan that provides enough primitive roads, ATV trails, motorized singletrack, etc. Remember that OHV use of this area was essentially neglected for three decades, so there's still some work to be done. RWR plans to mark the remaining trails and repair or reroute them as needed. BLM plans to improve its travel and Tread Lightly information on kiosks. If the travel plan became much more restrictive, or if BLM were burdened with much more environmental regulation, then RWR would no longer be able to improve the compliance of closed trails and the quality of open trails. This would be a lose-lose scenario.

I think that this sentiment is shared by local four-wheeling clubs, who have made similar investments. Through their Jeep Safari routes, the Red Rock 4-Wheelers have established a foundation of trails for all to enjoy. The Moab Friends For Wheelin' have volunteered thousands of hours to conserve trails and their surroundings, just like RWR.

In closing, I'm proud to say that our partnership with BLM is starting to make OHV use more responsible. I understand that some other areas need further preservation. But, here in the Dee Pass focus area, multiple use is finally working. In future, regardless of how the management for this area is arranged, I hope we further this inclusive form of conservation.



Honorable Rob Bishop
United States House of Representatives
123 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Fred.Ferguson@mail.house.gov

April 23, 2013

RE: Eastern Utah Public Lands Legislation

Dear Representative Bishop,

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the development of a comprehensive lands bill for Eastern Utah.

The BlueRibbon Coalition's (BRC) staff and volunteers have experience in similar public lands legislation efforts in Utah and other western states. We very much appreciate the opportunity to continue our involvement in your efforts to look at a comprehensive lands bill for Central and Eastern Utah.

One cannot ignore the threat posed by a Presidential national monument designation. In our last letter to you we noted: *"The OIA [Outdoor Industry Association] letter requests that President Obama unilaterally impose the wishes of only one stakeholder group. To pull the rug out from under those who will be most likely to be impacted by land use decisions – local citizens – as they hammer out compromises is unwise."*

The latest request for the President to designate a Greater Canyonlands monument has, perhaps unwittingly, brought attention to the fact that it is wildly out of line with what the people who live there want.

This is why we deeply appreciate your efforts to oppose unilateral national monument designations. Your work to bring together the knowledge of all of the state and national groups involved, as well as the local counties, is a welcome breath of fresh air.

We understand the need for prompt response. Therefore, we have put together some general thoughts for your consideration as you move forward. We hope to provide additional information when appropriate.

Thank you for considering our interests in the outcomes of this important public lands initiative.
Very sincerely,

Brian Hawthorne
Public Lands Policy Director
BlueRibbon Coalition
208-237-1008 ext 102

Cc: Senator Orrin Hatch
Senator Mike Lee
Representative Jason Chaffetz
Representative Chris Stewart

Regarding a “process”

- A regional approach, as opposed to a county by county process, seems appropriate. At some point counties must coordinate to avoid conflicting management across county boundaries.
- Normally BRC encourages a formal collaborative process. However, there are many reasonable arguments for expediting any necessary collaborative efforts. A shortened process has been successful in other areas and is probably appropriate here.
- Most of the counties affected have considered various components of a land bill. One has a detailed legislative proposal, while some counties have just recently begun. If an expedited process is appropriate it should not be so expedited that the product lacks the full support of the county(ies).

Things to consider when developing a proposal for the Greater Canyonlands area

- Any legislation must address Utah's need for “regulatory security.”
- A regional land use bill may not be the vehicle to address litigation. Still, it should be acknowledged that litigation acts like an anchor on land management. Litigation empowers well funded trusts and foundations to apply undue influence on federal land management.
- In November 2008, the BLM completed six management plans in Utah. Although progress is being made, none of the plans have been fully implemented yet. Imposing a new planning process before the last plan has been completed is not wise or necessary. Any new designation (NCA, NRA, etc) should include specific management direction for federal land managers so valuable resources are not wasted with another round of planning.
- The BLM's new management plans contain a lot of accurate information regarding the lands and resources at issues, and they are also well understood by all involved. The management plans should prove useful, at a minimum, to provide information. They may also be useful for specific management direction in legislation.
- The proponents of the Monument cite a recreation impact study that shows “\$646 billion in national sales and services in 2011 and supporting 6.1 million jobs...” They are telling only part of the story. The same study shows that approximately \$257 billion, or nearly 40% of the total \$646 billion in economic impact, is derived from motorized recreation.
- The BLM's latest plans closed just less than half of the existing roads and roughly three-quarters of existing, non-road OHV trails. Implementation of the travel plans, has not yet been completed. As travel plans are implemented, it is common for land managers to make adjustments and even add routes to make the transportation system better and reduce impacts. If anything, all efforts should look at ways to add motorized and mountain bike trails, not reduce them.
- Previous oil and gas development in this area has been shown to be compatible with semi-primitive recreation and good wildlife habitat. Recreation and resource development should not be considered mutually exclusive.

Potential Legislative Pillars

- No net loss for motorized and mountain bike recreation
Motorized recreationists also seek “regulatory security.” The BLM has closed tens of thousands of miles of roads and trails since the first round of “emergency closures” in 2001. We don't yet know if the transportation system that remains can support the current, let alone the future need. Moreover, wealthy trusts and foundations regularly fund appeals and litigation on even basic motorized travel plans.
- Categorically exclude from NEPA analysis casual recreation event permits and require the BLM develop a streamlined process for commercial recreation permits.
- “Codification” of existing BLM Management Plans
There seems to be consensus among many local stakeholders that BLM's new management plans are, with a few exceptions, acceptable. To BLM's credit, a lot local groups believe they can “make it work,” or “we can live with it.” There seems an equal consensus that any future reductions in access, recreation and other commercial uses is something they can not live with. Legislation, even a designation such as an NCA, can and should “codify” the current management as a baseline. Additional uses could be authorized via planning and NEPA.
- Specific Management Direction
Congress often passes legislation giving federal agencies specific management direction for a specific resource. Specific management needs should be 'legislated in' to the federal land manager's plans.
- Wilderness
We are open to considering any designation, including NRA, NCA, Wilderness and any others.
- Minimum Transportation System
Although it isn't complete, there seems to be some support for the existing transportation system. In line with the theme of regulatory certainty, each potential designation should include the concept of codifying the existing travel plan so it serves as a minimum travel system. Recreational trails, both motorized and non motorized, could then be added consistent with NEPA and other applicable laws.
- State Park
Some lands may be better managed as a State Park(s)
- Trust or other community partnership
Another concept that has been proposed as a way to provide regulatory certainty is forming a collaborative trust for managing one or all of BLM and USFS programs.



July 10, 2013

The Honorable Rob Bishop
United States House of Representatives
Fred.Ferguson@mail.house.gov

RE: Eastern Utah Public Lands Legislation

Dear Representative Bishop,

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the development of a comprehensive lands bill for Eastern Utah.

A true collaborative solution exists when all stakeholders benefit and compromise. In our current system of public land management, Wilderness is the designation which most prioritizes preservation to the exclusion of all other uses. Multiple-use advocates and affected communities are willing to accept this restrictive one-dimensional management approach when Wilderness designation comes as a result of true compromise by preservationists and is accompanied by their long-term recognition of, and commitment to, a corresponding benefit to multiple-use interests. Today, this means explicit legislative acknowledgment and authorization of specified uses in identified areas. In most instances, this will mean no more than ratification of long-existing uses.

An example of a step toward such an approach is seen in the Draft Emery County Public Land Management Act. Based on this example, and related themes, we offer a more detailed response to your letter dated June 3, 2013. It is our hope that you find that our suggestions have merit and warrant more detailed discussions. We would welcome the opportunity to participate in the process initiated by your letter.

Greg Mumm
Executive Director
BlueRibbon Coalition
Office 208-237-1008 ext 101
Cell: 208-244-2112

Brian Hawthorne
Public Lands Policy Director
BlueRibbon Coalition
Office: 208-237-1008 ext 102
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I. INTRODUCTION

In the past half-century, each decade has brought further restrictions on vehicle access and recreation on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Utah. While some of these restrictions were necessary and appropriate, we've reached a tipping point. In Utah, most of the BLM Resource Management Plans (RMPs) and travel decisions cut road and trail access roughly in half while greatly expanding areas providing an exclusive non-motorized experience.

Despite these restrictions, preservation advocates seek to close half of the remaining half of the motorized routes. For an example we note the Greater Canyonlands petition released on March 18th, 2011, by the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance. In addition, these same groups are seeking even more closures via federal lawsuit (*Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, et al., v. Burke*, No. 2:12cv257 DAK), which at present is focused on the Richfield Field Office but will eventually proceed to challenge the RMPs & travel plans for five (5) other Utah Field Offices.

In response, the natural urge is to submit a counter-proposal that would open all the routes which were closed by the RMPs. However, to do so we believe would run contrary to the spirit of collaboration and not achieve a workable outcome. Therefore, our proposal is based on the current management, which at least attempts to balance appropriate protection of natural resources with sustainable recreation, including mountain bike and motorized recreation.

II. REGULATORY SECURITY

The term regulatory security describes a situation where the management of public lands is known by state and local governments as well as affected industries and recreationists, for the reasonably foreseeable future. That situation does not exist today. For a variety of reasons, public lands management is in constant flux, and management actions are inconsistent or uncertain across state, district and even field office levels.

Under the current model, Congress acts with restraint, imposing only generalized guidance which much be applied in any area and on individual sites through agency analysis and discretion. These analyses, and associated regulations, have become one-way gates that largely constrain active management of our public lands and provide fodder for environmentalist lawsuits, which seem to be designed to stop any active management simply through embroiling the agency in a war of procedural attrition.

It is time for Congress to consider new paradigms of public land management. There are places, and uniquely so in Utah, where agency analysis has been performed and where Congress can appropriately take its role in outlining future management direction. The underlying objective should be to cut through the regulatory morass and at least attempt to provide some level of regulatory security and long-term certainty allowing for active management of our public lands.

A. Management paradigms that may provide regulatory security:

No Net Loss - Minimum Transportation System

In line with the theme of regulatory security, where possible legislation should seek to codify the existing travel plan so it serves as a minimum travel system. This approach makes particular sense for Utah BLM lands, where the agency, coordinating agencies, affected entities and the public have

recently invested millions of dollars revamping RMPs and travel designations. These decisions can and should form a long-term management foundation. Where appropriate, recreational trails and areas, both motorized and non-motorized, could later be added consistent with NEPA and other applicable laws.

We do not wish to preclude federal land managers from temporarily closing or restricting public access to a designated route for purposes of resource protection or public safety. Provided, however, that if the closure becomes permanent, or the length of the temporary closure impairs established access and use normally provided by the designated route, the land managing agency shall establish alternate access, equivalent to that provided by the designated route.

"Codification" of existing BLM Management Plans

Where there is a consensus among local stakeholders that BLM's new management plans are appropriate, the legislation can and should "codify" the current management as a baseline. Additional uses could be authorized via planning and NEPA. Elimination of current uses should not be allowed. Legislation may also include specific direction to immediately process all pending rights of ways and other infrastructure needs.

State Park

Some lands may be better managed as a State Park(s).

State Management "Pilot Project"

Similar to the Sand Flats area near Moab, some of these lands may benefit from state management.

Trust or other community partnership

Another concept that has been proposed as a way to provide regulatory certainty is forming a collaborative trust for managing one or all of BLM programs.

Specific Management Direction

Congress often passes legislation giving federal agencies specific management direction for a specific resource. Specific management needs should be 'legislated in' to the federal land manager's plans.

III. LAND DESIGNATIONS

It is important that land designations be used in a coherent fashion that fits within and carries out the comprehensive management vision, as opposed to a patchwork of individual compromises achieved at disjointed times through varying participants.

A. Wilderness Study Area (WSA)

WSAs have long presented management and political challenges. The June 3, 2013, letter signed by members of the Utah U.S. House Delegation requests:

Submissions that include lands outside and beyond Wilderness Study Areas (WSA), the draft Emery County Public Land Management Act, or other county-backed land plans must include a thorough and complete written justification explaining why the area is worthy of additional consideration. Lands recommended to be released from their WSA status should also include a thorough and complete written justification as to why the lands should be returned to multiple-use management. Finally, lands proposed for alternative designations or actions must include a thorough and complete written justification as to why the alternative designation or action should be considered.

We do not propose the release of any WSAs. This does not mean that we are opposed to or would not support the release of WSAs in different circumstances. It simply reflects our evolving belief that "WSA release" is an unsatisfactory outcome in light of the manner in which at least some federal land managers have responded to the release of WSAs¹. Therefore, a meaningful solution for WSAs, including any release, must include language that addresses, and where necessary prescribes, specific uses, including mountain bike and motorized recreation.

Regarding the subject of "hard release."

Few public lands issues have been as controversial as the current BLM policy that mandates a never-ending, ongoing, inventory and planning process for wilderness characteristics. We understand of course that no Congress can bind the hands of a future Congress. However, the legislation should ensure that these lands no longer be subject to future wilderness inventory or study under Section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. Legislation should clearly and unambiguously mandate that lands which are not designated for wilderness shall be released from further wilderness study and shall be exempt from planning actions made pursuant to BLM's Land Use Planning Handbook Appendix K (Wilderness characteristics inventory).

B. Wilderness

At least in this initial stage in this process, we want to remain open and flexible when considering Wilderness. Our "official" position supports Wilderness designation for the "recommended" WSAs on BLM lands in Utah as long as routes and areas currently authorized for motorized and mountain bike use are "cherry-stemmed" out of these areas².

When reviewing proposals for Wilderness the legislation should specifically evaluate and address key issues such as:

Access:

Designated routes should be "cherry-stemmed" through any new Wilderness designation. Many areas that will likely be proposed for Wilderness in this process contain historic roads and significant OHV and mountain bike use. BLM recently completed a comprehensive travel and transportation plan designating those roads and trails which are suitable for continuing motorized and non-motorized uses. Therefore, it is appropriate that any legislation "cherry-stem" any route that is currently on the BLM's travel plan out of the designated Wilderness area.

Grazing/VER/Water rights/Buffer Zones

Whatever the designation this process considers (e.g. National Recreation Area (NRA), National Conservation Area (NCA), Wilderness, state management) the grazing of livestock should be permitted to continue where established based on sound range management, including, but not limited to, predator control, permanent structures and water projects, which benefit the resource and ensure

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- 1 Under "multiple-use management" Idaho BLM's Jarbidge office simply "re inventoried" WSAs that were released via the Owyhee Public Land Management Act and is now proposing to manage those lands as "Non Wilderness Study Areas with Wilderness Characteristics: and impose management that is even more restrictive than under WSA management. Recently Colorado BLM's Grand Junction Field Office has proposed a "de-facto" Wilderness management for some WSAs in the event Congress releases them into "multiple use management."
 - 2 The BLM has authorized OHV use in several existing WSAs and current monitoring has shown the use has not substantially diminished the Wilderness characteristics. These routes and areas should be "cherry-stemmed" out of the new Wilderness area.

that grazing levels will remain viable for the livestock growers. In addition, nothing in the process should affect any valid existing surface water or ground water right or other valid existing right. The legislation should also preclude any protective perimeter or buffer zone and clearly acknowledge that an activity or use on land outside any Wilderness or other designation that can be seen or heard within that designation shall not preclude the activity or use.

Boundary review and adjustment process.

Any area proposed for Wilderness in this effort should go through a process to review and adjust the boundary to address conflicts in Wilderness management.

Suitability and Manageability assessment

Any area proposed for Wilderness in this effort should go through a process to review the suitability and manageability for management under the National Wilderness Preservation System. Where suitability and manageability conflicts exist, a designation other than Wilderness should be considered.

C. Alternative Designations – NCA, NRA or Beyond

We are open to consider any federal land designation, including Wilderness, in this process. However, it is necessary for each designation to include very specific management guidelines. It is important to determine the nature and specifics of the ultimate management vision, and select the land designation that best provides for the desired result.

Identify specific "legislative values"

The establishment of the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) directs the Secretary of the Interior to manage lands in a manner that protects the values for which the components of the system were designated. However, BLM's NLCS implementation directives generally require management plans to enhance environmental preservation. This requires that special attention be given to the specific legislative values. For example, legislation establishing an NCA may identify "recreation" as a value to be managed for. However, under current NLCS guidelines, such a term would not ensure that a diverse range of recreational uses will continue. Therefore, to ensure the wide range of diverse recreational uses currently authorized will continue, each recreational use should be specifically mentioned as a value in the legislative language.

No Net Loss - Minimum Transportation System

In line with the theme of regulatory security, any NRA or NCA should include the concept of codifying the existing travel plan so it serves as a minimum travel system. Recreational trails, both motorized and non-motorized, could then be added consistent with NEPA and other applicable laws.

Again, it is not our intent to preclude federal land managers from temporarily closing or restricting public access to a designated route for purposes of significant resource protection or public safety. Provided, however, that if the closure becomes permanent, or the length of the temporary closure impairs established access and use normally provided by the designated route, the land managing agency shall establish alternate access, equivalent to that provided by the designated route.

Limits on new management plans

Some stakeholders are asserting that federally managed lands are in need of immediate protection. This assumes that the current management plans do not provide sufficient protection of natural resources. This is not true. In November 2008, the BLM completed six management plans in Utah. These new plans contain significant protection for important natural resources. Given this Herculean effort, a more traditional Congressional command to "study and plan" is not only unnecessary but would squander scarce agency resources. This is a perfect time and place for Congress to seize upon

the work already performed by the agency and engaged stakeholders to create a new certainty for public lands management.

Notwithstanding the above, it does not seem appropriate to categorically preclude any planning for any new designation (NCA, NRA, etc) and, of course, any additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System would require the completion of a management plan. So that scarce financial and staff resources are not wasted, any new designation should specifically limit the BLM's authority to plan and include specific direction on what uses and activities federal land managers can plan for. The focus for subsequent planning for any new designation should be the "need for change."

IV. DETAILED SUBMISSIONS

We are mindful of the Delegation's request for detailed submissions to allow an assessment of the viability of a new solution along the lines of the draft Emery County Public Lands Management Act. BRC is only able to address this request on a limited scale at this time, given its unique place between grassroots users, local organizations, private industry, and state and local governmental entities. We will continue to monitor and update this status and offer here our suggestions and detailed submissions in those areas where an obvious direction or growing consensus is apparent.

A. Rationale

To address the need for adequate OHV recreation opportunities:

Motorized OHV use is firmly established as a major recreational activity on BLM-administered public lands. National Management Strategy for Motorized Off-Highway Vehicle Use on Public Lands. BLM's Manual 8340 (May 25, 1982), establish that off-road vehicle use is an 'acceptable use of public land wherever it is compatible with established resource management objectives.' As established by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), the BLM is required to manage public lands on the basis of multiple use and sustained yield, including providing recreation, while protecting natural values.

Unfortunately, federal agencies have responded to the significant, and in at least some instances increasing demand for quality OHV access by closing tens of thousands of miles of roads and trails. Motorized recreational opportunity has been drastically reduced throughout the region. Travel management planning on adjacent BLM and National Forest lands have reduced opportunity for motorized recreationists, while at the same time provided additional opportunity for those who prefer a non-motorized experience.

The amount of motorized route and area closures has reached a critical mass. Every single mile of motorized route that is open today is extremely important. Further closures will have a much larger impact than those in the past.

Economic benefits of motorized and mountain bike recreation

The Outdoor Industry Association, when pushing a unilateral presidential National Monument, cited a recreation impact study that shows "that outdoor recreation is 'an overlooked economic giant,' generating \$646 billion in national sales and services in 2011 and supporting 6.1 million jobs, powering the economy in a manner comparable to the financial services and insurance industries or outpatient health care." They are telling only part of the story. The same study shows that approximately \$257 billion or nearly 40% of the total \$646 billion in economic impact is derived from motorized recreation.

Unfortunately motorized recreation is often severely restricted in protective designations such as NCAs or even NRAs. Unless specific measures are taken the designation of these lands as a NCA or

NRA along with the almost certain restrictions that come along with designation could effectively mean that a significant portion of the total economic impact of recreation to the area will be forfeited. Also, many other recreational uses that contribute to the overall figure of \$646 billion frequently are restricted in National Monument areas as well. For example bicycling accounts for another \$81 billion annually. Now consider that the National Park Service has recently twice denied permits for a professional bike race to be held, in part, in Colorado National Monument, despite the positive economic impact the race would have on the local economy. This is but one of many examples of recreational uses being limited in these areas.

B. Specific Proposals

Our proposal here is based on the current management and protections provided in the RMPs but strengthen the ability to manage and provide OHVs.

Carbon County

No specific recommendation at this time

Uintah County

No specific recommendation at this time

Wayne County

No specific recommendation at this time

San Juan County

In addition to the proposals made by San Juan County and SPEAR (San Juan Public Entry & Access Rights), we suggest the Yellow Circle Mine OHV Area be designated for enhanced OHV use and the Cameo Cliffs SRMA be expanded.

The Yellow Circle Mine OHV Area

The Yellow Circle Mine is located approximately ten miles southeast of Moab (see attachment). The Yellow Circle Mine is a cluster of abandoned roads on a steep and rocky hillside. It's next to large power-lines, as well as Area BFE, which is a 320-acre rock-crawling park on private property. This area is suitable and manageable for a "high challenge" 4x4 OHV management area.

Cameo Cliffs OHV Area

Extend the Cameo Cliffs SRMA south toward South Canyon Point and north toward Black Ridge

Grand County

Rationale:

Presumably, a public lands bill could establish long-distance trails, recreation areas, and other special designations. Whatever the means, we envision an end product that provides more and closer day loops surrounding OHV hubs or focus areas, as well as quality multi-day loops that connect towns. It's much easier for land managers to achieve compliance when the visitors have diverse recreation opportunities.

The 2008 RMP established the Labyrinth Rims Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA), which includes the Dee Pass Motorized Trail Focus Area. It also established the Utah Rims SRMA partly for motorcycling (and mountain biking). Finally, it established the Cameo Cliffs SRMA partly for ATV riding (and horseback riding).

These SRMAs provide three hubs for OHV riding. While they may seem large on a map, many parts of

the SRMAs are off-limits to OHV use (i.e. the top of Duma Point in Labyrinth Rims, the bottom of Bitter Creek in Utah Rims, and the upper part of Hook And Ladder Gulch in Cameo Cliffs).

There is a need to expand those hubs toward the nearest towns so that visitors won't have to travel so far just to reach the trail. Further, this connectivity would facilitate multi-day rides, and emerging markets like dual-sport motorcycling. This sort of long-distance trail, such as Paiute ATV Trail, has helped many rural communities. The same thing could be done for Green River, Moab, and Monticello (or even from Price to Blanding).

Already, Kokopelli's Trail connects Moab with Grand Junction, Colorado. However a lot of the "trail" relies on graded roads, while another section is non-motorized, which forces OHVs onto paved roads. Therefore, long-distance trails for multi-day rides should utilize primitive routes to consistently provide enough challenge, scenery, etc. Motorcycle single-track (40" wide) and ATV trails (52" wide) are ideal, but only in addition to a wider route for side-by-sides and "jeeps." So the main route would be doubletrack and then single-track options could appeal to more motorcyclists and mountain bikers.

To proactively manage recreation, areas should be designated in anticipation of increasing visitation, not in reaction to it. SRMA boundaries and focus areas should be large enough to "grow into," as trends emerge.

Suggestions:

Utah Rims Recreation Area

There is a need to extend the Utah Rims SRMA southwest toward Cottonwood Wash (to encompass Mel's Loop) and north to the Bookcliffs to encompass the Wild Cow Loop.

An expanded Dee Pass Motorized Focus Area

The current Dee Pass Motorized Focus Area should be expanded northwest to reach Green River and further southeast toward Bartlett Wash, where many riders stage from.

Trail corridors:

The current Moab Extensive Recreation Management Area should provide additional primitive roads, ATV and single-track trails and dry washes to connect SRMAs and towns. Such routes offer opportunities for long-distance tours, which are increasingly popular among motorized and mechanized enthusiasts. Additionally, such links boost rural economies and disperse use, thereby alleviating conflicts. Three logical trail corridors are the Thompson to Mack trail corridor, Green River trail corridor and the Moab to Monticello trail corridor (see map).

Emery County

BRC is on record as strongly supporting the process used to formulate the draft Emery County land bill. Although still in draft form, BRC generally supports the legislation.

One of the key consensus points in the Emery County proposal is that it would, as much as possible, "freeze" the current management in the BLM's 2008 Price Field Office Resource Management Plan, including the travel management plan, in place. However, on page 19, of the draft legislation the bill mandates yet another round of OHV travel management planning.

Normally, such an inconsistency would raise serious questions. However, we are approaching this review based on the understanding the current mandate on page 19 was not intentional and the county would be open to suggested edits that would preserve the consensus agreement.

Toward that end, below are suggestions we have submitted to Emery County:

The consensus is that the legislation should "freeze" current management, including travel management in place. However, the current draft mandates another round of travel planning for the NCA. There is also consensus that there is a need for additional trail based non motorized opportunity as well. The suggestions below attempts to address both concerns.

Strikeout = deletions

Underline = additions

Draft Emery County Public Land Management Act of 2011, Pages 2,3:

(g) Motorized Vehicles -

(1) ~~IN GENERAL ROADS~~ Except in cases in which motorized vehicles are needed for administrative purposes, or to respond to an emergency, the use of motorized vehicles in the National Conservation Area shall be permitted ~~only~~ on roads and trails designated by the Emery County Public Land Management Act, 2011, as shown on the Emery County Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management Plan.

(2) Trails: Except in cases in which motorized vehicles are needed for administrative purposes, or to respond to an emergency, the use of motorized vehicles in the National Conservation Area shall be permitted on roads designated by the Emery County Public Land Management Act, 2011 as shown on the Emery County Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management Plan.

(3) CLOSURES AND RESTRICTIONS – The Secretary shall not-

(A) close any designated route as identified in the Price Field Office RMP that is open to the public as of the date of the enactment of this Act;

(B) Prohibit motorized access any designated road or trail as identified in the Price Field Office RMP Travel Plan that is open for motorized access as the date of the enactment of this Act;

(4) EXCEPTIONS – Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as precluding the Secretary from temporarily closing or restricting public access to a designated route for purposes of significant resource protection or public safety. Provided, however, that if the closure becomes permanent, or the length of the temporary closure impairs established access and use normally provided by the designated route, the Secretary shall establish alternate access, equivalent to that provided by the designated route.

Option A: Allowing for additional motorized trails in the NCA:

Page 19:

(c) Trail Plan –

(1) IN GENERAL – the Secretary, in consultation with interested parties, and after providing opportunities for public comment, in a manner consistent with the Emery County comprehensive travel and transportation management plan, shall develop a trail plan to provide additional motorized and non motorized trail recreation opportunities –

(A) in a manner consistent with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), hiking and equestrian trails in the wilderness areas designated by this Act;

(B) non-motorized and motorized recreation trails in the conservation area;

(C) enhanced recreation trail opportunities, including a West-Side Multiple-User Community-connector Trail System, on lands not designated wilderness or

National Conservation Areas by this Act.

(2) West-Side Multiple-User Community-Connector Trail System Defined – For the purpose of this subsection, the term “West-Side Multiple-User Community- Connector Trail System” means

(3) Report – Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the implementation of the plan required under subsection (?), including the identification of priority trails for development.

Option B: Allowing for no additional motorized trails in the NCA

Page 19.

(c) Trail Plan –

(1) IN GENERAL – the Secretary, in consultation with interested parties, and after providing opportunities for public comment, in a manner consistent with the Emery County comprehensive travel and transportation management plan, shall develop a trail plan to provide additional motorized and non motorized trail recreation opportunities –

(A) in a manner consistent with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), hiking and equestrian trails in the wilderness areas designated by this Act;

(B) non-motorized ~~and motorized~~ recreation trails in the conservation area;

(C) enhanced recreation trail opportunities, including a West-Side Multiple-User Community-connector Trail System, on lands not designated wilderness or National Conservation Areas by this Act.

(2) West-Side Multiple-User Community-Connector Trail System Defined – For the purpose of this subsection, the term “West-Side Multiple-User Community- Connector Trail System” means

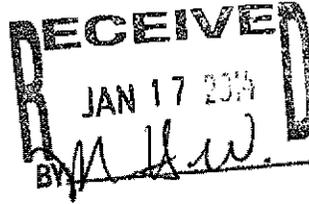
(3) Report – Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the implementation of the plan required under subsection (?), including the identification of priority trails for development.

V. A final thought

We are excited by the effort outlined in the June 3, 2013, letter. We sit collectively at a unique juncture created by decades of management uncertainty, a universal desire for management security, mature awareness of the diverse stakeholder positions, and unprecedented need for governmental efficiency and accountability. We look forward to helping create a new management vision for Utah’s treasured BLM lands.

Alice de Anguera
503 Kane Creek Blvd
Moab, UT 84532

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



Council Members Jackson, Nyland, and Paxman:

Hello, I'm a Grand County resident and I'm writing in support of wilderness. Grand County needs to fight to have large areas of wilderness protected in the new collaborative bill that Representative Bishop is working on. We need this for the stability of our economy, for the health of our fragile desert ecosystem, and because our landscape is the best thing about living here. I love this place because it is truly grand – please help keep it that way.

Economically, the wild lands in this corner of Utah are what keep us afloat. The council is surely aware that its predecessors turned intentionally to tourism when the uranium industry dwindled. Moab is world renowned for its hiking, climbing, mountain biking, canyoneering, river rafting and just plain breathtaking scenery. This scenery that brings the tourist dollars needs care and feeding as much as any other cash cow, especially as the number of visitors increases. We can provide that care more easily and consistently through protection of areas such as Labyrinth Canyon (site of a fantastic canoe trip and reason five of my friends traveled here and spent hundreds of dollars each in this county), Yellow Bird (within sight of Delicate Arch), and Fisher Towers (a favorite of all my visitors) as wilderness. Oil and gas are temporary. People will always want to come and see our cliffs and canyons and arches, as long as we keep them clean, quiet, and uncluttered with roads and drill rigs.

The desert ecosystem is not resilient – wilderness designation will help us protect it as we move into the uncharted territory of climate change. We have a lot more than red rocks here – we have sensitive species such as bighorn sheep, leopard frogs, humpback chub, Mexican spotted owl, and sage grouse. Those species rely on specific conditions – temperatures, distance from human disturbance, water levels and sediment content, availability of sage habitat, intact soil crusts to grow native forage. Visitors want to see wildlife, yes, but that's not the only reason to protect the ecosystem. These plants and animals exist in an interconnected web that is not yet fully understood – every species we push to extinction is one that could connect back to human health and prosperity in a real way. We may not be able to stop rising temperatures, so let's focus on what we can control, such as erosion, pollution, dust, and noise. Protect Desolation Canyon and the other Book Cliff areas as wilderness, if only for the bighorn sheep; Westwater Canyon for the humpback chub; and Hideout Canyon and Renegade Point for the species we have not yet discovered there. Just knowing these areas will be kept wild would be wonderful, knowing we have done the best we can for our ecosystem.

Finally, please protect wilderness because we, the residents of this county, care about this land. Some I believe is already managed as wilderness: Mill Creek Canyon, Morning Glory / Negro Bill Canyon, the Mary Jane Canyon area. In these cases, all that is needed is to make the current situation permanent. People such as myself would be able to enjoy a rainstorm at Morning Glory Arch, with waterfalls all around or seek reliable solitude in Mary Jane Canyon, knowing that these quiet uses are acknowledged and protected. Protect the rich cultural history of this area (why is there no wilderness proposed around Sevenmile Canyon, off of highway 313?) – it is irreplaceable. Provide a buffer around Arches National Park (Arches Adjacent, Yellow Bird, and Dome Plateau areas) so that their over 1 million visitors each year can truly find that unblemished landscape photo and that little bit of silence. This is a grand legacy we can leave for our children.

Thank you for considering the economic, ecological, and spiritual health of our region, and the desires of those you represent.

Best regards,

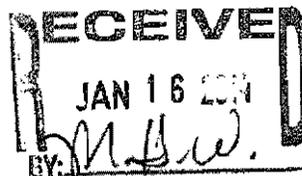
A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alice de Anguera".

Alice de Anguera

CC: Fred Ferguson, Legislative Director for Representative Rob Bishop

January 16, 2014

Saxon Sharpe
2726 Calle Puentes Rd.
Moab, Utah 84532



Dear Grand County Council,

This letter is in response to your request for public comments regarding public land use recommendations. I have lived in and owned property in Grand County beginning in 1976. During this time I have explored many of the unique areas our county has to offer, both by foot and by vehicle.

I have been in every proposed wilderness included in America's Red Rock Wilderness Act south in Interstate 70, and in many of the proposed wilderness areas to the north of the interstate. It is critical that proposed wilderness areas receive highly restrictive land use designations for the following reasons:

- retaining these wild landscapes for future generations will create a long-term tourist and resident "draw" to Grand County
- the boom and bust economy of mining and mineral extraction in Grand County has ended with devastating economic effects after each "boom" for the past 60 years
- protecting wilderness areas is important to the success of Utah Congressman Bishop's Public Land Initiative
- many of the proposed wilderness areas, particularly near Moab, are currently under threat from development and require immediate protection.

Additionally, I believe it is imperative that all land use designations protect the quality and quantity of ground and surface water resources, biological resources, wild and scenic river corridors, air quality, and conservation areas.

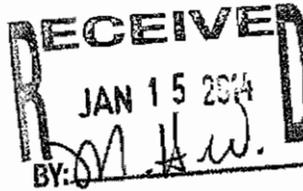
I commend the Grand County Commissioners for establishing your study group and realize that you have a difficult task to complete. I am looking forward to hearing the alternatives you present.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Saxon Sharpe".

Saxon Sharpe, Ph.D.

Grand County Council
125 E Center Street
Moab, UT 84532



January 13, 2014

Re: Public Lands Bill

Dear Grand County Council Members,

As a Grand County, UT resident, I believe protecting a large amount of wilderness in Grand County is critical to the success of Rep. Bishop's Public Lands Bill. It is also critical to maintaining the unmatched and irreplaceable character of Grand County for residents, as well as domestic and international visitors. Our family hikes 2-3 times a week in the Morning Glory, Mill Creek, Goldbar Canyon, Behind the Rocks, and Porcupine Rim areas. Goldbar Canyon is one of our favorite hikes, where we can always find peace, solitude, and evidence of ancient cultures. We explore Fisher Towers, the Arches Adjacent, Yellow Bird, Dome Plateau, and Horsethief Point landscapes with friends and family from out of town on weekends and holidays. My wife and I were even fortunate enough to spend the last beautiful night of our honeymoon in the Dome Plateau area.

As a long-time rafter and canoeist, I have spent dozens of days and nights on and around the river corridors of Westwater, Desolation, and Labyrinth canyons. Specifically, Spring and Mineral canyons as part of Labyrinth Canyon have been favorite destinations of ours for years.

Also, and of crucial importance, the wilderness areas of Grand County represent a substantial and sustainable source of recreation and tourism income to the residents of the county. In order to preserve these incredible areas for generations to come, I want them protected from future development, and left in their unaltered, wilderness state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Nathan Ament".

Nathan Ament
727 Palisade Dr.
Moab, UT 84532

January 13, 2014

Grand County Council
125 E Center Street
Moab, UT 84532

Re: Public Lands Bill

Dear Grand County Council Members,

As a Grand County, UT resident, I believe protecting a large amount of wilderness in Grand County is critical to the success of Rep. Bishop's Public Lands Bill. It is also critical to maintaining the unmatched and irreplaceable character of Grand County for residents, as well as domestic and international visitors. Our family hikes 2-3 times a week in the Morning Glory, Mill Creek, Goldbar Canyon, Behind the Rocks, and Porcupine Rim areas. Goldbar Canyon is one of our favorite hikes, where we can always find peace, solitude, and evidence of ancient cultures. We explore Fisher Towers, the Arches Adjacent, Yellow Bird, Dome Plateau, and Horsethief Point landscapes with friends and family from out of town on weekends and holidays. My husband and I were even fortunate enough to spend the last beautiful night of our honeymoon in the Dome Plateau area.

As a long-time rafter and canoeist, I have spent dozens of days and nights on and around the river corridors of Westwater, Desolation, and Labyrinth canyons. Specifically, Spring and Mineral canyons as part of Labyrinth Canyon have been favorite destinations of ours for years.

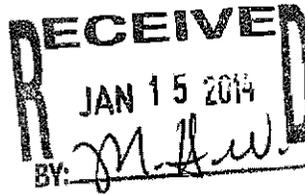
Also, and of crucial importance, the wilderness areas of Grand County represent a substantial and sustainable source of recreation and tourism income to the residents of the county. In order to preserve these incredible areas for generations to come, I want them protected from future development, and left in their unaltered, wilderness state.

Sincerely,



Chloe Hollis
727 Palisade Dr.
Moab, UT 84532

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



I am responding to the Grand County Council's invitation for public comments on Congressman Bishop's public lands bill proposal that would result in wilderness designation for land parcels in several counties in southeastern Utah, including Grand County.

I have resided in Castleton in Grand County for 16 years. I cannot emphasize how important it is for the future of Grand County to protect as much land as possible as wilderness. Such a designation is critical for a vibrant adventure-based economy. It is also important in assuring the success of Representative Bishop's bill, a bill whose formulation has involved many stakeholders across Utah.

From my home in Castleton I see the Porcupine Rim and Adobe Mesa. Both are deserving of wilderness designation. As a boater, Westwater, Desolation, and Labyrinth Canyons have provided me many opportunities for recreation and deserve similar protection. The many visitors who float down the Daily see the Fisher Towers, the Mary Jane Canyon area, and the Dome Plateau and take away indelible impressions of beauty. These lands, too, merit conservation as wilderness.

In summary, I support an expansive designation of wilderness in Grand County. Wilderness designation will preserve something that people literally come from all over the world to see, fueling the local economy. Wilderness also offers the residents of Grand County the solace and spiritual nurturing of untrammelled land, to say nothing of the tourist dollars. When I moved here 16 years ago, it was in no small part due to the landscape of this unique area.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Rep. Bishop's public lands bill.

Sincerely,

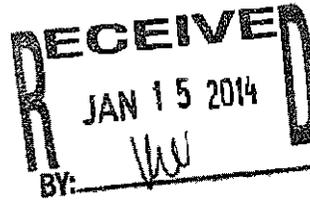
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Schwartz".

Richard Schwartz
Castleton, Grand County

Linn DeNesti
PO Box 1029
454 Carlos Court
Moab UT 84532

January 15, 2014

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



To the Grand County Council:

As a recent import to Moab, I am convinced that the protection of a large amount of wilderness in Grand County is critical to the success of Rep. Rob Bishop's proposed Public Lands Bill for Southeastern Utah. For years my husband and I have traveled to the Moab area to experience the surrounding wilderness, have brought schools to Moab for outdoor education trips, and now feel proud to finally call Moab our home. We brought our businesses here so we could continue to make our livings, but also to enjoy the desert wild lands in our back yard as often as possible. The beauty of this place is that one doesn't need to roam far to find seclusion, signs of ancient civilizations, and spectacular beauty. As people from all over the world come to experience this unique place, it is up to us to protect it for future generations.

We have had the privilege of experiencing Desolation Canyon and Westwater Canyon rafting and would like to do so again and again knowing these stretches of river are protected. We love to hike at Fisher Towers and bring out-of-town visitors there often. Negro Bill Canyon is one of our favorite hot summer hikes, and the cool beauty of Morning Glory Arch is breathtaking. We regularly hike in our beloved Mill Creek Canyon, a gem so close to home, filled with silence, beauty and ancient petroglyph panels. Though we want to go to Behind the Rocks, we do hike the climb to Hidden Valley and love the protected but open vistas and petroglyph panels there. Hunter Canyon is another favorite hike. All of these are just name a few of the special places here that deserve to be enjoyed for always.

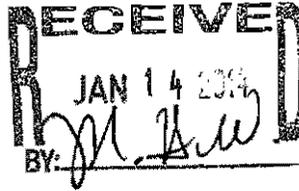
I have participated in several school canoe trips on the Green River in Labyrinth Canyon. There's no place like it on earth and kids are transformed by their wilderness experience. It is distressing to me that it is threatened by mineral development. I hope to see forward thinking that will protect Grand County's beauty for many generations to come. We are so fortunate to be surrounded by these gems that rival the great National Parks in our area. The more protected space we have, the better. Tourism dollars are far cleaner and far less destructive than gas and mineral development.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linn DeNesti". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Linn DeNesti
Moab UT



1996 Highland Drive
Moab UT 84532
January 14, 2014

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

Dear Public Lands Committee Members:

As a resident of Grand County and frequent user of our public lands, I appreciate the opportunity to provide input on Congressman Rob Bishop's proposed public lands bill. I strongly support protecting wilderness as part of this planning effort.

Proposed wilderness areas should be protected from oil, gas and mineral development that would compromise the scenic and recreational values that draw people here from around the world. Placing these areas off-limits to destructive development would also help protect the quality of our air and water -- our two most essential resources.

Areas worthy of being set aside for their recreational, scenic and wilderness values include the following:

Desolation, Labyrinth and Westwater Canyons are important river running destinations. The tributaries feeding into them (Spring, Hellroaring, Mineral) are popular hiking, biking and 4WD destinations and riparian corridors important for wildlife.

The scenic SR 128 river corridor draws large numbers of boaters, hikers, campers and sightseers. Fisher Towers, Mary Jane Canyon, Negro Bill/Morning Glory are some of the county's most heavily used hiking destinations. Porcupine Rim is an important mountain biking route.

Kane Springs Road and Potash Road are heavily used by campers, hikers, bikers, runners, base jumpers, and motorized users to access scenic tributary canyons. Hunter, Culvert and Goldbar canyons are among the few canyons restricted to foot travel, and should remain so. I have personally encountered desert bighorn sheep in the Culvert/Goldbar area -- another reason the keep development out of this area.

Keeping development out of the Dome Plateau and the areas adjacent to Arches is essential to protecting the park's air quality, visibility and world-renowned viewshed.

Horsethief Point and the cliffs around Dead Horse Point State Park are bighorn sheep habitat and offer spectacular long distance views of the canyon country. Increasing oil drilling and mineral extraction is not appropriate here.

Mill Creek is of particular concern to me. I live nearby, and hike the rim or canyon bottom at least weekly and have seen a dramatic increase in numbers of recreational users. I have watched peregrine falcons nest and fledge their young here. Mill Creek is one of very few perennial streams in the county and an important recharge area for our aquifer. Protecting this entire stream from harmful development is essential. Its proximity to residential areas also makes it unsuitable for oil and mineral development.

As you develop alternatives for long term designations for our public lands, please keep in mind that there is no other place like Grand County. More and more people come here because it is a highly desirable place to visit and live. Please do your best to keep it that way.

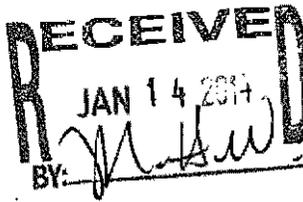
Thank you for considering my concerns.

Sincerely,

Thea K. Nordling

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thea K. Nordling', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned to the right of the printed name 'Thea K. Nordling'.

To:
Grand County (UT) Council



January 14, 2014

Please consider the following comments as to Rep. Bishop's proposed Public Lands Bill.

I am a Grand County resident and business owner who depends on the vast public lands that are contained within and surrounding Grand County.

I bring people from all over the globe to explore and enjoy the amazing terrain we've been blessed with--the incredible landscapes with little sign or impact from modern civilization--and I fully believe that those values are what draw visitors to our County from all over the world.

We got a taste of the value of these visitors in October, when the government was "shut down"--and we lost how many millions of dollars? The extraction industries that compete for our land can't come close to the economic contribution of tourism in Grand County--so let's make sure we protect the proverbial goose that lays our golden eggs.

I support formal Wilderness designation on ALL qualified lands--they are the economic driver of Grand County with the majority of visitation coming from "quiet" recreation, as opposed to motorized travelers (who already have more miles of roads of every difficulty level than they can travel in a lifetime)--let's protect what we've got left: Labyrinth Canyon and it's tributaries (Spring, Hellroaring, Mineral Canyons), Goldbar Canyon, Hunter Canyon, and the Behind the Rocks area, as well as the Millcreek, Porcupine Rim and Fisher Tower areas--all public lands that have managed to remain undeveloped--and rightfully so!

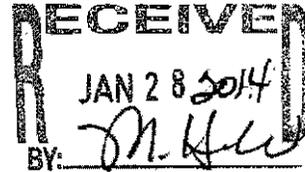
I ask my County Council to please move in favor of protection of the dwindling wild lands we have in our County and our Country. Grand County, Utah has some of the most incredible landscapes on the planet--let's make sure they remain unsullied.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Coronella". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mike Coronella
Owner,
Deep Desert Expeditions
704 N 500 W
Moab UT 84532
mike@deepdesert.com
435-260-1696

January 24, 2014
453 East Center
Moab UT 84532



Grand County Council
125 East Center
Moab UT 84532

Dear Councilpersons:

Thank you for extending the deadline for comments to the County regarding the Utah Public Land Initiative. As the Congressman Bishop's public input process has been largely confined to interest groups, the Council's invitation to ordinary Grand County citizens to participate is most critical and welcome.

I have reviewed the November 2013 Bishop Staff Report and tried to read the Grand County Council minutes of 5/7/13 and 10/15 2013 at which the Utah Public Lands Initiative was discussed, but they are not as yet on-line. Since I can find no concrete proposals regarding Utah's public lands, my comments will perforce be general.

As the Bishop Staff Report makes clear, many of the interest groups participating in the process are committed to ideological positions regarding public lands, not to what would be best for Grand County. I urge County Council to seize the opportunity to step away from theory, ideology and abstract ideas and take a very practical approach, based on the ground, parcel by parcel.

This is clearly a major and complex undertaking with far-reaching implications for Grand County's future. Adequate resources/budget must be available in order for the county to do a responsible job. The county would not contemplate revising the General Plan which impacts only about 5% of the county's land area without adequate budget and professional support. Last time the General Plan was revised, the county budgeted \$80,000 for the task. This major planning project concerning 72% of the county's land area requires at least this level of support and resourcing. Taxpayer funding for this effort could be augmented by seeking contributions to the county from the various interest groups and foundations concerned with this effort as long as there were no strings attached to the donations and the county retained control of the process.

I recommend an approach that starts with the most expansive wilderness proposal (e.g., SUWA's) and examines each proposed wilderness parcel with regard to its suitability for wilderness, motorized and non-motorized recreation, mineral extraction and other development. This should be accomplished with the assistance of a consultant or consulting firm working for the county that can provide advanced GIS capabilities and other support so that maps clearly depicting the various possible uses of each parcel can be superimposed upon

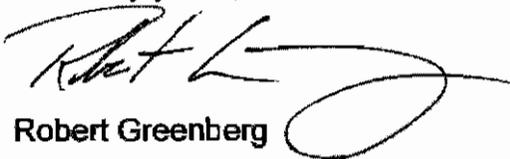
each other. Those parcels for which there are no conflicting uses, if any, could then be recommended for that designation, including multiple use. For parcels with two or more conflicting possible uses, the Council would then recommend a designation.

After this analysis is completed, field trips should be organized so that the Council, interested citizens and interest groups have the benefit on on-the-ground experience before a decision is made. I urge you to continue the Grand County tradition of extensive public discussion and allow locals to respond to concrete proposals for the management of public lands in Grand County before any revision to the existing wilderness/land use plan are adopted and final recommendations for Congressman Bishop are made. Only with this kind of process can Grand County avoid being played by interest groups. Only with this kind of process can the Utah Public Lands Initiative hope to get the votes in congress to pass, let alone with hard release language.

Finally, as I hike, boat and bike in the county I find poor regulation of mineral development by the state and access issues created by private landowners to be significant problems. The continued state permitting of natural gas flaring has made Dead Horse Point State Park and other places look at night like something out of Blade Runner. SITLA sales of lands to private parties without any consideration of the impacts including access to public lands has made large tracts of prime recreation (hunting and hiking) land inaccessible to ordinary county residents.

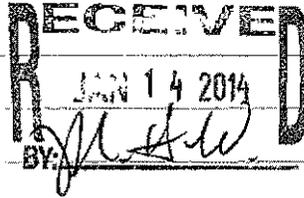
I look forward to commenting on any specific proposals that come out of the Utah Public Lands Initiative. Thank you for this opportunity and your courage in taking this on.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Greenberg", with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the name.

Robert Greenberg

To: Grand County Council
Re: Public Lands Bill



I live in Moab, Grand County, Utah. I purchased this property about 12 yrs. ago - - tripping about retirement. The undeveloped wild beauty is what attracted me. I live above Spanish Valley Trail Road, have an awesome view all around, but especially behind me, plus the ability to hike up the dirt road behind me and reach a place that I can see for miles and miles, and miles without having any of those views spoiled by the cities and sounds, pollution of civilization.

Out on the trails, in places you see vistas way out beyond the park of more breathtaking country - - - unspoiled wilderness that you make a mental note to explore. It seems once you leave town an amazing unspoiled piece of the world is within easy reach in all directions and must be protected from development.

I believe the Amazing Natural Beauty monuments, crown the untouched or barely lightly touched wilderness that Grand County aptly named, is so fortunate to be a part of why it's such a popular place for tourists from the rest of the world to experience - -

I have only experienced a small part of this area in the 4 1/2 yrs. I've been here. My Son has fallen in love with this area too. He comes out here for his recreation, and starts packing out various areas to explore on his computer before he sets out. Since I think the southern portion of Mill Creek Wilderness, is what is behind my house it'd may be our next adventure, so of course no development is wanted in Mill Creek -
I've just begun to explore this area and want

(2)

To see Lehigh Canyon and the Park Cliff Drive
and everything else that is out there - Hope I live
long enough - -

Just look what development has done to the
Northern part of the State - - Dark, gray, heavy SMOG!
Day after day - -

~~Frank~~ Sincerely, Charles Russell -

cc: Fred Ferguson

An Open Letter to the Grand County Council

In the spring of 2013, Congressman Rob Bishop (R-Utah) announced the kickoff of a public process in which he hoped to bring multiple stakeholders together for the purpose of drafting a bill to settle land-use disputes in eastern Utah (aka the "Utah Public Lands Initiative"). The Congressman stated that he hoped all interested parties could reach a compromise that would finally resolve the decades-old struggle over protecting versus exploiting some of this country's most stunning landscapes. This naturally includes much of the world-class public lands in and around Grand County.



As part of the initiative, Rep. Bishop asked for specific land-protection proposals from interested constituencies, including the conservation community and the counties containing much of that public land. Recently, the Grand County Council has appointed a 3-person committee to work on drafting the county's proposal. It is our hope that, as it goes about its task, the committee will pay attention to the broad and diverse range of interests of all of us who make this county our home.

As residents, property owners, business owners, retirees, and taxpayers in Grand County, we have all chosen to live, work, play, and raise our families here for the most obvious reason. There is simply no place in the world like the amazing redrock and desert landscapes of Grand County, Utah. It is this land that elevates our spirit, provides our home, our recreation, and, in many cases, our very livelihood.

While we recognize that competing interests may not always agree, we also believe there is a common thread that draws together many residents of Grand County: love of the land. That is the sentiment that motivates so many of us to try to protect it—not only for the present generation, but for future generations who will not have a voice at Congressman Bishop's table. We are also aware that, because the land belongs to the public, we are stewards of it for all Americans, and, increasingly, for a world community.

Those are the reasons that we urge the County Council to follow a thorough and transparent procedure in its deliberations. Openness and careful scrutiny of all alternatives will garner the strongest public support, because they will insure that all voices and ideas are heard. To that end, we suggest that:

- The committee seeks public input from the very beginning of its work. Its meetings can be open to the public, or the minutes of meetings can be made available for public response.
- The committee presents a draft proposal to the public in an open forum, again giving the people of Grand County an opportunity to respond. This preliminary draft could include alternative scenarios to evaluate.
- The committee accepts and incorporates public comments into its draft.
- Only after this public vetting should the committee present a final proposal for County Council approval.

In sum, we believe that, whatever the final outcome of the Utah Public Lands Initiative, it ought to be the result of an open-minded, balanced procedure, one that gives it the stamp of legitimacy while at the same time avoiding any appearance of cronyism or favoritism. We hope that the final outcome will ensure the long-term economic vitality, physical beauty, and unmatched quality of life in eastern Utah, for those are the very characteristics that brought us here in the first place.

The following Grand County residents have signed onto this letter:

Lisa Albert
Ashley Anderson
Mike & Jean Binyon
Michael Carter
Sandy Cornell
Sue deVall
Dave Erley
Sarah Fields
Kate Finneran
Dee Gullede
Pam Hackley
Lew & Sandy Hinchman
Wayne Hoskisson

Robert Kerchen
Nancy Kurtz
Bob Lippman
Bill Love
Carol Mayer
Kay & Dave McLean
Sara Melnicoff
Lynette Merrill
Kiley Miller
Thea Nordling
Jason Pronovost
Bill Rau
Albey Reiner

Rita Rumrill
John Rzeczyki
Gail Solomon
Carol Stockham
Mike Stringham
Mary Suarez
Eric Trenbeath
Terri Ann Tibbitts
Marc Thomas
Dick & Deb Walter
Brooke Williams
Terry Tempest Williams



January 17, 2014

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

RE: Congressman Bishop's Public Land Initiative

Grand County Council:

Public Lands Solution is a Moab-based non-profit dedicated to providing comprehensive recreation planning and stakeholder coordination to support effective and sustainable public land solutions. We have worked extensively over the last year with a broad range of local—and well as state and federal—stakeholders to find an appropriate and workable framework for the Bishop Public Lands Initiative, in particular trying to better document, protect and enhance the recreation assets in our county that are a fundamental part of Grand County's economy.

Land in its natural state has economic value and recreation on Grand County's public lands continues to grow as an economic driver. In addition to the businesses that directly benefit from outdoor recreation such as outfitters and guides, supporting businesses such as hotels, restaurants, and local shops also depend on the recreation economy. Access to outdoor amenities is also a top recruiting tool used by local businesses to attract talented professionals who can live wherever they choose. Small, well-planned investments in recreational assets in our county will continue to attract more innovative people and businesses.

For these reasons we believe it is crucial that the Public Land Initiative provides protection and enhancements to the recreation assets of Grand County. See attached a report that recommends Recreation Management Areas for important locations in Grand County that support a range of local businesses and which attract quality of life recruits who contribute to our tax base. See also a broader document that makes similar recommendations throughout Eastern Utah (see http://uobn.org/uploads/PLS-PLI_RMA_proposals_011514c.pdf).

Please let us know if you have any questions or comments.

Regards,

Jason Keith, Managing Director
Ashley Korenblat, Managing Director
Public Land Solutions
www.publiclandsolutions.org

Public Land Initiative: Recreation Asset Identification and Proposed Designations

This document describes concepts for protecting and enhancing Utah's recreation economy throughout Eastern Utah through public land legislation. Additional companion designations, such as new Recreation Management Areas, can compliment existing proposals for National Conservation Areas, Wilderness, SITLA land trades, and resource extraction proposals.

Proposals:

Recreation Management Areas

Energy Proposals

National Conservation Areas

Off Highway Vehicle Designations

Wilderness Designations

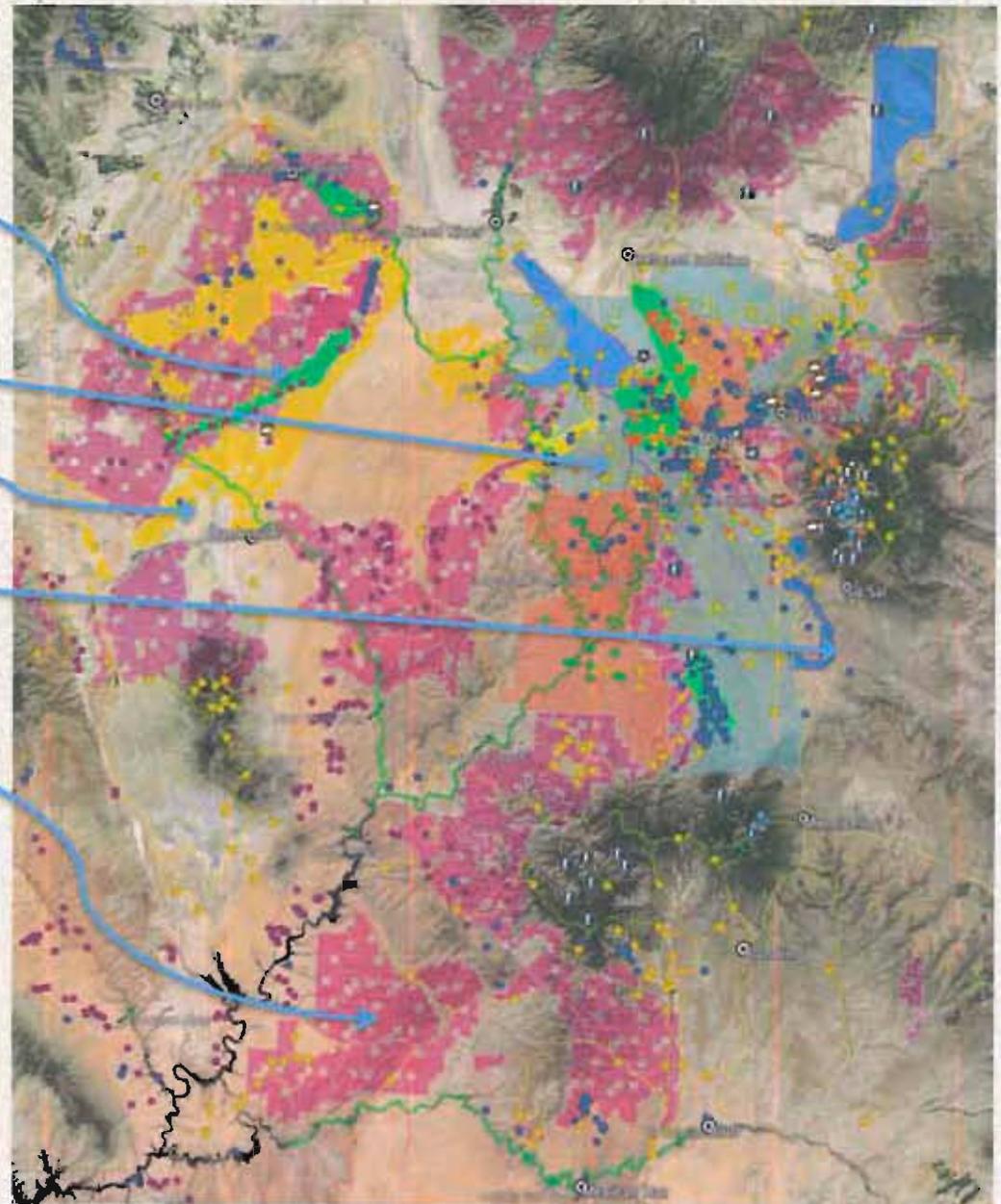
Public Land Solutions

478 East Millcreek Drive

Moab, UT 84532

435-709-8674

www.publiclandsolutions.org



Bishop Initiative: Recreation Asset Identification and Proposed Designations

The recreation economy in Utah is dependent on public land. Growth in this sector of our economy is directly related to our ability to enhance and protect recreation assets such as rivers, trails, cliffs and canyons, the majority of which are located on federal lands. Therefore it is critical that the **Bishop Public Lands Initiative** and resulting legislation not only address the needs of industry and conservation, but also those of recreation. Public Land Solutions has begun this process by **comprehensively mapping recreation assets** in the five counties being considered for Congressman Bishop's public lands bill, and the following maps include this information.

While Wilderness/conservation designations, as well as the needs of the resource extraction industry, are integral to this process also propose a number of "**companion designations**" that directly address the needs of recreation and associated economic benefits. It is important to note that unlike Wilderness designations that must follow the guidelines of the Wilderness Act, rules for companion designations such as National Conservation Areas, National Recreation Areas, or Special Recreation Management Areas are unique and specific to the locations involved. Not all NCAs or NRAs include the same regulations and governing documents. For example, the specific legislation that created the Glen Canyon NRA is entirely different from the legislation that created the Sawtooth NRA. **Companion designations focused on recreation will ensure the strength of the regional economy while also allowing for conservation gains and the needs of industry.**

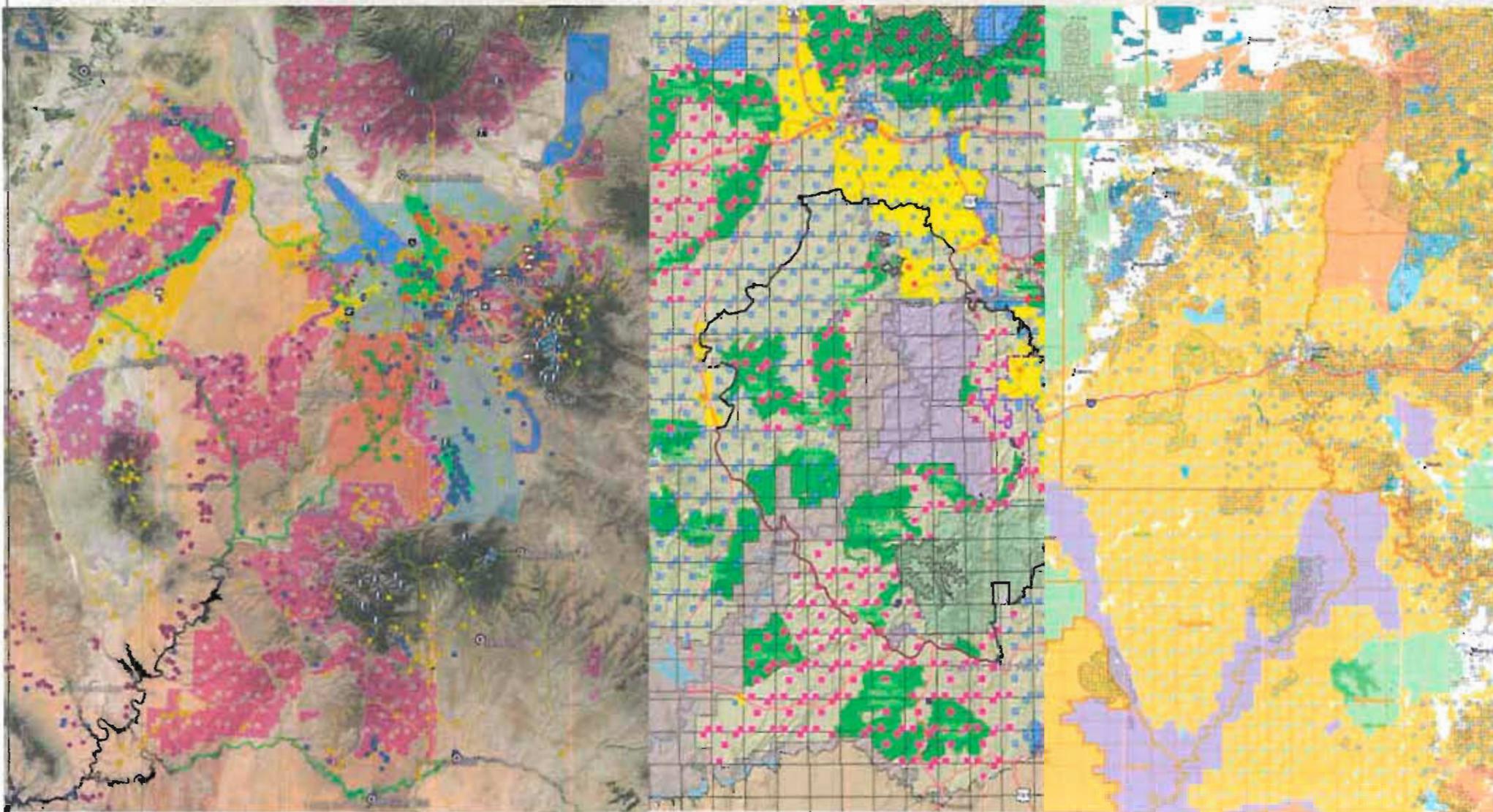
Companion designations can be tailored to meet the needs of a wide variety of stakeholders, and it is with this in mind that **we propose the following Recreation Management Areas (RMAs)**. The following maps indicate the most important areas where we believe RMAs are needed. Upcoming **community mapping workshops** will also address stakeholder needs and concerns in these areas, and thereby provide the Public Lands Initiative process with the information needed to **ensure the future growth and sustainability of the recreation economy in Utah.**

Considerations: many current proposals do not address the need to protect and enhance recreation assets in eastern Utah that are the bedrock of the regional economy.

Nearly 2.9 million acres of proposed wilderness

SITLA acquisition for mineral development

Existing oil & gas leases



Mechanisms to protect and enhance the recreation economy:

Recreation Management Areas (RMAs):

- Areas with high recreation value
 - San Rafael Reef/Buckhorn Draw/Mexican Mountain Road
 - Gemini Bridges/Tusher Canyon/Bar M/Long Canyon
 - Castle Ridge/Fisher Towers
 - Indian Creek
- RMA management goals:
 - Protect and enhance recreation assets and opportunities to ensure future economic and quality of life benefits.
 - Increase coordination among stakeholders to limit conflicts and ensure optimization of multiple uses
 - Require mitigation of impacts to recreation assets
 - Retire O&G/mineral leases as appropriate subject to valid existing rights

National Conservation Areas (NCAs):

- New designations to conserve, protect, enhance, and manage public lands for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. NCAs may be appropriate for high value recreation areas.

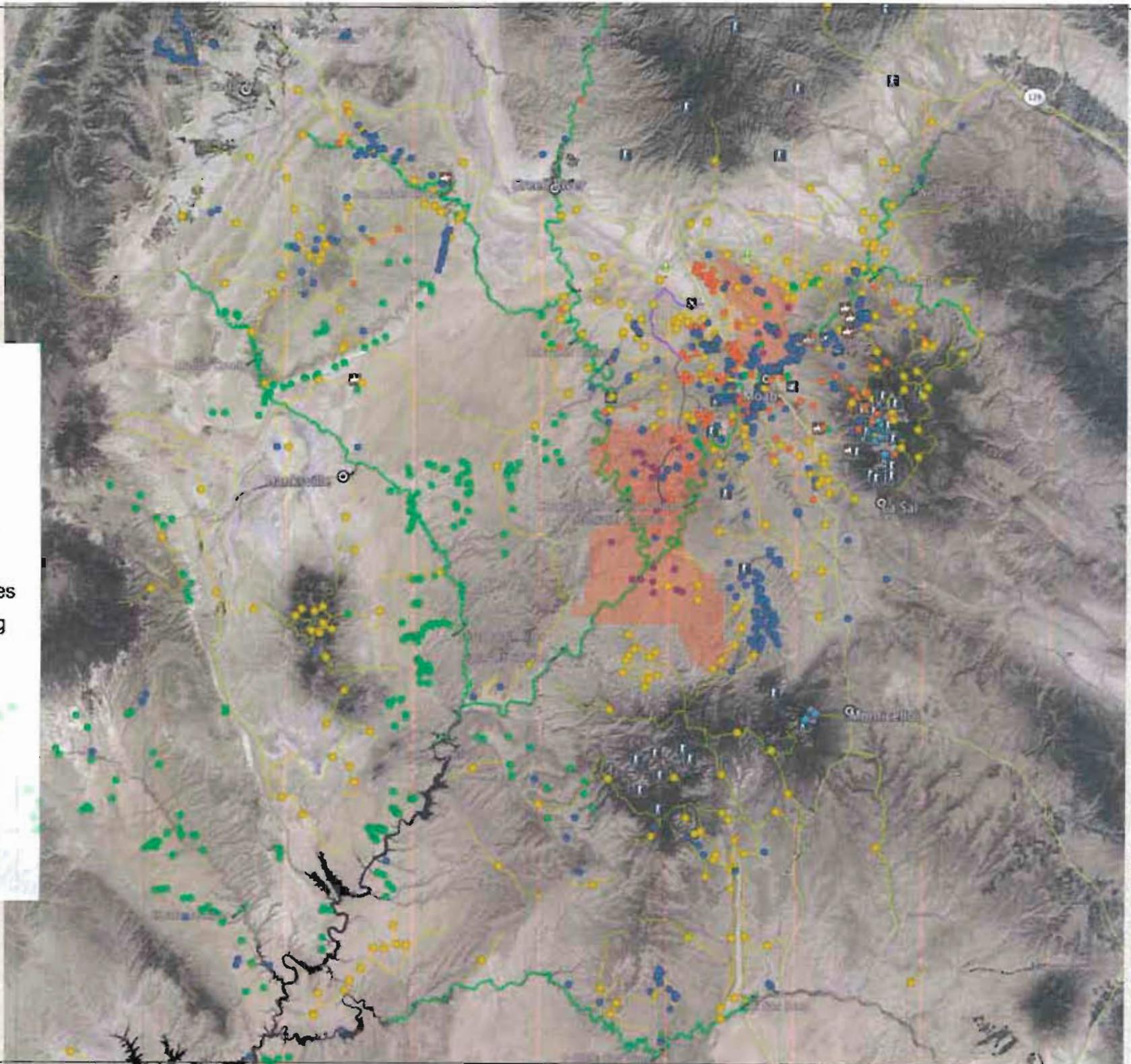
Wilderness Designations:

- Minor boundary adjustments to eliminate conflicts with existing high use recreation areas and locations popular for commercial uses (filming, etc.).
- Replace proposed wilderness areas with RMAs or NCAs as appropriate.

Eastern Utah's World Class Recreation Assets:

Legend

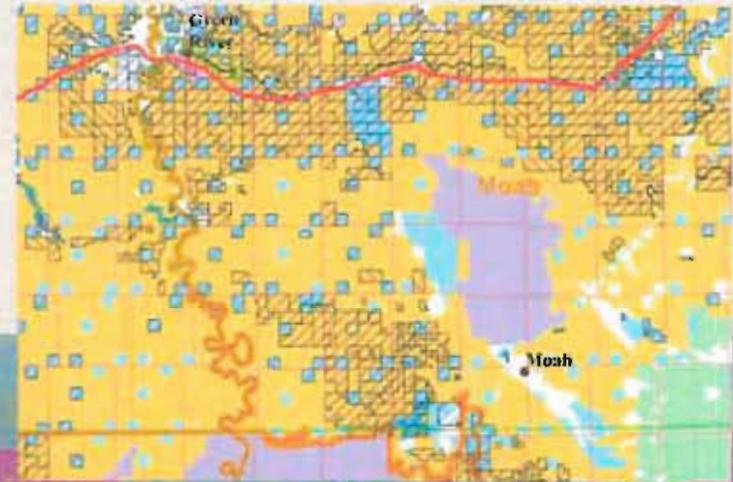
-  Boating
-  Canyoneering
-  Equestrian
-  Hiking
-  Hot air balloon
-  Hunting
-  Motorized routes
-  Mountain biking
-  OHV
-  Rivers
-  Road
-  Rock climbing
-  Scenic flights
-  Skiing
-  Snowsports
-  Trails



Current Moab Area Proposals:

- Wilderness Areas
- National Conservation Areas
- Master Leasing Plan for oil, gas, potash

Existing oil and gas leases



Recreation Management Areas for Gemini Bridges, Tusher Canyon, & Long Canyon



- Very popular mountain biking at Gemini Bridges, Bar M, Klondike Bluffs, and Tusher Canyon

Bar M RMA

- Rock climbing at Long Canyon, Courthouse Pasture, Tusher Canyon, and Gemini Bridges.
- OHV, hiking, canyoneering

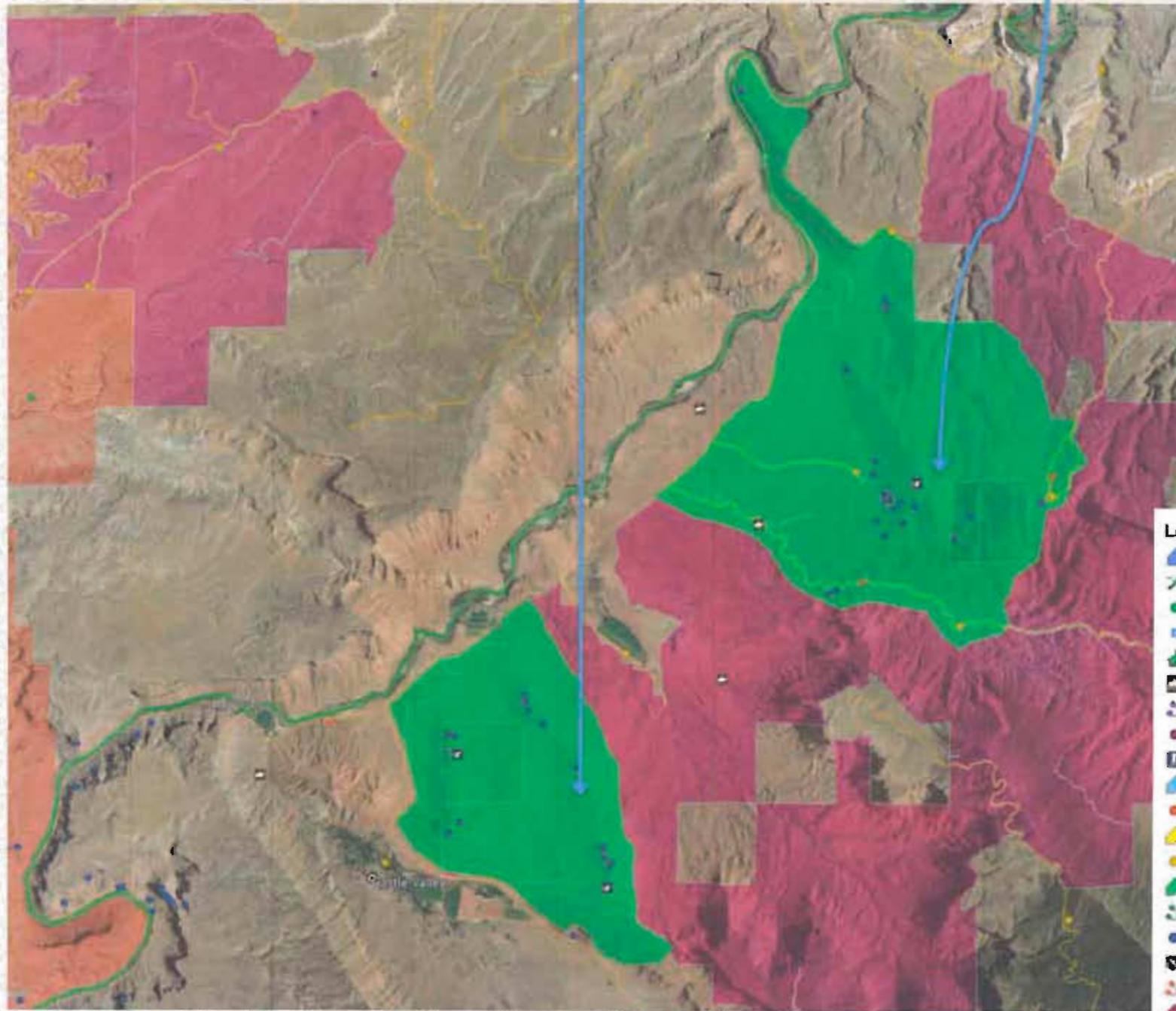
Gemini Bridges RMA

Long Canyon RMA

Legend

- BRC proposal
- Boating
- Canyoneering
- Canyonlands Field
- Dead Horse State Park
- Equestrian
- Fidelity Pipeline
- Hiking
- Hunting
- Moab Master Leasing Plan boundaries
- Mountain biking
- National Conservation Area - proposed
- Off Highway Vehicle
- Recreation Management Area - proposed
- Rivers
- Rock climbing
- Scenic flights
- Trails
- Wilderness - proposed

Recreation Management Areas: Castle Ridge and Fisher Towers/Top of the World RMAs

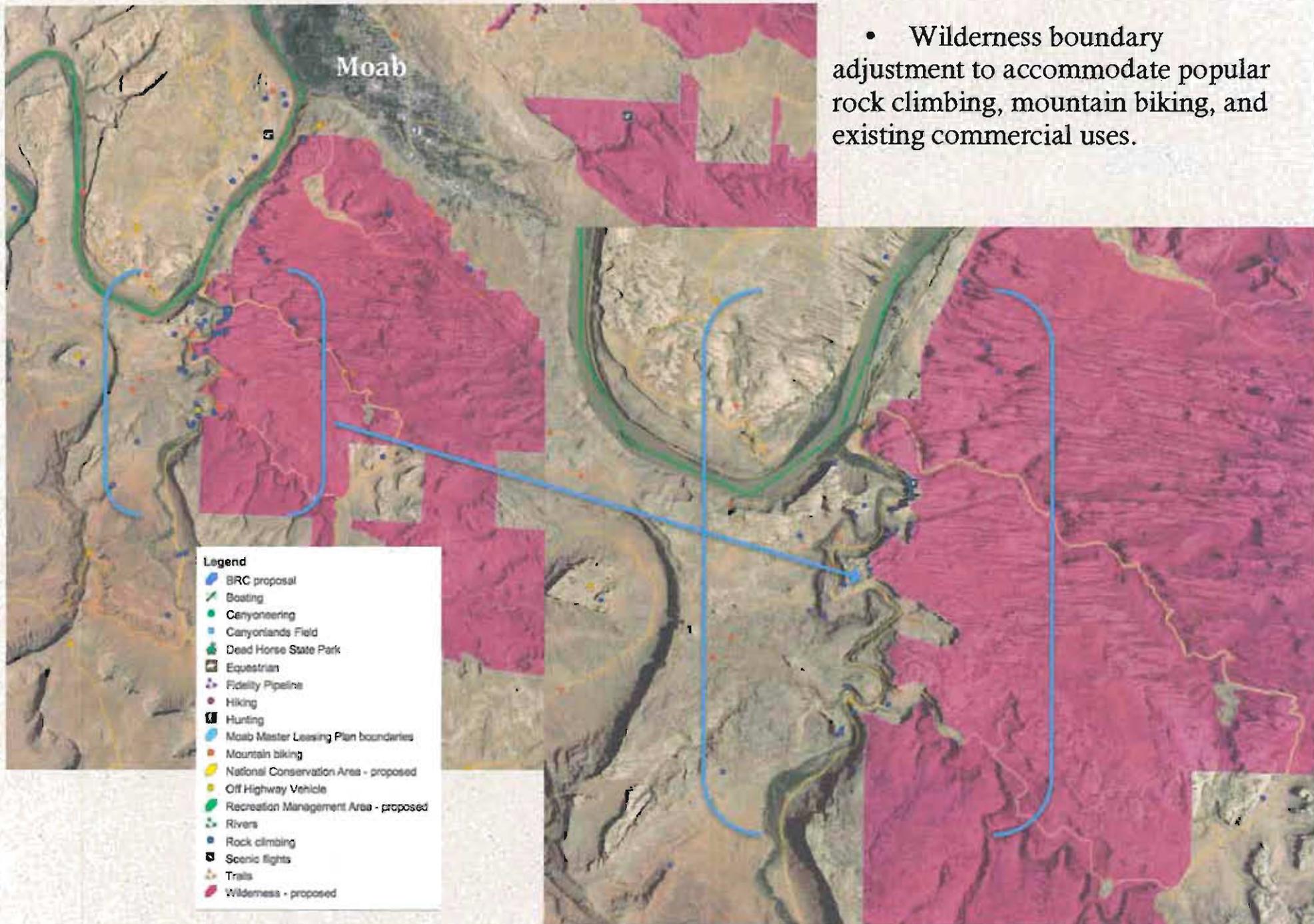


- World class rock climbing and high use recreation areas at Castleton and Fisher Tower and Top of the World.
- Base jumping, hiking, canyoneering and equestrian use.
- Popular locations for commercial filming.
- Boundary adjustments for proposed Mary Jane Canyon and Fisher Towers Wilderness Areas.

Legend

- BRC proposal
- Boating
- Canyoneering
- Canyonlands Field
- Dead Horse State Park
- Equestrian
- Fidelity Pipeline
- Hiking
- Hunting
- Moab Master Leasing Plan boundaries
- Mountain biking
- National Conservation Area - proposed
- Off Highway Vehicle
- Recreation Management Area - proposed
- Rivers
- Rock climbing
- Scenic flights
- Trails
- Wilderness - proposed

Hunter Canyon: boundary adjustment, proposed Hunter's Canyon Wilderness Area



PLS

PUBLIC LAND
SOLUTIONS



478 East Millcreek Drive
Moab, UT 84532
435-709-8674

www.publiclandsolutions.org

Ashley Korenblat, Managing Director
Ashley@publiclandsolutions.org

Jason Keith, Managing Director
jason@publiclandsolutions.org

LATE
RECEIVED
JAN 31 2014
BY: JW

To the Grand County Council:

As a rock climber who has been enjoying the tranquility and beauty of the desert around Moab since the 1986, I feel the need to tell you that it is not as peaceful as it used to be. The presence of more and more extraction industry rigs, buildings, and especially traffic is compromising the beauty and the experience of our natural environment.

I do believe that the extractive industries are a dead end economy and that this will show itself in time. I am a believer that humanity will discover this when the time is right.

But for now please think about the importance of tourism in Grand County and how this industry will never be a dead end industry.

One quick example, for those of us who like to ride road bikes or rock climb on highway 313, we have to put up with an incredible amount of extractive industry traffic. It is very loud, VERY frequent, their exhaust stinks, and it is dangerous for road bikers. (I have a friend who was killed by a truck while road biking in Colorado.)

Why is this extractive industry given a permit to run their business just off the road to the Island in the Sky? Why can't areas that are used for recreation and very popular tourist destinations be left for that purpose only?

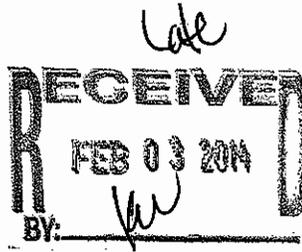
There are plenty of remote areas for the extraction industries to do their thing. Please keep them out of the frequently used tourist and recreation areas.

Thanks,

Drake Taylor
498 Rosetree Lane
Moab, Utah

Drake Taylor
239-3966

P.S. And please, NO Fracking in Grand County.
Thanks Drake.



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

Grand County Council
125 E. Center St.
Moab, Ut84532
Attn: Public Lands Bill

The value of our lands cannot be measured by what is extracted but by the inherent health of an environment for future generations.

Moab and the canyon lands of Grand County Utah have been the center of ancient and current civilizations since life first walked these lands. The reason; it's not just the jaw dropping beauty, the starry nights of crystalline air, the immense reach one's mind has to make to absorb the wonder and awe. It's the vortex of energy allowing the connections to one's past and linkage to the future. No other place on earth can call a soul to heel as the vastness in our canyon lands.

My ancestors arrived in the 'new world' and walked across America to the Utah Territories. My great, great grandmother was the first white child born in Utah. (family lore) Their hard work, hardship, pride and belief have given me a greater appreciation than a casual visitor. I celebrate all that they struggled to preserve and protect for their future generations. My father was a rancher and farmer in Parowan, Utah for 45 years. So with great pride I too am a resident of these wild places. I belong to this land.

Most days, weather allowing, I take to the back country to explore, learn, test my strength and understand the natural forces that created this place. My husband and I, like so many visitors, are graced with the beauty and pristine nature of Grand County's environment. We hike, mountain bike, do trail work, and help visitors out on the trails. We do all we can to protect the land from casual abuse or orchestrated, industrial driven destruction. The protection of all; whether ridge line, river, canyon or wild life is paramount.

We have been entrusted to preserve the majesty of this place. Oil mining and natural gas extraction has never been employed without profound degradation to lands adjacent to their efforts. The destruction isn't just immediate but indelible for centuries to come. The Wilderness Act was implemented to be a life preserver around the sacred, wild lands, a way to legally challenge industrialization of wild places. Unfortunately the map is porous and wrongly excluded lands needing protection. It is up to us to stand, as did our ancestors, in defense of our heritage.

Moab's attraction, it's financial life blood is due to it's surrounding natural wonder, spirit and beauty. Millions of people, from all over the world, come here to celebrate life, to spend their money at local venues and to share their memories with friends and family back home. The people of Moab, the companies that support tourism and recreation have dedicated their business lives to making this place a world class place to visit. The non-profit Trail Alliance has brought millions of federal dollars to improve access to the outdoors and to create jobs for locals. No tourist would appreciate the sight of a fracking well next to a natural feature. The slopes and mesas of Hell Roaring, Gold Bar, Long, Mineral, Mill Creek and Hunter canyons and Behind the Rocks would be a travesty if sold off to mining interests. They are like the unfortunates of a slave auction, shackled, chained, no voice, going to the highest bidder without concern for their welfare. Oil and fossil fuel development is nearing the end of their application to future energy needs. Our challenge is to promote and support renewable energy. As a county we can become an example for all the country.

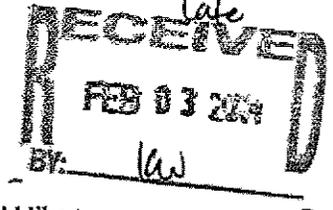
It may sound like hocus pocus, something that cannot be qualified or quantified. Yet we come to heal, we come to this place to gather strength, we come as witness to the magic of the wild and scenic. It is time for 'one act of kindness'. Say "NO" to mining interests, oil extraction and gas exploration in our scenic wild lands. We can make a difference. Thank you for taking the time to make the right decisions. We understand the pressure you must endure..

Sincerely,

Cindy Pickett

GRAND COUNTY PUBLIC LAND COMMENT

Hello



Thank you for giving residents a chance to comment on our public lands and how we would like to see our community developed. I believe we should preserve the beauty of this place for 10 generations, and give them a chance to appreciate it, just like we do.

I have been a resident of Grand County for 15 years. I moved here to be in the rock climbing business and to rock climb. I also love to white water kayak and ride my bike.

I moved here because of the clean air (most of the time) and water. I think that long term management should include this in mind, while long term planning. I have heard other groups in town calling Moab's valley, "god's country". The landscape is amazing and yes, it should be protected. I agree and have pride in where I live and work. Who isn't mortified by the pollution in Salt Lake City? I believe we should all take pride in being stewards of this landscape.

I believe natural resources can be used for harvest/ economic use. However, I think that it can come with a serious price when talking about oil and gas extraction. I believe this town has boomed in terms of supporting recreation economy. The restaurants, events and races, hotels, shops, national and state parks all profit from the tourists. I am grateful I too can earn a living from the recreation economy and enjoy this beautiful place.

I worked as a wildlife biologist for 15 years before moving here. I worked in places including Bakersfield/ Buttonwillow, California oil fields and also the Jonah and NPL (Normally Pressurized Lance Formation) in Pinedale area, Wyoming. Yes, I do drive a car and I heat my house with gas, why wouldn't I work for the industry, to see what's really going on? After living in both places for a while, I thought it was depressing. The drinking water and the air quality in both places were compromised and of course I moved after a short season of working there because it's disgusting and disheartening. I thought I could work in that environment and make money, just like what's now threatening the North Dakota area as well. I learned how much the landscape was compromised, along with the air and water quality. Of course, the wildlife populations were greatly displaced, including obligate sagebrush species.

I choose to not work in those sorts of places again because they are depressing and not worth the money (the money is never that great, contrary to what a lot of people think. It's a common misperception that you're going to make some serious money working in the oil industry. What we'll get is a lot of people moving here for a mediocre jobs and a few will get rich off of it). It is a very ugly scenario to see Moab's valley ruined, in my opinion.

I don't see how we can profit off of recreation AND the oil/gas resource extraction industry without compromising the outdoor recreation business and community. I think as far as long term planning is concerned, we should hold off from selling our souls to resource extraction and focus on the path we are going down; tourists visiting and appreciating a beautiful, clean landscape.

Thank you very much for allowing me to voice my opinion.

Sincerely,

Jeanine Saia.

435-259-8732
665 Westwood Drive
Moab, Utah 84532
January 31, 2014

late
RECEIVED
FEB 03 2014
BY: W

January 24, 2014

Dear Grand County Council,

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the Public Lands Bill. I have lived in Moab for eight years and previously in San Juan County for 20 years. I am an archaeologist and river guide and know the landscape well. I support a large amount of wilderness in Grand County. When the national parks were designated the boundaries did not follow logical lines to protect the resources recognized as deserving protection as a national park. This was due to the politics and push back at the time from county officials who did not want to see national parks in the area. Now we realize the importance of these preserved areas and need to protect their view sheds, setting, and feeling by designating the bordering lands that have wilderness values as official designated wilderness. The Dome Plateau is one such area bordering Arches that should be protected as wilderness. It would be ridiculous for energy development to continue unabated in this area.

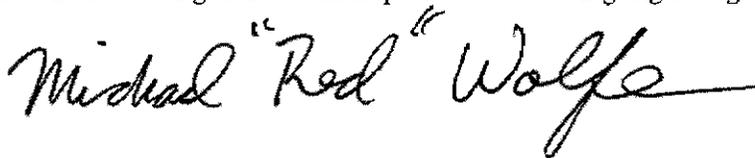
I have worked in the oil and gas industry and am well aware of what they need to develop these important resources but that does not mean they must have unfettered access to every square foot of land in Grand County. We can have both energy development and protect our natural areas. We must use common sense. The majority of the land in the proposed wilderness areas is by definition road-less and does not have high potential for oil, gas, and minerals. The areas already developed for oil and gas should be allowed to continue as long as it can be done with the standard stipulations and conditions of approval that help protect existing resources.

I personally find great value and increased quality of life by having Behind the Rocks, Hunter Canyon, and Mill Creek areas literally in my back yard. My family and friends visit these areas often and feel they are very important to the residents of Grand County and also bring visitors to our unique portion of the planet. These places are sources of spiritual rejuvenation. This is why we live in Grand County. That is why you, the members of the Grand County Council, also live in and love this area. I want my two young children to be able to enjoy these areas in the future as I do. New natural areas are not being produced, this is a non-renewable resource! Roadless areas help protect not only the landscape, plants, and animals but also the unique archaeological sites in these areas of which there are many. The Book Cliffs and Roan Plateau area of Grand County is relatively pristine and needs to be protected. Energy development creeping over from the Vernal Basin is a threat. In case you haven't noticed the Vernal Basin oil development is a disaster for the landscape, wildlife, air quality, and archaeological resources. That is why we need to protect the Grand County portion of the Book Cliffs. I would say that the priority should be for wilderness designation for the areas closer to Moab over the Book Cliffs. If some other form of protection could be emplaced other than official wilderness in the Book Cliffs this may suffice.

Th Stillware/Labrynith definitely needs wilderness protection. I have worked out there and have enjoyed river trips on the Green River. The place "rocks", is unique, and needs protection so that it can remain pristine. There are so many existing places and routes for motorized recreation and potential development that we can and should protect the remaining wilderness quality lands without the fear of shutting down these other activities.

As an archaeologist I know well the direct correlation between the vandalization and adverse effects to archaeological sites with roads and motorized access. That is why wilderness protection is key to protecting these resources that are protected under the National Historical Preservation Act. In the Duma Point, Hell Roaring, and Mineral areas damage to cultural resources is on-going because there is no enforceable land designation to beef up resource protection. Wilderness designation would help ameliorate this on-going damage.

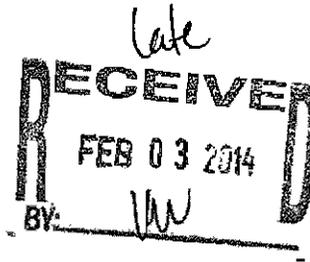
Sincerely yours,



Michael "Red" Wolfe, 228 Aspen Ave, Moab, Utah 84532

January 29, 2014

Grand County Council
125 E. Center
Moab, UT 84532



Dear Grand Country Council Members:

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed wilderness areas in Grand County. I believe strongly in finding a balance when it comes to public land management, especially since Utah's public lands cover 64% of the state. I believe they can be managed for multiple use through wise decisions. I have lived in Moab for over 20 years and feel I can speak to the value of our land to both the state and the nation as a whole.

I support wilderness designation for the identified parcels in Grand County. I am an avid hiker and was drawn to this area due to its scenic beauty and silence. Grand County is rich in extraordinary places that offer solitude, untrammled nature and solace in this busy world. It is also rich in gas and oil deposits and various minerals and salts. The extractive industries have found a home here and I believe they can be balanced by protecting areas that offer superlative beauty as well as healthy wildlife habitat.

Recreation is the new economy of the west. Wilderness protections will secure Utah's future in outdoor recreation and enjoyment, and promotion of these lands will send the message that this state does value the health of its people, wildlife and the natural surroundings that draw people here in the first place. Utah is perhaps the only state that does not have protected wilderness areas, which astonishes me. Areas like Morning Glory, Porcupine Rim, Mill Creek, Goldbar Canyon, Hunter's Canyon, Behind the Rocks could offer a retreat from the noise of motorized vehicles which surrounds Moab—places to find relative peace and quiet. River trips down Labyrinth Canyon and Westwater will only grow in value if they are protected by wilderness designation. The Bookcliffs parcels are critical to protecting the prime wildlife habitat that we are so lucky to have. The parcels around Arches can offer greater protection of the amazing viewsheds and wildlife habitat—making it less of an "island".

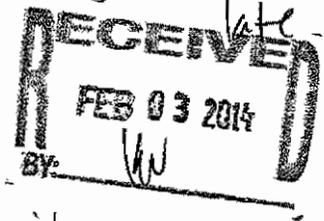
I believe in these designations because huge areas of public land still remain for the many other uses—extractive industry, grazing, motorized travel and exploration,—and the other many activities these lands offer.

I strongly urge the council representatives to support the proposed wilderness designations in Grand County as part of the public lands initiative.

Sincerely-

Sharon Brussell
4348 Heather St.
Moab, UT 84532

30th Jan 2014



to the Grand County Council:

Thank you for this opportunity
to comment on the Public Lands Bill.

What I would like to see in Grand
County in the next 2-3 decades:

As much land as possible preserved
in it's natural wild state & protected
from degradation in the future.

As much negatively impacted land
restored to as close to it's previous
natural & wild state as possible.

There you have it

Sincerely,
Diana Chalmers
Castle Valley, UT
84532