GRAND CANYON TRUST *COLORADO PLATEAU*

FALL/WINTER 2019

Advocate

THE GRAND CANYON ECONOMICS ISSUE

PLUS

The Antelope Canyon You've Never Heard Of

How Native Entrepreneurs Are Tapping Into the Grand Canyon Tourism Economy

LETTER from the Board Chair

STEVE MARTIN

Today, over halfway through Grand Canyon National Park's centennial year, our moment of nostalgia for the last 100 years of the park is passing. The commemorations have reminded us how fortunate we are to have our national parks and a network of public lands. They, along with tribal lands, protect the places and cultures that have shaped our experiences as Americans.

Now is the time to look ahead to the next 100 years of the Grand Canyon and the Colorado Plateau. Will our children and grandchildren have the opportunity to discover their own special relationships to this unique landscape? Those of us who have seen the changes and threats brought by the last half-century cannot help but have moments of doubt. But, as I look at where we are in our efforts to protect these lands, I do think there is good news, and great opportunity.

My optimism stems from initiatives at the Grand Canyon Trust over the last year. These include a new strategic plan and the accomplishment of some major conservation goals.

The plan, completed by the board and staff, focuses on our newly updated mission: "To safeguard the wonders of the Grand Canyon and the Colorado Plateau, while supporting the rights of its Native peoples." Having a mission or plan on a shelf, however, will not necessarily lead to success—how it will be accomplished and implemented, and who will do it, are critical. Looking at the work presented here in the Advocate (for a deeper look, see the Grand Canyon Trust Accountability Report that was mailed out earlier this year) you will find good science, partnership with tribal communities, hard-hitting advocacy, broad collaboration, and effective fundraising.

What is harder to see, but perhaps more important, is who is doing the work. If the plateau is to inspire our grandchildren and their grandchildren, the next generation of conservationists will be the ones doing the work. The face of the Trust is changing to meet this need. New, young, dedicated, creative, and diverse staff are creating positive change and preparing for the long road ahead to preserve the plateau and its resources and people.

Please enjoy this edition of the Advocate and join us in beginning the task of protecting the Grand Canyon for the next 100 years.

Sincerely,

Steve Martin

Chair, Grand Canyon Trust Board of Trustees
Former Superintendent, Grand Canyon National Park, 2007–2011

OUR MISSION
To safeguard the wonders of the Grand Canyon and the Colorado Plateau, while supporting the rights of its Native peoples.

ON THE COVER
Change Labs entrepreneurs Roseann and Lester Littleman, owners and operators of Mystical Antelope Canyon Tours & Arrowhead Campground, with the wagon they use to transport visitors to the entrance to their private slot canyon. JAKE HOYUNGOWA

IN MEMORY
See a tribute to cover photographer Jake Hoyungowa, a frequent Advocate contributor, on page 14.

EDITOR'S NOTE
The views expressed by the contributors in this issue are solely their own and do not necessarily represent the views of the Grand Canyon Trust.

AMY S. MARTIN

WE TOTALLY EXIST
Ophelia Watahomigie-Corliss, of the Havasupai Tribe, on what it means to call the Grand Canyon home.

Watch online at grandcanyontrust.org/ophelia

Read more Advocate stories online at
grandcanyontrust.org/advocatemag

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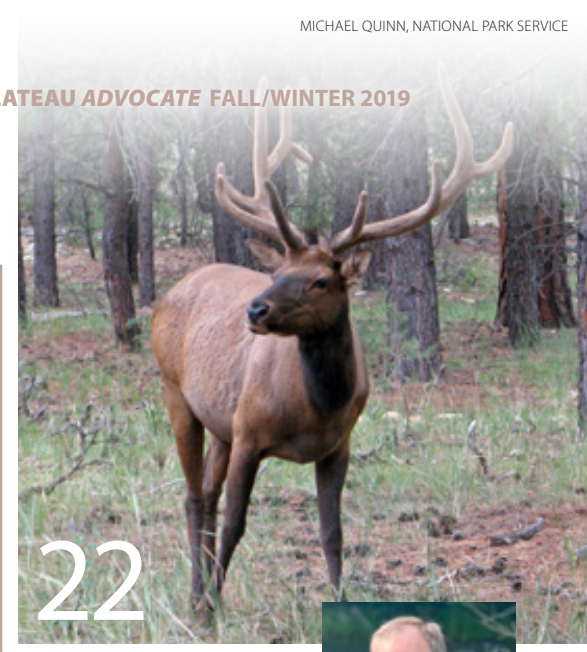


RAYMOND CHEE

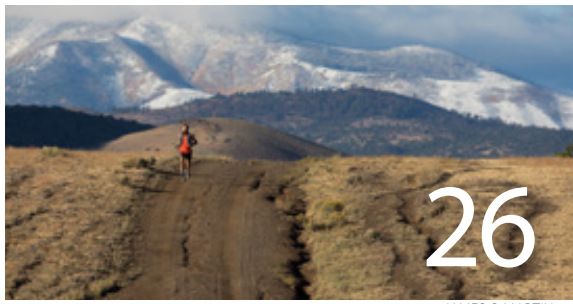
JAKE HOYUNGOWA

SINGER HORSE CAPTURE

ANGIE MOLINE

TIM PETERSON

ED MOSS



JAMES Q MARTIN

BLAKE MCCORD

PLUS

Native-American Owned

How Native entrepreneurs are tapping into the Grand Canyon tourism economy

By Jessica Stago

Native entrepreneurs are charting the course to develop the tourism industry in ways that honor the sacred homelands of our people.

RAYMOND CHEE

There were almost 8 million overnight visitors to northern Arizona in 2017. Collectively they spent $664 million in the region according to the Arizona Office of Tourism. Over half of these overnight visitors are coming to see the Grand Canyon, followed closely by outdoor activities, shopping, and historic sites.

Tourism is a driving force in rural northern Arizona, but very little of the economic impact makes its way to Native communities, despite their being situated between the glorious experiences of the Grand Canyon, Lake Powell, and Monument Valley.

The reasons for this are a complicated maze of historical and social phenomena that have left Native communities out of the economic impact loop. Our historical battles over land, water, and natural resources have left us with little to invest in building the roads, power lines, commercial real estate, and visitor centers to serve travelers to the area. Our communities simply do not have the infrastructure to capture tourism spending and experience the economic benefits of the Grand Canyon, and to build it would take billions of dollars. The good news is that Native entrepreneurs are charting the course to develop the tourism industry in ways that honor the sacred homelands of our people. As Grand Canyon National Park commemorates 100 years, the time is ripe for visitors to rediscover the canyon through the lens of the Indigenous nations of the area.

Entrepreneurs like Alberta Henry with Big Hogan or Baya Meehan with Shash Diné Eco-Retreat are offering visitors exclusive insights into the culture of our people while immersing them overnight in the beauty of the landscape. Sacred Edge Tours and Mystical Antelope Canyon Tours invite visitors to tour their land, listen to family history, and experience the spiritual nature of these places. There are also talents like Carlos Deal of AlterNativEats, who is using his culinary knowledge to fuse Asian foods with local tastes and operates a food truck in Tuba City, Arizona. Or Germaine Simonson, of Rocky Ridge Gas & Market, who is tackling the problem of access to healthy foods by finding ways to sell fresh produce through her remote grocery store in what was once one of the earliest trading posts on the reservation.

These entrepreneurs are doing two things. One, they are a new generation of Native American tourism entrepreneurs breaking the mold of tourism development in the Southwest. They are bringing products and services directly to consumers rather than through the types of non-Native brokers we see in the established Southwest art market. Second, they are launching these businesses with very little investment, relying on their own resourcefulness. Some of these business sites are not on the major thoroughfares that visitors usually take from one national park to another; most of these entrepreneurs don't have a brick-and-mortar location where they can adequately welcome visitors and provide needed information.

There are very few hotels and restaurants on the reservation despite these services being among the highest-dollar-amount expenditures for tourists. This lack of accessibility and limited opportunity for commerce mean visitors spend a majority of their money off the reservation supporting galleries, museums, and retail outlets located where there is easy access for tourists. There is huge competition from border-town communities, like Flagstaff, that have invested in this tourism infrastructure.

Aside from investment dollars, relationships with national parks, museums, and border towns further exacerbate the isolation of Native communities. The lure of the majestic

THIS PHOTO AND OPPOSITE PAGE RAYMOND CHEE

GERMAINE SIMONSON

Rocky Ridge Gas & Market

A gas station, convenience market, and grocery store with a hitching post for customers who arrive on horseback, serving travelers and the rural community of Dinnebito, Navajo Nation.
rockyridgemarket.com

CARLOS DEAL

AlterNativEats

A sushi, stir-fry, and Navajo-Asian fusion cuisine food truck in Tuba City. Daily menus posted to Facebook at **facebook.com/Alternativeats**

JERILYN TUTT

ALBERTA HENRY

Big Hogan

Lodging, camping, tours, and a complete cultural experience just east of Grand Canyon National Park.
bighoganenterprise.com

TOP PHOTOS JAKE HOYUNGOWA

BAYA MEEHAN

Shash Diné Eco-Retreat

A 5 billion star Navajo hogan glamping experience near Horseshoe Bend, south of Page, Arizona.
shashdine.com

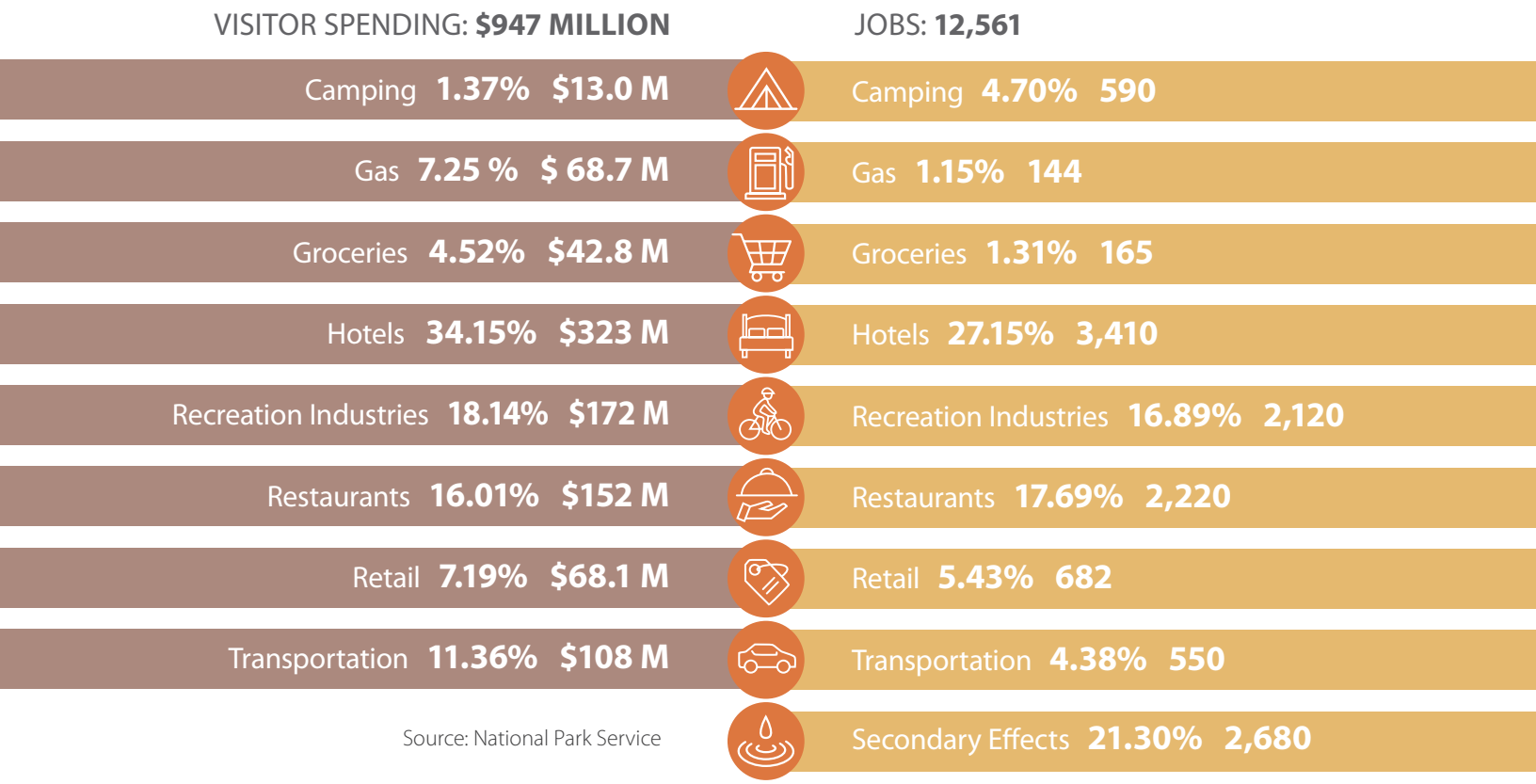
Grand Canyon is missing one important aspect: the people. Our role as the original inhabitants and stewards of the canyon is missing from the modern-day management of this landscape, and visitors whose trip is meant to experience this historical monument of nature are being deprived of a human connection much more than 100 years old. The inaccurate storytelling of the role of local Natives in the Powell expeditions, the inauthentic plastic trinkets, and even the non-Native-owned galleries that exploit Native artists, contribute to a narrative that puts Native businesses and entrepreneurs at a disadvantage in creating mutually beneficial commercial opportunities.

For entrepreneurs to make a measurable economic impact in our communities would require us to grow hundreds of new businesses and attract and deploy billions of dollars in investment to build the roads, utilities, and the workforce needed to support them. A recent study called "Reclaiming Native Truth" found that 40 percent of Americans think that Native people no longer exist. Another misconception is that we do not live in the modern world. When you go to the national parks, you see mostly older depictions of Native people and very few opportunities to see us as a living people. Changing this narrative is critical to support the development of a tourism infrastructure in Native communities, one that can enrich the tourism industry in the entire region.

A rediscovery of the Grand Canyon that includes our stories, accurate historical accounts, and true representation of Native people will provide visitors, who are already intrigued, as well as local off-reservation communities, the opportunity to interact with our people in a positive way. We can't move toward an equally beneficial economic paradigm around tourism until Indigenous knowledge and thought are recognized, honored, and valued.

Jessica Stago serves as the director of business incubation for Change Labs and works to build local economies that align with cultural values of Native communities.

2018 Grand Canyon National Park VISITOR SPENDING EFFECTS



Source: National Park Service

BLENDING CANYONS AND CULTURE

By Amber Benally
and Audrey Kruse

When you book your tour at Mystical Antelope Canyon, you are in for a trip like no other.

The tour begins as soon as Lester Littleman folds out the stepladder for you to climb up into the covered wagon he built himself. The canvas top is a cool relief from the hot Arizona sun, and Lester saddles up his Chevy truck—a modern twist on traditional horsepower. The wagon heads west and stops at an overlook under a chaha'oh shade structure, where Lester begins to share his story and the history of the land with his guests.

Farther down the sandy road, guests disembark and walk through a secret tunnel under a coal-transport railroad that slices across Lester's land. After a few hills and sharp maneuvers, guests arrive at the lip of the aptly named Mystical Antelope Canyon, a tributary canyon to the better known, and much more popular and crowded, Antelope Canyon.

The air is noticeably more still in the cool depths of the canyon and the silence rings in your ears. There are no gaggles of tourists shuffling by and the incessant sounds of cameras and cell phones do not permeate your

JAKE HOYUNGOWA

"We want to teach our children that there are opportunities on our homelands."

—Roseann Littleman

experience. This is the true highlight of Mystical Antelope Canyon—its silence and a connection to the people of the area, their culture, and the land from which they came.

Lester's grandmother told him stories about the Wind Spirits who live in the cool canyons, and today he honors his heritage by sharing some of those stories with his guests.

After descending via ladders and rope hand-lines (no special gear needed) through the narrow slot canyon, Lester stops at a petroglyph. He speaks of ancient people who climbed out of these canyons using their bare feet and hands. While guests now exit via the steel ladders Lester welded to the rocks, if they look closely, they will see the footholds of those ancient peoples, who used the same route out of the canyon.

Back at Arrowhead Campground, where Mystical Antelope Canyon tours begin and end, the Littlemans' ingenuity, creativity, and balance between adventure and comfort are on full display. Guests can camp or rent a beautifully decorated, fully furnished tipi or Navajo hogan. Many tourists are looking for an experience that honors both the local people and the local landscapes. Mystical Antelope Canyon Tours offers the perfect nexus of education and ecotourism, rooted in deepening people's connection to the landscape.

Lester Littleman spent his early life wandering through these sinuous slot canyons near Page, Arizona. Each day he would herd sheep through the canyons or search for missing cattle in the narrow crevices. His family moved these animals as far west as Horseshoe Bend but they always returned to his grandmother's homestead near Antelope Canyon.

Lester dedicated over 30 years of his life to Kayenta Mine at Black Mesa, Arizona where he worked as a welder and skilled tradesman. The Kayenta Mine is the sole supplier of coal for the electricity-producing Navajo Generating Station, clearly visible from Lester's land. As his grandmother aged, she asked Lester to return and take care of the land where he'd spent his childhood. His wife, Roseann, worked for Navajo Parks and Recreation and later Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, honing her skills as an interpreter and sharing parts of her Navajo culture with tourists. With the forthcoming closure of the mine and dismantling of the generating

JAKE HOYUNGOWA

To mix concrete by hand, students had to learn a hallmark skill well-known to many Navajo people—siphoning water out of a barrel with nothing but a hose and a very deep breath.

station, Lester retired, and he and Roseann put their considerable skills to use by establishing Mystical Antelope Canyon Tours & Arrowhead Campground.

In 2018, Roseann and Lester joined Change Labs, a year-long business incubator program designed to support up-and-coming small businesses on tribal lands. Through Change Labs, Roseann and Lester were paired with a graphic designer and a web developer who helped them design a logo and brand their business, create marketing materials, and launch an online presence. In 2019, Change Labs, working with the Grand Canyon Trust's Rising Leaders Program, brought eight high school students from Flagstaff Arts and Leadership Academy (FALA) to the

ABOVE: Students from Flagstaff Arts and Leadership Academy volunteering at Roseann and Lester's. AUDREY KRUSE
BELOW: A traditional dirt-floor hogan is among several lodging options Roseann and Lester offer guests. JAKE HOYUNGOWA

JAKE HOYUNGOWA

Littlemans' property to provide much-needed people power to this two-person operation.

The Rising Leaders Program at the Trust is focused on harnessing the collective power of young people who are interested in climate justice on the plateau to support the communities that are most impacted by climate change.

"It's still too goopy," one of the FALA students announced, scooping a shovel-load of fine rocks into the wheelbarrow and continuing to stir, with some grunting. To mix concrete by hand, students had to learn a hallmark skill well-known to many Navajo people—siphoning water out of a barrel with nothing but a hose and a very deep breath. In four days of intense work, the students dug 38 holes, filling them with 38 aspen posts and concrete. These would become the supporting pillars of traditional chaha'oh shade structures for the campground sites.

At the end of the week, Lester treated us all to a tour of Mystical Antelope Canyon. We were as awestruck as the students by the beauty of this canyon and proud to have contributed. This entrepreneurial endeavor is something the Littlemans can pass on to their children, while simultaneously giving eager tourists a glimpse into a truly unique experience on the plateau—a slot canyon adventure and a glamping (glamorous camping) experience. Lester and Roseann are part of an economic shift underway across the Navajo Nation, moving from extractive industries to ecotourism, and doing it in a way that also protects the landscape.

Amber Benally connects young people to climate justice issues through the Grand Canyon Trust's Rising Leaders Program. Audrey Kruse directs the Grand Canyon Trust's Volunteer Program.

Happy Campers

About a month after the Rising Leaders trip, Volunteer Program Director Audrey Kruse's family came to visit from the Washington D.C. suburbs. They wanted to tour an Arizona slot canyon because they'd seen pictures in magazines of Antelope Canyon's ethereal light and lines. Instead, she insisted they go to Mystical Antelope Canyon. The personalized tour from Lester had a big impact on her father.

Dennis Kruse, Jason Wahl (Audrey's partner), and Audrey Kruse during their tour of the canyon. LESTER LITTLEMAN

> Antelope Canyon is an extremely popular destination with four outfitters each running 18 tours a day, with 75 people per tour—way too many visitors. Mystical Antelope Canyon, on the other hand, allowed us to savor every moment and the excellent guide told stories of his own past exploring the canyon as a young boy. It was the way these canyons were meant to be experienced: slowly, thoughtfully, and resulting in memories that will stay with me for the rest of my life.
>
> —Dennis Kruse

See Mystical Antelope Canyon & Arrowhead Campground for yourself. Reservations at **mysticalarrowhead.com**

JAKE HOYUNGOWA

Advocate and Artist
(1989 – 2019)

Jake's sheer talent to capture our thoughts through his camera lens and narrate our story with purpose propelled our mission forward.

The day was warm and sunny in a small town on the western Navajo reservation, the air thick with excitement, worry, and concern. People from all over the Navajo Nation had gathered together, protesting a contentious water settlement agreement. The crowd chanted, "No Deal! Water is Life!" and many other slogans, while holding signs they had made the night before.

It was on this day—amongst the noisy crowd—that I met Jake Hoyungowa, a rising filmmaker and photographer. He and his partner, Deidra Peaches, were shooting the event with their video camera, documenting the grandmas, grandpas, moms, dads, kids, and students fighting to protect their precious water resources. At a time when social media was gaining influence, this was a turning point for grassroots organizing. Video was the new way to advocate and spread messages of environmental injustice, and Jake and Deidra were leading the charge.

Jake was a young man who followed his passion—capturing the voices of those working to protect and preserve our culture, traditions, teachings, and the precious land we are taught to take care of. Why? Because that's who Jake was. He believed in his upbringing from his Hopi and Navajo sides; he respected what he was taught, and he carried those teachings into his work.

Jake and Deidra joined the Trust's Native American Business Incubator Network (now called Change Labs) in 2015. Their media company, Paper Rocket Productions, was among the




first cohort of businesses to receive mentorship and training. Jessica Stago, the director of business incubation, said of Jake:

"We were just starting our incubation program when Paper Rocket Productions was also just starting out. They came to us for help with the business, but I think we got the better deal. Jake's sheer talent to capture our thoughts through his camera lens and narrate our story with purpose propelled our mission forward. We were blessed to have such a force in our community who was committed and passionate about telling the stories of Native people. Jake put his soul into his work, and it showed up in the beauty of his photos and the clarity of the messaging in his videos."

In his 29 years of life, Jake amassed an impressive portfolio of work. Our paths crossed often, and Jake became family to all of us at the Trust. We are lucky to have partnered with him on so many projects, sharing stories of the sacred confluence and the families fighting to protect it from development, of Native voices opposed to uranium mining near the Grand Canyon, and of local high schoolers designing and installing an environmental-justice-themed mural. He joined us at Red Butte, a sacred place south of the Grand Canyon, to support and record Native voices on the danger Canyon uranium mine poses to the land and its people. And through his lens, he showed the risk to precious waters that beat through the heart of the Grand Canyon and nourish the Havasupai tribe.

But Jake wasn't just the face behind the equipment. His young voice was essential in providing input and direction to issues surrounding the Grand Canyon.

As the Grand Canyon centennial approached, Jake joined intertribal discussions about the past, present, and future of Grand Canyon National Park. He was excited to collaborate with the Trust on a multimedia project to capture stories of Native peoples' cultural connections to the Grand Canyon and their vision for the canyon into the next century and beyond. For Jake, this was not just an assignment or a job. It was an opportunity to learn and listen to elders, community members, and others, and to hear tribal perspectives on connectedness.

Without Jake, we would not have been able to capture so many voices of people protecting the Grand Canyon. I'm grateful for the many talks and opportunities we had to share information, establish our clanship, and strengthen those shared clanships. In the end, we're all family. And in my eyes, Jake was our brother, son, or uncle. We could not have asked for a better person than this young man.

Based on our traditional teachings, Jake is not gone. He continues to live through shared stories. And, of course, he believed the canyon was home, which is where he returned. ◎

Thank you, Jake. You will be missed.

—Sarana Riggs



The Future, Post-Coal

A Hopi and Navajo Opportunity to Transcend the 20th-Century Past

By Tony Skrelunas and Karl Cates

One point of agreement evident during a recent policy summit between Hopi and Navajo leaders was that the economy of northern Arizona can—and must—transcend its 20th-century past.

Since the 1960s, Hopi and Navajo alike have benefitted in some ways from the presence of a major power plant and a companion coal mine on lands that, in retrospect, could have been much better managed in accordance with traditional values that prioritize harmony with nature and reverence for the Earth.

Navajo Generating Station (NGS) and Kayenta Mine are finally closing this year, victims of a market-driven shift away from coal-fired electricity generation. Their shutdowns are creating economic trauma that is being felt in a myriad of ways, including the loss of household paychecks, less activity for small businesses, and lower lease and tax revenues for tribal coffers.

The closures also serve as a stark reminder of how both facilities were built on less-than-complete disclosures around the harsh effects they would have on land, air, water, and Indigenous culture. Tribal governments were at a distinct disadvantage at the time the deals were sealed, not completely in the know about the power-generation or coal-mining businesses and therefore not sure whether bargains struck for usage of tribal land were even fair. In a way, the resulting extractive economy, one that by definition disproportionately benefits outside interests, was forced upon the tribes.

Granted, tax revenues from the plant and the mine over the years have supported public services that range

Navajo Generating Station. MYRABELLA, WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Owners of the plant and the mine can and should offer local contractors openings to bid on decommissioning work now.

from programs for children to those that help the elderly. Yet those services have not kept pace with need, and the two tribes are overly reliant on the plant and the mine, which combined have meant more than $40 million to Navajo, or 23 percent of the tribal general fund budget annually, and $16 million to the Hopi, or roughly 85 percent of that general fund budget.

Nor has job creation kept pace with population growth during the era of coal-fired power, with regional unemployment persisting at over 40 percent for the past generation.

There are glimmers of hope, however. While regional economic development faces challenges, the possibilities are tremendous. On Navajo, a full 71 percent of $880 million in local income is lost through "leakage" with locals buying supplies, groceries, and other goods and services beyond tribal boundaries. Local communities recognize already that the major intersections that run through Tuba City and Moenkopi offer perhaps the best retail opportunities on tribal lands anywhere and are starting to pursue better shopping options more in tune with the rhythm of the Navajo and Hopi cultures. World-class attractions abound locally, with over 6 million visitors to the Grand Canyon last year. Hundreds of thousands travel to the area to see Antelope Canyon, raft the Colorado River, and take selfies in Monument Valley. In these communities, more tribal entrepreneurs than ever are starting tour companies, hotels, gas stations, and food establishments. These businesses complement the traditional livelihood traditions that remain: Hopi farmers still plant heirloom seeds using time-tested techniques while Navajo sheepherders tend tenaciously to their flocks in the face of a changing climate.

Diversification will be crucial to responsible management of the transition toward a post-coal economy. Ever since the closures of NGS and Kayenta Mine were foreshadowed over a decade ago by the 2006 shutdown of Mohave Generating Station and the Black Mesa Mine, a dedicated group of Hopi and Navajo professionals has been working with a variety of like-minded partners, community leaders, and tribal governments toward better economic

diversification. This work has proven fruitful in relationships with business owners, cultural and political leaders, non-profit organizations, financial institutions, small and utility-scale renewable energy companies, and others. Such efforts have been well received in communities like Shonto, Moenkopi, Monument Valley, Cameron, Bodaway Gap, and Sipaulovi.

Momentum is building around initiatives that offer hope and lay out strategies to seize the day around real opportunities, both immediate and long-term.

These initiatives promote diversification from four major angles:

COMMUNITY READINESS

This means understanding both the challenges and the opportunities created by closure, some of which are detailed in a recent "Navajo-Hopi Transition Impact Investment Fund" report. Owners of the plant and the mine can and should offer local contractors openings to bid on decommissioning work now. Creating an investment fund to support such bids would help these contractors assemble the requisite equipment, insurance coverage, and workforces.

Community readiness for transition also involves showing local leaders how communities around the world have weathered and adjusted to similar closures. Just such an event occurred in May, with a steering-committee gathering of Hopi and Navajo community leaders that demonstrated a common desire to address change head-on. Key, of course, to such engagement is mutual respect.

ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT

This can and should include cultural assets such as sheepherding, hogan and village life, and traditional foods.

Change Labs offers a coworking space, business incubator, and workshops and events in Tuba City, along with a mobile unit, and aims to uplift hundreds of small businesses across tribal lands.
DEIDRA PEACHES

Businesses centered on such assets usually are not on the radar of economic-development leaders and financial institutions and are often completely left out of the conversation.

Yet entrepreneurs who embrace such assets see them rightly as unique opportunities to create novel types of businesses and build local wealth in new ways. Gains have been made among culture-based entrepreneurs to structure their ventures in a fashion that markets them successfully. Examples include navajolamb.com and bighoganenterprise.com. The Change Labs coworking hub has made a difference, having recently opened an office in Tuba City.

DECOMMISSIONING AND RECLAMATION

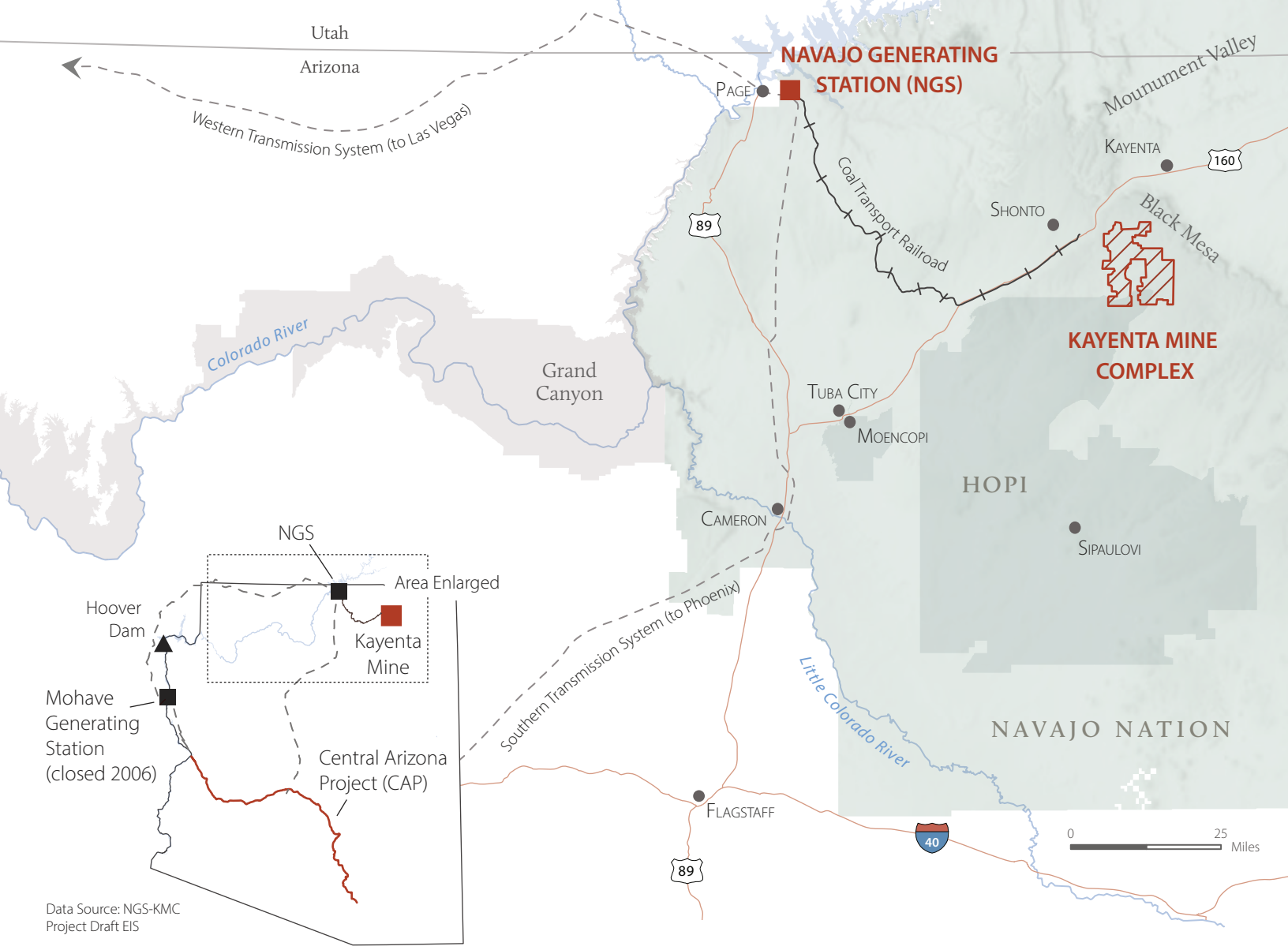
Proper decommissioning and reclamation of NGS and Kayenta Mine, once they close, will create jobs for years to come, as described in a recent report, "Long-Term Opportunity in Post-Coal Reclamation Economy."

A successful transition will require that the responsible parties be held accountable for their cleanup obligations. Public pressure may be required for proper reclamation of Kayenta Mine, which is owned by Peabody Energy, part of an industry that is not especially well-known for its track record on cleanup.

It will require also that other opportunities be explored around the post-coal repurposing of NGS infrastructure, which can be retooled, for instance, for utility-scale solar power generation of the type already being developed on local Navajo lands and for which there is a growing market.

UTILITY-SCALE SOLAR DEVELOPMENT

Utility-scale solar can also drive a sustainable post-coal economy, especially



in communities that have served as hosts to the plant, mine, and infrastructure for so long. Many of these assets will be left for the tribes and communities to benefit from, such as using the transmission systems to sell replacement renewable energy. Policy at the federal level can help on this front, as we detailed in a proposal published in May titled "Extending the Full Federal Solar Tax Credit by Four Years (Through 2024) for Coalfield Communities."

A tax credit of the type we suggest on Hopi and Navajo tribal lands—and across coalfield communities nationally, for that matter—would likely bring local and regional benefits by helping drive new utility-scale solar projects on sites like NGS and its companion Kayenta Mine, both of which are to be closed this year. Utility-scale solar can help replace some lost jobs, and the lease and tax revenues it generates can help local economies during the transition.

Several local communities have since moved forward with resolutions to select solar developers, to set aside tracts of land, and go forward in a way that ensures communities and traditional land-users control more wealth from energy projects than they have in the past. Such development is critical now as the closure of NGS will create room on transmission lines running to large markets and presents the potential to secure preference in power-purchase agreements and take advantage of still-available tax credits.

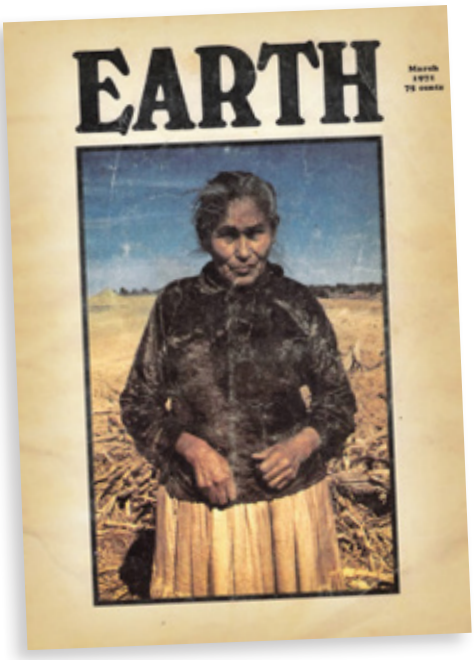
As the ancestors of both tribes have demonstrated, Hopi and Navajo people love to work hard toward success and sustainability in the desert Southwest. Complete information and know-how will be essential.

Ahéhee' and kakwha'! ©

Tony Skrelunas serves as Native American Program director at the Grand Canyon Trust. Karl Cates is research editor at the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis.

A Note from Dziłíjiin

By Vanessa Vandever



I was born into an extractive economy and raised by my grandmother, the last child of Manymules who settled on Dziłíjiin—Black Mesa—in the mid-1800s. People say that my grandmother was born around 1902, and in 1971 she stood with great sadness and anger in front of the sacred lands she was born on and where her parents were buried, now all mined. Her photo was taken by Earth magazine and became the cover image for their March 1971 edition.

Many of my relatives, including my father, worked at the coal mine, and some have passed on from coal-mining-related illnesses like black lung and cancer. Many residents of the area where Peabody Energy leases land to mine coal, like myself and my four-year-old daughter, suffer from asthma due to the constant explosions and mining activities in our backyard. Despite the health and environmental effects, the coal-miner pride is evident because miners have provided for their families with some of the only high-paying jobs on the Navajo Nation. Coal from Peabody Energy's Kayenta Mine powers Navajo Generating Station; the power plant provides the electricity to pump Colorado River water to cities like Phoenix and Tucson, and it also pollutes the air on the Navajo Nation and at Grand Canyon National Park.

My affiliation with Grand Canyon Trust began with an internship in the early 2000s, and it was here that my advocacy for Black Mesa became structured. I found a voice and an internal place where I began to connect historical trauma to how we function as families, communities, and government entities. I moved away from Black Mesa for several years to go to Stanford, and to work, and watched the inequality continue to grow from afar. I finally moved home in 2014 without any thought about how I would support myself because all my husband and I were driven by was being active participants in our Diné culture. When I told Grand Canyon Trust Native America Program Director Tony Skrelunas, a lifelong mentor, that I was moving back to Black Mesa, he gave me the opportunity to reconnect with my culture and advocate for those without a voice in this extractive economy by rehiring me. Leaders like Tony are crucial to providing community-driven solutions to transition away from an extractive economy. I am so grateful to the Trust for making it possible for my family to live off the land once again and to plant an awareness in my daughter that she can only get from living in the home I inherited from my grandmother on Black Mesa.

My pure happiness at moving home was quickly replaced with shock that my home had become a dumping ground, literally. Somehow the decades of coal extraction had led people from all over the Navajo reservation to feel entitled not to just take resources but to dump garbage. As a kid, I remember coming across ponds of oil dumping and now, as an adult, I realized we had become our own worst enemy. Many times I drive by the public drinking water well where people come for miles to get water for their homes and their animals but instead I see people washing their vehicles and even the UPS truck stops daily for a wash. It's emotionally draining to see water running from wells and people dumping unwanted

Kayenta Coal Mine on Black Mesa supplies coal to Navajo Generating Station. DOC SEARLS, WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

animals and hazardous materials without any enforcement.

Many local people express their frustration that their own Navajo government, including local chapter governments, has deserted them decades ago and feel that only Peabody Energy, the mine owner, makes an effort to assist by providing maintenance on the existing infrastructure, such as water wells and roads, coal and wood to heat homes in winter, and help with family events and emergencies. Very few of the people living within the Peabody lease area see direct economic benefits like jobs and royalty payments for their grazing lands, but it's the community relations program that has left Peabody as the only entity on the side of the local people. Now it is up to corporations like Peabody to not only fulfill their obligations post-shutdown but to demonstrate that they are on the side of the local people by taking their responsibilities seriously.

My pure happiness at moving home was quickly replaced with shock that my home had become a dumping ground, literally.

NGOs have ideas on ways to repurpose the reclaimed areas and to provide economic stimulus through tourism and utility-scale solar development, yet the local people continue to be left out of those conversations. The only organization that exists to support those most impacted is Black Mesa United (BMU) but they have found minimal contributions toward their efforts. BMU captured rare video stories of survival from Black Mesa elders impacted by coal mining (watch online at empowerblackmesa.org/projects/documentary). Our story on Black Mesa is the story of many communities around the world—we are all forced to live within an irresolvable dichotomy in order to survive in a patriarchal neoliberal system.

The impending closure of the Kayenta Mine brings fear to some people, but, as for those of us who live with the mine in our backyard, we see this as an opportunity to heal. The dynamite blasts will come to an end, dust, coal ash, and air and water pollution will lessen, and slowly the wildlife and medicinal plants will return. As inhabitants of Earth, we must make daily efforts to connect to Mother Earth and one another with compassion and respect. We will heal when Mother Earth begins to heal.

A graduate of Stanford University, Vanessa Vandever previously served as a Native America Program manager for the Grand Canyon Trust.

TAKING AIM
AT THE SAME THINGS

The economic impact of hunting, angling, and conservation in the Grand Canyon region

By Scott Garlid

Fishing on Ashurst Lake, near Flagstaff Arizona. SEAN GOLIGHTLY, U.S. FOREST SERVICE

"We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect." —Aldo Leopold

The Grand Canyon inspires shock and awe in most first-time visitors, and for those who think of the canyon more like a long-time friend, the awe endures. Unfortunately, the shock abruptly returns, in a completely different manner, when the wonder of the canyon is reduced to economic justifications for things like the Grand Canyon Escalade tramway development and uranium mining in the Grand Canyon watershed. As lovers of the canyon and the area around it, we tend to describe and value it in qualitative terms, but hunters and anglers, tourists, rafters, and outdoor recreationists have a tremendous impact on the region's economy as well.

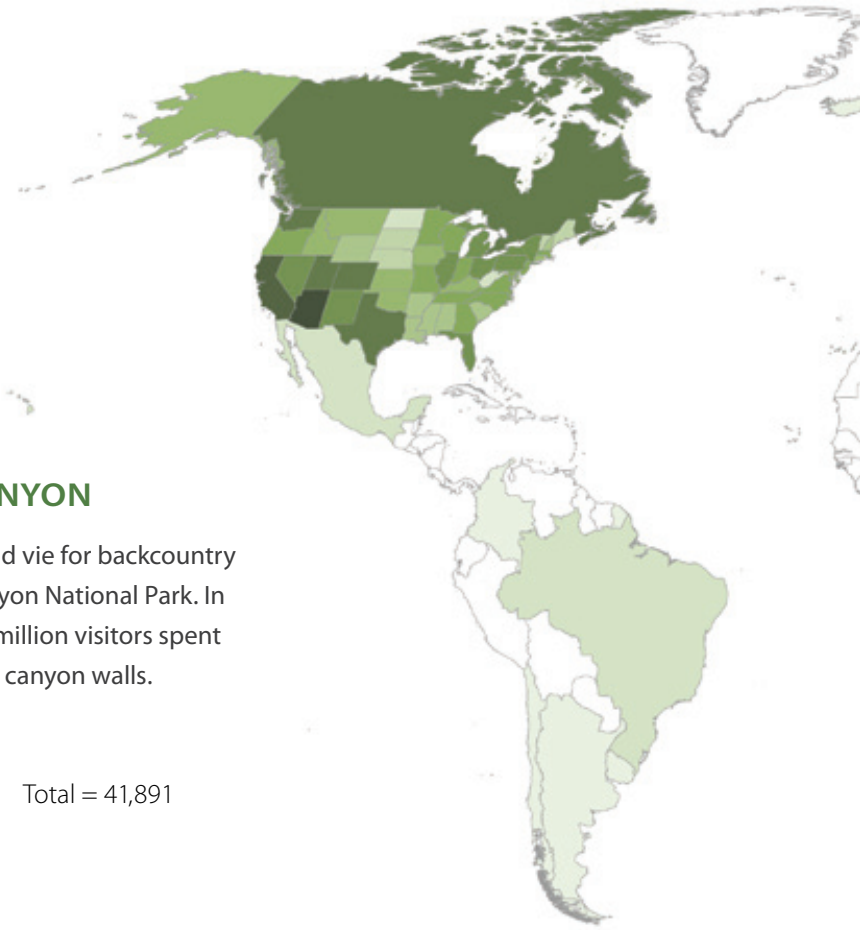
Just as most visitors to the Grand Canyon don't venture more than a few feet from the paved trails at the South Rim and thus miss out on the wonders below the rim, most have no idea that the origins of Grand Canyon National Park have deep roots in hunting and wildlife conservation. In 1906, more than 10 years before the Grand Canyon became a national park, Theodore Roosevelt set aside over 600,000 acres, designating the Grand Canyon Game Reserve for "the protection of game animals and birds" and described the area's mule deer as "the finest deer herd in America." As an avid outdoorsman and hunter, Roosevelt recognized the value of conservation as much as he enjoyed hunting and fishing, and he had the foresight to take action to ensure both wildlife and America's hunting and fishing heritage would live on for generations to come.

Today, most sportsmen, similar to most Grand Canyon Trust Advocate readers, continue to believe and invest in conservation and in Theodore Roosevelt's vision of pristine wild places and hunting and fishing for future generations. They share a love for the outdoors and a long-term perspective on the importance of clean air, clean water, and healthy wildlife habitat to make that vision real, and they take actions both on the ground and by influencing policies that affect the outdoors and wildlife.

But it seems like it's no longer enough to have a vision and share a passion for conservation and the outdoors. When the hypothetical scenarios that describe potential economic benefits of uranium mining or a tramway become dominant arguments in decision-making, we need to stand together as outdoor enthusiasts in making the economic impact argument for our passions as well.

To get a sense of the economic impact of Grand Canyon National Park you really only need to listen to the many languages spoken in the gift shop, or count the different license plates in the parking lot. Grand Canyon National Park is the second most-visited national park in the nation with over 6.3 million visitors per year spending over $947 million dollars to see Arizona's very own natural wonder of the world.

But travel just beyond the boundaries of the park and, in a much less visible manner, hunting and fishing become a critical driver of the



BACKPACKING THE GRAND CANYON

Each year, backpackers from around the world vie for backcountry permits to camp below the rim in Grand Canyon National Park. In 2018, less than one percent of the park's 6.3 million visitors spent one or more nights tucked in the folds of the canyon walls.

2018 Backpackers

1 12,319

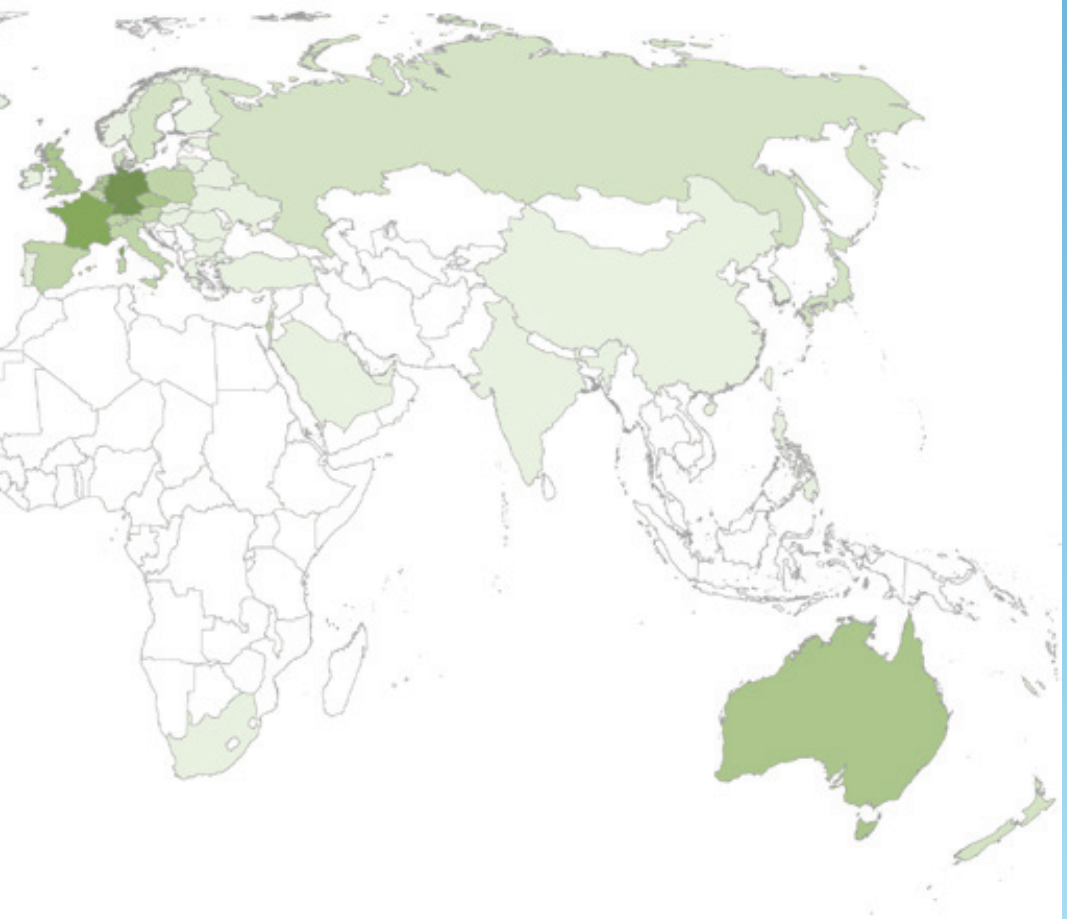
Total = 41,891

economic engine of outdoor recreation in northern Arizona. In fact, according to an Arizona Game and Fish Department survey, in Coconino County alone, sportsmen and women spent over $100 million and supported 1,860 jobs. That's not bad, considering there are only about 300,000 licensed hunters and anglers in the state. On a dollar-per-participant scale, the sporting community has always played an outsized role in contributions to the outdoor recreation economy. For every angler who takes advantage of an Arizona Game and Fish Department "free fishing day" at a local park with a Zebco 202 and a box of worms, scores of other sportsmen and women plan multi-day trips where they choose to spend their hard-earned discretionary income on equipment, licenses, gas, food, lodging, guides, and even separate scouting trips.

From a wildlife and conservation standpoint, there's a strong argument to be made that a dollar spent by a sportsman or sportswoman is even more valuable. The Pittman-Robertson Act for hunters and the Dingell-Johnson Act for anglers, enacted by forward-thinking and conservation-minded politicians back in the 1930s and 1950s respectively, apply a roughly 10 percent excise tax on money spent on hunting and fishing equipment. Those funds, completely additive and independent of state sales tax revenues, go back to the states to manage wildlife and wildlife habitat. For the Arizona Game and Fish Department, these funds are significant, contributing about $30 million to their $130 million annual budget with all that money ultimately going toward wildlife and habitat in Arizona.

Hunters and anglers are more than willing to pay a 10 percent tax on their gear knowing it goes back to wildlife and habitat management, and they recognize that their spending is an investment in the future. Their desire to contribute to habitat conservation in Arizona doesn't stop with the convenience of their spending at the sporting goods store either. Arizona's Habitat Partnership Committee, consisting primarily of leaders from Arizona's nonprofit sporting organizations, relies on the fundraising efforts of those groups to generate over $2.7 million annually and then works with them to determine how to apply those funds in the most impactful way to benefit wildlife and habitat. In all cases, Habitat Partnership Committee dollars require matching funds, and the Arizona sportsmen's groups lead the way here as well. They fundraise, provide volunteer labor for projects, and educate their members and others on the importance of conservation.

As a volunteer army dedicated to conservation, it's hard to match the impact of Arizona's sportsmen and sportswomen. From wildlife friendly fencing for pronghorn, to improving riparian areas, to building water catchments or hauling water to



remote areas on our public lands, to citizen science tracking water temperatures on streams for native trout, hunters and anglers spend countless hours improving habitat for Arizona's wildlife. Perhaps because they spend so much time observing the habits of animals and trends from season to season, sportsmen tend to understand the interdependencies of species and the impact of things like climate change on fires, drought, and ultimately wildlife. They know how fragile the ecosystem is on the Kaibab Plateau and that all wildlife, from mule deer to Abert's squirrels, will drink any available water to survive, with no way of understanding which seeps, springs, or puddles might contain uranium contamination.

The love of the outdoors and a vision to protect it for generations to come is common ground with all individuals who are drawn to conservation. Whether your argument is the inherent importance of wildlife, public lands, and getting outdoors, or the economic impact of hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation, the conclusion should be the same: taking care of our wild places, and the area around the Grand Canyon in particular, should be as high a priority now as it was when Roosevelt designated the Grand Canyon Game Reserve and then Grand Canyon National Monument over 100 years ago. Let's work together to keep the shock from ever destroying the awe.

Scott Garlid is the conservation director of the Arizona Wildlife Federation (AWF), Arizona's oldest conservation organization consisting of members whose interests range from hunting and fishing to wildlife watching and pollinator gardens, but who never fail to find common ground in the conservation and sound management of Arizona's wildlife and wildlife habitat. AWF partners with the Grand Canyon Trust on a number of conservation issues, most notably in supporting a permanent ban on uranium mining around the Grand Canyon.

Running in Place

How an ultra-running camp depends on public lands

By Rob Krar

MY TIME HERE WAS MEANT TO BE TEMPORARY. But like so many, the beauty of northern Arizona and the sense of community stole my heart, and I've now called Flagstaff home for the past 15 years. The landscape provides a visual feast—from the largest contiguous ponderosa pine forest in the world, to vast swaths of beautiful desolation where a mile-long train takes only a sliver of the distant horizon. The stark contrasts from one area to the next are stunning. Other senses become fully immersed, too. One of the greatest gifts this area provides me is the ability to stand on the rim of the Grand Canyon and ponder its depths whenever I want or need it most.

Deep below its rim I've experienced a stillness and silence so quiet it almost screams. On the other hand, midsummer monsoon storms crack with thunder and lightning so intense it sends shivers down my spine. The Grand Canyon region constantly reminds us of our place in our world, creates a sense of time and space, and provides us with an escape from an increasingly chaotic world and the concrete jungle of our modern age. It is in these wild places I found the courage to share my struggles with others, finding a common bond when it is most needed for so many. My time in the outdoors has taught me the incredible healing and nourishing power natural landscapes can provide.

I'm fortunate to spend so much time in these landscapes as a professional athlete and small-business owner. I've been a runner most of my life, and although running wasn't what drew me to Flagstaff, I couldn't have found a better location for it. Somewhat on a whim, I ran my first ultra-distance race (any distance longer than 26.2 miles) in 2013. While "only" 50 kilometers, I fell in love with the intimate connection of mind and body and the loneliness of spending so many hours deep in thought. I dove headfirst into the burgeoning sport and quickly found myself competing with the best in the world over distances ranging from 50 kilometers to 100 miles. Success in competing allowed me to leave my professional job and pursue running and other dreams full-time. The ultra-running community welcomed me with open arms—it allowed me to feel comfortable in my own skin and flourish. A strong desire to give back to that community was the genesis of the small business I operate with my wife, Christina, and the birth of the running camps we host several times a year in Flagstaff and surrounding areas.

Over the past five years we have welcomed more than 100 beginner and intermediate trail and ultrarunners from around the world. Our most recent camp included folks from six countries and 12 states. While our camps are either four or six nights, many attendees extend their stay several days before or

...more often than not campers leave with a full heart and sense of awe and wonderment for the trails and landscapes their feet transported them over during their stay.

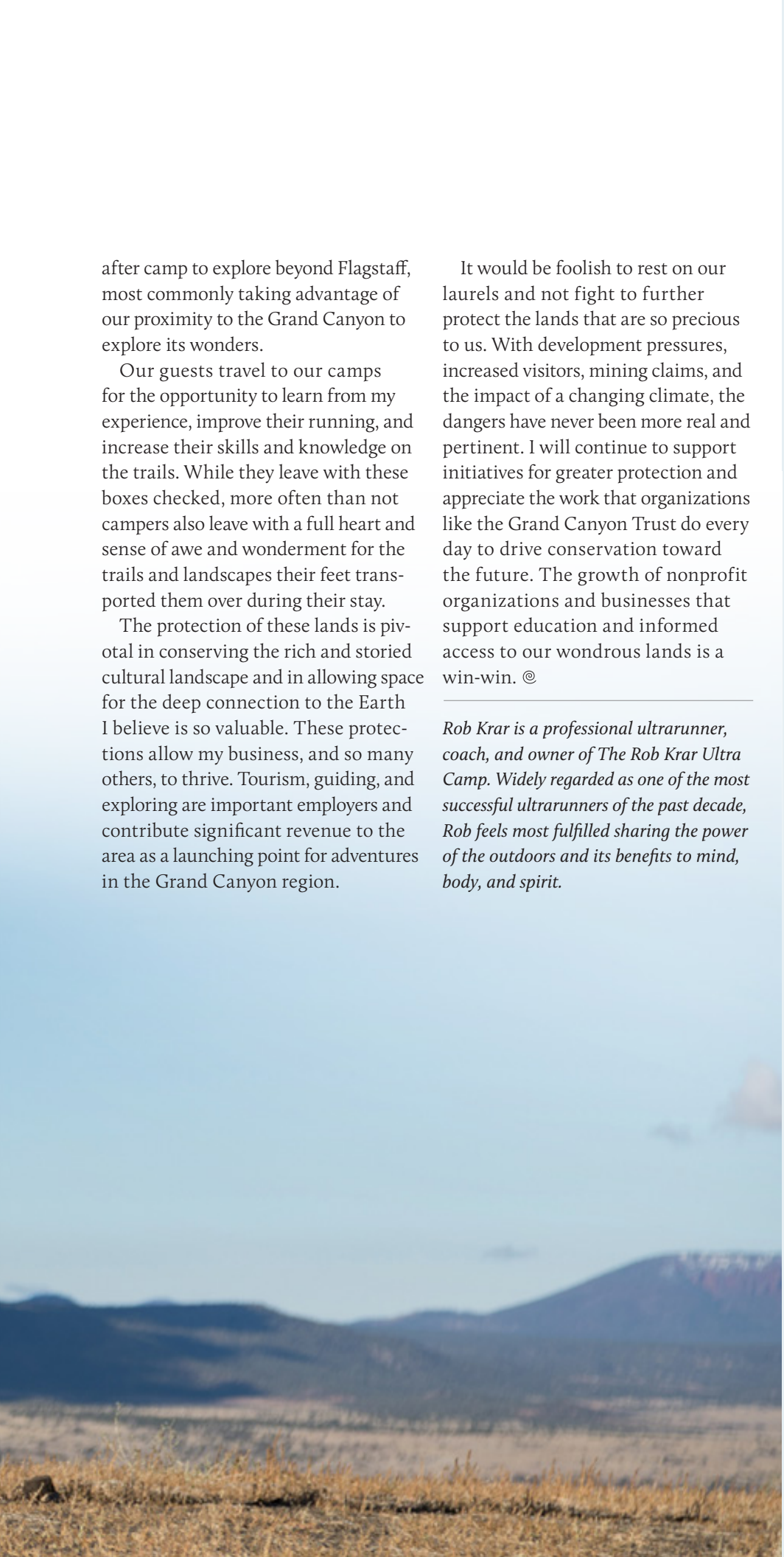
after camp to explore beyond Flagstaff, most commonly taking advantage of our proximity to the Grand Canyon to explore its wonders.

Our guests travel to our camps for the opportunity to learn from my experience, improve their running, and increase their skills and knowledge on the trails. While they leave with these boxes checked, more often than not campers also leave with a full heart and sense of awe and wonderment for the trails and landscapes their feet transported them over during their stay.

The protection of these lands is pivotal in conserving the rich and storied cultural landscape and in allowing space for the deep connection to the Earth I believe is so valuable. These protections allow my business, and so many others, to thrive. Tourism, guiding, and exploring are important employers and contribute significant revenue to the area as a launching point for adventures in the Grand Canyon region.

It would be foolish to rest on our laurels and not fight to further protect the lands that are so precious to us. With development pressures, increased visitors, mining claims, and the impact of a changing climate, the dangers have never been more real and pertinent. I will continue to support initiatives for greater protection and appreciate the work that organizations like the Grand Canyon Trust do every day to drive conservation toward the future. The growth of nonprofit organizations and businesses that support education and informed access to our wondrous lands is a win-win. ©

Rob Krar is a professional ultrarunner, coach, and owner of The Rob Krar Ultra Camp. Widely regarded as one of the most successful ultrarunners of the past decade, Rob feels most fulfilled sharing the power of the outdoors and its benefits to mind, body, and spirit.



JAMES Q MARTIN

NOW IS THE TIME...
to Give to the Grand Canyon Endowment

For decades, you and supporters like you have donated to the Grand Canyon Trust to protect the Grand Canyon and the Colorado Plateau from ever-shifting threats.

Together, we've improved air quality at the Grand Canyon and across the plateau, protected the Colorado River and nearby communities from uranium contamination, stopped inappropriate development from spilling below the rim, and much more.

While we celebrate these wins, we also know that unforeseeable challenges will emerge in the coming years and decades. We assure you that we will always rise to meet this uncertain future with unshakeable fortitude and an ambitious vision. Yet, our shared success will require sustainable financial strength.

This year marks the 100-year anniversary of Grand Canyon National Park. To commemorate the occasion and ensure we have the essential operating revenue

RICK GOLDWASSER

to continue to safeguard this remarkable place for future generations, we've established the Grand Canyon Endowment. The fund currently has $5 million in principal; to sustain our programs, the long-term need is $25 million.

To learn more and contribute, please contact Libby Ellis at lellis@grandcanyontrust.org

AARON PAUL

Colorado River Trip inspires Grabe Family to support the Grand Canyon Endowment

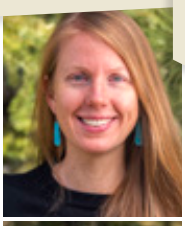
"As kids, we'd all been to the Grand Canyon—we knew it was majestic and beautiful. But to experience it below the rim—within the canyon, and on the river—was unforgettable. Our guide, Robby Pitagora, made the canyon come to life with his passionate stories about the river, its rapids, the rock layers, the Native peoples, and the threats. We didn't realize that development plans for projects such as the Little Colorado tramway could be in play. It's a national park, after all, but it became quite clear that the canyon won't be protected forever unless we all take a stand.

At the take out, my siblings and I asked each other, 'What can we do?' We decided to pool our resources and, in honor of Robby, make a $20,000 gift to the Grand Canyon Trust's endowment knowing that this investment would help ensure future generations—our kids and others—will experience the canyon the same way we did. The Grand Canyon Trust will be there to safeguard the canyon for generations to come, and we're grateful we could help."

—Lisa Grabe-Taffe

Thanks to Doug Grabe, Caryn Grabe Robinson, Lisa Grabe-Taffe, and Laura Grabe, the Trust's conservation programs will continue to "Keep the Canyon Grand."

POSTCARDS from the FIELD



NORTH RIM RANCHES
Let the Pronghorn Roam

Wildlife needs connected habitats, and obstacles like roads and fences can sever an animal's access to resources. This spring, we worked with wildlife managers and volunteers to make another 1.25 miles of livestock fence on North Rim Ranches passable for pronghorn. Because these animals cannot jump fences like mule deer do, we raised the bottom barbed wire and replaced it with a smooth strand to allow pronghorn safe passage underneath. Though the livestock are not affected by the fence update, our wildlife cameras show that the pronghorn have definitely taken note. To date, Grand Canyon Trust volunteers have helped make 15 miles of livestock fence on North Rim Ranches friendly for pronghorn crossing. And we are not alone in our efforts. Neighboring ranchers have also made changes to the bottom wires of their fences in support of pronghorn movement—a true team effort for healthier, more resilient wildlife habitat.

Cerissa Hoglander

Land Conservation Program Manager

URANIUM
Testifying on Capitol Hill

Last year, the administration listed uranium as a "critical mineral." This year, to enhance access to critical minerals, the administration recommended streamlining environmental protections and reviewing existing mining bans and land designations such as national parks, national monuments, and wildlife refuges. Recently, the president declined to impose trade measures that would have artificially increased demand for domestically mined uranium, and which could have incentivized mines near the Grand Canyon and Bears Ears National Monument. However, he simultaneously created a working group to examine other options to help mining operations. In June, I testified before two legislative hearings in Washington: one on a bill that would remove uranium from the critical minerals list and the other on the Grand Canyon Centennial Protection Act, which would permanently ban new uranium mining on 1 million acres surrounding the Grand Canyon. If passed, both bills will serve as a strong line of defense against attacks on our public lands.

Amber Reimondo

Energy Program Director

STAFF HEADSHOTS
BY TIM PETERSON

ED MOSS

ADRIAN HERNANDEZ

UTAH FORESTS
Pinyon and Juniper Tours

Not all pinyon and juniper removal projects are awful. Which means that when the Fishlake National Forest proposes to remove 90 percent of pinyon and juniper on up to 340,000 acres throughout the entire national forest via chaining (dragging anchor chains between two tractors), bullhogging (using large machinery to reduce mature pinyon and juniper trees to large piles of woodchips), fire, and/or chainsaws, we go visit as many of those proposed sites as possible. With the help of volunteers and staff, we've provided dozens of site reports with our recommendations to the Fishlake National Forest. We are joining a two-day pinyon and juniper tour that we suggested the forest organize for interested parties, including the state, county governments, scientists, and citizens, and we are learning everything we can about both pinyon and juniper. It's what the pinyon and juniper can expect from the Grand Canyon Trust: we're working to have their backs.

Mary H. O'Brien

Mary O'Brien
Utah Forests Program Director

GRAND CANYON
Intertribal Centennial Conversations

In late April, Grand Canyon National Park invited several members of the Grand Canyon Intertribal Centennial Conversations group to teach at its training program for interpretive rangers. As part of the park's centennial celebration, the intertribal group is committed to its mission of "commemorating our indigenous presence and sharing our true history while we begin to heal, build, and strengthen relationships with all people to protect Grand Canyon's heritage." During a break in the training program, Coleen Kaska, Jack Pongyesva, Octavius Seowtewa, and Sarana Riggs visited a medallion with the names of Grand Canyon-affiliated tribes etched into cement along a popular walkway leading to Mather Point on the park's south rim. Putting faces to the tribal names, each member stood on his or her respective affiliations, in this case the Havasupai, Hopi, Zuni, Navajo, and Apache communities. The Trust's Grand Canyon Program manager, Sarana Riggs, put one foot in each of her connected heritages.

Roger Clark

Roger Clark
Grand Canyon Program Director

RISING LEADERS
A Kane Ranch Sunrise

Together with Terra Birds, a nonprofit dedicated to youth empowerment and career advancement, two of the Trust's Rising Leaders Program staff and six students spent three days maintaining native-plant gardens, envisioning sustainable landscapes, and exploring a sense of belonging.

As I slept out on the porch of Kane Ranch, an old homestead overlooking the Vermilion Cliffs, I turned to face the coming sunrise, a mistake that offered a silver lining: a breathtaking view. By 5:30 a.m. several Ponderosa High School students were silently watching the sunbeams hit the ground and race up their tents. At lunchtime I saw the photos they had taken and watched them paint the colors they had seen. Their reflections pointed toward creating space for quiet and self-expression in their daily lives. What we're doing out here goes beyond the fieldwork. We're building relationships with ourselves, one another, and the landscapes of the Colorado Plateau.

Chelsea Griffin
Rising Leaders Program Coordinator

TIM PETERSON

ED MOSS

NATIONAL MONUMENTS

Bears Ears National Monument

This summer, President Trump decided not to impose quotas requiring U.S. nuclear power producers to buy 25 percent of their uranium from U.S. mines. Instead, the president created the United States Nuclear Fuel Working Group to make recommendations on how to "reinvigorate the entire nuclear fuel supply chain."

Although the uranium mining industry's latest attempt to artificially boost its bottom line failed, the threat of toxic mining remains. There are hundreds of active mining claims within the original Bears Ears boundary. The president's working group could still recommend measures that make mining uranium at Bears Ears feasible. Stay tuned.

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

In good news for Grand Staircase, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) is investigating whether the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is violating specific instructions contained in every budget appropriation law passed since 2002. The law says that Interior cannot use any taxpayer money to conduct pre-leasing studies for coal, oil, and gas on lands contained in monuments as they existed on January 20, 2001. That's exactly what the BLM's revised plan for Grand Staircase is doing, and that's why the GAO was asked to investigate.

Tim Peterson
Cultural Landscapes Program Director

VOLUNTEER

Cows and Collaborations

We're out on the ground this summer, training volunteers to document what ungrazed land looks like. It's probably not what you're used to seeing. Native grasses spring up between sagebrush, aquatic plants surround the water's edge, and bees and butterflies swarm flowering plants. There aren't many places like this.

We canvassed the Colorado Plateau, calling federal and state land agencies to determine where ungrazed areas exist. We compiled scientific reports containing data on the effects of grazing. Now, we're tag-teaming with volunteers, including friends at the Great Old Broads for Wilderness, to train citizen scientists to fill in a map with photographs and observations of these ungrazed areas formally closed to livestock grazing. This is advocacy in action: mobilizing people to collect data that can be harnessed to improve livestock grazing management and policies into the future.

Lisa Winters
Research and Stewardship Volunteer Coordinator

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO THE GRAND CANYON TRUST?

I'm a member of the Great Old Broads for Wilderness and a broadband leader for the Northern San Juan Broadband. In June 2019, we partnered with the Trust for a volunteer trip.

I've long been fascinated by grazing on Western lands and knew that the cows and sheep were having an impact, but until the "Where Cows Don't Graze" volunteer trip, I didn't know how to evaluate those impacts. Now I can share my understanding with my fellow broads. For a first-time Trust volunteer, I received an incredible education, and I value that this training and new knowledge may help guide future land-management actions on the plateau.

ED MOSS

Robyn Cascade
Hometown: **Ridgway, CO**
Volunteer and member since: **2019**

WHY VOLUNTEER?

I spent my career working in environmental education and retired in 2014 from the Ridgway Public Schools. I realized I could impact public-lands policies by encouraging people, especially youth, to connect with the land and understand land-use history.

Wild places truly saved my life. Now that I'm retired, I want to give back and make sure that I'm speaking for the things that cannot speak for themselves—the river, the snowpack, the species of this land, the air. Nature has intrinsic value, and I advocate for wild lands to make sure future generations can benefit from and experience wild lands too.

Thank you, Robyn!

From the bottom of the Grand Canyon to a city near you

PETE MCBRIDE

When author Kevin Fedarko and filmmaker Pete McBride hiked the entire length of the Grand Canyon, they got a lot more than they bargained for. Now they're bringing tales of blistered feet and trail-less miles to audiences across the country, while shedding light on threats to our national treasure.

REBECCA HALE

Join Kevin and Pete on a National Geographic Live! tour sponsored by the Grand Canyon Trust.

2019 – 2020 TOUR DATES

Chicago, IL	September 24 2019
Salt Lake City, UT	September 27 2019
Boulder, CO	September 30 2019
Philadelphia, PA	November 13 2019
Las Vegas, NV	November 21 2019
La Jolla, CA	December 12 2019
Park City, UT	To be announced
Portland, ME	To be announced

Ticketing information at grandcanyontrust.org/natgeo

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE!

Downtown Flagstaff, Arizona on a Friday night. PHOTOS BLAKE MCCORD

Grand Business

Protecting the Grand Canyon matters to northern Arizona business owners. We caught up with Steve Finch, president and CEO of the Flagstaff Lodging, Restaurant & Tourism Association, to find out why.

How important is tourism?

Flagstaff is a city whose economy depends on tourism. Look at our restaurant ratio to the population. And the same thing with hotels. We're sitting at over 5,000 rooms in the city right now.

Are your members all hotel and restaurant owners?

We just recently added "tourism" into our title so that people would understand that we're not just restaurants, we're not just lodging, we're laser tag, coffee shops, golf courses. We have a membership, but there's nobody in the business community that's not impacted by what we do. If you're working in a factory, or in retail, or the service industry, saying "tourism doesn't impact me," well absolutely it does because the tourists come here and leave their dollars behind, and that allows our cost of living to be less because they pay taxes, and therefore our property taxes don't have to be as high.

How does the tourism economy effect the community?

It's about $180 to $185 per day, per person left in Flagstaff for people who spend a night. If they don't spend a night, it's about $85 to $90. The more people that stay here, the better the city becomes, because there are more tax dollars. We have sales tax, and then the BBB tax on top of that. The fact is, if you've got one person who spends $100, or four people who spend $400, which does the city get more from? And businesses have the $400 in their till. If tourism was to go away, a lot of businesses wouldn't be able to afford to keep their doors open.

What role does Grand Canyon tourism play in that?

Without the Grand Canyon, our tourism would probably be a third to 20 percent of what it is right now. The Grand Canyon is one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. And we have to protect that. We want to make sure that the park stays protected not for our generation, but for our kids' generation, and our future kids' generations.

The hotels and restaurants, even the retail shops here in town, they're all linked. How many souvenir shops do you have downtown? How many fudge shops? They're all in it together. Even though people may not work directly in the park, or in a restaurant or a lodge, they're still benefiting because tourism comes into northern Arizona. You'd be hard-pressed to tell me a business here in town that isn't benefiting in some way from tourism.

Why does protecting the Grand Canyon matter for business owners?

People today are much more health conscious. They understand more about uranium, and the uranium dust and tailings left behind. Native Americans have been raising these issues all along, and they're finally being heard. That information is rippling out. And if tourists look it up, they can find out just how dangerous that material is. It's bad enough that we're fighting to get the existing tailings removed, but then they want to turn around and create new mines. Representatives of the uranium industry have said, "It's going to be sealed, it's safe." But what about the what-ifs? What if it spills and goes into a riverbed? "Oh, it'll be polluted for a while, and everything downstream of it will be polluted for a while." How long is that while? That's what we're really worried about. And that's why we're really against new mines. The land is not that rich with uranium. The mining isn't a long-term operation, yet it still produces all these contaminated tailings. My concern is that it's going to scare away people, if it hasn't already.

Where does protecting the Grand Canyon from uranium mining rank for business owners?

I'd love to say the Grand Canyon was first and foremost on their radar, and truthfully I bet they wish it was too. Just the cost of having a business here in town, that's their top concern. They're trying to make enough money in the summer to make it through the winter. It's very difficult. I've got people who've owned restaurants for several years and they actually have a second job themselves, they worry about paying their staff first, their suppliers next, and then, guess what, there isn't anything left. They want their businesses to thrive; they want to pass them on to their kids.

But that is not to say that the Grand Canyon isn't there. It is. They're 100 percent on board. I'll say the blessing is having the Grand Canyon Trust as the point on this. I'm really proud to be associated with the Trust in supporting this effort to protect our Grand Canyon.

You know, if that was the only ground in all the U.S. that had uranium and it was extremely rich and profitable, I would probably be a little hard-pressed to say that. But there are other sites that have much better uranium sources and they're less expensive to pull out of the ground. So if I can go to a place that's easier access, less cost, and I can get it to market and my profit is more, why worry about going into a national park? You've got a two-lane road going in and coming out of that place. The last thing we want are uranium trucks going through; the road's already busy enough. Our members understand that the Grand Canyon Trust is working to keep the Grand Canyon grand, and they're 100 percent in sync with it, which is really cool.

GRAND CANYON TRUST

2601 N. Fort Valley Road Flagstaff, Arizona 86001 (928) 774-7488 **grandcanyontrust.org**

Members Make Our Work Possible

DAWN KISH

CAROLINE AND TOM HOYT

TURQUOISE CIRCLE MEMBERS SINCE: 2001

MOST RECENT TRIP: Kane Ranch

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS: The hikes were wonderful. We really liked the other Turquoise Circle members we met on the trip, and the staff made the trip flow seamlessly. It was a priceless adventure. And the food was great!

WHAT'S YOUR NEXT TRIP? A Grand Canyon river trip next year!

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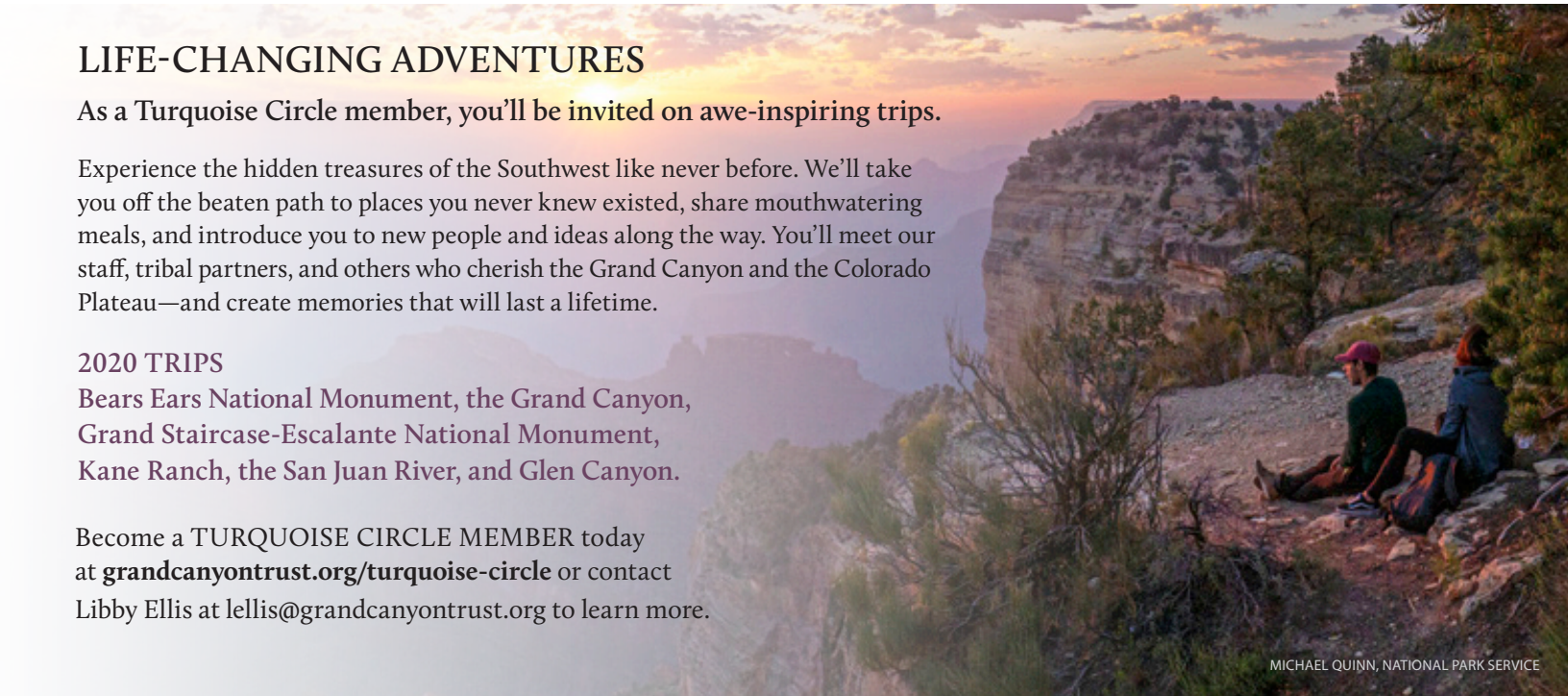
2020 TRIPS

Bears Ears National Monument, the Grand Canyon, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Kane Ranch, the San Juan River, and Glen Canyon.

Become a TURQUOISE CIRCLE MEMBER today at **grandcanyontrust.org/turquoise-circle** or contact Libby Ellis at lellis@grandcanyontrust.org to learn more.



MICHAEL QUINN, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE