

GRAND CANYON TRUST COLORADO PLATEAU

SPRING 2017

Advocate

THE NATIONAL MONUMENTS

ISSUE

Indigenous Rights
at Bears Ears

PLUS

Defending the Antiquities Act
Utah's "Land Grab" Game Plan



LETTER from the Executive Director

BILL HEDDEN

Early this year, the owners of the Navajo Generating Station (NGS) near Page, Arizona bowed to economic reality and decided to shut down the massive coal-fired power plant by December 2019, or sooner if they cannot negotiate an agreement with the Navajo Nation to dismantle the plant after the site lease expires. Despite 40 years of efficient operations to amortize the initial investment, and despite owning a dedicated railroad that delivers the coal from a nearby mine, power from the plant today costs about \$15 more per megawatt hour than electricity bought from the regional grid. Cheap natural gas and renewable energy have made coal uneconomic, even for generators, like NGS, that have yet to modernize pollution controls.

Never mind that the experts who have been operating the plant and paying the bills have joined utilities across the nation in deciding that these coal jobs are gone. Just as doom was pronounced for NGS, state officials in Utah urged President Trump to do away with much or all of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument so that they can go after the extraordinarily remote and geologically unfavorable coal deposits on the Kaiparowits Plateau. They do not have a market for the coal, but they claim that hundreds of billions of dollars are locked away in the monument.

We have definitely entered a new political era in which facts are only dimly related to actions and anyone can summon “alternative facts” from the ether. Much of the cherished commons of our democracy, including our shared inheritance of public lands, is going to be at grave risk of senseless assault. It will require hitherto untapped reserves of patience and doggedness to continue to hold up a light of reason and compassion against the darkness.

We offer this issue of the *Advocate* as a sort of candle for that work, reminding you and ourselves of how we came to have the blessings of public lands in America, and how that inheritance becomes richer and more meaningful when we enlarge the story, as at the Bears Ears National Monument, to include the wisdom of the Native Americans from whom the land was originally taken. The story of Navajo Generating Station on page 22 reminds us that we could be at a historic transition point where clean energy is cheaper than dirty. The stakes in rebuilding our democracy and public discourse have never been higher.

Sincerely,

Bill Hedden

ON THE COVER

Hands are a telling reminder of the individuals woven into the fabric of the Bears Ears landscape. Reverse handprints above an Ancestral Puebloan structure in the Bears Ears National Monument. JONATHAN BAILEY

EDITOR’S NOTE

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ADVOCATE STAFF

EDITOR: Ashley Davidson
ASSISTANT EDITOR: Ellen Heyn
DESIGN: Joan Carstensen
CARTOGRAPHY: Stephanie Smith
PRINTING: Lithotech

HEADQUARTERS

2601 N. Fort Valley Road
Flagstaff, AZ 86001
(928) 774-7488 ph (928) 774-7570 fax

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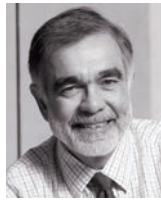


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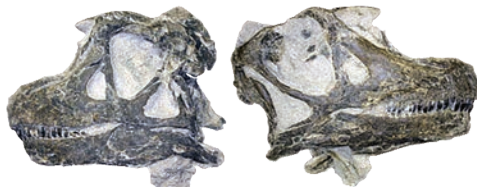
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OF DINOSAURS AND SAGEBRUSH

The Value of the Colorado Plateau's National Monuments

By Hillary Hoffmann

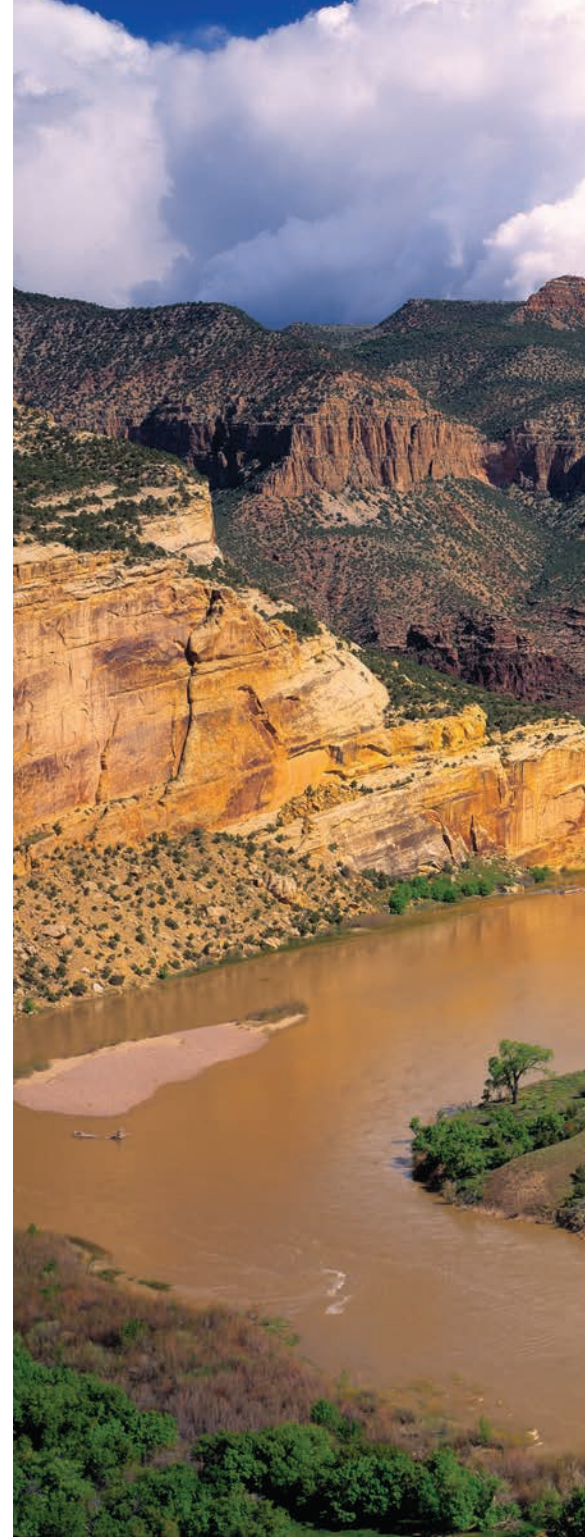


One of the first family vacations I can remember was a trip to Dinosaur National Monument in northwest Colorado, or just “Dinosaur,” as we called it. We packed up the family pickup truck, headed west on Highway 40 from our home in the mountains near Steamboat Springs, Colorado, and drove for several hours toward the Utah border. I didn’t know anything about where we were going, but, judging by the name, I was expecting something big and exciting—maybe a giant plastic *Tyrannosaurus rex* waiting to greet us at the entrance, or a museum with looming dinosaur skeletons, an animated tour guide, and lots of fossils with complicated Latin names.

When we finally arrived at the eastern entrance to the monument, my eight-year-old expectations were promptly crushed. The grand entrance was a vast sea of sagebrush and a dirt road leading into the middle of nowhere. There was no store, no museum, and definitely no plastic dinosaurs.

For those who have visited the national monuments of the Colorado

Plateau, this story might sound familiar. With a few exceptions, like Colorado National Monument, where you can see the reason for the monument’s existence even before you enter, you often don’t really know what’s there until you go in and starting looking around. And it might take some searching, by Jeep, on foot, or at the end of a rappel rope. In many parts



of the plateau’s monuments, there are no footpaths, let alone roads. But the seeming emptiness belies a diversity of scientific and historic resources found nowhere else in the country.

From the eastern entrance to Dinosaur National Monument, it’s hard to see what I mean. Turning off of Highway 40, the road leading in unfolds on a sagebrush plain. Along the way, there



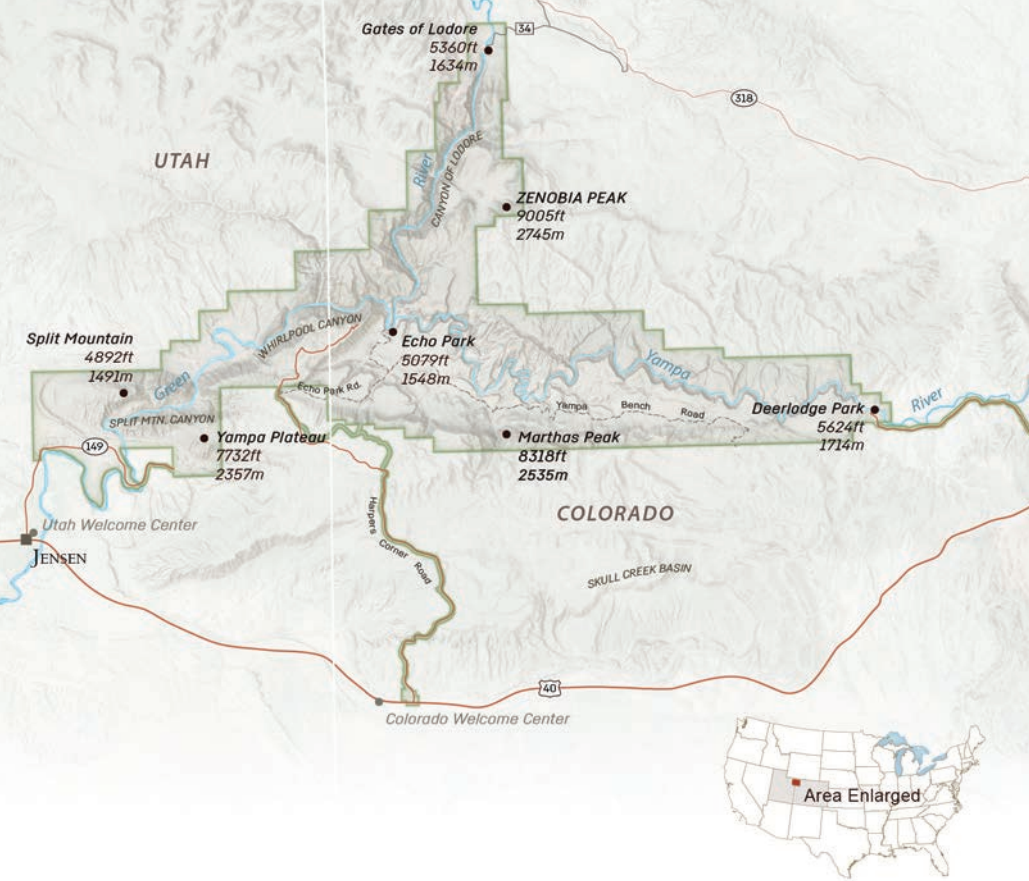
LEFT: An *Abydosaurus mcintoshi* skull found overlooking the Green River at Dinosaur National Monument. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ABOVE: Echo Park, Dinosaur National Monument. TOM TILL

is virtually nothing but desert—no parking lots, signs, or other indicators that you should stop to get out of the car. You might see pronghorn antelope, if you're lucky. If you decide not to turn back though, and follow the road far enough, you will find that it eventually drops over the edge of a 1,000-foot cliff into a canyon where the Green River meets the Yampa. If you head down

into the abyss, the road turns to dirt, switchbacks down the cliff, and leads to a little oasis called Echo Park.

On your way down that dirt road, the monument's diversity starts to appear, like what happens in the Grand Staircase on your way up the Kelly Grade to the top of the Kaiparowits Plateau. Passing over and through the alien topography of

Dinosaur, you might see a fossil, a petroglyph, or maybe even an eagle. If you do some homework, you will learn that you are crossing unique geological formations holding the largest variety of paleontological resources in the nation, as well as petroglyphs carved by mysterious people who lived on the Colorado Plateau over a thousand years ago.



EXPLORE

Dinosaur National Monument

Curious about the creatures that once roamed the Colorado Plateau? Visit Dinosaur National Monument for a glimpse of the giant reptiles that once ruled the land. Besides a trove of fossils, you'll find plenty of trails, miles of rivers, and scenic vistas!

WHERE: Utah/Colorado border

CLOSEST TOWNS: Vernal, UT and Dinosaur, CO

COST: \$20 per vehicle

More at grandcanyontrust.org/dinosaur-national-monument

If it is still a struggle to understand what is “monumental” here, consider the statute that created the monument—the Antiquities Act of 1906. In this statute, Congress determined that some of the nation’s natural and cultural resources, along with its lands, were such an important part of the fabric of American identity that presidents should be able to protect them as national monuments. So Congress gave presidents the authority to set aside “objects of historic or scientific interest” and the lands (and waters) containing them. Sixteen presidents have exercised this authority to set aside certain places and declare them off-limits from certain forms of development.

Because of its name and its history, many people associate the Antiquities Act with protecting archaeological sites and ancient artifacts. This is certainly one purpose of the act, protecting places like Canyon de Chelly because they contain important archaeological ruins and objects. But the Antiquities Act is much broader than that. Natural

features of the land itself, or places where significant cultural events have occurred, can be “objects of historic or scientific interest” too. This is the reason that our nation’s national monuments encompass everything from the marine biodiversity around the Hawaiian Islands, to Mount Rushmore and the Statue of Liberty, to places of vital cultural importance, such as the A.G. Gaston Motel in Birmingham, Alabama, which served as the headquarters for the civil rights campaign of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the spring of 1963.

This is also the purpose for protecting the Colorado Plateau monuments, including the vast, dry desolation of Dinosaur. The primary value President Wilson saw there was the great paleontological wealth. Some of that had been unearthed in 1915, when the monument was established, but some of it had not, and those lands were threatened by potential coal and phosphate development. So, President Wilson declared that all of the fossil

wealth of the monument would be protected forevermore, whether in situ or in the glass cases of the Quarry Museum. And that was enough for the Antiquities Act. It didn’t matter that the lands containing those fossils looked like nothing more than a dry sagebrush sea. Or that they contained vast coal and phosphate deposits. President Wilson saw value in the lands containing the fossils and preserved them under his Antiquities Act authority, and it was his vision that the Antiquities Act respects.

Many of the proclamations establishing the national monuments of the Colorado Plateau generated controversies, sometimes boiling over into litigation, because local residents and officials sometimes disagreed with a president about the region’s value. When President Clinton established Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument, both were challenged by private interest groups and counties who felt that

Clinton's designations were too large to protect the values enumerated in the proclamations. Yet, the courts evaluating these arguments ultimately dismissed them, concluding that Congress's intent in the Antiquities Act was to give a president the authority to choose places and objects that, in the president's opinion, merited protection, and to set boundaries around them that would ensure their protection. Congress gave the president a judgment call, in other words, so it was not for the courts to place their own judgments above those of the president.

Despite these controversies, no court has ever invalidated a monument proclamation. And after more than a hundred years of presidential proclamations, there are now more than 20 national monuments protecting the myriad values of the Colorado Plateau. Thanks to presidents from Woodrow Wilson to Barack Obama, the nation has Hovenweep, Grand Staircase-Escalante, Sunset Crater Volcano, Walnut Canyon, Bears Ears, and many other monuments. Like Dinosaur, these monuments are repositories of exceptional scientific value, from the 1,000-foot cinder cone of Sunset Crater, to rare desert natural areas holding strong since the Pleistocene.

As President Clinton explained in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument proclamation, the Colorado Plateau monuments also reflect a human history that is longer and more developed than anywhere else in the country. Archaeologists tell us that the southern plateau is the American cradle of civilization, where the first villages, towns, and then cities of this nation were built. Vestiges of these first communities are visible in Canyon de Chelly, Grand Staircase, Bears Ears, and other monuments, and signs of these early inhabitants are still visible



Whirlpool Canyon, Dinosaur National Monument. TOM TILL

Archaeologists tell us that the southern plateau is the American cradle of civilization, where the first villages, towns, and then cities of this nation were built.

on many of the canyon walls. Tribes still maintain strong connections to places protected by monument designations, such as the Bears Ears buttes.

The Colorado Plateau monuments reflect a long span of American history, from the formation of the continent to the present day. They are living testaments to that history and continue to reveal their value with each passing year. In 2010, Dinosaur National Monument yielded its latest treasures in the form of two complete skulls of *Abydosaurus mcintoshi*, a previously unknown species of sauropod that roamed the swampy marshes near Echo Park during the latter stages of the Cretaceous Period. Thanks to President Wilson's foresight in 1915, I can now take my kids out there to see them. ©

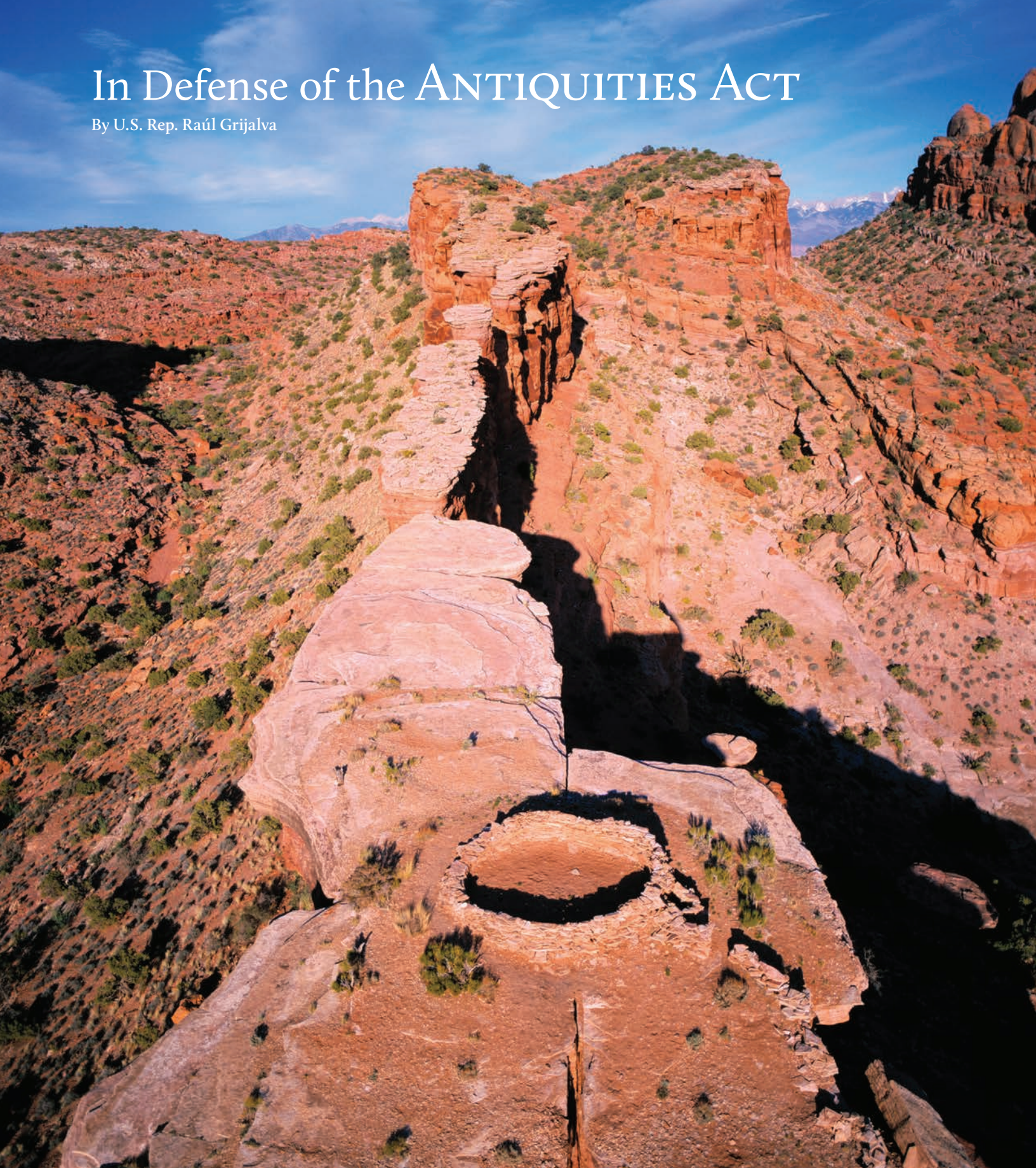
Hillary Hoffmann is a native of north-west Colorado and a professor at Vermont Law School, where she teaches courses on public lands and federal Indian law.



National Monuments of the Colorado Plateau

In Defense of the ANTIQUITIES ACT

By U.S. Rep. Raúl Grijalva



Watchtower ruins. TOM TILL

No president or Congress has ever undone a large national monument declaration.

NATIVE AMERICAN ROOTS

on this continent go back much further than the founding of the United States. We should remember when we reflect that this country's early policies of Indian removal and genocide subjugated millions of people, and, in too many cases, wiped out thousands of years of history.

New settlers moving to the West in the mid-19th century noticed evidence of great civilizations they saw as abandoned. Some, like Colorado cowboy Richard Wetherill, were moved to help protect places like Mesa Verde, but even those who meant well were often complicit in plunder. Countless artifacts were placed on settlers' mantelpieces, shipped by wagon and rail to Chicago and New York, and freighted on slow boats to Europe. By 1900, "pot hunting" was one of the region's most popular pastimes.

This appalled some witnesses to the destruction of a cultural record that took millennia to build. Anthropologist Edgar Lee Hewett led the effort to pass the Antiquities Act of 1906, which criminalized the destruction or removal of historic resources and artifacts from public lands by non-scientists. The act also authorized the president, "in his discretion, to declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and pre-historic structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States to be national monuments."

President Theodore Roosevelt used the act right away to protect Devils Tower in Wyoming. He used it 17 more times in the next two years, protecting places like Natural Bridges National Monument (now surrounded by the new Bears Ears National Monument), the Petrified Forest, and the Grand



Canyon. While each of these actions was controversial, few today would suggest undoing protections for the Grand Canyon.

The act itself can only be used to designate monuments, but Congress often elevates those monuments to national parks. Since its passage, the Antiquities Act has been used more than 150 times by American presidents of both parties to protect some of what are now the crown jewels of our national park system, including icons like the Grand Canyon, Zion, and Bryce Canyon. Protecting those crown jewels required presidents with vision and members of Congress willing to take the next step.

No president has protected more land, both by naming new national monuments and expanding existing ones, than Barack Obama. Among other farsighted decisions, he wisely used the law to honor those historically underrepresented by our federal lands, including Hispanics, the LGBTQI community, and African and Native Americans.

A big part of that legacy is his decision to designate Bears Ears National Monument, a designation Native American tribes actively requested. The proclamation protecting the area identifies Native American traditional knowledge as both a resource to be protected and a tool to be used in monument management. It draws together federal land managers and Native Americans to manage the monument. Bears Ears is a victory for the land and for tribal sovereignty.

But President Obama left some important conservation business unfinished when he departed the White House. I can only express my profound disappointment at his failure to designate Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument, which many tribes had also requested and supported. The Grand Canyon is one of the world's most iconic natural places, not just for its beauty but for its importance to Native American culture and history. A national monument would have made permanent an existing ban on uranium mining

80 percent of Western voters support keeping all new national monuments designated in the last decade.

around the Grand Canyon, which expires in 2032 and will almost certainly come under political attack much sooner.

I was proud to offer the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument Act in Congress and to advance the monument idea every step of the way over the past several years. I have not given up. I have already reintroduced my bill, and we are working to rally support for the legislation in the 115th Congress. The

though these, like all national monuments, are entirely made up of land already under federal protection) and offering the same old false prophecies of lost access and economic ruin.

These crocodile tears are familiar. Utah's elected leaders have gnashed their teeth and rent their garments at every national monument designated in Utah. But Utahns love their "Mighty Five" national parks, four of which began as presidentially proclaimed national monuments. According to a recent Conservation in the West poll, 80 percent of Western voters support keeping all new national monuments designated in the last decade. If our new interior secretary threatens Bears Ears, he threatens the trust-based government-to-government relationship between tribes and the federal government—and he risks a massive tide of public resistance in the process.

Beyond Bears Ears, the Antiquities Act itself is also under threat. Members of Congress are introducing bills to undo, gut, or exempt certain states from new national monument designations, and, in turn, new national parks. These moves are wildly unpopular with American voters. With so many issues competing for the public's attention in the Trump era, we must not let the importance of public lands protection be forgotten.

Protecting the Antiquities Act will be a local effort as much as it is national, and we need to rally together local communities, conservationists, sportsmen and women, recreationists, and families in a united front. The Antiquities Act of 1906 remains one of our nation's most enduring and powerful conservation laws. I hope you will join with me in the coming effort to protect it. @

Congressman Raúl Grijalva represents Arizona's 3rd District.



Swaths of what are now Zion National Park (above) and Grand Canyon National Park (below) started out as national monuments. RICK MOORE (TOP) BLAKE MCCORD (BELOW)

need to protect the Grand Canyon is bigger than who is president or who sits in Congress. People from all walks of life have been fighting this fight for a long time. We're going to keep working until we get it done, and in the meantime we'll defend the ban on uranium mining around the canyon from any attack the Trump administration or Republicans in Congress throw its way.

These attacks are already mounting. Though no president or Congress has ever undone a large national monument declaration, Utah's congressional delegation is lobbying President Trump to undo or drastically shrink Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments, misrepresenting them as "federal land grabs" (even



Rock art panel, Butler Wash, Bears Ears National Monument. TIM PETERSON

EXPLODING THE MYTH that Federal Lands are Unconstitutional

by John D. Leshy

AMERICA'S COMMON GROUND—the hundreds of millions of acres of public lands owned and managed by the national government—has long occupied an important place in our national culture.

Yet in some quarters a myth persists that the U.S. Constitution requires that these lands either be turned over to the states or private interests. Arguments for such a “land grab” were recently assembled by a team of lawyers hired by Utah’s state government. The team’s report misreads history, as well as the dictionary, and ignores

or distinguishes on dubious grounds many authoritative Supreme Court decisions to the contrary.

U.S. public lands grew out of a dispute dating back to the Declaration of Independence in 1776. At the time, seven of the original 13 states had indefinite western boundaries, allowing them to claim lands beyond

the Appalachian Mountains. Six states had fixed boundaries, and were concerned that the other seven would use their claims to vast western lands to enrich themselves and dominate the others. Eventually, the argument that these lands had been wrested from foreign governments and Native Americans by the “blood and treasure”



Pro and anti-monument designation signs decorate a fence outside the community center in Bluff, Utah, where then Interior Secretary Sally Jewell held a public listening session on the proposed Bears Ears National Monument in July 2016. The meeting drew over 1,500 people. TIM PETERSON

Indeed, taking Utah’s constitutional argument seriously would require the courts to confront the deeply unsettling prospect of voiding thousands of federal laws, and literally millions of land transactions.

of all the states persuaded the seven to cede their western land claims to the new national government. All states agreed to give that government the responsibility to determine the future of these lands, including overseeing their settlement and admitting new states as settlement advanced.

Ever since then, whenever the U.S. took control of lands from foreign governments and Native American tribes, Congress has exercised its “power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States,” the language of the so-called Property Clause of the Constitution adopted in 1787.

“Land grabbers” argue that the phrase to “dispose of” forbids Congress from keeping lands in U.S.

ownership permanently. But this is wrong, for “dispose of” also meant (and still means) to “arrange for” or to “husband,” as in, for example, “disposing of” nuclear waste. There is, in fact, no credible evidence that our nation’s founders intended to require the national government to divest itself of title to all of the lands it came to own, to newly admitted states or anyone else.

Likewise, there is no credible evidence to support another “land grabbers” argument that the nation’s founders thought new states had to be on an “equal footing” with existing states, especially concerning federal public lands. To the contrary—the framers of our Constitution rejected a proposal that would have required Congress to admit new states “on the

same terms” as existing states. Congress made generous grants of public lands to almost all the new states it admitted, but it also made abundantly clear that the U.S. retained ownership and full control over other federal lands within their borders. This made perfect political sense. The congresses that admitted these new states were composed entirely of representatives of the existing states, and they were understandably unwilling to give newly admitted states title or total control over all the U.S. lands found within their borders, because those lands had been acquired with the “blood and treasure” of the existing states.

From 1790 on, the U.S. decided to retain ownership of some land inside newly admitted states, to serve such important national purposes as settling

Native American claims to land, meeting military needs (including keeping some forested lands to supply wood for naval ships), and keeping and leasing lands containing mineral and salt deposits, in order to prevent monopolization of these valuable commodities. As the frontier moved westward, the U.S. began to retain title to lands for additional reasons, such as preserving scenic, inspirational landscapes, wildlife habitat, places of historic or scientific interest, and vast tracts of mostly forested uplands to protect water supplies for downstream use. The U.S. Supreme Court, in more than a dozen decisions handed down since the Civil War (almost all of them unanimous), found all such actions consistent with the U.S. Constitution.

The “land grabbers” can point to only two pre-Civil War decisions of the court that suggest otherwise—Pollard in 1845 and Dred Scott in 1857. Both were decided as the nation’s division over slavery was intensifying, where a huge question was whether the Property Clause authorized Congress to outlaw slavery in territories soon to be admitted to the Union. In a muddled opinion that contained unsupported grandiose statements purporting to invent constitutional limits on Congress’s power over public lands, the court in Pollard actually decided a very narrow question—namely, it decided that states newly admitted to the Union took title to submerged lands under navigable waters within their borders, even if Congress had not granted them these lands. A dozen years later, in Dred Scott, the court went much further, and purported to hold that the Property Clause gave Congress no power over lands west of the Mississippi River. Dred Scott, today mostly remembered for the court’s pronouncement that African-Americans could never have rights as



JONATHAN BAILEY

citizens, is generally considered the worst decision in the court’s history. A leading constitutional scholar said it “did violence to the Constitution’s text, structure, enactment history, and early implementation.”

After the terrible Civil War, the court quickly abandoned Dred Scott’s view of the Property Clause. While Pollard’s narrow holding regarding ownership of the beds of navigable waters has survived, the court has narrowed it even further in modern times, by recognizing that Congress has the constitutional authority to retain ownership of such submerged lands in newly admitted states.

Besides being at odds with many authoritative Supreme Court decisions, the “land grabbers” case is problematic in other ways. Utah’s

team of lawyers does not come right out and say that it is unconstitutional for the U.S. to own places like national parks, but its view of the Constitution leaves it up to the states or to the federal courts—and not the Congress—to determine whether the U.S. can keep national parks, or indeed any other public lands, in national ownership.

Indeed, taking Utah’s constitutional argument seriously would require the courts to confront the deeply unsettling prospect of voiding thousands of federal laws, and literally millions of land transactions, that have all been based on the long-held, widely shared understanding that the U.S. can hold title to public lands. The nation’s founders wisely gave Congress the responsibility to direct the future of the nation’s public lands, not states or unelected federal judges, and I am confident the U.S. Supreme Court would agree if asked.

This is not to say that defenders of continuing national ownership of public lands should be complacent. Nothing in the Constitution prohibits Congress from turning some or even all of these lands over to states or private interests. All it takes is simple legislation. Every generation of Americans, in other words, must decide what kind of land legacy it wants to leave for future generations. As our elected representatives in the national government continue to address that question, they need to hear from defenders, as well as opponents, of public lands. ©

University of California Hastings College of the Law Emeritus Professor and long-time Trust board member John Leshy served as solicitor (general counsel) of the Interior Department from 1993 to 2001. He is preparing a longer article on this subject. For more information, contact him at leshyj@uchastings.edu

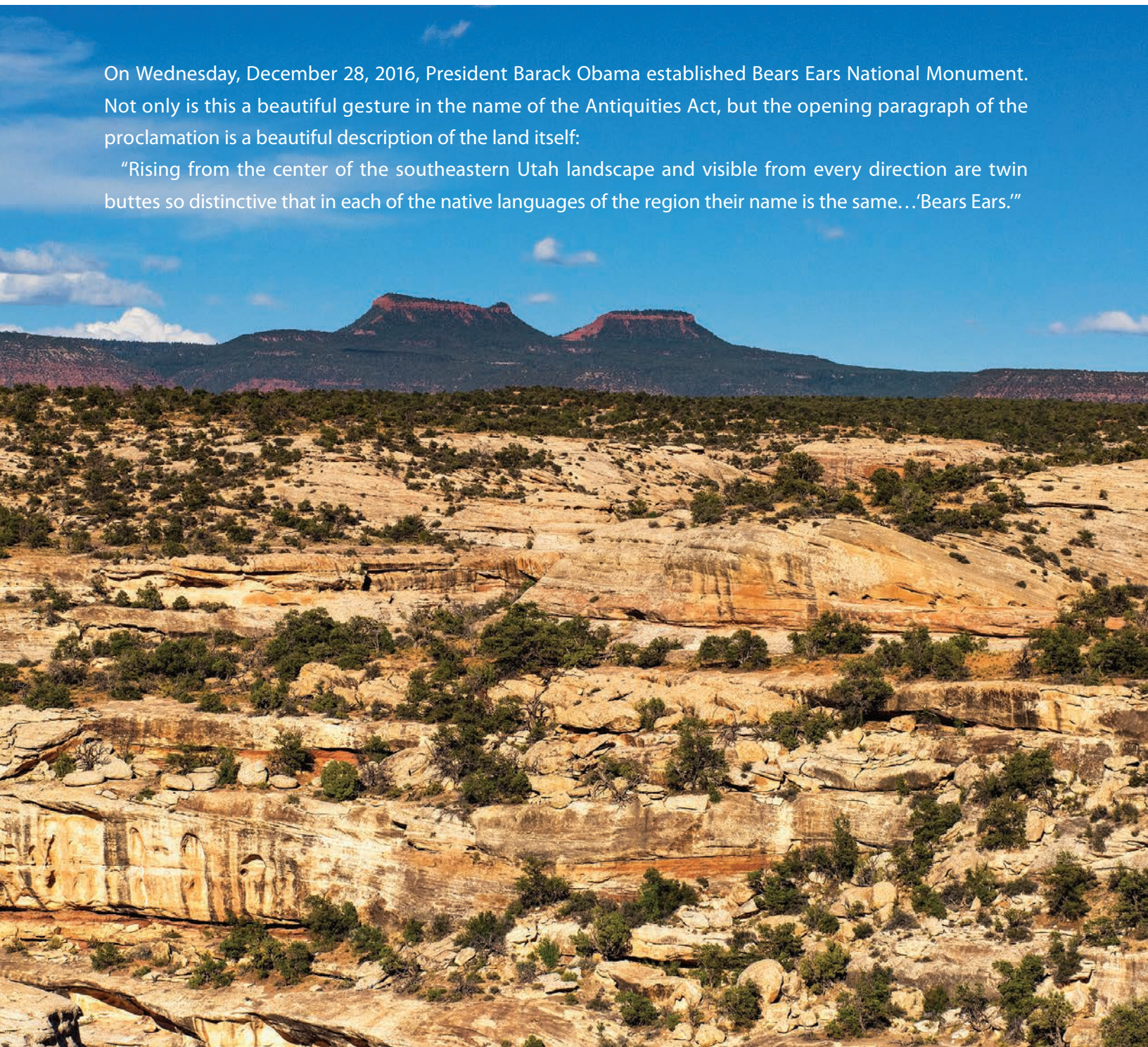
“Nahodishgish”

Places To Be Left Alone

By Terry Tempest Williams

On Wednesday, December 28, 2016, President Barack Obama established Bears Ears National Monument. Not only is this a beautiful gesture in the name of the Antiquities Act, but the opening paragraph of the proclamation is a beautiful description of the land itself:

“Rising from the center of the southeastern Utah landscape and visible from every direction are twin buttes so distinctive that in each of the native languages of the region their name is the same...‘Bears Ears.’”



White Canyon and Bears Ears, Bears Ears National Monument. TIM PETERSON



LEFT TO RIGHT: U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, MARC COLES-RITCHIE, GRAND CANYON TRUST, TED GRUSSING, BLAKE MCCORD, JONATHAN BAILEY.
BELOW: BLAKE MCCORD, MARC COLES-RITCHIE, LARA SCHNELLBACH, MARC COLES-RITCHIE, MARC COLES-RITCHIE, GRAND CANYON TRUST.

Within this historic document the reader will find a language more akin to poetry than public policy, well worth reading out loud around a dinner table or campfire. Too often the politics of place obscures the spirit of a place. This proclamation has given voice to an evolving narrative of beauty and change, both human and wild, that has been visited upon this burnished landscape of sandstone and sage, mountains and canyons throughout time, deep time.

To read the opening sentence of each paragraph creates a prose poem:

The area's human history is as vibrant and diverse as the ruggedly beautiful landscape.

...

Ancestral Puebloans followed, beginning to occupy the area at least 2,500 years ago, leaving behind items from their daily life such as baskets, pottery, and weapons.

...

The landscape is a milieu of the accessible and observable together with the inaccessible and hidden.

...

For thousands of years, humans have occupied and stewarded this land.

...

The area's cultural importance to Native American tribes continues to this day.

Euro-Americans first explored the Bears Ears area during the 18th century, and Mormon settlers followed in the late 19th century.

...

From earth to sky, the region is unsurpassed in wonders. The star-filled nights and natural quiet of the Bears Ears area transport visitors to an earlier eon.

...

Communities have depended on the resources of the region for hundreds of generations.

...

The diversity of the soils and micro-environments in the Bears Ears area provide habitat for a wide variety of vegetation...Englemann spruce, ponderosa pine, aspen, and subalpine fir...pinon-juniper...big sagebrush, low sage, blackbrush, rabbitbrush, bitterbrush, four-wing saltbush, shadscale, winterfat...western chokecherry, hackberry, barberry, cliff rose, and greasewood.

...

Tucked into winding canyons are vibrant riparian communities characterized by Fremont cottonwood, western sandbar willow, yellow willow, and box elder...scarlet gilia...sacred datura...Durango tumble mustard...

...

The area's stunning geology, from sharp pinnacles to broad mesas, labyrinthine canyons to solitary hoodoos, and

verdant hanging gardens to bare stone arches and natural bridges, provides vital insights to geologists.

...

For long periods over 300 million years ago, these lands were inundated by tropical seas and hosted thriving coral reefs.

...

The paleontological resources in the Bears Ears area are among the richest and most significant in the United States, and protection of this area will provide important opportunities for further archaeological and paleontological study...sites, such as Arch Canyon, are teeming with fossils...from reptiles to mammals and from sea to land.

And then comes a litany of life residing in the Cedar Mesa landscape from desert cottontail to black-tailed jackrabbit to prairie dogs and pocket gophers; from badger to coyote to striped skunk to ringtail cat to gray fox, bobcat, and mountain lion following mule deer.

Reptiles from tiger salamander to red-spotted toad, to canyon tree frog to side-blotched lizard to striped whip-tail to western rattlesnake and gopher snake; to golden eagle, peregrine falcon, northern harrier, goshawk, red-tailed hawk, great-horned owl and flammulated owl to violet-green swallows and rock wrens and the endangered southwestern willow flycatcher.





MAX LICHER

The evolutionary story of wonder
has been written and revised as
an ongoing narrative of change
that allows us to remember what
it means to be human in a world
much larger than ourselves.

Nothing is forgotten in this proclamation that reads as its own creation story including the 15 species of bats and the appearance of tinajas—rock depressions filled with rainwater that are the breeding grounds of aquatic insects. What appears is a region vast and mysterious where the handprints of past people can still be found on canyon walls, a landscape so chockful of earthly delights, why wouldn't we as modern-day stewards move to protect it?

At a time when politics is so rancorous, so partisan, so blatantly in the hands of special interests like the fossil fuel industry, especially in the American West, the designation of Bears Ears National Monument signified a grace note in the centennial year of the National Park Service. We can pray that Utah's congressional delegation's relentless cries to rescind

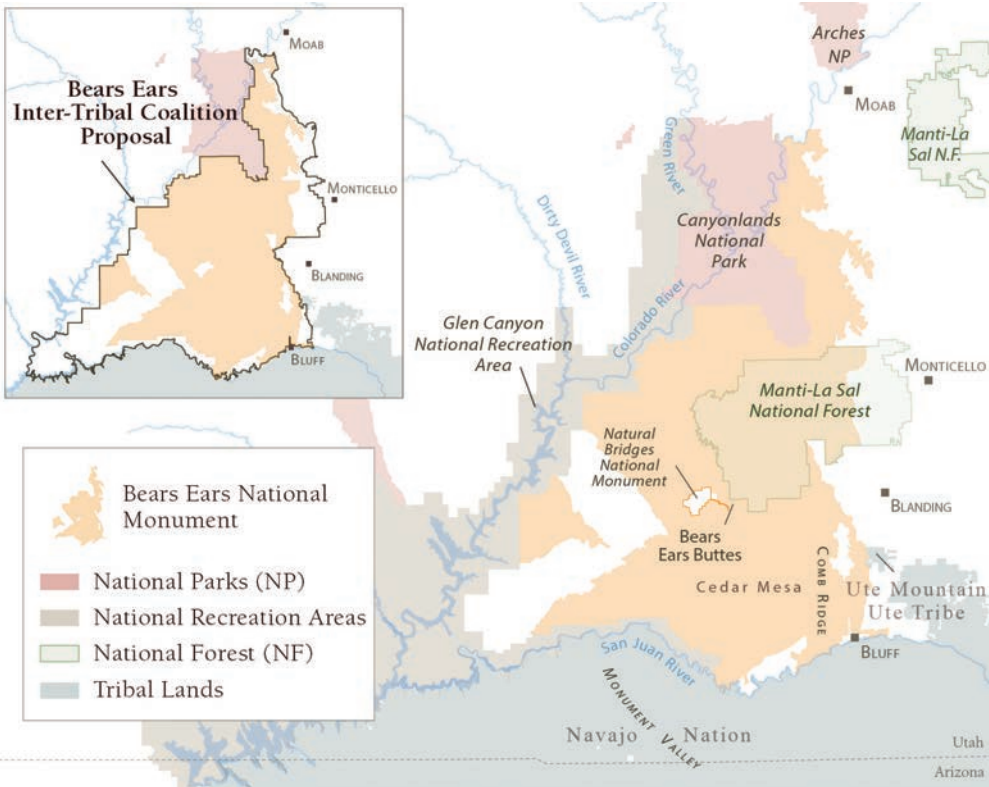
or gut this newest monument will fall on deaf ears within the Trump administration.

The United States government under the Obama administration listened to the leadership of native peoples. It heard the voices of the Navajo, the Ute nations, the Hopi, and the Zuni, all members of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition who asked for the protection of their ancestral lands to not only honor the graves of the ancient ones, but to honor the sacred nature of their ceremonies for future generations.

We can all celebrate this triumph with the tribes as fellow residents of the Colorado Plateau. We can honor the abundance of life and solitude and a night sky of stars that has arched over these erosional landscapes for eons. It is this eternal beauty, interrelated and interconnected, that transcends the malfeasance of small-minded politicians who threaten to undo what had already been done long before they ever arrived on this Earth—the revolving nature of life. The evolutionary story of wonder has been written and revised as an ongoing narrative of change that allows us to remember what it means to be human in a world much larger than ourselves.

The proclamation of Bears Ears National Monument reminds us what native people have never forgotten: We are not the only species that lives and loves and breathes on this planet we call home. ©

Terry Tempest Williams is a resident of the Colorado Plateau and author most recently of "The Hour of Land: A Personal Topography of America's National Parks." This essay appeared in slightly different form in the Durango Herald on January 1, 2017.





INDIGENOUS RIGHTS at Standing Rock and Bears Ears

By John Echohawk

*Many Native Americans
were concerned about
the candidacy of Donald
Trump for president of
the United States.*

He said nothing about Native American issues on the campaign trail. When he was elected president, many Native Americans prepared to work with him and his administration to educate them about Native American issues, but also prepared to fight for indigenous rights if he attacked or failed to protect those rights. With the recent decision by the Trump administration to approve the easement under Lake Oahe for the Dakota

Access Pipeline near the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's reservation, despite the tribe's opposition, the first fight with the new Trump administration over indigenous rights has begun.

The second fight may come soon if President Trump tries to rescind or alter President Obama's recent proclamation creating the Bears Ears National Monument in southeastern Utah on 1.35 million acres of federal land. The Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, consisting of five tribes—the Navajo, Hopi, Zuni, Ute Mountain Ute, and Ute—was the primary advocate for the monument because it will help these tribes protect numerous cultural and religious sites on their ancestral lands. However, many of Utah's political leaders are urging President Trump to rescind the proclamation altogether or drastically reduce the size of the monument.

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's fight against the Dakota Access Pipeline is being played out in federal district court in Washington, D.C. The tribe had convinced the Obama administration that a full environmental review with meaningful tribal consultation was required before the federal government could issue an easement for the pipeline to go under Lake Oahe, just north of their reservation. The tribe is greatly concerned that any leak in the pipeline under Lake Oahe would pollute its water supply since tribal members live directly downstream on the Missouri River. The Trump administration recently said—without consulting the tribe—that a full environment review was not required and issued the easement. Construction of the pipeline under Lake Oahe is proceeding while the federal district court decides whether a full environmental review with meaningful tribal consultation is legally required.



Tribal leaders (clockwise from top left) Navajo Nation Council Speaker LoRenzo Bates with Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye, Ute Indian Tribe Business Committee Chairman Shaun Chapoose, former Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Councilwoman Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk, Navajo Nation Vice President Jonathan Nez, Pueblo of Zuni Councilman Carleton Bowekaty, and Hopi Vice Chairman Alfred Lomahquahu speak out in support of Bears Ears National Monument.

TIM PETERSON

The Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition is in the process of trying to secure a meeting with the new Secretary of the Interior, Ryan Zinke. The five tribes in the coalition will be asking the new secretary to support the continued existence of Bears Ears National Monument and to recommend to President Trump that the monument be preserved intact. The coalition believes that the secretary and the president are required to consult with them before they take any action that impacts tribal rights in the monument.

Favorable federal court decisions, like the Standing Rock Sioux are seeking against the Trump administration, have not come easy to tribes in recent years. The Indian self-determination movement that began in the 1970s was largely fueled by favorable federal court decisions as tribes finally gained access to lawyers who brought forward cases based on treaties and federal statutes. However, as the makeup of the federal courts has changed over recent years, favorable federal court decisions for tribes have become more difficult to achieve, especially in the U.S. Supreme Court.

The five tribes of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition may also have to seek relief in the federal courts if President Trump rescinds or alters Bears Ears National Monument. Even if President Trump does not act against Bears Ears, Congress may consider legislation that would repeal or change the designation of the monument. Over recent years, tribes generally have created bipartisan support for tribal rights. It may be that supporters of tribal rights in the Senate and the House could stop any legislation aimed at eliminating or shrinking the monument based on the adverse impact to tribal ancestral lands.

Indigenous people in America have been dealing with these issues since first contact in 1492. Conflicts that developed were often settled through treaties as European nations came to understand that indigenous peoples also had nations. Based on this experience, treaty-making and recognition of sovereign Indian tribes found their way into the U.S. Constitution in 1787. There are three levels of government in this country: federal, state, and tribal. Because of the federal-tribal treaty relationships, there exists a

government-to-government relationship between the federal government and tribal governments that must be recognized and respected.

Indigenous peoples around the world have been dealing with these same issues over time. In 2007, indigenous peoples were finally successful in convincing the United Nations to adopt the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. It basically says that indigenous rights are human rights that are to be respected by all nations around the world. Indigenous peoples' rights to their lands, cultures, and religions are recognized, as is the right to free, prior, and informed consent before any of their rights can be changed or taken away. The United States signed on to the declaration in 2010.

What does this present moment—with the Standing Rock and Bears Ears issues at the forefront—mean for indigenous rights? It will be a turning point for the newly elected Trump administration, the newly elected 115th Congress, and the federal courts to see if they will recognize and honor treaty rights and the government-to-government relationship that exists under U.S. law and international law. In the end, it may well depend on the level of public support for tribal rights—like the great level of public support that has been shown recently for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition. ©

John Echohawk, recognized for his leadership in the Indian law field, is the co-founder and executive director of the Native American Rights Fund and a member of the board of trustees of the Grand Canyon Trust.

A MAGNETIC ATTRACTION

By Holly Holtz

FOR A LONG-STANDING New York City dweller such as I am, regular escapes to the open spaces and solitude of the West have been therapeutic and a motivation to stay fit enough to hike uphill at altitude. These escapes also have deepened my interest in conservation. It's hard to imagine anyone spending time in these settings without feeling drawn to support their protection.



"The Chasm of the Colorado" by Thomas Moran, 1873-1874. SMITHSONIAN AMERICAN ART MUSEUM

On my first visit to the Colorado Plateau, in 1994, I joined an outdoor adventure group on a hiking and camping trip through Bryce and Zion national parks. I had backpacked before, but I liked this trip's arrangement better as I approached middle age. What a relief to carry a 10-pound daypack holding only water, protein bars, and rain gear, rather than a 40-pound overnighter. On the other hand, I was still at ease in a sleeping bag, looking up at the stars, as the temperature dropped to near freezing in early October. After subsequent visits, I remain in awe of the striking beauty of these two parks. They are so different in physical history and appearance, though just several hours' drive apart. Coming across fossil remains of familiar-looking sea life on Zion's West Rim Trail was one of many discoveries on my hikes. Found not far off the route's sandy trail, they bore faint imprints of what looked like coral and star fish. I

had not known until then how that area's geology was tied to an ancient inland sea and to lakes that no longer exist. Nor was I aware before my travels there of such amazing natural shapes as the hoodoos of Bryce Canyon, formed by the continuous melting and hardening of snow between the layers of limestone. With little formal education in the natural sciences, visiting these places has heightened my appreciation for the importance of letting nature take its course, undergoing its own transformations, with as little impact from detrimental human activity as possible.

Strangely, my introduction to the Grand Canyon was a sidebar to Bryce and Zion, a drive-by on the way home from those other parks. Whatever images I'd seen up to then had not prepared me for the magnetic attraction of a personal encounter. On my first visit, I felt compelled to look into and across the canyon from many

different vantage points, at different times of day. I was captivated by the astounding array of rock towers, pyramids, crags, and mesas, separated by canyon and river chasms, and their appearance in the changing light and atmosphere. These vistas brought to mind the drawings and paintings of Thomas Moran, an East Coast artist influenced by the Hudson River School and the great British landscape painter J.M.W. Turner. At Moran Point, the site on the South Rim to the east of Grand Canyon Village that is named for him, I watched the sun set and tried to pick out spots where Moran might have sketched. Already renowned for his early 1870s depictions of Yellowstone, the Wyoming Plateau, and the Rockies, Moran first traveled to the Grand Canyon at the instigation of John Wesley Powell to illustrate Powell's survey reports. After that, he returned to the canyon many times. As with his celebrated "Grand Canyon of the

Yellowstone,” Moran’s Grand Canyon masterpiece, “The Grand Chasm of the Colorado,” focused public and government attention on the importance of conservation in the West.

As a testament to the potential for government’s responsible stewardship of the environment, Congress was inspired in part by Moran’s painting to declare Yellowstone a national park, the nation’s first, while the U.S. Department of the Interior purchased both of these works and ultimately lent them for public display to the Smithsonian.

A continuing fascination with the Colorado Plateau has taken me back to Bryce, Zion, and the Grand Canyon several times, where I’ve revisited favorite spots, repeated favorite hikes, and undertaken new explorations. This fascination has also led me to Mesa Verde and the newly declared Bears Ears National Monument, near the Four Corners. The only experience I hope not to repeat was an ill-advised overnight in a remote setting outside of Zion, where an inoperable water purifier and swarms of flies at dusk amplified the misery of the soft sand trail, reinforcing my preference for day hiking on firm ground. Even my two rim-to-rim adventures across the Grand Canyon, on the North Kaibab and Bright Angel trails, begun in early morning by the light of headlamps, left me feeling exuberant if fatigued after conquering 24 miles and over 4,500-foot elevation gains in one day.

Those seeking solitude may be disappointed by the popularity of some trails, despite the gorgeous views and settings. But early morning hikes to spots such as Zion’s Observation Point, through the fabulous and moist Echo Canyon, or exploring Hop Valley trails and looking out over Zion’s peaks from the west, or departing from Zion’s West Rim Trailhead just



The author on her first visit to the Grand Canyon in October, 1994.

Visiting these places has heightened my appreciation for the importance of letting nature take its course, undergoing its own transformations, with as little impact from detrimental human activity as possible.

before dawn and passing Angel’s Landing later in the day in reverse, on the way down, confirm how even the most popular of parks can feel remote.

Visiting and revisiting these three parks, several years and then several decades apart, highlighted for me the skill with which growing numbers of visitors have been supervised, accommodated, and pleased. Practices such as regulating private vehicles, maintaining and expanding trails of varying ease or difficulty, creating informative nature programs, and collaborating with groups like the Grand Canyon Trust have generated widespread appreciation. They help strike the delicate balance between supporting widespread enjoyment of public lands and protecting them.

New York City, where I reside, is filled with its own facsimiles of nature. Its tall towers, spread out across the city, and the narrow streets of lower Manhattan, are man-made, urban versions of nature’s peaks and canyons. As I travel through their landscape, or look out at the rooftop water tanks from my apartment window, I am attracted by their hard edges and utilitarian aspect. But they also remind me of their opposite: the purity of the wilderness.

My experiences on protected lands and my concerns about safeguarding them led me to the Grand Canyon Trust. Reciprocally, my role as a trustee has opened new ways for me to express these concerns and take action. It gives me great pleasure and satisfaction to spread information about the Grand Canyon Trust’s mission and about these areas of diverse beauty. ©

Holly Holtz, formerly a senior director in alternative investments at TIAA (previously known as TIAA-CREF), now manages her own private equity advisory business and serves on the Grand Canyon Trust’s board of trustees.

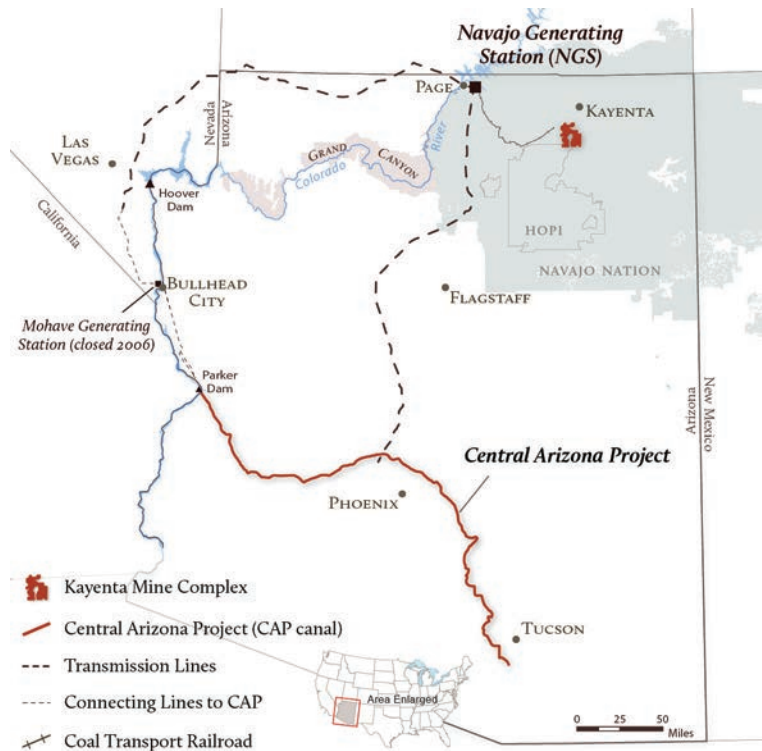


“On Black Mesa we, as a society, are engaged in destroying some of our oldest sustainable Native American cultures so that people in Phoenix and Las Vegas can water their hundreds of golf courses, swim in swimming pools, and pretend they live in a desert miracle.”

— Judith Nies, “Unreal City”



TED GRUSSING



A LITTLE-KNOWN CHAPTER in the history of the Colorado River began when Arizona business leaders plotted to get U.S. taxpayers to foot the bill to build the Central Arizona Project. In 1946, they formed the Central Arizona Project Association to win over public opinion and lobby Congress to authorize construction of the 336-mile-long canal and 14 water pumps.

The first pump was built at the reservoir above Parker Dam on the lower Colorado River. Eventually, the aqueduct snaked its way across the Sonoran Desert to its terminus south of Tucson. The project was completed in 1993 at a cost of about \$4 billion, proving that water does indeed flow uphill toward money. Today, it lifts nearly a half billion gallons of water each year and delivers it to fields, faucets, and water banks located hundreds of feet higher than the reservoir.

To power the pumps needed to lift Colorado River water to south-central Arizona farms, cities, and suburbs, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation planned

to build two hydroelectric dams in the Grand Canyon. The controversial plan would have bookended Grand Canyon National Park with two dams and would have reduced the river's flow in the national park to nearly nothing. Overwhelming opposition to flooding the Grand Canyon forced decision-makers to reconsider. They decided instead to build the Navajo Generating Station (NGS).

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation enlisted five utilities from California, Nevada, and Arizona to finance and co-own the largest—and most polluting—coal plant in the West. The massive steam plant was built in 1974 on Navajo land, just east of Glen Canyon Dam, near Arizona's northern border. Coal to power the plant is strip-mined from Black Mesa, located another 85 miles to the east, on the ancestral homeland of Hopi and Navajo people. Thousands of residents were exiled to make way for mining. Those who kept living nearby have been breathing coal dust for more than a generation.

Navajo Generating Station's next chapter might be to contribute infrastructure and a reliable water source to stimulate native-owned businesses and to boost local economies.

NGS has been burning as many as 1,000 tons of coal an hour for more than four decades. It has dumped hundreds of millions of tons of climate-changing gasses into the Earth's atmosphere. Its emissions impair visibility in the Grand Canyon and release harmful toxins into the air and water. People who live nearby are more likely to suffer from respiratory disease.

On February 13, 2017, Salt River Project, Arizona Public Service, Tucson Electric Power, and Nevada Power announced their decision to close NGS by the end of 2019, or possibly sooner. They determined that purchasing and burning coal to make electricity was now too expensive. In today's energy markets, lower-cost natural gas, solar, and wind are cleaner sources of electricity and are more profitable than burning coal. Central Arizona Project managers welcomed the NGS announcement because they expect to save money by shifting to less expensive electricity.

Closing NGS will end the era of burning coal to deliver cheap water to southern Arizona. It will also cause the coal mine to close, cutting off millions of dollars in royalties paid to the Hopi and Navajo governments. Shutting both the power plant and the mine will wipe out well-paid jobs for hundreds of hourly wage earners who live in one of the most economically exploited regions of the country.

"We need to see what the economics of this situation are and find a pathway forward that works," a spokesman for the Bureau of Reclamation told the Los Angeles Times. "Everything potentially would be on the table," he said, which includes keeping the coal plant operating until a plan to replace revenues and jobs is in place.

As a non-voting member of the tenancy agreement, Reclamation has no say in the decision to close NGS when the lease ends on December 22, 2019. Salt River Project, the plant's majority owner and operator, is one of the country's largest public utilities. It has said that it would consider keeping NGS running up until the end of the lease, if the Navajo Nation will agree to renew it beyond 2019 to allow time to decommission NGS. Salt River Project has set July 1, 2017 as the deadline for renewing the lease, or it will shut down NGS and start demolition this year.

In anticipation of the coal plant's eventual retirement, Reclamation and other federal agencies have been assessing ways to create new jobs and revenues in partnership with tribal communities. But, until February, they and tribal governments believed that they had decades to plan for the transition. Nonetheless, Reclamation's initial assessment identified dozens of projects, and it is assisting several to move forward. It worked with the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority in developing its first utility-scale solar project near Kayenta, Arizona. When completed later this year, it will reduce the tribal utility's need to buy more expensive electricity during periods of peak demand, and it will generate revenues by selling surplus power to Salt River Project.

Other prospects include opportunities for Hopi and Navajo-owned solar projects near major transmission hubs and on land surrounding NGS. Reclamation and other public agencies may be able to assist in financing projects, securing power purchase agreements, and providing access to federal transmission lines.

In addition to exploring options

for replacing NGS, Reclamation has a long-standing commitment to deliver a reliable supply of clean water to Hopi and western Navajo communities. The existing pump in Lake Powell that supplies water to run NGS could be used on the front end of a new Central Arizona Project-like system to move water to higher elevations for distribution to places on tribal land where fresh water is sorely needed.

To lift Lake Powell water uphill to the height of Black Mesa, community-owned, solar-powered pumping stations could be distributed along established utility corridors. A new water main might be built along the 80-mile route of the electric train that currently hauls coal from the base of Black Mesa to NGS. Native-owned energy-efficiency and water delivery services, solar electric, construction and plumbing businesses, and high-speed communication and information systems could flourish.

In this way, Navajo Generating Station's next chapter might be to contribute infrastructure and a reliable water source to stimulate native-owned businesses and to boost local economies. In time, repurposing stranded transmission lines and reclaiming other assets could help replace some of the losses that will be incurred when the mine and coal plant close. Unfortunately, no amount of money can compensate the thousands of families who were forcibly evicted to make way for strip-mining so others might prosper.

Perhaps those who've benefited from NGS should help usher in a new era of sustainability by moving water uphill with equity, equanimity, and equal opportunity and justice for all. ©

Roger Clark directs the Trust's Grand Canyon program.

THE LUCKY SET

From wilderness outings, wilderness advocates

By Bert Fingerhut

With last year's election and this year's re-sorting of the political order, one thing is clear: We need strong advocates to first know, then love, then work to protect the Colorado Plateau. And, to paraphrase John Muir, if you want people to go to bat for the environment, you've got to get them into the wilderness.

Tens of millions of visitors have come to know and love Grand Canyon National Park. Most have seen the canyon from the rim, some have ventured a few miles down its well-trodden main corridor trails, and a smaller but luckier set has explored the wilderness of the Grand Canyon.

Over the last couple of decades, routes available to various backcountry outings programs in the park have dwindled. The National Park Service has closed many routes that once supported trips of one to almost two weeks.

Now, a draconian change in the rules for backcountry use in the Grand Canyon could well spell the end of some commercially outfitted backpacking outings in the park.

It is often dangerous to argue policy from a personal perspective, but I believe my own experience in the Grand Canyon exemplifies the experience of thousands of other Americans and sheds much-needed light on the agency's latest proposal.

Two trips—river and trail—transformed my life.

In 1971, I went on a river trip through the park. Two years later, I went on my first backpacking trip. I was profoundly ignorant of that recreational pastime and of appropriate backcountry behavior generally. Nonetheless, I was welcomed on my first Sierra Club Grand Canyon backpacking trip into the North Bass area,

a remote system of canyons on the north side of the park. Including two trip leaders and a staffer to tend the commissary and kitchen, we were a group of 16, the maximum allowed at the time. That cap dropped to 11 in the park's 1988 backcountry management plan, where it stands today.

These trips taught me about wild places and the magic of the natural world. They taught me wilderness skills and respect for the environment. They showed me a night sky afire with stars. They also taught me a good bit about myself. Few things teach humility more effectively than an experience of rank incompetence.

I couldn't have navigated the canyons on my own, even after half a dozen trips. And I couldn't have learned the necessary skills just by backpacking in a relatively tame canyon corridor. It took the rigor and the



Every time a wilderness outing returns, it brings back a group of wilderness advocates.

discipline of wild country—traversed under the care of skilled leaders who kept us safe—to make me a competent wilderness traveler.

Following my trips into the Grand Canyon, I began leading national Sierra Club outings in the canyon. I eventually left my job in New York City and moved west for a new career in public lands protection. In the late 1970s, I joined the Sierra Club Foundation. In the early 1980s, I joined the board of the newly formed Grand Canyon Trust and participated in hiring the organization's first paid staffer. I also joined the board of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, becoming its first out-of-state director.

There is little unique about my story. John Muir was right: every time a wilderness outing returns, it brings back a group of wilderness advocates.

And that is what is at risk here.

In its pending backcountry management plan, the National Park Service has identified a preferred alternative

that would reduce the maximum group size on commercially outfitted trips to six in certain areas. It has done so with a motive of protecting the park's sensitive resources (which I wholeheartedly support), yet fails to cite science showing that two six-person trips have less impact than one of 11 or 12, or that there has been any resource damage under the current system. I suspect the reason for that lack is very simple: there is no such science.

Every goal the National Park Service cites to support the six-person cap can be met while still allowing well-managed and monitored larger group outings to continue. Many trips could not operate with a six-person cap. Larger groups allow a greater number of future advocates to experience the beauty of the Grand Canyon. They allow multiple trip leaders to manage risks more effectively than could single leaders with smaller groups. They allow a group dynamic to grow over the course of a trip, a dynamic that, in

so many cases, translates into a stronger advocacy base for conservation.

Those who have experienced these types of trips are likeliest to work to protect places such as the Grand Canyon, whether by lobbying Congress for funds, spreading the word among friends and neighbors, or grabbing a shovel for the unglamorous work of restoring trails. It's hard to think of a less opportune time for the National Park Service to risk a steady supply of eager advocates. The best advocates for saving places are the people who know them.

To express your concern about this issue, contact Grand Canyon National Park Superintendent Chris Lehnertz at chris_lehnertz@nps.gov @

Bert Fingerhut was a founding board member of the Grand Canyon Trust and has served in various board positions for the Trust and other public land conservation organizations.

Volunteer Spotlight

CURRENT PROFESSION: high school senior and environmental justice activist at Flagstaff Arts and Leadership Academy

HOMETOWN: Flagstaff, AZ

Total Hours Donated: 64

FAVORITE MOMENT FROM THE FIELD

One morning about halfway through our volunteer trip, I woke up to the sounds of coyotes nearby. The sun was rising over the cliffs and it was just so beautiful. It reminded me of how important it is to protect these landscapes and keep them beautiful.



Elea Ziegelbaum

WHY DO YOU THINK IT'S IMPORTANT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO GET INVOLVED?

I grew up in nature and it's always been a very important part of my life. Not only does it sustain our survival but it also is our home. Since young people are the ones inheriting this planet, we should be working to keep it beautiful. The Trust has given me avenues to get other youth involved and excited about conservation, and has also helped shape my ideas about my future in conservation and where I want to go.

Read more about Elea's Uplift experience in the interview at the back of this issue.



Tufted evening primrose (*Oenothera caespitosa*), one of the plants recognized in the Bears Ears National Monument proclamation. JONATHAN BARTH

POSTCARDS from the FIELD

UTAH FORESTS

Cataloguing Bears Ears plants

Seventy plants are among the treasures named in the lyrical proclamation establishing Bears Ears National Monument. But the proclamation lists plants by their common names, which can refer to more than one species. So Trust volunteer Sue Smith and new Utah Forests Program Associate Marc Coles-Ritchie have taken those 70 common names and generated a list of 132 plant species which live within the Bears Ears National Monument boundaries, and to which those common names are often applied. We'll be compiling a guide of these plants for visitors to use to identify them.

Of these plants, native bunchgrasses deserve special attention. They have to compete with aggressive, non-native grasses under aspen, in meadows, and beneath ponderosa pine on Elk Ridge, inside the monument. Most of these exotic grasses were seeded for livestock forage and have taken over, often elbowing out native grasses.

BEARS EARS

Utah politicians launch offensive

Bears Ears National Monument is a reality—with the full support of the majority of Utahns, more than 224,000 petition signers like you, and 26 regional Native American tribes. So who's still opposing Bears Ears? You guessed it—Utah's politicians.

They complain the monument was a “federal land grab,” but it was already federal land. They lament that it is “too big,” yet it's half a million acres smaller than the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition proposed, and it's almost exactly what Rob Bishop called for in his failed Public Lands Initiative legislation. They claim they want to protect Bears Ears, but their actions are focused on undoing protections.

Their objection to Bears Ears National Monument isn't about protection—it's about denying Native Americans a political victory and a seat at the land-management table. Meanwhile, tribes are working on Bears Ears' future, and we'll be asking for your help in defending it too.

ARIZONA FORESTS

Thinning faster

While selective mechanical thinning aimed at making forests healthier and reducing the risk of wildfire continues on the eastern portion of the Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI), it remains slow around Flagstaff and Williams. Along with a coalition of stakeholders and the Forest Service, we're co-developing a new proposal to accelerate treatments from about 15,000 acres per year to 50,000 acres per year during 2018 and beyond. This approach would present an opportunity for industry partners to thin nearly 500,000 acres of ponderosa pine forest over the next decade, reducing the risk of severe wildfire, providing economic opportunities to northern Arizona communities, and protecting water supplies. Complemented by prescribed burns and spring and stream restoration efforts, these targeted treatments will give trees room to grow old, returning forests to the more open structure that wildlife remembers from the years before clear-cuts and livestock grazing drastically altered the ecosystem.



4FRI stakeholders discussing how to conserve large trees. BLAKE MCCORD



Three generations of Havasupai protest the recently reopened Canyon uranium mine near the Grand Canyon's south rim. ROGER CLARK

ENERGY

Coal leases could land in court

Leases to mine coal on federal land last for decades and coal mining pollutes our air and water, often requiring costly cleanups. So it's only common sense that before an agency permits a coal mine to move forward on our federal public lands, it should consider the most up-to-date climate science and ensure that the public is paid its fair share of royalties for any coal extracted. The Department of Interior undertook this very challenge in 2016. After determining that existing leases were enough to hold over current operations, Interior hit pause on any new coal leases on federal lands to allow for review of royalty returns and of the impacts of new coal leases on climate change. Unfortunately, the new administration plans to rescind that effort, harming taxpayers and our climate, so the Trust is gearing up to defend it in court.

GRAND CANYON

Uranium decisions loom large

For five years, Navajo families have been fighting a 10,000-person-per-day tramway into the Grand Canyon. A vote to reject or approve the development is expected during the spring session of the Navajo Nation Council. A decade ago, the Trust joined Havasupai leaders in another five-year campaign to stop new uranium mines from polluting springs within the Grand Canyon. In 2012, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar ordered a 20-year halt to new mining claims on public lands that abut Grand Canyon National Park. Now we're defending the ban against industry's efforts to overturn it. Meanwhile, we've taken the Forest Service to court over its decision to allow the Canyon uranium mine to reopen under an outdated permit. An appellate court heard both that case and the case defending the mining ban in December 2016, but may not issue decisions until the fall.

NATIVE AMERICA

Investing in local businesses

Almost an elder, wise and experienced, Emmett Kerley is a driving force in diversifying the economy of the Navajo Nation's Cameron Chapter and beyond. Kerley and other leaders have formed the DinéHózhó L3C, an ambitious low-profit limited liability company that works with six Navajo Nation member chapters to identify the most feasible local business ideas. DinéHózhó has put together a team of researchers and facilitators to help communities become self-sufficient while honoring culture and the land, air, and water. As the recently completed Cameron Chapter economic plan shows, this is accomplished by working with the community to identify values that should be protected, creating a common vision for the future, and identifying weaknesses, threats, and opportunities. This process strengthens relationships within the community and develops partnerships to launch joint ventures direly needed in a region of high unemployment and controversial economic proposals.

NORTH RIM RANCHES

Hopi Youth Give Back to the Land

It's not every day that you get to be part of a win-win-win-win work project. But that's what we're expecting as we put the finishing touches on plans for a special volunteer trip slated for August 2017 with partners from the Hopi Tribe and the Forest Service.

Building on experience gained from springs restoration work at Castle Springs, on the Kaibab Plateau in the Kaibab National Forest, our Hopi partners will bring a crew of young people from the tribe who want to gain experience doing hands-on field work. Several tribal elders will join in and share traditional knowledge throughout the week. The Forest Service will provide supplies and tools. A team from the Trust will facilitate the work and run the field camp and kitchen. And the land will benefit, as a small spring-fed lake will be protected from livestock grazing.

If this project is successful, expect more like it next summer on the North Rim ranches.



Learning how to change a flat tire in preparation for field season.

VOLUNTEER

Gearing up for field season

We recently retreated to Kane Ranch for a week to prepare for our upcoming field season and brainstorm ideas for volunteer advocacy for the Colorado Plateau in this new political reality. Out on public lands and inside our historic homestead, we brushed up on our risk management skills, practiced changing flat tires, discussed new trip curriculum ideas for student groups, and got up to speed on the issues we're working on: clean energy initiatives in Arizona, uranium mining and development threats to the Grand Canyon, springs restoration across the plateau, and sustainable economic development in Native America. As we gazed across House Rock Valley the last afternoon, we were each reminded what an honor it is to connect people to the places we love through volunteerism, and how important this work is for the future of the plateau. We are looking forward to getting back into the field this season.



Hopi youth work on a drainpipe in the newly built water-catchment at Castle Springs.

HOPi-KAIBAB SPRINGS RESTORATION PROJECT



Faces of Uplift

MICHAEL REMKE

United by a love for the Colorado Plateau, over 100 young leaders gathered in Durango, Colorado last summer for the second annual Uplift Climate Conference. The three-day event drew people from big cities, college campuses, and tribal lands alike for a stellar lineup of speakers, workshops, and discussions. Meet some of the young dreamers and activists involved with Uplift who are speaking up for climate justice on the Colorado Plateau.

Michael Remke, 28

PhD student,
Northern Arizona University

How was Uplift different than other environmental conferences you've attended?

Generally, when I go to a conference, it's long-lived professionals who are experts in their field. They're older and perceive themselves to be a prestigious researcher or an educator, where Uplift was mostly people my age. It felt like everyone there was engaged with the mutual understanding of being a student. People were teaching each other and learning from each other instead of thinking, "Oh, I know everything there is to know about this."

You ended up taking photos of the gathering in Durango—what did you notice happening at Uplift from behind the lens?

Just a profound unity. I have never been at a public gathering where so many strangers were so connected to one another. It had the feel of a microcommunity. I saw lightbulbs turn on for a

lot of people, and I think people left feeling really empowered to engage in advocacy and develop their career with more intentionality. I think for a lot of people, Uplift was a concrete platform of inspiration to help them move forward with what they want to do, whether it's advocacy, scientific research, or whatever their subset of environmental science is.

Elea Ziegelbaum, 18

High school senior, Flagstaff Arts and Leadership Academy

Who were you most excited to meet at Uplift, and why? Are you still in touch?

There were just so many amazing people, but I really connected with Isabel Abadia on the trip because we were both 17 and both by ourselves. After Uplift, Isabel helped me turn the school environmental club that I run into an Earth Guardians Crew. She helped with that transition, and now we have more support. It's not me just winging it. We actually have guidance.



MICHAEL REMKE



MICHAEL REMKE

What were your main takeaways from Uplift?

Uplift was one of the most transformative experiences I've had in my life. I think what stuck with me the most was that social justice and climate justice go hand in hand. And it's been really important for me because I've done a lot of humanitarian aid the past couple years, and I'm passionate about human rights. So realizing that they're synonymous with each other was really big.



MICHAEL REMKE

Marshall Masayesva, 28

Director of Adventures for Hopi

You were part of a panel at Uplift, what was your main message to the audience?

My panel was on diversity and inclusion in the outdoors. What I was trying to convey was that diversity and perspective in the outdoor world is really important, and being able to come together from different backgrounds, different ethnicities, different knowledge bases and meeting on common ground—the outdoors—is super important. Basically, we can try to overcome a lot of social issues that the whole world population faces by just sitting face-to-face around a fire and sharing perspectives.

What advice do you have for young people working to diversify the environmental movement?

We've been pushing for a long time to get diversity for diversity's sake, but I think we need to be a little bit more meaningful in the way that we diversify our programs and our collective experiences. So my advice to folks is—I don't know. I'm still trying to figure it out myself. But it's important work. It's meaningful work, and it's work that needs to be done.



JAMES Q MARTIN

Eva Malis, 21

Uplift Coordinator

What are some of your priorities and goals for Uplift this year?

We really want to be a resource to connect all the awesome people who are doing great work. We are, on top of the conference, trying to organize the Uplift Climate Action Council, where we can bring together young leaders from across the Colorado Plateau to strategize for the future of the region. We are also thinking of setting up webinars and pop-up community events in different towns to help build the leadership skills and engagement of the Uplift community.

What's coming down the pipe for Uplift in 2017?

We're planning the conference right now, and we've narrowed it down to late September, someplace in southern Utah. Our event and our work is still rooted in climate justice but I'm confident in saying that we can expect more and more social justice to be brought in. There will definitely be a lot of talk on how to be an ally to other movements, and how can we show up for each other in supportive ways. Check us out online at upliftclimate.org @

Interviews by Ellen Heyn

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2601 N. Fort Valley Road
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Members Make Our Work Possible

FROM: Palo Alto, California

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FAVORITE PLACE ON THE COLORADO PLATEAU:

This is an impossible question to answer! We have many favorites but have particular affection for the Grand Canyon, Canyonlands, and the Vermilion Cliffs.

WHY WE GIVE:

We give because we are deeply committed to ecological conservation of Colorado Plateau lands and believe that the Trust has an important set of strategies toward that end.

GETTING OUT ON THE LAND:

We participated in a 2016 Trust trip to Kane Ranch and the north rim of the Grand Canyon, which was a unique, fabulous opportunity.

Thank you, David and Sally!