

Summer 2003

COLORADO PLATEAU

Advocate





Colorado Plateau Advocate
A Publication of the Grand Canyon Trust

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With this issue of the *Advocate*, the Grand Canyon Trust announces the retirement of our President, Geoff Barnard.

What a force Geoff has been during his eight years with the Trust. His central vision was to create a conservation organization with “all the tools.” The Trust would strive to achieve collaborative results—but we would also litigate when necessary. We would work with local, state, tribal, and federal governments. We would be deep in both ecology and economics. We would press hard for designations of monuments and wilderness areas, but also would put together the resources to purchase land and grazing and mineral leases.

Geoff proceeded to make that vision a reality. Working with conservation partners and our invaluable members, he and our gifted and dedicated staff took on the toughest issues facing the Colorado Plateau. The Trust’s record during Geoff’s tenure is extraordinary—equal to any conservation organization in the country.

We do not plan to skip a beat. The Board of Trustees has turned to Bill Hedden, the Trust’s Utah Conservation Director, as our new leader. A nationally respected conservationist, Bill earned his Ph.D. in biology from Harvard and for the past 28 years has lived on the Colorado Plateau in Castle Valley outside of Moab. Bill has achieved a brilliant string of successes during his seven years with the Trust. Among other things, he was the architect of the historic buy outs of grazing leases and mineral leases in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument; headed the cleanup of the Atlas Mine uranium tailings; negotiated acquisitions of key land holdings; and played a pivotal role in the expansion of Arches National Park. Articulate, knowledgeable, and fiercely determined to protect and restore his beloved Colorado Plateau, Bill is the perfect person to carry on and expand our work.

So please be assured that the Grand Canyon Trust will maintain its leadership role in protecting Grand Canyon quiet, cleaning up coal-fired power plants, reforming state trust lands in Arizona and Utah, implementing our cutting-edge Native American Program, acquiring sensitive lands, improving the Glen Canyon Dam flow regime to protect habitat and recreation in the Grand Canyon, and pressing our many other initiatives so critical to the future of the canyon country.

We at the Trust, then, thank Geoff Barnard for his trailblazing leadership and with great optimism give our full support to Bill Hedden and his energy and creativity. Our ecosystem may be fragile but our organization remains as strong as ever. 🌀

—Charles Wilkinson

In the fall of 1999, U.S. Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson visited the small town of Moab, Utah to celebrate a victory with the local community. Congress had just passed legislation charging Richardson with the job of moving 12 million tons of radioactive uranium mill wastes safely away from the Colorado River. He was delighted to be on the job. But, what a difference an election can make! Today, Richardson is Governor of New Mexico, and his successor at DOE, Spencer Abraham, has shown little interest in an environmental cleanup. The Atlas uranium wastes still slump on the riverbank, silently leaking toxins into Southwest's most important water source while DOE begins a new environmental impact study of the disposal options. The environmentalists working on the problem have drawn a deep breath and begun, Sisyphean-like, to convince yet another federal agency of the unwisdom of poisoning our water.

The Atlas tailings are a graphic reminder for me, as I begin my term at the helm of the Trust, of the challenging times faced by all of us who care about the future habitability of our beautiful, fragile planet. The presidency of George W. Bush is notable for many things, not least the inescapable fact that it is the most anti-environmental administration in our lifetimes. On every front, a rogues' gallery of political appointees is weakening the laws that protect our natural resources, reducing opportunities for public participation in decisions about our public lands, and eliminating opportunities for legal challenges when the government breaks the laws. And all of it is couched in Madison Avenue packaging that labels the chopping down of old trees as a "Healthy Forests Initiative," and the weakening of Clean Air Act requirements for modernizing dirty old power plants as a "Clear Skies Initiative."

These national developments, of course, have implications for the work of the Trust here on the Colorado Plateau. We typically make use of the full range of approaches to environmental problems, from buying ecologically critical lands, on through collaborations with state and federal agencies aimed at creating models of sustainability or changing policy, to litigation, the last resort when extreme circumstances warrant it. This versatility insures that even the most hostile atmosphere in Washington cannot bring our projects to a standstill; but changed circumstances sometimes warrant new strategies. For this edition of the *Advocate* I have asked staff



members to write about issues that are in particularly interesting stages of development as we go to press. This perspective is filled out in a guest editorial written by Don Hoffman, Director of the Arizona Wilderness Coalition. Don describes a secret negotiation that has opened our wildest lands across the West to the threat of development. Herewith, a preview of other articles you will find inside.

Government affairs director Tom Robinson offers a history of how an arcane and repealed nineteenth century mining law called RS 2477 is being used as a cudgel against wilderness advocates. The legitimate needs of state and local jurisdictions for rights-of-way for their transportation networks is being extended to illegal ORV routes, hiking trails, and even wash bottoms. The result will be costly litigation and even costlier destruction of our public lands.

Taylor McKinnon, who is the Trust's resident forestry expert, has participated at a deep and constructive level in planning forest restoration projects around Flagstaff. In this area, as in the management of the Colorado River and the reform of grazing practices on public rangelands, the Trust has earned a place of exceptional credibility and standing because we have rolled up our sleeves and worked with state and federal partners to solve the real world problems facing natural resource managers. Taylor gives the lie to administration and congressional claims about the causes of disastrous fires during the region's worst drought of the last 1,400 years, and he also exposes the hidden agenda behind the Healthy Forests Initiative.

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Elves Chasm before Colorado River diversion by Glen Canyon Dam; photo by Bill Belknap, 1958 Grand Canyon river trip with Mexican Hat Expeditions. Image courtesy of NAU Cline Library.

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Nikolai Ramsey describes how the Trust is using its seat on the adaptive management working group to push for the changes in Colorado River management that are needed if we are to recover the native fish and riparian communities, or preserve archaeological sites at the bottom of the Grand Canyon.

The Trust's long-term commitment to clean air has produced major victories at power plants across the region. Our litigation to clean up the Springerville and San Juan power plants is undeterred, and made more important, by administration efforts to gut the Clean Air Act. Rick Moore describes on the next page the critical role our members play in giving us standing in these landmark legal challenges that have been clearing the air in the Southwest.

Other projects are much less confrontational. Chris Newell, who is moving this fall to Springdale, Utah to take charge of our Zion program, tells how the Coconino County Comprehensive Plan became one of the most progressive in the nation. David Conrad describes the great diversity of issues on which our Native American program is respectfully engaging tribal governments. Biologist Michele James raises a number of crucial questions about the effects of making snow in the San Francisco Peaks with reclaimed water filled with the broad array of potent chemicals we humans leave in our wastewater. And we pause to honor volunteer Jan Shaffer as a stellar representative of the great many Trust volunteers who make a difference working out on the land. You will also see brief appreciations of great staff members who have moved on to new challenges, a reminder that the Trust is a living, breathing organization that evolves even though it is in a steady orbit around the enduring mission of protecting and restoring the Colorado Plateau. 🐾

—Bill Hedden

Cleaning Up the San Juan Power Plant

Standing on the Shoulders of Trust Members



Scott Jackson

EILEEN FJERSTAD

The pollution haze obscures what used to be sharp edges of desert landscape, reduces the distance of our views and changes the colors of the sky and natural surroundings. Sunsets are more ochre and yellow because of pollutants. From the desert, bright snow-capped views of the mountains are hazed and yellow-brown and at times difficult to see at all. The air pollution in the valley where Farmington is located can sometimes be not only quite noticeable visually, but the pollution also gives the air a very unpleasant "taste."



Larry Lindahl

CURT WALTERS

I have witnessed the incredible, ugly, amber and filthy horizon. Not only does the pollution engulf the great Shiprock itself, but it impairs the vistas of the surrounding mountains. The pollution discharged from the stacks of the San Juan generating station degrades the incredibly beautiful landscape that surrounds the Four Corners area. I am also very concerned for the health of my grandchildren who are being raised in Farmington, New Mexico. Farmington children have a distressingly high rate of asthma.



Courtesy Mike Paine and family

MIKE PAINE

Many times, especially in winter, the pollution from the plant is thick, yellow-brown and causes the city to stink like sulfur. The air is awful to look at, difficult to breathe. It gets so bad that it obscures Shiprock. When the wind blows the right way, everything gets coated with a thin film of white particulate from the plant.

Without members that care deeply about clean, clear air, the Trust would lose a critically important tool to reduce pollution from coal-fired power plants. These brave souls are essential elements in bringing "citizen enforcement actions," better known as lawsuits. However, the Trust cannot file an enforcement action simply because we feel like doing so. First, we must allege that the power plant is not meeting its legal requirements; secondly, Trust members must be adversely affected in some way; and thirdly, Trust members must be willing to testify regarding the impacts.

When Congress wrote the Clean Air Act, it recognized that regulatory agencies would not be able to monitor all of the thousands of pollution sources in the country, investigate each one to ensure that it was fully complying with its permit, and then bring enforcement actions against those that fail to do so. Consequently, it gave citizens the authority to step into the shoes of an attorney general and enforce the Clean Air Act on their own behalf.

So, the Trust—and in the case of San Juan the Sierra Club, which is a co-plaintiff—can only file a lawsuit on behalf of members who are harmed in some way by the pollution from the plant. Additionally, the members must be willing to file a declaration with the court explaining how they are affected and, if necessary, be willing to be interviewed by the defendant's attorney, and testify in court. After reviewing the members' declarations, it is up to the court to decide if the Trust has "standing" to bring an enforcement action. On May 1, 2003, United States District Court Judge Bruce Black ruled that the Trust and Sierra Club have standing to bring an enforcement action against the owners of the San Juan power plant.

We would like to recognize and thank members like Verl Hopper, John Cogan, Eileen Fjerstad, Curt Walters, and Mike Paine who are willing to stand up for clean air and help us try to reduce the thousands of tons of air pollutants emitted by the San Juan power plant every year. 🌀

—Rick Moore



Recovering the Colorado River in Grand Canyon

Glen Canyon Dam is changing the nature of the rapids, along with riverside beaches, vegetation, and wildlife in the Grand Canyon. . . Before the dam was built no thought was given to what it would do to the downstream river and only a cursory examination was made of the effects of the reservoir on the Lake Powell area. . . What was not taken into account was the fact that the great flood flows of the past would exist no more, the average amount of silt passing Phantom Ranch was going to drop from 500,000 tons a day to 80,000, and the cold, clear water released from Glen Canyon was no longer going to fluctuate from near freezing to 80 degrees.

—Philip Fradkin, *A River No More, the Colorado River and the West*

The Grand Canyon Trust was instrumental in passage of the Grand Canyon Protection Act of 1992 to protect resources in Grand Canyon National Park and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. Unfortunately, despite the creation of a science center and the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program to advise the Secretary of Interior on how best to accomplish this mission, many of the management actions needed to protect these resources have not been implemented.

There are four major areas of resource decline: native fish, native riparian communities, sediment, and archaeological resources. The humpback chub and razorback sucker (and presumably other native fish species) are in decline. Both fish are listed as endangered and could be lost from the Canyon in the near future. Their plight is largely connected to the loss of habitat in the Colorado's mainstem (due to changes in temperature and turbidity) and the impacts of several nonnative species that are predators, competitors, or parasites.

Grand Canyon's two native riparian communities are also in decline. The sand beach community is composed mostly of grasses and forbs and historically occurred in a wide band adjacent to the river. This community has been heavily invaded by the nonnative tamarisk tree. Above the sand beach community is another band of vegetation that runs parallel to the river. This narrow band of long-lived trees and shrubs is known as the "old high water zone" community. This community is being degraded by the invasion of nonnative species and the lack of recruitment of new individuals to balance mortality.

Another faltering resource is sediment in the river. It is the foundation of habitat for the aquatic and riparian species. It provides camping sites for recreational users and is also important in protecting cultural resources *in situ*. There is no longer sufficient input and storage of sediment to balance the natural loss through erosion. Grand Canyon now only receives sediment inputs from its tributaries—about five percent of the amount of sediment



Grand Canyon, Colorado River ca. 1910. Image courtesy of NAU Cline Library.

that historically entered Grand Canyon each year. The other 95 percent of the historic sediment supply is trapped in Lake Powell. Current dam operations compound the problem as dam releases are rarely made in a manner that captures tributary sediment.

Like the natural systems, archaeological resources are also in trouble. Before the dam was constructed, gullies created by flash floods from side canyons were quickly refilled with sediment carried by the river. Today, the gullies erode ever more deeply, exposing and destroying archaeological sites.

To recover these resources, management must be changed in at least four ways: (1) dam releases must mimic a natural hydrograph to benefit native fish and build beaches; (2) a temperature control device has to be installed to improve habitat conditions for humpback chub; (3) ways must be found to augment sediment and increase its retention in the canyon; and (4) a comprehensive nonnative fish control program must be implemented to benefit native fish.

The Trust is working within the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program to put the management actions in place that will protect Colorado River resources. Grand Canyon Trust recently presented a comprehensive proposal to implement experiments and other actions to address dam operations, nonnative species control, water temperature, turbidity, and public outreach. This proposal resulted in the creation of a very active ad hoc committee, responsible for creating 23 projects involving several state and federal agencies to protect Grand Canyon resources.

The Trust is also pursuing legal actions. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Recovery Goals for four endangered Colorado River fish, including humpback chub, were inadequate in several ways: notably, they set as a goal a recovered population of just 2,100 adults, an untenably

low population for this ancient native fish species. The humpback chub has existed in Grand Canyon for some two million years. Between 1982 and 2001, their population has declined from 7,500 to 1,100 adults—an 85 percent population size decrease. We filed a 60-day Notice of Intent to Sue and intend to use litigation to improve resource conditions for humpback chub and other Grand Canyon resources.

Back in D.C., the Trust is also advocating for increased funding for federal agencies and tribes to do the work necessary to improve resource conditions on the Colorado River. We are requesting the following appropriations:

- \$10 million (\$2 million per year for five years, beginning in 2004) for Grand Canyon Monitoring & Research Center's experimental actions work (line item directive to USGS).
- \$2 million in 2004 for Bureau of Reclamation feasibility study of sediment augmentation in Colorado River downstream of Glen Canyon Dam.
- \$2 million in 2004 for National Park Service to improve conditions for native fish in Grand Canyon National Park.
- \$1 million in 2004 for Native American tribes participating in Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program.

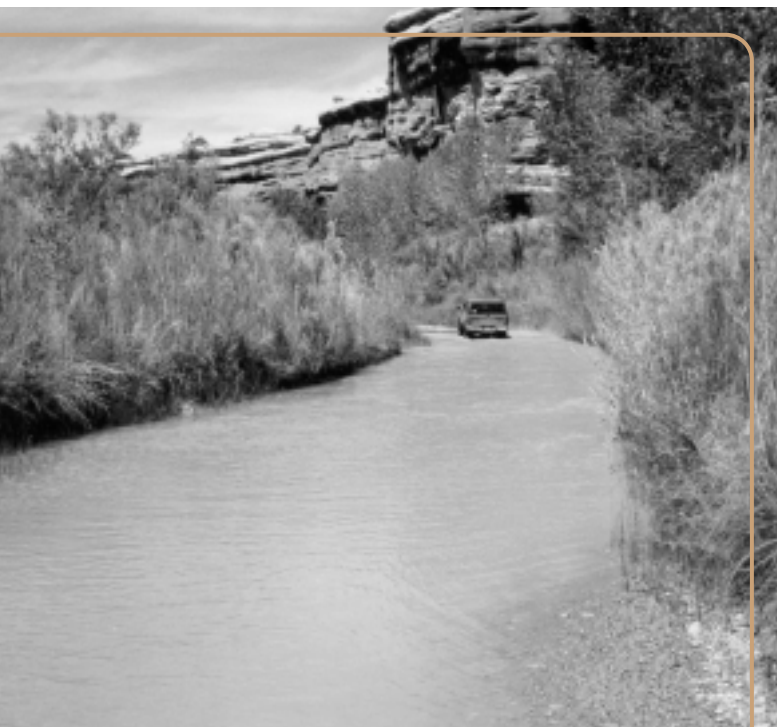
Seasonal variations in the free-flowing, pre-dam Colorado River were considerable, with extremes at the Grand Canyon gauge ranging from 300,000 cfs on July 8, 1884, to 700 cfs on December 28, 1914. Although we may never be witness to that much variability again, dam releases mimicking a natural hydrograph, along with other management tools—sediment, temperature, nonnative fish control—must be implemented to restore to health the Colorado River in Grand Canyon. Our multidimensional efforts are aimed at achieving this goal. ●

—Nikolai Ramsey

RS 2477 Rears its Ugly Head (again)

Trust Begins Research, Advocacy

Across the West, state and local governments are getting ready to file thousands of unsubstantiated claims for federal rights-of-way under the provisions of an 1866 mining law known as RS (Revised Statute) 2477. Repealed by Congress in 1976, this Civil War-era law was originally intended to serve the narrow goal of granting



The Salt Creek “road” in Canyonlands National Park.

the right to construct and use highways across public lands *that were not otherwise reserved or set aside for other public uses* (such as to protect water supplies, forests, wildlife, or scenic beauty). Instead, it is now viewed as a loophole to allow the bulldozing of a spider web of roads across wild lands on the Colorado Plateau—including the nation’s greatest concentration of parks and monuments.

The outdated RS 2477 states simply, “The right-of-way for the construction of highways over public lands, not reserved for public uses, is hereby granted.” In 1866, this statute was passed in part to permit highway construction to help commerce move from town to town over federally owned lands. In 1976, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) repealed the obsolete statute, but did not invalidate claims that could be shown to be established and valid prior to 1976.

The great majority of these phantom-road claims are illegitimate assertions meant to undermine federal protected

areas, thwart wilderness protection (because the presence of a road generally disqualifies an area for wilderness designation), and serve special interests, such as mining, timber, oil and gas industries, and off-road-vehicle users. Some counties are asserting RS 2477 road-building rights-of-way claims for cow paths, horse trails, riverbeds, off-road vehicle routes, and for overgrown trails that have not been maintained or driven on for decades, if ever.

The unmanaged and unnecessary creation of new roads in pristine areas would degrade water quality, destroy and fragment wildlife habitat, increase the risk of vandalism to archaeological sites, encourage the destructive use of off-road vehicles outside of designated-use areas, increase erosion, destroy the peace and quiet of wild areas, and undermine conservation efforts for lands that must be preserved for future generations.

In the 1980s, as federal land management agencies inventoried roadless lands to see if they qualified for wilderness protection, development and off-road advocates and anti-federal government extremists mobilized in opposition. County and state officials resurrected the old RS 2477 statute, arguing that it gave them unrestricted access to western national parks, national forests, national wildlife refuges, national monuments, and wilderness areas.

The current administration is pushing hard to ease the approval process for phantom RS 2477 claims. On January 6, 2003, Interior Secretary Norton issued a new rule to try to make it easier for the federal government to grant RS 2477 claims.

In addition, the new rule puts the BLM in charge of approving RS 2477 claims on land within national parks and wildlife refuges, even over the objections of the National Park Service or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Equally troubling is that the rule was put into effect before the U.S. Department of the Interior published the standards it will use to judge the validity of these claims.

As this issue of the *Advocate* goes to press, Trust staff are collecting and analyzing information on potential RS 2477 claims on the Arizona Strip, including the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument and other adjacent and nearby public wild lands. This work includes research on the North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park. Visit the “Action Alert” section of our website, www.grandcanyontrust.org to find out more and how you can get involved.

For more information about RS 2477 including links to partner conservation groups working on this issue and how to make your voice heard in protecting public lands from this enormous threat, visit www.rs2477.com. 🐾

—Tom Robinson

Native American Program

Strengthening Relationships and Building Conservation-focused Partnerships with Colorado Plateau Tribes

The Native American program is gradually putting down roots throughout Grand Canyon Trust's day-to-day work. As the Trust develops external relations with tribes, we are expressing our respect for tribal sovereignty and the pursuit of greater self-determination. In discussions with tribal leaders, we are discovering where the Trust can add the greatest value through a variety of partnerships. While remaining flexible as we learn this ground, we are also beginning to invest our resources in these new projects.

- **Hualapai Planning and Economic Development**

The Hualapai Nation's Planning and Economic Development Department is creating a comprehensive plan for the reservation, based on the principles of sustainability. The Trust has historically focused on protecting and restoring the land surrounding the Grand Canyon for wildlife as well as multiple recreation and agrarian uses. Since the creation of the Native American program, the Trust has been helping advise and direct resources toward the Hualapai Planning and Economic Development effort. We will also assign staff time from Chris Newell, who is completing work on the Coconino County Comprehensive Plan, to the Hualapai effort in late summer 2003.

- **The San Francisco Peaks** The tribes with interests in the San Francisco Peaks as a sacred cultural site are involved in discussions with the Forest Service as it prepares its draft environmental impact statement for the Snowbowl Ski Area. Issues include the new build out of the existing recreational permit and addition of reclaimed water for snowmaking. The Trust assisted a coalition of 40 Native American grassroots organizations to obtain a grant increasing the active participation of tribal governments with cultural interests on the Peaks.
- **Navajo Wind Energy** Working as part of a team lead by the Navajo Department of Natural Resources and the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority, the Trust helped prepare a grant proposal to comprehensively examine the feasibility of developing a wind energy project. This work is part of protecting air quality on the Colorado Plateau by using wind to generate power. The Native American Program dedicated John Gaglioti's staff time to pull together all the pieces of the proposal.
- **88.1 FM KUYI Hopi Radio** The Trust is in talks with Hopi Radio with the hope of providing them a research intern who might focus on the Colorado Plateau, helping build their news bureau.



Navajo National Monument near Kayenta, AZ.

- **Volunteer training** Participants in the Trust's volunteer program are learning skills to identify cultural and archaeological disturbances on federal lands. A planned training is intended to give tribes the extra capability to protect those resources. In working with the tribes on conservation issues, and taking a long look at the conservation movement, protecting land and habitat has a greater meaning attached to it. The story, or history, of the land plays an integral part in the overall long-term success of conservation. Our volunteer program is a valuable for outreach as well as conservation, and we are strengthening it to include archaeological resources awareness. We do not intend the training to grow into a larger program away from our conservation mission, but illegal archaeological resource looting is occurring on federal and tribal lands across the country. The Trust intends to accomplish four things with this training: 1) train volunteers on safety procedures if they should encounter armed and dangerous pothunters in the field; 2) train volunteers to recognize signs of archaeological resource disturbance/theft and give them a way to report it; 3) raise the community's awareness about issues and laws regarding archaeological resource protection; and 4) embrace a more holistic approach to conservation that will strengthen our relationships with tribes. 🌵

—David Conrad

Coconino County Planning Partnership



Coconino County is one of the most spectacular places on earth—home to the Grand Canyon, Vermilion Cliffs National Monument, the volcanic, snow-capped San Francisco Peaks, and cool refreshing Oak Creek Canyon—just to name a few of the most well-known places. Coconino County attracts tens of thousands of visitors each year and hundreds of new residents are drawn to our small welcoming communities and big open spaces. The County’s updated comprehensive plan establishes goals and policies that will help ensure that the very aspects of the county that attract visitors and residents are not destroyed in the process of accommodating more visitors and residents.

After 18 months of weekly management team meetings and monthly steering committee meetings, the Coconino County Comprehensive Plan is complete! It represents strong leadership and vision on the part of Coconino County and passion and commitment from the 17 steering committee members and five management team members. The board-appointed steering committee consists of 17 community members representing such diverse and important perspectives as the Grand Canyon Trust (Brad Ack), Arizona Public Service Company, The Diablo Trust, Northern Arizona University, Northern Arizona Building Association, Babbitt Ranches, Northern Arizona Association of Realtors, The Nature Conservancy, Coconino Community College, the Museum of Northern Arizona, small business owners, and tribal interests.

How it all Began The idea for incorporating conservation into the County Comprehensive Plan began after a bitter state election where both the Citizens Growth Initiative and the Governor’s Smart Growth proposal were defeated by voters. People in Coconino County decided there had to be a better way of addressing these local issues. The Grand Canyon Trust began to engage the county, realtors, ranchers, the public service company, homebuilders, and others in a community conversation focused on growth and the environment in Coconino County. Participants agreed that the most contentious issues in the election revolved around Phoenix’s growth issues, not our own. And, we all knew that the County’s Comprehensive Plan was due for an update. We began to hatch an idea for developing a conservation-based County Comprehensive Plan.

What makes this plan different? The plan is unique for a several reasons. Usually “government” develops a plan and then seeks public comment and approval. In this case, the community invited the “government” to participate with them in defining the vision and setting goals for the future of our county. The community has been involved in the planning through the steering committee representatives, through a series of over 20 public open houses, and through the county’s website <http://co.coconino.az.us/partnership>. The Grand Canyon Trust was involved in every aspect of the planning effort. In addition to Brad Ack who served on the steering committee and Chris Newell who was a member of the management team—Rick Moore, Nikolai Ramsey, and Taylor McKinnon contributed their expertise on air and energy, water, and forest issues, respectively.

The plan is the first to integrate conservation planning and comprehensive planning. A basic premise is that human beings are integral components of the ecosystems we inhabit and have played a significant role in shaping the environments in which we live. As such, we have an obligation to act in accordance with the nature of things. Decisions that help to perpetuate ecosystem well-being and sustain the processes that maintain functioning ecosystems are necessary and desirable. Healthy communities and economies flow from healthy environments.

Implementation When implemented, the Comprehensive Plan will help to ensure that future growth, development, and land use are in balance and harmony with the conservation of natural areas, natural systems, and water resources. Ultimately, the Comprehensive Plan will serve as a guide for where and how development is most appropriate and where future growth should be directed. Implementation of the Comprehensive Plan will help to further the Grand Canyon Trust’s mission to protect and preserve the diversity of life on the Colorado Plateau. This important work also advances key elements of the Trust’s vision for this region 100 years from now: a place still characterized by vast open spaces...a sustaining relationship between human communities and the natural environment; and people living and visiting here who are willing and enthusiastic stewards of the region’s beauty and natural resources.

Adoption The final plan has been recommended for adoption by the Steering Committee and, following inter-agency and internal review, will be approved by the board of supervisors in the fall of 2003. 🍷

—Chris Newell

Arizona Snowbowl Plan

Is Snowmaking Right for the Peaks?

The San Francisco Peaks rise in dramatic isolation 12,000' above the surrounding pine and grasslands. These mountains are important ecologically and culturally to the inhabitants of the Colorado Plateau. At least 13 Native American tribes in the Southwest hold the mountain as a place of cultural and religious significance, particularly the Navajo and Hopi. The mountain harbors ecoregionally rare biotic communities including alpine tundra, aspen, mixed conifer and subalpine forests providing habitat for endangered and threatened species.

Balancing recreational desires, the need to conserve the Peaks' ecological integrity, and respect for Native American spiritual concerns, is ever more challenging. This is clearly evidenced by proposed Arizona Snowbowl Ski Area improvements. These improvements, in particular the proposal to make snow from reclaimed water, may unavoidably raise the most difficult of these challenges.

Last fall, the Coconino National Forest and owners of the Arizona Snowbowl released a proposal to construct new lifts, runs, a snow play area, and add snowmaking facilities on the western flanks of the San Francisco Peaks. The snowmaking plan would pipe reclaimed effluent from Flagstaff's water treatment facilities more than a vertical half mile up the mountain. The Navajo passed a council resolution opposing the expansion. Area tribes litigated Snowbowl's previous expansion up to the United States Supreme Court. Recreational use at Snowbowl will intensify under the new plan and the tribes continue to find such use objectionable.

Grand Canyon Trust's comments on the proposal raised critical issues and questions pertaining to economic assumptions and anticipated effects to the environment. The Trust is requesting that each of these issues and questions be addressed in the Forest Service's draft environmental impact statement, due for release in fall 2003. Issues raised by the Trust focus on the potential effects of the plan on natural resources. Our position hinges on the Forest Service's evaluation of these issues.

One of the Trust's primary concerns is the use of reclaimed water for snowmaking. An investigation of water quality issues revealed literature describing the possible presence and effects of pharmaceutical compounds, personal care products, endocrine-disrupting chemicals, and microorganism pathogens in reclaimed water sources. These compounds are excreted or washed into sewage systems. The potential consequence of human and non-human exposure to such compounds prompts critical questions about the application of reclaimed water. The issues the Trust has identified are common in the use of reclaimed water throughout the United States and Europe.

The City of Flagstaff, the U.S. Geological Survey, and Northern Arizona University (NAU) are conducting screening of Flagstaff's wastewater for a wide array of chemicals and are conducting research on the effects of exposure to Flagstaff's wastewater on nontarget organisms. NAU research will focus on the effects of endocrine-disrupting chemicals on development, thyroid function, and stress responses of specific organisms. These studies will provide valuable information about compounds in Flagstaff's treated water and will begin to answer questions regarding their biological effects.

The complexity of snowmaking on the Peaks is compounded by what scientists are calling the most severe drought in 1,400 years in this region. Scientists indicate that we are facing the very real prospect that the Colorado Plateau is becoming drier and will remain so for the next 20 to 30 years. In the near future, snowmaking may seem like a trivial waste of reclaimed water.

The Snowbowl plan poses salient questions for society on the Colorado Plateau. Will we adapt to aridity rather than engineer limited water to meet our recreational needs? What does a sustainable economy in an arid landscape look like? And, should making snow with reclaimed effluent occur despite the strong religious objections of members of our society? As citizens of the Colorado Plateau we must make some difficult decisions about the future of this unique mountain and the future of water use in this region. 🌵

—Michele James

Selected Grand Canyon Trust Projects

Utah Trust Lands

The Grand Canyon Trust is working to protect open space and reform management of Utah State Trust Lands.

Box-Death Hollow Wilderness

The Trust is working to eliminate oil and gas leases from backcountry areas in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

RS 2477

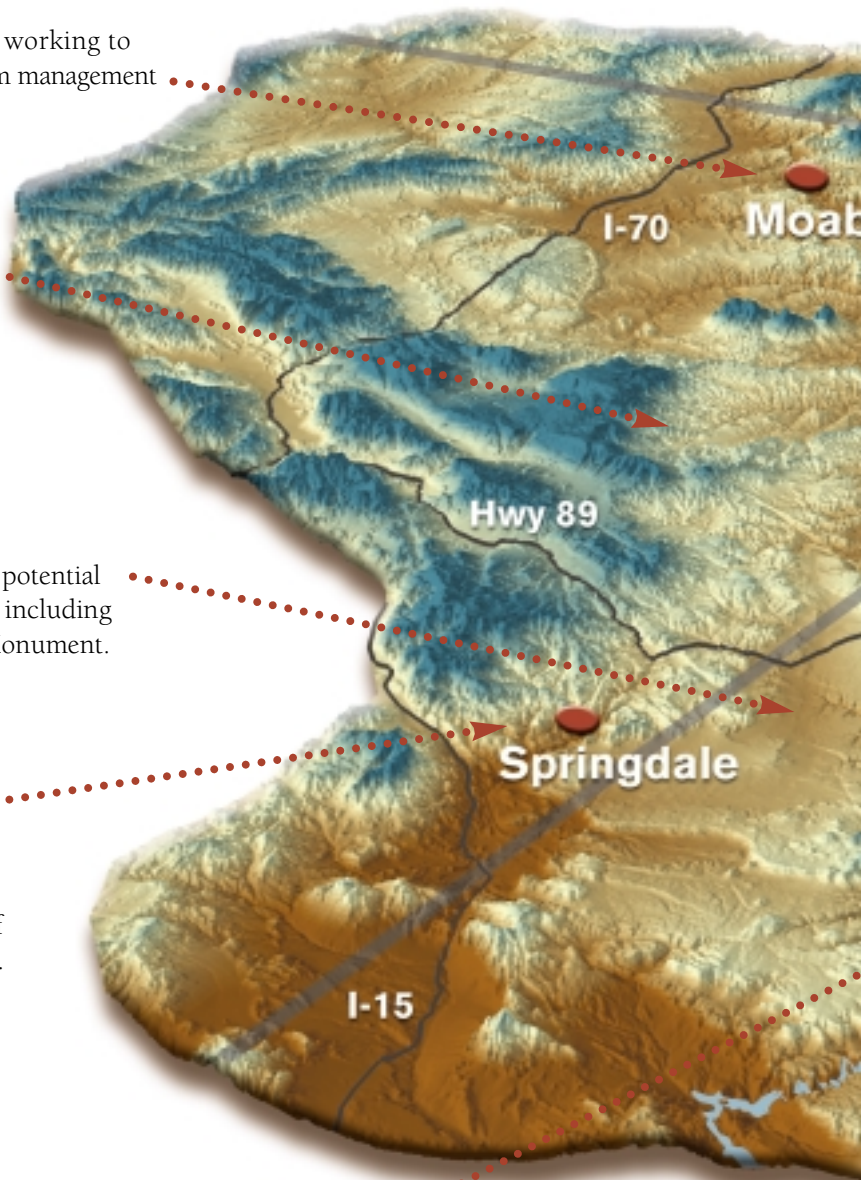
The Trust is collecting and analyzing potential road claims on remote Arizona Strip, including Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument.

Greater Zion National Park

The Trust is sifting conservation opportunities, strengthening relationships, and building a comprehensive conservation program for one of the Colorado Plateau's premier natural wonders.

Colorado River

Trust work is paying dividends with new suite of projects approved by Glen Canyon Adaptive Management Group to help restore beaches and recover endangered native fish.

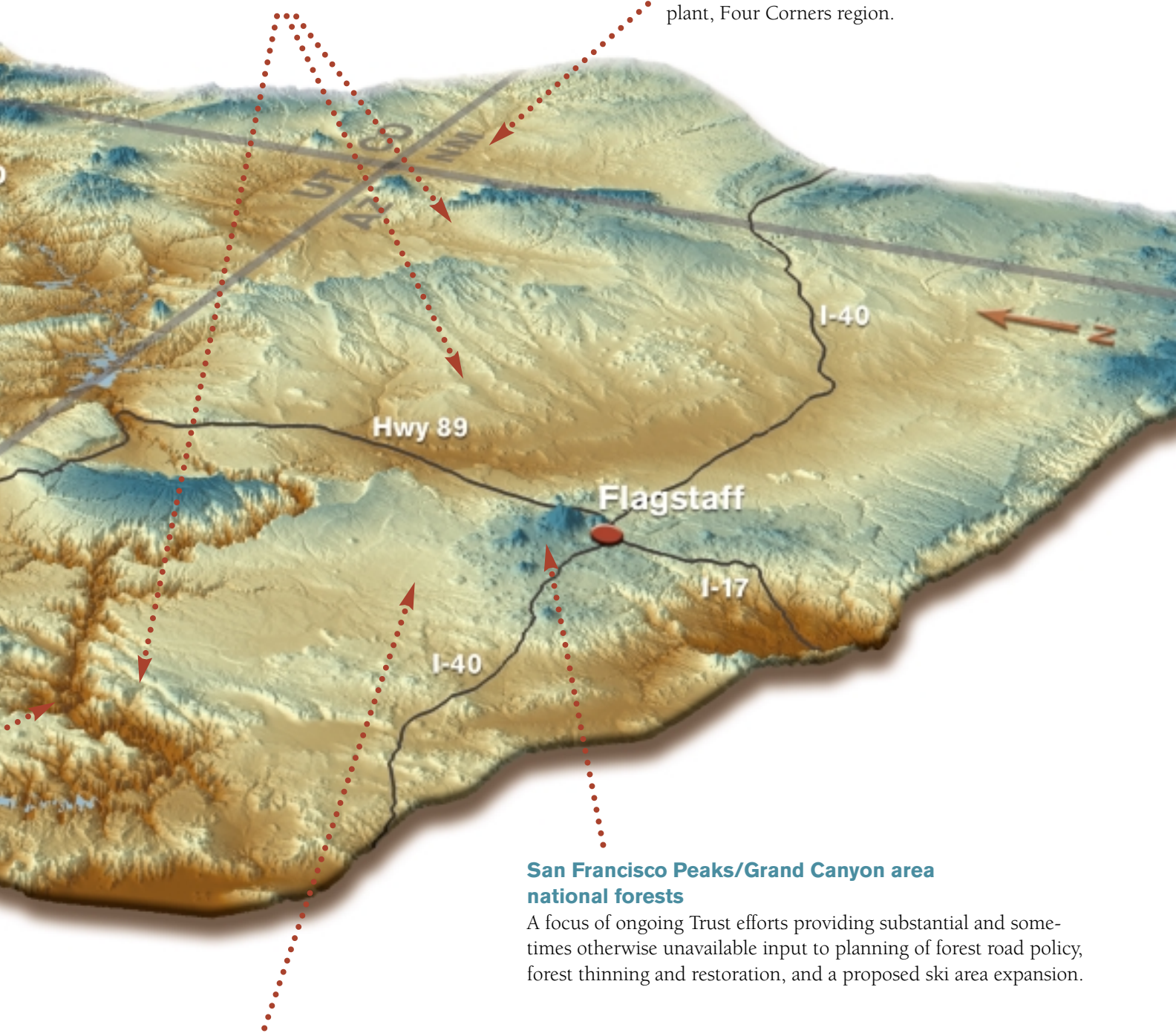


Native American Program

By actively listening to Hualapai, Hopi, and Navajo Tribes, the Grand Canyon Trust is collaborating on a variety of projects blending ecology, economy & community.

Air quality

Trust members are providing legal standing for cleanup of coal-fired, San Juan power plant, Four Corners region.



San Francisco Peaks/Grand Canyon area national forests

A focus of ongoing Trust efforts providing substantial and sometimes otherwise unavailable input to planning of forest road policy, forest thinning and restoration, and a proposed ski area expansion.

Coconino County Comprehensive Plan

One of the first of its kind, across one of the largest and most diverse counties in the U.S., the Trust is collaborating with many stakeholders infusing a strong conservation planning element for the future of this awesome place.

Another DOI Injustice!

Guest Column by Don Hoffman, Director, Arizona Wilderness Coalition

Typical of the Bush Administration, the bad environmental news reached Congress late on a Friday afternoon—just as the Easter recess began. Interior Secretary Gale Norton announced that Department of the Interior (DOI) had reached a settlement agreement with the state of Utah to eliminate the interim protections for 2.6 million acres of eligible wilderness in Utah. Former Secretary Bruce Babbitt had previously thwarted this effort in court, but Ms. Norton begged—please, please sue us again and this time we may not defend ourselves so well—in fact, we may not defend ourselves at all! Under the settlement, Ms. Norton not only agreed to withdraw the 2.6 million acres from wilderness consideration but renounced the department's authority to conduct wilderness reviews anywhere in the country.

The settlement agreement requires that the BLM abandon their Wilderness Inventory Handbook nationally. The handbook provided guidelines for citizens to study wilderness potential and to submit citizen proposals. It also provided direction for BLM to provide interim protection of lands that have been shown to have wilderness characteristics.

Previously, BLM could create Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) that would be protected in a manner that would not affect the eligibility of the identified lands to become designated wilderness. However, now BLM is no longer required to protect wilderness quality lands to maintain their eligibility. The settlement decision indicates that they do not recognize their authority to create WSAs through their Resource Management Plan (RMP) revisions. It also indicates that any WSAs previously created through their RMP processes will be eliminated along with the interim protections that are provided.

It is notable that this decision was made at the top levels of the Department of Interior and did not include any involvement from local directors, managers, government officials, or community stakeholders. This is remarkably contrary to the consistent lip service the Secretary's office exposes regarding their desire to involve local managers, government officials, and stakeholders in all of their decisions. I have repeatedly called the BLM State Director's



Don Hoffman at Vermilion Cliffs.

Kim Cumber

Office but they have not yet received any information or direction regarding this decision. They are courteous and professional, but clearly baffled.

The BLM inventory and planning process is a stellar example of democracy in action. It gives every American the chance to voice their view about how the public lands are managed. Without it, the Arizona Wilderness Coalition would not have been able to compile the comprehensive

data its dedicated volunteers gathered into nine BLM proposals that include 70 units and cover nearly 2 million acres of Arizona's wildest places. Among our proposals are outstanding examples of Arizonans who have spent thousands of volunteer hours following BLM guidelines for developing citizen proposals to establish WSAs. This decision deliberately pulls the rug out from under them.

The Arizona Wilderness Coalition (AWC) is not discouraged but outraged, and the fine legal team at Earthjustice has agreed to represent us and the citizens of Arizona. In a suit against DOI, the AWC has joined with seven other wilderness advocacy groups charging that the department has violated federal environmental laws, the U.S. Constitution, and federal court decisions when it secretly agreed to surrender the BLM's authority to review and protect its wilderness quality lands. The Bush administration's record in the courts is dismal, and we believe they have once again overreached the law.

The Arizona Wilderness Coalition will continue to identify BLM public lands that are worthy of and eligible for permanent wilderness protection and work, undeterred, to accomplish that protective status. 🌀

Don Hoffman retired from the Forest Service where he worked for 25 years. He currently is the Director of the Arizona Wilderness Coalition (www.azwild.org), which is committed to the designation and protection of Wilderness and wild places in Arizona. He lives on the Blue River south of Alpine. He can be reached at dhoffman@azwild.org or at P.O. Box 529, Alpine AZ 85920.

This is an occasional *Advocate* guest column; the views expressed are not necessarily shared by the Grand Canyon Trust.

Will Ecological Restoration Survive Washington Politics?

The anvil plume of the Rodeo-Chediski fire loomed over Flagstaff's southeast horizon for the better part of a month last summer. It was the largest and most destructive wildfire in Arizona history, and it spurred policymakers to action. A few months later, with the smoldering aftermath of Oregon's Biscuit fire at his back, President Bush unveiled a new plan, the Healthy Forests Initiative, intended to speed hazardous fuels reduction within National Forests.

The president's plan frames "the problem" in terms of the Forest Service's procedural environment, implying that devastating wildfires could be avoided by making administrative and legislative changes to "unnecessary regulatory obstacles that hinder active forest management..." It argues that lengthy environmental reviews, burdensome public involvement, and environmentalists' abuse of the appeals process all impede thinning and burning that, if implemented, would lessen wildfire potential. Consequently, at press time, the Forest Service was finalizing new rules undermining environmental requirements and limiting citizen participation while the House Resources Committee was busy legislating even more radical measures.

The new authoritarian Forest Service emerging from the ashes of the 2002 wildfire season sharply departs from 98 years of policy evolution trending toward more public involvement and better environmental reviews. Just as important, as a reactionary policy solution, the Healthy Forests Initiative signals either a deeply flawed understanding of the problems underpinning western wildfires, an alternative agenda leveraging wildfires to meet broader political goals, or both.

Our six years of experience working through the Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership provides no evidence to support weakening the Forest Service's regulatory environment. Environmental reviews are not slowing forest restoration. Instead, planning outpaces implementation by several thousand acres. The only instances in which appeals delayed a project was when appellants caught the Forest Service breaking the law. And when that happened, it was the very appeals process that the Healthy Forests Initiative seeks to repeal that administratively resolved what would have otherwise ended as successful litigation. Our solution? The Forest Service should follow the law.

In March researchers at Northern Arizona University released two reports detailing their first-of-a-kind data base tracking Forest Service appeals. In other words, prior to their data base, there was no tracking mechanism

allowing policymakers to systematically evaluate appeals or their impacts. This information gap renders claims about environmentalists, appeals, and delays—claims upon which the Healthy Forests Initiative is based—anecdotal and baseless. Unable to ignore the implications of their findings, a third report detailed how Congress and the administration shifted blame for wildfires onto environmentalists and regulations in order to make ideological changes in policies and regulations.

Grand Canyon Trust's six years of experience working through the Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership provides no evidence to support weakening the Forest Service's regulatory environment.

If society seeks meaningful solutions to fire prone forests on the southern Colorado Plateau, then "the problem" will need to be defined more broadly than forest policy that limits agency discretion. As my philosopher friend Max Oelschlaeger (Francis B. McAllister Chair, Community, Culture, and Environment at Northern Arizona University) would say, catastrophic fires are a reflection of ourselves. They are the legacy of a century of ecological degradation caused by dysfunctional democracies, utilitarianism, nose-length Western shortsightedness and yes, Orwellian federal policy.

Embarking on a sincere process of ecological restoration will require overcoming this history by revisiting old values and exploring new ones. It will require authenticity, vulnerability, and civic cooperation. And most important, restoring fire-adapted forest ecosystems will require replacing dominion with communion as we allow climate-entrained fire regimes to reclaim their seat in evolutionary history. Were he here to witness these times and the difficult process of western re-inhabitation that is now underway, perhaps Wallace Stegner would remind us of a mythical frog's lesson for the West, as he so eloquently did in "Born A Square"—

Just possibly, if our Westerner lived and wrote his convictions, he could show the hopeless where hope comes from, like Aesop's frog which, drowning in a bowl of milk, in the destructive element immersed, swam so desperately that it churned up a little pad of butter on which to sit. This is not exhortation, neither is it prophecy. It is only, since I am from the West and incorrigible, hope. 🐸

—Taylor McKinnon

Conservation in Southwest Utah



Top: Zion Canyon from the Canyon Overlook Trail.
Bottom: Kolob section of Zion from Smith Mesa.

photos by Chris Newell, Grand Canyon Trust

The Trust is strengthening its conservation presence in Utah this year. Chris Newell moves to Springdale during the summer of 2003 to lead the Trust's programs in southwest Utah and continue her work on Arizona Strip monuments. The Trust's overall objectives in southwest Utah are to provide leadership on pertinent regional conservation issues, and to develop and nurture new and existing relationships with land managers, community leaders, and our conservation colleagues in the region. Chris is working closely with Bill Hedden to provide seamless coverage of issues in southern Utah. Her efforts will be supported by Grand Canyon Trust staff experts on crosscutting issues such as air quality, forest restoration, conservation planning, wildlife and endangered species, river management/water issues, and grazing.

Following Jim McMahon's departure and the closure of the St. George office last year, the Trust redefined its area of interest to "Greater Zion" and contracted with Phillip Bimstein to maintain a Trust presence in southwest Utah. Over the past year, Bob Hoffa, Chris, and Phillip conducted a "rapid conservation assessment" that identified and prioritized conservation opportunities in Greater Zion. The analysis serves as a tool in crafting the scope and emphasis of our future work in southwest Utah.

The Trust emphasizes increased protection for public lands and assured long-term viability of species and their habitats. Conservation projects will be guided by the principles of conservation biology, planning, and design based upon the best scientific information available. For example, the Trust continues to work on a watershed analysis of the Zion Scenic Corridor, something we will use to prioritize state lands for conservation and exchange. Also, the Trust continues efforts to protect Zion National Park from external stresses. We will be working to protect the Red Cliffs Desert Tortoise Reserve from development pressures while working to secure greater protective status for the Reserve. Also, the Trust will assist our colleagues on issues such as RS 2477 and the protection and integrity of wild lands and Wilderness Study Areas.

Grand Canyon Trust thanks Phillip Bimstein for his commitment and passion to the landscapes many strive to protect, for nurturing many of the Trust's important relationships, and for helping to make a smooth transition to the Trust's renewed presence in southwest Utah. We wish Phillip well in his creative endeavors and are looking forward to working with him as an environmental ally. 🐾

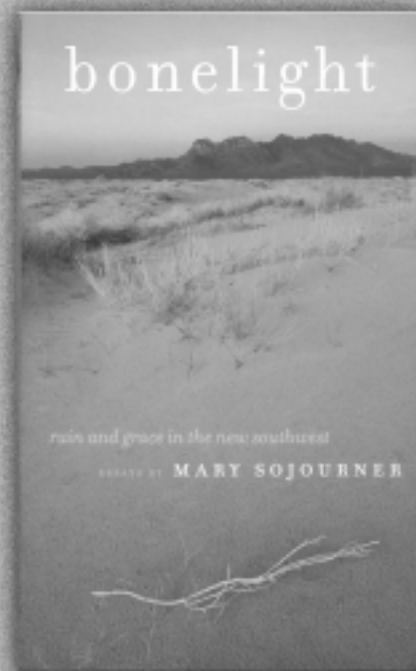
—Chris Newell

Within these pages lie the soul of a land and the spirit of a woman determined to stand her ground in the face of the destructive forces of development in her community. Part poetry, part matter of fact, the collection of essays takes Sojourner's outrage at the violation of beloved earth and transforms it into a political and social agenda. One chapter will make you laugh with its almost whimsical references to "two white chicks burning sage." Another will make you cry with its description of a forest transformed by a second-home development complete with golf course. Still another makes you shake your head at the overreaction of passersby at a picket of a corporate bookstore that moves to town.

Many books focused on environmental activism have a screechy element that becomes negative and counter-productive. *Bonelight* is not that kind of book. Rather than another activist show and tell, the author's light prose draws us into a community being shaped by the cataclysmic forces of population growth and development. This is testimony of our times—the reality of the American West that is changing rapidly. Sojourner is a witness.

Bonelight has a very compelling fierceness. It is not a gentle book; it is powerful and passionate both in its narrative and in its descriptions of the land around northern Arizona. The essays associated with casinos shape thoughtful contrast to the quiet and solitude that the author seeks. One of *Bonelight*'s great strengths is to celebrate the successes of the community—a changing city council, a new local activist group, and a piece of ground saved from development. While clear-eyed about the politics and motives for profit, it also offers a way to engage in social change, a cornerstone of our society's best aspirations.

This is also a deeply personal book. It is the story of a person who mirrors the larger forces she describes. A transplanted Easterner, Sojourner moves west and is stunned and captured by its haunting beauty and immense landscapes. Like many who have moved west before her, she cannot leave. So, she remains; and, in her struggles to stop a uranium mine, a golf course, a corporate bookstore, and another resort development, we see her grow up and feel her grow older and stronger. Her reflections of the connections between human beings and nature are strongly felt and some of the best writing comes from her descriptions of her backyard and the mountains she looks up to, both literally and metaphorically.



Bonelight: ruin and grace in the new Southwest.
Mary Sojourner

University of Nevada Press, 2002, 168 pages.
reviewed by Katrina Rogers

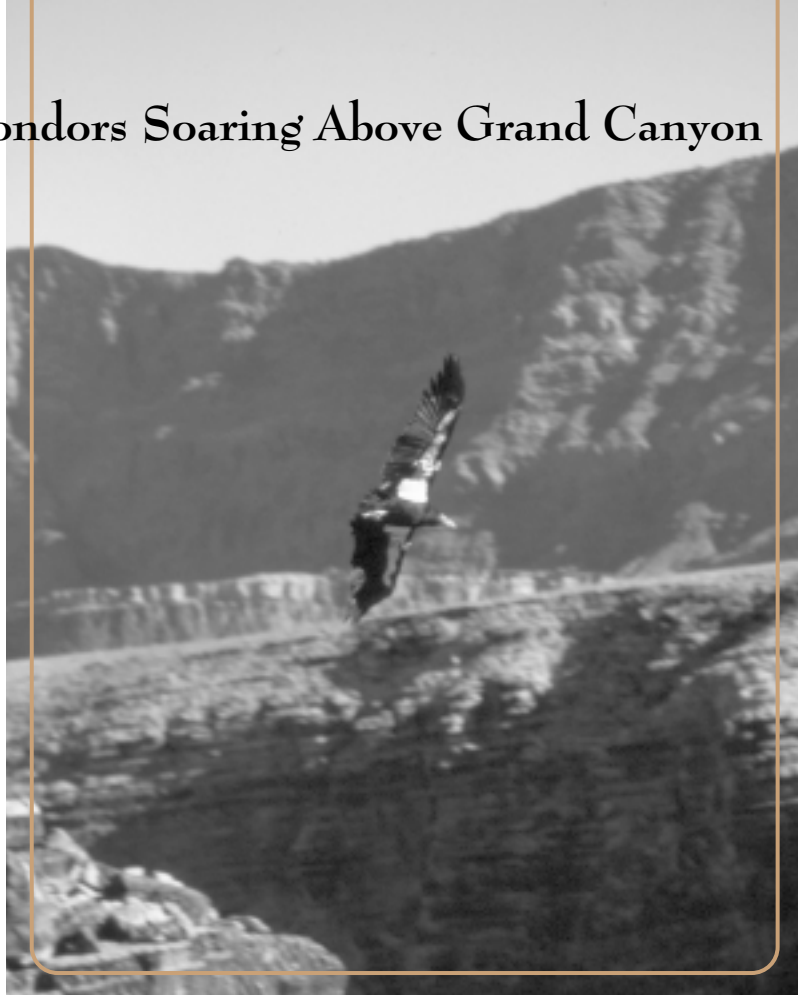
I have never had an easier time fighting. In fact, it has begun to feel less like fighting and more like loving—loving the fight, loving my companions, loving the fact that day to day I have no idea what will come next. All that love pouring into a little place, not a sexy star like the Grand Canyon or the Sacred Peaks but a somewhat battered wetlands, an old dairy farm whose buildings are scarred from years of disrespect, a meadow sustaining horned toads and elk, steep limestone slopes holding the bright shock of aspen and tiny plants whose names I do not know, tree swallows and dragonflies, ordinary bugs and birds, light, shadow, quiet—and connections.

There is a persistence and doggedness in the activism described in this book. It gives hope that the West can still be won. It will not go the way of the rest of America that is increasingly homogenized and corporatized. At least, Flagstaff, Arizona will not—not if Sojourner has anything to say about it. 🌀

—Katrina Rogers

California Condors Soaring Above Grand Canyon

Eben Waggoner



Success with endangered species reintroduction: a California condor soars over Marble Canyon, December 2002.

The magnificent California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*) has made a spectacular comeback in Arizona since it was reintroduced at Vermilion Cliffs north of the Grand Canyon in December 1996. With 35 wild condors flying the skies over the Grand Canyon and Vermilion Cliffs, visitors to the region frequently see them.

This year (2003), the Arizona Game and Fish Department reports that two pairs nested in caves at the South Rim of the Grand Canyon. Indications are that one nest failed due to undetermined causes. This is only the third year the condors in Arizona have shown nesting behavior. In March 2002, two pairs of the reintroduced birds produced eggs in remote Grand Canyon National Park caves. Unfortunately, the nests failed, likely due to the birds' inexperience. But with nearly 30 percent of the Arizona population of potential breeding age now, and courtship behavior observed in 18 birds this year, the likelihood of continued breeding in the future is high.

The reintroduced Arizona population is an important part of the overall plan to recover this amazing bird. Placed on the federal endangered species list in 1967 because of population declines caused by shooting, poisoning from lead and DDT, egg collection, and habitat degradation, the population dwindled to only 22 birds in 1982. The goal of the recovery program in California and Arizona is to establish two separate wild populations of 150 individuals, each with at least 15 breeding pairs.

Condors, especially older birds, travel throughout the Colorado River corridor. Condors have been seen foraging over the Kaibab Plateau and occasionally flying into southern Utah. The longest movement recorded thus far was to Flaming Gorge, Wyoming—310 miles from their release site.

Various problems have slowed reintroduction efforts in Arizona. The main causes of death in Arizona's condors have been lead poisoning and coyote predation. Acute lead poisoning resulted in the death of three condors in 2000. It continues to pose a threat to these birds. Coyote predation is highest with young birds that choose unsafe roost sites. With the condors' increased maturity and behavior modification, these deaths are decreasing. The deaths caused by accidental ingestion of lead are within human control—every effort should be made by hunters to properly dispose of carcasses so that ingestion of lead by condors does not occur.

The latest evidence indicates that one of the caves used by nesting condors in the last two years at Grand Canyon contains signs of historic and prehistoric use by condors. The return of the condors, a bird that has long been a part of the Colorado Plateau ecosystem, is to be celebrated.

For the latest updates on the status of the condors in Arizona, check out "Notes from the Field" on the Peregrine Fund website at www.peregrinefund.org. 🐦

—Michele James

Establishing a Charitable Gift Annuity or Charitable Remainder Trust for Your Financial Goals

**and to Help Grand Canyon Trust
Protect and Restore Canyon Country**

The Grand Canyon Trust is an organization born out of a deep and abiding love for the Colorado Plateau—its huge skies, slickrock canyons, flowing rivers, clear air, and diversity of life forms. We are dedicated to creating new ways of caring for and healing this region, an endeavor which at its essence is about aligning human needs with those of the natural environment.

Planned gifts are of considerable help to the Grand Canyon Trust's aim to be a permanent presence here—protecting and restoring natural resources on the Colorado Plateau. The most popular forms of planned giving are bequests, charitable gift annuities (CGAs), and charitable remainder trusts (CRTs).

A CGA is an agreement between you and the Grand Canyon Trust. You give a donation to the Trust. In exchange for the dollar value of your gift, you will receive fixed payments of around six percent or more of the gift (the percentage rate depends on your age) and several other important benefits, including a tax deduction and a fixed monthly, quarterly, or annual payment. A portion of the income you receive is also tax free. CGAs are an excellent vehicle if you have appreciated assets or stocks and would like a steady income. CGAs are especially useful in times of economic downturn.

Charitable remainder trusts (CRTs) are another way to give a planned gift. In addition to receiving generous income and eventually making a charitable gift, you also receive attractive tax benefits. If you transfer property to a CRT, a trustee can sell without payment of capital gains tax. After the trustee sells and reinvests, you receive payments quarterly for your lifetime(s). Your yearly income is around six percent of trust value. If the trust grows, your income will grow proportionately. You may also add assets to a CRT at any time. CRTs are particularly useful if you wish to transfer real estate.

If you would like specific information, please call Evelyn Sawyers, or send an email: sawyers@grandcanyontrust.org 📧

—Evelyn Sawyers

Volunteer Spotlight



One of the brightest stars of the Trust's volunteer conservationist program, Jan Shaffer, is committed to the protection of the Colorado Plateau. Since 2001 she has worked on a number of projects from taking down fence to improve pronghorn habitat to exploring remote tributary canyons of the Grand Canyon for our state land conservation survey. Jan retired in 2000 from American Express after a 20-year career as a computer programmer and analyst. Jan says that what attracted her to the Trust's volunteer program was the opportunity to get outside and to make a difference for the environment. "I just really enjoy working with the people at the Trust and being part of all the good things going here. The work we are doing is really making a difference," said Shaffer. Jan also works in our Flagstaff office two days a week entering data, assembling mailings, and supporting Trust program work. Whether she is pulling weeds or entering hundreds of pieces of information into our data base, Jan meets every task with a smile. She is a lifelong learner, constantly reading and asking questions to better understand local natural history and conservation issues. The Grand Canyon Trust is honored by Jan's valuable contributions and cannot thank her enough for her commitment to the Trust and the Colorado Plateau.

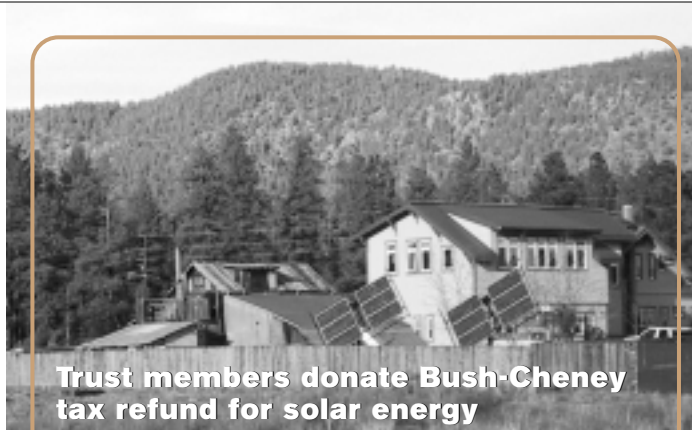
For more information on current field season projects, goals, and objectives and past accomplishments of Trust volunteer conservationists, visit: www.grandcanyontrust.org and click on "Volunteer."

Ten Year Circle of Friends

In 1999, we started our Ten Year Circle of Friends

For members who have been faithful supporters of the Trust for 10 years or more, we recognize their efforts in supporting conservation on the Colorado Plateau with a Ten Year Circle membership card. Membership in the circle is automatic when you are a member of the Trust for 10 years or more.

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Trust members donate Bush-Cheney tax refund for solar energy

Thanks to 66 Grand Canyon Trust members, we raised \$12,545 (most of the purchase price for a 1.44-kilowatt solar panel system) for our home office in Flagstaff! In the summer of 2001 the Trust asked members to invest their federal tax refunds in energy conservation. And you responded! Working with the Native American-owned and operated NativeSun Solar that installed the Trust's solar panel system, we began generating some of our own power in March, 2003. This significantly reduces the Trust's contribution to global warming and air pollution created by coal-fired power plants. Our sincerest thanks again for your generous contributions!

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Frieda and George Zinberg Fdn.



Geoff Barnard stepped down as Grand Canyon Trust president after serving for eight years, leading the Trust through a period of growth and success. “The Trust has a wonderful staff, a great board, an urgent mission, and is financially sound,” said Barnard in his late March announcement. “It will continue to grow in its effectiveness of protecting and restoring Grand Canyon and the Colorado Plateau canyon country.” Geoff assumes a role of senior advisor, while spending more time with family, including a new granddaughter in Portland. Beginning in 1995, Barnard led the Trust from a small nonprofit with seven staff to a powerful regional conservation organization with three offices and 22 full-time staff. Under Geoff’s leadership, the Trust has grown from having \$240,000 in assets to \$5.2 million; the endowment went from zero to \$1.6 million; and the Trust raised a total of \$23 million for conservation over the past eight years. Geoff is responsible for successes including protecting Dry Lake near Flagstaff from development as a golf course. For more information and success stories crafted by Geoff Barnard and Trust staff, visit: www.grandcanyontrust.org, click on “Press & Photography,” then “Press Release Archive.”

Katrina Rogers served as director of development, communications & administration after joining Grand Canyon Trust as a volunteer in 1997. In six short but fruitful years, she went from a Trust volunteer, to development director, to a senior director doing her part to make possible many Trust successes. In addition to her close work with Geoff Barnard in raising millions and boosting awareness for the Trust’s work, her leadership in projects like preserving the historic ghost town of Grafton, Utah and protecting Dry Lake symbolize the significance of her overall contributions. Of many people involved in the Grafton project, Katrina’s efforts in fund raising for a total goal of \$1.35 million—and motivating others—made possible the permanent protection of the historic ghost town, setting the stage for possible restoration of the Virgin River flowing past Grafton. Katrina hiked the Grand Canyon, rim-to-rim, twice; she floated the roaring Colorado River leading a group of landscape artists for the Trust; she has hunkered down in duck blinds before dawn spotting birds with Trust supporters; and she has traveled extensively across the country working weekends, never stopping or even pausing, in her tireless and effective service protecting and restoring canyon country. Her energy, her inspiration, her effectiveness will truly be missed.

Brad Ack departed the Trust after nearly 10 years but is “thrilled about my new career path. Gary Locke, the Governor of Washington has appointed me to lead the Puget Sound Action Team, an interagency state/federal/local government effort focused on cleanup, protection, and restoration of Puget Sound,” said Ack. He served as program director, Greater Grand Canyon and led many Trust successes over the years. Brad’s legacy is a powerful and lasting one with his leadership on the steering committee that successfully helped convince voters to approve the \$33 million Coconino Parks and Open Space Program; his leadership in the Coconino County Comprehensive Plan; his tireless efforts in protecting state trust lands; leadership in founding and guiding the Grand Canyon Forests Partnership (now the Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership); and as part of the team to bring into the light of day the Flagstaff 2020 and Open Space and Greenways Plans (as just a few examples). “The time has come to move on to new challenges and opportunities in our common cause to pass on a living natural legacy to our children and grandchildren and to make the world a better place to live,” Brad wrote in a moving farewell to Trust colleagues.

CORE VALUES

Grand Canyon Trust is an organization born out of a deep and abiding love for the Colorado Plateau—its huge skies, slickrock canyons, flowing rivers, clear air, and diverse life forms. We are dedicated to creating new ways of caring for and healing this region, an endeavor which at its essence is about aligning human needs with those of the natural environment.

We are committed to creating enduring conservation solutions using both innovative and traditional approaches.

We value excellence, creativity, and continuity in our efforts.

We strive to treat all individuals and their communities with integrity and respect.

We are committed to listening and understanding varied perspectives and, where possible, we seek approaches that meet the needs of diverse points of view.

We forge partnerships based upon openness, trust, and common goals.

We seek to employ the best available information and, share our knowledge and resources with others to further our mission.

We intend to be a permanent presence on the Colorado Plateau.

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The mission

of the Grand Canyon Trust is to protect and restore the canyon country of the Colorado Plateau—its spectacular landscapes, flowing rivers, clean air, diversity of plants and animals, and areas of beauty and solitude.

Vision

We work toward a region where generations of people and all of nature can thrive in harmony. Our vision for the canyon country of the Colorado Plateau one hundred years from now is:

- A region still characterized by vast open spaces with restored, healthy ecosystems and habitat for all native plants and animals.
- A sustaining relationship between human communities and the natural environment.
- People living and visiting here who are willing and enthusiastic stewards of the region's natural resources and beauty.

Grand Canyon Trust

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