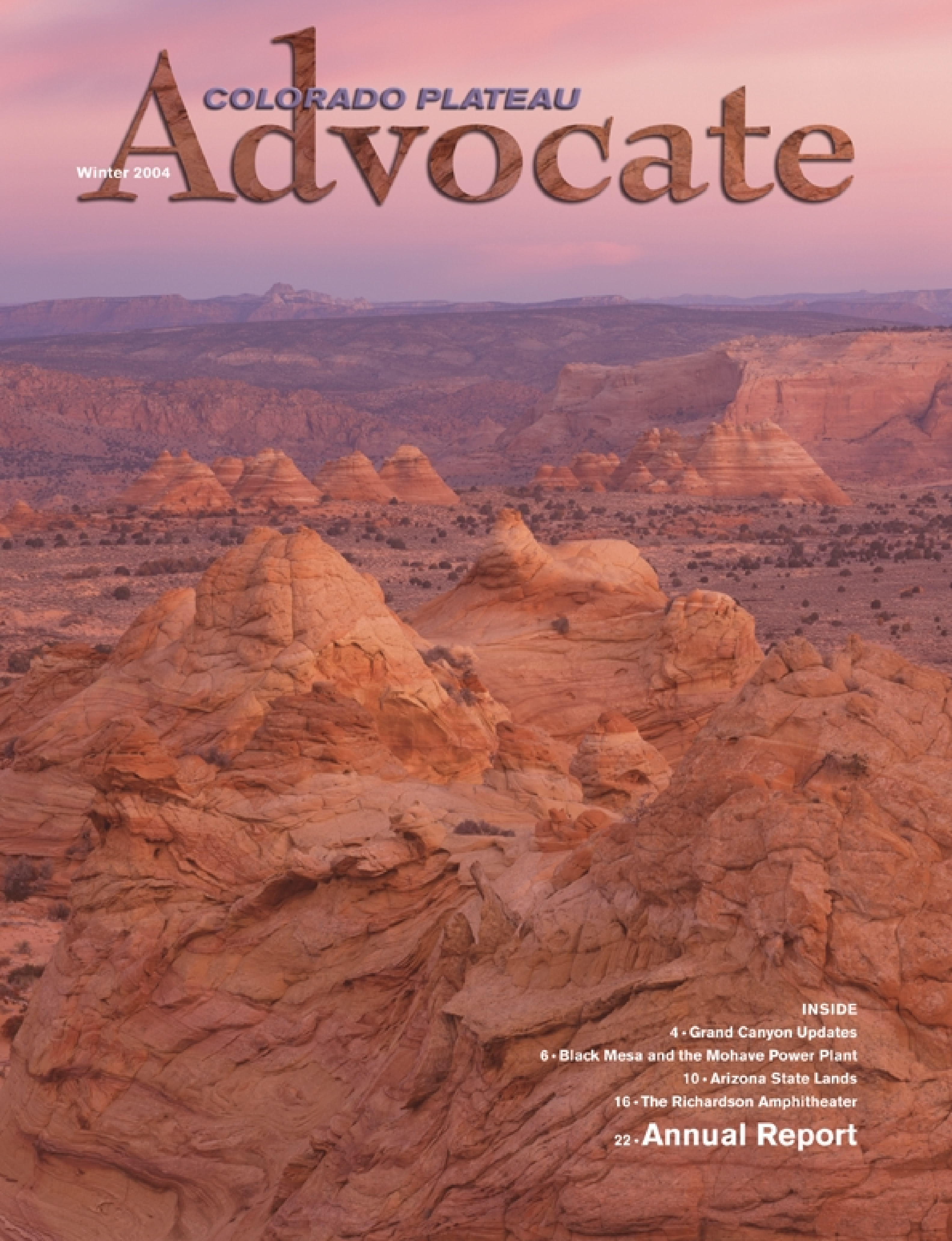
COLORADO PLATEAU Advocate

Winter 2004



INSIDE

Stewart Lee Udall

Viejo of the Colorado Plateau

The Grand Canyon Trust will celebrate Stewart Udall on Thursday evening, January 22nd at the Desert Botanical Gardens in Phoenix, when the Trust will present him with the organization's highest honor, the John Wesley Powell Award.

Stewart will always be remembered for his magnificent record as Secretary of the Interior from 1961-1969. He was a main backer of Canyonlands National Park, created in 1962. He achieved eleven new national seashores and recreation areas. The Wilderness Act had begun its way through Congress before Udall became secretary but he championed it—and helped conceive of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act of 1968. Lyndon Johnson, on his last day in office, did not take all of Stewart's recommendations on national monuments, but he did act on two—major expansions of Capitol Reef and Arches.

Some of his land-preservation initiatives took hold after he left office. His 1968 "Super Freeze" in Alaska, as bold a move as any secretary has ever taken, shut down mining and other federal land development in order to protect Alaska Native land claims; that sweeping action led to the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980, which put more than 100 million acres into wilderness and other conservation designations. He was one of the first to press for the idea of a Sonoran Desert National Park, which would be located along the Arizona-Mexico line in the congressional district Stewart represented for six years.

Stewart made advances in Indian policy by supporting the return of Blue Lake to the Taos Pueblo and promoting the "self-determination" policy during the 1960s. He took some of the first steps to reform the Hardrock Mining Law of 1872. And, after his famous float down the Grand Canyon in 1967 (he insisted it be guided by the Park Service, not the Bureau of Reclamation), his opposition to the proposed dams was their death knell.

Stewart was intellectually curious, and grew in office. In an unprecedented move, he invited Wallace Stegner back to Washington as a writer-in-residence. Stegner was no ornament: Stewart avidly sought his counsel, which broadened Udall's perspective, and he sent Stegner out into the field on special assignments.

Perhaps most notably, Stewart took Stegner's most unorthodox and challenging piece of advice: to dig deep into the history of conservation policy and, in the process, to research and write a book on conservation *while in office*. The result, of course, is the classic, *The Quiet Crisis*, published in 1963. Stegner provided an outline, but Stewart did his own writing.

While fiercely and rightly proud of his accomplishments, Stewart is self-confident enough—big enough—to admit his mistakes. Growing up on the frontier meant being imbued with the wisdom of big dams and mining projects. Yet, after a few years in a national office, he found the truer lessons in his upbringing: "I realized what I had always believed in, what I learned about the world and its creatures growing up back in St. Johns."

But Stewart served during the heyday of the Big Buildup of the Southwest and, with near-irresistible momentum surging behind many huge projects when he took office, some of his realizations came too late for him to act. He long thought of the Central Arizona Project as Arizona's destiny but now describes the CAP as "that stupid, God-mother-and-country project." Once he met with my seminar students just before we were heading off to the Colorado Plateau for a field trip. A student remarked that, on our last day, we would start out at the Black Mesa Mine and then head up to see the Navajo Generating Station and Glen Canyon Dam. "Ah," Stewart commented wryly, "my work."

After serving eight years—only Harold Ickes in the FDR administration served longer—Stewart embarked on an extraordinary journey, the kind of selfless, long-lived, public service that we so rarely see in our former office holders. He has written four major books—including a revised edition of his classic, *The Quiet Crisis*—and collaborated in several others. He helped found organizations, including the Grand Canyon Trust and the Mineral Policy Center, to reform the Mining Law of 1972. And for two decades Stewart carried on an intense and heartbreaking, though ultimately successful, crusade to bring a measure of justice to the widows of poisoned Navajo uranium miners.

Stewart has now spent nearly thirty-five years continuing to serve the public. He has been out among us, taking the time to tell us what he knows, and what he doesn't, in his direct, humorous, and passionate, always passionate, way. He is close with his children and extended family. He loved his wife, Lee, so well. He told me once that he wanted to become a *Viejo*, with something valuable to pass on, and he surely has become that—and I can tell you that the Grand Canyon Trust plans to celebrate our *Viejo* with the highest possible spirits in Phoenix when we honor him with our John Wesley Powell Award.

–Charles Wilkinson

This issue of the *Advocate* features Charles Wilkinson's appreciation of Stewart Udall, who is truly one of the great elders of conservation in America. The extraordinary legacy he bequeathed to the Colorado Plateau is a hopeful reminder of the many ways political visionaries can shape our collective future. In this space I want to take up that theme from another angle, because affairs in Washington are again echoing in the canyons.

Between 1996 and 2000, the Clinton Administration used our region to highlight the president's environmental agenda. In fact, Clinton's 1996 Earth Day proclamation called specifically for the restoration of natural quiet at the Grand Canyon. Just five months later, President Clinton, Vice President Gore, and Secretary of the Interior Babbitt came to the Grand Canyon to establish the 1.9 million acre Grand Staircase-Escalante Monument.

In 2000, President Clinton and Secretary Babbitt returned to the same setting to make similar proclamations for the Grand Canyon-Parashant and Vermillion Cliffs National Monuments. These two new monuments, combined with the Grand Staircase-Escalante, form the core of an entirely new system of protected lands largely assembled at the end of the Clinton presidency. The National Landscape Conservation System came to include thirteen National Conservation Areas, fifteen National Monuments, 148 Wilderness Areas, 604 Wilderness Study Areas, 38 Wild and Scenic Rivers, and many scenic and historic trails. It was a new vision for the Bureau of Land Management, aimed at replacing the 19th century natural resource policies Charles Wilkinson has called the "Lords of Yesterday."

Today, the Grand Canyon and the surrounding landscape are again reflecting a presidential vision. Unfortunately, this reflection has changed from what Wallace Stegner would refer to as our "Geography of Hope" to George Bush's geography of opportunity and exploitation. One can almost hear leather creaking as the Lords of Yesterday climb back in the saddle. Personnel transfers and lack of funding have placed the National Landscape Conservation System in a stagnant backwater where promising initiatives are being quietly undone. Market-based grazing retirements have been shifted from the favored list to the catalogue of evils. Vast wild areas will no longer be studied for Wilderness values or given interim protection. The government is giving up its ownership in lands where roads are claimed by local and state government, providing a rat's nest of access for oil and gas development and motorized recreation of all kinds.

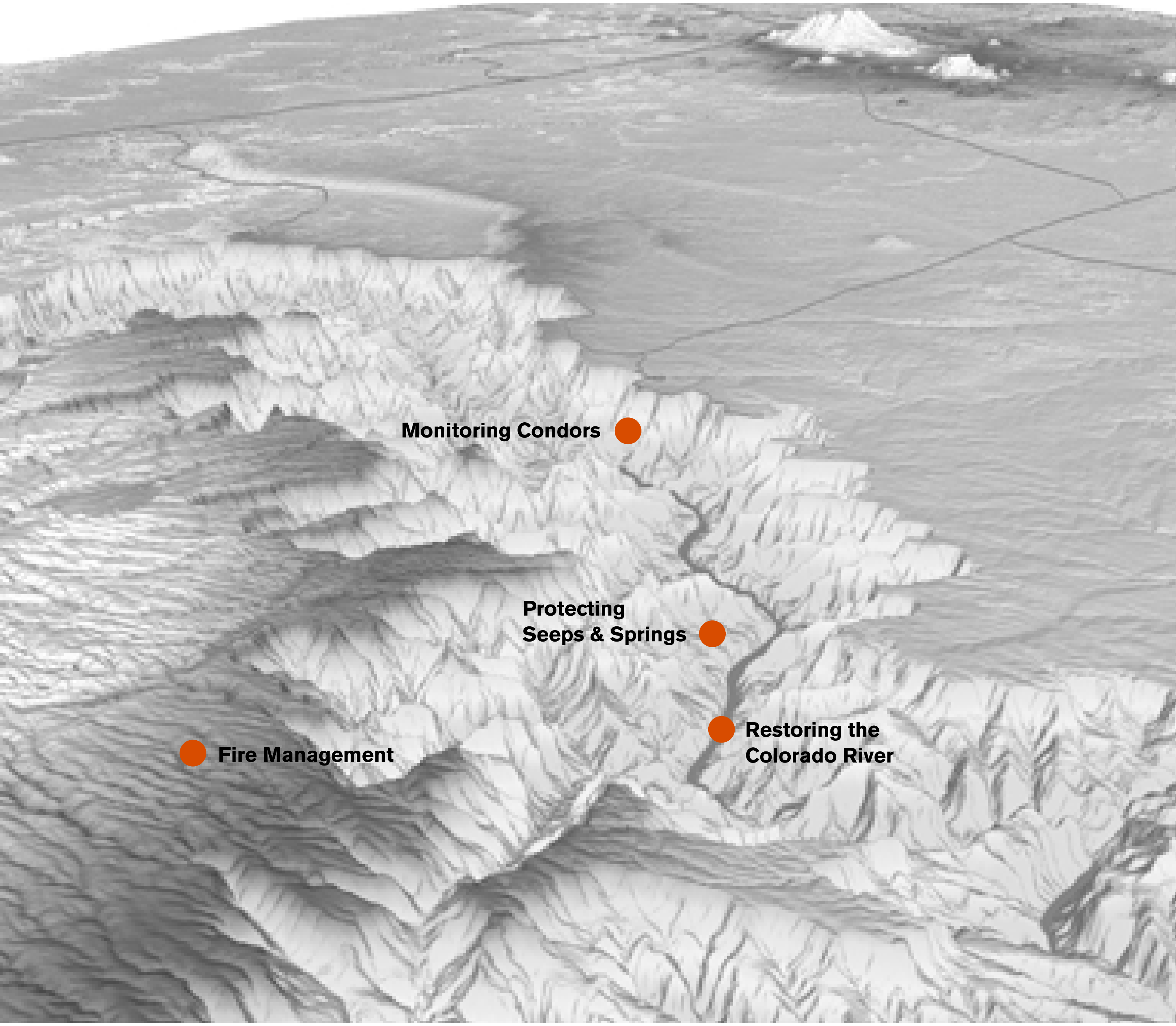
Even Grand Canyon National Park, perhaps the most revered landscape on the planet, is not immune to the Bush Administration's distorted vision.

While haze and ozone levels increase over the canyon threatening views and stressing old growth forests, the current Administration is busy rolling back regulations intended to clean up old coal fired power plants. Just outside of the park, remnant stands of big, old trees are being logged. The Colorado River, the living artery that runs through the Canyon, continues to starve in the shadow of Glen Canyon Dam, dying for lack of the floods, sediments and vitality held back by the concrete monolith. While the Clinton Administration supported flexibility in dam operations so as to mimic more natural conditions, the Bush Administration has yet to embrace this concept, which has been opposed by dam operators and electric utilities. Meanwhile, standing at the promontory that Clarence Dutton named "Point Sublime, one still hears the drone and chop of sightseeing planes and helicopters because the current Administration refuses to implement the Grand Canyon Overflight Act of 1987. It is doubtful that anyone in the Bush White House has ever heard of President Clinton's Earth Day proclamation of 1996.

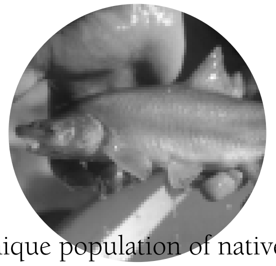
Not all is dark, though. This year the Trust helped defeat an attempt to let air tours encroach even on sunrise and sunset at the Canyon. With partners, we killed plans for a major pipeline in Grand Canyon that would have brought water from the river to Black Mesa to slurry coal. On the positive side, an Arizona coalition of strange bedfellows is close to a landmark deal for protecting state land as open space. When government fails to secure the future of our natural inheritance, the people have to do it. Conservation groups and their members have been drawn together into far more collaborative relationships by these hard times. The stories here tell of many partnerships and accomplishments from the last months. I imagine that Stewart Udall will tell us to keep plugging away with the big, long term picture in mind.

–Bill Hedden

Grand Canyon Updates



Ariel map of Grand Canyon with San Francisco Peaks in the distance.
Map by Steve Fluck, Grand Canyon Trust.



Colorado River in Grand Canyon

From the riverside vegetation to the unique population of native fishes, the Colorado River has been taken over by exotic invasive species. Side drainages carving down to the tamed river are exposing archaeological sites to the ravages of erosion. The Trust's work within the Adaptive Management Program has been instrumental in launching 21 major projects aimed at recovering the endangered humpback chub, and we have put the government on notice that we will sue to assure that the irreplaceable river system that carved the Grand Canyon is restored to a more natural, healthy condition.

Grand Canyon Seeps & Springs

The Canyon's south rim springs are fed largely by the Redwall-Muav aquifer, a sea of ancient water over 2,000 feet below the surface. Unfortunately, water levels in the aquifer are projected to decline due to deep-well groundwater pumping fueled by regional growth and gateway development. The blue-green jewels of Grand Canyon—and the delicate web of life they sustain—require protection through restrictions on groundwater pumping. The Trust is working with federal and state officials to find a solution of policy and law that will protect the canyon's seeps and springs.

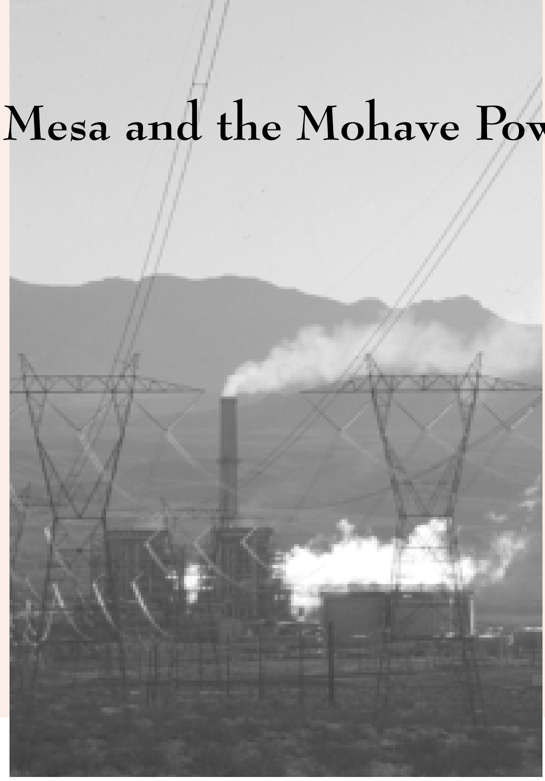
Monitoring California Condors at the Grand Canyon

The California condor is one of the best-known examples of a species that has rebounded from near extinction. Twenty years ago only 22 individual condors remained, but after intense conservation and recovery efforts there are now more than 80 birds in the wild, at least 35 of which make their home in Arizona. Many of these birds spend their time at the Grand Canyon, where they are often attracted to developed areas. Grand Canyon Trust volunteers assisted the Park Service in monitoring their behavior and hazing condors that came too close to people. Volunteers gave over 300 hours of their time, successfully keeping birds from dangerous places like the helipad on the north rim, and Orphan Mine, an area with a high concentration of uranium. While monitoring the adult birds, they also eagerly awaited the successful fledging of #305, the first condor chick to be born in the Grand Canyon in over 75 years.

Fire Management in Grand Canyon

This fall the National Park Service (NPS) began revising the fire management plan for Grand Canyon National Park. The fire management plan will set forth broad policies, goals, objectives, and methods for managing fires in Grand Canyon forests for years to come. Grand Canyon Trust and the Wilderness Society submitted comments encouraging the NPS to build upon its successful program of letting some naturally ignited fires burn. Safely reestablishing natural fire regimes is central to the goal of allowing Grand Canyon forests to evolve "through natural processes minimally influenced by human actions," as NPS policies require. Grand Canyon Trust will remain actively involved in the planning process to ensure a future that include natural fires for Grand Canyon's forests.

Black Mesa and the Mohave Power Plant



photos by Rick Moore

Left: Mohave power plant.
Above: Black Mesa Mine.

The Mohave power plant in Laughlin, Nevada has dumped more than one million tons of sulfur dioxide and a quarter of a million tons of chemical-laced particulates into the air during the past 30 years. Local residents have repeatedly complained about the enormous black clouds of smoke that regularly belch from the plant. In response, the Mohave County Attorney attempted in the early 1990s to stop the excess pollution. In addition, the National Park Service certified that Grand Canyon National Park suffers from visibility impairment and fingered Mohave as one of the largest contributors to the diminished views at the Grand Canyon. Mohave has justifiably earned its reputation as one of the dirtiest coal-fired power plants in the Southwest.

The Hopi and Navajo Nations have the ability and resources to begin the transition from a coal-based economy to a more diversified and sustainable economy.

Coal for Mohave is mined by Peabody Western Coal Company at the Black Mesa Mine on the Hopi and Navajo reservations in northeast Arizona. Every year, roughly 4.8 million tons of coal is pulverized, mixed with water, and pumped through the Black Mesa Pipeline 273 miles to the plant. The slurry operation uses about 4,500 acre-feet of pristine, ice-age water that is withdrawn from the Navajo Aquifer (N-Aquifer) that lies beneath Black Mesa. Using precious N-Aquifer water to slurry coal in the desert has been a concern for many years.

In 1998 the Grand Canyon Trust, Sierra Club and National Parks and Conservation Association sued Southern California Edison and the other owners of Mohave for thousands of violations of the Clean Air Act. In 1999 the parties reached a settlement and filed a consent decree with the court specifying that the plant could not operate past December 2005 without installing modern pollution control equipment. The decree included interim deadlines if Edison chose to clean up the plant rather than shut it down.

The December 2005 deadline in the decree was designed to give Edison more than six years to either install the pollution controls or to perform an orderly decommissioning of the plant. Four years have passed and Edison has resolved none of the issues it acknowledged would need to be addressed when the consent decree was signed. In fact, Edison has taken no action to begin constructing the pollution controls and has missed the interim deadlines in the decree. It has not resolved the issues associated with groundwater pumping or those having to do with extending the coal supply agreement. Nor has the company obtained the regulatory approvals, such as permits, needed for the physical changes to the plant. Edison has not filed an application with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to recover from its ratepayers the costs of installing the pollution controls and additional upgrades (that are not required by the

ESTIMATED COSTS FOR THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE MOHAVE POWER PLANT

Description of Proposed Capital Investment	Costs	Required by Consent Decree
Pollution control equipment	$400 million	Yes
Plant retrofit for pollution controls	$ 60 million	Yes
Restore plant performance	$ 60 million	**No**
Component repair and replacement	$200 million	**No**
Contribution towards multi-use water pipeline	$ 44 million	**No**
TOTAL INVESTMENT by Mohave Owners	**$778 million**	
Slurry Pipeline Refurbishment (charged to Mohave as fuel cost)	$230 million	**No**
TOTAL CAPITAL INVESTMENT	**$1008 million**	

Information provided by Southern California Edison.

decree). Given Edison's lack of action, it should come as no surprise that in November 2003 a company representative told the Navajo Inter-government Relations Committee that Edison will shut down Mohave—at least temporarily.

A plant shutdown represents an economic challenge to both the Hopi and Navajo tribes. Both tribes have repeatedly urged Edison to expedite the process for installing the pollution controls and upgrading the plant, as well as asking the CPUC to require that Edison file an application to recover costs from it ratepayers.

According to testimony filed at the CPUC by Hopi Chairman Wayne Taylor, approximately 23 percent of the Hopi tribe's $21.8 million general budget, or $5 million, came from coal mining operations related to Mohave. An additional $1.5 million in revenues are received in payment for N-Aquifer pumping. According to statements by a senior Navajo Council delegate, the Black Mesa Mine provides the Navajo Nation with about $15.6 million in annual revenues. The general operating budget of the Navajo Nation is $117 million.

Where does the Trust fit into this situation? The Hopi and Navajo Nations have the ability and resources to begin the transition from a coal-based economy to a more diversified and sustainable economy. Instead of simply watching the two Nations struggle with a possible Black Mesa Mine closure, the Trust is committed to being part of the solution by helping the tribes create a more diversified, dynamic, and sustainable economy.

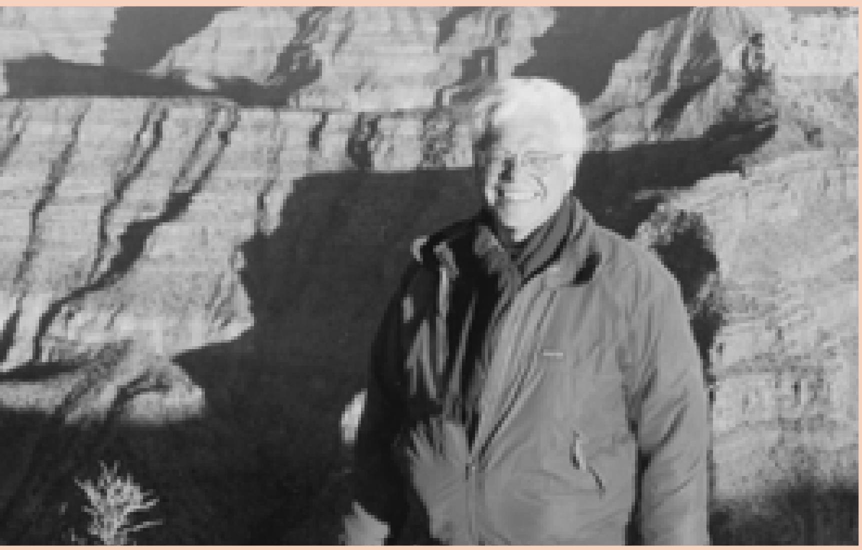
We hope to work with tribal members and tribal governments on potential economic development projects. Some ideas that are being considered include a premium bottled-water business; a renewable energy park; an investment company to improve and expand existing businesses; a sustainable cultural tourism program; and federal legislation that would provide federal funding and small business incentives in the impacted area. We are also looking at the feasibility of including funding for the tribes as part of the decommissioning costs of Mohave should the plant permanently close.

Tony Skrelunas is leading the Trust's efforts. He is uniquely qualified for the job as a Navajo who is the owner of a consulting firm that focuses on sustainable tribal economic development. Tony is the director of the Trust's Native American program, as well as the former Director for Economic Development for the Navajo Nation. Kelly Janecek, a program officer at the Trust, and Vanessa Vandever, a member of the Navajo tribe from Black Mesa who is an intern at the Trust, are assisting Tony. Plans are under way to hire a Hopi intern to work with Vanessa on outreach to tribal communities.

–Rick Moore and Tony Skrelunas

Grand Canyon Sunsets Survive Air Tour "Blasphemy"

The Grand Canyon is daily enhanced through "windows of time," which reach twin climaxes at sunrise and sunset. The famed nineteenth century explorer, Clarence Dutton, wrote eloquently of this time-of-day intensiveness in his 1882 treatise chapter, "The Panorama from Point Sublime," from the edge of which Dutton said "we contemplate the most sublime and awe-inspiring spectacle in the world."



Tom Robinson

Dick Hingson enjoying sunset at Point Sublime.

Dutton, writing 44 years before the first Canyon "air tour," starts with the most likely "first view" from Point Sublime (now overrun with daily air tour noise), at *midday.* He describes a still enchanting, somewhat somnolent noontime chasm (in "dull sleep" or "fitful slumber"), overcome by "blinding glare or withering heat."

How great the reward, though, for those who wait!

"At length, as the sun draws near the horizon, the great drama of the day begins… A thousand forms, hitherto unseen or obscure, start up within the abyss, and stand forth in strength and animation. All things seem to grow in beauty, power and dimension."

To this are added *colors* reaching what Dutton cogently termed an "adventitious brilliancy." These—the growing colors, the shadows inexorably filling in depths and highlighting detail amidst a likewise phenomenal silence—have long been the heart of the contemplative "Canyon experience." This includes what we call *rapture*, the soul feeling or seeing things beyond the range allowed by normal human vision.

Motorized noises, or even extended loud conversations, all break the tenuous spell on the ground. They rob the Canyon's intrinsic power for the individual and, indeed, for all within earshot. This is truly a time for being relatively "in place", hushed, absorbing the gift of intense beauty with every sense.

In recognition of the value of this irreplaceable experience, the hours around sunrise and sunset have been off limits to aircraft sightseeing tours. But this year, the Grand Canyon air tour industry tried to pass a technical curfew amendment that would have extended their hours of operation almost to the moments of scenic climax. During the peak summer season, the amendment would have meant three or four more hours of noisy operations every day, deeply encroaching on the sunrise and sunset visitor experience on the rim and down in the Canyon.

The environmental movement strenuously fought such blasphemy. It didn't fly. With help from Senator John McCain (R-AZ) and Representative James Matheson (D-UT), the ploy was exposed. The amendment, tacked onto the Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization bill in the U.S. House of Representatives, died in conference.

Every person who has genuinely tried to intensively contemplate and defend the beauty of the great canyon parks in the southwest should rejoice. These are the places where we must protect special times of day, and of year, where beauty's inspirational power becomes most uniquely available.

As Rachel Carson averred a half century ago, "hours when the mind is absorbed by beauty are the only hours when we really live." To extend motorized acoustic derogation is thus to limit and disrupt the spiritual intensity of that immersion.

The Grand Canyon Trust proudly stands for substantial Grand Canyon sunrise and sunset air tour curfews, which free Canyon vista points and hiking trails from the pervasive noise of engines that rules so much of the rest of our lives. How else to preserve rare hours of highest beauty, yes, of tranquility beyond price?

Dick Hingson is a consultant with the Grand Canyon Trust's "Natural Quiet" campaign.

–Dick Hingson

Arizona Strip National Monuments

The Grand Canyon Trust is focused on three of the National Landscape Conservation System Monuments: Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Vermilion Cliffs National Monument, and Grand Canyon Parashant National Monument. In each of these places, policies and directives from the Washington office are affecting the way the BLM is planning for and managing the places that we care about.

National Landscape Conservation System

The National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) is a visionary system of National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, national scenic and historic trails, wilderness areas, and wilderness study areas that are managed by the BLM. The NLCS was created in 2000 by Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt to formally recognize the BLM's most treasured places. The NLCS director reports directly to the Secretary of Interior and is responsible for setting policy and guidance for management of these areas with important scientific and ecological characteristics.

The BLM has proposed a new organizational structure for the NLCS that would devalue and downgrade the System within the BLM. Under this proposal, the NLCS would no longer be its own independent office, but would be moved under the Office of Recreation. This change not only reduces the stature of the NLCS, it severely discounts the primary purpose of the NLCS, which is to protect the cultural, ecological, and scientific resources of these unique areas.

Public Comment and Involvement

In stark contrast to the Department's stated emphasis on communication, and in an alarming affront to settled matters of law, the Arizona Strip Field Office recently decided it will no longer provide for public comment periods on environmental assessments they deem non-controversial. Instead of issuing Notices of Intent that allow for a 30-day public comment period, they are going directly to Notices of Decision, which only allow for a 30-day window of appeal on the decision. The BLM is cutting the public out of the decision making/information gathering process and only allowing formal appeal after the fact. As with the forest policies, this boxes the environmental community into a corner with little or no opportunity for input into decision making processes and leaves, as the only recourse, formal appeals and litigation.

In addition, many environmental representatives who serve on the BLM's Resource Advisory Council's (RAC) and other representative advisory groups have not had their terms renewed. Chris Newell, who served as environmental representative on the Arizona RAC for three years, was turned down for reappointment of her term at the Washington level. Her seat on the RAC was replaced with a commodity interest.

Anti-Wilderness Policy

The Arizona Strip Field office has stated that management prescriptions to protect wilderness values will not be included in draft management plans. The BLM's Arizona Strip office is located in St. George, Utah and many of the Southwest Utah counties and communities are cooperating agencies in the planning process for the National Monuments. Recent secret settlement agreements between the State of Utah and the Department of Interior resulted in national anti-wilderness policies that prevent the BLM from designating new Wilderness Study Areas and from managing areas to protect their wild character until congress can decide whether to designate them Wilderness. The settlement also paves the way for counties to file RS2477 claims for county control of roads on federal lands, which will further limit the BLM's ability to protect the wildness of many remote areas.

Watch for your opportunity to comment on the BLM's proposed management of the Arizona Strip this coming summer when the Arizona Strip Monument Management Plans are released for public review. In the meantime, the Grand Canyon Trust continues to work with our colleagues at the Wilderness Society, Sierra Club, Wildlands Council, and the Arizona Wilderness Coalition to protect the remote and unspoiled lands north of the Grand Canyon.

–Chris Newell

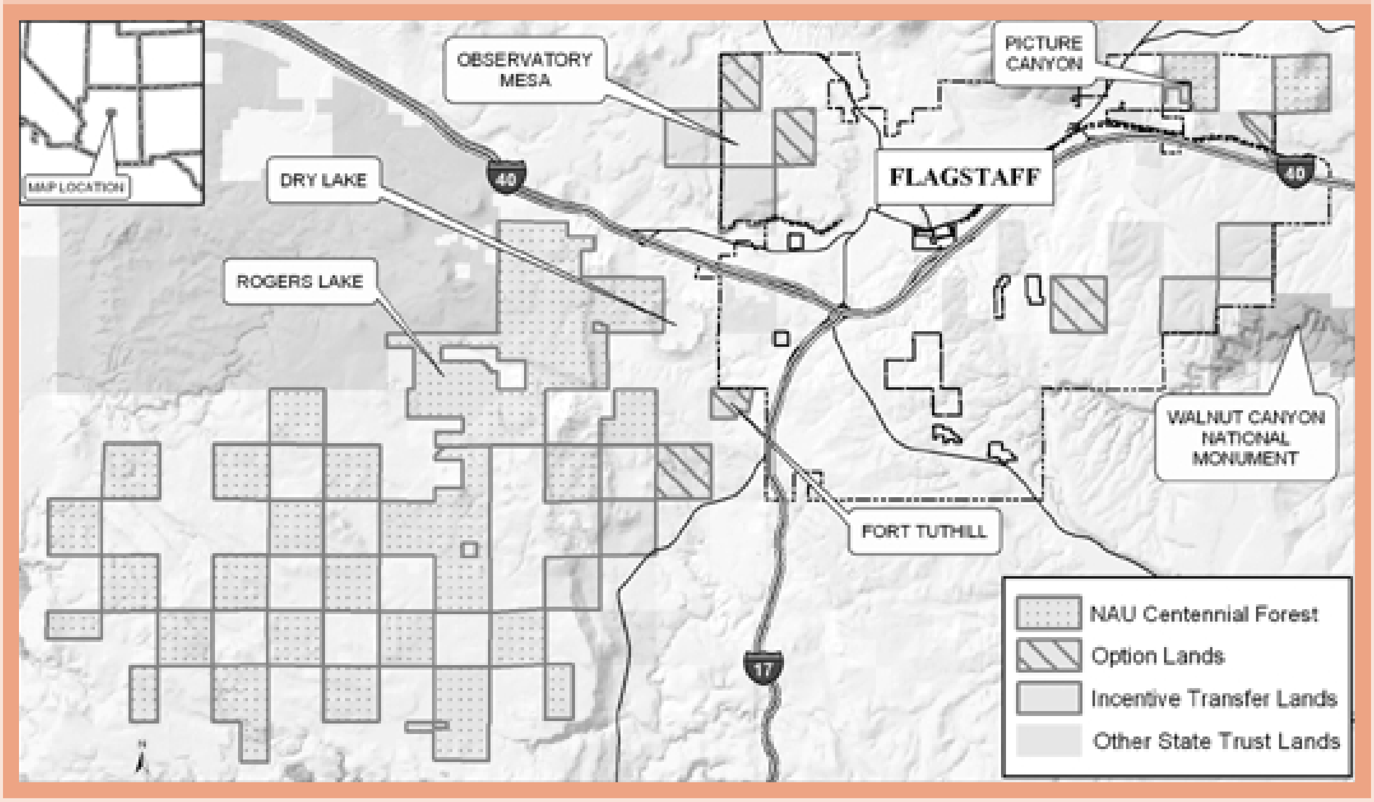
Unusual Open Space Opportunity!

Protecting State Lands in the Greater Flagstaff Area

Michael Collier

Rogers Lake

Conservation Lands Proposal



Map by Steve Fluck, Grand Canyon Trust.

At the national level, much of what we care about is being stripped away—support for our national parks, protective environmental laws, pristine wilderness areas—but at the regional level, Grand Canyon Trust-led advocacy could lead to protection of Arizona state lands in the greater Flagstaff area. In recent months, a state land reform effort has been underway, aimed in part at protecting key parcels of open space state lands. This has presented a wonderful opportunity to gain permanent protection for northern Arizona lands, including lands near Grand Canyon, Wupatki National Monument, Walnut Canyon National Monument, Rogers Lake, Dry Lake, Observatory Mesa, Fort Tuthill, Picture Canyon, and Turkey Hills.

State Trust Lands

There are 9.2 million acres of state trust land in Arizona, lands held in permanent trust for the state school system and several other beneficiaries, including the state universities. Reform efforts are aimed at increasing the economic benefits to the beneficiaries. Currently, income from state land leases and sales accounts for only 1 percent of total education spending in Arizona. Although revenue from state lands management will never contribute a majority percentage to school revenue, it certainly can be increased. To this end, reform changes include allowing the state to form partnerships with developers to master-plan thousands of acres of prime urban real estate, thus sharing in profits on big projects.

Conservation is another aspect of state lands management needing reform. The current proposal will allow for the preservation of thousands of acres of land identified for open space protection in numerous plans throughout the state. An important part of the reform work involves identifying "conservation lands", state lands valuable to communities and the state as open space.

Open Space Element in the Regional Plan

For the Flagstaff area, identifying conservation lands for open space protection means following the Regional Land Use and Transportation Plan (Regional Plan), a plan that Grand Canyon Trust helped develop and pass in a citywide vote in 2000. The conservation lands proposal now on the table includes almost a perfect overlap with the state lands identified in the Regional Plan.

Coconino County Parks and Open Space Program

Last year, Grand Canyon Trust led a successful initiative campaign helping to pass the Coconino County Parks and Open Space Program, a funding program that will provide over $19 million to acquire state lands around Flagstaff for open space purposes. The program will also open up the possibility for receiving "Growing Smarter" matching funds for purchasing eligible state lands. This could help create a pool of $38 million with which to buy state lands for open space.

Conservation Lands Proposal

There are two categories of conservation lands defined within the state land reform package: *incentive lands* and *option lands. Incentive lands* are state lands identified for permanent protection as open space. An important purpose for incentive lands is to give communities the incentive to buy neighboring option lands to complete a regional open space picture, thus encouraging revenue building for the state trust.

Option lands are lands available for sale for conservation purposes for a specified period of time, which will be at least 5 years from the date the state land reform package becomes law. By accepting the incentive lands and purchasing designated option lands, a community can implement a coherent conservation plan.

The accompanying map depicts the proposed conservation lands for the Flagstaff area. The biggest block of conservation lands are to the southwest of Flagstaff, lands designated as the NAU Centennial Forest, and part of the incentive lands package. These sections may be leased for timber management and other activities compatible with the education and research purposes of the Centennial Forest, but they may not be sold for development. These forest lands include state sections around Rogers Lake and Dry Lake.

Observatory Mesa has roughly four sections of state lands, two identified as incentive lands and two as option lands. Picture Canyon and Turkey Hills, on sections northeast of Flagstaff, are protected as part of the NAU Centennial Forest. State sections near Walnut Canyon are also protected, two of the sections as incentive lands and one as option lands. Fort Tuthill and neighboring state sections to the south are protected in both option and incentive lands categories.

Constitutional Amendment

In order to adopt the state land reform package, the 100-year-old constitutional language will need to be changed. Current legal constraints limit both the economic benefits to the schools and the protection of significant open space lands. It is expected that voters will see a state land reform constitutional amendment on the November 2004 ballot. This amendment is likely to give us positive reform benefiting both schools and conservation—thus, more money for schools and the fulfillment of the region's open space plan. An exciting opportunity!

–Nikolai Ramsey

Southern Utah Forest Planning

Helping to Ensure Thriving Native Animals and Plants in the High Country

Southern Utah Forests

Map by Steve Fluck, Grand Canyon Trust.

Southern Utah is famous for its redrock canyons. But southern Utah is also forested mountains and plateaus—the La Sals, the Abajos, Pine Valley, Tushar, Boulder Mountain, the Aquarius Plateau—that provide wildlife habitat, a diversity of trees and shrubs, and stream courses that deliver precious snowmelt and rainwater to the web of life downstream. Some rise to 13,000 feet, towering above the surrounding redrock and sagebrush.

The three forests in which these mountains are located spread over nearly 5 million acres. The Dixie, Fishlake, and Manti-La Sal National Forests represent a vast diversity of ecosystems and habitat types: alpine tundra and spruce-fir forests at the highest elevations, mixed conifer, ponderosa pine, and aspen at mid-elevations, and pinyon-juniper and sagebrush at the lowest. Lakes dot the area, and riparian vegetation hugs the stream banks. These lands are home to mountain lions, black bears, pronghorn antelope, cutthroat trout, and many endemic plants.

The Trust is working with conservation partners like Red Rock Forests and SUWA to help ensure the beauty, wildness, and diversity of these ecosystems and the long-term health of native animals and plants by developing "Sustainable Multiple Use" alternatives for the forests' management plans. Each forest needs to revise its plan, originally written in the mid-1980s, and now the Bush administration has ordered them to be completed on its watch. These plans are critical because they will guide management for the next 10 to15 years.

Our alternatives will address all forest issues included in the three plan revisions, including resource damage caused by outdated management of recreation. For example, as cities like St. George have grown exponentially, the surrounding Dixie National Forest has become inundated with motorized recreationists. The uncontrolled use of all-terrain vehicles is causing damage to the fragile cryptobiotic crusts that slow runoff and retain precious moisture for plants. Erosion moves important nutrients down slope, leaving barren dirt. User-created roads crisscross the forest, allowing vehicle access to vast acreages and disturbing sensitive wildlife

To address these and other problems, we are crafting alternatives with a coalition of scientists and activists. Our alternatives will address what is needed to ensure the survival of native species. They will be inclusive of multiple human uses, including recreation, grazing, and tree thinning, making them reasonable and feasible for the Forest Service to implement. These alternatives will be scientifically sound, measurable, and precautionary. We will help ensure that the agency is aware of relevant scientific information that can guide sound and appropriate management.

We believe there is value in offering another perspective to the Forest Service on how to manage these national forests. Given the current administration's undisguised efforts to reduce public involvement, impede environmental reviews, and gut laws such as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), we want to ensure that our model of public land management is fully represented in an alternative that will be analyzed by the Forest Service in the draft Environmental Impact Statements for the forests. The most effective way of doing this is to provide the forests with fully developed, reasonable, and feasible alternatives.

We are pleased that all three Forest Supervisors are appreciative of our efforts to develop the Sustainable Multiple Use alternatives, and have committed to an open process for consideration of the alternatives. We believe that the result will be better management of the forests' resources, healthy, diverse native animals and plants, and clean running water—essential components not only of these forests, but for the future of the famous redrock canyons of southern Utah that lie just downhill.

Please contact Michele James (mjames@grandcanyontrust.org or (928) 774-7488) to help with the Sustainable Multiple Use planning effort. For more information, visit www.redrockforests.org.

–Michele James

Tracking the Mountain Lion

Walking through an open ponderosa pine forest east of the San Francisco Peaks, my GPS unit beeped impatiently as the words "approaching destination" flashed on the screen. Our telemetry work had told us of concentrated activity in this area, and we'd expected to find a kill here. But what animal would it be? My nose literally led me to the spot I'd been looking for—a mule deer kill. I excitedly walked up to the remains and surveyed the scene. The gently sloping, small ravine didn't seem like the best place for a cougar attack. Looking uphill to more ideal terrain for an ambush, I imagined that the lion might have chased the hapless deer for a good distance before closing in. Surrounding the site were cougar tracks and abundant sign of other deer that had escaped. Without radio telemetry, I would have walked within fifty yards of this scene and never recognized the drama that had unfolded. Cougars can live amazingly close to civilization, yet give almost no hint of their presence.

Thanks to the improving technology of radio tracking collars, scientists at the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Colorado Plateau Field Station are now able to learn far more about the great cats. After the trauma of collaring, researchers can leave an animal alone and still know its precise location in the forest without stepping outside their offices. The collar transmits positional data to a satellite linked to a laboratory computer equipped with mapping software.

When an animal spends a lot of time in one place, the researchers suspect something interesting like a kill or a den, and that is where our volunteers come in. During this year's volunteer conservationist season, we helped lead volunteers to dozens of locations pinpointed by the USGS in search of cougar evidence. Outfitted with a map, data sheets, various instruments to measure habitat, and a good sense of humor, volunteers trekked hundreds of miles around Flagstaff, following a respectful week behind the cougars. At the end of the day, volunteers frequently rewarded me with a plastic bag filled with bones or scat for subsequent analysis.

The USGS aims to better understand cougar populations and how the animals act around people, cities and highways. Our volunteers were excited to follow the tracks of large predators, and had the satisfaction of collecting information that should improve policy decisions about wildlife management. They got a unique perspective on their own backyards: "We learned fascinating things about cougar habitat and behavior," said Mike and Diane Miller, veterans of the Grand Canyon Trust volunteer program. Dick and Jamie McNeil, also long time volunteers, were impressed by how cougars can adapt to man's proximity and still be able to carry on their business unseen.

GCT archive

Volunteer conservationists worked with the USGS tracking cougars *(Felis concolor)* to better understand how the cats live near urban areas such as Flagstaff.

Our collaborators were very appreciative. Jan Hart, a wildlife biologist with the USGS, said: "This study provided detailed information about cougar activities that could not have been obtained otherwise. Volunteers made this valuable study possible. We are extremely grateful for their enduring and enthusiastic efforts, and hope that they have enjoyed their close-up perspectives of these elusive cats."

Personally, I feel privileged to have been involved with such a positive project, and to have briefly seen a cougar in the wild. When I go hiking now, my attention often shifts to looking for cougar sign—a scrape, a track, or even the remains of a meal buried under leaves and debris. The possibility that I am just a few steps behind a largely invisible cougar has changed my perspective of the forest I once appreciated merely for its external beauty.

–Karen Murray

Volunt

Condor Monitoring

Native Plant Restoration

Effective Conservation on the Ground

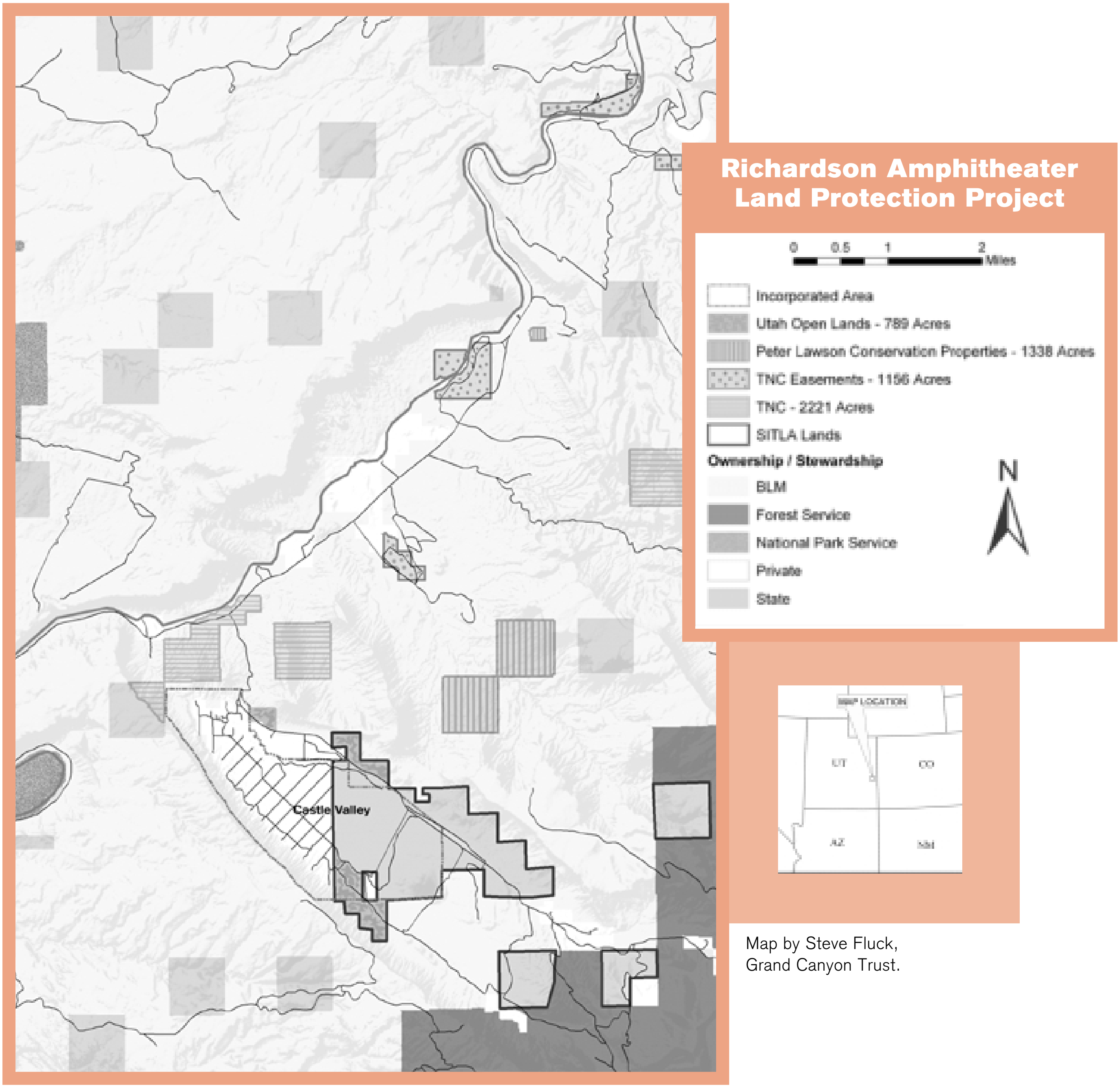
Wildlife Surveys

Cougar Tracking

Arizona Strip Restoration

Over 80 volunteers rolled up their sleeves this summer to participate in our fifth Volunteer Conservationist Season. We are grateful for their enthusiastic and inspiring devotion to conservation projects on the Colorado Plateau. Volunteers trekked into the field to track cougars, plant native vegetation, improve pronghorn antelope habitat, and monitor California condors, all with smiles on their faces. Thank you, and we look forward to an even better season next year!

The Richardson Amphitheater Land Protection Project



Map by Steve Fluck, Grand Canyon Trust.

I was standing next to a friend of mine when the last wall of her luxury home on the bank of the Colorado River fell under a track hoe's blade. I asked her how she felt. "I feel great, this is wonderful," she replied as the dust settled around us. She had purchased the failed development, "Rio Colorado," on the Highway 128 Scenic Byway near Moab, with the intention of returning the land to its previous natural state. She is one of a growing number of people who have been contributing to the preservation of a spectacular landscape along the Colorado River in Southeast Utah. Through direct advocacy and private donations of dollars and conservation easements, local residents have joined with conservation partners like the Grand Canyon Trust, Utah Open Lands and The Nature Conservancy to preserve 5,500 acres. And that is just the beginning.

Several years ago, a developer acquired a tract of land on the bank of the Colorado River, bulldozed the ground, built a model home and a water treatment plant, paved roads and lined them with non-native trees. Stucco walls sporting colorful flags marked the grand entrance to the hoped-for real estate bonanza. In this case, there was no nearby community; Moab is 30 miles downstream and Grand Junction, Colorado is a 70 mile drive in the opposite direction. The model home sat alone for two years while the project went bankrupt due to the lack of a luxury home market in the middle of nowhere. My visionary friend, inclined to on-the-ground acts of conservation, went to work.

After all the building materials that could be recycled were removed, the imposing fake pueblo-style model home was also removed to the cheering of river runners passing by. The entry gate was obliterated along with the jaunty flags and the asphalt was taken up from the roads. The equipment at the water treatment facility is being sold and recycled, and the exotic trees replanted elsewhere, while my friend works with a local native plants specialist to reclaim the land and possibly raise native plants. She is a farmer at heart, who re-planted a hayfield with mixed corn and sunflowers for the migrating geese.

Downstream, other landowners in the river corridor have placed conservation easements on their property and bought Utah State Trust Lands at auction to preserve them from development. Peter Lawson, a local rancher and conservationist, purchased two sections of State Trust Lands adjacent to the Mary Jane Canyon BLM Wilderness Study Area in the valley where he lives and farms. He also protected another tract of former state land across from Hittle Bottom, the local put-in for daily river trips on the Colorado.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has identified an Area of Critical Environmental Concern in the river canyon. The rare and lovely Jones Cyladenia and Schultz's Stickleaf cling to the red mesas, flowering high on the talus slopes. The Conservancy has backed up its concern by purchasing fee title or protective easements on 3,377 acres in the region.

Residents of the nearby Town of Castle Valley formed the Castle Rock Collaboration (CRC) to work with Utah's School Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) toward a preservation solution for over 4,500 acres of SITLA lands that lie in the town's watershed and provide critical wildlife habitat. SITLA is charged with raising money for Utah's schools, and to that end the agency regularly auctions off its surface lands. In 1999, when a SITLA land sale put Castle Valley's Parriott Mesa on the development chopping block, the community rallied. With the help of Grand Canyon Trust and Utah Open Lands, CRC bought the land back from the developer the day before bulldozers were scheduled to level the deeply eroded flanks of the mesa for house sites. CRC has since engaged SITLA in a complex orchestration of planning work, trust building, local and state politics and fundraising initiatives, with surprising results. The Castle Rock Collaboration, with the help of its conservation partners, has raised millions of dollars and protected threatened lands at the base of the renowned Castleton Tower and preserved a critical 530 acre tract of wildlife habitat in partnership with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. The long range vision of CRC is to permanently protect all of the remaining state lands in Castle Valley.


Laura Kamala

A model home in the failed development "Rio Colorado" being removed to make way for restoration of the landscape.

Today, the Grand Canyon Trust is working with SITLA and the Moab Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management to promote a land exchange that will remove sensitive SITLA lands from BLM Wilderness Study Areas and will likely include three sections bordering the Manti-La Sal National Forest at the upper end of Castle Valley.

Why all the attention to this particular corner of the universe? Terry Tempest Williams said in "RED; Passion and Patience in the Desert":

> *"On top of the ridge, I can see for miles. Mesas, buttes, the sandstone folds of Fisher Towers. The light is advancing across Professor Valley as the sun begins to drop behind Porcupine Rim, creating a kaleidoscope of oranges, reds, and violets that the hand of time keeps turning minute by minute. Inside this erosional landscape where all colors eventually bleed into the river, it is hard to desire anything but time and space."*

As we witness the unprecedented rollbacks of federal laws originally designed to protect public lands resources, citizens have taken into their own hands the business of preserving and protecting spectacular landscapes, important ecological habitats and these places that give us time and space. Sometimes, a track hoe can be an instrument of hope.

–Laura Kamala

A Creek Reborn

Lisa Force, the Trust's newest staff member, was a lead negotiator for the decommissioning and restoration agreements on behalf of the Center for Biological Diversity and subsequently for Living Rivers. The Grand Canyon Trust has been supportive of the efforts to restore Fossil Creek.

Fossil Creek is a miracle of nature in arid central Arizona. In a narrow high desert canyon, the waters of Fossil Creek gush cold and clear to the earth's surface, springing out from under massive sycamores and from the sheer rock banks of the creek's headwaters cove. Oak, willow and cottonwood thrive in the oasis and a great diversity of creatures make their homes there.

Corrie Witney

Full flows from Fossil Springs will be returned to Fossil Creek in 2004, after being diverted for hydropower for 100 years. Environmental groups negotiated the Restoration Agreement.

Fossil Creek is a spectacular wild place… for one-quarter mile. And then there's the dam. For nearly a century, dams constructed by the predecessors of what is now Arizona Public Service Company (APS) have choked off the waters of Fossil Creek, diverting the entire flow to feed the Childs and Irving hydroelectric power plants. The diversions leave the entire 14-mile length of the creek mostly dry.

But now the creek has been granted a reprieve through an agreement crafted by a small coalition of environmental groups. The agreement calls for APS to surrender their project license, completely cease operations at Fossil Creek and return full flows to the creek by December 31, 2004.

Seizing A Rare Opportunity

The Childs and Irving hydroelectric power plants were built on the banks of Fossil Creek at the turn of the twentieth century. The first of two dams, built just one-quarter mile down from the headwaters, is used to divert the creek waters into metal and concrete flumes. The power produced by the two plants comprises less than one percent of the total power generated by APS, yet it provides a steady cash flow with relatively little plant maintenance or labor required.

When the plants came due for re-licensing in the mid-1990s, a coalition of environmental groups led by the Center for Biological Diversity and American Rivers, initiated discussions with APS with the goal of decommissioning the plants. Despite the coalition's initial efforts, APS filed for another 30- to 50-year license. The Draft Environmental Assessment prepared by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the US Forest Service in 1998 recommended that the plants be re-licensed with only minor operational changes.

In response, an outraged environmental community developed a multi-tiered strategy that included public education and outreach, an aggressive media schedule, the possibility of litigation and weekly negotiating sessions with APS. Along with the general public, APS came to understand that the facility's small power benefits could not justify the heavy costs to the environment of re-licensing the plants.

Waters to be Set Free Next Year

The agreement to decommission the plants and release the waters of Fossil Creek was signed by APS and the Intervenors on September 15, 2000, and was later approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Following the initial agreement, the environmental coalition, now bolstered by Living Rivers and the Yavapai-Apache Nation, negotiated a Removal and Restoration Plan for the project area, which straddles the Tonto and Coconino National Forests. APS has agreed to remove most of the project works and restore the site to ecological health by 2009. The dams will be breached and the river set free on December 31, 2004.

APS set an extraordinary example of public responsibility with its commitment to restore Fossil Creek. With over ninety percent of Arizona's riparian areas destroyed or badly degraded, the agreement to restore a major riparian ecosystem marked a key moment in Arizona history. Fossil Creek is a tributary of the Verde River.

–Lisa Force

Smoke Gets in Your Eyes

Guest Column by Max Oelschlaeger,
McAllister Chair of Community, Culture, and Environment

My topic is the near-term future—say the next fifty years or so—of southwestern ponderosa pine forests, including the ones nearest and dearest to me, "the mighty Coke" and the Kaibab. Let me begin obliquely. Sir Martin Rees, a very sober astrophysicist, and the Royal Astronomer of Britain, argues in *Our Final Hour* (2003) that the continuation of Western civilization for another 100 years is little better than a 50-50 proposition. He emphasizes the importance of making the right choices. Meaning that if we work like hell, and have considerable luck, we might lurch on. That global forecast pretty much sums up the local forecast for the southwest's frequent-fire-adapted forests. Actually, forest ecologists like former GCT board member Wally Covington argue that on the present trajectory there are only 20 or 30 more years before terminal "slicked off black."

There is little mystery as to how we've managed to so profoundly disrupt a naturally evolved system. The forest itself speaks. Like the iron filings sprinkled on paper that arrange themselves along electromagnetic lines of force, we can readily discern the cultural lines of force that have perturbed the forest. These lines of force can be described in different ways, as for example ecological ignorance, bureaucratic inertia, political failure, and unbridled greed. Stephen Pyne simply observes that ideas and institutions are as crucial to the ecology of fire as carbon and oxygen.

So what to do about all this? True enough, pessimism is a self-fulfilling prophecy. But excessive optimism is Pollyannaish. As my eyes water and my throat scratches from the smoke—fortunately, from so-called prescribed fires—three conclusions force themselves on me.

First, as Wallace Stegner argues in *The American West as Living Space*, changing our cultural stories, such as the presently dominant forest story, is simultaneously necessary and difficult. Despite what the Forest Service and Forest Scientists believe, we have not been and are not now in control of forest ecosystems. A "conspiracy of optimism" has too long ruled our national forests. We are much like Disney's Sorcerer's Apprentice who set in motion processes with unintended consequences. And yet therapeutic nihilism—i.e., doing nothing—is also a non-starter when it comes to the near-term future of the pine forests. Too many of my green friends are succumbing to the "do nothing" mantra.

Second, as Bill Kittredge observes in *Who Owns the West?*, changing our stories is doubly difficult because storytelling is set in political context. And that political context is more often than not locked in stalemate—one step ahead followed by two steps back. Politicians from the state house to the White House set the stage for the conversation du jour that creates the appearance of change. The truth is that like UNCED (the UN Conference on Environment and Development, 1992), these work groups and task forces merrily sail along the frothy surface of forest policy and never touch the fundamental questions. Such as the one posed by Darwin's contemporary, Henry Huxley, who nailed it. What is our place in nature? What is our place in southwestern forests? The "Healthy Forests" initiatives leave way too much "unsaid," more superficial Band-Aids than the required surgery that cuts deep.

Finally, as Aldo Leopold so eloquently and powerfully suggests, we must cease thinking of ourselves as anything more than plain members and citizens of the land community. The illusions created by generations past that we are in control of nature, that we are over and above nature, are dangerous, indeed, pathological. But finding our way into a culturally efficacious story that facilitates dialogue with southwestern pine forests will, as Stegner and Kittredge make patently clear, be capital "D" difficult.

I conclude with "the world according to Max." (Well, maybe there is a little Darwin, Thoreau, and Leopold mixed in, too). Ecological restoration is as much about us, that is our most basic sense of ourselves as a naturally evolved species and as cultural beings, as it is about the so-called environment, the forest "out there." There is no out there, there. Look again at the lines of force. The forest speaks.

First rights granted to GCT for publication in the *Colorado Plateau Advocate*, December 3, 2003.

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

Reflections on a Watershed

This summer Chris Newell took a 6-week leave of absence to join 12 others in following the course of the Colorado River from its twin headwaters in Rocky Mountain National Park and the Green River Lakes of Wyoming down to the Gulf of California, Mexico. The journey was part of Discover a Watershed: The Colorado River, *a curriculum development project sponsored by Project WET (Water Education for Teachers). Along the way they met with ranchers, federal land and resource managers, local water conservancy districts, water attorneys, researchers, scientists, activists, environmentalists, Native Americans, Imperial Valley farmers, educators, and others. Here are reflections from her trip.*

Chris Newell

Chris Newell

Headwaters: Rocky Mountain National Park

It's late June and at the Continental Divide in Rocky Mountain National Park the snow pack is higher than my head. It's been months since I last saw snow on the San Francisco Peaks in Flagstaff—and none of the Mexican participants have ever seen snow before.

As we hike the high, alpine Poudre Pass trail I am mindful of what a rare opportunity I have to step outside the daily routine of my work—to temporarily suspend my role as an environmental advocate on the Colorado Plateau and to simply be a person, adventurous and inquisitive, traveling the length of the river listening closely to the stories of the land, of the water, and of the people.

My intention for the trip is to be simply and fully present where I am at each moment, in each place. Perhaps the greatest gift of this journey is the ability to listen without having to respond. To listen to and attempt to understand so many different perspectives on the same place. How often are we afforded the honor of simply listening to another's story?

Colorado Plateau: Grand Canyon National Park

Lying on my back along the river at dusk only bats fly between me and the stardust. I am awakened by the full moon breaking over the canyon rim at 3am. Coral pink morning light and the anticipation of running the next rapids…I am home here in the heart of the Colorado River.

The Grand Canyon harbors the River's last vestiges of wildness. Downstream all the way to the Delta, the River is completely controlled by various dams and diversions. From here to the Mexican border the flow is entirely predicated on the daily "water order" issued by Imperial Valley irrigators.

I'm struck by how the river is used—almost everyone we talk with relates to it as a resource, as a means to an end. Very few acknowledge its inherent value, its magnificence and beauty, its spiritual significance. Is our relationship to the earth really any different than our relationships to each other? How might cultivating respect and awe for the environment enrich our culture and our relationships?

Gulf of California, Mexico: The Delta

What profound sadness! The Colorado riverbed is wide, sandy, and completely dry. The river becomes more and more engineered—diversions, dams, channel alterations—as we travel into Mexico at the southern end of the watershed. Only a trickle of the river reaches Mexico and what does is fully diverted to agriculture. The Colorado River does not reach the sea.

This trip has given me a broader perspective on my place and our work on the Colorado Plateau. I have a greater appreciation for the complexity of the issues, the diversity of the people, the immenseness of the land, and the spirit of the river. The Colorado connects the Rocky Mountains to the Colorado Plateau, and the plateau to the Sonoran Desert, and all of these places to the Gulf of California. It is all one place.

At home, here on the Colorado Plateau, we still have the opportunity to preserve and restore the wildness of this place. We must be ever mindful that we belong to the whole river—not just the wildness of its sources, but the dry riverbed at its mouth.And we must ask, in all that we do, what are our responsibilities to the whole?

Chris Newell

As a landscape artist, the air quality of Grand Canyon and the Colorado Plateau is of vital importance to me. Because of this, I offer my assistance by donating paintings to the Grand Canyon Trust. I am so pleased that the sale of "Canyon Echelons" will assist The Grand Canyon Trust in its efforts to clean up our great and grand vistas.

–Curt Walters

Curt Walters: A Strong Advocate for Clean Air

Curt Walters stood on the breezy rim of the Grand Canyon with a large canvas—perhaps four by five feet—lashed to his easel, which in turn was securely tied to a couple of junipers with bungee cords. His palette, covered with brilliant oil colors that mirrored the colors of the mesas, buttes, and cliffs in the canyon, sat in front of the easel on the rough Kaibab limestone. Wielding a long-handled brush, Curt quickly laid strokes of pale yellow paint on the edge of a massive cliff in the painting and suddenly the luminescence of the afternoon light was caught. A couple of additional strokes, and the light captured in the painting became even more dramatic. Curt stepped back, smiled, and said, "I love how oil paint allows me to do that."

Originally from Farmington, New Mexico, Curt has painted the Colorado Plateau—with an emphasis on the Grand Canyon—for the past 25 years. While he is known internationally for his extraordinary paintings, most people don't know that he is a strong advocate for clean air, frequently giving presentations about it to artists and collectors at events across the country. Curt is also a tremendous supporter of the Trust's efforts to protect the air quality of the Colorado Plateau.

In 1997, Curt donated a spectacular painting of the Grand Canyon titled "In All It's Glory" to the Trust. Soon after the sale of that painting, he worked with the Trust to coordinate a raft trip through the Grand Canyon for 15 talented artists, each of whom donated a painting to the Trust for our permanent collection and one (or more) paintings for us to sell to raise money. In 2001, Curt donated another large painting of the Grand Canyon titled, "Canyon Echelons", which recently sold. Through his artistic philanthropy and deep commitment, Curt has made it possible for the Trust to raise more than $50,000 for our air quality work, as well as other programs to protect the Grand Canyon and Colorado Plateau.

–Rick Moore

Statements of Financial Position

Years Ended September 30, 2003 and 2002

ASSETS	2003	2002
Current Assets:		
Cash (Note 1)	$ 1,100,049	$1,111,528
Accounts receivable	140	20,223
Prepaid insurance	6,008	10,699
Deposits	2,539	24,795
Total current assets	1,108,736	1,167,245
Property and Equipment (Note 1)		
Land - Office	119,500	119,500
Land - Program	770,580	770,580
Land improvements	64,790	48,641
Building	687,132	687,132
Office equipment	208,318	232,935
Vehicle	30,223	-
	1,880,543	1,858,788
Less accumulated depreciation	(298,771)	(259,786)
Net property and equipment	1,581,772	1,599,002
Investments - PNC Bank (Note 1 & 3)		
Permanent Sustainable Fund	1,049,237	886,141
Alice Wyss Fund	419,615	354,381
Total investments	1,468,852	1,240,522
Other Assets		
Conservation easements (Note 11)	1,295,000	1,100,000
Total assets	$ 5,454,360	$ 5,106,769

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	2003	2002
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	$ 19,260	$ 25,316
Accrued expenses	78,342	10,915
Bank line of credit (Note 7)	-	129,136
Current portion of long-term debt (Note 4)	670,000	-
Total current liabilities	767,602	165,367
Long-term debt, less current portion (Note 4)	-	670,000
Total liabilities	767,602	835,367
Net Assets: (Note 8)		
Unrestricted	2,207,670	1,956,389
Temporarily restricted	764,473	860,632
Permanently restricted	1,714,615	1,454,381
Total net assets	4,686,758	4,271,402
Total liabilities and net assets	$ 5,454,360	$ 5,106,769

AUDITED

Statements of Activity

Years Ended September 30, 2003 and 2002

CHANGES IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	2003	2002
Revenues:		
Grants (Note 1)	$ 83,650	$ 47,065
Contributions (Note 1)	746,376	271,278
Membership income	443,088	430,346
Donated services (Note 5)	67,900	53,221
Investment income (loss)	174,042	(117,225)
Other income	6,490	35,197
Gain on disposition	1,150	-
Net assets released from restrictions	816,514	2,448,878
Total revenues	2,339,210	3,168,760
Expenses (see schedule):		
Program services (Note 1)	1,307,074	5,516,114
Education	104,698	86,459
Development and membership	302,737	412,214
* General and administrative	373,420	138,167
Total expenses	2,087,929	6,152,954
Net increase (decrease) in unrestricted net assets	251,281	(2,984,194)
CHANGES IN TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS		
Grants and contributions	720,355	2,397,225
Net assets released from restrictions	(816,514)	(2,448,878)
Net decrease in temporarily restricted net assets	(96,159)	(51,653)
CHANGES IN PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS		
Conservation easements	195,000	-
Gain (loss) on investments	65,234	(47,621)
Net increase (decrease) in permanently restricted net assets	260,234	(47,621)
Increase (decrease) in net assets	415,356	(3,083,468)
Net assets at beginning of year	4,271,402	7,354,870
Net assets at end of year	$ 4,686,758	$ 4,271,402

*In June 2003 the Trust completed a reorganization of management that created one-time, non-recurring administrative expenses, which in turn, caused the development and administrative expenses, as a percentage of total expenses, to be significantly higher than normal. The development and administrative expense percentage was at 32.4% for this fiscal year. However the development and administrative expense percentage would have been at 24.3% without these one-time expenses. This compares to a development and administrative expense percentage that has been in the range of 16-23% in prior years. Because of efforts to devote more of the Trust's resources directly to program activities, management expects the development and administrative costs to return to within that range in the future.

AUDITED

John Wesley Powell $1,000 and up

Mr. Kevin Albert
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Albright
Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Altman
Ms. Cynda Arsenault
Mr. Carter F. Bales
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Benedict
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Ms. Sallie Bingham
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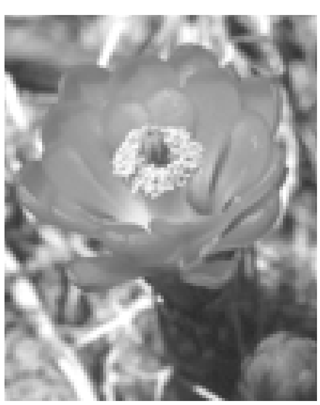

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Primrose photo by Nick Hardigg.
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Lisa Force

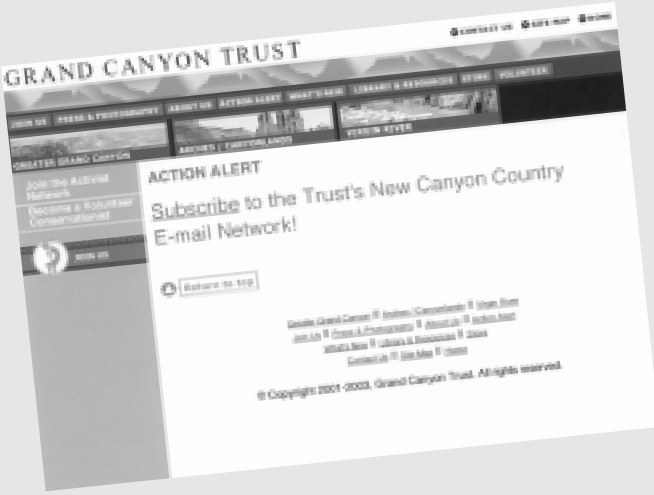
We are pleased to welcome Lisa Force to the Grand Canyon Trust. She will be running our new office in Scottsdale, AZ. Lisa is dedicated to fighting for the protection of the natural systems and wild places of the southwest. Lisa joins us after working for the Center for Biological Diversity and Living Rivers. As an activist for the Center, Lisa was a leader in the successful campaign to decommission two hydroelectric dams in central Arizona and restore water to Fossil Creek. As the Director for Living Rivers, she formed and activated coalitions in support of environmental campaigns including the Grand Canyon Restoration Network and the international "Delta Restoration Coalition" representing over 12 million people. Lisa serves on the National Board of Directors for the Sierra Club.

Laura Kamala

Laura Kamala has worked part-time for the Trust since 2000. We are very happy to announce that earlier this year she was moved up to full-time as Southeast Utah Program Manager in our Moab office. Laura was on the founding board of the Castle Rock Collaboration and she was also the former director of the Southeast Branch of Utah Open Lands. She was a founding principal in The Synergy Company of Moab, Utah, which produces health supplements. Laura studied Wildlife Biology at Rutgers University. She is also a writer, musician, community collaborator and works in stone sculpture. In addition to working for the Trust, Laura is also working for The Earth Mandala Foundation for Global Peace through the Arts and she is making a documentary on the creative community conservation movement in southeast Utah.

Chris Newell

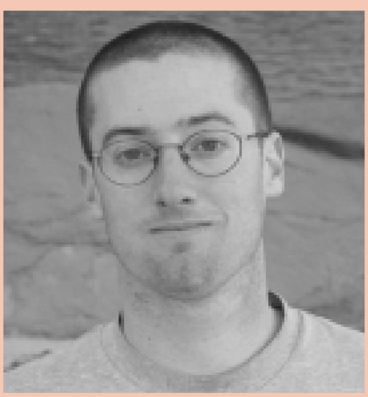
Senior Program Manager, Chris Newell, has recently moved from the Homestead in Flagstaff to Springdale, Utah where she will be Southwest Utah Program Manager. Her work will center on Zion National Park, the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve, the Virgin River, and the Arizona Strip. Chris is currently leading efforts on a 38,000-acre grazing retirement in the Grand Canyon Parashant National Monument. She is dedicated to working with federal and state agencies, private interests and other environmental agencies to achieve lasting conservation. Chris is also exploring restoration economy opportunities such as local native seed nurseries that will support local communities while promoting environmental restoration.



Join the Grand Canyon Trust's Activist Network to receive email updates on our projects and to help with conservation.

To sign up for the Activist Network and Canyon Country E-mail Newsletter, go to http://www.grandcanyontrust.org/action/alert.html

Photographer Bio



Jess Vogelsang lives in Flagstaff, AZ where he teaches photography and digital imaging at Northern Arizona University. During his free time he enjoys hiking, backpacking and photographing the scenic beauty of the Colorado Plateau. Jess displays his work at a variety of Flagstaff businesses, creating colorful fine-art prints of his own dramatic images. To contact Jess Vogelsang call (928) 523-9149 or email jess.vogelsang@nau.edu

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The Colorado Plateau Advocate

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"Canyon Echelons", oil painting by Curt Walters.

The Mission

of the Grand Canyon Trust is to protect and restore 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 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.

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