

GRAND STAIRCASE ESCALANTE PARTNERS

COMMITTED TO PRESERVING AND
PROTECTING THE VAST LANDSCAPE OF
GRAND STAIRCASE-ESCALANTE NATIONAL
MONUMENT FOR THE USE AND ENJOYMENT
OF PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS.

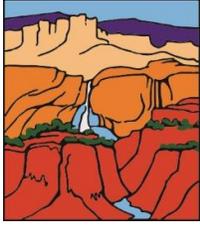
Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

The first time Congress considered extensive federal protection for the area now encompassed by the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument was 1930 (Barnes, 2009; Rogers 2013). Surrounded by Grand Canyon National Park, Bryce Canyon National Park, Capital Reef National Park and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, the Grand Staircase has long been acknowledged as worthy of special designation. The Grand Staircase is home to some of the most exciting and significant paleontological exploration in North America, contains hundreds of identified sensitive archeological sites as well as unparalleled geographical and biological resources.

The Grand Staircase-Escalante was designated “to protect the myriad historic and scientific resources in the Monument” (Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Management Plan, p. iv). The current boundaries of the Monument reflect this mandate and were determined through intensive study through the National Biological Survey (Belnap, 2011).

Utahans support the Grand Staircase! Polls consistently demonstrate strong support for the Monument. Republicans for Environment Protection conducted a poll of registered Utah voters in 2011 **and 69% of respondents believed that the Grand Staircase was good for Utah, and 62% felt that the Monument was a significant economic benefit.** More recently, the Pew Charitable Trust (2016) found **that twice as many Utahans describe the Grand Staircase as a good**, rather than a bad thing for Utah (52% to 23%). Colorado College Conservation in the West 2016 poll found that the monument designation was good for Utah (45% to 25%).

70% of Utahans believe the Grand Staircase is good for Utah’s Tourism industry, and they’re right! 2016 Tourism Taxes for Garfield and Kane counties, the two counties that are home to the Grand Staircase, totaled **nearly 4.6 million dollars!** Two of only 11 Utah counties that collected over \$1 million dollars in tourism taxes, **Kane and Garfield County saw an increase of 20.8% and 10.2% respectively in 2016.**



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The Escalante Visitor Center saw a **51% increase in visitation from 2015 to 2016** (BLM, 2017).

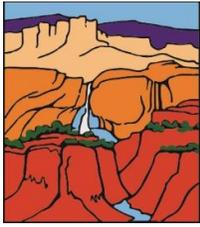
The Monument Proclamation stated: “Nothing in this proclamation shall be deemed to affect existing permits or leases for, or levels of livestock grazing on Federal lands within the monument: existing grazing uses shall continue to be governed by applicable laws and regulations other than this proclamation” (Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Management Plan, p.40). **Grazing on the Grand Staircase is governed by rules and regulations that pre-date the Monument.**

96.4% of the Monument remains open for grazing, only 17 allotments are partially or entirely unavailable. **Grazing has changed very little since the Monument was created.** In 1996, there were 77,400 Animal Unit Months (the federal measure for grazing permits) and today the number of permitted AUMs is 76,957. Some grazing permits were relinquished voluntarily due to drought or in some areas along the Escalante River, sold to the Grand Canyon Trust for higher than market value to protect the fragile riparian zone (BLM Action Center, 2016).

Monuments are good for communities of the rural West! Headwaters Economics (2014) found that counties with at least 30% of land with federal protection enjoyed 262% more job growth over the last 40 years than rural counties without the benefit of federally protected federal land.

Grand Staircase-Escalante Monument management enjoys strong community and stakeholder input. The Monument Advisory Committee exists to allow local and scientific input to the Monument managers. Local interests are strongly represented in all Management decisions.

As residents of the West, we are in the middle of rapid irreversible technological, demographic, and economic changes to traditional western ways of life. This broadly recognized shift is often referred to as the New West, and is not unique to Utah (Shumway & Otterstrom, 2001), Birth rates are declining in Utah and across the nation (McCombs, 2015), and the traditional industries of the West, ranching and mining, are declining (Lorah & Southwick, 2003). **“Counties where high quality natural amenities have been protected are successfully navigating from being dependent**



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on a few natural resource industries to having a modern, diversified, service-oriented economy. The future of the West lies not in extractive industries, but on industries that benefit from the presence of environmental amenities (Lorah & Southwick, 2003, p. 268).

Roads are open on the Grand Staircase! There are approximately 908 miles for street legal motorized vehicle routes, and 553 miles of this includes non-street legal ATVs and dirt bikes. There are also around 192 miles of administrative routes for authorized users such as grazing permittees, researchers, State or Federal agencies, Native American Indians accessing recognized traditional cultural properties, and others carrying out authorized activities under a permit or other authorization (BLM Action Center, 2017)

Hunting and fishing on the Monument remain in the control of the State of Utah. "Nothing in this proclamation shall be deemed to diminish the responsibility and authority of the State of Utah for management of fish and wildlife, including regulation of hunting and fishing." (Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Management Plan, p.12)

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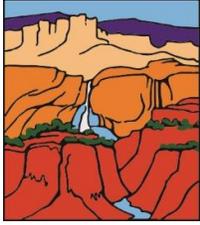
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