



Dinosaur National Monument Celebrates 100 Years

What's In Store for the Next Century

The influence of Dinosaur National Monument in its first century is greater than most people realize—world-renowned dinosaur fossils discovered here influenced the field of paleontology and the battle to prevent damming of the Green River united and galvanized the conservation community and had a lasting impact on the National Park System.

Dinosaur National Monument's next century will be shaped by decisions being made today by National Park Service managers and other regional public land managers and leaders. These decisions will affect everything from air quality, to the fate of the endangered species living in the Yampa River, to the darkness of the night skies.

NPCA has been involved in many of these issues. Here are just a few of the challenges and opportunities facing Dinosaur National Monument:

Preservation of the Yampa River

The Yampa River, once the focus of a large-scale dam proposal at Echo Park, remains one of the last free-flowing tributaries in the Colorado River basin,

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Traveling through Time at Dinosaur National Monument

by "Fossil Fanatic"
Brian Switek, Guest Contributor
www.brianswitek.net/

Time travel isn't impossible. Not entirely. True, I'll never get to walk across fern-covered Jurassic floodplains to see Apatosaurus, Allosaurus, and other dinosaurs stomp across the land, but it's impossible to look at their bones and not imagine such prehistoric scenes. Locked in stone—some still held together after 150 million years and others scattered like pick-up-sticks—these remains rest on the famous quarry wall of Dinosaur National Monument, Utah.

The national park's Jurassic boneyard is one of our nation's greatest treasures. Fossil bones are often taken out of the ground piecemeal for study and reconstruction, but here, in the ancient sandstone, the bones were left to speak about the lives of animals that have fired our imaginations for centuries. I'll never forget my first visit to the wall to see what generations of paleontologists have uncovered about a time when our own ancestors were tiny mammals who lived in the shadows of the dinosaurs.

But that's not the only reason I keep going back to Dinosaur. You can stand in the parking lot outside the quarry and see rocks moved by seas, deserts, swamps, and other

land forms cataloging more than 500 million years of history. By scanning the land and walking the trails, you move through time, reading the great chapters of life's story that we are now continuing.



*Brian Switek is a freelance science writer and author of the critically-acclaimed books *Written in Stone* (2010), *My Beloved Brontosaurus* (2013), *When Dinosaurs Ruled* (2014), and *Prehistoric Predators* (2015). In addition to writing for a variety of publications—from *Slate* to *Nature*—Brian writes the *Laelaps* blog for National Geographic, hosts the video series *Dinologue*, and is the "resident paleontologist" for the *Jurassic World* website.*

Top: Echo Park, the confluence of the Green and Yampa Rivers in Dinosaur National Monument, CO/UT. Tandem Stills and Motion, | Justin Bailie **Above:** 150-million-year-old dinosaur fossils at the Quarry Exhibit Hall, Dinosaur National Monument, UT. NPS

FIELD REPORT

SPRING 2015

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Meet Our New Staff

Roxanne Bradley Regional Director of Development for Colorado and Utah



Roxanne Bradley was raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, where she attended UC Berkeley. After graduating Phi Beta Kappa, she entered into Licensing Consulting for the

Fashion Industry, where she generated plans for business growth. Roxanne comes to NPCA from the Smithsonian Institution, where for the past six years she has served as a Major Gifts Officer, having successfully managed an extensive and diverse fundraising portfolio. Throughout her years at the Smithsonian, she planned and executed high-level giving strategies while developing channels for dialogue with key stakeholders, influencers, and organizations. Roxanne's hobbies include hiking, skiing, and painting. She currently resides in Washington, D.C.

Contact Roxanne at (202)-834-5448 or email at rbradley@npca.org.

Lynne Bierut Associate Director for the Southwest Region, Trustees for the Parks



Lynne Bierut was raised in upstate New York but spent many of her summers in New York City, where she discovered the beauty of the Fire Island National Seashore. She

attended New York University where she studied journalism. Prior to becoming a development officer, Lynne enjoyed a 20-year career in publishing sales development working in New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles for magazines such as *Prevention*, *Natural Health*, *SF Examiner*,

and *Outdoor Life*. Lynne previously worked at the California Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, where she began her career in fundraising. During her four years at the Conservancy, Lynne managed a diverse fundraising portfolio of middle-level annual and major donors. Lynne has extensive work experience with developing and executing development strategies, relationship management and creating partnerships. Lynne, who joined NPCA in September, currently resides in Santa Monica, CA where she enjoys being in nature as often as possible whether it's hiking, boating, sailing, or simply meditating.

Contact Lynne at (310) 650-1730 or email at lbierut@npca.org.

Jerry Otero Four Corners Energy Program Manager



Jerry Otero comes to NPCA as a native and lifelong resident of Colorado. He has deep roots in the West—his family has been in Colorado for more than 150 years. During the past nine

years Jerry has worked for three United States senators, including Ken Salazar, and Michael Bennet. Most recently, he served as regional director for the western region of Colorado for Senator Mark Udall. During this time, Jerry worked at the center of a number of critical energy and public lands issues. He likes to hunt and fish with his dad and his brothers when he is not coaching his niece and nephew's sports teams. In addition to spending time with friends and family, he enjoys hanging out with his 12-year-old Labrador retriever, Homer.

Contact Jerry at jotero@npca.org or (970) 250-4300.

Happy 100th Birthday Rocky Mountain National Park!

January 27 marked the 100th anniversary of the legislation that created Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP). With nearly 270,000 acres of rugged lands along the Continental Divide and 72 peaks over 12,000 feet high—within an hour of Colorado's booming Front Range communities—RMNP is a beloved alpine playground, in the summer and winter. The park is home to an array of wildlife as well as the headwaters of the Colorado River. Its designation was championed by local grassroots advocates led by Enos Mills, a charismatic wilderness explorer and area resident who made his first ascent of Long's Peak, the highest point in the park at 14,239 feet, at age 15.

NPCA honored the park's centennial with a public event at the historic Boulder Theater in downtown Boulder, co-hosted by National Park Trips Media, Rocky Mountain Conservancy and Rocky Mountain National Park. The event, which drew more than 600 enthusiastic RMNP revelers, featured live bluegrass music; a presentation by award-winning photographer Erik Stensland, author of a new commemorative book, *Wild Light*; a lively silent auction; and

the Front Range premiere of the short film *Wildlife, Wilderness, Wonder*.

The event also served as an introduction to NPCA's new Colorado Field Office, which opened last year in Boulder to provide additional support for RMNP and the state's other magnificent national parks.

While mostly celebratory, the event acknowledged the challenges that RMNP faces in its second century, including air pollution from traffic, extensive energy development, and climate change, which threatens the park's fragile alpine tundra ecosystem. Through its expanded presence in the state, NPCA hopes to build its community of Colorado park supporters to help address these and other pressures.

Find more RMNP 100th Anniversary Events at: <http://www.nps.gov/romo/planyourvisit/calendar.htm>.



Above: Bluegrass band Henhouse Conspiracy
Below: Marquis for NPCA's RMNP 100th Anniversary Event. © Alex Stuart | National Park Trips Media

With nearly 270,000 acres of rugged lands along the Continental Divide and 72 peaks over 12,000 feet high, Rocky Mountain National Park is a beloved alpine playground.



Meet the New Members of Congress from the Southwest Region

Photos from United States Congress

Ken Buck Colorado Representative District 4

Field Offices:
Castle Pines: 720.639.9165
Greeley: 970.702.2951



Born 1959 in Ossining, NY
B.A., Princeton University
J.D., University of Wyoming College of Law
U.S. Department of Justice: 1986-1990
Chief of Criminal Division,
U.S. Attorney's Office for District of Colorado: 1990-2004
Weld County District Attorney: 2004-2014
U.S. House of Representatives: 2015-present
■ *Committees:* Judiciary, Oversight and Government Reform

Cory Gardner Colorado Junior Senator

Field Offices:
Denver: 303.391.5777
Grand Junction: 970.245.9553
Greeley: 970.352.5546



Born 1974 in Yuma, CO
B.A. Political Science, Colorado State University
J.D., University of Colorado
Colorado House of Representatives: 2005-2011
U.S. House of Representatives: 2011-2015
U.S. Senate: 2015-present
■ *Committees:* Commerce, Science, and Transportation; Energy and Natural Resources; Foreign Relations (East Asian and Pacific Affairs-Chairman); Small Business and Entrepreneurship

Ruben Gallego Arizona Representative District 7

Field Office:
Phoenix: 602.256.0551



Born 1979 in Chicago, IL
International Relations degree, Harvard University
Combat Unit Lima 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, Marine Corps
Arizona House of Representatives: 2011-2014
U.S. House of Representatives: 2015-present
Currently sits on boards of: Valley Citizens League, the Children's Museum, and President's Community Advisory Board for South Mountain Community College
■ *Committees:* Armed Services, Natural Resources (Oversight)

Martha McSally Arizona Representative District 2

Field Offices:
Sierra Vista: 520.459.3115
Tucson: 520.881.3588



Born 1966 in Warwick, RI
United States Air Force Academy graduate
Masters Degree, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University
Masters Degree in Public Policy and Strategic Studies, U.S. Air War College
Retired Colonel, U.S. Air Force
U.S. House of Representatives: 2015-present
■ *Committees:* Armed Services, Homeland Security

Mia Love Utah Representative District 4

Field Office:
West Jordan: 801.987.8631



Born 1975 in Brooklyn, NY
Performing Arts degree, University of Hartford
Saratoga Springs City Council: 2004-2010
Saratoga Springs Mayor: 2010-2014
U.S. House of Representatives: 2015-present
Congressional Black Caucus member
■ *Committee:* Financial Services



Grand Canyon Issues Update

This year NPCA's Grand Canyon priorities include the following issues:

- **We oppose an Italian company's proposed mega-development at the small gateway town of Tusayan.** The development would add 2,200 residential units and enough commercial space to build 10 average-sized Walmart stores. In addition, proposed new wells would likely have a negative impact on fragile Grand Canyon springs and side creeks. <http://bit.ly/1BinJeZ>
- **We oppose a Scottsdale, Arizona, developer's proposal for a resort hotel and tramway at the confluence of the Colorado and Little Colorado Rivers on Navajo tribal park land,** a breathtakingly beautiful location sacred to many local tribes. <http://nbcnews.to/1DSoaPg>
- **We support the development of a 20-year plan to manage the release of water from Glen Canyon Dam** to improve visitor experience and protect park resources, including endangered fish, and riparian habitats. <http://bit.ly/1BLaGSc>
- **We support federal allocations to reduce a total of \$330 million worth of maintenance backlog,** including paved roads that need \$116 million for repair, and crucial water systems that need \$100 million. <http://bit.ly/1EER17j>
- **We oppose a lawsuit from uranium companies seeking to end the moratorium on new claims on public lands surrounding Grand Canyon National Park.** <http://bit.ly/1EEPLCx>
- **We support the use of scientific studies and agency cooperation to remove invasive hybrid bison,** rather than congressional authorization for open hunting in the park. <http://bit.ly/1CW54M5>

Above: A silt laden Little Colorado River joining the Colorado River at the Confluence, Grand Canyon National Park, AZ. Photo courtesy of Mike Buchheit.

Grand Canyon Song (1983)

— Steve Goodman

Such a beautiful mystery
Tell me who will save it for our posterity?
Because no man has a mortgage
or a lease
On Mother Nature's masterpiece
Hey, now it's up to you and me

Run come see what this river has done
Carved the walls of Grand Canyon
With the colors of the risin' sun
Maybe someday the folks we elect
Will show this land a little more respect
If they could run come see what this
river has done

www.youtube.com/watch?v=xylJVw0rths

Dinosaur National Monument Celebrates One Hundred Years!

1915-2015

TIMELINE (BELOW): 1. Earl Douglass. NPS 2. Packing fossils at Dinosaur National Monument, Utah, early 1900s. Carnegie Museum of Natural History 3. Approaching Tiger Wall on the Yampa River, UT. NPS 4. Paleontologist carefully chips rock matrix from a column of dinosaur vertebrae. These bones were left in place in the Dinosaur Quarry display. USGS 5. Interpretive rangers take a turn at excavating Abydosaurus. NPS 6. Quarry Exhibit Hall, late September 2011. NPS 7. Floating past the previously proposed dam location in Whirlpool Canyon to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act. NPS



1909

August 17
Earl Douglass, Carnegie Museum paleontologist, discovers eight dinosaur tailbones protruding from a sandstone hillside just north of Jensen, Utah. The bones were vertebrae of an Apatosaurus, the first skeleton discovered and excavated at the Dinosaur Quarry and one of the most complete Apatosaurus skeletons ever discovered.

1909-1924

Douglass oversees excavation of 23 nearly complete dinosaur skeletons representing 12 different species that were laid down in an old stream channel over 140 million years ago. In 1924, the last fossil was removed from the Dinosaur Quarry, a site which contained the most concentrated, diverse, and abundant collection of well-preserved Jurassic Period dinosaur bones in the world.

1915

October 4
President Woodrow Wilson signs a presidential proclamation under the Antiquities Act establishing 80 acres surrounding the Dinosaur Quarry as Dinosaur National Monument to protect the "extraordinary deposit of Dinosaurian and other gigantic reptilian remains" from coal and phosphate development as well as fossil looting and destruction.

1938

July 14
President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs a presidential proclamation expanding Dinosaur National Monument by nearly 204,000 acres to include the river corridors and adjacent viewsheds for the major canyons of the Green and Yampa Rivers. The monument expansion protected the confluence of the two rivers, canyons greater than 3,000 feet deep from rim to river, and 46 miles of the Yampa—the last natural-flowing river in the Colorado River System.

1956

A proposal to dam the Green River below Echo Park and at Split Mountain that would have flooded and irrevocably changed much of Dinosaur National Monument, was finally defeated by conservation organizations that united to defend the national park idea. According to Congressional testimony by David Brower, then executive director of the Sierra Club, "the Echo Park Project alone called for a dam 525 feet high, backing up 107 miles of reservoir, inundating the intimate, close-up scenes and living space, with nearly 6 1/2 million acre feet of water."

1958

June 1
Dinosaur Quarry Exhibit Hall and Visitor Center are dedicated and opened to the public, making Earl Douglass' vision a reality 35 years after he suggested the government "leave the bones and skeletons in relief and house them."

1978

January
More than 95 percent of Dinosaur National Monument is recommended for wilderness designation and subsequently managed in accordance with the Wilderness Act.

2010

February 23
A team of paleontologists discovers a new dinosaur species they're calling Abydosaurus, which belongs to the group of gigantic, long-necked, long-tailed, four-legged, plant-eating dinosaurs such as Brachiosaurus. The fossils were excavated from the Cedar Mountain Formation in Dinosaur National Monument near Vernal, Utah.

2011

October 4
The Quarry Exhibit Hall and Quarry Visitor Center are reopened after a 5 1/2-year closure. The Exhibit Hall, built on unstable clay, had to be reconstructed because the original building was plagued with structural problems.

2014

September 3
In celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act and to commemorate Dinosaur's role in rallying conservationists around the idea of saving special places for their wild nature, staff and visitors participated in a "quote float." Several favorite wilderness-related quotes and words were read out loud at the Green and Yampa river confluence so that they could echo off Echo Rock (as named by John Wesley Powell). They were then put in a waterproof box and strapped to the raft as it floated down through Whirlpool and Split Mountain Canyons—both locations that had dams proposed. The words were provided in response to the following question...

2015

April-October
A variety of special events and projects will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Dinosaur National Monument and the diversity of resources it protects. To learn more, visit: <http://www.nps.gov/dino/planyourvisit/index.htm>



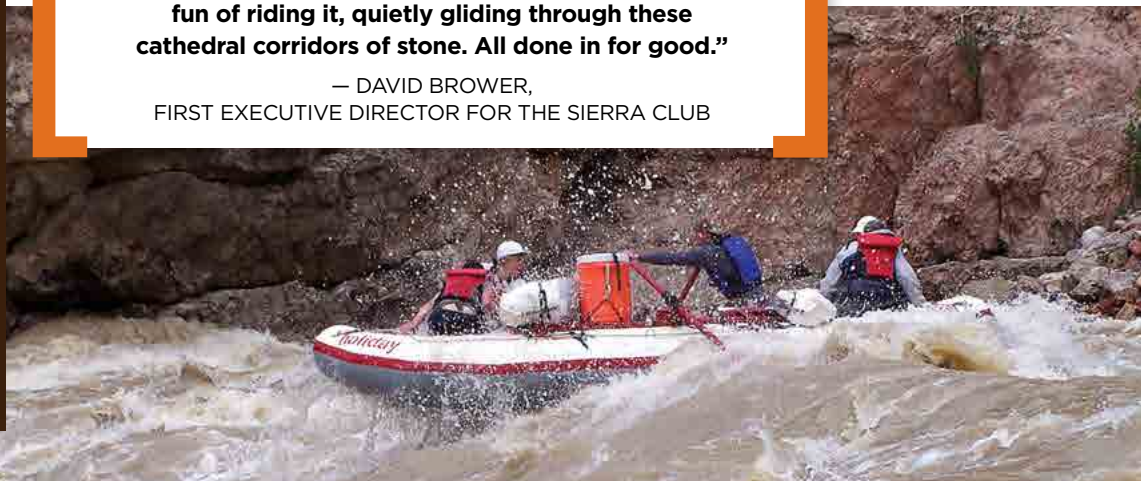
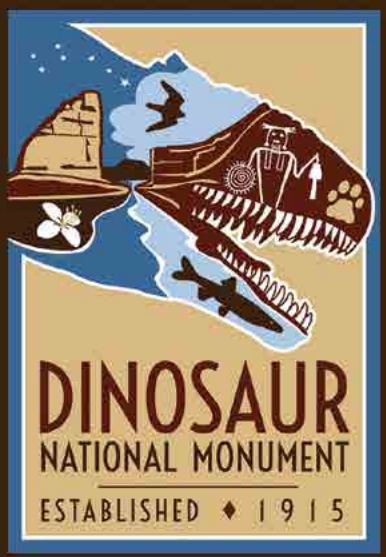
Timeline info provided by the National Park Service and found at www.nps.gov/dino.

If the dam had been built, **"The river, its surge and its sound, the living sculptor of this place, would be silent forever, and all the fascination of its movement and the fun of riding it, quietly gliding through these cathedral corridors of stone. All done in for good."**

— DAVID BROWER,
FIRST EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR THE SIERRA CLUB

"My hope for both the Find Your Park and Dinosaur Centennial campaigns is that everyone feels genuinely welcome to visit and find out for themselves what makes this corner of northeast Utah and northwest Colorado a premier unit of the National Park Service."

— MARK FOUST, MONUMENT SUPERINTENDENT



In a word, what does Wilderness mean to you?
The top three answers were: **freedom, beauty, and peace.**

Left: Rafting through Split Mountain Canyon, UT. NPS **Bottom:** Island Park Overlook of Green River in Dinosaur National Monument, UT. © Rinus Baak | Dreamstime.com

Utah Public Lands Initiative Update

**STRIKING
A
BALANCE**

Since March of 2013, Utah Congressmen Rob Bishop and Jason Chaffetz have led the Utah Public Lands Initiative (PLI), with the goal of creating

legislation to resolve long standing conflicts over public land management in the Eastern part of the state. The intent of the PLI is to “strike an appropriate balance between conservation and responsible development” with input from many stakeholders. NPCA has advocated for an open, transparent process to evaluate the larger shared landscape and determine what type of land designations make sense for maintaining the remote, adventuresome nature of the area while allowing for a variety of recreational opportunities, appropriate development, and a vibrant local and state economy.



Specifically, in Southeastern Utah, NPCA proposes to expand the boundaries around and designate wilderness inside Canyonlands and Arches National Parks along with expanding the boundary of Hovenweep National Monument. In Northeastern Utah, NPCA proposes wilderness and wild and scenic river designation for the Green River inside Dinosaur National Monument as well as wilderness designation adjacent to the monument. These actions would more broadly protect the scenic vistas, dark night skies, natural sounds, cultural resources and opportunities for primitive and remote experiences in and around the parks.

Lines are now being drawn on maps and draft legislation is pending for the PLI this spring. NPCA will closely evaluate the conservation components of the draft and advocate for improvements, with your help, where necessary. With over ten million people visiting Utah’s national parks and monuments in 2014 and generating more than \$700 million in surrounding communities, these national treasures are certainly worth protecting.

Above: Arches National Park, UT © Scott Kirkwood

Welcome New Southwest Regional Council Members



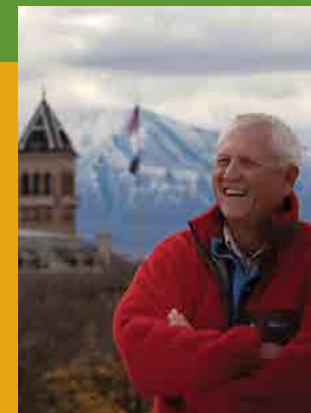
Kim Wirthlin, Salt Lake City, Utah

Kim Wirthlin is an accomplished healthcare and university executive leader turned entrepreneur. She is the CEO of MedAnalytics, an advanced healthcare analytics company. She is also the CEO of Wirthlin Strategies, a healthcare consulting company that provides services to clients throughout the country. Additionally, Kim is a mentor for Healthbox, an accelerator fund headquartered in Chicago, where she mentors entrepreneurs in navigating the complex healthcare industry to develop and grow sustainable businesses.

Previously, Kim served as both the Vice President for Government Relations for the University of Utah and the Associate Vice President for Marketing, Communications and Strategy for University of Utah Health Care.

Kim is an adventurer and outdoor enthusiast. Growing up in Salt Lake City surrounded by mountains and not far from the desert, her love of the outdoors was nurtured from an early age. She is an avid skier, mountain and road biker, rock climber, and mountaineer. Kim has climbed Ama Dablam (22,349 ft.) in the Himalayas, Denali, Mt. Rainer, and the Grand Teton. She is passionate about protecting and preserving public lands around the world and encouraging people of all ages to enjoy the majesty of the physical world.

I am excited about the opportunity to be involved with NPCA as it weaves together my four passions. I’m passionate about creating opportunities to live lives of health and well-being, education and exploration, the empowerment of women and girls, and the protection and sustainability of the natural world that surrounds us.



Jack Schmidt, Logan, Utah

Jack Schmidt is a river geomorphologist who focuses on describing the transformation of the West’s rivers that have occurred during the past century. Jack also devises strategies for the rehabilitation and restoration of those rivers. He completed his PhD dissertation research in Grand Canyon, describing how sand bars form and are maintained, and he has worked there for more than 30 years with students and other collaborators. Jack joined the Utah State University faculty in 1991 in the Watershed Science Department as a Stream Geomorphology Professor. Be-

tween 2011 and 2014, he took leave from Utah State and served as Chief of the U.S. Geological Survey Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center, the primary science provider to the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program. Jack also has worked extensively on the Rio Grande in Big Bend National Park, the Green River in Dinosaur National Monument and in Canyonlands National Park, and on the Snake River in Grand Teton National Park. He received the National Park Service’s Directors Award for natural resource research in 2009.

Protecting Night Skies and Cultural Resources at Hovenweep National Monument

In early February, southeastern Utah’s Hovenweep National Monument, which protects the ruins of six ancestral Puebloan villages, was given a brief reprieve from oil and gas industry pressure to lease more land at its doorstep. Following a protest from NPCA, Friends of Cedar Mesa, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Utah state office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) deferred leasing several parcels due to our concerns about the impact of oil and gas exploration on cultural resources, night skies, and natural sounds in and around Hovenweep National Monument.

NPCA continues to advocate that during the planning of oil and gas development near national park units, the many non-drilling uses of the land as well as the impacts of resource extraction on the sites be considered. Our apprehension with the BLM’s proposed lease sale near Hoven-

Our apprehension with the BLM’s proposed lease sale near Hovenweep was the insufficient level of analysis and proposed mitigation of the potential impacts of energy development in the area.

weep was the insufficient level of analysis and proposed mitigation of the potential impacts of energy development in the area. This is especially critical because in 2014 the International Dark-Sky Association named the monument an International Dark Sky Park, a designation reserved for parks with “exceptional” and well-preserved night skies.

Although we are thankful BLM’s lease deferrals acknowledge these important resources, this is just a temporary fix. The larger issue of appropriately planned energy

development in the Four Corners region remains to be addressed. NPCA and our partners will continue to advocate for smart planning around southeastern Utah’s Hovenweep and Natural Bridges National Monuments through a Master Leasing Plan (MLP) along with the development of strong, enforceable mitigation measures for impacts to park resources including dark night skies.

Below: Milky Way at the Square Tower Group, Hovenweep Castle, UT. Photo by Jacob W. Frank.





Dinosaur National Monument Celebrates 100 Years

What's In Store for the Next Century

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and carries sediment into the system and incubates native fish populations. Nevertheless, the Yampa continues to be targeted for major water project proposals, most recently, a diversion that would carry water from the Colorado system across the Continental Divide to Denver and other Front Range cities. Preserving the Yampa's water to support Dinosaur's fish populations and other natural features is perhaps the most critical action necessary for protecting all other parks within the threatened Colorado basin.

Through September, 2015, you can comment on the draft Colorado Water Plan and voice your support for a healthy Yampa River here: www.coloradowaterplan.com/

Adjacent Energy Development

Extensive oil and gas development near the monument in both Utah and Colorado has already significantly degraded air quality in the park. Recent data shows that the monument is exposed to high levels of pollutants and greenhouse gases. These harmful compounds cloud visibility, pose health risks to park visitors and local communities, and threaten plants, animals, and fish. On the Colorado side, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recently released the next-to-final draft of a Master Leasing Plan (MLP) as part of an amendment to the White River Field Office Resource Management Plan. The MLP calls for minimizing visual evidence of oil and gas development near Dinosaur and will protect the monument's amazing dark night skies, but it doesn't go far enough in mitigating pollution from continued energy development in the region. NPCA and other conservation groups is urging the BLM to strengthen its air quality measures as it prepares the final version of the plan.

Utah Public Land Initiative

The Utah side of Dinosaur National Monument lies within Uintah County, one of the seven counties engaged in the Utah Public Land Initiative described in more detail on page 8 of this Field Report. As a stakeholder in the process, NPCA has been working for several months to advocate for protections for Dinosaur National Monument including wilderness designation inside and adjacent to the monument, settlement and elimination of road claims inside the monument, and wild and scenic river designation for the Green River.

Our vision for Dinosaur National Monument's next century includes healthy river ecosystems and native fish populations; expansive views across the park unfettered by transmission lines, dirty air and oil rigs; opportunities for finding quiet and solitude in the backcountry; and dark night skies filled with stars.



Above: Young humpback chub (Gila cypha) swimming in Shinumo Creek, inside Grand Canyon National Park soon after release. They are part of a reintroduction program of this federally protected species with the goal to establish a second population, after they became extinct everywhere except a small part of Little Colorado River. Historically, humpback chub were commonly found in the Green and Yampa Rivers in Colorado and Utah. © Melissa Trammell | NPS

Keys To Freeze Team Bikes to the Southwest



Keysto Freeze is a 9,000 mile unsupported cycling journey from the southernmost to the northernmost points of the United States reachable by road. The group of six is pedaling to help raise awareness and funds for the National Parks Conservation Association. Almost a month into the journey, the team is beyond excited to explore and document the National Parks of the southwest. In April, they visited Bryce Canyon National Park, Canyonlands, Capitol Reef and Zion National Park. During their stopovers, they talked with park staff about the issues at each park and spent time doing service projects. More information about their route and adventures can be found at www.keystofreeze.com/.



Top: Megan Healy cruising down a dirt road in Florida. **Above:** The Keys to Freeze team arriving at Canyonlands National Park in April 2015.

A Master Leasing Plan Comes to Fruition

We continue to work to protect national park units from the impacts of irresponsible development by supporting Master Leasing Plans (MLPs) on public lands near national parks. Throughout the West, national park units are part of a mosaic of state and federal lands affected by mineral leasing decisions by non-National Park Service agency managers who are charged with managing these public lands for multiple uses. This relationship, unique to the West, creates challenges not only in managing and preserving the national park units, but also in creating healthy, vibrant communities.

NPCA's support of MLPs, a proactive planning tool of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), will help ensure that oil and gas development near sensitive places such as national parks is planned with consideration and care for the many uses of the land. Ideally, the outcome will

Throughout the West, national park units are part of a mosaic of state and federal lands affected by mineral leasing decisions by non-National Park Service agency managers who are charged with managing these public lands for multiple uses.

be a collaboratively planned blueprint for future leasing and development. Currently, MLPs have been proposed as amendments to BLM Resource Management Plans near Mesa Verde National Park, Chaco Culture National Historic Park, Dinosaur National Monument, and Arches National Park.

The White River Field Office of the BLM in northwest Colorado is the first to roll out a Master Leasing Plan for lands near Dinosaur National Monument. The Dinosaur Trails MLP revises the agency's framework for how and where oil and gas leasing can proceed on public lands near the monument in order

to balance the needs of developers with protection of natural resources, night skies, natural quiet, and views. The announcement of the Dinosaur Trails MLP demonstrates significant progress in safeguarding national park units, however it is just the start. Implementing MLPs near all at-risk national park sites in the Southwest will better preserve our parks and reduce conflicts in nearby communities.

Above: Fajada Butte in Chaco Canyon at the Chaco Culture National Historical Park in New Mexico. © Glenn Nagel | Dreamstime.com



SOUTHWEST REGIONAL OFFICE

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A Pie Success at Capitol Reef



By Francine Hallows
Owner of Broken Spur Inn and Steakhouse

In the fall of 2013, the owners of the Broken Spur Inn & Steakhouse—Gary and Francine Hallows and Travis and Holly VanOrden—went to Sundance, Utah for the first Utah Gateway Community Forum organized by NPCA. While sitting with the local park superintendent and the Capitol Reef Natural History Association staff, we discovered they were looking for new pie-makers at the Gifford House in Capitol Reef National Park. We asked them if we could make the pies for them since we are part of the community. When we got home from the forum, we baked up a batch of pies and met with them to discuss the possibilities. They elected to give us a chance, and so we immediately began to build a bakery. We had to be ready by March 14, which is National Pie Day and the day the Gifford House opens for the season. During our first season, we took in approximately \$100,000. The pies sell for \$6 each. We make \$3.25 and the History Association gets the rest.

We average about eight dozen pies a day. We also make chocolate, strawberry, and vanilla ice cream to accompany the pies, of course. We make cherry, peach, apple, strawberry rhubarb, and mixed berry using some of the fruit from the orchards in Capitol Reef. The early settlers would come to Fruita with their bushel baskets in the summer and fall and pick the ripe fruit for canning. It was not unusual for people to pick as many as six bushels of peaches to take home and bottle. The fruit orchards are a part of the area's history and so making fruit pies for the Gifford House was only natural. It creates employment for an additional six people at our business. Taking pies to the Gifford House early each morning is a great way to start the day!

Please find more information about the history of the orchards at <http://www.nps.gov/care/index.htm>. To learn more about the Utah Gateway Community Forum, go to www.utahgatewaycommunity.org/.

Left: Jamie, the main Pie Maker at Broken Spur Bakery prepares pies for the daily delivery to Gifford House in Capitol Reef National Park, UT. Photo Courtesy of Francine Hallows.



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