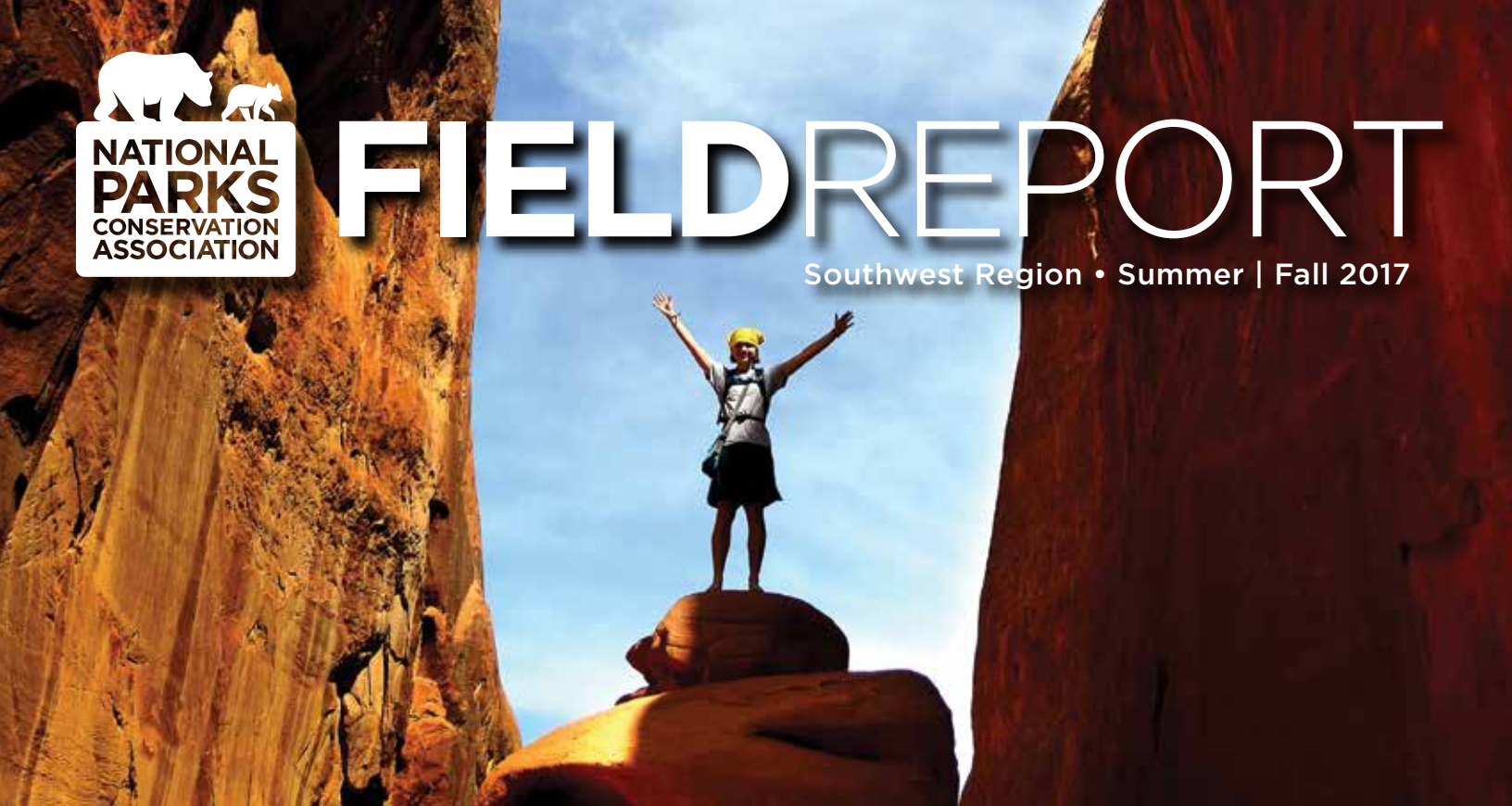




# FIELDREPORT

Southwest Region • Summer | Fall 2017



## Dinosaur National Monument in the Crosshairs

**A**n alarming example of the Utah Bureau of Land Management (BLM) veering away from well thought out oil and gas planning is happening right now on land immediately adjacent to the boundary of Dinosaur National Monument in northeastern Utah. In June, BLM released a draft environmental assessment (EA) for their December 2017 oil and gas lease sale that includes five parcels of land within 5 miles of Dinosaur National Monument. This includes two parcels of land immediately adjacent to the park boundary and less than one mile, in direct view of the park entrance road, Quarry Visitor Center and Exhibit Hall with its world-renowned Wall of Bones, the park's most visited destination.

In their scoping comments to BLM, the National Park Service (NPS) requested these two parcels be removed from the December 2017 sale, "due to the potential significant impacts to the resources and visitor experience" at Dinosaur National Monument. The BLM is now making a final decision whether to include the parcels next to the park in the oil and gas lease sale.

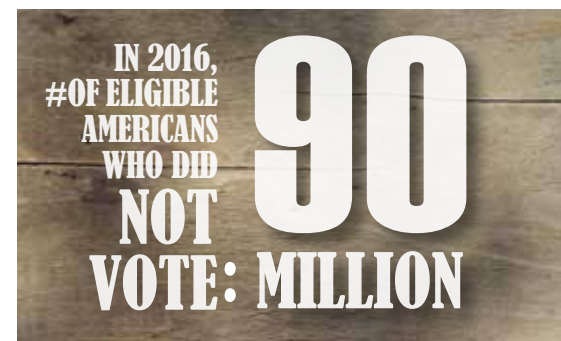
## Choose to Be Powerful

**"A** republic, if you can keep it," replied Benjamin Franklin when asked what kind of government the Founding Fathers had created at the Constitutional Convention. In doing so he issued a challenge to all of us: Can we keep our republic? The answer depends on two principal features of our system of government, one good and one bad.

First, the bad news. Even though living in a democracy is a precious gift, a large percentage of Americans do not participate in governing. In the last election, in fact, roughly 4 in 10 eligible individuals did not cast a ballot ([www.electproject.org/2016g](http://www.electproject.org/2016g)). That means 90 million Americans who could vote didn't bother; a startling figure considering Trump garnered 60 million votes to win. The National Research Center found that participation rates for other forms of involvement, such as contacting government officials, attending public meetings or writing to elected officials, are abysmally low—less than a quarter of the adult population. ([www.n-r-c.com/](http://www.n-r-c.com/)) As a result, government tends to be dominated by well-heeled special interests, career politicians and extremist elements.

But here's the good news. It doesn't have to be that way; each one of us is free to be

powerful. The most effective way to do that is to form an organization or join an existing one. We all know the stories of Susan B. Anthony, Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King, Jr. Then, there's Candy Lightner who formed Mothers Against



Drunk Drivers after her daughter was killed by a drunk driver and fundamentally changed the law. And perhaps you've heard of the college dropout who couldn't hold down a regular job, but started a new citizens' organization that has profoundly changed the world—the Sierra Club. John Muir is now considered one of the country's most influential conservationists. Nearly all river protection/restoration groups were initiated

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# FIELD REPORT

SUMMER | FALL 2017

Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico & Utah

## Southwest Regional Office Staff

307 West 200 South • Suite 5000  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101  
801.521.0785 • Fax: 801.359.2367

Email Contact: [southwest@npca.org](mailto:southwest@npca.org)

### David Nimkin

SOUTHWEST  
SENIOR REGIONAL DIRECTOR  
[dnimkin@npca.org](mailto:dnimkin@npca.org)

### Elizabeth "Britte" Kirsch

REGIONAL COORDINATOR  
[ekirsch@npca.org](mailto:ekirsch@npca.org)

### Cory MacNulty

UTAH SENIOR PROGRAM MANAGER  
[cmacnulty@npca.org](mailto:cmacnulty@npca.org)

### Erika Pollard

UTAH SENIOR PROGRAM MANAGER  
[epollard@npca.org](mailto:epollard@npca.org)

### Kevin Dahl

ARIZONA  
SENIOR PROGRAM MANAGER  
[kdahl@npca.org](mailto:kdahl@npca.org) • 520.624.2014

### Vanessa Mazal

COLORADO PROGRAM MANAGER  
[vmazal@npca.org](mailto:vmazal@npca.org) • 303.919.9054

### Jerry Otero

FOUR CORNERS  
ENERGY PROGRAM MANAGER  
[jotero@npca.org](mailto:jotero@npca.org) • 970.250.4300

### Ernie Atencio

NEW MEXICO PROGRAM MANAGER  
[eatencio@npca.org](mailto:eatencio@npca.org) • 505.444.0032

## Headquarters

National Parks Conservation Association  
777 6th Street, NW • Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20001-3723

## NPCA Membership Services Team

800.628.7275 • [npca@npca.org](mailto:npca@npca.org)

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[npca.org](http://npca.org)

## New Southwest Regional Council Members

### MELINDA ARVISO-CIOCCO

As a Navajo Cultural Specialist for the Navajo Nation Historic Preservation Department, Melinda's duties include conducting ethnographic surveys, identifying cultural resources that are significantly sacred and valuable to the Navajo Nation, assessing and recommending eligibility for protection under relevant laws of the federal government, and interviewing tribal members for information on traditional cultural sites and burial sites prior to any project's construction activity. She interprets Navajo traditions and serves as a translator and/or transcriber of the Navajo language to English and vice versa.

Melinda has over five years of experience in ethnography, anthropology, and ethno-history background working with Native communities, economic development, tribal/federal policies, gender inequalities, and historical and cultural awareness. Fluency in the Navajo language enables Melinda to relate well and work effectively with native communities, in both professional and social settings.

Melinda is a graduate of Fort Lewis College, Durango, CO, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Native American and Indigenous Studies and a minor in Sociology/Human Services.

**Above:** Melinda Arviso-Ciocco ©M.Arviso-Ciocco  
Patrick deFreitas ©P.deFreitas

### PATRICK DE FREITAS

Patrick came to Utah 44 years ago to visit his big brother, then in graduate school at the University of Utah. He had planned to stay two weeks, but got distracted. It's the West, after all. Patrick has a background in management with organizational and entrepreneurial experience with both for-profit and nonprofit groups. He has been intimately involved in the initiation and startup of several organizations including a bookstore, three philanthropic foundations, a summer stock theater company, an archival and record keeping service, a citywide volunteer tree care program, and a biotechnology company. In many of these ventures, he was principal, founder or co-founder. By rough count, he's served as a director of more than 20 nonprofit organizations. Most recently, he chaired the boards of both Western Resource Advocates, which works regionally to protect the West's land, air, and water (no small task), and Wasatch Community Gardens, which works to empower people of all ages and incomes to grow and eat healthy food. He's presently on the boards of Friends of Alta and Utahns for Better Transportation.

A Westerner by choice, Patrick was born and raised in England, received his Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Utah and, for reasons that are sometimes unclear to him, lives in Salt Lake City, Utah.

**Below:** A boy studies petroglyphs in Dinosaur National Monument, UT. ©Irina Kozhemyakina | Dreamstime





## NATIONAL MONUMENTS ON THE CHOPPING BLOCK A Utah Perspective

**T**he word is out. National park and monument visitors are flocking to Utah in record numbers. In 2016, over 15 million people visited Utah's national parks and monuments, including nearly 1 million visitors to BLM's Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument and a record 4.3 million visitors to Zion National Park. The resulting economic growth throughout the state, and particularly in southern Utah, has been significant. According to Headwaters Economics, from 2001-2015, the population of the Grand Staircase Escalante region grew by 13 percent and the number of jobs grew by 24 percent. The Outdoor Industry Association reports the outdoor recreation economy in Utah, which relies heavily on these protected landscapes, adds more than \$12 billion in direct spending to the state.

Why then would Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke recommend reducing the size of Utah's newest national monument, Bears Ears, and the 21-year-old Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument? The answer is complicated, but the bottom line is that a relatively small number of people are looking to the past rather than the future. Those people convinced the new Trump administration to undergo a review of 27 national monuments around the country and assess which the administration should try to rescind or resize.

Fortunately, millions of Americans have stepped up to tell Secretary Zinke not to get rid of or alter the boundaries of these 27 national monuments. There is strong recognition around the country that these



protected landscapes have many values: They support local economies, offer outdoor recreation opportunities, have scientific and historical relevance, and protect sacred cultural lands and natural resources.

More than one million people submitted comments on Bears Ears National Monument alone, and over 90 percent of those supported protecting the monument. The monument designation of Bears Ears was a transparent and multi-year process led by

five tribal communities, with broad public support in Utah and nationwide.

Despite this strong support for Bears Ears, Secretary Zinke appears to be listening to that small number of people who want something different. His initial recommendation for Bears Ears is to alter the boundaries and reduce its size. Grand Staircase Escalante, which received comparable strong public support, will likely garner a similar recommendation from Secretary Zinke.

If and when the Trump administration takes action against any of the 27 national monuments under review, NPCA and many others will be ready to staunchly defend them. In the meantime, visitors will continue to be drawn to these places. In Utah, we expect a steady increase in tourism, particularly at Bears Ears. It will be more important than ever to remain vigilant and continue to advocate for the sacred tribal lands at Bears Ears as well as the treasure trove of geological, paleontological and ecological wonders at Grand Staircase Escalante.

**Top:** Hikers in Bears Ears National Monument, UT. ©Nature and Science | Alamy **Above:** Supporters of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase Escalante National Monuments gather on the steps of the Utah State Capitol Building on May 6, 2017. ©Brent Olson | Shutterstock

### Help NPCA Defend America's Most Inspirational Places

Congress, the Trump administration and special interest groups are waging a relentless battle against the very laws that protect our national parks. In response, NPCA is mounting a vigorous and strategic defense. Please consider making a tax-deductible gift to our Legal Defense Fund to help us protect our parks. Thank you for helping us fight the good fight!  
Click here for more information. <http://bit.ly/2tSgcd6>

# Choose to Be Powerful

continued from page one

by one or two people, and none of them had the characteristics we often associate with power. They were not rich, well-connected or experienced in politics. But they all had passion and commitment.

Our political system has some problems, but at least it's an open system. Each individual can choose to be an activist. You get to choose, not just to complain, or worry, or lament, but to make a real difference in public policy. All you need is passion and commitment; being tenacious, positive, respectful and well-informed will increase your chances of success.

Being an activist for the national parks is similar to any other kind of activism with two major differences. First, unlike so many issues today, the love and reverence for national parks is bipartisan; both major parties support the parks and want to protect them. Second, the fruits of your labor are immediately obvious; you can work to protect a park, and then go there and revel in the stunning beauty, find peace in the silence, and wander joyously through a primeval landscape.

Would you like to save a national park? Then do it.

## Daniel McCool

*Chair, NPCA Southwest Regional Council  
Professional hobbyist, climbing bum and  
Professor Emeritus, University of Utah  
Political Science Department*

**Right:** Woman overlooking Bryce Canyon National Park, UT. ©Cgardinerphotos | Dreamstime

**Below:** Dan McCool and his wife, Jan Winniford in Grand Canyon National Park, AZ. ©Dan McCool

Our political system has some problems, but at least it's an open system. Each individual can choose to be an activist. You get to choose, not just to complain, or worry, or lament, but to make a real difference in public policy. All you need is passion and commitment; being tenacious, positive, respectful and well-informed will increase your chances of success.



# Zion Protected from the Threat of Oil and Gas Development ... For Now

In a move that will help protect one of the Southwest's most iconic landscapes, the BLM decided in early June to remove three parcels of land (totaling 4,730 acres) on the doorstep of Zion National Park from its September 2017 oil and gas lease sale. NPCA and over 10,000 of our members joined Utah Governor Gary Herbert, the local elected officials and residents of Washington County and the park gateway communities of Springdale and Toquerville, NPS staff, and a host of local leaders, business owners and outdoor advocates in successfully calling for deferral of all parcels near Zion from the lease sale.

Governor Herbert wrote to Utah BLM Director Ed Roberson, "While I support a diverse economy, these particular sites are not ideal for extraction ... We ask that you protect these parcels, protect these public lands and not open them for leasing." A wide array of voices agreed that pump jacks and drill rigs, heavy duty truck traffic, flaring of natural gas, and other infrastructure from

industrial oil and gas activities have no place next to Zion National Park. Millions of visitors come to Zion every year, making it a major driver of southwestern Utah's robust recreation and tourism economy.

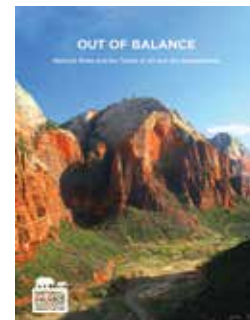
Unfortunately, the parcels of land next to Zion were only deferred from the September 2017 oil and gas lease sale for further

evaluation and potential reallocation. The outdated Resource Management Plan used by BLM's St. George Field Office must be amended to fully remove the threat of future drilling next to Zion National Park boundaries. Until this occurs, BLM's June decision provides only temporary security for the park. Citizens' voices will continue to be critical to its future protection.

## OUT OF BALANCE

### National Parks and the Threat of Oil and Gas Development

A new NPCA report highlights seven national parks endangered by potential encroaching energy development. *Out of Balance: National Parks and the Threat of Oil and Gas Development* details the extent of possible energy development next to Dinosaur National Monument, Chaco Culture National Historical Park, and Canyonlands, Capitol Reef, Carlsbad Caverns, Mesa Verde and Zion National Parks. The report explains the recent successes resulting from inclusive, reasonable oil and gas planning, and details the threats facing parks if we move away from this proven process. View the full report at <http://bit.ly/2svhfw3>.



## SUCCESS IN NEW MEXICO



Our impact in New Mexico continues to grow since opening a field office last year. NPCA and our partners publicly challenged a massive oil and gas development near Carlsbad Caverns National Park, and we negotiated a favorable settlement with Chevron and BLM. Chevron agreed to several stipulations that will protect air quality and dark night skies over the park. BLM agreed to more proactive

coordination with NPS and better public outreach for new development proposals.

Meanwhile oil and gas development pressures around Chaco Culture National Historical Park are heating up, with a comprehensive BLM planning process in the works and a groundbreaking collaboration between the All Pueblo Council of Governors and the Navajo Nation who both oppose the development.

This year at Valles Caldera National Preserve, we facilitated the purchase of a private inholding and are working now toward transferring its ownership to NPS. We also continue to monitor the threat to geothermal resources within the preserve from a proposed development on U.S. Forest Service land next door.

**Above:** Kin Kletso, Chaco Culture National Historical Park, NM. ©Wilsilver77 | Dreamstime

## New Congressional Members in the Southwest Region

**TOM O'HALLERAN**  
Arizona 1st District



Born 1946 in Chicago, Illinois  
Chicago Police Department: 1966-1979  
Former Member, Chicago Board of Trade  
Arizona House of Representatives: 2001-2006  
Arizona Senate: 2007-2009  
U.S. House of Representatives: 2017-Present  
Committees: Agriculture, Armed Services

**FIELD OFFICES:**

*Casa Grande:* 520-316-0839  
*Flagstaff:* 928-286-5338  
*NW Tucson:* 928-301-0131

**Above (Left):** Photo courtesy of Office of Rep. O'Halleran. **(Right):** Photo courtesy of Office of Rep. Biggs.

**ANDY BIGGS**  
Arizona 5th District



Born 1958 in Tucson, Arizona  
B.A., Asian Studies,  
Brigham Young University  
M.A., Political Science,  
Arizona State University  
J.D., University of Arizona  
Arizona House of Representatives: 2003-2011  
Arizona Senate: 2011-2017  
U.S. House of Representatives: 2017-Present  
Committees: Judiciary; Science, Space, and  
Technology (Chairman, Environment  
Subcommittee)

**FIELD OFFICE:**

*Mesa:* 480-699-8239

## Why I Stand Up for Our Public Lands

by Ben Kieffner

Our national parks and public lands are the fabric of our great country, representing not only heritage but pride. At its core, the beauty of the “public” in public lands is ownership ... birthright. These places belong to each and every one of us. Beyond our freedoms, our closest bond as a collective nation and down to the individual lies within the history, experiences and memories established within our parks. We all aspire to leave a legacy of good, right? Well, one way or another, our parks and public lands are a legacy for all of us.

I'm a park steward, not just to ensure our most wild and historic places remain, but more selfishly to safeguard my preferred arena for adventure, thought, and inspiration, which in itself yields defining experiences that continuously drive my legacy beyond the one we share.

**Ben Kieffner** co-founded *Wild Tribute*, an apparel company based in Salt Lake City. *Wild Tribute* was founded to honor our national parks and public lands. Four percent of the company's proceeds are donated to nonprofit organizations that educate, preserve, and protect these wild and historic places. Featuring designs that pay tribute to where legacy roams, check out *Wild Tribute's* apparel at [www.wildtribute.com](http://www.wildtribute.com)

**Below:** Author and wife Kim Stowers stand in front of the Utah Capitol Building on May 6, 2017, to show support for Bears Ears National Monument. ©B.Kieffner

## Protecting Rocky Mountain's Gateway Communities

**NPCA  
UPDATE**

The fight to protect national parks against the potential effects of nearby oil and gas development moved in a positive direction this spring, when the Colorado BLM pulled 27 parcels near the west entrance of Rocky Mountain National Park from an upcoming federal lease sale. If the parcels had been leased, oil and gas infrastructure could have been visible from the park entrance road, and could have impacted sensitive lands near the headwaters of the Colorado River.

Along with the efforts of NPCA and other conservation interests, the decision was influenced by the opposition of park-adjacent gateway community members and business leaders, who voiced concern that industrial development would conflict with local recreational, tourism and agriculture-dependent economies.



# The Stars Align for Another Utah Symphony Park Experience

**N**PCA, in collaboration with the Consortium for Dark Sky Studies at the University of Utah, Natural History Museum of Utah, and the Colorado Plateau Dark Skies Cooperative, will host a variety of star parties to accompany the Utah Symphony's "Great American Road Trip," from August 29 through September 2, 2017. Following free outdoor symphony performances, these parties will be led by local astronomers and park rangers and will highlight the beauty and importance of Utah's magical dark skies. There will be educational opportunities and activities for

children and families to help promote the preservation of our night skies and the protection of our public lands. The star parties will take place in Ivins, UT, Springdale, UT, Cedar Breaks National Monument, Bluff, UT, and Steinaker State Park, near Vernal.

The Utah Symphony will also take their show on the road with free performances near Zion National Park, Cedar Breaks and Dinosaur National Monuments. The performance schedule and information about obtaining free tickets can be found at: [www.utahsymphony.org/tours/GART](http://www.utahsymphony.org/tours/GART).

**Bottom:** Concert goers take in Utah Symphony's outdoor free concert overlooking Bryce Canyon National Park during the orchestra's 2014 Mighty 5 Tour. **Below:** Children and families learn the keys to symphonic sounds from the orchestra's educational outreach team during the 2014 Utah Symphony Mighty 5 Tour. Photos courtesy of Utah Symphony.

## Utah Symphony's GREAT AMERICAN ROAD TRIP 2017 Schedule\*

- AUG 28** Unity Park in Ivins UT **SP**
- AUG 29** Springdale, UT **FO • SP**
- AUG 30** Cedar Breaks National Monument **FO • SP**
- AUG 31** Bluff, UT **CO • SP**
- SEPT 1** Goblin Valley State Park **CO • SP**  
Vernal UT **CO**  
Steinaker State Park **SP**
- SEPT 2** Dinosaur National Monument  
(SOLD OUT) **FO**

### KEY

**FO:** Full Orchestra  
**CO:** Chamber Orchestra  
**SP:** Star Parties after Symphony events

\* Go to [utahsymphony.org/tours/GART](http://utahsymphony.org/tours/GART) for current scheduling information

Please contact Britte Kirsch for more information about the star parties at [ekirsch@npca.org](mailto:ekirsch@npca.org) or (801) 521-0785.



## YouthWorks in the Parks Explores Hovenweep

**N**PCA, YouthWorks Salt Lake, and Friends of Arches and Canyonlands Parks, hosted our third YouthWorks in the Parks trip in early May—this time to southeastern Utah’s Hovenweep National Monument. YouthWorks in the Parks is a partnership and program to introduce a new audience of diverse, young people to national parks, to career opportunities in public lands and outdoor recreation, and to camping, hiking, and other outdoor recreation

activities. During the trip to Hovenweep, 15 participants learned from Park Service staff about the Ancestral Puebloans who farmed the area and built the structures—including towers, kivas, and other dwellings—that remain in the monument. They also learned about the starry night skies and the area’s connections to modern Native American tribes and Mormon pioneer settlers. Everyone’s comfort levels were tested while hunkering down in tents during a dramatic

thunder and lightning storm and while squeezing themselves through a tight, water-filled slot canyon on a guided canyoneering adventure. The weekend was life-enriching in many ways and will inspire participants to visit more national parks and advocate for their protection alongside NPCA.

Read New Mexico Program Manager Ernie Atencio’s reflections on his recent YouthWorks experience here: <http://bit.ly/2rhsLLb>

**Below:** The YouthWorks in the Parks crew explore the sights in Hovenweep National Monument in May 2017. Photo courtesy of Isabel Juliaio-Martin.



## Building Momentum in Colorado's Gateway Communities

**L**ast year, NPCA helped identify and address the needs of Colorado communities that serve as gateways to national parks and other significant public lands. This initiative builds upon gateway community work underway in Utah. In the Southwest, these communities—often rural and transitioning from more traditional land-based economic sectors—are “ground zero” for land use conflicts. They also absorb and benefit from increased outdoor visitation in our region.

Under the re-branded *Colorado Gateway*

*Momentum Initiative*, NPCA has since convened local workshops in Grand Valley (near Colorado National Monument), the Four Corners area (near Mesa Verde National



Park), and San Luis Valley (near Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve), as well as a second, statewide meeting this past May. These events have brought together diverse interests and community leaders to confront challenges at the intersection of promoting growth, protecting lands, diversifying economies and preserving community character.

Future workshops are planned later this year near Rocky Mountain National Park and Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park/Curecanti National Recreation Area.



**SOUTHWEST REGIONAL OFFICE:** 307 West 200 South • Suite 5000 • Salt Lake City, Utah 84101



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