

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.

Talking Points:

There are 1.9 million reasons to protect the Grand Staircase! In addition to asking the new Secretary of the Interior to meet with us before making any decisions about the Monument, here are a few ideas as you write your letters:

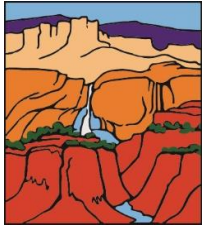
- The Grand Staircase preserves Native American and Mormon Settler heritage
- Since the Monument was designated, there has been increased investment in the community. For example, the restoration project on the Escalante River has brought together government agencies, nonprofits and private landowners to improve habitat for the healthy function of the watershed
- There has been continued access for hunting, fishing and grazing within the Monument
- Through the management plan, there's been community and stakeholder involvement in the management through the Monument Advisory Committee
- The Monument is touted as one of Utah's prime attractions and is prominently on the websites for Escalante and Boulder Utah Chamber of Commerce and the official travel site for Utah
- Polls consistently show that the majority of Utahans embrace the Monument

Tips:

- Your words and your story are important!
- Write Grand Staircase instead of using the acronym: GSENM.

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Fast Facts:

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



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sensitive archeological sites as well as unparalleled geographical and biological resources.

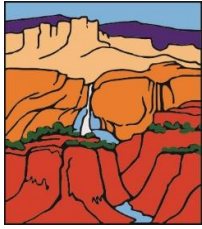
The Grand Staircase-Escalante was designated “to protect the myriad historic and scientific resources in the Monument” (Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Management Plan, p. iv). The current boundaries of the Monument reflect this mandate and were determined through intensive study through 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! The Escalante Visitor Center saw a 51% increase in visitation from 2015 to 2016 (BLM, 2017).

96.4% of the Monument remains open for grazing, only 17 allotments are partially or entirely unavailable. 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, 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.



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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 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).

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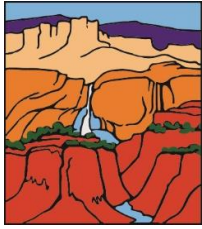
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