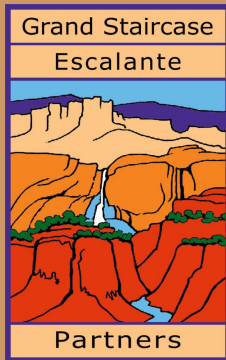


Grand Staircase Escalante Partners

Winter 2016



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Committed to preserving and protecting the vast landscape of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

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Thank You for an Exceptional Year!



2015 was one of our best years yet! With your help we were able to:

CREATE AN AWARD-WINNING SCHOOL PROGRAM

In 2015, you helped launch Frontier Science School, recognized as a "BLM Youth Program Superstar." It's our new curriculum-based education program serving students, teachers, and people of all ages in rural communities in southern Utah and northern Arizona - the neighbors of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. As Escalante High Principal Bert Steele said, "you get kids outdoors to learn about scientific concepts in the real world, with real scientists and people who live and work here and represent diverse viewpoints." Learn all about it at our new website, www.frontierscienceschool.org.

DISCOVER DINOSAUR FOSSILS AND RUN A RESEARCH LAB

Thanks to your support, our Paleontology Program is reaching new heights. In partnership with the Bureau of Land Management, we have hired a lab manager who works with the Monument's Dr. Alan Titus, coordinating the work of 20 "citizen science" volunteers who help prepare and research

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dozens of fossils that are millions of years old. Imagine that. Imagine the hours they put in, uncovering plant and animal species unseen to human eyes. How hard did they work in 2015? More than 2,500 hours of volunteer service. Now that's progress! That's science! And you helped make it happen.

RESTORE A WILD RIVER AND EMPLOY YOUNG PEOPLE IN CONSERVATION

Yep, we're saving the Escalante! Thanks to you, an iconic river of the West is both wilder and healthier as we continue to remove invasive plants such as Russian olive as part of the Escalante River Watershed Partnership. As we enter the middle of a 10-year action plan, 71 river miles have been restored by our staff, partners, and hundreds of young people working as crew members in conservation corps. More than 4,750 acres have been returned to open galleries of beautiful cottonwoods and willows, and 50 miles of native fish habitat have been reconnected or improved. This is gritty, sweaty, resource-intensive work, and we just can't get enough of it. Can you? Learn more at www.escalanteriverwatershedpartnership.org.

PROTECT INVALUABLE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES FROM LOOTERS

With your financial assistance our longtime Site Stewards volunteer program trains and coordinates more than 30 people to monitor dozens of archaeological and paleontological sites that are vulnerable to looting and insensitive visitation. These dedicated adventurers drive and trek across hundreds of miles within the Monument, documenting the condition of wide-ranging cultural resources, from the dwellings of Ancestral Puebloans, to ancient petroglyphs and pictographs, to dinosaur track sites. This work is hard, it's crucial, and it needs your support.



partners@kanab

www.gsenm.org

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Newsletter edited by Emily
Schrepf

Dave Livermore, Utah State Director of The Nature Conservancy presents
the award to Noel Poe, Executive Director.

ERWP Awarded by The Nature Conservancy

We are thrilled to announce that the Escalante River Watershed Partnership was honored with The Nature Conservancy of Utah's 2015 Conservation Partnership Award! This is the Utah Chapter's highest honor and it is well deserved. This year, ERWP had their largest presence yet with 80 crew members removing about 7 miles of invasive species from the riverbank. They're right on track to finish in 2018, too.

Update on Frontier Science School

After less than a year, Partners new education program has already proven to be a great success! Jeff Muse, Education Coordinator, has reached more than 1,000 students, teachers, and people of all ages with information about the rich natural and cultural resources that surround us on Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. His good work even inspired BLM-Utah to honor him as a "2015 Youth Program Superstar."



Kanab Elementary students listen to Dr. Alan Titus during his "Rise of the Feathered Dragons" presentation.

"Did the dinosaurs really all go extinct?" This question was raised during "Rise of the Feathered Dragons" presentations

in Fredonia, Orderville and Kanab last month, sponsored by Frontier Science School. Dr. Alan Titus lit up students' imaginations by teaching them that modern birds are actually highly specialized dinosaurs, in the way that bats are still also mammals. Students were also treated to the opportunity to examine many different kinds of fossils and ask questions about anything that came to mind. Fun was had by all!

"Our teachers expressed tremendous gratitude by the end of the field trips and classroom lessons to Frontier Science School in providing our students with hands-on opportunities and are greatly pleased in the way these activities deepened student understanding in the science curriculum" -Braxton Bateman, Kanab Elementary Principal

Tyrannosaur Site Discovery



The tyrannosaurus are likely Teratophoneus, portrayed here.

In 2014, Dr. Alan Titus made a very exciting discovery at a site on the Kaiparowits Plateau on the Monument and now we get to tell you about it! Since the find, they have worked to uncover a mass mortality site there containing three different sizes of Tyrannosaurus in addition to other raptors, turtles, fish, hadrosaur, snails and clams. These animals lived approximately 75 million years ago. What happened that led to so many different types of animals to be in the same area? Dr. Titus and his team believe one possibility is that a catastrophic forest fire was the cause of their deaths. What a find!



Tyrannosaur jawbone-yes, those are dinosaur teeth!

Thanks to the generosity of four members of Partners, who donated a total of \$1,100 and one who even donated an apartment for him to stay in, BLM Paleo Tech Scott Richardson was able to return to the lab in Kanab for a month and work for Partners. Scott concentrated on a Tyrannosaur jawbone from the new site and we were all grateful to have him back!



If you've done the hike to Lower Calf Creek Falls, you know it's one of the most spectacular hikes in Southern Utah. We want to make sure that the local kids in Garfield County have the opportunity to experience it for themselves.

You can help us make it happen by contributing to our fund here: <https://www.crowdrise.com/jeffmuse-everykidinapark>.

This hike is truly an adventure with rock art and granaries, beaver ponds and a refreshing dip in beautiful Calf Creek Falls halfway through. The BLM has generously offered to

waive entrance fees for students and we hope that you will be able to help, too!

September 18, 2016 marks the 20th anniversary of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. Stay tuned for information on how we will celebrate this monumental occasion!

Fundraising Success

With the support of BLM staff, Partners obtained two grants from the National Environmental Education Foundation for 2016. One, titled Hands On The Land, will allow Frontier Science School to provide classroom based lessons to elementary students on how fossils can be used to "read the land" both on the Monument and in their own backyards. The other grant will allow FSS to train an advanced cadre of volunteers who will receive increased training and commit to duties in citizen science, education and relationship building.



Become a Member of Partners Today!

**Visit www.gsenm.org/donate or mail your check to
745 Highway 89 East Kanab, Utah 84741**

Monument and other public lands bookstores.

\$35 supports our ongoing efforts to protect the Monument for future generations

\$50 is enough to purchase specialized tools for paleo volunteers

\$100 can educate hundreds of visitors at local events

\$250 is enough to support 15 hours supervising volunteer archeological site stewards

\$500 can educate dozens of elementary students about our natural heritage

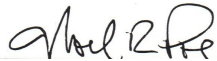
\$1000 supports the restoration of a natural spring or grazing fencing on the Monument

\$5,000 can remove substantial amounts of Russian olive from the Escalante River banks.

Surprise us! Your support is crucial in helping us to serve Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

Thank you for all you do to support Grand Staircase Escalante
Partners!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Noel R. Poe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "N".

Noel R. Poe
Executive Director