

# GRAND STAIRCASE- ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENT

"Today the Grand Staircase-  
Escalante National Monument  
becomes a great pillar in our  
bridge to tomorrow."

President Bill Clinton  
September 18, 1996

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management





# Conserving The Land



The Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument is a dramatic, multi-hued landscape that is rich in natural and human history. Extending across 1.7 million acres of Utah public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, the monument represents a unique combination of archeological, historical, paleontological, geological, and biological resources. These strikingly beautiful and scientifically important lands are divided into three distinct regions.



Jerry Siniz

## The Grand Staircase— A Museum of Earth History

These cream- and rose-colored cliffs of Navajo sandstone are the second in the series of four great geological steps that ascend northward across the southwest corner of the monument. This Grand Staircase—the Vermilion, White, Gray, and Pink Cliffs—spans five different life zones from Sonoran desert to coniferous forests. It is a masterpiece of geological and biological diversity. *Geologist Clarence Dutton coined the term Grand Staircase in his Report on the Geology of the High Plateaus of Utah (1880).*

## The Canyons of the Escalante— Wonders in Water and Stone

The Escalante River, the last major river system to be mapped in the continental United States, cascades off the southern flank of the Aquarius Plateau, winding through a 1,000-mile maze of interconnected canyons. This magical labyrinth is one of the scenic wonders of the West. *Even though Spanish explorer and priest Father Silvestre Velez de Escalante never wet a boot or even saw the river, his is the namesake given by the Powell survey crew that discovered and named the Escalante River in 1872.*



Al Hartmann/Salt Lake Tribune



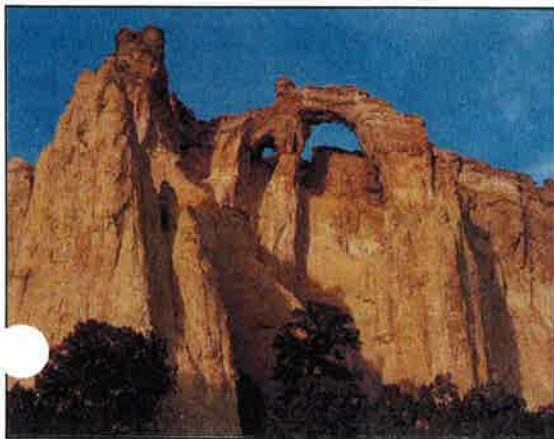
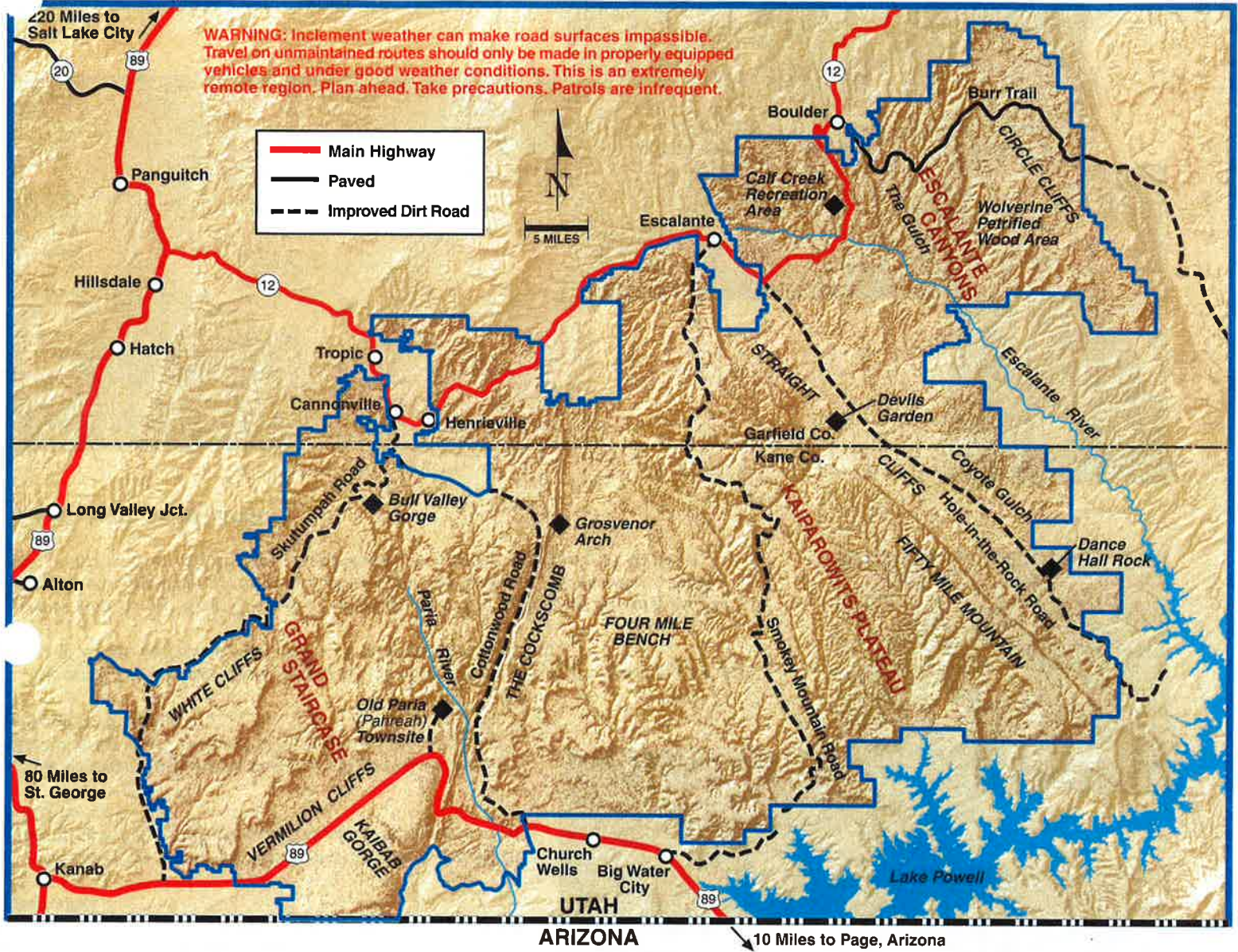
Al Hartmann/Salt Lake Tribune

## The Kaiparowits Plateau— The Outback

A vast, wedge-shaped block of mesas and deeply incised canyons towers above the surrounding canyonlands. The isolated, rugged plateau is refuge for wildlife, rare plants, and a few adventure-ready individuals equipped to handle profound solitude and uncompromising wild country. *One interpretation of this ancient Indian name for the Kaiparowits Plateau is "home of our people." More than 1,000 sites from prehistoric cultures have been recorded on the Plateau. Many more are preserved for future study.*



# Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument





# Protecting Our Natural and Cultural Heritage

The Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument's vast and austere landscape embraces a spectacular array of scientific and historical resources.

## The monument preserves . . .

*A geological treasure of clearly exposed stratigraphy and structures offering a clear view to understanding the processes of the earth's geologic history.*

*World-class paleontological sites, including those found in the Wahweap and Kaiparowits formations, which contain one of the best records of Cretaceous terrestrial life in the world.*

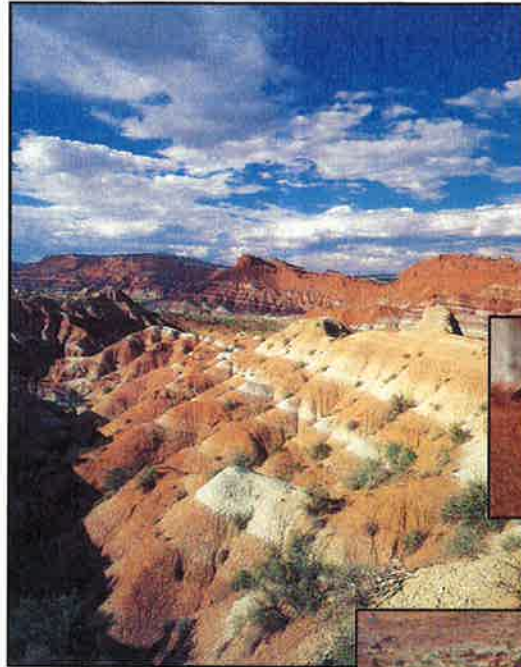
*Hundreds of recorded Native American cultural sites, including rock art panels, occupation sites, campsites, and granaries.*

*Relict vegetative areas such as the grasslands atop No Mans Mesa that have evolved unaltered by man since the Pleistocene epoch.*

*Habitat for mountain lion, bear, and desert-bighorn sheep as well as over 200 species of birds, including the bald eagle and peregrine falcon.*

*The Hole-in-the-Rock Trail, the Old Paria townsite, and other historic places where one can see how nature shaped human endeavors in the American West; where distance and aridity have been pitted against our dreams and courage.*

**and much, much more.**



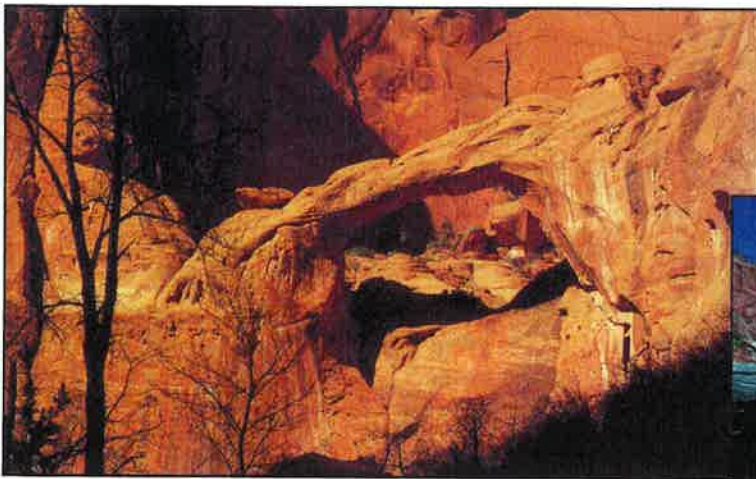
Ray Mathis



Frank Jensen



Kelly Rigby



Larry Venzel



Jerry Sintz



Al Harmann

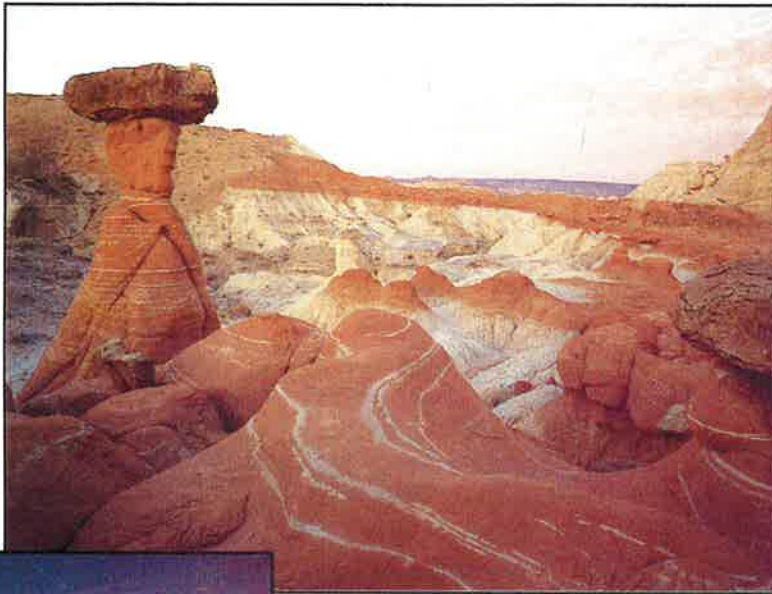
"On this remarkable site, God's handiwork is everywhere . . ."

President Bill Clinton

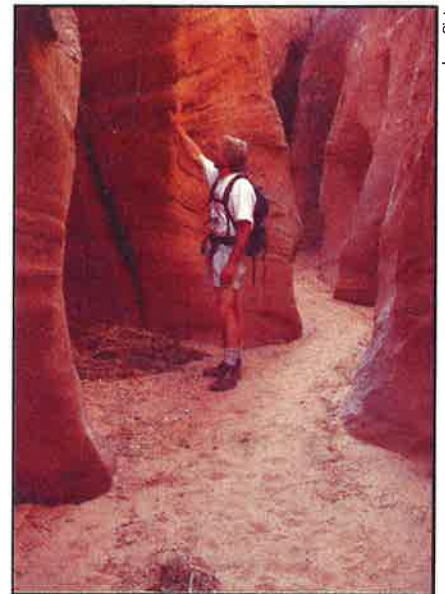


# *Sustaining Our Western Heritage*

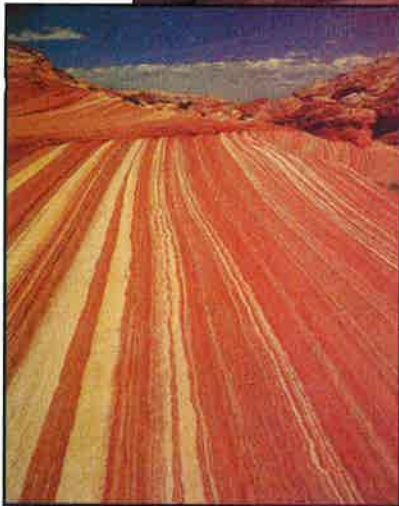
The proclamation establishing the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument offers a vision for the future. It directs the BLM not only to protect the land, but also to allow, within the proper conservation context, a number of traditional uses that will help keep people on the land and pass on our Western heritage.



Melody Thomas



Jerry Smitz



Melody Thomas

“... the land will remain open for multiple uses, including hunting, fishing, camping, and grazing.”

President Bill Clinton



Kelly Rigby



Jerry Smitz



# *Building a Common Vision For The Future*

Future management direction for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument is being addressed in a comprehensive management plan scheduled for completion by October, 1999. President Clinton has directed the Bureau of Land Management to work closely with the Governor of Utah, State elected officials, local communities, and national constituencies to establish a planning process that will be good for the people of Utah and good for all Americans.

"I'm excited about this opportunity to build a common vision for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. Working together we will craft a long-term management plan that will protect some of the most remarkable land on Earth while sustaining the cultural identity that makes this region so special and rare."

Bill Lamb, State Director  
Utah Bureau of Land Management