



San Juan County vs. Purist

Too many people do not understand the great difference between being an environmentalist and an environmental purist. We all need to be environmentalists, but to be an environmental purist is helping to lead our nation to disaster.

Those who are inclined to follow the beliefs of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA) must understand they are NOT proponents of protecting the environment! Indeed, they support the idea of preserving everything in its natural form. Is it necessary or even possible to keep everything in its natural form? Not hardly! Nature changes all the time. We must exercise caution and wisdom in the use of natural resources.

With the population growing at a rapid rate, can we prosper and lead normal lives if exploration and development of our natural resources is limited or banned? SUWA and other interest groups oppose every action that involves the use of OUR natural resources.

Natural resources can be explored and developed without destroying the quality

of our public lands. If you study what happened in San Juan County in the 40's, 50's, and 60's, when mining, oil, and gas exploration was occurring, you will find strong evidence of some heavy handed damage to our public lands.

Today, SUWA is fighting a fierce battle to have those areas designated as wilderness, even though those areas were never rehabilitated by man. Mother Nature alone has done a fantastic job of returning quality to many of those once disturbed areas. But by no stretch of the imagination should those areas be considered wilderness.

At the time this heavy activity was occurring, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) did not have the laws and regulations to control what was happening. Today, the BLM has many laws and regulations to assure our public lands retain their quality. The BLM has the expertise, and should be allowed to use these regulations to do their jobs.

Closing public lands is not management!
BLM too often uses this procedure when

they find decisions too difficult or controversial to make. Congress, through the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, has mandated the BLM to manage public lands under multiple use. SUWA continually accuses the BLM of not properly managing these public lands if the decisions made are not on SUWA's agenda (that is, anything other than single use preservation).

Single use lands has never been the intent of our laws. SUWA believes there is only one tool in the box, and that is land closures. These closures prove SUWA's selfishness and intent to eliminate all use to ensure the land will always qualify as wilderness.

It's about high time that SUWA and their cohorts back off and allow BLM to do their job.



SPEAR4ALL is online

SPEAR now has a presence on the World Wide Web. The address, spear4all.com or spearforall.com, reflects exactly what our organization is all about: Access For All.

The website features current news articles focusing on public land issues, off road issues, and much more. You will also find past newsletters, calendar of upcoming events & meetings, local weather, photo gallery, and more.

Questions and comments can be directed to webmaster@spear4all.com.

Over the past two months SPEAR has formally signed three more ATV trails. Piute Pass, Jacobs Chair, and Tables of the Sun have been completed using the State Parks standard signing procedure. The signing of these trails have met with approval of San Juan County, BLM, and State Parks. New maps, which correspond with the new signing, will be available soon at the Blanding or Monticello visitor center, and Hondaland in Monticello.



SPEAR

PO Box 353

Blanding, UT 84511

San Juan County is a Special Place

Many county residents are transplants from other areas of the state, nation, and world. If you are one of these transplants, congratulations! You have found one of the greatest places on earth to live.

Now, take some time to learn about San Juan County. Not just the trees, rocks, and mountains, but the people who call this place home. You will find they have a much stronger feeling for the qualities that make up this county than any special interest group, or for the federal agencies that manage most of these lands. This county is the heritage of these people, and they don't take it lightly.

BLM and Forest Service employees come here for the job. They come from far and wide - like many of you. Do you think they care about this land as much as those who have heritage here? Very doubtful. But in most cases these federal employees are fine people and are capable of doing a good job of managing our public lands. They are well educated, experienced, and trained, but are not allowed to do their jobs because of the harassment they constantly receive from Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA) and other special interest groups.

These federal agencies are trying to balance grazing, timber, roads, motorized vehicle use, and energy related resources. But SUWA seems to run interference every time a public use issue

arises. This affects everyone.

SUWA talks about how they want the land preserved for their grandchildren. Everyone would like their grandchildren to be able to enjoy the same things that we enjoy, especially access to OUR public lands.

Yet SUWA does nothing for the betterment of county residents. Instead, they conjure up malicious lies and spread those lies across the nation to raise funding to help in their fight for wilderness.

The sad thing is the serious impact this has on all residents of San Juan County. This county has relied on natural resources to support the economy for many generations. Now the county is economically depressed, but SUWA and their gang could care less! Those who oppose the rights to public land use continue to resist any action that could lead to responsible resource development.

Most of those opposing groups and individuals do not reside in San Juan

County, but some do. They have moved into OUR county and have brought with them their strange ideas on how OUR public lands should be managed. To be sure, the public lands belong to everyone - us, them, everyone - but those who have heritage here, those who have the largest stake at risk should be given stronger consideration on decisions affecting this county.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, Title 2, Sec 202, congress makes it clear that local governments be given consideration on decisions made with regards to public lands within their counties. SUWA often implies that residents of San Juan County are out to destroy the qualities contained within OUR county. In fact, it is the majority of residents of San Juan County who are most concerned about the land qualities that exist here. These are the first people who would stand up if any serious threat existed.

SUWA and their gang need to stand down and allow the residents of San Juan County, their elected officials, and the federal agencies in charge of public lands to do what they do best - manage OUR public lands.

The good folks of San Juan County welcome everyone with open arms. But don't think for one minute that they will allow SUWA or any other special interest group to come here and take over OUR beloved county.

San Juan Heritage Festival ATV Ride
Saturday, June 2 - 8:00 am
Parking lot north of Days Inn
Bring your own ATV, lunch, snacks, drinks. Groups will be limited to 20 riders each with two guides per group. Groups will leave every 15 minutes.
Ride will run about 5 hours.
Call 435-459-3539 for more info



SPEAR volunteers installing new signs on the Tables of the Sun Trail. If you would like to help out, contact Brent Johansen at 678-3440 or Harold Frost at 587-2654

You are receiving this newsletter because at one time or another you either joined SPEAR or expressed an interest in our organization.

If you would like to continue to be updated on SPEAR activities through the newsletter, please consider joining or renewing your membership.

Your \$20 will go a long way towards assuring open access to public lands for this and future generations.

Membership and Renewal Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ - _____ Email _____

New Member () Renewal () Family \$20 () Business \$40 () Other donation () _____

Please make checks payable to: SPEAR, PO Box 353, Blanding, UT 84511