



SPEAR is an important organization

SPEAR is an organization comprised of citizens like you and me. Our purpose is simple - Strength In Numbers.

SPEAR is recognized by San Juan County, BLM, and Forest Service. We have the opportunity to bring to the table *your* concerns about access to public lands. Your voice can be heard, but we need your help. By becoming a member of SPEAR you are joining a group of like-minded citizens who are concerned about protecting access to our public lands.

SPEAR was originally organized as Southeastern Utah Land Users Association (SULU). Because of the similarity with the name of Southern Utah Wilderness Association (SUWA), it was decided that our name should be changed to San Juan Public Entry & Access Rights (SPEAR).

It is also important to note that SPEAR is not just about ATV's. We are about everyone's right to access our public lands. Whether you enjoy hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, 4-wheeling,

bicycling, or a picnic with your family, you are a public land user, and we want to represent your interests.

But we need your help. For just \$20 per year you and your household will be members of an important organization. An organization that is being heard county wide. An organization that will stand with you and against special interest groups that want to take away your rights to enjoy our public lands.

Spear in Action

Members of SPEAR and others joined with BLM to conduct hand maintenance of the Arch Canyon Road. This effort was put together by SPEAR as a result of a request received by BLM from our 'friends' at SUWA to close Arch Canyon from motorized use because it was not safe. A good turn out of volunteers resulted in the road being improved well beyond any safety requirements.

The hand word was difficult because it involved removing or breaking a lot of rock, but we made fun of the work and had a good time.

This effort is a fine example of what we can accomplish when we join together.



A group of SPEAR volunteers putting up signs at Hook & Ladder trail.

Our Number One Trail

SPEAR has designed and developed a major trail in San Juan County. This trail will traverse most of the county and then double back along a different route. It ties in to most of our other trail system and will offer riders a wide variety of riding options.

All our trails are given a numerical designation. This trail is designated as number one. For the most part it follows existing roads and trails.

To complete the trail system we need a few very short, but necessary, rights-of-way across BLM and State lands. San Juan County agreed to acquire these rights-of-way and made application for them two years ago.

Utah State Lands processed their rights-of-way, but BLM is still dragging their feet. In discussion with BLM, they

imply our needs have a low priority. That priority has not risen in two years. Come on BLM, what gives?

Once the rights-of-way are granted and the trail is marked, a map of the trail will be produced and made available to the public. Marking of trail number one will continue as weather permits.

If you would like to help in this effort, please call Harold Frost in Monticello at 587-2543 or Brent Johansen in Blanding at 678-3440.



Cleaning a cattle guard in Arch Canyon.



Repairing a section of road in Arch Canyon.

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



With materials donated by San Juan County, SPEAR volunteers rebuild the bridge at Kane Creek.

Kane Creek Bridge

Members of SPEAR took on a worthwhile project in Kane Creek recently. An old historic bridge that gapped a deep chasm which was built many years ago by miners and the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC), was slowly being vandalized.

At first a section of the old decking had disappeared. Then someone sawed the log stringers nearly through. Some of the bracing under the bridge was also removed, leaving a very dangerous situation for ATV, motorbike, and bicycle riders, as well as hikers who use the old bridge.

Kane Creek is a very popular recreation area for all sorts of users. It was just a matter of time before a very serious incident occurred. Members of SPEAR became increasingly concerned.

After discussing the situation with San Juan County and recognizing the historic value of the old bridge, SPEAR got its members together to build a new bridge over the top of the old bridge. San Juan County furnished military surplus bridging material and the group built the bridge.

The new bridge is not dependent on the old bridge for any of its support. It does, however, provide some protection for the old bridge.

This is not the only project SPEAR members have worked on in the past few months. Volunteers have installed cattle guards on many trails, resigned the Hook and Ladder trail, as well as general maintenance on other trails.

The volunteers involved in these projects had a great time working together. Working together to protect our rights to entry and access of our public lands. There is strength in numbers.

If you would like to become involved with SPEAR please contact either Bob Turri at 587-2873 or Brent Johansen at 678-2810.

Canyon Riders Trails

If you've been out riding your favorite trails at Hook and Ladder, Paiute Pass, Jacob's Chair, or Blanding to Comb Wash, you have probably noticed our signs marked Trail #1 with the 'Canyon Riders Trails' logo. Trail #1 will eventually circumnavigate the entire county and will include many of your favorite rides.

Some of the other trails off of Trail #1 include: Westwater Canyon, Big Canyon, Zeke's Hole, South Cottonwood, and down the dugway of old Highway 95 to Comb Wash. From there, use your imagination. Additional trails are also being signed with their unique number and difficulty rating.

This is an all volunteer effort SPEAR-headed by SPEAR with the cooperation of BLM, Forest Service, and State

Parks and Recreation.

Many hours have gone into the planning and implementation of the signing project. Many more hours will be needed to continue this ongoing project. We need your help.

If you would like to volunteer to help us put up signs, or to help out with any of our other projects, contact Harold Frost, Bob Turri, or Mike Washburn in Monticello. In Blanding you can contact Ben Black, Joe Finn Lyman, or Brent Johansen.

SUWA Strikes Again

Since completion of the Arch Canyon project (see related article "SPEAR in Action"), SUWA has filed a petition with BLM to close Arch Canyon from motorized use. Their petition claims our use has seriously damaged riparian, archaeology, rare fish, and just about everything else they could conjure up.

This petition tactic is the same procedure SUWA used to successfully close Factory Butte from motorized use. In the case of Factory Butte BLM bought their garbage and did indeed close the trails.

SPEAR has already sent BLM a letter to encourage them to ignore SUWA lies. We have to watch this one because what happens in Arch Canyon can impact the future of our roads and trails



A group of volunteers installing a new cattle guard on the Zeke's Hole trail.

The purpose of San Juan Public Entry & Access Rights:

1. To unite into one organization persons primarily from, but not limited to the Four Corners area who are interested in the responsible use of public lands for **ALL PEOPLE**, and to guard against the restrictions and closures of any part of said lands for the benefit of any person or special interest groups.
2. To act as a fully organized voice of persons interested in full use of public lands by encouraging active interest in all legislation and action regarding regulations concerning the use of public lands.
3. To cooperate with all private and public land agencies in an effort to promote responsible use of public lands and disseminate pertinent information concerning public land use.
4. To promote safety, good sportsmanship, and develop a high code of ethics with all land use.
5. To encourage increased access to public lands for everyone, including the disabled.

SPEAR is a non-profit corporation which entitles the organization to apply for grants for various projects.