

SOUTHWEST UTAH PLANNING AUTHORITIES  
COUNCIL (SUPAC)

**Minutes of a meeting held May 4, 1999**

**\*\* denotes action items**

**The Southwest Utah Planning Authorities Council (SUPAC) met on Tuesday, May 4, 1999, at 1:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn in St. George, Utah.** Those in attendance are listed on the rosters attached as Appendix A to these minutes.

1. Vice Chairman Scott Truman called the meeting to order and welcomed those present.
2. Scott Truman asked everyone to introduce themselves and who they represented. Vic Knox was recognized. He took Marty Ott's place with the National Park Service. Also Linda Coalville was welcomed. She is the Utah State BLM Acting Director.
3. The minutes of the meeting of March 16, 1999, were reviewed by the committee. It was noted that in Paragraph #4, the report on National Forest road closures was made by Ron Wilson rather than Scott Munson. With that correction Jeannine Holt made a motion to approve those minutes. Bevan Killpack seconded the motion and all voted aye.
4. Chris Killingsworth gave a Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument Update. The comment period closed on March 15. They received almost 7,000 comments. They received one-third of those by e-mail and the rest from other sources such as regular mail and their open houses. There were many form letter type comments but also many detailed and specific comments that were over 100 pages long. They have gone through all the comments now and are going back through them issue by issue to make decisions for the proposed plan. An update letter will be sent out soon summarizing the public meetings and the comments. There will be a card on that update letter to send back to them if you want a hard copy sent to you of the plan this summer. They only want to send it to people who really want it. The proposed plan should be published sometime this summer followed by a protest period and a government consistency review according to their regulations. The BLM hopes to have a record of decision and an approved plan by this Fall.
5. Scott Truman asked for any calendaring items that anyone might have. The following items were noted:

September 30 and October 1 - Mountain West Rural Health Conference in Cedar City. More information will be coming out on that.

Sept.8, 9 and 10 is the Utah Rural Summit. It will deal with some important public land issues. Governor Leavitt will be one of the keynote speakers. Additional information should be coming out soon on this.

Southern Corridor - Open House Public Meeting today from 5 to 9 p.m.

July 15 at 5 p.m. - Beaver Canyon - Color County Resource Conservation and Development Council meeting.

6. Scott Truman reviewed the SUPAC membership dues not paid to date. They are: U.S. Fish & Wildlife, Army Corp of Eng., Forest Service, Paiute Tribe and the BIA.
7. Don Banks, External Affairs Chief for the BLM gave a presentation on the BLM's Statewide Management Plan Amendment Process he called "The 20 Year Old Utah Wilderness Inventory Controversy" which explained their planning process. Secretary Babbitt asked the BLM to reinventory approximately 2.5 million acres of land claimed to have wilderness characteristics by the Utah Wilderness Coalition. BLM found 2.6 million acres to have basic wilderness qualities. He showed a map of the inventoried areas. A few units have well known landmarks in them. Seventeen of 29 counties have lands in the reinventory. The biggest is 528,000 acres in San Juan County. The smallest area is 40 acres attached to the Watchmen WSA. 57% fall between 10,000 and 50,000 acres and 37% are under 10,000 acres. 75% of the area lie contiguous to either a BLM Wilderness Study Area, a National Park unit or both. About 50 areas are stand-alone areas, not contiguous to existing BLM Wilderness Study Areas.

Don said that the 1999 Utah Wilderness Inventory report is a good information source. It has a 300 page summary and is posted on the Internet at [www.ut.blm.gov/wilderness](http://www.ut.blm.gov/wilderness). The permanent documentation files for each of the reinvented areas is also a good information source. This is raw data compiled by the field inventory teams and includes aerial photos, topo maps, photo logs, and detailed narratives. There is a complete set of this data at the Utah BLM State Office and copies of relevant files at local BLM offices.

The planning process will be used to determine whether or not new wilderness study areas should be established in Utah. This process does not designate wilderness. It is not even a final recommendation to Congress. It will determine whether new WSA's will be established and where. It allows areas to be further considered by Congress as permanent wilderness. If established these areas will be managed to protect wilderness characteristics until released or designated wilderness by Congress.

He discussed the difference between FLPMA Section 603 and the Section 202 process. Section 603 is a congressionally mandated wilderness review process. The Section 202 process is a land use planning process. The BLM began the reinventory in 1996; it was released in 1999. They are now in the 202 process and intend to complete it in 2,000. The end product of the 202 planning process will be a single EIS with the possible amending of 18 land use plans establishing additional WSA's. Their planning focus will be on the manageability of areas as a WSA, the impacts of a WSA

designation on resource uses and wilderness characteristics.

Their planning stages include scoping, draft EIS and plan amendments, final EIS and final plan amendments and then the final stage would be an approved plan. At the present time they are in the scoping process gathering relevant issues and concerns. The formal scoping period has been extended to June 21, 1999. They will have ongoing public meetings, scoping open houses, the Internet web site and scoping kits with a comment worksheet will be mailed to an extensive mailing list including 7500 organizations and people. Their draft plan will be on their Internet web site when it is done. This site is also interactive as you can provide scoping comments through the Internet. They will have open houses at 11 different locations in the state between April 21 and may 7. They have BLM specialists at those open houses and also copies of inventory reports, maps, permanent documentation files and they will be accepting public comments at those meetings.

Don answered various questions from council members and audience members. He was asked how much input did they take from counties in determining these areas and were the counties involved right at the beginning. He indicated counties were given the same opportunity to comment as everyone else. There was some discussion regarding this and Shauna Johnson asked why the counties were not given an opportunity for input at the beginning of the process and why the BLM did not sit down with the counties and review their land use plans with them.

He was also asked about management of WSA's. He said their interim policy management handbook is posted on the Internet and this is what the potential management would be.

Commissioner Norm Carroll said the BLM has never come and looked at their land use plan or asked for input on this. These proposed WSA areas are locking up vast resources in their county and between that and the monument and the additional proposed WSA's they don't know what to do anymore.

Morgan Jensen of the Washington County Water Conservancy District said they feel the 30 day extension is inadequate and they have requested a one year extension

8. John Harja discussed the states regional wilderness approach. The state would like to see this process not go on forever. The Governor has met with the Secretary of Interior many times. The state and counties sued the Secretary claiming he did not have authority to proceed with this inventory. The state won at the circuit court level and then the 10<sup>th</sup> circuit court reversed the decision and said the Secretary can do the inventory. This makes the entire 2.6 million acres previously identified is now in the planning process and open to NEPA and draft Environmental Impact Statements. The State of Utah is coordinating its response and will be sending a response and will

continue studying the areas on the ground. The Governor asked the Secretary if they could try and find a resolution by region. He agreed to work with Governor Leavitt to see if a proposal could be put together that would work. The Governor has asked people to look at regions individually and see if a resolution could be worked out one region at a time. They are working on the west desert and Washington County right now. This is a start and if this process is successful it would stop the 202 process in those areas because a decision would be made, suitability would be determined and there would be no reason to continue. This is a separate process. There was some information regarding mineral resources on these lands. Utah Geological Survey has information available on this and also some information on their web site. They also have for sale from their offices a CD rom with the mineral resource data.

9. Dennis Goreham gave a report on GIS mapping for RS2477 roads and other purposes. He works with the automated geographic reference center which is the State's geographic reference center. They also manage the State's geographic information data base. Any data in digital format is done through them. They have a RS2477 Roads Right-of-Way Assistance Mapping Program. He passed out a sheet which described this program and the requirements for county proposals. He explained that when FLPMA was passed in 1976 it set the stage for the state and counties claiming their RS2477 rights-of-ways. The counties use to use the old county maps and they have gone through a series of other maps but now they have the best tool they've ever had which are the digital ortho photo quads. They are extremely high resolution. They've got about 10 meter accuracy and 1 meter pixel size so that you can identify geographical features on the ground very well. These were done in the summer of 1993.

Eventually the entire state will be digitized. Some of the USGS quads are very old and they are starting to update those. He showed the council a map of the digital ortho photo mapping status throughout the State. He also reviewed and passed out transportation share-code items, features and definitions to be used with the arc segments.

He discussed county participation in the program. He reminded the counties to coordinate with other governmental entities within their jurisdictions

and include other interested parties. They need to have good data. The digital ortho photo quads are credible, accurate and current data. Eligible activities that can be funded through this program are listed on Page 4 of the handout. The project implementation

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10. Dave McGillivary, U.S. Fish & Wildlife, Utah Field Office said that as far as a status report on the statewide 10j designation for the California Condor they don't have any specifics right now on the schedule. He should have more specific details at the next SUPAC meeting.
11. Dave McGillivary also gave a status report on Virgin River Critical Habitat Designation. He reviewed the chronology of the critical habitat designation. In October 1970 the Woundfin minnow was listed. In 1977 the proposed rule designating critical habitat was published in the Federal Register. In March 1979 the proposed rule was withdrawn. In 1989 the Virgin chub was listed as endangered. The final rule will be published in Federal Register by September 1999.
12. Commissioner Carroll gave an update on the Arizona Strip Monument Proposal. A committee was formed by SUPAC to keep involved in the status of this proposed monument. That committee met January 29 in St. George. Since that time a committee has been formed with Kane, Washington, Garfield, Coconino and Clark Counties. That committee is meeting tomorrow in Colorado City. He will keep the SUPAC council informed of the progress of this committee.

Roger Taylor, Arizona Strip BLM, said that they recently had meetings scheduled with individual groups affected by the monument and to meet with Secretary Babbitt. Secretary Babbitt was ill and the meetings had to be canceled. There was a fly over the proposed monument area scheduled for the Arizona delegation and that was also canceled due to the weather. They intend to reschedule both of these. He said this committee that has been formed with counties from Utah and northern Arizona and Clark County, Nevada, as mentioned by Commissioner Carroll, will probably have some recommendations and comments that will come from that meeting tomorrow and those will be forwarded to Secretary Babbitt. Public meetings in Kingman, Arizona and St. George, Utah, should be coming up soon.

A question was asked about the proposal from Grand Canyon Trust to add additional acreage inside the proposed monument. Roger Taylor said their proposal has been reviewed by the BLM and there has been some discussion on it with Secretary Babbitt's office and it most likely will not be considered or looked at any further. They do have a tour set up with Grand Canyon Trust the third week in May and he doesn't know if anything will come out of that.

Scott Truman asked if we needed a motion to dissolve the SUPAC subcommittee assigned to follow the proposed monument in light of this multi-county committee and just have reports back from that committee. John Williams made a motion to dissolve the original subcommittee formed by SUPAC on the Proposed Arizonal Strip Monument in favor of the newly formed multi-county committee now underway. Commissioner Normal Carroll seconded the motion and all voted aye.

13. Scott Truman called for any additional business to be brought up. There being none a date of July 13 was set for the next meeting. At the suggestion of some council members Scott Truman will check out the availability of holding the meeting at Brianhead or SUU in Cedar City. Council members will be notified.
14. The following agenda items were noted for the July meeting:  
  
Regional haze rules - Diane Nielson  
Bevan Killpack - Introduction of new forest supervisor  
UDOT - new STIP - Dale Peterson  
Don Falvey - General Management Plan, Zion National Park  
Update on 10J ruling - Condors - U.S. Fish & Wildlife
15. The meeting was adjourned.

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Secretary

## APPENDIX A

Morgan Jensen  
Dennis Stowell  
Sherman Hoskins  
Linda Colville  
Don Leavitt  
David Terry  
John Harja  
Dianne Nielson  
Jeannine Holt  
Bevan Killpack  
Scott Munson  
Norman Carroll  
John Williams  
Van Burgess  
Rick Mayfield  
John Willie  
Christopher Blake  
Gordon Topham  
Roger Taylor  
Jim Matson  
Mike Small  
Kris Killingsworth

### Audience

Lloyd Johnson  
Dennis Goreham  
Vic Knox

Don Falvey  
Amanda Martin  
Don Banks  
Liz Thomas  
Keith Nash  
Bruce Richeson  
Jim McMahon  
Bill Lund  
Pete Rowley  
David McGillivary  
Shauna Johnson  
Fred Johnson  
Guy Denton