

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Management Plan Withstands Threat of Rollback

“Senator Mike Lee’s misguided attack on Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument has failed. This is a major victory for the millions of Americans who care deeply about the Grand Staircase and for everyone who supports our nation’s wildest public lands and want to see them protected,” said **Scott Braden, executive director at the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance**. “While together we’ve defeated one major attack, both Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears National Monuments, as well as the rest of the redrock wilderness in Utah, remain under attack from the Trump Administration and this Republican Congress. The lesson for politicians is clear: Americans cherish their public lands and want to see them conserved for current and future generations to enjoy, not attacked and exploited.”

“Just like the defeat of Senator Lee’s unpopular public land sell-off attempt last year, the dearth of support for this attack on Grand Staircase-Escalante reflects Americans’ fierce love for our public lands,” said **Thomas Delehanty, senior attorney with Earthjustice’s Rocky Mountain Office**. “No one except extractive industry CEOs wants these special places destroyed. Senator Lee and Representative Maloy should take note.”

“The Utah delegation knows that our national monuments are well-loved by Americans and protecting them is [overwhelmingly popular among Utahns](#) regardless of party affiliation,” said **Tim Peterson, cultural landscapes director at the Grand Canyon Trust**. “The public would not have stood for legislation that gets rid of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument outright, so the Utah delegation tried to eliminate the commonsense management plan that affords day-to-day protections to the monument. We’re so grateful that didn’t happen.”

“Sen. Mike Lee and Rep. Celeste Maloy’s failed attempt to overturn the Grand Staircase-Escalante land-use plan was out of step with what Americans want,” said **Axie Navas, director of designation campaigns at The Wilderness Society**. “The current plan, built on years of engagement with Tribes and local communities, balances the freedom to recreate with traditional uses and conservation in a way that benefits all. The public has made it clear they want these lands protected — and managed — so that future generations may experience Grand Staircase-Escalante as we do today.”

“Grand Staircase-Escalante’s protections are still standing today because people would not let them fall,” said **Bobby McEnaney, director of land conservation at NRDC**. “This was never really about land management. It was an attempt to make it easier to dismantle every national monument in the country, and that threat has not gone anywhere. Tribes, local communities, and voters saw this attack for what it was and spoke up. We owe it to them, and to the generations who will inherit these lands, to stay in this fight for as long as it takes.”

“While this is a welcome pause, we have no reason to believe Sen. Lee will stop his attack on the country’s national monuments and Grand Staircase,” said **Chris Hill, CEO of the Conservation Lands Foundation**. “Tens of thousands of people registered their opposition to this particular Congressional power grab — as hundreds of thousands have done over the past several years in support of conserving the country’s public lands. Local communities, business owners, and Tribes support and rely on the balanced management of national monuments and the [overwhelming](#)

[majority of voters in Utah and across western states](#) want their Congress members to protect these places, not sell them off. We are here to make sure that Sen. Lee and other anti-public lands members of Congress cannot ignore the fact that Americans of all political identities don't want what they're selling and are fighting like hell to stop it."

"Today, the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument management plan will remain intact, and that's a testament to the chorus of voices that showed up to protect this incredible landscape from attacks in Congress," said **Cory MacNulty, Southwest campaign director for the National Parks Conservation Association**. "This management plan is more than a policy document. It reflects years of engagement with communities, Tribes and stakeholders to shape how the monument would be cared for. We know this monument, and all monuments across the nation, still face threats from Congress and the administration. But this is a reminder that public lands should reflect all of us, and people on both sides of the political aisle will continue to show up to protect them."

"This outcome is bigger than one monument," said **Athan Manuel, director of Sierra Club's Lands Protection Program**. "Had this effort succeeded, it would have created a dangerous roadmap for dismantling management plans and undermining protections for public lands across the country. Instead, the broad coalition that came together to defend Grand Staircase-Escalante proved once again that Americans will unite to protect the places that belong to all of us. This failed fast-track attack should serve as a warning to anyone looking to weaken our public lands: people are paying attention, and they are prepared to fight back."

"Veterans and military families understand what it means to protect something that belongs to all Americans," said **Janessa Goldbeck, U.S. Marine Corps veteran and CEO of Vet Voice Foundation**. The failure of Senator Mike Lee's attempt to fast-track an attack on Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument is an important victory for those who believe our public lands should remain public. Places like Grand Staircase-Escalante are part of our shared national heritage and serve as places where veterans heal, reconnect with their families, recreate, and continue serving their communities. While we are encouraged to see this effort fall short, the broader threats facing Grand Staircase-Escalante, Bears Ears, and other treasured public lands remain very real. Veterans will continue standing up for these places because they are worth protecting for future generations, just as they were for ours."

"Lee's attempt to weaponize the Congressional Review Act to strip protections from Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument was an affront to all Americans and I'm thrilled he failed," said **Taylor McKinnon, Southwest director of the Center for Biological Diversity**. "Like Grand Canyon and Zion, this iconic landscape and its extraordinary animals deserve permanent protection, not to be used as political pawns."