

To: heather_swift@ios.doi.gov[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]; Downey Magallanes[downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov]
From: Cally Younger
Sent: 2018-02-05T14:28:49-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Chaining in Grand Staircase? SUWA Goes on the Air
Received: 2018-02-05T14:28:59-05:00
[attachedFile.html](#)
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[Fact Check SUWA WRI.docx](#)
[attachedFile.html](#)

Cally Younger?| Counsel
Office of the Director
Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Department of the Interior?
Direct: [?202-208-3027](#)
Cell: [?202-313-8394](#)

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Richardson, Michael" <mjrichardson@blm.gov>
To: "Younger, Cally" <cyounger@blm.gov>, Jeff Krauss <jkrauss@blm.gov>, Megan Crandall <mcrandal@blm.gov>
Cc: Edwin Roberson <eroberso@blm.gov>, "Oliver, Kevin" <koliver@blm.gov>
Subject: Re: Fwd: Chaining in Grand Staircase? SUWA Goes on the Air

Cally,

Attached is the fact check document and proposed video and before/after pictures we would like to use in an informational campaign on our Social Media accounts. Please advise if we are cleared to share on social media and with out State partners from the Department of Natural Resources, who are our partner on several of these types of Watershed Restoration Initiatives projects. Thanks--Mike

On Mon, Feb 5, 2018 at 11:45 AM, Younger, Cally <cyounger@blm.gov> wrote:

Do you guys have an update? Let me know. Thanks!

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Swift, Heather** <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>

Date: Mon, Feb 5, 2018 at 1:43 PM

Subject: Re: Fwd: Chaining in Grand Staircase? SUWA Goes on the Air

To: "Younger, Cally" <cyounger@blm.gov>

Cc: Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>, Downey Magallanes <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>, John Tanner <john_tanner@ios.doi.gov>

Do we have a fact check available yet?

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Fri, Feb 2, 2018 at 9:18 AM, Younger, Cally <cyounger@blm.gov> wrote:

On it.

On Fri, Feb 2, 2018 at 9:16 AM, Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Can you please ask them to write up a fact check of why the video is wrong

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Fri, Feb 2, 2018 at 9:13 AM, Younger, Cally <cyounger@blm.gov> wrote:

FYI

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Roberson, Edwin** <eroberso@blm.gov>

Date: Thu, Feb 1, 2018 at 7:08 PM

Subject: Fwd: Fwd: Chaining in Grand Staircase? SUWA Goes on the Air

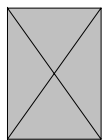
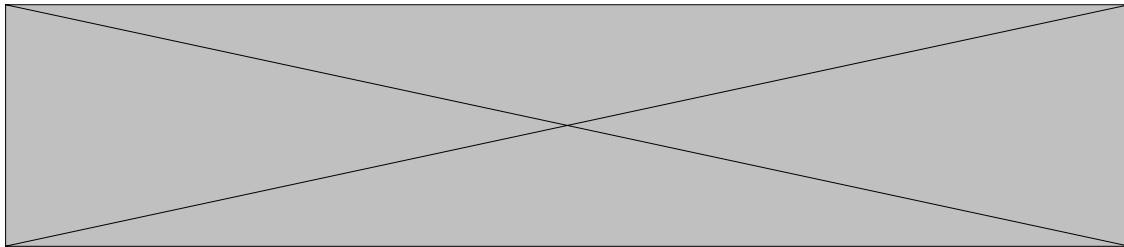
To: Cally Younger <cyounger@blm.gov>, Kathleen Benadetto <kbenedetto@blm.gov>, Brian Steed <bsteed@blm.gov>, Michael Nedd <mnedd@blm.gov>, Daniel DuBray <ddubray@blm.gov>

Cc: "Bilbao, Anita" <abilbao@blm.gov>, Michael Richardson <mjrichardson@blm.gov>, Abbie Jossie <ajossie@blm.gov>

Brian, Mike, Cally and Kathy,

I wanted to make you all aware of this campaign by SUWA. They have a video of a Watershed Restoration Initiative in Cedar City Field Office involving chaining of live pinyon and juniper and portraying it as something we are planning to do on Grand Staircase. The ad is running on local TV several times a day and is on the SUWA website. SUWA used the state director main phone line in their ad and we have gotten several hundred calls--about 10% saying to keep up the good work. I believe the genesis of this campaign was the scoping of 3 potential vegetation restoration projects being considered in GSENM. They would involve decadent sagebrush and some P-J. Chaining of green trees is not allowed under the current GSENM land use plan. The office has not even started the NEPA work as yet. The Governor and the Executive Director of DNR see this as a direct shot at the Watershed Restoration Initiative and want to counter the mis-information with PSAs and other outreach about how positive the projects are for land health and habitat/forage improvement. We have put positive videos on our social network but have not yet joined in a coordinated education campaign with the State as yet. I intend to do so and want to check with you all before stepping out. Please reach out to me if you want to discuss. Thank you. ed

Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance



Dear Cynthia,

The Bureau of Land Management in Utah is ramping up a failed policy called chainingâ”in which bulldozers drag anchor chains to uproot and destroy native pinyon and juniper forests and sagebrush.

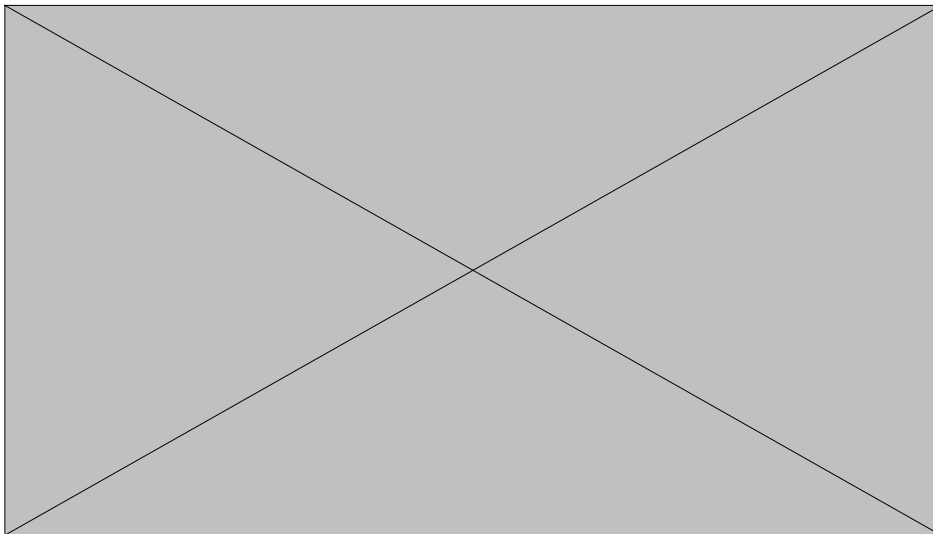


Why do they do this? To create more forage for cattle on public lands.

And now, under the Trump administration, the BLM wants to chain in *Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument*.

The practice of chaining is so unbelievable that most people canâ”t imagine how destructive it is. Thatâ”s why SUWA has launched a new statewide television campaign in Utahâ”to focus attention on the BLMâ”s destructive practice and stop the agency from wrecking Grand Staircase-Escalante.

Click below to watch SUWA's new television ad and take action:



Chaining is a scientifically-unsound practice that wastes millions of taxpayer dollars to effectively destroy thousands of acres of Utahâ€™s public land.

While the BLM is constantly churning out new reasons as to why chaining and other vegetation removal projects need to happen, the real drivers appear to be the same as they were in the 1960s: improving grazing forage for cattle and bringing money to the BLM field offices.

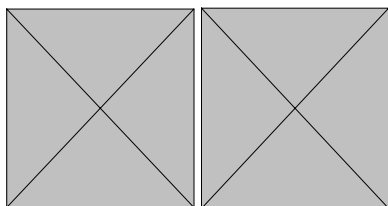
And now, the BLM is proposing chaining as one of the primary methods to remove vegetation on over 13,000 acres in Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

But chaining is completely incompatible with protecting the fragile ecological, paleontological, and archaeological resources in Grand Staircase. To say that chaining in Grand Staircase is wildly inappropriate would be an understatement. This is a bad proposal based on bad science that will only produce a bad outcome.

[Click here to learn more](#)”and tell the BLM to stop chaining our public lands.

Thank you for taking action.

Kya Marienfeld, Wildlands Attorney
Luke Henry, Wildlands Advocate/House Counsel



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nonprofit software

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Cally Younger | Counsel
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Complete PSA script from SUWA Commercial

The Bureau of Land Management in Utah is ramping up a failed policy called chaining on your public lands. They call it “vegetation restoration”....but it leaves a devastated landscape. And now under the Trump administration, the BLM wants to do this (chaining) in Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument. Call the Bureau of Land Management at 801-539-4010 or visit SUWA.org/chaining. Tell the BLM to stop chaining our public land and preserve Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument.

http://action.suwa.org/site/R?i_MHpsA0XMSdAWHlhesC8ZWw

Responses to PSA script and footage

1: The Bureau of Land Management in Utah is ramping up a failed policy called “chaining” on your public lands.

(two bulldozers dragging chain between them, knocking down large swaths of green, live pinyon pine and juniper trees)

1A: Chaining is not a policy. Chaining is a land management technique that has been used for many years for vegetative treatments. In fact there are many land management techniques used by the Bureau of Land Management including thinning by hand with chainsaw, mastication (Bull Hog or grinding), chipping, mowing, Dixie Harrow, chaining, prescribed burning including broadcast, under burning, and pile burning, seeding, and chemical treatment. Nearly one million acres have been treated through multiple programs on BLM-Utah lands. Project managers have used the chaining technique on less 3.5% of these acres.

Fire, insects, disease and other natural events typically disrupt the landscape and soil on a cyclical basis. The present vegetation state within our proposed projects has departed from the natural cycle. Fires have been suppressed for over 100 years. Insects and disease have been mitigated in various ways. Chaining is a way to reintroduce disturbance back onto the land.

Primary objectives of vegetation treatment (including chaining) come from the funding source, but all are directly or indirectly tied to the following benefits:

- Improves function of high priority watersheds; increases water quality and yield
- Protects and rehabilitates vital habitats for many other obligate species
- Restores sage-grouse habitat

- Reduces encroachment of pinyon pine and juniper into the sage steppe habitat
- Maximizes benefits while leveraging state investment
- Reduces catastrophic wildfires in treated areas; fuels management to create resilient landscapes
- Provides economic benefits for local communities
- Restoration of area burned in wildfires
- Prepares the soil for native and desirable seeds to limit the occurrence of invasive species

Often a secondary benefit, increased forage for sustainable agriculture is also an objective.

2: They call it “vegetation restoration”....but it leaves a devastated landscape.

(shows multiple acres of green live trees knocked over. Footage from BLM “Vegetation Restoration Project” in Hamlin Valley (70 miles west of Milford, UT) Footage taken December 2017)

2A: Land pockets of live, green trees that have recently been chained can leave a visually unaesthetic affect for a short time. The BLM strives to minimize these effects during such vegetation treatments. Below are some pictures that show the lasting effects, regrowth, and healthier landscapes in a matter of 1-2 years. These pictures reflect chaining as the vegetative treatment:

Five Mile Chaining
November 15, 2009
UTM: 0409928; 4116592



Five Mile Before



Five Mile After



Five Mile (2) Before



Five Mile (2) After



TCA Before (2014)



TCA After (2016)



Hamlin Valley Before



Hamlin Valley After

3: And now under the Trump administration, the BLM wants to do this in Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument

(dozers moving green trees and exposing raw soils>aerial view of GSENM)

3A: Current NEPA and Scoping Facts

1. Currently ending the 30 day scoping period for 3 Vegetation Restoration Projects in which letters were **sent to Stakeholders to include SUWA** (comprehensive list attached).
2. Scoping letter received by SUWA clearly indicates that **the use of Anchor chains is limited to use in areas that contain late seral stage sagebrush, and to avoid use to remove pinyon and juniper trees (Video misleading showing chaining of live PJ).**
3. Of the three projected areas for vegetative treatment, only two currently have pinyon and juniper trees.
4. The scoping letter includes alternatives available for public comment to include- a no action and a proposed action with restoration method and use criteria clearly identified.
5. The proper National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process is being adhered to.

4: Call the Bureau of Land Management at 801-539-4010 or visit [SUWA.org/chaining](https://suwa.org/chaining). Tell the BLM to stop chaining our public land and preserve Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument.

4A: The proper protocol for commenting on proposed restorations actions were clearly identified in the scoping letter including a link to eplanning to leave your message digitally.