

## What You Said:

### Selected comments from the Richfield RMP Scoping

#### Wilderness, Preservation and Posterity

- *Dove Creek, CO*: “We live on the farm we’ve owned and operated for over a half-century. I realize the need to develop natural resources for human use. But the vast majority of our Western lands are open to development. Some must be preserved for posterity.”
- *Lyman, UT*: “There is plenty of room for everyone. There should not be exclusive use by any one particular use or special interest group. Wilderness areas exclude many more than they include. I am opposed to making anymore wilderness designated areas or even wilderness study areas.”
- *Cambridge, MA*: “There are plenty of other places under US control where the extractive industries and ORV recreationists can do what they’re got to do. The very best thing wild Utah can offer to the rest of America is protected wilderness...”
- *Salem, UT*: “I am personally interested in maintaining my rights via motorcycles... Please! No more wilderness study areas and/or wilderness designation. Closing these areas to public access is a sin.”
- *West Jordan, UT*: “In revising the RMP, I urge you to protect the areas as much as possible. It is better to err on the side of preservation...”
- *Fort Collins, CO*: “The BLM must not imply or state that motorized use impairs the roadless characteristics of WSAs. The use of off-highway vehicles does not create, maintain, improve or establish roads and thus does not impair the roadless characteristics of WSAs.”
- *Hurricane, UT*: “I am a 46 year old Utah native. I currently serve as the Young Men’s President in my LDS ward in Hurricane and have served as a Scout leader for over 12 years. I have made every effort to teach these scouts to respect the land and leave no trace. I urge you to write Resource Management Plans that designate as Wilderness Study Areas all wilderness quality lands.”
- *Richfield, UT*: “We feel some of the existing WSA’s were created using very biased and “creative” methods and many areas really don’t meet the qualifications set forth. The BLM is giving the wilderness advocacy groups all the latitude and credence possible. You even include their biased “citizen’s wilderness inventory” on your maps, but you are not letting us challenge what has been previously done.”

- *Joseph, UT*: “Please establish all the wilderness you can.”
- *Fort Collins, CO*: “We do not need additional Wilderness Study Areas! How long are we supposed to “study” an area for wilderness suitability?”
- *Dolgeville, NY*: “Please consider all efforts to preserve the Utah red rock in its nearly pristine state...”
- *Teasdale, UT*: “Our family has run cattle on the BLM for four generations... Since the wilderness designation, it has become harder and harder for us to operate. We cannot maintain our ponds and get to the areas that we need to in order to take care of our livestock. We do not want anymore wilderness areas or wilderness designated areas.”
- *Blacklick, OH*: “I have lived all my life in Ohio. The amount of true wilderness left in a once biologically diverse state can be found in only a couple of hundred acres. Please assist in keeping the remaining wilderness of Utah in their current pristine state. You’ll never regret the legacy you will leave for the future.”
- *Salt Lake City*: “As we look to the future I believe that increasingly a primary public value and need will be to have wild places, quiet places, solitary places where people can go for mental, emotional and spiritual restoration and rejuvenation... There is a need for simple raw wilderness; wilderness is a use in itself, which may not yet be widely appreciated but certainly it will be in the not too distant future.”
- *Torrey, UT*: “More and more land is becoming wilderness and it is hurting the way of life of people in Wayne County. The land should be there for everyone to enjoy and use... The BLM likes wilderness areas because they don’t have to work as hard managing it.”
- *Osceola, IN*: “Being an avid hiker and backpacker (I’m 77 years old) I thoroughly enjoy the magnificent scenery, challenge, wildlife and cultural attributes of Utah’s red rock wilderness areas. Therefore, I urge you for the sake of future generations to leave these priceless treasures for them to enjoy the way I did.”
- *Torrey, UT*: “Now that so much area is wilderness, there is less for the BLM employees to do.”

## Access, Impacts and OHVs

- *Richfield, UT*: “It looks like you are doing a land lock.”
- *Torrey, UT*: “The stunning beauty that surrounds Capitol Reef on all sides is getting heavy ORV traffic and needs to be dealt with immediately.”
- *Pleasant Grove, UT*: “The vast majority of people...will never experience most of Utah’s backcountry unless they have some motorized access.”
- *Black Earth, WI*: “Please resist pressure by ORV groups to keep sensitive lands open.”
- *Edgewood, NM*: “There should be no more net loss of routes available for OHV use in the area.”
- *Palo Cedro, CA*: “Why should a few wreck the landscape and serenity for the many?”
- *Kaysville, UT*: “I feel very strongly that all lands and wilderness of the desert should be accessible, not just to the few that are hale and hardy, but to everyone.”
- *Hurricane, UT*: “Please limit motorized access... Please do not permit ATVs to spoil any more land than what they have.”
- *St. George, UT*: “It is important to our family from the grandparents to the small children that we have places with motorized access to enjoy on public lands. The older family members as well as the small ones cannot hike into the backcountry. We need places that we can drive to... Without our wheels we are locked out.”
- *Draper, UT*: “The right to use cannot be the right to destroy... We understand that the motorized speed seekers should have their own areas. They should not have all the areas.”
- *Reading, PA*: “For many years, my husband and I have driven cross-country each spring to explore and enjoy the magnificent Utah backcountry. As we age, however, it becomes increasingly difficult to access these public lands without the aid of motorized vehicles. I therefore recommend that any new resource management plan maintain all current four-wheel drive/OHV trails as open...”
- *Parker, CO*: “The carnage inflicted by those ORV users must be stopped in the name of common decency toward the natural wonders that yet remain a heritage of our nation.”

- *Joseph, UT*: “Existing roads okay, but please no more new roads. Please restrict OHVs to existing roads.”
- *Oak City, UT*: “I feel it would be a shame to close more of Utah’s lands... Please do not close any more trails in our beautiful state.”
- *Laveen, AZ*: “ORVs have become a nature killing plague. Just as the right to carry a rifle does not allow to kill somebody with it, the right to own an ORV does not allow to kill nature...”
- *Richfield, UT*: “Create small full fun areas [for OHVs] with no restrictions near communities for those that feel the need to try to climb every hillside. These are very popular with young riders almost any day of the year.”
- *Grand Junction, CO*: “We do not want our public lands to become a playground for the elite motorized groups.”
- *Price, UT*: “We respectfully ask that you develop plans that will keep existing roads and trails open. We are getting older (mid-fifties) and hiking with a backpack is no longer an option available to us. We ask that you not restrict people like us from enjoying our public lands.”
- *Hyrum, UT*: “I feel that too often my enjoyment of the outdoors has been compromised by ORV users and their seeming ability to go anywhere. I recognize their legitimate use but feel my legitimate use and desire to be away from them and their impact is not. Their freedoms are tromping on mine...”
- *Riverton, UT*: “It doesn’t take a scientist to know that riding an ATV on an old dirt road...doesn’t do so-called ‘damage’. This is obvious to the average Utahan.”
- *Glen Carbon, IL*: “I am a 59-year-old hunter-fisherman and outdoorsman in general...From what I’ve seen of ORVs, they are destructive, and those who ride them are young smart alecks who have no respect for property, public or private...”
- *Gunnison, UT*: “I think our forests are being ruined by careless people who just tear up the mountains with four-wheeler and other vehicles.”
- *Hanksville, UT*: “ATVs are not just recreational. They are also very necessary for ranch operations. Do not make it so these vehicles cannot be used where necessary.”

## Grazing

- *Aurora, UT*: “The opportunity to graze livestock on public lands has been and continues to be a very important component of the over-all plan dealing with public lands. It is an important part of rural communities economic well being and when grazing is done correctly it guarantees the sustainability of our public lands.”
- *Pullman, WA*: “At least once a year I, my wife and a small band of adventurers explore the remote areas of the canyonlands... We have seen a great amount of overgrazing in our travels and wonder, even with our agricultural background, when the land is sometimes pushed so single-mindedly without regard to other concerns.”
- *Price, UT*: “Maintain recognition that grazing is a legitimate and proper use of range lands...”
- *Salt Lake City*: “Transfer grazing permits from livestock to wildlife and watershed use, when arrangements are made as willing sellers and willing buyers between ranching and wildlife conservation interests.”
- *Richfield, UT*: “Grazing is the number one most important means to ensure that trails and access remain open and useable in the desert country...”
- *Torrey, UT*: “Get the cows out. With very few exceptions grazing is now a hobby. In other words, a recreational activity. Other forms of recreation are not compatible with cow pies, putrid springs, Russian thistle and other things that go along with cattle. Please reduce the number of cows per acre and the number of acres grazed.”
- *Axtell, UT*: “I think we need to allow more sheep on the mountain because there is a lot of good sheep feed that just goes to waste.”
- *Laveen, AZ*: Livestock grazing was the livelihood of a significant fraction of the population a century ago; today it is a minute fraction. Some could remain for nostalgic reasons.”
- *Marysvale, UT*: “To take away the grazing of livestock is the same as taking away a persons livelihood, meager as it may be. It is all they have.”
- *Salt Lake City, UT*: “The arid west is not compatible with grazing. Ranchers must receive large subsidies to etch out a living raising cattle on BLM land. The public will better understand the impacts of grazing if the BLM evaluates and analyzes a “no grazing” alternative.”

## Grover/Teasdale area public lands

- *Grover, UT*: “Discontinue land trades with SITLA and development interests, particularly in the Grover, Teasdale, Torrey areas of Wayne County.”
- *Torrey, UT*: “Wayne County needs the tax base of private land. More private land would help our economy. I think it is possible to make more land around Torrey, Teasdale and Grover private, and at the same time, preserve the integrity of the land, the market value of the land and everyone’s pleasure in living here and owning land here. All it would take is some careful planning at the local level.”
- *Teasdale, UT*: I am in agreement with the Wayne County Planning and Zoning document that encourages development in existing commercial areas such as towns, not in undeveloped areas such as Grover and Notom. To that end I would not like to see land exchanges with SITLA or other organizations for our area.”
- *Loa, UT*: “The Wayne County General Land Use Plan encourages multiple use to maintain the customs and heritage of our County. I encourage you to consider the County plan as you make the RMP... I also encourage land trades with SITLA to enable land to be sold for the benefit of the school systems and to add land to the Wayne County property tax base...”
- *Teasdale, UT*: “One area that should be removed from consideration for any trade with SITLA (or other development) are the “Red Rocks” (also referred to as the Gorilla Rocks or Cigarette Canyon)... It is indeed as close to a “park” as the town of Teasdale has; and is considered a treasure by old timers and new timers as well.
- *Teasdale, UT*: “The BLM should retain the BLM land in the Torrey-Teasdale area to protect archaeological resources in the area...”
- *Salt Lake City*: “We ask the BLM to consider an alternative proposal to remove the lands around these communities (Loa, Teasdale, Torrey and Grover) from future trade to SITLA... These lands, under BLM stewardship and protection, are an integral part of the County’s majestic, rural and agricultural character.”
- *Torrey, UT*: “There are areas of BLM land around Grover and Teasdale. I would like to see some of those lands become private to help our economy. I also support the blocking of BLM land near Caineville so that it can become private to construct the dam.”
- *Teasdale, UT*: “I propose BLM lands in the Fremont River Valley between Loa and Capitol Reef National Park be manage as Areas of Critical

Environmental (ACEC) because of their significant scenic, recreational, cultural, geologic and plant and wildlife values...”

## Minerals, Energy and the Economy

- *Salt Lake City*: “Balancing multiple use should include harvesting of coal resources in the Henry Mountains... Adverse impacts upon the economy of failure to harvest the Henry Mountains coal should be considered.”
- *Pasadena, MD*: “No future American will benefit from mines and oil wells. They will wonder why they were left piles of rubble where there had been magnificent forests.”
- *Denver, CO*: “Natural gas and oil development must be acknowledged as having important social, environmental and economic benefits at the federal, state and local level. [We] strongly supports revisions to the RMP that provide for the fullest development of natural gas and oil resources in the resource area.”
- *Denver, CO*: “When looking at the economic implications of various management alternatives, BLM should do a full accounting of the costs and benefits. BLM should...fully analyze the socioeconomic costs associated with the boom-bust economies associated with energy development.”

## Wildlife

- *Salt Lake City*: “We strongly encourage the BLM to protect raptor nesting, wintering, and migratory sites and conserve raptor habitats within the Richfield area...”
- *Gunnison, UT*: “I believe that people should be able to hunt on BLM because there is a lot of jackrabbits.”
- *Salt Lake City*: “...Bear, cougar, and coyote hunting must be reexamined in light of its costs and benefits. Predators are a natural part of our public lands.”
- *Salt Lake City, UT*: “Native wildlife and endangered species should take top priority in all management decisions.”

## Airplane Access

- *Salt Lake City, UT*: “I strongly urge the BLM to include airplane access in its new RMP. Airplanes are low impact, require small amounts of land compared to other forms of vehicular transportation, take virtually no public resources to maintain, and currently enjoy BLM approval for public use. These airstrips must not be closed, and more aviation facilities should be provided in the BLM future planning.”

- *Woods Cross, UT*: “The Utah Back Country Pilots Association hopes to work with Richfield area managers to create a framework for the continued use and maintenance of these [backcountry] airstrips.”

## Factory Butte

- *Sonoma, CA*: “The stark image of Factory Butte is not enhanced when viewed through the dust cloud of ORV rooster tales.”
- *Salt Lake City*: “I enjoy BLM lands using motorized vehicles. My family and I travel to the Factory Butte area about four times per year... A couple of our favorite rides are around Factory Butte and around South Caineville Mesa. Please develop alternatives that allow continued access to existing roads and trails.”
- *Moab, UT*: “Factory Butte is a truly unique landform. With the butte itself serving as the center the eroded lands of Mancos shale and other materials that flow in all directions from it created an area of great beauty whether seen from the ground or the air... Please designate Factory Butte and surrounding lands as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).”

## Fremont River Water Development

- *Teasdale, UT*: “I would recommend the BLM cooperate with Wayne County in the development of a reservoir on the Fremont River downstream of the [Capitol Reef National] Park...”

## Fire

- *Fort Collins, CO*: “...be careful in constructing the policy for fire management with regard to critical wildlife habitats... what is beneficial to one wildlife species may not be beneficial to another...”

## Horse Use

- *Richfield, UT*: “Recreational pack and saddle stock use is seldom, if ever, specifically addressed in agency land use plans. We believe that such use is a valid existing natural heritage that should be specifically addressed and protected.”

## Chaining

- *Salina, UT*: “As a permittee I experience first-hand the benefits of chaining pinion and juniper. Before chaining there was very little forage for livestock or wildlife, after chaining there has been a large increase in feed for livestock as well as wildlife.”
- *Salt Lake City*: “Rangeland treatments are needed...particularly...on the Hanksville District, where encroaching pinion-juniper stands are slowly displacing preferred wildlife habitat. We encourage rangeland treatments on old chaining sites, wilderness areas and other areas where resources are threatened by climax pinion-juniper stands.”
- *Salt Lake City*: “Chaining, roller chopping, or similar methods must be prohibited.”

## There's No Place Like Utah

- *Salisbury Mills, NY*: "I am 73 years old, have had two open heart surgeries, yet still enjoy hiking and observing nature...I know that nothing can compare to the wonder of Utah."
- *San Diego, CA*: "One of my greatest joys is visiting Utah and (re)discovering lands untouched by the wheels of progress."
- *Lexington, KY*: "I've visited Utah several times and I've never seen any place like it."
- *Ossining, NY*: "I didn't always live in New York. For the first 32 years of my life I lived in Utah and was fortunate to be able to explore its unparalleled scenic beauty. NO WHERE ON EARTH is found the kind of breathtaking mixture of space, color and quiet as in the wild lands of Utah."
- *Washington DC*: "The wild lands of Utah are some of the last great wild lands that remain in our country. They are a national treasure to be appreciated and protected. May we all be thoughtful in that deed..."
- *Michigan City, IN*: "The red rock county of Utah from Dinosaur on down the Arizona border is totally unique, incomparable and unparallelled to anything else on the planet."
- *Ponca City, OK*: "Southern Utah is a world class environment and in any other country would be a "heritage area". It is far more valuable as an inspiration to poets than it is as a "multiuse" area."

## Advice, Admonitions and Pats-on-the-Back

- *Salisbury, NY*: "I wish that when you retire you can look back on your career and your work in Richfield office with pride as a job well done."
- *Davis, CA*: "The focus of this RMP should be the ecological health of this incredible area..."
- *Placerville, CA*: "All of you at the BLM have a difficult job making the best decisions about this matter, and I'm sure you'll catch plenty of criticism if not a few lawsuits no matter what you do. I hope that my ideas help in some ways."
- *Champlin, MN*: "Please remember that as Federal lands, they are owned by all Americans and not just those who happen to live closest to them."
- *Joseph, UT*: "I have great faith in the Richfield BLM Field Office personnel. For that reason, I'll trust the local proposal will be well thought

- out; and will serve in the best interests of the public (speaking of all, nation-wide).”
- *Chicago, IL*: “Please do not jeopardize taxpayers’ natural gems for the interests of small groups of ranchers, energy and water developers and ORV users.”
  - *Colorado Springs, CO*: “For too long our public lands have been managed for the betterment of the corporate balance sheet and not for the betterment of the American public.”
  - *Cambridge, MA*: “As a public official, you have custodial responsibilities for one of the most extraordinary and stunningly beautiful places on the planet. Don’t blow it. Don’t fake it. Make decisions, and take actions, you can be proud of when you’re old.”
  - *Longmont, CO*: “Please do what you can to represent ME, I need places to go where there is solitude, quiet and peace...Please do the right thing...”
  - *Torrey, UT*: “I would like to see the BLM communicate better and more completely and publicly with everyone... I think the fact you that you advertised the public hearings was helpful and I appreciate your effort to hear from everyone.”
  - *Fort Collins, CO*: “In general we are concerned that sufficient fiscal and human resources will not be available to the Bureau to implement and monitor actions as will be called for in this plan... It does little good to develop a new plan and then continue with the existing procedures and monitoring activities...”
  - *New York, NY*: “Your task is great, the master harsh, yet the goal worthwhile. Be sure the grandeur of God’s or nature’s work remains unique as it is now. Good luck...”
  - *Gunnison, UT*: “Frankly, I think you guys are doing a good job.”

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