

## St. George Field Office RMP Amendment

### Priority Biological and Natural Community Conservation Areas

The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 directs the BLM to “identify areas located in the county where biological conservation is a priority” and to “undertake activities to conserve and restore plant and animal species and natural communities within such areas.” Through this planning process, the 1999 St. George Resource Management Plan (RMP) will be amended to satisfy this direction through the consideration of nominated Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) that meet relevance and importance criteria for “priority biological and natural community conservation areas.”

ACECs are areas of BLM-managed public land where special management attention is required to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards (43 USC 1702a).

### Nominating ACECs where Biological Species and Natural Communities Conservation is a Priority

The public is invited to provide data and information on plant and animal species and natural communities on public lands managed by the St. George Field Office where conservation and restoration could be a priority. The public is also invited to nominate new areas for consideration as potential ACECs where biological species and natural community conservation could be a priority. Nominations should be accompanied by the following:

- Descriptive materials, information, and data for the nominated area and its resources;
- Maps;
- Evidence of the relevant and important biological resources (see 43 CFR 1610.7-2 or BLM Manual 1613).

The public will have an opportunity to comment on BLM’s assessment of the relevance and importance criteria evidence provided in support of new ACEC nominations and proposed ACEC management when the Draft Plan Amendment to the SGFO RMP/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is released for public review and comment.

