MYTH:

UTAH OPPOSES PROTECTIONS FOR LANDS WITHIN GSENM AND BENM

(GRAND STAIRCASE-ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENT AND BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT)

FOR INQUIRIES, EMAIL US AT PLPCO@UTAH.GOV

Proactive Conservation in Utah

Myths and Facts

FACT:

Utah has long supported, and continues to support, a permanent legislative solution for conservation of lands within the boundaries of both monuments.

A legislative solution would incorporate the interests of Tribes, local communities, recreationists, and other users groups and work to find compromises between a diverse array of stakeholders.

A legislative solution would also provide financial resources the better manage the land.

UTAH'S PUBLIC LANDS
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MYTH:
UTAH IS HOSTILE TO THE CONSERVATION OF PUBLIC LANDS GENERALLY

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Proactive Conservation in Utah

Myths and Facts

FACT:

Utah works closely with Federal partners to improve landscapes, protect watersheds, minimize the danger of catastrophic wildfires, and enhance wildlife habitat. For example, to date the Watershed Restoration Initiative has improved watersheds on 2,226,828 acres of federal, state, and private lands throughout Utah, using over $316 million of contributions from state, federal, and private sources.

Utah is also committed to expanding its own portfolio of state-owned and managed public lands accessible to public recreation. For example, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, with support from a wide variety of partners, recently purchased an 8,000 acre parcel of high-value wildlife habitat in the Cinnamon Creek area of northern Utah (a part of the state with limited public land) to be protected as a Wildlife Management Area open to the public. Similarly, in 2004 the State purchased over 1,500 acres in Range Creek near Desolation Canyon, today managed by the University of Utah's Natural History Museum of Utah for preservation and study of the area's cultural and natural resources.

Utah State Parks manages 46 state parks throughout Utah with 12 million annual visitors. This past year, the state invested over $120 million on expansion and improvement of State Parks.

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Proactive Conservation in Utah

Myths and Facts

MYTH:

UTAH DOES NOT SUPPORT THE OUTDOOR RECREATION ECONOMY

(PHOTO CREDIT DISCOVER MOAB)

FACT:

Utah was the first state to create an Office of Outdoor Recreation. Now a nationwide trend with 18 existing offices and 10 more states actively working to create offices.

The office has led to the newly formed Division of Recreation which is focused on the long term planning and strategy around how outdoor recreation is supported and managed in the state. The Division will be responsible for the distribution of over $20 million a year in state funds towards building and maintaining outdoor recreation infrastructure.

The outdoor industry creates 65,000 jobs in the state and contributes $5 billion to the state GDP. We have also recently learned that access to outdoor recreation and public lands is the #1 most important factor to the tech sector. It is the top contributor to quality of life in Utah and one of the major reasons the Utah economy continues to grow.

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Proactive Conservation in Utah

Myths and Facts

MYTH:

UTAH DOES NOT WANT OUTDOOR RETAILER BACK

FACT:

Salt Lake City is a perfect location and community to host Outdoor Retailer. Not only is it home to many brands, exhibitors, and trade show suppliers, it also has the best access to gear demos, airport and lodging.

The downtown businesses will welcome the industry back with open arms. Visit Salt Lake will work closely with their partners to ensure that experience for your customers and members is world class.

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Proactive Conservation in Utah

Myths and Facts

MYTH:

UTAH DOES NOT MAKE AN EFFORT TO PROTECT ITS LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

FACT:

Utah proactively works to protect Federal and state-owned lands across the State. Some examples:

- Site Stewardship Program to involve the community in stopping archeological vandalism
- "Gotta Go Campaign" to educate the public on the importance of proper disposal of human waste on public lands
- Creation of "Utahraptor State Park" near Moab in an area experience severe overuse and negative impacts from dispersed camping
- Monroe Mountain Aspen Regeneration Project – work with USFS and community to bring back native aspen forests and improve wildlife habitat
- "Utah Fire Sense" fire responsibility campaign, led to significant reduction in public land wildfires in 2021 despite drought and high temperatures

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