

Nine Mile Canyon Coalition News

Spring 2004

"The spirit and direction of the Nation are founded upon and reflected in its historic heritage [and] the historical and cultural foundation of the Nation should be preserved as a living part of our community of life and development in order to give a sense of orientation to the American people"

-National Historic
Preservation Act
of 1966

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AMERICA'S 11 MOST ENDANGERED HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

Steve Hansen, Board Chair

Greetings Coalition Members,

On January 20th, 2004, I nominated Nine Mile Canyon for inclusion on *America's 11 Most Endangered Places* list, an annual program conducted and sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The nomination was endorsed by the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition Board of Directors on January 30th, at a Board meeting held in Duchesne, Utah.

A listing as one of *America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places* would serve to protect and preserve the canyon's historic and cultural places by raising public and public officials' awareness of the threats that are facing this unique national treasure. A

listing would give the Coalition and other conservation groups a strong platform on which to build preservation efforts.

The nomination lists industrialization, vandalism and looting, unimplemented plans, negative effects of tourism, and natural erosion, as the impacts most threatening to Nine Mile Canyon at this time. Nine Mile Canyon is rapidly being transformed into an industrial landscape and thoroughfare, and the impacts to cultural and historic sites from ever increasing visitation are cited as threats that need to be addressed and controlled.

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NATIONAL REGISTER REPORT

by Bill Walsh

Long time readers of this newsletter are probably grinning at the title of this article because they have seen this issue over and over since the New Millennium. Yet progress seems to be at hand.

In the January 2004 Coalition Board

meeting, a great deal of time was spent discussing the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) nomination. The Board voted to accept BLM redrawn boundaries and to request a meeting with the BLM Price Field Office to set a date for nomination completion. (You

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In 1994, the Bureau of Land Management prepared (with the assistance of the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition) a Recreation and Cultural Area Management Plan for the newly created Nine Mile Canyon Special Recreation and Cultural Management Area (SRCMA). The management plan was compiled as a guide for cultural and recreational developments on public lands along the Nine Mile Canyon Backcountry Byway, and it was authorized in 1995 by the Moab and Vernal BLM District Offices. The *11 Most Endangered* nomination cites implementation of the (as yet) unimplemented Recreation and Cultural Area Management Plan as a major step toward protecting and preserving the canyon's unique cultural resources.

Your Coalition Board believes that inclusion on the *11 Most Endangered* list could provide the incentive needed to finally get the long-overdue Management Plan implemented. Implementation of the Management Plan would serve to 1) protect, preserve and enhance the natural character, inspirational value and scenic quality of the area while optimizing recreation and interpretive opportunities, including the provision of a safe recreational environment, 2) provide law enforcement patrols, 3) provide for a comprehensive cultural and historic site survey of the entire canyon in a cooperative effort by the Carbon County Historical Preservation Committee, Castle Valley Chapter of the Utah Statewide Archaeological Society, the BLM and Brigham Young University; and 4) motivate completion and submission of the nomination of Nine Mile Canyon for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

You can help to get Nine Mile Canyon listed as one of *America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places* by writing a letter of support to:

NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Office of Communications / 11 Most Endangered

1785 Massachusetts Avenue, NW

Washington, D.C. 20036

Letters should be mailed to the National Trust no later than April 15th, 2004. Faxes or email will not be accepted. It would also be helpful if copies of your support letters are sent to:

Sally Wisely - State BLM Director

PO Box 45155

Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0155

Sally_Wisely@blm.gov

and to myself at:

Steve Hansen – Chair

Nine Mile Canyon Coalition

4455 Albright Drive

Holladay, UT 84124

hansensteven@qwest.net

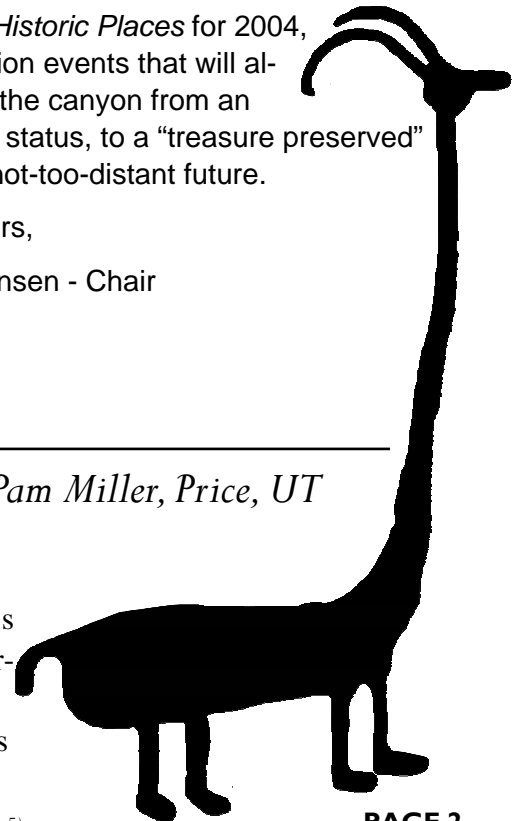
It is my hope that through our efforts, Nine Mile Canyon will be listed on *America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places* for 2004, setting in motion events that will allow de-listing the canyon from an "endangered" status, to a "treasure preserved" status in the not-too-distant future.

Very truly yours,

Steven C. Hansen - Chair

PROGRESS ON INTERPRETIVE PLAN *by Pam Miller, Price, UT*

Due to increased interest in Nine Mile Canyon's cultural resources because of gas field development, College of Eastern Utah administration's willingness to mediate perceived conflicts among canyon users, Bill Barrett Corporation's (BBC) efforts to be perceived as good community partners, and Carbon County Commissioner's awareness of safety issues



(Continued on page 5)

can read a press release of that meeting posted on the Coalition web site, under Current Events). Shortly thereafter, Layne Miller, President of the Utah Rock Art Research Association (URARA) and former Chair of the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition Board, wrote to Sally Wisely, State BLM Director, requesting an update on progress of the NRHP nomination. Sally Wisely responded in a March 2004 letter:

“The National Register of Historic Places is the official Federal list of properties that are significant in American history, architecture, archeology and engineering. The Bureau of Land Management feels that by nominating Nine Mile Canyon to the National Register it will have an honorary recognition of the historic and prehistoric significance for the area. Listing on the National Register will help to educate the public and help support future fundraising requests and grants. . . .

We will work toward finalizing all draft sections of the nomination form for submission to the State by July 1, 2004. We appreciate your interest in the Nine Mile Canyon area. We look forward to working with the Utah Rock Art Research Association.”

This looks like the commitment we all have been waiting and working for. Acknowledging that we have had our raised hopes dashed before, this looks like the goal may be in sight.

When it is official, when Nine Mile Canyon is listed on the NRHP, long time newsletter readers, and all our friends will be invited to the celebration.



REMEMBER! Our new website is up and running! Check it regularly for updates on Canyon issues www.ninemilecanyoncoalition.org

THE LONG NECKED SHEEP by Steven Tanner, Helper, UT.

In Nine Mile Canyon,there is a long necked sheep,
Who lives with the childrenin this landthat is so
very,very steep.

When he reaches outto nibble on aCedar twig,
He always doesthis cute littlejig-ity jig.
The Children all laugh ..when they see him do his dance,
Because he looks ...just like ...there’s antsin his pants.

And he makes thisfunny little sound,
When he thinksno one elseis around.
And when he sleepswith his head way up in a cloud,
He always snoresso extre.....mely loud.

The Children named him“Tallest of Them All,”
For when he stands uphe’s nearly ten feet tall.
He watches over the childrenduring the day,
While their parents ...travelfar and away

They love for him to play“Hide and Go Seek,”
Because to find him,they almost nevernever have
to peek.

Buthis favorite gameis “Run Sheep Run,”
As the Children let him winjust for fun.
And he makes thisfunny little sound,
When he thinksno one elseis around.

He becomes their “Story Teller”during the middle of
the day,
For they love to gather roundand listen to his stories
.....about the “Dolls of Clay.”

Yes,in “Nine Mile Canyon”there is a Long
Necked Sheep,
Who lives with the Children,in this landthat is so
very,very steep.

COALITION MEMBER STOPS RANCH FIRE

On May 18th, 2002, Coalition members were encouraged to come to the canyon and clean up garbage from the roadsides. One faithful member, Ken Andresen, who lives in Golden Colorado, always drives clear out here to help on clean-up day and for the Fall Gathering. The clean up went well, pickup loads of garbage were gathered and disposed of by Coalition members. After the day's hard work, Ken stayed overnight at Daddy's Canyon and began his trip home on Sunday.

Upon visiting with Ken at the Fall Gathering and discussing the fire at the Fasselin's ranch, he was modest, stating, "Well, I don't think it (the fire) would have taken all of the ranch buildings." However, Ms. Fasselin felt that surely without his intervention, they may have lost everything at the ranch site. . Following is an account of his adventurous day as related to Norma & Jerrold Dalton.

When I first reached the first ranch house with the paved section of road I noticed smoke rising from what I thought was a grass fire by the corral behind the residential buildings. I stopped to see if I could see anyone tending the fire. I couldn't see anyone but I could see horses through the smoky haze in the corral. I went to the house and tried to alert the owners but nobody was around. At the corral some of the vertical fence posts were burning and the fire was slowly creeping through the straw ground cover. I immediately headed for the next ranch house a mile west to get help. On the way I flagged down a couple heading east and told them about the fire. I continued on to the second ranch house but couldn't raise anyone although I sensed that someone was in the house. I left a note about the fire and headed back to the fire. (On the previous day I had been collecting trash along

the road by these two ranches and had noticed what I interpreted to be branding going on; a small bit of smoke rising and every few minutes the bawling of a calf. I guessed that the branding coals might be the cause of this fire.)

At the fire, the man that I had flagged down had moved a horse that was tied outside the corral fence away from the fire. He had a John Deere tractor key on his keychain and started the tractor, which had a front-end loader attached. He used the loader to scrape the straw away from the corral fence and away from a ten-foot tall stack of hay bales.

About 15 minutes later the housewife from the other ranch showed up, having read my note. She opened some gates in the pen to let three horses and about 20 head of cattle out to pasture and showed us where to hook up a garden hose. I manned the hose for awhile while she went back to her ranch to get more lengths of hose. We weren't making much headway on the fire, however.

About 1 ½ hours later I heard a siren and saw the first of two fire trucks coming from the Myton Volunteer Fire Department. (Myton is about 42 miles away over unpaved roads.) The ranch wife had called the fire department early on. I was relieved to see the help because we weren't stopping the fences from burning. The firemen quickly put foam and water on the fire. After the fire trucks arrived a couple of pickups of locals arrived. The tanks on the smallish fire truck were emptied in about 20 minutes. There was a scramble to locate a gas powered water pump from the ranch, get it running, and start filling one truck from Nine Mile creek. The other truck headed east on the road to find a place to fill from the irrigation ditch. With all of the additional help around I decided to

head on home about three hours after first spotting the fire. I estimated that about 150 feet of fence burned. The straw ground cover was still smoldering as I departed. The fire truck was about filled with water so the remaining straw fire was about to be distinguished. So much for my (hopefully) good deed of the day.

Thanks to the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition's annual work day, the fire was spotted in the time to save the stack of hay bales and keep some farm animal from getting singed.

Best Regards,

Ken Andresen

Golden, Colorado

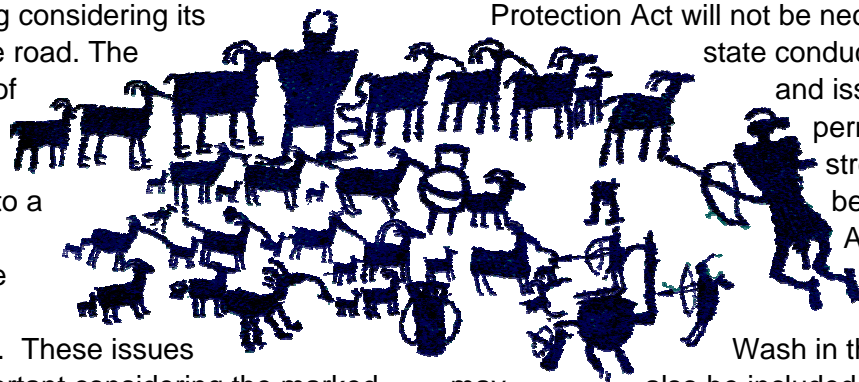


URARA NAMES BOARD MEMBER TO NINE MILE ISSUES

Utah Rock Art Research Association (URARA) has recently appointed Diane Orr – accomplished photographer and film producer (*Lost Forever, Everett Ruess*) – to oversee and address Nine Mile Canyon issues. Nine Mile Canyon Coalition (9MCC) leadership has had the privilege of working with Diane on issues pertaining to the canyon. Last Fall Diane shared her spectacular Nine Mile Canyon photo exhibit as part of a symposium sponsored by the 9MCC and the CEU Prehistoric Museum. Thanks Diane!

SIGNIFICANT ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROPOSED FOR CANYON GEM

A recent article in the *Sun Advocate* (Price, UT) indicates that improvements to the road near the famous "Hunt Panel" in Cottonwood Canyon may be in the works. Many people have expressed concern about the panel's well being considering its close proximity to the road. The safety of the scores of people who visit the site each year are also of concern due to a lack of parking and a safe off-road vantage point from which the panel can be viewed. These issues are increasingly important considering the marked increase in industrial traffic.



to the center of the canyon. Since most of the property involved is State Institutional Trust Land and not under BLM administration, much time will be saved because working through the National Environmental Protection Act will not be necessary. Once the state conducts a cultural inventory and issues the necessary permits to cross the stream, the project could be underway as early as April 1. Kiosks, fencing and signage, similar to Buckhorn Wash in the San Rapheal Swell, may also be included in the second phase of the project.

The Bill Barrett Corporation (BBC), who is currently conducting seismic exploration and drilling gas wells in the area, along with state and county officials are putting together a plan that will most likely reroute the current road across the nearby streambed and closer

These much needed improvements will greatly help to insure the safety and future of this internationally recognized rock art panel, while enhancing the public's experience by providing a safer, more enjoyable and potentially dust free view!

(Interpretive plan-Continued from page 2)

in the canyon, the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition's Interpretive Plan is back on track for implementation.

The brochure will be going to the printer's shortly, and although it won't be ready for the Easter break, it will be available for most of the busy visitor season. The Coalition is resurrecting the interpretation and design for the first series of signs at the identified locations. In

two weeks the Coalition will be approaching the Carbon County Restaurant Tax Committee for funding for additional phases of the interpretive plan. We are looking at changing the order of phase development to accommodate the new developments at the Cottonwood Hunt scene and upcoming developments at Rasmussen Cave by BBC. We are optimistic about the funding potential from Carbon County and appreciate their support for this project.

There is an auxiliary group at work now called the Nine Mile Canyon Oversight Committee. This is a group gathered by administrators at the College of Eastern Utah and Carbon County Commissioners. It is a larger committee with input from many public players such as the Carbon County Travel Bureau, USAS, URARA, the Coalition, the BLM, and Bill Barrett Corporation, among others. It is good for Nine Mile Canyon to have so many friends and supporters.

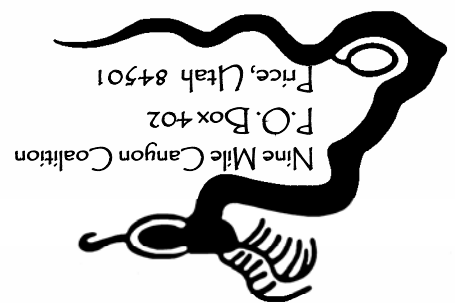
THE "MUMMY'S" NEW NEIGHBOR

Bill Barrett Corporation, a Colorado based company who owns oil and gas leases in the area and is currently working on a seismic exploration project, has purchased land near the mouth of Dry Canyon. A new industrial natural gas relay station, very similar to the one already in place at the mouth of

Water Canyon, has been installed to facilitate increased production from new and existing wells on the Tavaputs Plateau, immediately south of Nine Mile Canyon.

Visitors to the area are familiar with the towering "Mummy" rock formation and nearby Rasmussen Cave (with its famous "no tress-

passing" (sic) sign painted over an exceptionally large pictograph of an elk). Ramussen Cave and the adjacent area contain a particularly high concentration of rock art and its nearby open space is enjoyed by countless campers and hunters.



Time For Spring Cleaning!

Need an excuse to get out of town and enjoy the fresh Spring air? Make some new friends and contribute to a great cause by joining us for our annual Spring Clean-Up! This year we will be meeting at the Great Hunt Panel at **9AM on Saturday May 22nd**. Come prepared for a great day in the canyon and join us for the "potluck" lunch and Coalition Board meeting that will follow. Please dress appropriately (don't forget a hat and work gloves) and bring along plenty of water and sunscreen. If you have any questions please e-mail them to jvac9@yahoo.com. We hope to see you there!

JOIN THE COALITION, RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR SIGN UP A FRIEND!

Mail this form to: **Nine Mile Canyon Coalition, P.O. Box 402, Price, Utah 84501**

Name: _____		Please circle membership type:		Corporate (\$1,000)
Mailing Address: _____		Individual (\$10)	Contributor (\$100)	Additional Gift \$ _____
City: _____	State: _____	Family (\$20)	Lifetime Member(\$500)	
Zip _____				
Phone: (____) _____		Please make check or money order payable to: Nine Mile Canyon Coalition		
e-mail Address _____		<i>Thanks for your support!</i>		