

Nine Mile Canyon Coalition News

Summer 2004

ninemilecanyoncoalition.org

Remember!

Our New
Website is up
and running!
Check it



regularly for
the latest
canyon news,
current
events and
updates

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Board Chair's Message, by Steve Hansen

Greetings Coalition Members!

As Summer ripens into Fall, the excitement of another annual Fall Gathering is in the air. This year the traditional event may well be one of the finest and most important Gatherings in Coalition history.

On July 16th, the Bureau of Land Management – Price Field Office (BLM) released their Draft Resource Management Plan. This plan, open for public comment until October 15th, 2004 will be the roadmap the BLM will follow when making management decisions affecting our public lands over the next ten to twenty years. In other words, the RMP will be the compass guiding BLM's decisions affecting Nine Mile Canyon for years to come.

Because it is so important that your voices be heard, I will lead a short tour followed by a workshop titled "Protecting Nine Mile Canyon Through the Public Process" at the Fall Gathering on Saturday, September 11th. I hope that we will be able to generate a letter writing bonanza among our dedicated membership. The BLM relies heavily on public input when making important and far-reaching decisions affecting our public treasures.

The Gathering will also be a time for much celebration! We have accomplished some major milestones in the past year, including the printing and distribution of our labor of love and long-anticipated interpretive brochure of the canyon. This helpful guide titled "Exploring Nine Mile Canyon – 70 Miles of Utah's Historic Backcountry Byway" will be an invaluable tool for visitors to the canyon. In addition, the nomination of Nine Mile Canyon for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places has finally been submitted to the State BLM Office for review before it is sent to the State Historical Preservation Office - the next step on its road to official consideration. Be sure to read our latest press release (pg. 3) for further details on these accomplishments.

Please note that, for a short time you can make a tax-deductible (\$25.00 or more) donation to the Coalition and get a free copy of Jerry and Donna Spangler's soon-to-be-classic book, *Horned Snakes and Axle Grease*. This Nine Mile Canyon book is the BEST!

I also want to introduce our two newest Board members to the general Coalition membership: Chanel Atwood, an archaeologist living in Wellington, and Jerry Spangler, the author and archaeologist noted above and a political journalist for the *Deseret Morning News* residing in Salt Lake City

I hope to see you all at the Fall Gathering!

It's Fall Gathering Time Again!

It's time once again for the Coalition Fall Gathering. This special event for Nine Mile Canyon Coalition members is the best time to meet old friends, make new ones, and get caught up on all things relating to Nine Mile Canyon. This newsletter is your invitation to join the fun, join the Coalition, and spend some time in Nine Mile Canyon.

Dates: Friday and Saturday, September 10 & 11.



RSVP: Please send your registration (and membership renewal) by September 2, 2004.

Place: Activities will be at Mead's Bunk & Breakfast in Nine Mile Canyon.

(435) 637-2572.



Camping: \$10 per night at Mead's Bunk & Breakfast. (No hookups)

Registration: Friday at 4 p.m. through Saturday.

Meals: Meals will be available for Friday & Saturday Supper and Breakfast Saturday morning. Please bring your own lunch. See Registration form to order meals.



Fremont Feast: Old fashioned Dutch oven Dinner Saturday Evening!

Tours: Road, Hiking and "RMP Workshop" tours will run Saturday from 9:30 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Activities: Saturday's Activities will include our annual Silent Auction, Guest Speakers from 3-4 p.m., and musical entertainment by the Nine Mile Players!

Annual Coalition Meeting: Steve Hansen will chair the meeting from 4-6 p.m. on Saturday. Special guests have also been invited to speak.



PRESS RELEASE

August 2, 2004

Contact Persons:

Steve Hansen, Salt Lake City, 801-891-4540

Pam Miller, Price, 435-637-5060

Bill Walsh, Fruitland, 435-548-2630

Nine Mile Canyon Brochure Now Available

The Board of the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition, meeting on July 30 at the Duchesne Welcome Center, welcomed the release of a new brochure, *Exploring Nine Mile Canyon – 70 Miles of Utah's Historic Backcountry Byway*. The brochure will be available to the public at no cost in various places throughout the state, including the Duchesne Welcome Center. Nine Mile Canyon is world-renowned for its Indian rock art and artifacts, and has a rich pioneer heritage, but is located in remote parts of Duchesne and Carbon Counties and its treasures can easily be missed without a reliable navigation tool like the new brochure.

Pam Miller, Chair of the Board Interpretive Plan Committee, distributed the multi-colored brochure that was funded by the Coalition, Carbon County Travel Bureau, Castle Country Travel Region, Duchesne County Chamber of Commerce, the Utah Humanities Council, and the Carbon County Restaurant Tax Committee. Ms. Miller stated: "This brochure will be very helpful for Nine Mile Canyon visitors because it includes a map keying mile post readings to major sites in the canyon, gives backcountry travel advice, and notes the lack of amenities so that people can be prepared." The brochure is designed to ensure that people venturing into the canyon are able to locate examples of ancient and historic resources located on public lands. They will also be aided in respecting the rights of private landowners.

The BLM management representative to the Board, Wayne Ludington, reported on recent BLM actions pertaining to the canyon:

1) The Price Field Office of the BLM has approved the West Tavaputs Plateau Drilling Program. This authorizes six miles of new pipeline in Nine Mile Canyon with a 60-foot right-of-way. The program does not address industrial traffic and the BLM decision accepts industry guarantees that activities will not harm Canyon art or cultural sites.

2) The BLM has withdrawn its earlier authorization for an interpretive trail featuring the gallery of petroglyphs at Daddy Canyon, a side canyon in Nine Mile Canyon. Mr. Ludington

explained that his agency had misinterpreted requirements in its Nine Mile Canyon Special Recreation and Cultural Management Plan for the canyon when it designed and initiated the Daddy Canyon project.

3) Also due to the misinterpretation of the 1994 Plan, the BLM has withdrawn a more longstanding authorization to install interpretive kiosks on public lands in the canyon, a project to which the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition and other funding partners have committed considerable resources over several years.

Members of the Board expressed disappointment and dismay at these BLM management decisions.

The Nine Mile Canyon Coalition's mission is to "preserve and protect Nine Mile Canyon, in partnership with land holders, user groups, federal, state and local agencies, and Native American organizations." Although the rich cultural resources in the canyon have been threatened by a number of activities over the decades, the dramatic increase in gas development in recent years are attracting progressively more attention by the Coalition. The Board intentionally has not taken positions either for or against gas development in the area, rather has called on the BLM to halt further industrial development until all potential, including long-term, impacts of the various planned or requested activities can be known and understood via an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). In part due to stepped up gas exploration coupled with the BLM's lack of response to the EIS request, the Board endorsed the nomination of Nine Mile Canyon to the "America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places" list sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. That designation has been granted. The Board has been pleased over the last four years to be working cooperatively with the Price BLM Office on the nomination of Nine Mile Canyon to the National Register of Historic Places. The nomination was turned over to the State BLM Office on July 1 and is expected to be sent on to the State Board of History very soon.

Members of the public can pick up a free copy of the Exploring Nine Mile Canyon brochure at the College of Eastern Utah Prehistoric Museum in Price, the Duchesne Welcome Center, the Duchesne Chamber of Commerce, as well as other locations. Board members of the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition can also be contacted for a brochure.

The Coalition has a web site, www.ninemilecanyoncoalition.org, and reminds members and friends that the Annual Fall Gathering will be September 10-11 at Mead's Bunk & Breakfast in Nine Mile Canyon.

Death of a Filly By Norma R. Dalton

October 1950, my husband and I sat close to our campfire and looked into the face of one of my favorite people, Jack Houskeeper. He, my mother's youngest brother, was my uncle, and a dear friend as well as a relative. We were in the second season of our marriage and he offered to show us some *real bucks* that deer season. The fall deer hunting trip was a family affair in those days. It was the only type of vacation our ranch families knew. That was the one time of year we would turn the calves in with the milk cows and take a couple days off from the demands of ranch life.

Our camp was at the base of the high red sandstone cliff in the mouth of Daddy's Canyon. The cliff rises over a hundred feet behind the gathering corrals still in use on the left side of the canyon mouth. Uncle Jack told us about working for Oliver, an old bachelor rancher that I knew well.

Uncle Jack's face, still young, smooth and ruddy, now held lines of sorrow. He spoke of an incident in his childhood. His childhood was sad after he lost his mother in a buggy accident when he was five years old. He lived with several relatives while he was growing up, and sometimes "farmed out" to help other ranchers. His pay, I'm sure, was to benefit the rancher, rather than himself. At the time of this story, he was "helping" Oliver Rasmussen, on his ranch.

He began, "One day Oliver and I rode up Daddy's trail and climbed out on the west side into the horse pasture".

I knew about the horse pasture. Between levels of ledges, grass grows abundantly, but there is no water. However, in the spring, snow hanging in shadows is available to the horses for water.

"Oliver had a mare, well bred, and was anxious for the fowl. He made the statement that if 'the colt was a filly, he was going to toss her off the cliff'. I made a strong plea that if the colt was a filly, could I

have it? He grumbled then agreed that I could have it. My nine-year-old heart nearly burst with happiness at the idea of having a pony of my own".

"That morning the mare looked like she was going to burst. We shooed her to a large patch of snow, knowing that this day, or surely the next, she would have her baby."

"I couldn't help hoping the colt would be a filly. Sure enough when we rode up to the pasture the next morning, the colt had come. Oliver checked her to find she was a mare. He was so disgusted that he picked her up and dragged her a few yards to the cliff and shoved her over. I ran along side trying to get him to change his mind, to no avail".

Uncle Jack's brilliant blue eyes were moist because of the memory. I sat in shock and looked at the ledge. At that moment, it held no beauty to me, only harshness that so often I saw in life in the canyon.

"Why?" I choked.

He just shrugged his shoulders and stirred potatoes in the frying pan on the open flame.

(Author's note: I knew Oliver as an easygoing sort. In trying to understand his action I have few suggestions. He had one small field to raise hay for his small herd of cattle during the winter, and didn't need an extra mouth to feed. He may have hoped to get a stud, or a strong gelding he could sell or work. Only he knows.)

Norma Dalton has spent much of her life in Nine Mile Canyon and has been a generous and active member of the 9MCC. Along with her sister Evelyn Oldham, Norma has formed the *Nine Mile Canyon Settler's Association*. Their mission is: *To collect, record, preserve and share histories and experiences for the education and enjoyment of all who are interested in Nine Mile Canyon.* Anyone interested in the history of Nine Mile Canyon, or who would like to make a contribution of their own, is encouraged to contact: NMCSA, 24 Airline Drive, Clearfield, Utah 84105, or contact Alene at (801) 775-9317.

Great Hunt Panel Update The road rerouting project in Cottonwood Canyon near *The Great Hunt* panel is moving along nicely. The road now veers off into the center of the canyon just north of the panel, providing the canyon gem protection from dust and traffic and the public with a much safer and more enjoyable experience. A picnic area, restrooms, trails, landscaping and interpretive signs will soon follow. Many thanks are in order to the diverse group of individuals and organizations who make up the Nine Mile Canyon Advisory Committee and who have put so much thought, time and energy into such an expensive and monumental task. It is a worthy investment that will undoubtedly be enjoyed for many generations to come.

Nine Mile Hunting Memories by Jim Brown

I have been in the Nine Mile area and have been deer hunting there since 1970. It was *the* State holiday, and for about two weeks, any vehicle that ran or could get out of town, and any horse that could be cornered and thrown in a trailer or pickup was headed to the mountain for deer hunting. It was a time when nothing else mattered except the *Big Opener*. Men would quit their jobs if they couldn't get the time off!

In those days there were a lot of deer and you could buy multiple tags and shoot more than one deer in certain areas. Every sporting goods store had a big buck contest. One of the big prizes was a jeep at Ziniks in Salt Lake City, if you were registered there.

At least two weeks before, you had to have your camping spot staked out and ready for the big day. Just before the big day everybody was headed to their favorite spot and the dust never settled in Nine Mile as the anxious hunters and their families headed to the mountain to try their luck for the big one—the wall hanger.

I remember one year, the day before the opener, after it had rained hard for two days, a big tree

blew down closing the road just before Nutter's Ranch. Big equipment was needed to move it out of the way. The hunters were so impatient that some SOB called the Governor! You can bet the County road maintenance workers were called out in a hurry—and in the dark—to open the road. The ruts were so deep that year on the mountain. Another year some camps were snowed-in in the Cold Spring area and some vehicles had to be pulled out with a long cable (hence the name Cable Hill). The rest of the vehicles spent the winter there!

I have seen every kind of vehicle possible on Bruin Point. There were VWs, Cadillacs, Jeeps, Lincolns, tote-goats and motor bikes. All of these were before the ATVs we know today.

After the crash of the deer numbers the emphasis became trophy hunting. The ranches have changed hands and now have a wildlife and recreation emphasis. The deer numbers are now being replaced by Elk.

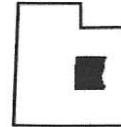
Jim Brown has served faithfully on the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition's Board for many years and lives in Roosevelt with his wife Joye.

Mission Statement

The Nine Mile Canyon Coalition exists to preserve and protect Nine Mile Canyon, in partnership with land holders, user groups, federal, state and local agencies, and Native American organizations. To that end, the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition will foster educational and interpretive programs which include but are not limited to: assisting in the coordination of canyon interests; promoting programs of scientific research in the canyon; helping with inventory of cultural and natural resources; raising funds, from earnings or gifts, for research, education interpretive or preservation groups, as such funds become available.



BLM News



Bureau of Land Management • Price Field Office • 125 South 600 West • Price, Utah 84501
www.ut.blm.gov

For Immediate Release
July 16, 2004

Contact: Floyd Johnson, 435-636-3600
Ruth McCoard, 435-636-3600

BLM releases Price Field Office Draft Resource Management Plan *Public urged to comment and attend public meetings*

The Bureau of Land Management Price Field Office announced today the availability of their Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft RMP/EIS). More than two and a half years in the making, the draft plan when finalized will guide how natural resources, activities, and uses on more than 2.5 million acres of public lands in Carbon and Emery Counties will be managed during the next 15-20 years.

The Price land use plan is the first of seven draft plans that will be released over the next few years as a part of a statewide plan revision initiative. The Draft RMP/EIS is now available for a 90-day public comment until Oct. 15, 2004, and public meetings will be held to gain input. Once comments are reviewed and considered a Proposed RMP/Final EIS will be issued for review prior to signing a Record of Decision.

“Future management of places like the Bookcliffs, the San Rafael Swell, and Nine Mile Canyon will be determined in this plan,” said Price Field Office Manager Patrick Gubbins. “We need the public’s comments to assist us in finalizing the alternatives and confirming accuracy of the document.”

In the draft plan, BLM evaluated a wide range of alternatives, with each alternative providing a mix of resource protection, use, and development. Alternatives range from being more commodities based to conservation based. The BLM preferred alternative draws from each of the alternatives to present a balanced approach to the full spectrum of resources, resource uses, and programs.

The draft plan addresses key public land issues raised during public scoping and the planning process. Some of these include: recreation, minerals and energy, grazing, water, fish and wildlife, wild horses and burros, air quality, cultural and paleontology, soil and vegetation, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, and Wilderness Study Areas.

The plan will also address alternatives for motorized route designation. It will incorporate the 2002 San Rafael Motorized Route Designation Plan, and will use similar criteria to analyze potential designation of motorized routes for the remainder of the Price Resource Area.

Gubbins noted that the Draft RMP/EIS was prepared with the assistance of four cooperating agencies, as well as input from the public during the scoping phase of this planning effort.

“We want to extend thanks to those individuals and organizations that have provided information and ideas that have been considered during this part of the planning process,” said Gubbins. “Our cooperating agency partners have provided integral support and expertise in focusing on issues and developing alternatives to address them.”

The overall intent of the RMP is to develop a comprehensive management strategy that will guide the management of public lands administered by the Price Field Office into the future. This RMP combines two older land use plans (the Price River Resource Area Management Framework Plan and the San Rafael Resource Management Plan) into a single unified Price Field Office RMP.

The Draft RMP/EIS may be viewed electronically at www.pricermp.com or the Price Field Office, 125 S. 600 W., Price, Utah, 84501. You may also contact the Price Field Office by phone at 435.636.3600. A CD-ROM is also available.

Public meetings to provide an overview of the document, respond to questions, and take public comments, will be held at:

Castle Dale August 24 4:00 – 9:00 pm
Museum of the San Rafael, 96 N. 100 E.

Green River August 25 4:00 – 9:00 pm
J.W. Powell River History Museum, 885 East Main

Price August 26 4:00 – 9:00 pm
Holiday Inn, 838 Westwood Blvd.

Salt Lake City August 31 4:00 – 9:00 pm
Best Western Salt Lake Plaza Hotel, 122 W. South Temple

Comments on the Draft RMP/EIS will be accepted until October 15, 2004. Written comments should be sent to: Price Field Office RMP Comments, Attention: Floyd Johnson, 125 S. 600 W., Price, Utah, 84501. Comments may also be made electronically at: www.pricermp.com.

Comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the BLM Price Field Office at the location listed above during normal business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except weekends and holidays). All submissions from organizations or businesses will be made available for public evaluation in their entirety. Individuals may request confidentiality with respect to their name, address, and phone number. If you wish to have your name or street address withheld from public review, or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, the first line of the comment should start with the words “CONFIDENTIALITY REQUESTED” in uppercase letters in order for BLM to comply with your request. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. Comment contents will not be kept confidential.

**Cooperating Agencies
include the State of Utah, Carbon
and Emery Counties, and U.S. Fish
and Wildlife Service.**

“Acting as a cooperating agency, we have been heavily involved in the planning process, including the formulation of alternatives. We have not always agreed; however we have been able to include our viewpoint and rationale in the process. We feel that our input from the local user perspective will be fully considered in the proposed revised Draft RMP which is forthcoming for public review.”

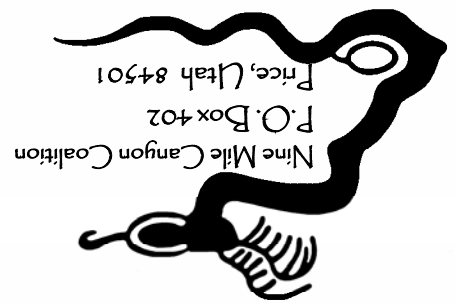
*-Emery County Commissioner
Ira W. Hatch*

“Participation as a cooperating agency has been of tremendous benefit to the state, to the planning process, and to collaboration between different levels of government. It is a relationship that is well worth the effort, and that will lead not only to a much better resource management plan, but also to improved opportunities for implementation of the plan.”

*-Planning Coordinator, State of Utah
Wes Curtis*

“Our county has worked side by side with the BLM to attempt to reach agreement on various issues facing our county and the BLM. Although we haven’t been able to reach agreement on all issues, there are some that we can agree on. This has been a good first step in getting a good understanding and working relationship with the BLM.”

*- Carbon County Commissioner
Michael S. Milovich*



Registration for Fall Gathering/September 10 & 11 2004

Please mail this form and payment in full to: **Nine Mile Canyon Coalition, P.O. Box 402, Price, Utah 84501**

<p>Name: _____</p> <p>Mailing Address: _____</p> <p>City: _____ State: _____</p> <p>Zip _____ Phone: (____) _____</p> <p>I would like to donate the following item(s) for the Silent Auction _____</p>	<p>Please indicate the number of people for each activity:</p> <p>1. Friday Dinner Adult (\$12) _____ Child(\$6) _____</p> <p>2. Saturday Breakfast (\$5) _____</p> <p>3. Fremont Feast (6 p.m. Sat.) Adult(\$12) _____ Child(\$6) _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Note: Non-members add \$3 per meal</p> <p>4. Saturday tours Free for Members Nonmembers (\$5) _____</p> <p>I cannot attend but would like to make a donation \$ _____</p>
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◇ Please RSVP by September 2nd! ◇

Thanks, See You There!

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

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

Please circle membership type:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip _____

Phone: (____) _____

e-mail _____

Make an additional \$25 tax deductible contribution and receive a copy of Jerry & Donna Spangler's new book *Horned Snakes and Axle Grease* as our gift to you!

Annual (\$25)

Corporate (\$1000)

Additional Gift

\$ _____

Please make check or money order payable to: **Nine Mile Canyon Coalition**

Thanks for your support!