

Nine Mile Canyon Coalition News

Winter 2006

ninemilecanyoncoalition.org

Need a great
excuse to
spend a
beautiful spring
day in the
Canyon?
Join us for our
Annual Spring
Clean-Up
Saturday
April 22nd



See back cover for
details!

Board Chair's Message, by Pam Miller

Dear Nine Mile Canyon Coalition Members and Supporters:

It is a great honor to assume the leadership of the Nine Mile Coalition during this era of increased attention to the canyon. I have a big task to follow the standard of leadership set by Steve Hansen and Bill Walsh. Both are dynamic and informed leaders who have worked to keep the Coalition involved in Nine Mile Canyon issues. It is my goal to maintain this pattern of informing you, the Coalition membership, of issues influencing and impacting Nine Mile Canyon. I support the practice followed by the Coalition leadership to inform you of the issues and ask you to comment on those issues to the particular land management agencies. I realize that as members we will not always agree on all issues, but all opinions should be heard and expressed to the appropriate people at the appropriate time. We should not let what happens in Nine Mile Canyon be an accident. Decisions should be made with informed public input.

During this 2006 year we will be tracking several projects that are in progress: the Price Field Office Resource Management Plan (RMP) and the Vernal Field Office RMP should be released by the end of the year. The Tavaputs Drilling Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is in progress and we may see a draft before the year ends. The BLM has been directed to write a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) on the leasing of tar sands and oil shale reserves in eastern Utah, western Colorado, and southwestern Wyoming. There are tar sand deposits in Argyle Canyon and on the Tavaputs between Sunnyside and Nine Mile Canyon. There is the possibility of increased industrial traffic in the canyon if these reserves are developed. Also of interest is Questar's Southern System Expansion Project II, a relocation of their natural gas transmission line which now traverses Nine Mile Canyon. We appreciate their efforts to contact the coalition board and seek input at the early stages of this project. We will keep you informed of all of these projects by email if we have your current email address. If we have enough notice we will send flyers to those without email.

The environmental assessments (EA's), environmental impact statements (EIS's) and resource management plans (RMP's) are often very lengthy documents with long lists of governmental and profession-specific terms that cause us to read with the document in one hand and a dictionary in the other hand. We average citizens have to really work to understand what is being said and proposed. However, it is worth the effort to have the voices of an informed citizenry active in the decisions



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that affect such an important part of our cultural heritage. Please take the time to participate with us in this public process. If you have recommendations or ideas for the coalition board, please contact any of us. If you hear of any developments you feel the coalition membership should know about, please let us know so we can forward the news.

I express my heartfelt appreciation to all who have served the coalition and Nine Mile Canyon in many different capacities. We work together to make things happen, and everyone has something to offer. We will continue to forge new relationships and form new partnerships. Steve Hansen has been a remarkable leader and I ask for your support in my efforts to maintain the tradition of preserving and protecting Nine Mile Canyon.

Nine Mile Canyon Expert Takes the Reigns of the Coalition

We are pleased to announce that Pam Miller is the new Chair of the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition. She brings a wealth of experience, knowledge, and skills to the position.

Pam has been a member of the Coalition's Board of Directors since its inception. During these years, she has served once already as Board Chair and as Chair of the Nine Mile Canyon Interpretive Plan Committee. Pam also serves as Vice-chair on the Utah Board of State History, and on the Nine Mile Canyon Advisory Committee.

Pam is a professional archaeologist. She is an instructor of Anthropology and Museum Studies at the College of Eastern Utah and has served as Co-Director and Curator of Archaeological Collections at the College of Eastern Utah (CEU) Prehistoric Museum.

Pam received her B.A. degree from Brigham Young University, and an M.A. degree from BYU, majoring in Archaeology with minors in Anthropology and Junior College Education. She is currently enrolled in a doctoral program at Utah State University, studying Curriculum and Instruction in Higher Education.

She has received the Merit award from the Utah Humanities Council for the Nine Mile Canyon Interpretive Plan, the Antiquities Award from the Utah State Historical Society, and Service Award from the Utah Museums Association.

Pam has served tirelessly since 1988, taking inventory, recording, and studying the archaeological remains of prehistoric cultures in Nine Mile Canyon, Rock Creek and Range Creek Canyons, as well as in other significant archaeological areas in the region.

Pam is married to Blaine Miller, also an archaeologist, who works in the Price Field Office BLM. Blaine and Pam began recording sites in Nine Mile Canyon in 1974 while graduate students at BYU. They have five children, four daughters and a son, who have loved assisting their parents with their work in the canyon.

Pam is a scholar and a hero who has dedicated much of her life to the protection and preservation of Utah's archaeological treasures. We welcome her willingness to lead us once again.

Coalition Board Grows By Two

The Board of Directors of the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition elected two new Board members at the January 27th board meeting. Doyle Cesspooch, a Ute Tribal member who operates the Ute Tribe Senior Citizens Programs in Fort Duchesne, and Keith Rowley from Duchesne.

Watch for new Board Member bios in our next newsletter!

More Industrial Activity In Store for Nine Mile Canyon

by Bill Walsh

Questar Pipeline Company is meeting with stakeholders to discuss building another pipeline to move natural gas within its system. At the Coalition Board meeting on January 27, 2006, Questar made a presentation outlining two possible routes BLM will consider for the 24-inch pipeline, both involving Nine Mile Canyon. They asked the Board to declare its preference between the routes. Questar plans to have public meetings, file for permits, and produce an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement by the end of 2006; begin construction in 2007; and have facilities in place by November 2007.

Questar already operates a pipeline in Nine Mile Canyon. Built thirty years ago, it is now at capacity. It runs from the Colorado border, through Nine Mile roughly following the road from Blind Canyon, west to Soldier Canyon. It is visible in some locations. One proposed route parallels the existing pipeline. The other, BLM's preferred alternative, crosses Nine Mile from north (at Water Canyon) to south (west of Peters Canyon), climbs out of Nine Mile, and then runs southwesterly, following the new proposed utility corridor and joins the existing pipeline at Pine Canyon, near Soldier Canyon. Carbon County's Planning Director, Dave Levanger, has indicated that the County's preferred alternative for the pipeline is in the bottom of Nine Mile Canyon, buried in the Scenic Backcountry Byway so Carbon County will have a nice highway when it is completed.

After a thorough discussion, the Board voted to support the BLM preferred alternative route, seeing that route as the better way to reduce the impacts of industrial activity on cultural and historic treasures in Nine Mile itself. Additionally, the Board plans to encourage Bill Barrett Corporation (BBC) to use the new roads built to accomplish this Questar route for BBC drilling and production activity, cutting down on BBC traffic in Nine

Mile Canyon from Price. The Utah Rock Art Research Association voted to support this route earlier in the month. The Board expressed its appreciation to Questar for revealing their plan's options at an early state and requesting input.

In a related matter, on February 1, Carbon County held a public hearing on a BBC request to amend its conditional use permit. BBC wants permission to house a total of ten compressors at the Daddy Canyon industrial complex and construct additional outbuildings. Nine Mile Canyon Coalition members Pam Miller, Steve Tanner, and Margene Hackney attended the hearing and pointed out that additional compressors would be needed on top of the Tavaputs Plateau, near the new utility corridor that Questar wanted to construct. They said more compressors in the canyon bottom appear unnecessary and misplaced. The County Commissioners decided to postpone a decision on the BBC request until more information is available about the new Questar pipeline and to investigate concerns raised about the noise and light pollution from BBC's existing complex at Dry Canyon.

There will no doubt be more public hearings and discussions about potential impacts and threats to Nine Mile Canyon. For example, reliable sources say BBC has purchased the Fasselin place in the middle of the canyon. Also, at a public scoping meeting held last October for the West Tavaputs Full Field Development Environmental Impact Study, BBC spokesperson, Jim Felton, said the company is planning to drill in Nine Mile Canyon itself.

The Nine Mile Canyon Coalition will do its utmost to "preserve and protect" Nine Mile Canyon and all the cultural and historic treasures therein. We need your support now more than ever.

Nine Mile Canyon Coalition Meets With Hopi Nation

by Steve Hansen

On November 17th, Coalition Board Member, Steve Tanner, Newsletter Editor, Jerry Vaculin, and Coalition Board Chair, Steve Hansen, traveled to Hopi, in northern Arizona, in response to the Hopi Nation's invitation to meet with the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition. The Hopi Cultural Preservation Office (HCPO) is extremely concerned about the pressures industrial development and increased cultural visitation are putting on the archaeological record of their northern ancestors, and asked that representatives of the Coalition update them on current developments in the region.

Meeting at the HCPO building, located on Second Mesa, we presented a colorful photo presentation that included photographs of many of the unique and irreplaceable rock art panels and stunning landscapes, as well as photographs showing numerous industrial and visitation impacts in the canyon. They recognized a need to actively participate in the preservation of the canyon's prehistoric record.

Sitting at a table among many elders of the Hopi

Nation was an exciting and humbling experience. Hopi participants in the meeting recognized many of the images pecked into and painted on the walls of Nine Mile Canyon as clan symbols relating to their people. For this reason, they have a keen and determined interest in working with us to preserve and protect this cultural archive left behind by their prehistoric predecessors.

Since our meeting with the HCPO in November, the Coalition has received a letter from them in which they endorse the nomination of Nine Mile Canyon to the National Register of Historic Places (see Hopi letter next page). They have endorsed the listing of Nine Mile Canyon on The National Trust for Historic Preservation's list of America's Most Endangered Places and have reemphasized their continuing support of the Coalition's mission.

The Coalition thanks the Hopi Nation for their support, and we look forward to a continuing and cooperative effort to preserve and protect Nine Mile Canyon.

Board Members

Chair: Pam Miller - *Price, Utah*

Past Chair: Steven Hansen - *Holladay, Utah*

Secretary: E. dythe Marette - *Duchesne, Utah*

Treasurer: Craig Houskeeper - *Price, Utah*

Board Members:

Chanel Atwood - *Price, Utah*

Jim Brown - *Roosevelt, Utah*

Doyle Cesspooch - *Duchesne, Utah*

Diane Gorman - *Price, Utah*

Keith Rowley - *Duchesne, Utah*

Steve Tanner - *Helper, Utah*

Bill Walsh - *Fruitland, Utah*

Ex Officio Board Members

H. Bert Jenson - *Myton, Utah*

Betsy Chapoose - *Fort Duchesne, Utah*

Bureau of Land Management Representative

Wayne Ludington - *Price, Utah*

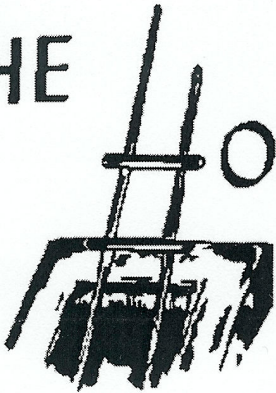
Newsletter Editor

Jerry Vaculin - *Holladay, Utah*

Web Master

Tracey Johnson - *Price, Utah*

THE HOPI TRIBE



Wayne Taylor, Jr.
CHAIRMAN

VICE-CHAIRMAN

November 24, 2005

Nine Mile Canyon Coalition
Steven C. Hansen, Chair
4455 Albright Drive
Holladay, Utah 84124-3519

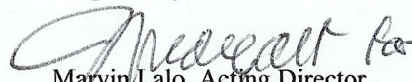
Dear Nine Mile Canyon Coalition,

This letter is in support of the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition's development and submittal of a National Register of Historic Places Nomination for Nine Mile Canyon. As you know, the Hopi Tribe claims cultural affiliation to the Archaic and Fremont prehistoric cultural groups in Nine Mile Canyon, and the Hopi Tribe and Hopi Cultural Preservation Office previously supported the Coalition's successful nomination of Nine Mile Canyon for inclusion on the National Trust for Historic Preservation's *America's 11 Most Endangered Places* list.

Nine Mile Canyon is a National Scenic Backcountry Byway and internationally renowned repository of prehistoric archaeological sites, including approximately 10,000 petroglyphs and pictographs. Inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, as well as *America's 11 Most Endangered Places* list, would further serve to protect and preserve the Canyon's historic and cultural places by raising public awareness of the immanent threats that are facing this unique national treasure. As another major step toward protecting and preserving the Canyon's unique cultural resources, we enthusiastically support the listing of Nine Mile Canyon on the National Register

The Hopi Cultural Preservation Office shares the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition's hope that through our mutual efforts and Nine Mile Canyon's listing on the National Register of Historic Places and among *America's 11 Most Endangered Place* will set in motion events that will allow the National Trust to de-list the Canyon from "endangered" status and ensure it with a "treasure preserved" status. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Terry Morgart or Clay Hamilton at the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office. Thank you again for your consideration.

Respectfully,


Marvin Lalo, Acting Director
Hopi Cultural Preservation Office

xc: BLM State Director, P.O. Box 45155, Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0155
National Trust for Historic Preservation, Office of Communications/ 11 Most Endangered,
1785 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20036

Longtime Canyon Resident, Lucille W. Wimmer, Turns 100

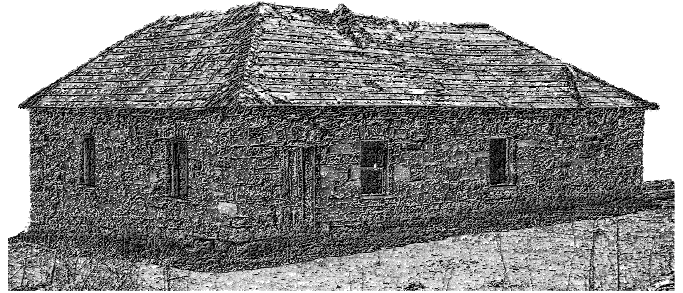
by Edythe Wimmer Marett

Described by Sun-Advocate reporter Tom McCourt as "A lady for 100 years with ties to Nine Mile," Lucille W. Wimmer recently celebrated her 100th birthday. A crowd of over 250 friends and relatives marked this occasion with a buffet dinner party in Richfield where she now resides.

All ten of her living children and their descendants were present. Mrs. Wimmer first came to Duchesne County as a newly-trained school teacher, having just finished her "concentrated course in preparation for teaching" at U. of U. At the end of her second year teaching in one-room schools in Duchesne County she married local rancher Harold J. (Jack) Wimmer. They farmed near Duchesne for several years before the Wimmer family purchased the Ed Harmon "rock house" and ranch in Nine Mile Canyon in 1939. Wimmer Brothers had acquired property in Argyle Canyon by homesteading in the 1930's. The Nine Mile ranches provided farm land to raise feed for the cattle in winter. Wimmers later acquired the Neil Hanks and the Ernest Davis ranches in Nine Mile as well as the Ralph Gibboney/Verdus Olsen property in Argyle Canyon. Mrs. Wimmer also taught in the

one-room school in Nine Mile before she and her husband moved to the ranch in Argyle. There she lived until after her husband passed away, after a brief illness and surgery, in 1977.

Family members say that the secret to her long life is her good attitude and the fact that she has always been active, outgoing, and she walks every day. She



also usually has a quilt she is working on and she reads several books per week. Daughter Sally Henry stops by and gives Lucille a copy of the Salt Lake newspapers each morning, which she reads before going about her daily activities.



Nine Mile Canyon E-Mail Action Alert List

As part of our continuing effort to protect and preserve Nine Mile Canyon we are in the process of compiling an e-mail Action Alert List. We believe this to be a valuable tool in promoting public awareness of issues pertinent to Nine Mile Canyon and the surrounding region. We encourage our members -and all interested parties—to join our list to receive immediate updates on Nine Mile issues and information on how you can make your voice heard. Nine Mile Canyon faces a very challenging future and we need your help in protecting this fragile and irreplaceable national treasure. To join the alert list, please register your name at : hansensteve@cwest.net

State Legislature Introduces Bill Affecting State Antiquities

Utah State Representative Bradley T. Johnson (R-Kanab) has introduced House Bill 139. Passage of this bill would shift permitting duties for archaeological projects on state lands from the Antiquities Section within State History to the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office (PLPCO) within the governor's office where it would be under the domain of non-archaeologists and non-historians, and second, it would lower the existing permit standards required for archaeologists to conduct clearance projects on state lands. The legislation appears to eliminate the position of State Archaeologist, the state's primary advocate for the protection and preservation of cultural resources on state land.

There is a perception among some state agencies and officials that archaeological clearances on state projects are too costly and cumbersome, and that the state archaeologist has frustrated their ability to develop those lands. The bill would create a system whereby oversight of archaeological projects would be shifted to individuals who would take into account economic considerations, as well as historic values. And by lowering the standards for archaeological permits, archaeological clearances could be done less expensively by hiring individuals not adequately trained in the science.

The Board of Directors of the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition believes that this bill would be devastating to the protection and preservation of our precious and irreplaceable archaeological treasures throughout the state. We encourage you to contact your state representative and state senator to register your opposition and to urge them to vote against this destructive and ill-conceived bill. Please do so as soon as possible.

The full text of HB139 can be found at: <http://www.le.state.ut.us/~2006/htmdoc/hbillhtm/HB0139.htm>

Contact information for your State Representative can be found at: <http://www.le.state.ut.us/house/members2005/membertable1.asp>.

Contact information for your State Senator can be found at: <http://www.utahsenate.org/perl/spage/roster2005.pl>

If your representative or senator says that he/she favors or opposes HB139 ask him/her for their reasons. Then please contact us with that feedback at hansensteven@qwest.net.

Thank you for your diligence!

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 programs, as such funds become available.

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 _____

Nine Mile Canyon Coalition is a 501(c3) Non-Profit organization. As always, your membership and generous contributions are tax deductible.

Annual (\$25)

Corporate (\$1000)

Additional Gift

\$ _____

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

Thank you for your support!

- hat
- shovel
- rake
- work gloves
- sun screen
- plenty to drink
- eating utensils
- pot luck lunch contribution

Meet at the Daddy Canyon Complex (milepost 43.8) at 9 AM

Annual Spring Clean-Up!

Saturday April 22nd



Nine Mile Canyon Coalition
 P.O. Box 402
 Price, Utah 84501