

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Congressional Review Act Toolkit

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This toolkit contains context, suggested advocacy action and email language, as well as resources and background information on Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and the Congressional Review Act threat. Questions? Contact Grant Stevens at the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA): grant@suwa.org or 319-427-0260 (text or call)

Context

On March 4, the elected officials behind 2025's failed public lands sell-off attempts – Senator Mike Lee (R-UT) and Rep. Celeste Maloy (R-UT-02) – [introduced a joint resolution](#) to undo the [Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument \(GSENM\)](#) Management Plan using the Congressional Review Act (CRA). If Congress passes the resolution, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), who manages the Monument, will be barred from issuing another plan that is “substantially the same” in the future. Additional background info can be found in Feb. 26 and [Jan. 22](#) press releases.

Utah's federal delegation (Senators Lee & Curtis, Representatives Maloy, Moore, Owens, and Kennedy) are trying to leverage an obscure law – the [Congressional Review Act \(CRA\)](#) – to undo the Biden-era plan. This is the first time the CRA has ever been used on a National Monument Management Plan, though the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness is currently facing a similar threat, as a CRA joint resolution has been introduced to undo a 20-year administrative mineral withdrawal put in place by the Biden Administration. This resolution has passed the House and is awaiting action in the Senate.

We believe our best chance to defeat this will be in the House of Representatives, but we encourage you to direct advocacy actions to both the House and Senate. **We may see a vote on the Joint Resolution in the House in the coming weeks - please share with your members and supporters as soon as possible!**

Advocacy Actions & Social Posts:

- SUWA's Advocacy Action, which anyone is welcome to share out and use: <https://suwa.quorum.us/campaign/153366/> or suwa.org/protectgrandstaircase
- Blog post from SUWA: [Actions You Can Take to Defend Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument](#)
- Blog Post from SUWA: [Debunking Rep. Maloy's "Fact Sheet" on Grand Staircase-Escalante](#)
- We encourage you to use graphics from [this folder](#) or photos from [this folder](#) (be sure to credit photographers) or [GSENM Scenics](#) to accompany any of your materials. Additional photos & video from The Wilderness Society can be [found here](#); please review the [usage guidelines](#).

- Additional graphics - including great #'s on polling re: GSENM can be [found here](#).
- [Additional social suggestions + materials from the National Monuments Coalition](#).

Message to Members of Congress on Advocacy Action Form

As a constituent, I am writing to urge you to vote NO on House Joint Resolution 151 and Senate Joint Resolution 109, which seek to undo the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Management Plan. The monument – a crown jewel of America’s public lands and a place like nowhere else in the world – is overwhelmingly popular with Utahns and Americans; it should be protected for its rich biodiversity, unique geology, and remarkable cultural values. It is a popular recreation destination where many local businesses operate as guides and outfitters and support visitors from across the nation and the world. These Joint Resolutions to disapprove the plan put everything that is special about Grand Staircase-Escalante at risk. Please vote NO

Draft Social Posts

- Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument is under attack. Utah politicians are attempting to undo the current Monument Management Plan. This would be a devastating blow and could turn the Monument into a very different place: one where out-of-control off-road vehicle (ORV) use, landscape-level clearcutting of native pinyon-juniper forests, and other extractive activities are all possible. You can help us stop this attack, but time is of the essence and we’ve got a short window to act. Reach out to your Members of Congress TODAY and tell them: Vote no and protect Grand Staircase-Escalante! www.suwa.org/grandstaircase
- Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument is under attack. Utah politicians could turn it into a place where out-of-control off-road vehicle (ORV) use, landscape-level clearcutting, and other extractive activities are all possible. Reach out to Congress TODAY: www.suwa.org/grandstaircase

Additional Talking Points & Background on Grand Staircase-Escalante:

General Talking Points

- You can help us stop this attack on the Monument and fight back but time is of the essence. We’ve got a short window to stop this latest scheme. Reach out to your Members of Congress TODAY and tell them: Vote against the plan to fast-track destruction of Grand Staircase-Escalante!
- Grand Staircase-Escalante - a spectacular landscape with irreplaceable resources - is under attack by short-sighted Utah politicians. The Monument – a crown jewel of America’s public lands and a landscape like nowhere else in the world - is overwhelmingly popular with [Utahns](#) and [Americans](#).
- Senator Mike Lee, Representative Celeste Maloy, and other Utah politicians have again brought uncertainty and chaos to a place that should be protected for its rich

biodiversity, unique geology, and remarkable cultural values. The monument is also a popular recreation destination and many local businesses operate as guides & outfitters for visitors.

- Utah politicians – locally and nationally – have aggressively and enthusiastically pushed unpopular and widely-criticized efforts attacking public lands in Utah. Since it was established in 1996, Utah politicians have continually attacked the Monument, failing at every turn. Today, the Monument is beloved by local chambers of commerce, everyday Utahns, and visitors from across the nation. This assault on Grand Staircase-Escalante is just the latest iteration.
- Eliminating the Monument management plan could mean a very different landscape – one where out-of-control off-road vehicles (ORVs) use, landscape-level clearcutting of native pinyon-juniper forests, and other extractive/damaging activities are all possible.

Why is the Monument so special?

- Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument is known as the “Science Monument” because of its unique role as both an outdoor laboratory and museum for scientific research.
- *Geology*: The “Grand Staircase” refers to a sequence of colorful rock layers, over a hundred miles long, that step down from Bryce Canyon National Park to Grand Canyon National Park, forming a stunning staircase visible on the landscape and exposing one of the most complete sedimentary records of the Mesozoic era on Earth.
- *Cultural resources*: Grand Staircase-Escalante holds tens of thousands of cultural sites connected to Tribal Nations that have lived in and around the monument since time immemorial.
- *Wilderness*: Over 1.6 million of the Monument’s 1.9 million acres are wilderness-quality lands; these undeveloped areas provide opportunities for increasingly rare solitude and quiet, as well as dark night skies.
- *Fossil record*: The Monument contains some of the most significant Late Cretaceous fossil sites in North America, including multiple newly described dinosaur species and other ancient plants and animals.
- *Wildlife*: From desert bighorn sheep and mule deer to mountain lions, birds of prey, a remarkably diverse array of native bees and pollinators, and sensitive desert plants, the monument shelters a wide range of species that rely on large, connected habitats.

- *Watershed:* The Monument safeguards the heart of the greater Colorado River watershed, which provides drinking water to millions of downstream users.
- *Local Communities and Outdoor Recreation:* Drawing visitors from around the world to hike, backpack, picnic, canyoneer, stargaze, camp, and explore, Grand Staircase-Escalante is the heart of a sustainable tourism and recreation economy in nearby towns, supporting local outfitters, lodging, restaurants, and guiding businesses while diversifying beyond boom-and-bust extractive industries. Bryce Canyon, Zion, and Capitol Reef National Parks form the backbone of the tourism economy in Utah and especially southern Utah, and Grand Staircase–Escalante National Monument provides critical connectivity that maintains intact wildlife habitat, sweeping visual corridors, and a cohesive red-rock landscape between these parks.