

# Nine Mile Canyon Coalition News

Fall 2004

ninemilecanyoncoalition.org

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way to stay  
informed and  
a wonderful  
resource for  
anyone plan-  
ning a trip to  
Nine Mile!

## *Board Chair's Message, by Steve Hansen*

Greetings Coalition Members!

It was so good to see and spend time with so many of you at our very successful Annual Fall Gathering in September. Not only were we treated with an abundance of activities and demonstrations, but the food was superb and the weather could not have been better. I would like to thank Bill Walsh and Shirley Weathers for the great work they did in organizing the event, Ben and Myrna Mead for the outstanding meals and accommodations they provided, and each person who took charge of a specific part of the weekend. Thanks, too, to everyone who attended. Being together in the canyon we all love is what makes the Fall Gathering weekend so memorable each year.

I also want to congratulate and thank the many organizations and individuals who participated in the National Public Lands Day projects held in Nine Mile Canyon on Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. The hours of planning, preparation and labor at the Great Hunt panel, the Daddy Canyon Interpretive Trail and picnic facilities, and the Cottonwood Glen Day Use facility have resulted in new public assets that will help to preserve and protect the canyon's beautiful and delicate resources.

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I have been troubled recently by some apparent misunderstandings about the Coalition's stance on industrial development in Nine Mile Canyon and would like to take this opportunity to set the record straight. Specifically, I have heard it said that the Board of Directors has taken a position in opposition to energy development. This is not accurate. The Board of Directors of the Nine Mile

### BLM Announces RMP Public Comment Extension

**The Bureau of Land Management – Price Field Office has announced an extension to the public comment period regarding the Resource Management Plan . This extension allows you to submit your comments no later than Monday November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2004.**

We again encourage you to let your voices be heard regarding how your public lands, including Nine Mile Canyon, will be managed for the next 20 years. The draft RMP can be found at <http://www.pricermp.com/draftEIS.asp>.

Canyon Coalition has neither endorsed nor objected to energy and other industrial development in the region. Instead, the Coalition Board feels a responsibility and duty to inform our members of issues that affect Nine Mile Canyon, to facilitate access to available informational resources, and to encourage our members and the public to become actively involved in public processes that pertain to the canyon. The Coalition does not object to industrial development by entities that hold legally acquired leases to develop the resources in the region. It is our duty and responsibility to abide by the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition's mission to preserve and protect the canyon; therefore we must do what we can to see that such development does not negatively impact the prehistoric, historic, and cultural resources in the canyon, as well as try to protect and preserve the aesthetic and scenic qualities of the canyon and promote the safety of visitors and residents. To that end, we also accept as our responsibility and duty bringing interested organizations and users together - to facilitate public scrutiny, discourse, and negotiation on issues pertaining to this world-class public treasure. It is only through such processes and activities that we can mitigate potential harmful impacts to the canyon and its cultural and scenic resources.

A prime example of positive results that can be accomplished through dialog and inclusive negotiations between interested parties involves me personally. I have been working over the past few months with the Bill Barrett Corporation (BBC) in drafting an agreement that would allow them to realign an existing pipeline easement through a property owned by a company of which I am a member. It has been a complicated, expensive and difficult task, in that the private landowner was only presented with an easement realignment plan that would fit into the West Tavaputs Plateau Drilling Program after it had already been released to the general public for comment and approved by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Neither BBC nor the BLM approached me or my partners with their plans prior to approving the project.

However, in the end, through cooperative, thorough and thoughtful negotiation between all parties, the private landowner and BBC have been able to reach a consensus on a new easement agreement that I feel is not only a win-win for BBC, the private landowner, and the public, but also serves as a model of what can be accomplished through such inclusive evaluation and negotiation.

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.**" The charge presented by our mission is considerable. It does not, as some have said, drive us to obstruct industry's right to explore and develop their mineral leases, but compels us to make sure that multiple uses do not compromise the unique and sensitive cultural and natural resources in the canyon, or the rights and protections of private land holders. Past visitors who attended the Fall Gathering this year had an opportunity to see that Nine Mile Canyon is a substantially more industrial landscape than before and that it is progressively serving more and more as a thoroughfare for associated heavy equipment. The Coalition has never had need to be more vigilant. Therefore, it is our intention to be true to our mission by ensuring that the BLM, the State, and the counties manage the region in a responsible and sensitive manner, and that industries respect and mitigate potential harmful impacts to this wonderful and unique public treasure and its surrounding region.

Steve Hansen – Chairman of the Board

## 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.

## FALL GATHERING THANKS YOU !! *by Bill Walsh*

As organizers of the Fall Gathering, Shirley Weathers and I join the Board of the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition in extending our deep appreciation for all the volunteer activity that made the September 10 & 11, 2004 Fall Gathering such a success. We all had a great time and raised \$1,400 to fund Coalition projects.

Mother Nature even helped. It did not rain on the Fall Gathering for the first time in many years.

Special acknowledgement is extended to:

- Tour leaders Jesse Warner, Chanel Atwood, Bob and Margene Hackney, Steve Hansen.
- Dawna Houskeeper for registration, meal tickets, and money management.
- Norma and Jerrold Dalton Family for Silent Auction preparation, production, awnings, and income.
- All the generous people who donated items to the Silent Auction.
- All the nice people who purchased items mentioned above.
- Diane Gorman and Fred Jenkins for stocking and operating the Coalition Store.
- Jay Frandsen for the flint knapping demonstration.
- Ray and Patty Thompson for the atlatl and beading demonstrations.
- The Nine Mile Players for music that fit the place and occasion.
- Les Schultz for a well-researched talk about Nine Mile Canyon's Buffalo Soldiers.
- Edythe Marett for the home grown and baked bread, and entertainment arrangements.
- Pam Miller for the sound system.
- Jim Brown for providing chairs.
- Ben and Myrna Mead and their helpers at the Nine Mile Canyon Bunk & Breakfast for the delicious meals

Steve Hansen chaired the Coalition Annual meeting, with help from Board members Pam Miller, Diane Gorman, Steve Tanner, and Dawna Houskeeper providing a positive Treasurer's Report.

Cory Jensen from the Utah Division of State History reported on the nomination of Nine Mile Canyon to the National Register of Historic Places, expressing confidence that the nomination would progress when BLM gave its buyoff.

Bill Barrett was invited to speak but he had other commitments so he sent Jim Felton and Tab McGinley to represent BBC. Felton said that BBC gas development activity was at its peak and that: "In two years you will hardly be able to see the BBC 'footprint'." Semis hauling pipe were present both day and night during the weekend. Many Coalition members asked questions about safety, road issues, and made skeptical comments, but generally were cordial to the BBC guests. Repeated questions about future gas development plans and impacts to Nine Mile Canyon were not addressed as BBC respondents preferred to discuss present, approved activities.

BLM's Advisor to the Coalition Board, Wayne Ludington, discussed Public Lands Day projects in Nine Mile Canyon, including an interpretive Trail at Daddy Canyon. This was welcome news and coincided with the recent release of the "Exploring Nine Mile Canyon" brochure, cooperatively produced by the Coalition, Carbon County Travel Bureau, Castle Country Travel Region, Duchesne County Chamber of Commerce, Utah Humanities Council, and the Carbon County Restaurant Tax Committee.

Coalition Board Chair Steve Hansen stressed public involvement in matters concerning Nine Mile Canyon. Steve did a Year In Review report and noted upcoming important activities for public involvement. He encouraged members to periodically visit the Coalition web site, [www.ninemilecanyoncoalition.org](http://www.ninemilecanyoncoalition.org), to keep up to date. Steve thanked all who attended the 2004 Fall Gathering and who made it such a success.

# ANOTHER SETBACK FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION

By Bill Walsh

To all of us long-suffering members who long to see Nine Mile Canyon listed on the National Register of Historic Places, we'll have to wait some more.

By way of recent background, on September 22, Coalition Board Chair Steve Hansen wrote to State BLM Director Sally Wisely to request an update on Nine Mile Canyon's nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Readers of the Spring 2004 newsletter will recall that Ms. Wisely committed that the Price BLM Field Office would submit the nomination to the State Board of History by July 1, 2004. Indeed, the Price Field Office submitted the nomination to the State BLM and State History Office on time. At the Fall Gathering, Cory Jensen, who staffs the National Register coordinator position at the State History Office, reported that the nomination was in progress and would proceed as soon as the State BLM bought off on it and the State Board of History approved it, possibly in their November 2004 meeting.

Sally Wisely responded to Steve's inquiry on October 27, 2004. The letter (portions below) speaks for itself:

“Because we want the nomination to have the highest chances of success, we recently conducted an internal Bureau of Land Management (BLM) review. As you may know, after a State Historic Preservation Officer completes a nomination package, BLM's Washington office reviews all BLM land nominations before they are forwarded to the Keeper of the National Register. Since specialists in that office have reviewed and forwarded dozens of nominations, we informally submitted the draft nomination to them and others with such experience in BLM, and asked for a preliminary review. Unanimously the recommendation was to focus the nomination and present the unique and compelling reasons for the nomination. A related matter is the nomination does not discuss site condition and integrity, critical elements which relate directly to the significance criteria. The nomination, by being all-inclusive and general, is too diffused to present a convincing case for National Register listing.

Regrettably, even after the hard work of the Nine Mile Coalition and the BLM, the nomination form is not ready for submission. It requires substantial technical revision to have a reasonable probability of supporting a National Register listing for Nine Mile Canyon sites.”

The letter goes on to say that the nomination is an accomplishment BLM wants to see fulfilled. Ms Wisely assured us that “the delay does not compromise protection of Nine Mile Canyon's important sites.”

The letter leaves some important questions unanswered. It gives no indication of a timeline or person(s) responsible to take the nomination to the next step. It doesn't say what the next step might be.

Members of the Coalition Board will try to facilitate a meeting in the very near future among the State BLM, Price BLM Field Office, the State Historic Preservation Officer, and parties who have worked directly on the nomination. The agenda will cover the ten-year history to produce the National Register nomination, public input into the process, whether the Nine Mile Canyon nomination should be an historic/archeological district or multiple-sites of strictly rock art, who will be assigned to revise the nomination, a timeline for completion, and any items BLM wishes to discuss.

As Yogi Berra famously said: “It's déjà vu all over again.” Hang in there with us, long-suffering readers. Good things come to those who persist.

# Coalition Membership

Due to rising postal rates, as well as to an increase in the number of mailings being sent to our membership and public officials each year, the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition Board of Directors recently voted to make changes to the membership rates and options. You will notice that there are now only two membership types, "Annual Membership" (\$25) and "Corporate Membership" (\$1,000). We sincerely hope that the increase will not deter anyone from continuing to support the work of the Coalition.

Besides funding the production and mailing of our newsletters and alerts, your dues are used to help fund such projects as the Nine Mile Canyon Interpretive Plan and Trail Systems, picnic and restroom facilities, and other canyon improvements.

The Nine Mile Canyon Coalition membership year runs from October 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup>. If you have joined the Coalition on or after January 1<sup>st</sup>, your first year's membership is valid through September 30<sup>th</sup> of the following year (meaning you could receive an extra nine months of membership before needing to renew).

If you have not yet renewed your membership for the current membership year (2004-05), we encourage you to do so.

**Remember** that your membership fees and generous contributions to the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition are tax deductible, in that we are a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization.

*Thank you for your continued participation and generosity!*

## 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

**Annual (\$25)**

**Corporate (\$1000)**

**Additional Gift**

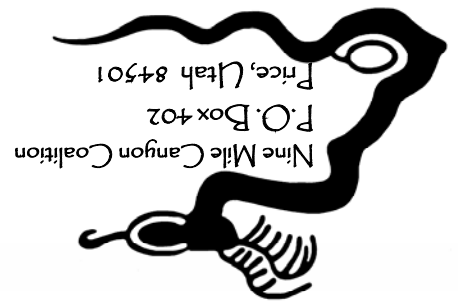
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Please make check or money order payable to: **Nine Mile Canyon Coalition**

*Thank you for your support!*

**Lecture by Edward A. Geary**  
**18 November 2004**  
**Thursday – 7:00 P.M.**  
**CEU Prehistoric Museum Classroom**  
**Lecture is free and open to the public**

Edward A. Geary is a professor of English and chair of the English Department at Brigham Young University, and former director of the Charles Redd Center for Western Studies. He is the author of several books and articles on Utah regional topics, including Nine Mile Canyon: Eastern Utah's Forgotten Road (Utah Historical Quarterly, Vol. 49, No. 1) and A History of Emery County (Utah State Historical Society, 1996).



We Wish Each of You  
a Wonderful Holiday  
Season and a Happy  
and Prosperous New  
Year!