

# Nine Mile Canyon Coalition News

Fall/Winter 2006

ninemilecanyoncoalition.org

“There is  
something  
infinitely healing  
in the repeated  
refrains of  
nature—



the assurance  
that dawn  
comes after  
night, and  
spring after the  
winter.”

*Rachel Carson*

## ***Board Chair’s Message, by Pam Miller***

Dear Coalition Members:

We met in September for the Fall Gathering, joyous to be together celebrating Nine Mile Canyon, but experiencing a sense of despair over current events. With this newsletter we hope to lift some of that feeling. Read Bill’s article on the National Register Nomination to see why we feel a sense of positive action.

We missed all of you who couldn’t make it to the Fall Gathering. Nine Mile Canyon was beautiful due to the cleansing qualities of the rain. Some hikes were cut short on Saturday because of the rain but it didn’t dampen spirits. It turned out to be a great adventure. Read Steve Hansen’s report on the Fall Gathering.

We express our sincere appreciation to those who attended the Fall Gathering, and to those who contributed wonderful items to the auction and to those who were generous in purchasing tickets for the silent auction and bidding on objects in the live auction. Little did we know that Bill Walsh was such a talented auctioneer; we salute him for his efforts. Those who were unable to attend missed a great show. We recognize those who planned and made the Gathering a success: Diane Gorman-Jenkins, Chanel Atwood, Dawna Housekeeper, the Meads, and all of our guides and helpers. We convey our gratitude.

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We had a very productive Board Meeting on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2006 in Duchesne. The Board voted to align the National Register Nomination and the boundaries of the proposed district with the requirements of the Keeper of the Register. Our battle is not with the Bureau of Land Management; in fact, there is no longer a battle. We are pursuing a credible nomination with professionally defensible boundaries. We also voted to send the nomination to the Keeper for informal review to see what comments we get back on the proposed boundaries. Board members attending the meeting felt like this was a watershed moment for the Coalition and for Nine Mile Canyon. Bill’s report should summarize an ensuing meeting between BLM representatives and our contractor, Jerry Spangler.

Thank you for your continuing support for Nine Mile Canyon. Enjoy the Holiday Season because after Christmas we are watching for the Price Resource Area Resource Management Plan to be released. We also expect the West Tavaputs Environmental Impact Statement to be issued sometime after the first of the year. Steve Hansen will send out alerts when these documents are available. Get ready to read!

I hope to see you in the Canyon –  
Pam Miller, Chair

# What's Happened to the NRHP Nomination?

by Bill Walsh

The Nomination of Nine Mile Canyon to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) is on the move.

This newsletter has had numerous articles on this subject since the Millennium. As you recall, there was a meeting in 2005 when the State BLM Office asked the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition to take over writing the NRHP nomination, recognizing that Rock Art would be the primary theme, and BLM would provide the mapping and photo services needed to finish the nomination. There was disagreement on the boundaries of the archeological district at the time, but activities proceeded.

The Coalition raised \$14,000 and hired Jerry Spangler of the Colorado Plateau Archaeological Alliance to write the nomination. Jerry is an archeologist and he and Donna Spangler are authors of *Horned Snakes and Axle Grease: A Roadside Guide to the Archaeology, History and Rock Art of Nine Mile Canyon*. To date, Jerry has written 100 pages of the Nomination.

The Coalition Board is pleased with the content and the BLM State Office has approved it. Jerry says, "All that's needed now is agreement on the boundaries and a few related issues and I'll finish it."

The Coalition Board held a two-hour pre-meeting on November 5, 2006, prior to the regular Board meeting, to thoroughly discuss the nomination process. The Board considered the relevant federal regulations, looked closely at terms and definitions that caused confusion in the past, and considered various strategies to move the nomination forward. Cory Jensen from the Utah Division of State History was very helpful in the deliberations. Later, the Board unanimously voted to ask the Keeper of the National Register for an informal review of the nomination with boundaries set at rim-to-rim dimensions. The Board determined these boundaries are justifiable based on evidence and consideration of where the Native American artists lived and worked. The Board

has asked Jerry Spangler to write up the proper description for rim-to-rim boundaries.

At a November 8, 2006 meeting called by the BLM State Office, progress on the nomination was noted and additional assignments were made. BLM put forth a proposal for smaller boundaries: using the creek as a center line, they propose to extend the boundaries one kilometer in each direction, add Dry, Cottonwood, and Argyle Canyons and they will write up this description. BLM has agreed to accept the informal review decision of the Keeper regarding which boundary to use in the final application.

There will be another meeting, December 14, called by Shelly Smith of the State BLM Office, at the Price BLM Field Office, for all involved parties to present the NRHP nomination and review the situation. Let us hope that the end may be in sight for nominating Nine Mile Canyon for this well-deserved honor.

## Nine Mile Canyon Story, Poetry and Photo Competition

### Hear Ye, Hear Ye: The Nine Mile Canyon Story, Poetry and Photo Competition has just begun!

Over the past several years, industrial pressures have forced the preservation and protection of Nine Mile Canyon to the forefront of the Coalition's focus. As these pressures have increased, our newsletter has become, and will continue to be, a valuable tool in helping to keep our membership aware of the very serious issues facing the canyon and the important part you all play in ensuring its future.

Having said that, we also feel that the newsletter should serve to remind us of *why*, as individuals, we have such an incredible attachment to the canyon and therefore a personal stake in its future. We'd like to invite you to share your stories, photographs, and poetry with us. The Coalition is seeking canyon-related stories, poetry (of all kinds!) and photographs from the vast treasure trove of our member's experiences in the canyon. Tell us about

the flash flood that you got stranded behind, the big buck that barely got away – even the time you had two d\*mned flat tires in one trip! Funny? Scary? Touching? It doesn't matter, we'd like to hear from you! Everybody who has lived in, worked in, or visited Nine Mile Canyon has memorable experiences and we'd like you to share them with us and our readers.

Please submit your contributions (more than one per contestant are welcome) to the newsletter editor, Jerry Vaculin, no later than Wednesday January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007, via email (preferred method) to [hansenstevenc@qwest.net](mailto:hansenstevenc@qwest.net) or US Postal to: Newsletter Editor, 4455 Albright Drive, Holladay, UT 84124. Awards will be presented for the categories of funniest, the most frightening, and the most inspiring and best all-around contribution for story, poetry and photograph. The entire membership will then be able to enjoy each other's Nine Mile experiences in upcoming issues of the newsletter.

# Cooperative Efforts Correct Mistakes at *Great Hunt* Panel

In the Summer 2006 issue of this newsletter, Margene Hackney, Coalition member and President of the Castle Valley Chapter of the Utah Statewide Archaeological Society (CVAS), wrote an article about the unsightly pillars that had been installed at the world famous *Great Hunt* panel in Cottonwood Canyon. A letter she wrote to Kevin Carter, Director of the State Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) in May, reviewed progress on the Interpretive Plan project and reported that the pillars had not been installed in accordance with the Plan.

She stressed an urgent need to find a way to remove the pillars.

We are pleased to announce that today the pillars are gone and the area has been reseeded. The Nine Mile Canyon Coalition wishes to thank the organizations involved in doing this important work: CVAS, SITLA, Carbon County, and especially Margene. Now we can look forward to see new growth this Spring.



- 1) With skilled maneuvering, the misplaced and oversized columns are removed.
- 2) Kurt Higgins and LaVonne Garrison of SITLA at work reseeded.
- 3) Scott Chamberlain, SITLA Range Specialist, raking in the seed.

(Photos courtesy of Kristine Curry)

## Board Members

**Chair:** Pam Miller - *Price, Utah*

**Past Chair:** Steven Hansen - *Holladay, Utah*

**Secretary:** Edythe Marett - *Duchesne, Utah*

**Treasurer:** Craig Houskeeper - *Price, Utah*

### Board Members:

Chanel Atwood - *Price, Utah*

Jim Brown - *Roosevelt, Utah*

Doyle Cesspooch - *Fort 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*

## Bookkeeper

Dawna Houskeeper - *Price, Utah*

## Newsletter Editor

Jerry Vaculin - *Holladay, Utah*

## Web Master

Tracey Johnson - *Price, Utah*

# Festive Fall Gathering 2006

*by Steve Hansen*

The Nine Mile Canyon Coalition's Annual Fall Gathering was held on Friday September 9<sup>th</sup> through Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup>, and once again, the event did not disappoint. In fact, it was a smashing success!

This year's Fall Gathering Chair, Diane Gorman-Jenkins, and Board Members Chanel Atwood and Dawna Houskeeper, proved to be quite the event coordinators. A streamlined and effective registration process, with meal passes and event schedules provided on each participant's name badge for easy reference, helped make the event easy to manage and navigate.

Coalition members and camp hosts, Ben and Myrna Mead, provided a tidy campground and four splendid meals for the Gathering's participants. This was quite a feat, considering the major renovation project currently in process at the Nine Mile Bunk & Breakfast. The unfinished basement in the B&B's spacious room expansion provided a protected space for Diane Gorman-Jenkins to setup the Coalition Store and silent auction. The weather was mostly fabulous, but for the few inclement weather moments that moved through, the shelter proved to be a welcome venue for the merchandise to be displayed.

The focus for this Fall Gathering was on three planned field trips. On Saturday a tour of Gate Canyon was conducted by the Coalition's founding Chair, Bert Jensen. Bert's knowledge of early 20<sup>th</sup> century freighter history

across what is now a Scenic Backcountry Byway provided a compelling story of hardship and enterprise in the region. Bert also pointed out the place where an arch once spanned the road, providing the canyon's namesake.

A second tour was provided on Saturday to the private property at Cottonwood Village. Conducted by Steve Hansen, this tour highlighted Fremont rock art, pithouses, granaries, and defensive structures located between Cottonwood and Devils Canyons. A rare chance to view the interaction between a black widow spider and its unfortunate prey (a grasshopper) provided fun photo opportunities. Many participants on this tour were delayed on their return trip to the B&B when a flash flood rushed across the road, trapping them below Current Canyon for nearly an hour.

On Sunday Chanel Atwood conducted a tour of the always popular Warrior Ridge. This strenuous hiking trail features stunning rock art depicting battle scenes that seem to indicate that Nine Mile Canyon was a hotbed of conflict from time to time. Though this ambitious group of rock art enthusiasts made it along the entire trail, the return trip proved to be a bit tricky when it rained quite heavily on their descent.

In addition to Saturday evening's membership meeting and dinner, a very high-energy live auction was held, featuring the persuasive auctioneering talents of Bill Walsh and Pam Miller. Thanks to the

generous contributions of many Coalition members, the auction featured a variety of unique and valuable items, and there seemed to be no shortage of participants and money in the bidding process. The resulting income from the auction will help the Coalition in the coming year to further its mission in Nine Mile Canyon.

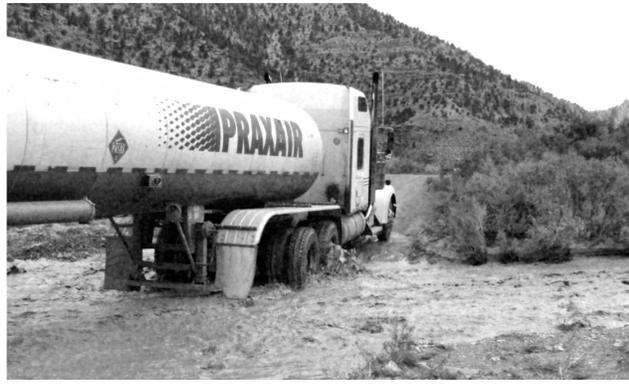
Following the auction, Edward Geary, retired professor of English at BYU, addressed the Gathering participants. He shared historical accounts of the Nine Mile Canyon Backcountry Byway as it provided the only freight and transportation route between Castle Valley and the Uinta Basin through the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. As one of Utah's busiest thoroughfares, this passage served as an invaluable resource to the military, various industries, and private travel, making possible a vibrant economy and community in Nine Mile Canyon.

A BIG thanks to Diane Gorman-Jenkins, Chanel Atwood, and Dawna Houskeeper for a well-planned and organized event. A special thanks to our hosts, Ben and Myrna Mead, to Bert Jensen and Edward Geary for their inspiring and educational contributions, and to Margene Hackney for her ambitious and experienced assistance. Thanks also to all who generously donated valuable auction items and funds to the Coalition. Your contributions will help the Coalition continue its mission through the coming year.

# Fall Gathering '06



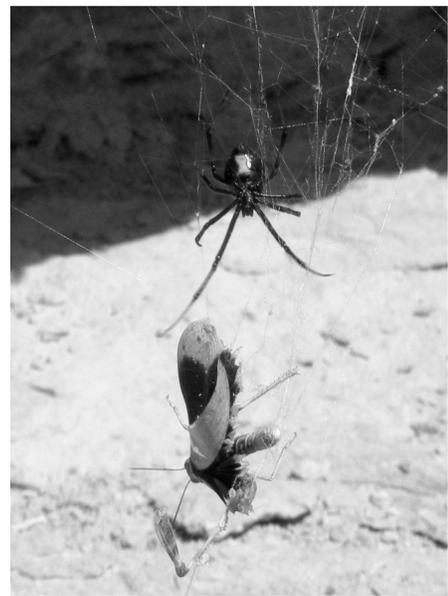
Ivan White takes in the canyon's splendor. \*



Come hell or high water! \*\*



David Cassidy, Beth Finch, Nancy Kronthaler, Chanel Atwood, Cinda Houston and Mike LeRoy at Warrior Ridge. \*



Oh what a tangled web..... \*

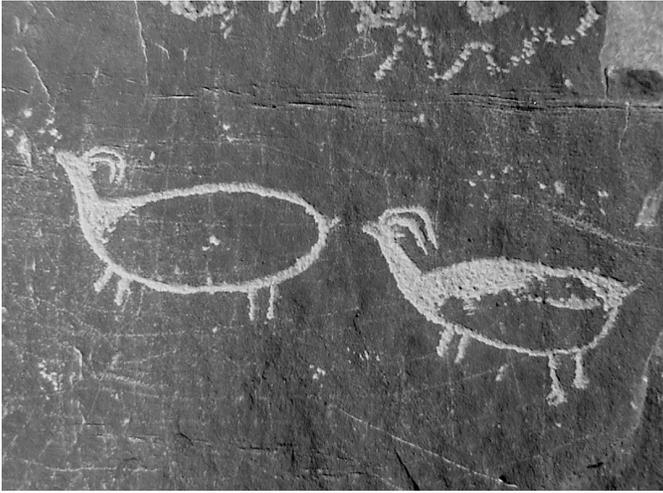


Group heads out on tour of Lower Ranch \*\*



Steve Hansen and Cinda Houston at Fremont granary site. \*\*

\*Photos courtesy of Carl Boyer \*\*Photos courtesy of Shirley Weathers



# New Membership Year Begins

October 1<sup>st</sup> marked the beginning of a new membership year. That means that its time for all of us to recommit ourselves to the work and mission of the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition by renewing our memberships. If you have not yet renewed yours, we hope that you will do so soon.

Membership in the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition is your key to keeping up-to-date on events and issues important to Nine Mile Canyon, as you continue receiving the Coalition's quarterly newsletter and periodic email alerts. Never before has

your awareness of, and involvement in issues pertaining to the canyon been needed more, as the Coalition continues to work together with the counties, the BLM, the state, Native American tribes, and other stakeholders for the canyon's well-being. All of us want to make sure that this unique and extremely delicate national treasure is preserved and protected for generations to come.

To serve as a reminder to you of your membership status, you will now find your membership expiration date (month/year) printed in

the top, right corner of the address label on your quarterly newsletter. We hope that you will continue to support the mission of the Coalition by renewing your membership today!

**Example:**



Fred & Ethel Fremont #47 Nine Mile Road Nine Mile Canyon, UT 01234	Exp: SEP06
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## 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

With the many pressures currently facing Nine Mile Canyon, your support has never been more important.

Annual (\$25)

Corporate (\$1000)

Additional Gift

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

*Thank you for your support!*

## 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.

*Celebrate the Season!*



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