

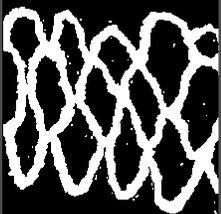


:Nine Mile Canyon Coalition News

Summer 2008

ninemilecanyoncoalition.org

Because we
don't think
about future
generations,



they will
never forget
us.

Henrik
Tikkanen

Board Chair's Message, by Pam Miller

Nine Mile Canyon Friends:

Here we are months after the last newsletter and we still don't have resolution on the submission of the nomination of Nine Mile Canyon to the National Register of Historic Places. Please read Bill Walsh's article for an update on the process.

We are hearing many rumors concerning the canyon related to various projects, but we are having a difficult time pinning down the facts. There is a final version of Constance Silver's Dust Study (the second draft was included in the draft West Tavaputs EIS). When we requested a copy from the BLM we were told it is a "preliminary final" report and therefore cannot be released to the public until it is finalized. Eventually it will be released, in advance of the final EIS, but by then will probably not be subject to public comment.

We have also heard much talk about a study to apply various dust suppressants to the Nine Mile Canyon road and test for effectiveness, but we don't know which suppressants or where or how they will be applied. Remember that BBC put magnesium chloride on the road between Harmon and Cottonwood Canyons in April and we don't know how that will impact the tests. We also don't know if they will be applied to a prepared road base. A member of our Coalition Board is also a member of the road committee, but the committee has not formally met since its inception.

There is a rumor that BLM is doing an analysis of alternative transportation routes to the West Tavaputs Plateau, but we can't track down an "official" study. The Coalition will be funding partners in an engineering study of a few of the proposed alternative routes which will be submitted to the BLM. The study will include the Trail to Harmon Canyon route and the Bruin Point access route. It may also include an Argyle to Harmon Canyon route.

What do we know? We know that UBTA-UBET Communications and Emery Telcom have been laying fiber-optic cable in the Nine Mile road this summer as a way to provide back up communication services to eastern Utah. They consulted with the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition in several meetings and a trip through the Canyon. We appreciate their efforts to consult with the Coalition and give us an opportunity to voice our concerns and make suggestions. They agreed to hire an archaeology monitor to watch for cultural resources during installation of the vaults. Their work from Gate Canyon to Harmon Canyon broke up the magnesium chloride surface of the road and has contributed to a dust problem this summer. However, there have been more water trucks at work on the Nine Mile road.

We also know that it is business as usual in the Canyon with BBC and the BLM. While we wait for the final EIS to be released with its selected alternatives, BLM is issuing Statutory Categorical Exclusions (exclusions) based on the Energy Policy Act of 2005 for BBC's applications for permits to drill (APD's). At last report 33 exclusions have been issued since March. This means that 33 wells will be drilled on the West Ta-

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vaputs Plateau without public comment or input, and without public knowledge unless you make a weekly visit to the lobby of the Price Field Office and look at the APD clipboard, or personally regularly check the Environmental Notification Bulletin Board for the Price Field Office. These exclusions do not account for cumulative effects such as increases in the dust generated on the Nine Mile road, increases in emissions from industrial equipment, or increases in the development of ground-level ozone. This tidy exclusion essentially gives public land management agencies and industry the ability to run rough-shod over the public, denying us input into the actions that will impact us on a daily basis. We are not the outsiders – industry is, and we have a right to know what is happening on our doorstep.

I acknowledge that my comments in this Chair's Message could be considered rather depressing. However, I think we are at the bottom of the barrel at this point - it can't get much worse. We'll have national and local elections in November and whoever wins the presidency and control of Congress is sure to modify/change public land management direction. We will see some new faces on the local level and that may offer changes in attitude. In Colorado there is a lively debate about short- and long-term energy policies that may leak over the border. So there is hope, realistic hope, for the future.

Come to the Fall Gathering to learn the latest news, enjoy the company of so many friends of Nine Mile Canyon, and draw strength and resolve from one of the most outstanding places on God's good earth.

Over 53,000 Public Comment Letters Received on Draft EIS

The public comment period for the West Tavaputs Plateau Natural Gas Full Field Development Draft Environmental Impact Statement ended on May 1, 2008. Over 53,000 letters from citizens and organizations across the nation and around the world were received by the Price BLM Field Office regarding this massive proposed project. A vast majority of the letters expressed opposition to the Draft EIS in its current form.

The following are excerpts from comment letters the BLM received from the Coalition and some of our many preservation partners. Each of these organizations:

- requested and were denied Section 106 Consulting Party Status.
- urged BLM to address the viability of potential alternative routes
- advocated a balanced approach to the management of the public lands in, and surrounding Nine Mile Canyon.

The full text of these and all other comment letters received before the deadline are available to the public as public record.

The Nine Mile Canyon Coalition:

As an organization we feel there are numerous deficiencies in the WTDEIS that make the document a great disappointment for the public who have entrusted our public lands to your [BLM's] care. ... The impacts to cultural resources are only marginally different from one alternative to another as reflected in the WTDEIS, and regardless of which alternative is chosen, the impacts will

be substantial. ...Archaeologist Jeffrey Rust determined that “cultural resource identification efforts have not been sufficient to provide an understanding of the nature and types of cultural resources that will be affected or how those resources will be affected. Significant sections of the project area, such as plateaus and side canyons, have not been sufficiently reviewed and some areas have absolutely no data in regards to the presence or absence of cultural resources.”

...There are [additionally] three specific topics we think have been ignored or treated insufficiently in the WTDEIS: 1) alternative routes to the plateau avoiding Nine Mile Canyon, 2) continued exclusion of the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition and other preservation groups from consulting parting status, and 3) failure to include the final report of the Constance Silvers dust study.

The WTDEIS fails to address an alternative that would route energy development related traffic in a way that bypasses or avoids the sensitive cultural resources of Nine Mile Canyon. ... Alternative transportation routes must receive serious consideration, rather than the out-of-hand dismissal manifested in the WTDEIS.

...The WTDEIS discussion repeatedly appears to deemphasize the seriousness of the problems related to impacts from road dust precipitated by industrial traffic. These include statements to the effect that “anticipated *indirect* impacts to cultural resources include the accumulation of dust and its impact on rock art, (and) the impact of vibration and project-related erosion on cultural resources” (WTDEIS ES 24-25), when in fact, the accumu-

lation of road dust resulting from project traffic, impacts from vibration due to project-related traffic and increased erosion of cultural resources from project-related activities are all *direct* impacts to cultural resources resulting from project activities, and these impacts are *cumulative* over the 30 to 40-year life of the project.

Despite the voluminous nature of the document, under all five alternatives the WTDEIS reflects a remarkable scarcity of creative thinking in terms of how cultural resources are addressed and considered. ...None of the alternatives proposed in the WTDEIS demonstrate a serious attempt to consider a full range of ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate potential adverse effects to historic properties, nor does the document reflect efforts among consulting parties to reach agreement on measures to achieve those ends.

Especially disingenuous are statements to the effect that the BLM seeks a collaborative approach to problem solving. ...In actuality, the Price Field Office has demonstrated repeated opposition, if not hostility, to a collaborative approach to resolving conflicts over cultural resources by categorically denying consulting party status to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition and the Colorado Plateau Archeological Alliance – all “organizations with a demonstrated interest in the undertaking” that are legally entitled to “participate as consulting parties due to the nature of their legal or economic relation to the undertaking or affected properties, or their concern with the undertaking’s effects on historic properties” (36 CFR 800.2(5)(d)(1)).

The Nine Mile Canyon Coalition strongly insists that the BLM withdraw the WTDEIS until consulting parties, including the Coalition, can meet with BLM and industry and develop a cadre of alternatives for the WTDEIS that will fully consider alternative transportation routes, complete dust studies, and detailed dust mitigation plans.

The Hopi Cultural Preservation Office:

With our emergence from *Öngtupqa*, the Grand Canyon, Hopi people, *Hopisinom*, entered into a sacred Covenant with *Maasaw*, the Earth Guardian, in which it is our responsibility to be preservers and protectors, or Stewards of the Earth. In accordance with that Covenant, our ancestors migrated to and settled in these lands, and then migrated from them to Hopi, *Tuuwanasavi*, the Spiritual Earth Center.

The history of Hopi clans that associates us with the Price Field Office area extends back more than a thou-

sand years. These lands contain the testimony of our ancestors’ “discovery” thousands of years ago, manifested in the prehistoric ruins, the rock “art” and artifacts, and the human remains which continue to inhabit them. The rock markings, ruins, and human remains of our ancestors in Nine Mile Canyon are “footprints” or manifestations of their fulfillment of the Covenant.

In addition to being a Hopi Traditional Cultural Property, Nine Mile Canyon is also a National Scenic Backcountry Byway. It is internationally famous as the repository of an estimated 10,000 prehistoric archaeological sites, including well preserved archaeological structures and features and approximately 10,000 petroglyphs and pictographs containing extraordinarily unique rock art panels, most located within the proposed Nine Mile Canyon Archaeological District.

This DEIS neither identifies nor avoids cultural resources significant to the Hopi Tribe. There are significant cultural resource deficiencies with all of the action alternatives, which are virtually the same, including inadequate area of potential effect identification, and inadequate cultural resources identification. As with cultural resources, the DEIS does not adequately provide specific analysis of the environmental consequences on water, air quality, wildlife, and visual and auditory impacts to the Desolation Canyon National Historic Landmark.

Supplemental analyses will be necessary for this DEIS to be in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), and other relevant laws and orders.

Nine Mile Canyon is a special place that deserves special treatment as a cultural resources preserve and not as an industrial highway. Because of the potential for destruction of the nationally significant Hopi cultural resources in and around Nine Mile Canyon, our concern for the impacts to those resources resulting from this project cannot be underestimated. Therefore, we have determined that this proposal will severely and adversely affect cultural resources significant to the Hopi Tribe. We therefore support the No Action Alternative, Alternative B in this DEIS.

The Hopi Cultural Preservation Office extends our thanks to the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Jeffery Rust, Registered Professional Archaeologist, and Jerry Spangler of the Colorado Plateau Archeological Alliance for their assistance in the development of our response to the West

Tavaputs Plateau Natural Gas Full Field Development Plan DEIS.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation:

We are deeply concerned by the failure of the Draft EIS to put forth concrete measures and alternatives that will protect historic properties in Nine Mile Canyon from the adverse effects of the project. We also believe that the specific deficiencies identified in this letter require the preparation of a Supplemental EIS.

Industrial traffic under each of the Draft EIS action alternatives would increase by several hundred percent, and the limited mitigation measures proposed by BLM have been shown to be ineffective at best. ...Our biggest concern is that BLM has improperly dismissed several alternative access routes from detailed consideration—alternatives that could substantially reduce and even eliminate the adverse effects of industrial traffic on rock art sites in Nine Mile Canyon.

The National Trust strongly objects to the manner in which BLM is administering the Section 106 process for the West Tavaputs Project. ...On more than one occasion in the past, the Price Field Office has denied the National Trust's request to participate as a consulting party based on an erroneous legal interpretation of the Section 106 regulations. ...In the rationale offered by the Price Field Office for denying the National Trust's consulting party request, BLM incorrectly assumed that the public involvement process used for NEPA compliance can satisfy the agency's responsibility under Section 106 to involve consulting parties. ...It is clear that the Section 106 regulations do not authorize agencies to use the public participation procedures of NEPA as a substitute for the involvement of consulting parties.

In consultation with the SHPO [State Historic Preservation Office] and ACHP [Advisory Council on Historic Preservation], BLM should identify organizations with a demonstrated interest in the undertaking's effects on historic properties to participate in the Section 106 process as consulting parties. Organizations that have previously demonstrated an interest in ... the Nine Mile Canyon region include the Colorado Plateau Archaeological Alliance, National Trust, Nine Mile Canyon Coalition, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, and Utah Rock Art Research Association, as well as the Hopi and other Indian Tribes.

The Draft EIS suffers from a number of serious deficiencies, most notably the failure to include a detailed evaluation of alternative access routes and the failure to

evaluate the final results of the dust study. As a consequence, BLM has grossly under-represented the significant impacts of the West Tavaputs Project to the public. Further, BLM has failed to propose mitigation measures that would ensure the protection of rock art sites in Nine Mile Canyon from the adverse effects of industrial traffic. It is imperative that BLM correct these deficiencies through a Supplemental EIS, in addition to complying with Section 106 of the NHPA.

In 2004, the National Trust listed Nine Mile Canyon as one of *America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places* in order to raise awareness about the area's cultural and historic significance and the threats to these resources from oil and gas development. In the years following the listing, the threats to the resources in Nine Mile Canyon have only increased.

The Colorado Plateau Archaeological Alliance:

The draft EIS contains many deficiencies related to cultural resources, as well as factual inaccuracies. These concerns range from serious omissions or misrepresentations of scientific data related to magnesium chloride to a failure of the BLM to consider a full range of management alternatives commensurate with the size and scope of such a massive undertaking. Indeed, the Draft EIS is remarkably uninventive, offering no new approaches or insights to management of impacts to cultural resources in an area of the northern Colorado Plateau renowned the world over for its cultural resources. ...there is near-absence of discussion or consideration of the long-term cumulative impacts to cultural resources that would result from three or four decades of development in the region.

CPAA is concerned about how those leases will be developed over the next 30 to 40 years, and how development will avoid, minimize or mitigate the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts to known and unknown cultural resources throughout the West Tavaputs Plateau. ...An overriding concern is the paucity of baseline data on the canyon generally whereby informed management decisions could be made. ... the BLM simply does not know the quantity, diversity or density of cultural resources under its jurisdiction, and hence management decisions have been predicated on incomplete or inadequate information. Indeed, there has been little recent survey work done in the Nine Mile Canyon corridor where site density is the highest and where entire sections of the canyon bottom have never been surveyed. These sites remain most vulnerable to anticipated increases in vehicular traffic. Based on CPAA analysis of existing data, we believe that less than 10 percent of the canyon corridor has been

even cursorily investigated, and that the number of sites along the corridor is conservatively estimated at about 10,000 sites. Most of these would be located within the boundaries of the proposed Nine Mile Canyon Archaeological District.

Given the nature of the undertaking and the sheer number of known and unknown sites that are or will be directly and indirectly impacted by the full-field development, it is imperative that the DEIS more fully consider management strategies that will foster the preservation and protection of these resources. ...the BLM cannot manage resources it does not know exist, and management decisions made without baseline data will inevitably result in adverse and unanticipated consequences to the integrity of historic properties.

The Utah Rock Art Research Association:

We have been very concerned with the piece-meal approach that the BLM has taken to development proposals within this region. For example, this DEIS is treated separately from the Questar Gas Pipeline, PetroCanada development proposals, Jakes Oil proposal, and Oil Shale PEIS. There has been significant development in the region in the past few years and we expect there will be

even more in the future, none of which is being planned in an overall way nor presented to the public in a coordinated fashion that demonstrates cumulative adverse impacts on rock art and other cultural resources of the area. It is impossible to assess the alternatives within the DEIS without understanding the cumulative impacts of all of the development proposals within the region.

A lot has changed in the past decade. In 1995 the BLM prepared a Recreation and Cultural Area Management Plan (RCAMP) for Nine Mile Canyon. It stated "The principal management objective for the planning area is to protect and preserve cultural resources. Other objectives are to protect, preserve and enhance the natural character, inspirational value and scenic quality of the area while optimizing recreation and interpretive opportunities, including the provision of a safe recreational environment." (RCAMP p.i). The DEIS supplants these values with a mandate to develop natural resources at virtually any cost. Overall, the DEIS fails to provide alternatives that meet the multiple use mandate of the BLM, specifically the BLM responsibility to protect cultural resources.

The failure to plan for cultural resources requires the development of a new EIS.

EPA Finds Draft EIS Insufficient

by Steve Hansen

In mid-May Selma Sierra, director of the Utah state office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), received a letter from Robert Roberts, Region 8 administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), urging the BLM to withdraw the draft environmental impact statement for the West Tavaputs Plateau Natural Gas Full Field Development Plan (WTDEIS). In the letter, the EPA states that the document does not satisfy the requirements of the federal Clean Air Act. BLM's assessment that the proposed drilling project would cause only small increases in ground-level ozone "is not technically defensible," according to Mr. Roberts.

Mr. Roberts believes the WTDEIS inadequately assesses potentially significant environmental impacts to air quality from the proposed development of 807 natural gas wells in the region and that the DEIS needs to be revised to detail air quality impacts. The EPA also noted in their letter that chemicals used to suppress dust, which are strong enough to corrode concrete, could impact some of the rock art panels in the canyon, and the fugitive dust emissions also may impact water quality, riparian areas and visibility. According to the an article in the Salt Lake Tribune titled "Air Quality Concerns Halt Drilling", correcting these deficiencies could cause the decision on the

WTDEIS proposals to be delayed, or perhaps even stopped.

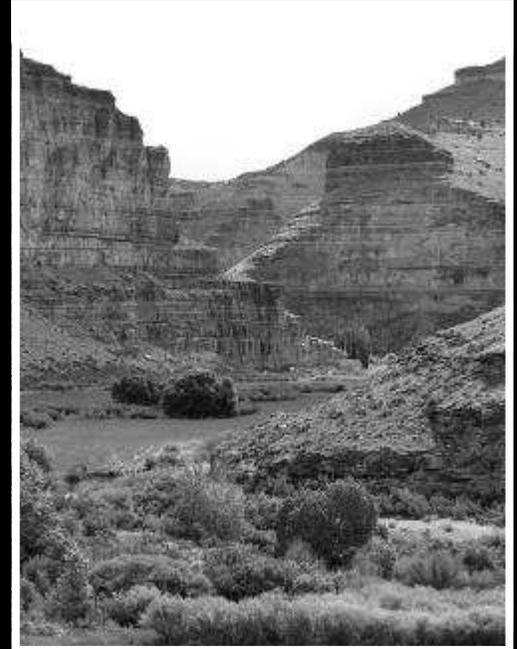
Roberts noted that the Vernal region already exceeds new federal ozone standards. Additional oil and gas, oil shale and tar sands development proposed for the region could further damage air quality.

Shortly following BLM's receipt of the EPA's letter, the determinations identified in the letter were overridden by the EPA office in Washington DC, and the BLM will not be required to revise the WTDEIS based on the regional EPA's environmental concerns.

On Tuesday July 29th, four US Senators, all members of the Environment and Public Works Committee, called for the resignation of Stephen Johnson, head of the EPA, stating that he has repeatedly succumbed to political pressure on decisions vital to protecting health and the environment. He has consistently sided with polluters instead of ecological problems. Environment Committee Chairwoman Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., stated "We have lost all confidence in Stephen Johnson's ability to carry out EPA's mission under the law." Its unfortunate that Nine Mile and public health and safety is further threatened by this administration's reckless energy policy.



Come celebrate the Season!
fall GATHERING
 September 5, 6 and 7, 2008



Consulting Party Status Denied, Again

by Pam Miller

On April 14, 2008, the Coalition again requested consulting party status under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) for the West Tavaputs EIS. In a letter from Selma Sierra, State BLM Director, dated May 1, 2008, the Coalition was again denied this status. Ms. Sierra and the BLM feel that the BLM's procedures under NEPA "adequately facilitate the continued involvement of Nine Mile Canyon Coalition in the remaining states of the EIS process. Therefore, it is not necessary that your organization be granted consulting party status under Section 106 of NHPA." She said the BLM appreciates the many meetings we have had with them regarding our concerns related to natural gas development in the WTP over the projects dating back to the Stone Cabin 3D Seismic Project. They have received our comments related to the DEIS and will address them within the final environmental impact statement. Ms.

Sierra also stated: "We look forward to working with your group in the future."

As reported previously, Coalition leaders feel that the WTDEIS was inadequate in several respects, especially treatment of the cultural resources, the transportation plan (including alternative routes), and the dust study. In fact, information related to cultural resources and characteristics of and eligibility as a National Register District was left out of the DEIS. These are required by law (NHPA) to be in the DEIS so groups such as ours can comment on them. The reason for consulting parties is to make sure the BLM has considered all possible alternatives and effects. This is grossly left out of the DEIS which therefore suffers from a very narrow and unimaginative view of alternatives for the BLM to choose from.

The nomination of Nine Mile Canyon to the National Register of Historic Places cleared another hurdle in June, but has a few more to go.

The nomination was on the agenda of the Board of State History on June 19, 2008. One of the roles of the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) in the nomination process is to contact private landowners in the canyon to learn if any opposed the nomination. If over half opposed the nomination, the listing would have been stopped. At the meeting we learned that of the eight private landowners, only one had submitted notice of opposition by the deadline, June 19, 2008. Bill Barrett Corporation sent a letter of opposition in late. Hunt Oil supported the nomination. Public property owners/managers do not have a vote in this particular process.

Jerry Spangler very effectively presented the nomination to the Board of State History with a PowerPoint presentation containing some great slides of Nine Mile Canyon rock markings and prehistoric sites. Pam Miller spoke for the Coalition, and other members of the public spoke all in support of the nomination. Several Board of State History members declared their individual support and found the nomination to be accurate and professionally done. After the presentation concluded without a discouraging word, Pam led everyone in the State Capitol Board Room in a round of applause for all parties involved. That was a real high point.

The SHPO has decided not to send the nomination to the State BLM until the full Board of State History officially approves the minutes of the June 19 meeting in their September 11, 2008 meeting. We anticipate no problems, just more time passage.

Once that occurs, the process calls for the nomination go to Selma Sierra, the Director of the State BLM. The State Director's role is to forward the nomination - with her recommendation - to the national BLM Federal Preservation Officer, Robin Burgess. From there the nomination is to proceed to the Keeper of the National Register. We are looking at some months still.

Related news is disappointing. Selma Sierra had contacted the affected counties last April and asked for their comments by the June 19 deadline. Counties don't have an official vote, but they could comment. The County Commissioners of Carbon, Duchesne, and Uintah counties wrote letters opposing the nomination.

The Duchesne Commissioners agreed after they sent their letter on June 9 to get public input on the nomination through the Public Lands Committee at a July 22 meeting. After the public hearing the committee passed a motion 5 to 1 with one abstention and one absent, as follows:

"We recommend that Duchesne County support the historic district nomination, provided that the three counties 'can go along with it,' or, in other words, providing that the three counties 'find unity' in recommending support to the BLM."

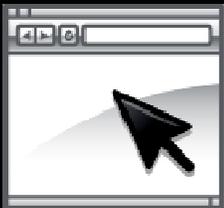
The Commission may accept or reject this advice.

The Coalition Board has contacted the Uintah and Carbon County Commissioners and requested that, since Selma Sierra won't need to make her decision until September, these counties also hold public hearings or meetings to discuss the nomination and request public input as has been done in Duchesne County.

The curtain is unfolding on the last act of this long running play.

While misunderstandings abound, the appropriate question in the nomination of Nine Mile Canyon to the NRHP is: Does Nine Mile Canyon deserve to be listed as a place of significance in our national heritage on the National Register of Historic Places (along with 85,014 other places in the U. S.; 1,221 in Utah; two sites in Duchesne County; 17 sites in Uintah County, including six with Indian rock art; 19 in Carbon County, including two with rock art)?

The Coalition will keep you informed of decisions and developments.



The Nine Mile Canyon Coalition is in need of a Volunteer Web-Master to help us keep our Website current. The responsibility consists largely of posting our quarterly Newsletter, periodic Action-Alerts and keeping our photos current and up-to-date. If you're interested, or know someone who is, please contact us via the webpage at ninemilecanyoncoalition.org. Thank you!



A heart-felt thanks to all of those who braved the dust and industrial traffic to help spruce-up the roadside and Daddy Canyon Interpretive Trail at this year's annual Spring Clean-Up. The weather was beautiful, and thanks to everyone's hard work we were able to cover a significant portion of the lower canyon. A special thank you goes to the student members of CEU's Sun Center who have made the Spring Clean-up one of their many service projects.

Thank you!



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.

I Can Make a Difference

by KiLee Tanner

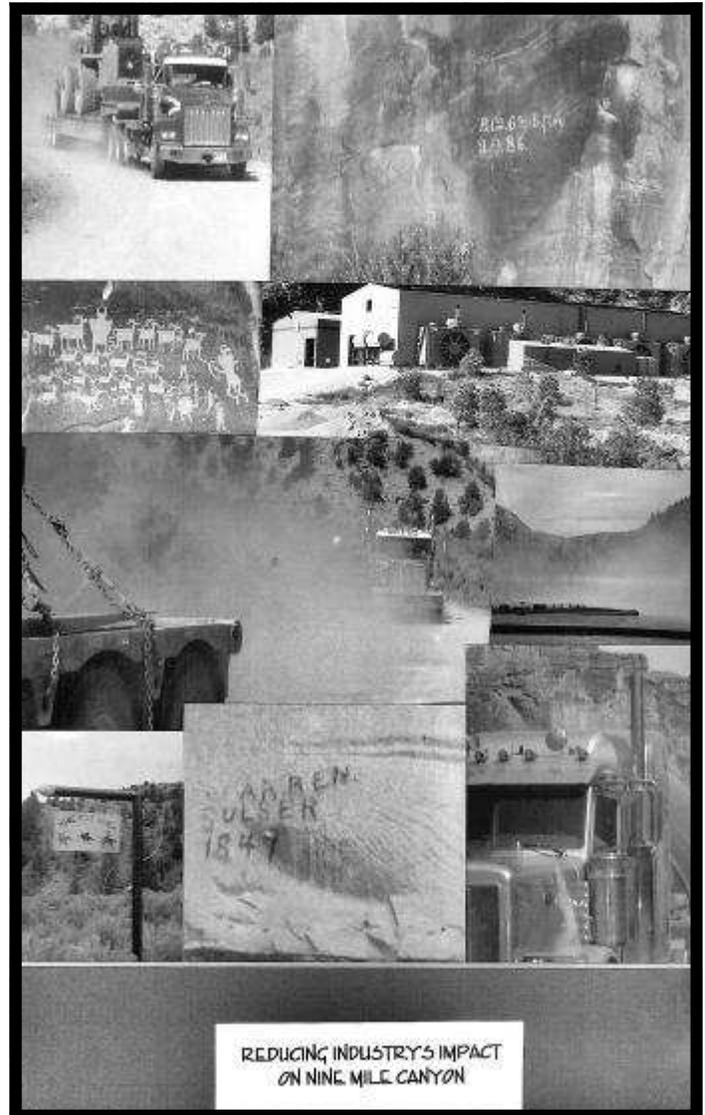
I am making a difference in Nine Mile Canyon by being a member of the Utah State Archaeology Society, Castle Valley Archaeology Society, and the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition. And also I am a Nez Perce Junior Ranger.

It seems to me that wildlife is decreasing in Nine Mile Canyon. The cause is the increase in industrial traffic because of the drilling for gas on the West Tavaputs Plateau. I used to see many deer and elk when I visited the canyon. Livestock is still in the canyon however, and the dust from the road is affecting them too. Speaking of livestock, I saw a dead cow the other day in the canyon that had been hit by a large truck.

Now that there is so much going on in the canyon it is not very peaceful anymore. The noise is caused by industrial trucks and the Dry Canyon Compression Station. We were in the canyon for about four hours taking pictures and counted more than thirty trucks and only three tourist cars. The Water Canyon Compressor Station only had one compressor, however the new Dry Canyon Compression Station has ten compressors which are not muffled and you can hardly hear yourself think.

In 1886 the Military (African American Soldiers) from Fort Douglas, near Salt Lake City rebuilt the existing road for the Freighters traveling to Fort Duchesne. They left their signature on the ledges near the old Wimmer place, it reads, B, Co. 6th Inftry 2.9.86. The Buffalo Soldiers from Fort Duchesne built the telegraph to Price, Utah. Around the turn of the century Freighters left axle grease writing on the ledges near their campsites, many are still visible there today. The stage coach ran from Fort Duchesne to Price on the same road. Throughout the bottom of Nine Mile Canyon were several ranches, which some are still occupied today. The famous Preston Nutter ranch is now owned by Hunt Oil.

The impact from the industry is affecting all the natural resources in the canyon and surrounding area. It is my desire to protect and preserve the resources by working with the BLM and industry to conduct drilling activities responsibly, so this treasure will be here for my children and their children for many generations.



KiLee Tanner is 11 years old and just finished the 6th grade at Sally Mauro Elementary School in Helper. Two of KiLee's photos for this project won regional awards in the Reflections Program and went on to the State finals. Keep up the great work KiLee!

Over the past several months, the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition has been fortunate to have gained the participation of two new board members. Margene and Deanne are familiar faces who have spent many years working in Nine Mile. They bring with them an incredible understanding of the area and the pressures it is currently facing. We've asked each of them to share a little bit about themselves.....

Welcome!

Margene Hackney, Secretary

Margene Hackney is not new to the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition. She was a founding board member along with Pam Miller, Bert Jensen and Layne Miller. They began to enlist the help of interested people who loved the canyon to become members of the board. Over the years the board members changed as some resigned and new people came on board

Margene has worn many hats during her years as a board member. She was the editor of the newsletter, the recording secretary, the chair of the Fall Gathering and then was later elected Chair of the Board. She enjoyed all the work that she did for the Coalition.

In 2002, Margene resigned from the board, but kept up her membership. She was asked to write articles for the newsletter and helped with every Fall Gathering. In January of 2008 she was elected to the board again and she willingly accepted. On June 20 she was nominated and voted to become the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition Recording secretary.

She was born in Ogden, Utah and moved to Spring Canyon when she was 7 years old. She attended schools in Carbon County. After graduation she married and had 4 children. After a divorce, she attended the College of Eastern Utah and Utah State University graduating with a dual certificate in Early Childhood Education and a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. She married Robert (Bob) Hackney in 1974. He passed away last year.

After 30 years of being employed with the Carbon School District, she retired and was employed as the Curator of Education for the C.E.U. Prehistoric Museum. When she retired from that job she volunteered there as a tour guide.

She has been the President of the Utah Statewide Archaeological Society (USAS) and was elected Vice President this past June. She loves history and is especially interested in the prehistory of Utah. She is a certified avocational archaeologist and has helped prepare Level 1 of the Utah Avocational Archaeology Education Program with Ronald Rood and Vi Meyer. She has helped record many prehistoric sites in Nine Mile Canyon with Dr. Ray and Dr. Deanne Matheny. Members of the Castle Valley Chapter of USAS have had an ongoing survey in Nine Mile Canyon for the last 20 years.

Margene is looking forward to working with the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition again.



Dr. Deanne Matheny, Vice-Chair

I was born and raised in the Uintah Basin and graduated from Union High School in Roosevelt. While growing up I developed a deep fascination with Nine Mile Canyon because of its unique beauty, rich Native American heritage and wealth of historic associations. My father worked for the Utah Dept. of Transportation (then called the Dept. of Highways) and his work group had responsibility for a portion of the Nine Mile road when it was still a state road. A family trip to Nine Mile was always a much anticipated event. Family ties with Nine Mile go back to my grandparents who were married in the canyon. My grandmother worked at the stage station in Smith Wells and my grandfather owned part of a family freighting business that carried cargo from Price to Vernal and back. My great-grandparents also passed through the canyon and my great-grandfather's axle grease signature from the late 1800s is still found on the walls of Gate Canyon.

Interest in Nine Mile Canyon was one of the factors that led me to pursue a career in archaeology and I completed a Bachelor's degree in archaeology and anthropology at Brigham Young University and then went on for an M.A. in archaeology. The next step was a Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Utah. I've had the opportunity to do archaeological work in Nine Mile Canyon and other Great Basin sites, the American Southwest and Midwest, Mexico, Guatemala, and Israel, as well as work in Peru on a DNA project. In addition, I completed a J.D. and worked in the hi-tech industry for 16 years with Utah-based companies. Last year I returned to archaeology full-time, working with my husband Ray Matheny on a variety of projects.

While I value my experiences in and traditional connections with Nine Mile Canyon, I know that everyone has their own unique and valuable experiences and connections with the canyon regardless of when they first discover this magnificent place. Many future generations deserve the chance to have this experience of discovery.

I am honored to have the opportunity to serve on the Coalition board and appreciate all of the great work that the Coalition has accomplished since its beginnings.



Volunteers Needed for Archaeological Survey

The Colorado Plateau Archaeological Alliance (CPAA) is seeking volunteers to assist with the documentation of historic and prehistoric sites in a previously un-surveyed portion of Nine Mile Canyon west of the mouth of Gate Canyon. The surveys will be conducted Sept. 5-7, Sept. 12-14, Sept. 19-21 and Sept. 26-28. The surveys are intended to enhance the database that provides the basis for the nomination of the Nine Mile Canyon Archaeological District to the National Register, and to ascertain the nature of damage to sites along the road due to vandalism, visitor impacts and vehicular traffic. The project is being sponsored by Hunt Oil, the Utah Division of State History and CPAA, and participation from the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition is encouraged. A limited number of volunteers will be accepted for each 3-day session, and those interested should contact CPAA Executive Director Jerry D. Spangler at 801-392-2646 or 801-388-3387 (jerry_cpaa@att.net). In particular, we seek volunteers with archaeological survey experience and specific skills needed during site documentation such as photography and sketching. Volunteers will be responsible for their own food and transportation.

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Please be sure to visit
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facing Nine Mile Canyon, your support
has never been more important

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Thank you for your support!

September 5, 6 and 7, 2008

FALL GATHERING



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