



GRAND COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS
Chris Baird (Chair) · Chris Conrad (Vice Chair)
Ken Ballantyne · Gene Clarus · Audrey Graham
Pat Holyoak · Jim Nyland

August 2, 2011

Mr. Juan Palma, Utah State Director
Bureau of Land Management
PO Box 45155
Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0155

Re: Your Letter of July 19, 2011 Soliciting Recommendations for Wilderness Designation by Congress

Dear Mr. Palma:

This responds to your July 19, 2011 letter asking us to recommend lands that Congress should designate as wilderness.

The deadline of August 12th does not provide Grand County with the time to adequately consider the matter at hand. However, attached is "The Wilderness Plan", adopted in 1999 as an amendment to the Grand County General Plan.

Grand County would like to emphasize that a multi-lateral grass roots effort to determine which lands Congress should consider for additional wilderness designation is preferable to the process intimated by Mr. Salazar in his 6/10/2011 memo to Congress. Grand County would prefer engaging many local stakeholders in County-driven discussions aimed at forming a consensus for recommendations delivered to our Utah Congressional delegation in the form of a draft bill.

In case you happen to receive recommendations from any citizen, organization or entity to have Congress designate additional lands inside our county as wilderness, we request that you provide us copies of all such recommendations and related documents for our review and comment. We ask in the strongest terms that you not act on any such wilderness recommendation from any citizen, organization or entity unless and until you have given us sufficient time to review and comment on any such recommendation.

The official spokespersons for the citizens at large in Grand County are we, the County's elected governing board. That is the essence of our constitutional form of representative government. Therefore, we urge that you comply with this request and not consider or act upon any wilderness recommendation from any private citizen, entity, organization, association or group other than the County itself, until you have informed us of such recommendation, provided copies of all associated maps and other documents, and given us sufficient time and opportunity to comment. Then we ask you to give prime consideration to our input as the local elected leaders in this county.

Sincerely,

Chris Baird, Chair
Grand County Council

Encl: "The Wilderness Plan," Adopted as an Amendment to the Grand County General Plan,
September 20, 1999

cc: Senator Orrin Hatch, 104 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510
Senator Mike Lee, 316 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510
Congressman Rob Bishop, 123 Cannon Office Building, Washington, DC 20515
Congressman Jim Matheson, 2434 Rayburn Office Building, Washington, DC 20515
Congressman Jason Chaffetz, 1032 Longworth Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20515
Governor Gary Herbert, PO Box 142220, Salt Lake City, UT 84114-2220
John Harja, PLPCO, PO Box 141107, Salt Lake City, UT 84114-1107
✓ Mark Ward, Utah Association of Counties, 5397 S. Vine Street, Murray, UT 84107