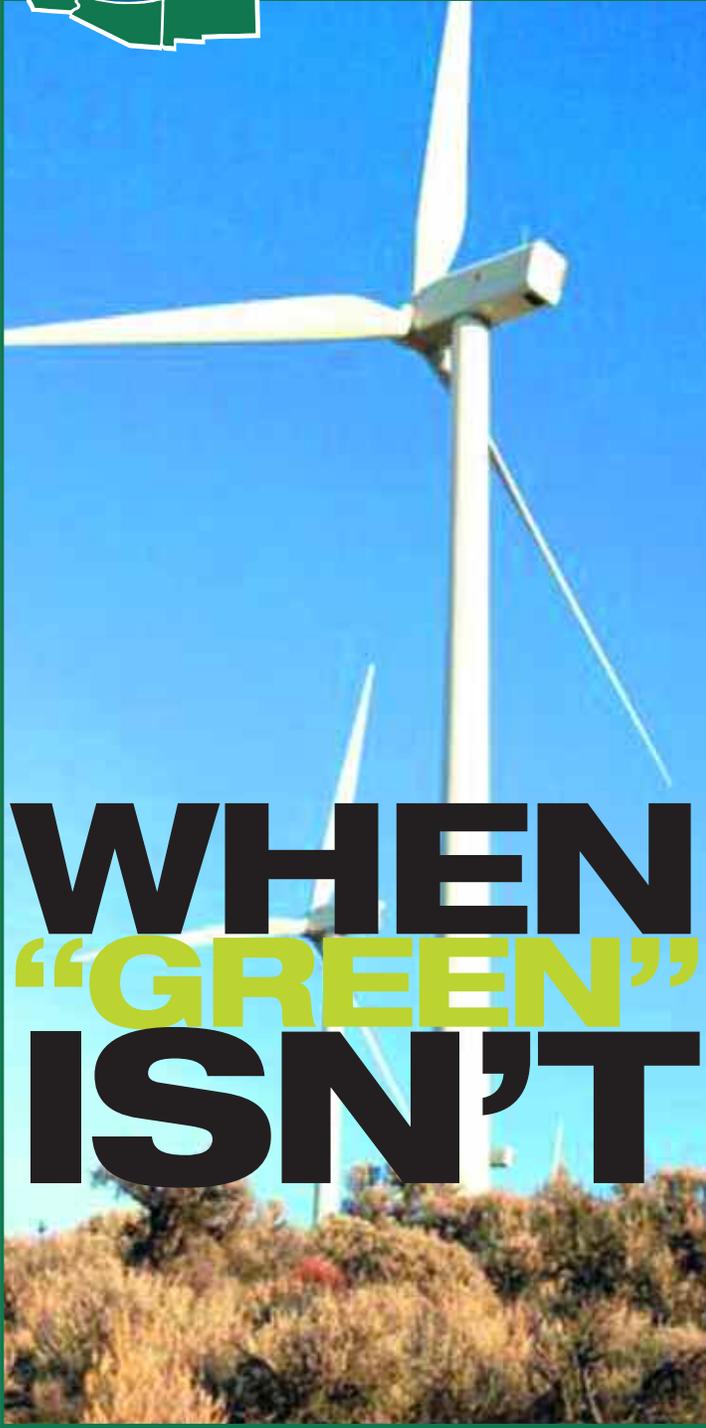




# Western Watersheds MESSENGER

Vol. XVI, No. 2

Summer 2009



## Wind and Gas Line Projects Threaten the Western Landscape

By Katie Fite

Sage-grouse require expanses of mature and old growth sagebrush habitats in gently sloping areas, tall residual grass cover with sagebrush overstory for nesting, and wet meadows for brood rearing. Their habitat has decreased about 60% over the last 100 years with acceleration in that decline in recent years

Now, sage-grouse populations are facing high risks from new energy projects across their habitat. Industrial wind energy projects and huge utility corridor proposals are proposed for some of the West's most remote and intact sagebrush landscapes.

Developers of these projects parrot the same fear-based talking points that have driven so many policies of the US in over the past decade, only with a climate twist: "If we can't build the Windy Ridge kazillion megawatt wind farm on top of 20 sage-grouse leks, polar bears will die".

Two current examples of destructive energy projects are the proposed China Mountain wind farm near Jackpot, Nevada on the Idaho-Nevada border, and the Ruby Natural Gas Pipeline that seeks to build a new energy corridor through critically important sage-steppe landscapes of northwestern Nevada.

*Please turn to Page 2*

**Western Watersheds Project: Working to protect and restore western watersheds and wildlife through education, public policy initiatives and litigation.**

Visit WWP on the Internet! • [www.westernwatersheds.org](http://www.westernwatersheds.org)

Continued from Page 1

### China Mountain Wind Project

The China Mountain Wind Project would destroy a stronghold of sage-grouse. One hundred and eighty five turbines standing 250 feet tall would be strung out in arrays on the ID-NV border east of Jackpot. The project would require 40 miles of new roads, and 30 miles of improved roads. The power is slated to go to Las Vegas – to light casinos and promote sprawl.

Just voicing concerns about the wildlife impacts of the China Mountain Wind Project is dangerous to the jobs of public officials speaking up for sage grouse. Dave Parrish, the former Magic Valley Idaho Fish and Game Manager, was removed from

his position with lightning speed when he spoke up about the negative impacts if the China Mountain Wind Project be built.

Idaho has many suitably windy places on previously disturbed lands to put turbines galore. Like much of the margin of the Snake River Plain near the existing power grid where the aquifer is drying up, and irrigation wells are being shut down. Instead the big wind companies, in order to avoid the costs of paying private land owners to lease their land, prefer to destroy wild mountains, use political muscle to push public agencies around, and site their turbines at dirt cheap rates at the public and wildlife's expense.



Above: Formerly pristine habitat will be cleared, graded and prepared for towers, access roads and power lines. Elsewhere, land exists which could be developed for wind without sacrificing unspoiled areas.

Top photo ©Tom Woodbury. Lower photos ©BLM

Below: China Mountain Tower Location Map. Green dots indicate tower locations. Access roads would "connect the dots" and more. The project will require 70 miles of road projects in sagebrush habitat. Map ©BLM



## Ruby “Clean” Natural Gas Pipe Line

The Ruby natural gas pipeline would cut a 675-mile swath across watersheds from eastern Wyoming to an energy hub in Malin, Oregon. Ruby LLC, an El Paso Gas subsidiary, was told from the beginning by state game agencies, Native Americans and even the Bureau of Land Management that portions of this 600 mile project were in the worst possible place for negative impacts on sage-grouse and pygmy rabbit habitat, and that the Ruby pipeline should stay close to existing energy corridors.

Ruby LLC refused to listen and picked the worst route imaginable for sagebrush species in northwestern Nevada. The pipeline will tear apart public lands by the Sheldon National Antelope Refuge, the Black Rock National Conservation Area and Summit Lake Reservation, the most remote Indian Reservation in the lower 48 states.

In eastern Nevada, the proposed Ruby gas line happens to cut through the Thousand Springs/Winecup-Gamble Ranch area, site of previous schemes for coal-fired power plants. The Winecup is rumored to be the ranch being acquired by T. Boone Pickens and his wife Madeleine, or to be used by other parties, ostensibly to be a refuge to put wild horses removed from BLM lands. The Winecup Ranch is selling 19 million gallons of water to Ruby.

But why the need for so much water if this is a gas pipeline? Ruby LLC will consume at least 78 million gallons for dust abatement alone. There is a tremendous amount of road “improvement” (600 separate roads) and other activity involved with the Ruby route punching through remote areas where two-tracks predominate. All because Ruby has refused to stay by the Freeway and already developed areas. A quarter billion gallons of water will be used for hydrostatic testing to see if the gas line ruptures. Water will be spilled out on the sagebrush habitats all along the route. Both surface and ground waters will be wasted and landscapes greatly disturbed.

*Stakes, driven through the heart of grouse and rabbit habitat, mark the route of 600 miles of pipeline.  
photo ©Katie Fite*



The gas line will cross at least 60 sage-grouse leks and will open up a wide expanse of remote country for all manner of development. Building the Ruby gas line in the northern Black Rock desert as proposed avoids California thereby bypassing California state environmental regulations.

WWP seeks to reroute the Ruby pipeline to areas that are already disturbed and save millions of gallons water as well as critical sage-steppe landscapes.

***Katie Fite is WWP's Biodiversity Director.  
She lives in Boise, Idaho.***



Watersheds Messenger is published periodically by  
Western Watersheds Project  
P.O. Box 1770 • Hailey, ID 83333  
208-788-2290 • [wwp@westernwatersheds.org](mailto:wwp@westernwatersheds.org)

*Articles published in Watersheds Messenger may or may not reflect the opinion of Western Watersheds Project. All materials copyright ©WWP 2009 unless otherwise noted. Printed on 30% Recycled Content Paper with Soy Inks.*



## LDS Apostle Orson Hyde speaks in 1865 on the impact of Grazing on Rangeland

Oct. 7, 1865 when Apostle Orson Hyde, one of the 13 leaders of the Mormon Church, speaking at General Conference in Salt Lake City

to the assembled members of the church, had this to say about how the church wanted Mormons to live their lives:

*"There is a good deal of ambition among our people to cultivate a great quantity of ground, the result of which is, that we cultivate our lands poorly in comparison to what we would if we were contented with a smaller area, and would confine our labors to it. We have found some difficulty with regard to water, and complaints have been made about a scarcity of water in many places, when, indeed, I suppose the Lord has apportioned the water to the amount of land He intended should be cultivated. I do not think that these things are passed over unnoticed by Him ... He understands perfectly well what the elements are capable of producing, and how many of His people may be established here or there with profit and with advantage."*

*"... I find the longer we live in these valleys that the range is becoming more and more destitute of grass; the grass is not only eaten up by the great amount of stock that feed upon it, but they tramp it out by the very roots; and where the grass once grew luxuriantly, there is now nothing but the desert weed, and hardly a spear of grass is to be seen."*

*"Between here and the mouth of Emigration Canyon, when our brethren, the Pioneers, first landed here in '47, there was an abundance of grass over all those benches; they were covered with it like a meadow. There is now nothing but the desert weed, the sage, the rabbit-bush, and such like plants, that make very poor feed for stock. Being cut short of our range in the way we have been, and accumulating stock as we are, we have nothing to feed them with in the winter and they perish. There is no profit in this, neither is it pleasing in the sight of God our Heavenly Father that we should continue a course of life like unto this."*

*"... Now I speak of these things, my brethren, not because I think that they are the most edifying to you, but I speak of them because I consider that a temporal salvation is as important as a spiritual one."*

*"How much more agreeable is life when everything is in order and good regulation is maintained in and around our homes and cities. This is what I have endeavored, in my weak way, to instill into the minds of the Saints. In some instances I have been successful, and where men have adopted the course I have suggested, they have invariably borne testimony in its favor. I would rather have half a dozen cows in the winter, and have them well taken care of, than to have 20 and have 14 of them die for want of feed and proper attention, which would leave me only six. I would rather only have the six to begin with, then I would not have the mortification of seeing so many suffer and die."*

*"In the present condition of the ranges, we cannot indulge in the hope of raising such large herds of stock as we have done heretofore; but we have got to keep about what will serve us, and take care of them well; then we can enjoy ourselves, and we are not the authors of misery to any part of creation."*



*The Angel Moroni, atop the LDS Temple in Salt Lake City  
Photograph ©James P. Blair/NGS*



## Working for Western Watersheds Project

By Hadley DeBree

The morning air is crisp as I find myself on Trail Creek. The road is quiet, and I enjoy the solitude of the surrounding mountains as I spot the occasional tent tucked away in the trees. Soon, I am driving along a treacherous one-way dirt road, which quickly winds its way up the mountain – I have had several nightmares about this road. I am relieved as I finally reach Trail Creek summit; I roll down my window, allowing the wind to whip through the car, while the sweet smell of pine overwhelms my senses.

The morning light peeks behind the trees that line the dirt road, and as I pass through a stretch of thick willows, I hear birds singing and observe several ground squirrels standing atop rocks, soaking in the warmth of the sun. Chipmunks dart across the road, welcoming me to their home. I turn the corner and there they stand, my newfound enemies, chomping lazily on grass and congregating near streams. I sigh as I prepare to face the devastation the cattle have caused this remarkable landscape.

Growing up in Ketchum, Idaho, I never realized how much cattle negatively affect the environment – it is something the government, the ranchers, and the Idaho educational system like to keep quiet. They want to perpetuate the myth that cattle were

an integral part of shaping Western history and continue to play that critical role today.

They want us to believe that if livestock were removed from public lands, all would be lost, and the West would be irrevocably altered for the worse. What would the West be without ranching? Well, I just laugh at this fiction now. As a Biology-Environmental Studies major at Whitman College, I find it incredible how much cattle damage the delicate ecosystems of the Copper Basin and the Wildhorse Creek drainage.

Cattle are ripping up the waterways, destroying essential sage steppe environments, and denuding the landscape of native vegetation, all of which adversely affect indigenous flora and fauna. These areas are spectacular, certainly worthy of National Park status, and should be teeming with wildlife; however, every time I find myself along a remote creek, I am astounded by how little wildlife I actually find.

At the beginning of my internship, I had reservations about the aggressive methods and tactics of Western Watersheds Project. Why was compromise and collaboration not one of their primary goals? After I completed my first set of “after” photos, I understood. As I walked along the bank of the East Fork of the Big Lost River, a bank that was previously inaccessible due to the thick willows and wet ground, I couldn’t stop thinking about how much damage these cattle had caused within a couple of weeks. I was both infuriated and disgusted.

These are our public lands that are abused year after year – anglers flock to this river in the summer



Hadley DeBree (left) working with WWP's utilization cages in Copper Basin, central Idaho. photo ©David Stilwill

and it is vital to the survival of wildlife living in this hot, dry climate. The Forest Service continually observes this degradation, yet allows it to continue. They encourage ranchers to take advantage of the land and exploit its resources, sometimes to the point of irreversible damage, permanently altering the landscape and its inhabitants.

WWP, on the other hand, is unwilling to let the ranchers run amok at the expense of the wildlife and incredible landscapes that truly define the West. They take action because the preservation of these precious ecosystems is important and worth saving. I am proud to be a part of an organization that is making a real change in the West, one that is not afraid to stand up for what is right, even when it is not popular.

I have often wondered whether such action is truly unpopular with the public or whether people are simply unaware of the issues associated with livestock grazing. If more people understood the issues and realized how it affects their everyday life, I think many of them would find themselves siding with WWP.

This internship has afforded me incredible opportunities, and shattered my long held, deeply ingrained conception of the West and the supposed role ranching has played in the making of its culture. I have found myself embracing the true beauty of the West and recognizing how important it is to oppose the abuse of our public lands.

As the end of summer quickly approaches, I wonder what my thoughts will be as Copper Basin and Wildhorse disappear in my rearview mirror, and I descend Trail Creek summit for the last time this season, watching the early autumn light wash across the beaver ponds. Leaving an area I have grown to love and appreciate is not something I will look forward to, but I know I will have gained something invaluable: the determination to fight tenaciously for the protection of our defining Western landscapes and wildlife.

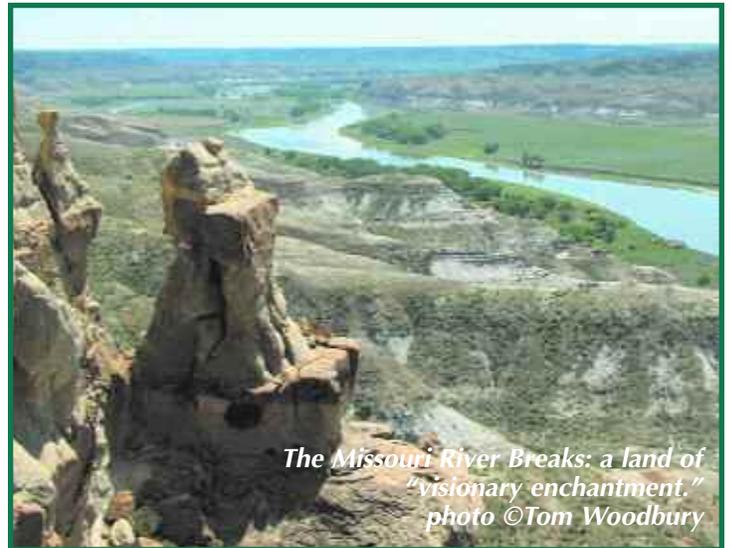
***Hadley DeBree is a WWP 2009 Summer Intern. She attends Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington.***



## **Western Watersheds Project Challenges Cattle Grazing in the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument**

**By Tom Woodbury**

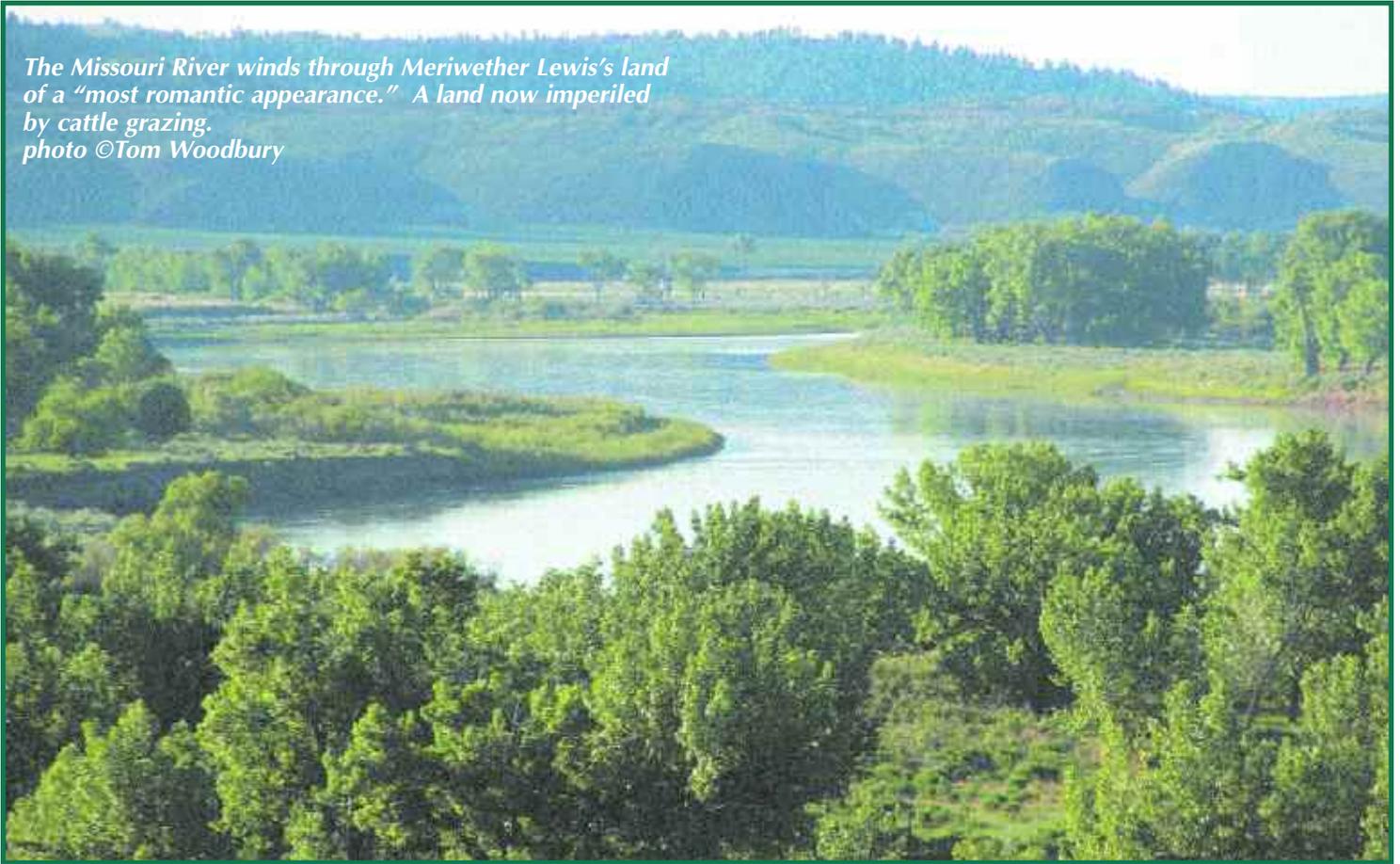
The Upper Missouri River Breaks in central Montana is the premier section of the Lewis and Clark Trail, a wild and scenic river that, owing to its “spectacular array of biological, geological, and historical objects of interest” was designated a National Monument in 2001. The Monument encompasses almost 600 square miles of wildlife habitat, home to trophy elk populations and the first Bighorn sheep herds spotted by Lewis and Clark. Meriwether Lewis waxed poetic over the “most romantic appearance” of the White Cliffs area, writing that it seemed the scenes of “visionary enchantment” would never end.



*The Missouri River Breaks: a land of “visionary enchantment.”  
photo ©Tom Woodbury*

According to the presidential proclamation creating the Monument, it “remains remote and nearly as undeveloped” as when Lewis wrote these descriptions in his journal in 1805. Except, that is, for the fact that the bison and grizzlies Lewis & Clark marveled at along the banks have been displaced by a plague of cows that are encouraged to wade in the water during the hottest months of the year — much to the chagrin of the many tourists who venture down the river in canoe expeditions led by Western Watersheds Project members Glenn Monahan and Nancy Schultz.

*The Missouri River winds through Meriwether Lewis's land of a "most romantic appearance." A land now imperiled by cattle grazing.*  
*photo ©Tom Woodbury*



I was fortunate enough to join Glenn and a group of Hoosiers on a week-long trip earlier this summer, and found that it doesn't matter what one's political views are – everyone agrees that cows are a blight on the landscape, and look forward to the day when bison are welcomed home.

One of the primary objects of the Monument is the cottonwood gallery forest ecosystems found almost nowhere else. However, due to the combined effects of dams and cows, these ecosystems are clearly imperiled. In 1989, University of Montana scientists concluded that current grazing management along the Missouri is driving the cottonwood forest ecosystems into a state of "disclimax" in which all of the understory species (shrubs, native forbs) are being eliminated by cattle.

In 2004, a similar study by Montana Natural Heritage Program found that the vegetative diversity so critical to wildlife in the Monument - including red osier dogwood, serviceberry, chokecherry, currant, and gooseberry - has been almost completely eliminated by grazing. Nearly

half of Montana's 235 bird species nest only in riparian zones, and we've seen a "startling decline" in their populations in the last 50 years (e.g., Great Blue Heron population down 81%).

In addition to eliminating understory vegetation, because cattle browse cottonwood seedlings and saplings, the overstory is also disappearing. The Bureau of Land Management itself acknowledges that "[t]he lack of replacement trees means floaters and campers in the near future will have to rely on artificial shelter for shade."

In spite of all this, the agency excluded grazing impacts from the environmental impact study leading up to adoption of the first management plan for the Monument earlier this year, finding that grazing was not a "significant environmental issue" in managing the Monument!

WWP's Montana office, supported by the hard work and passion for this landscape consistently exhibited by Glenn Monahan and Nancy Schultz, does not intend to let that finding go unchallenged.

***Tom Woodbury is WWP's Montana Director.  
He lives in Missoula.***



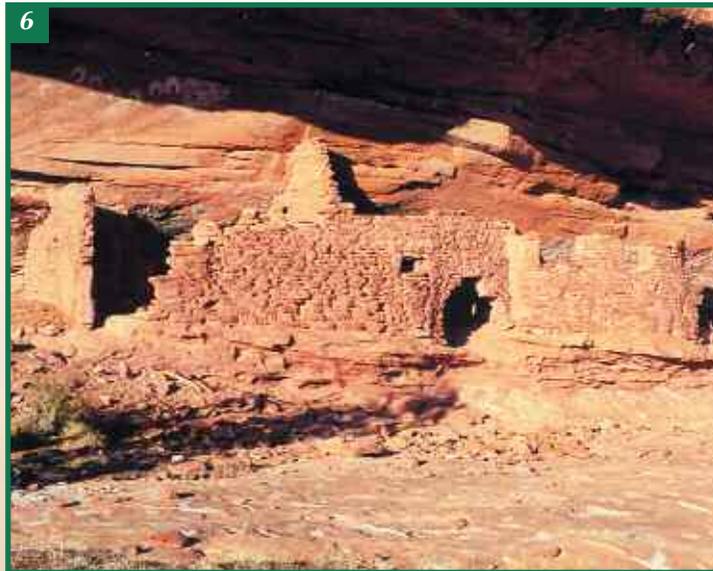
## Utah BLM Approves 6 Resource Issues Draft Monument Grand Staircase Escalan

WWP's Utah Office protested these RMPs and with other organizations. The RMPs are now being liti withdrawing its Grand Staircase EIS and Plan due to th comments. The plans include 12,563,976 acres of BLM Moab, Monticello, Price, Richfield, Vernal Field Office high percentage of the lands are at risk of accelerated from natural conditions and that streams and uplands

Livestock graze 90% of these lands and no alte development, yet livestock are the principal cause for Treatments (juniper and sagebrush removal) and Fire T the benefit of livestock. Millions of acres of wildernes accounting since the last plans were approved. Million (ACEC) were nominated for protection by citizens and actually reduced existing ACECs and few acres were

The majority of the land area is left open to oil of only a small percentage of active leases explored or remain open to Dirt Bikes and ATVs, creating habitat f plans while wildlife impacts occur at much lower road vehicles will permeate the desert's stillness across the the detriment of those who would come here for natur

- 1) Eroding sagebrush habitat in Grand Staircase Escalan
- 2) Natural Area - Grand Staircase National Monument show
- 3) Escalante River Canyon at Highway 12. 4) Sentinel
- 5) stream or riparian area that existed at that time is now
- 6) Anasazi Dwelling in Comb Wash. 7) Rock Art Panel in
- 8) near Canyonlands in Moab Field C



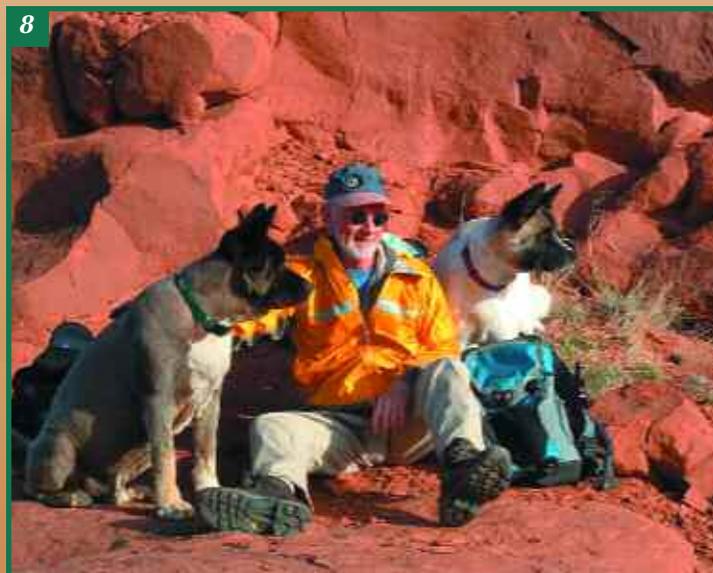
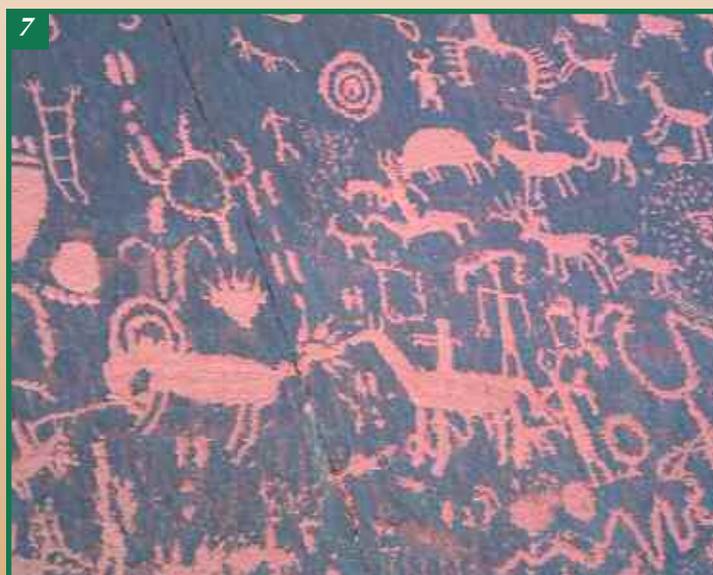
## Management Plans (RMPs) and Management Plan for National Monument

has commented on the Grand Staircase Draft Plan  
 gated by WWP, while the BLM is considering  
 the strong evidence demonstrating its flaws and public  
 land in southern and central Utah in the Kanab,  
 es and the Grand Staircase. The plans revealed that a  
 erosion, that plant communities are greatly altered  
 are degraded.

alternatives for livestock grazing were evaluated in plan  
 over a century of land degradation here. Vegetation  
 treatments are planned to affect millions of acres for  
 quality lands have magically been lost from any  
 ns of acres of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern  
 organizations. The net result is that some Plans  
 newly designated.

, gas and mineral exploration and extraction in spite  
 r developed. Over 20,000 miles of roads and trails  
 fragmentation of over 2 miles per square mile in some  
 d densities. Under these plans, the noise of off-road  
 e lands with most of the land still open to their use to  
 re's quiet and solitude.

ante National Monument. 2). The Gulch Outstanding  
 wing livestock denuded riparian area as stream channel  
 and cottonwoods. Note original floodplain ~ 20' higher.  
 Cottonwoods in San Rafael Desert ~150 yrs old. The  
 y lost leaving these ancient sentinels. 5) Comb Wash.  
 Comb Wash. 8) John Carter, Toqi and Niki enjoy sunset  
 Office lands. *photos ©John Carter*





## An Interview with Bob Edwards

by John Carter

*Bob Edwards showed up at my front door a year and a half ago and introduced himself as a friend I didn't know yet. As he explained his 30 year career at BLM and his range management background, Bob appeared to be someone who had a lot to offer WWP. As a result, WWP contracted with Bob to conduct field studies during this past year. His work on our projects in Utah, Idaho and Wyoming has been extremely valuable. He has spent many long days in the field collecting data and working with our interns and staff. We are grateful to Bob that great effort. The following interview provides insight into Bob's reasons for wanting to work with WWP.*

### Question: Bob, can you tell us about your career at BLM?

"My career at BLM covered 30 yrs. all of which was on assignments in southern Utah. At various times, during my career, I was on public lands in 8 of the 11 western states. I am a Range Scientist by profession and worked in the BLM range program for a few years at the first part of my career. This included time as a range conservationist and as a district program lead for the range and wild horse/burro programs. Most of my time was spent as a Natural Resource Specialist in charge of a number of programs tied to renewable resources. These programs included watershed (soil, water, air), woodland, recreation, wilderness, sensitive plant species, and noxious weeds. Throughout my career, I was highly involved in the NEPA process. My career provided a great opportunity to gain a wide range of knowledge and experience regarding the natural resources on public lands and I value having this background."

### What were the challenges you faced at BLM when dealing with agency decisions?

"Although I enjoyed my BLM duties working with the natural resources, I realized early on that there was something wrong with the overall picture. I did not

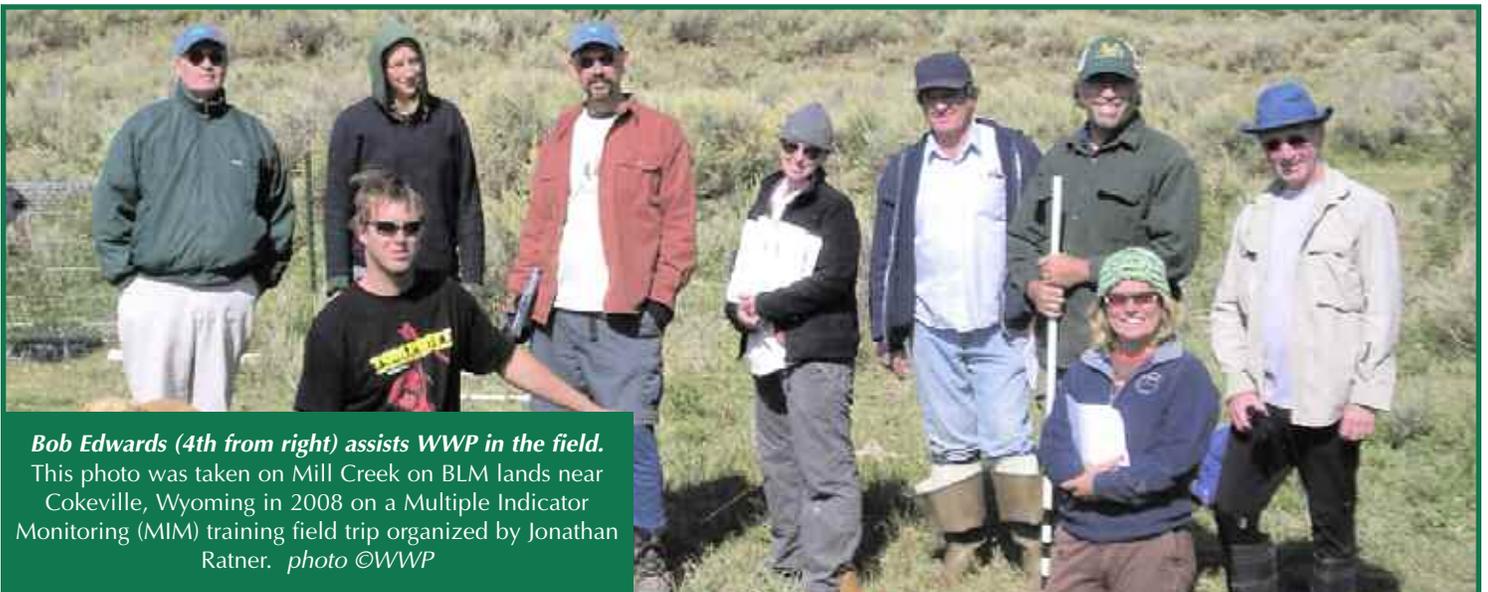
appreciate the politics that went along with the job. I have always believed that politics and natural resources do not mix. Much too often, the resource is compromised when politics is part of the equation. During my career, I always put the resources first and tried to do what I could to take care of them. I felt it was my responsibility to make a stand for the resource whenever it was being put at risk without a compelling reason to do so. It was frustrating to see many occasions where I thought the resource was compromised to accommodate the wants of a special interest. Not all BLM decisions were bad but, in my view, far too many of them depict how the agency is driven by politics."

### Question: Why did you decide you wanted to work with an organization such as WWP?

"My nature is to stand up for what I believe in and not back down. During my career I gained an appreciation for what some environmental organizations were trying to do that is right for the environment. Some time before retiring from BLM, I was hearing rumors about an organization which did what is right in an aggressive way. They actually did something, as quickly as possible, to make a positive change. This organization was Western Watersheds Project. Since my major concern was the inadequate range program on public lands, I was pleased to learn that livestock grazing on public lands is a WWP focus. Being convinced for many years, prior to retirement, that things had to change on the public lands, I was naturally drawn to an organization like WWP which tells it like it is and does the right things for the right reasons."

### Where did you help WWP in 2008?

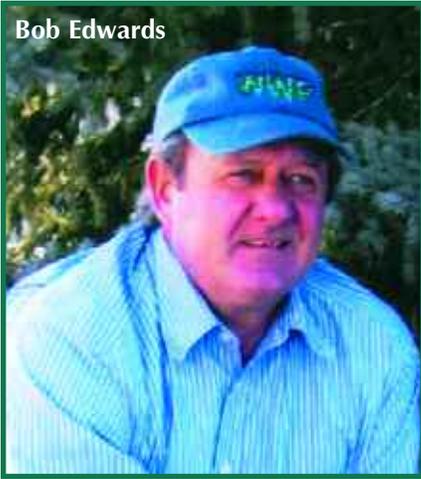
"During 2008, I was pleased to help WWP in three different states completing field studies and providing technical advice as needed. I worked with John Carter on his projects in Utah and Idaho, with Jonathan Ratner in southwest Wyoming, and on some of the allotments in Idaho that Jon Marvel is working on. I enjoyed every day of it and was proud to be able to help with the cause."



**Bob Edwards (4th from right) assists WWP in the field.**

This photo was taken on Mill Creek on BLM lands near Cokeville, Wyoming in 2008 on a Multiple Indicator Monitoring (MIM) training field trip organized by Jonathan Ratner. photo ©WWP

Bob Edwards



*What was your impression about the conditions you found?*

"I observed the same conditions which were mostly typical of what I observed for 30 years working at BLM. Vegetation and soil conditions are degraded and ecosystems are extremely compromised.

Although I observed other activities on public lands that are having too much negative impact, it is obvious that livestock are the cause of the most substantial damage to these lands. This only reaffirms my commitment that a change must happen."

*What was your impression of the BLM and Forest Service management in the places you monitored? Were the agencies receptive to WWP and your efforts?*

"My impression is that the right things are not being done to improve and/or restore resource conditions. In my opinion, politics and special interest demands drive what the agencies do and, therefore, proper resource management is far less than the level it should be. There are some agency people who I believe know what needs to be done but only go so far in making that happen due to the possibility of putting a career at risk. My general impression of the agencies attitude towards my efforts and that of WWP is that of tolerance but the support varies from limited to none. Their support is tempered by what they are being told to do. This is unfortunate because some of the agency people are good technicians and have extensive knowledge to offer."

*What do you see as an effective strategy for WWP to progress in the future?*

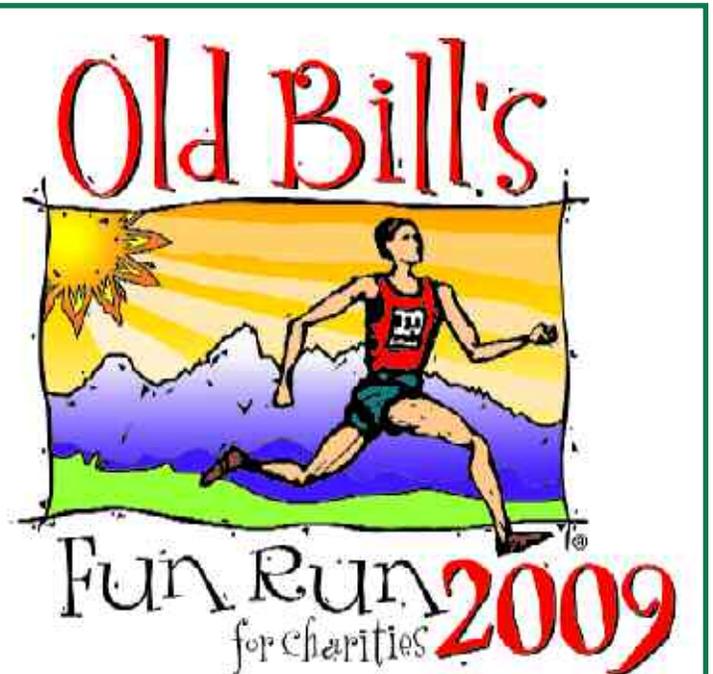
"In my opinion, WWP is on a mission which most would dare not attempt. That is why I admire what the organization is doing. They have taken on a task which must be done, and is very difficult to accomplish, but the end result is worth it. My view of what the future strategy should be is to keep the pressure on by: 1- Expanding public awareness by all reasonable means including using the media, personal contact with the public, being a presence when and where possible. 2- Continue to be aggressive in the area of litigation to reaffirm that WWP is willing to force the issue when needed. 3- Continue to build the resource data base in order to show that what WWP does is based on facts and science.

The range program and associated livestock grazing that is in place on public lands in the American west is broken,

has been broken for a long time, and can't be fixed. What livestock grazing has done and continues to do on public lands is an ecological disaster. The time is far over due to remove livestock from these lands and let "mother nature" start to repair the damage.

We have an obligation to take care of the natural resources on this earth because "We didn't inherit the earth from our predecessors, we borrowed it from those who come after us."

*Bob Edwards was interviewed by John Carter, who is WWP's Utah director. John lives in Mendon, Utah.*



**Western Watersheds Project** is participating again in this year's Old Bill's Fun Run for Charities in Jackson, Wyoming!

Visit [www.oldbills.org](http://www.oldbills.org) online and click on "make a gift" to donate, or send a check payable to *The Community Foundation of Jackson Hole, P.O. Box 574, Jackson Hole, Wyoming 83001* with a note that your donation should be applied to *Western Watersheds Project*. The deadline for donations through Old Bill's Fun Run is September 18th, 2009.

**SHOW YOUR  
SUPPORT FOR  
WESTERN WATERSHEDS!  
DONATE TODAY!**

# Lake Creek: Fourteen Years of Recovery Under Western Watersheds Project

In early September 1993 three friends visited Lake Creek in the watershed of the East Fork of the Salmon River in central Idaho.

We observed severely damaged riparian conditions caused by cattle permitted to graze by the Challis National Forest and the Challis Field Office of the BLM. Looking at the map we noticed that one-mile of this damaged area on Lake Creek was located on a 640-acre section of Idaho State school endowment land.

Idaho Watersheds Project was created shortly after that experience to apply for and compete for that very same grazing lease. After six years of legal fights and a number of court decisions, all won by IWP, a ten year grazing lease was awarded to IWP in 1999. WWP has held the lease ever since, thanks to the generous contributions of Barbara and Bob Dargatz.

These photographs taken in July, 1994 and July, 2007 show the dramatic and remarkable improvements since 1993 to the damaged riparian area on Lake Creek that resulted simply by the removal of livestock. In 2009 Western Watersheds Project was the only applicant for a new ten year grazing lease on this 640 acres, and WWP expects to hold the lease as long as needed to protect the greatly improved watershed health and wildlife habitat.



# 1994



*Lake Creek 1994 Images  
©Lynne Stone.*

*Lake Creek 2007 images were taken by Heath Hancock and appear here courtesy of the Idaho Department of Lands.*



**2007**



## WWP Staff, Officers and Friends

Greenfire, May 2009



**Back row left to right:** Jon Marvel, Bob Edwards, Dr. Michael Connor, Kelley Weston, David Merrill, Summer Nelson  
**Middle Row left to right:** Bob Wagenknecht, Sean Sheehan, Tom Woodbury, Katie Fite, Debra Ellers, Beth Pearson, Louise Wagenknecht, Dale Grooms, Jeremy Greenberg, Brian Ertz  
**Front row left to right:** Don Clarke, Joyce Clarke, Dr. Tom Pringle, Stefanie Marvel, Ken Cole, David Stilwill



### Meet One of WWP's Stellar Staff: Montana Legal Counsel Summer Nelson

Summer Nelson is Western Watershed Project's Montana Legal Counsel. Originally from western Washington, she moved to Montana in 1994 and obtained a Bachelor of Science in Resource Conservation from the University of Montana. In college and for several years after, Summer held various field work positions and volunteered with environmental and social justice campaigns. Jobs included wilderness trail work, avian research assistantships in Idaho and in the Missouri Ozarks, tree-planting and ecological restoration, and wilderness therapy with at-risk youth. She spent several seasons volunteering at the Buffalo Field Campaign in West Yellowstone, Montana, and was

involved with the School of the Americas Watch and other grassroots campaigns.

It was while working for these activist campaigns that Summer realized many of these organizations needed dedicated legal representation. With that goal in mind, she returned to the University of Montana where she graduated from the School of Law in 2008. While in law school, Summer was an intern with Earthjustice in Bozeman, Montana for a summer, conducted research for professors and environmental attorneys, and stayed involved with student and community groups.

Summer is dedicated to living a sustainable life style, and promoting environmental and social justice. She commutes by bicycle, lives in a converted passenger train car with housemates and her cat. In her spare time, Summer gardens, plays outside, occasionally paints and draws, and is learning to weave and play the banjo.



All readers of the Watersheds Messenger can keep up on the activities of Western Watersheds Project by signing up for WWP's Online Messenger.

To join WWP's Online Messenger, send an email to [wwp@westernwatersheds.org](mailto:wwp@westernwatersheds.org) with the word subscribe in the subject line.

### Western Watersheds Project

Jon Marvel.....Executive Director  
 Jeremy Greenberg .....Office Administrator  
 Brian Ertz .....Media Director  
 Ken Cole .....NEPA Coordinator  
 Bob Edwards.....Public Lands Resource Analyst  
 Greta Anderson .....Arizona Director  
 Erik Ryberg .....Arizona Legal Counsel  
 Dr. Michael J. Connor .....California Director  
 Tom Woodbury .....Montana Director  
 Summer Nelson .....Montana Legal Counsel  
 Dr. John Carter.....Utah Director  
 Judi Brawer .....Utah Legal Counsel  
 Jonathan Ratner .....Wyoming Director  
 Sean Sheehan .....Northern Wyoming Field Director  
 Katie Fite .....Biodiversity Director  
 Larry Walker .....RangeNet Director  
 Rick Hobson .....Newsletter Production  
 Julian Hatch .....Southern Utah Coordinator  
 Stuart Murray.....Contract Public Lands Monitor  
 Debra Ellers .....Western Idaho Director  
 Dale Grooms.....Western Idaho Data Specialist  
 Don Clarke .....Contract Soils Specialist  
 Larry Zuckerman .....Central Idaho Director  
 Hadley DeBree .....2009 Summer Intern

### Legal Counsel

Laird Lucas.....Advocates for the West

### Board of Directors

Kelley Weston .....President  
 Dr. Erin Anchustegui .....Vice President  
 James Gillespie.....Secretary-Treasurer  
 Louise Wagenknecht .....Director  
 Dr. Bruce Hayse .....Director  
 Dr. Ralph Maughan .....Director  
 Dr. John Carter .....Director

### Advisory Board

Gene E. Bray  
 Debra Donahue  
 Martin Flannes  
 Dr. Steven Herman  
 Dr. Don Johnson

Louise Lasley  
 Dr. Elizabeth Painter  
 Dr. Tom Pringle  
 Todd Shuman  
 George Wuerthner

### Western Watersheds Project Offices

Main Office .....P.O. Box 1770 • Hailey, ID 83333  
 (208)788-2290 • fax: (208)788-2298  
[wwp@westernwatersheds.org](mailto:wwp@westernwatersheds.org)

Idaho (Boise office) .....P.O. Box 2863 • Boise, ID 83701  
 (208)429-1679 • [katie@westernwatersheds.org](mailto:katie@westernwatersheds.org)

Idaho (Western) .....P.O. Box 1030 • McCall ID 83638  
 (208)634-9946

Director Email: [debra@westernwatersheds.org](mailto:debra@westernwatersheds.org)  
 Data Specialist Email: [dale@westernwatersheds.org](mailto:dale@westernwatersheds.org)

Idaho (Central) .....P.O. Box 1322 • Salmon ID 83467  
 (208)756-8000 • fax (208)756-8008  
[larry@westernwatersheds.org](mailto:larry@westernwatersheds.org)

Arizona.....Box 2264 • Tucson, AZ 85702  
 Eric Ryberg: (520)622-3333 • Greta Anderson: (520) 623-1878  
[arizona@westernwatersheds.org](mailto:arizona@westernwatersheds.org)

California .....P.O. Box 2364 • Reseda, CA 91337  
[california@westernwatersheds.org](mailto:california@westernwatersheds.org)

Utah .....P.O. Box 280 • Mendon, UT 84325  
 (435)881-5404 • [wwshed@comcast.net](mailto:wwshed@comcast.net)

Wyoming.....P.O. Box 1160 • Pinedale, WY 82941  
 (877)746-3628 • fax: (707)597-4058  
[wyoming@westernwatersheds.org](mailto:wyoming@westernwatersheds.org)

Montana .....P.O. Box 7681 • Missoula, MT 59807  
 (406)830-3099 • fax: (406)830-3085  
[montana@westernwatersheds.org](mailto:montana@westernwatersheds.org)



Wolverine (*Gulo. gulo*)  
 photo ©Mathias Kabel



**WESTERN WATERSHEDS PROJECT**

P.O. Box 1770  
Hailey, ID 83333

~Address Service Requested~

NON-PROFIT  
ORG.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Boise, Idaho  
Permit No 220

# CONTENTS

*Page*

- 1      When Green isn't Green: Wind Farms and Pipelines*
- 4      LDS Church Apostle Orson Hyde Speaks*
- 5      In the Field with WWP's 2009 Summer Intern*
- 6      Protecting the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument*
- 8      The Battle for Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument*
- 10     An interview with Bob Edwards*
- 12     Fourteen Years of Recovery under Western Watersheds*
- 14     2009 Photo of WWP Staff, Officers and Friends*
- 14     Introducing Summer Nelson*



**^ When Green isn't Green: Wind Farm and Gas Pipeline developments put stress on habitat which is already shrinking due to Grazing Practices. Page 1 photo ©BLM**