



Kane County Commission
Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument Statement

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 30, 2021

In the years since the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument was designated in 1996, the monument has remained a local controversy and an open wound. The only way to heal that wound is to have a cooperative solution that includes genuine input from locals. Nobody loves the land and the cultural sites more than the locals.

We feel our voice is not being heard, that we are being ignored in the decision making process and that this is not a genuine effort to protect land; rather, it is an effort to garner political points.

Utah is not ready to quit fighting for a voice in land management.

Utah's elected representatives (federal delegation, governor, state house and senate leadership, and attorney general) have all been united in asking the Biden administration to work *with* us on a permanent solution rather than acting against the will of the local communities.

We are all disappointed that they declined our offer, and since the executive branch wouldn't work with us, we are forced to rely on the judicial branch.

For the record, we don't hate monuments. On the contrary, we welcome monuments that are appropriately sized, appropriately located and that are created using a thoughtful and authentic process where the voices of local leaders and citizens can be heard.

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