



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 1, 2020

Kane County Objection to Sale of Trust Lands North of Kanab

The School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) is currently under contract with Best Friends Animal Society (BFAS) to purchase three Sections of Trust Lands located north of Kanab for \$6.3 million. These three Sections include Red Knoll, land east of Dianna's Throne, and land surrounding the current BFAS complex which also includes one of Kanab City's largest producing culinary water wells.

Kane County strongly objects to the sale of these Trust Lands. An official objection was sent to SITLA on April 22 which can be read in full [here](#). These lands have been accessed historically for ranching, hunting, tourism, ATV use, and other recreational activities. Without specific protections for all of these activities the sale should be cancelled.

Kane County also sent a letter to BFAS objecting to their purchase of these Trust Lands. A full copy of the letter can be read [here](#). If BFAS is unwilling to cancel the sale, the letter requests that BFAS meet with a group of elected officials to ensure that all of the public access to these precious lands remains open. The response from BFAS can be read [here](#).

Many residents may be concerned about a legal notice in the local paper last week regarding a potential amendment to the 2019 BFAS conduit bond which would allow them to use the bond proceeds to purchase land. This notice was prepared and published without the consent of the county. Kane County has no intention of amending the bond to allow for the purchase of land. The County is currently working with bond counsel, the trustee over the conduit bond, and BFAS to ensure that no bond proceeds have been used to pay for any portion of the proposed sale or the earnest money already transferred to SITLA. Earlier this week, the Kane County Commission authorized the Kane County Attorney to file an injunction if necessary to prevent any bond proceeds from being used towards the sale.

Kane County invites local residents to provide comments regarding the proposed sale to SITLA (State Director David Ure, dure@utah.gov) and BFAS (CEO Julie Castle, Julie@bestfriends.org).
