

A National Treasure Under Pressure

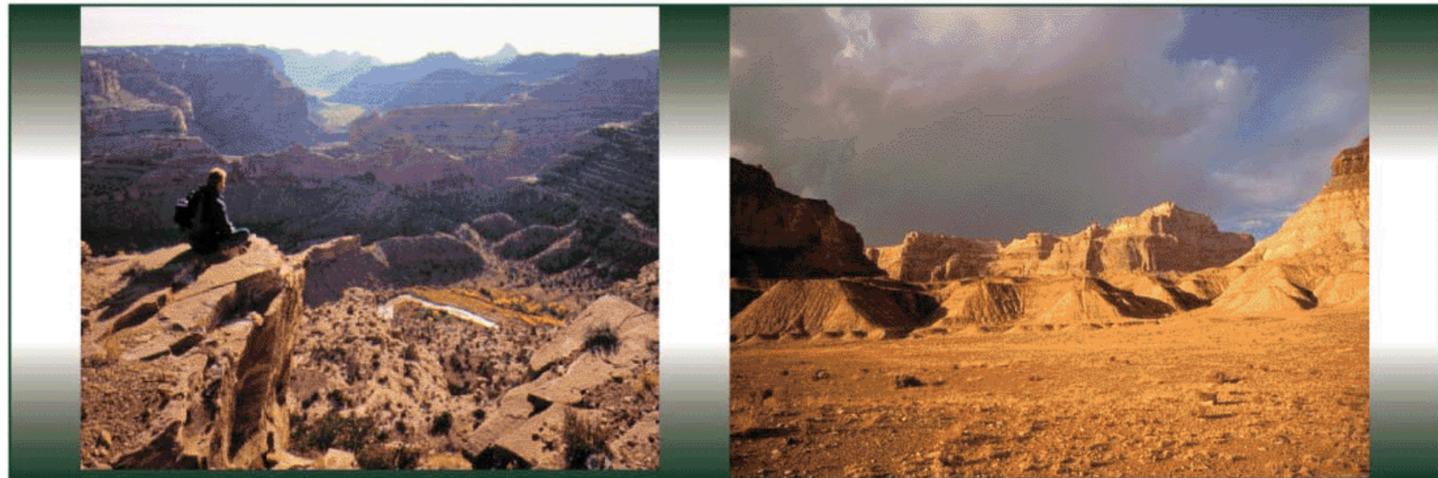
The San Rafael Swell is a public land treasure featuring stunning scenery, vast scientific resources, and a fascinating historical record embodying many of the forces that helped shape the American West.

And the secret is out. Each year thousands more come to learn from, or play upon a land many consider one of the nation's last great frontiers. Unfortunately, this increased affection has caused increased impacts on the land and strain on land management agencies tasked with balancing uses with protection of the resource.

This has led to much debate over how best to manage and maintain the area. Numerous proposals have been proffered and argued over the years, including such designation as State Park, National Park, wilderness area, wildlife preserve and Congressionally designated National Conservation Areas.

What is the best way to prove ourselves worthy of this gift a generous providence has bestowed upon us?

Is national monument designation the proper course of action to ensure that the stunning landscapes and important scientific and historic resources of the San Rafael Swell are both protected and enjoyed?



SCHEDULE	
Aug.	Information Website
Aug. to Nov.	Inventory Report
Sept.	Resource Forum
Sept. to Nov.	Public Comment and Workshops
Oct.	Field Tours Open to Public
Jan.	Public Opinion Survey
Feb.	Final Report
www.ut.blm.gov/sanrafaelswell	

The Request For Information From The President

Last May, President Bush directed the Department of Interior to provide him with information regarding certain resources and values in the area of the San Rafael Swell that may "contain historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures or other objects of historic or scientific interest." In gathering this information, direction was given to include "public participation, and comment from any and all interested parties and consult fully with the Governor and the entire Congressional Delegation of the State of Utah." The President has also requested information related to the "development of plans and programs for the management of lands in the San Rafael Swell that may be considered for monument designation, including any public comments that may be offered."

A Multi-Faceted Process Designed To Solicit Open Dialogue

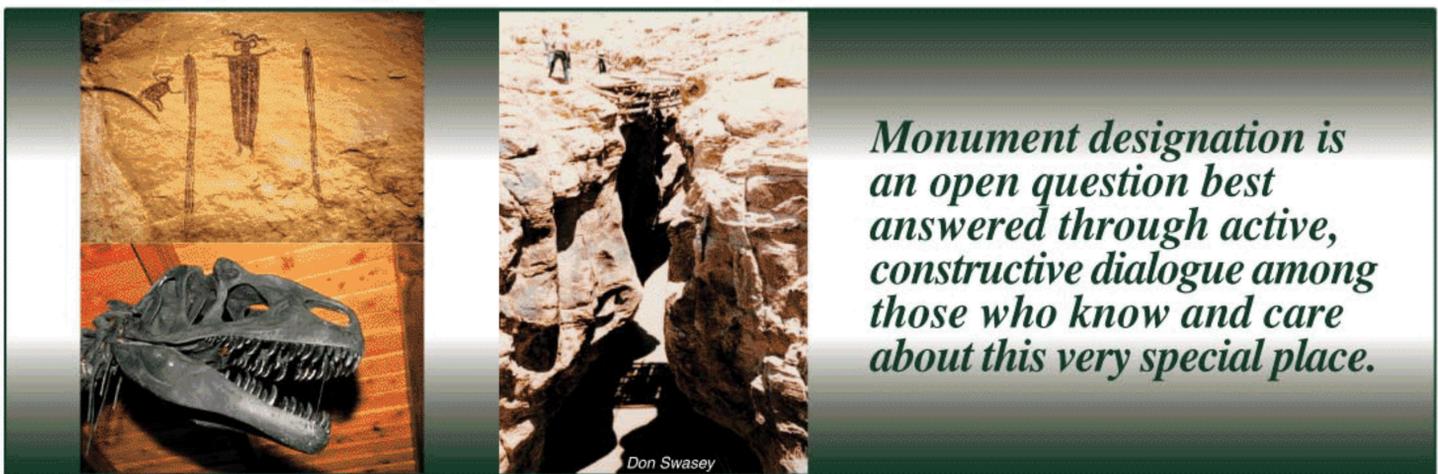
In June, representatives from the BLM, the Governor's Office, and Emery County began working to develop a process that would respond to the President's call for relevant information and open public dialogue. The result is a multi-faceted program featuring several different information and public feedback components.

Elements of the information and public feedback process include:

Information Website. Click on www.ut.blm.gov/sanrafaelswell for useful background information and news on upcoming events. Those who really want to stay plugged in can sign up to receive periodic advisories via e-mail. See the Website for details.

Inventory Report. A comprehensive literature search and a call for expert opinion will form the basis for an inventory report of significant objects of historic and scientific interest in the San Rafael Swell region. Our target is to complete this report by December 1. The final inventory report will be posted on-line and made available on CD ROM.

Resource Symposium. A two-day resource symposium was hosted in Castle Dale, Utah, on September 19 and 20. Historians, scientists and other subject matter specialists presented lectures and other education sessions on a variety of topics.



Public Feedback/Workshops. What resource values do you associate with the Swell? Are they nationally significant? Is special designation such as a national monument the best course of action? A series of regional workshops scheduled during November will help facilitate the dialogue.

Public Opinion Survey. State and County partners have the lead on the development of an opinion survey that will provide an additional avenue for public feedback. Professor Keith Allred of Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government is working with interest groups to craft a survey designed to garner perspectives on the status and management preferences for the San Rafael Swell. The survey will be administered to random samples at the national, state and local county levels. The survey will also be accessible to anyone via the project website.

Field Tours. The best way to know a place is to experience it first hand. The BLM is hosting a series of field tours that are open to the public on each Saturday in October.

Final Report. A final report will consolidate inventory findings, public input, and perspectives from state and local governments. The report will be submitted to the Secretary of the Interior this winter.

By combining efforts we will be able to reach out farther and accomplish more than any one of us could working alone.

