

To: Canyon County District Manager Lance Porter

Subject: Monument management plans for the Grand Staircase, Kaiparowits, and Escalante Canyons Units of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and Kanab Field Office-Escalante Area Resource Management Plan

Date: April 10, 2018

On behalf of the Union for Reform Judaism, whose 900 congregations across North America include 1.5 million Reform Jews, and the Central Conference of American Rabbis, whose membership includes more than 2,000 Reform rabbis, I write to express our comments on the resource management plans for Grand Staircase, Kaiparowits, and Escalante Canyon units, and Federal lands previously included in the GSENM that are excluded from the boundaries by Proclamation 9682. We believe that any area within the original boundaries of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument as designated in Proclamation 6920 should be managed under the management objectives and standards of protection set forth in Proclamation 6920.

Public lands are important spaces in our communities. Among other uses, they serve as centers of outdoor recreation and places to contemplate the wonder of God's natural world. As Jews, we are inspired by our texts' consistent reminders of our obligation to be responsible stewards of the earth. We are commanded "to till and to tend," (Genesis 2:15) in a relationship that necessitates both access to nature and its careful preservation. Our history and tradition has further taught us the critical role land can play in the understanding of cultural heritage, the maintenance of spiritual wellbeing, and the building of community.

As a site with ecological, historical, and scientific significance, the entirety of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument as originally designated needs the full management and protections that the National Monument designation provides. Grand Staircase-Escalante has earned the nickname "the science monument" because of the unprecedented look it has given us into the paleontological record and the immense amount of data it has yielded for

geologists, archaeologists, historians, and biologists. Grand Staircase-Escalante is also home to incredible biological and geological diversity and is representative of a critical ecosystem that requires protection in its own right.

Especially given the ongoing litigation concerning the changes to Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, I urge you to manage all land that was contained within the original boundaries of the monument in line with the standards of protection set forth in Proclamation 6920.

Sincerely,
Barbara Weinstein
Director
Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism