

## Recapture Canyon Demonstration Document Set

### Document 1

*Source: Photograph of demonstrators, led by Nevada native, Ryan Bundy, included in a newspaper article about the prosecution of protesters during a May 10, 2014 protest in Recapture Canyon, published in the Salt Lake Tribune, October 7, 2014, by Brian Maffly. Found at <http://archive.sltrib.com/article.php?id=58403975&itype=cmsid>*



### Document 2

*Source: Video produced by Joshua Ewing, executive director of the environmental group Friends of Cedar Mesa, during the May 10, 2014 demonstration. Published under the title Recapture Canyon: Arrival of ATV protest about 1 mile into closed area. Found at <https://vimeo.com/95073641>*

### Document 3

Source: Photograph posted on the website of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, a group dedicated to preserving wilderness, showing mostly local demonstrators during the Recapture Canyon protest in October 2014. Found at <https://suwa.org/county-commissioner-defies-blm-thumbs-nose-native-american-heritage/> Photograph also posted on the politically conservative site <https://www.utahpoliticohub.com/san-juan-countys-40-year-recapture-canyon-right-of-way/>



### Document 4

Source: Comment made by Don Guymon, chairman of Grassroots Utah, who grew up in San Juan County, posted August 3, 2015, on the politically conservative website, Utah Politico Hub, in response to the photograph included as Document 3 in this text set. Found at <https://www.utahpoliticohub.com/author/don-guymon/>

As I returned home to Blanding, Utah for my father's funeral, I passed over the Recapture Dam and looked to the south. Almost 30 years ago, my father and I spent a few summers moving cattle up and down that canyon. While you would occasionally see a piece of Anasazi pottery, that was always a sideshow. We needed the canyon to graze our cattle as we moved them to the summer pasture on the Blue Mountain. I wonder if in today's environment, we would be accused of breaking the law.

## Document 5

Source: Part of a radio program called KSL In-Depth, broadcast by KSL radio from Salt Lake City, Utah, recorded April 10, 2017. Voices include Dave Cawley and Jeff Caplan. Found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G6coDoWgOV0>

## Document 6

Source: Press release issued by Secretary of the Interior, Ryan Zinke on April 10, 2017 from Monticello, Utah. Found at <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/secretary-zinke-announces-expanded-recreation-access-and-blms-new-trail-system>

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**MONTICELLO, Utah** – U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) today announced expanded recreation opportunities for motorized and non-motorized trails in the Recapture Canyon area located in San Juan County, Utah. The travel management plan includes nearly 7 miles of all-terrain vehicle (ATV) and/or traditional vehicle access to this area while protecting important archaeological sites and natural resources.

"Recreation on public lands is a big part of what we do at the Interior Department and the BLM, but for many persons with disabilities or for people who just don't get around like they used to, our public lands aren't accessible without motorized vehicles," said Secretary Zinke. "Allowing ATVs and other vehicles in Recapture Canyon will open up opportunities for people to enjoy our public lands while still protecting the cultural and natural resources that make the place special. On my first day in office I prioritized public lands access; I'm happy to continue that mission."

Recapture Canyon is home to cliff dwellings of the ancient Pueblo peoples that were built more than 800 years ago. These archaeological sites and related artifacts are essential to understanding the story of the earliest inhabitants of the American Southwest. Additionally, Recapture Canyon contains important habitat for animals, including sensitive riparian areas for the endangered Southwestern willow flycatcher and crucial winter range for mule deer and Rocky Mountain elk....

The BLM had previously closed 1,871 acres of the Recapture Canyon area to motorized vehicles due to damage caused by unauthorized trail construction and damage to the archaeological sites. This new decision will lift the closure order within the area. Trail design and other measures highlighted in the decision were incorporated to restore and protect archaeological sites and natural areas important to wildlife.

The BLM is committed to increasing recreational access to public lands across the country and will continue to work with the OHV community and other recreational groups in the Recapture Canyon area to enhance opportunities for responsible recreation on our public lands.

### Document 7

*Source: Part of a transcript of a video published by The County Seat, a local television show by executive producer, Chad Booth, which focuses on county issues in Utah. This transcript comes from an episode published June 26, 2015. Found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMVnYImxBrQ>*

Recapture Canyon is ... different from other protested trail closures because Recapture has a lot of history, both recent and long ago. Several groups feel they have a stake in the future of the canyon. The Native Americans who live in Blanding and the surrounding area claim it as part of their history. The descendants of pioneers who settled Blanding revere it as a historic thoroughfare. The Federal Government claims title to the land and route as a Title 5 road which they own and control its use. However history would indicate the road existed long before the ownership claim by the federal government. Journal entries going back into the late 1800s document the road that was built in the canyon as an access between Bluff and Monticello. Passage of the Federal Lands Policy Management Act of 1976, which attempted to define title and authority to the land seemed to make no different to the use and access of the road. It wasn't until 2005 that the validity of the road came under fire from outside environmental groups after two man-made improvements to that road. This eventually led to the BLM taking action in 2007, ordering a temporary emergency closure of Recapture Canyon to motorized use. This was done in order to analyze the issue on the ground.

### Document 8

*Source: Video produced by PBS Newshour on September 18, 2014, a day after charges were filed against Phil Lyman and others for their involvement in the demonstration. Found at <https://www.pbs.org/video/utah-archaeological-site-becomes-protest-site-1418338695/>*