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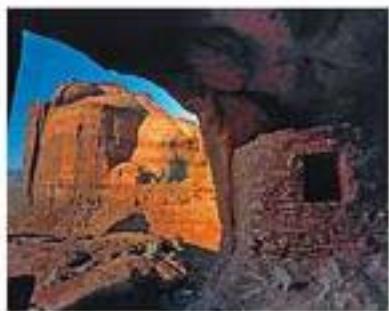
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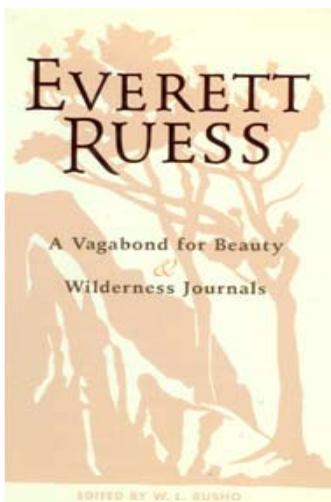


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EVERETT RUESS A Vagabond for Beauty



(Ruess, Everett) Rusho, W.L. (ed.). *Everett Ruess: A Vagabond for Beauty & Wilderness Journals*. Salt Lake City, UT: Gibbs Smith, Inc, 2002. First edition. 441pp. Octavo. Full cloth. Introduction by John Nichols. Afterword by Edward Abbey. Illustrated with black & white photographs and reproductions of Everett Ruess's woodblock prints and paintings. This massive hardbound edition combines Bud Rusho's classic book on Everett Ruess: *A Vagabond For Beauty* with Everett Ruess's previously unpublished *Wilderness Journals*. The text also incorporates almost verbatim the original text of the 1940 *On Desert Trails With Everett Ruess*.

Includes many never before published photographs of Everett Ruess and his circle of friends, and Everett Ruess's woodcut block prints and paintings as well. The definitive volume on Everett Ruess. The afterword is an original sonnet about Everett Ruess by Edward Abbey. Through a special purchase, we are offering these brand new hardbound copies at one half the published price.

Read and hear Ken Sanders on NPR:
Literary Larceny: A Book Thief Meets His Match
by Howard Berkes

click here:

www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=121489286&ps=cprs

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TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT (CONTINUED)

ported local participation and opposed federal designation. Specifically, Salazar insisted the Obama Administration had no intention of creating national monuments on public lands and side-stepping the legislative wilderness process.

"That's not going to happen," Salazar said. "That would be the wrong way to go." Instead he wants to work with locally elected officials to find consensus on wilderness. He hailed the 2009 Washington County lands bill—which designated wilderness but which also released thousands of acres of public land for private development—as a model for future legislation. SUWA ultimately supported the Washington County bill but insisted it in no way compromised their Red Rock legislation.

Salazar disagreed. "I think this is what people want from their government. They want solutions and conclusions." And, in a reference clearly intended for the litigious SUWA lawyers, Salazar added, "They don't want interminable processes that don't lead anywhere."

According to a news report on public radio's KUER, "He also insisted that Utah's Red Rock Wilderness Bill before Congress is the wrong way to go."

KUER STORY:

www.publicbroadcasting.net/kuer/news.newsmain/article/o/o/1641833/
KUER.Local.News/Salazar.Looks.For.Compromise

Salazar's comments had to sting the hierarchy at SUWA. Their combative legalistic approach to wilderness over the past two decades has alienated friends and foes alike, including, I regret to say, this publication.

Originally a grassroots organization with a lot of soul but not much money, SUWA has

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become one of the wealthiest "local" green groups in the Intermountain West. Its payroll in 2008 topped one million dollars. The ultimate goal has always been passage of the Red Rock Wilderness Bill, but for all its legal maneuverings and law suits and caustic criticism of multiple land use groups, SUWA has little to show for its efforts. They have been effective STOPPING actions that might degrade Utah's wildlands—they certainly deserve credit for that—but have done little to resolve the wilderness debate. If anything, they have made the issue more polarized and bitter than ever before.

Now SUWA's banner wilderness bill is even being sidestepped and dismissed by the Obama Presidency.

Where does SUWA go from here?

SUWA rarely takes 'NO' for an answer, so we can only speculate.

In 2004, SUWA took the BLM all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, arguing that the Bureau had an obligation to reduce off road vehicle damage. SUWA insisted that the court must assure the protection of proposed wilderness areas.

The Supreme Court disagreed and Justice Scalia wrote that forcing the BLM to act would insert the court into the day-to-day operations of the agency. Scalia insisted a ruling on SUWA's behalf "would divert BLM's energies from other projects throughout the country that are in fact more pressing. While such a decree might please the environmental plaintiffs in the present case, it would ultimately operate to the detriment of sound environmental management."

Any green-blooded environmentalist would dismiss Scalia's comments as the rantings of a far right conservative. But Scalia merely wrote on behalf of the court. *All of them.*

The Supreme Court unanimously ruled against SUWA. Even John Paul Stevens cast his vote against the group. So did David Souter. And Ruth Bader Ginsberg.

Form 990
Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax
 Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except black lung benefit trust or private foundation)
 Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service
 The organization may have to use a copy of this return to satisfy state reporting requirements

A For the 2008 calendar year, or tax year beginning and ending

B Check if applicable:
 Address change
 Name change
 Initial return
 Termination
 Amended return
 Application pending

C Name of organization: Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
 Doing Business As: Doing Business As
 Number and street (or P.O. box if mail is not delivered to street address): 425 East 100 South
 City or town, state or country, and ZIP + 4: Salt Lake City UT 84111

D Employer ID number: 94-293696
E Telephone number: 801-486-3

F Name and address of principal officer
G Gross receipts
H(a) Is this a group return?

Nine to ZERO.

The next day, SUWA still refused to accept defeat. According to a June 15, 2004 *Salt Lake Tribune* story, "SUWA attorney Heidi McIntosh said the group will keep trying through other administrative, legal and congressional avenues to force the BLM to act."

It reminds me of the Black Knight dueling swords with King Arthur in "Monty Python and the Holy Grail"---Arthur had reduced the hapless warrior to stumps and the Black Knight yelled, "The Black Knight is always triumphant! Come back here and I'll bite your legs off!"

SUWA seems to be biting ankles these days.

But if that's what it wants to do, SUWA has the money to do it (though not quite as

much as a couple years ago). Since the former grassroots group began to pursue Big Money, recruiting multi-millionaires to its board of directors, SUWA has seen its coffers grow significantly.

In 2006 I made the mistake of writing an essay for "Writers on the Range" that suggested SUWA should share some its largesse with other struggling green groups. I called the essay, "SUWA can you spare a dime?" In an angry response, published in the *Salt Lake Tribune*, its executive director Scott Groene insisted that the money was needed as a "rainy day fund" for future emergencies and complained that I was insane... (He also called me the "Barney Fife of the Desert," but that's a story for another time.)

The question is, as SUWA's influence wanes, what good is all that money? Has the "rainy day" at long last arrived?

SUWA's 2008 IRS statements show a decline in "net assets" for the first time in years, from \$5,912,035 at the beginning of 2008 to \$5,397,339 at the end of the year. But contri-

	(A) Beginning of year		(B) End of year
Cash—non-interest-bearing	2,848	1	4,959
Savings and temporary cash investments	3,156,498	2	3,894,339
Pledges and grants receivable, net	0	3	0
Accounts receivable, net	0	4	0
Receivables from current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, or other related parties. Complete Part II of Schedule L	0	5	0
Receivables from other disqualified persons (as defined under section 4058(f)(1)) and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B). Complete Part II of Schedule L	0	6	0
Notes and loans receivable, net	0	7	0
Inventories for sale or use	0	8	0
Prepaid expenses and deferred charges	0	9	0
Land, buildings, and equipment: cost basis	1,413,842	10a	1,152,947
Less accumulated depreciation. Complete Part VI of Schedule D	276,040	10b	357,678
Investments—publicly traded securities	1,206,213	10c	1,152,947
Investments—other securities. See Part IV, line 11	1,576,521	11	357,678
		12	0

butions were UP for 2008, so how did they lose money? It wasn't because they had tapped into their rainy day fund.

According to their tax returns, SUWA was heavily invested in "publicly traded securities." And 2008 was a bad year. SUWA saw its investments plummet in value, from \$1,576,521 to \$357,678. Of course, the markets have come back and surely the Utah green group has recouped some of the green it lost in 2008, but how many SUWA supporters would guess their contribution might be headed for a mutual fund?

Not many, I'd bet.

Meanwhile the payroll expenditures reached \$1,030,202 in 2008, up from \$891,982 the year before and the executive director receives \$90,000 annually in salary and benefits. What has SUWA done to deserve a million dollar payroll?

It has certainly succeeded in becoming an unbridled supporter of the multi-million dollar recreation economy that SUWA thinks wilderness stimulates. It's almost impossible to separate the green from the 'Green' these days in their wilderness message.

According to an August KCPW public radio story, "The Outdoor Industry Foundation says outdoor recreation has an annual economic impact of \$6 billion a year in Utah and accounts for 65,000 jobs. 'That's making state officials more receptive to conserving wilderness,' says Scott Groene of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance."

Groene explained, "When the Outdoor Industry a couple years ago spoke up about the importance of their industry and threatened to pull the [Outdoor Retailer] tradeshow from Salt Lake City, they got the governor's attention. And it changed the debate from one that protecting lands would devastate local economies to not only would they not devastate local economies but there was actually a benefit to protecting lands."

KCPW added, "Groene says being eco-friendly isn't just for activists like SUWA. It's also good business."

Forget saving wild lands for their own sake. Don't even mention the more intrinsic aspects of Nature. Instead, the wilderness advocate might have simply said, "I consume. I consume. I consume. And I spend a lot of money."

Jump ahead three years. When wilderness supporters gathered to hear Secretary Salazar last month, most of them were sporting SUWA's "9.4 WILD" buttons and many of them came with messages of support. One wilderness advocate voiced her opinion to KUER's Jenny Brundin. "I hike, I ski, I river raft," she said, "...just everything. There is so much here and we'd hate to have anything happen to it."

It is a message that has drowned out loftier wilderness expressions. Forget saving wild lands for their own sake. Don't even mention the more intrinsic aspects of Nature. Instead, the wilderness supporter might have simply said, "I consume. I consume. I consume. And I spend a lot of money." If there is a message that the mainstream environmental community has embraced, it's the money to be made by supporting wilderness designation.

Ed Abbey once wrote, "A man can be a lover of wilderness without ever in his lifetime leaving the boundaries of asphalt, power lines, and right-angled surfaces. We need wilderness whether or not we ever set foot in it. We need a refuge even though we may never need to go there....we need the possibility of escape as surely as we need hope."

It's as selfless a plea for wilderness as I have ever heard; yet these words from our most eloquent defender of wilderness seem conveniently ignored by today's wilderness "advocates." How did the noble quest for the preservation of our remaining wildlands ever become inextricably linked to a \$6 billion recreation industry...the "industrial tourism" Abbey warned us against 40 years ago?

This is the course the mainstream environmental movement has chosen---this, and a never-ending legalistic strategy backed by all kinds of money but with very little heart and soul.

Wilderness is not about pampered guided trips or expensive gear or booming tourist towns. *It's not about us...*it's about the land itself and the Life that inhabits it. This should be our priority as we seek to save what's left of our precious wild lands.