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Durbin Re-Introduces Red Rock Wilderness Act Bill

by Sabrina Hardenbergh

Illinois Senator [Dick Durbin](#) re-introduced America's Red Rock Wilderness Act of 2017, [SB 948](#), on April 26, 2017, which was then referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The purpose of the Act is to "designate as wilderness certain Federal portions of the red rock canyons of the Colorado Plateau and the Great Basin Deserts in the State of Utah for the benefit of present and future generations of people in the United States." A related House counterpart bill, [HR 2044](#), was also re-introduced by California House Representative Alan Lowenthal on April 19, 2017. Durbin attempted to introduce the Senate bill earlier in 1996, while the House version was first introduced in 1989. Ongoing citizen initiative and these related Congressional bills follow an inadequate Bureau of Land Management inventory of Utah red rock wilderness areas after the [1964 Wilderness Act and directives in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act \(FLPMA\) of 1976](#). Southern Illinoisans may have heard about the red rock preservation initiative over the years via [Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance \(SUWA\)](#) representatives who have occasionally given talks to southern Illinois community groups. Or you may be among those who have had opportunity to travel west to camp, hike and explore these unique landscapes and native people's ancestral ruins.

America's Red Rock Wilderness Act of 2017 will preserve 9.2 million acres of Utah's many red rock wilderness areas and water resources from off-road vehicles, fossil fuel and mining development, and sale of these public lands. Its re-introduction faces off President Trump's recent [Executive Order 13792, Review of Designations Under the Antiquities Act](#), on the same day of April 26, 2017, calling for a review of whether to keep a number of National Monuments across the United States, including Utah's **recently designated** [Bears Ears](#) and the two decade old [Grand Staircase Escalante](#) red rock areas, or instead allow recent propositions by fossil fuel **industry** influenced Congressmen. The Act specifies particular features to preserve as wilderness within [Bears Ears National Monument](#), as well as other red rock features throughout Utah which are adjacent to **our internationally renowned** National Parks such as Arches, Canyonlands, Bryce, Capitol Reef, and the Grand Canyon. An [Inter-Tribal Coalition](#) of Navajo, Hopi, Ute, and Zuni native people **helped with the creation of** [Bears Ears](#) National Monument that preserves many of their important [cultural sites](#) in southeastern Utah.

(Continued on Page 2)

(Red Rock Wilderness Bill, Continued from Page 1)

A very general map of the wilderness areas can be viewed [here](#), although the Act specifies that further mapping will occur. Unfortunately, one can compare the overlapping areas of [potential oil and gas plays](#), which along with industry money, are influencing particular Utah Congressmen to vote against retention of public lands, National Monuments, the Antiquities Act, and the EPA. However, [SUWA argues](#) that with low oil and gas prices, Utah would not come out well financially in this likely unconstitutional [land grab](#) venture without federal support and handing over of public land. Hence, to preserve red rock wilderness Americans must insist on retaining our National Monuments, the Antiquities Act, our public land, the EPA and its Acts and Rules, and enactment of America's Red Rock Wilderness Act; our current administration is attempting to undo all of this with the recent CRA repeals, Executive Orders and Memos, and other bills mentioned here and the previous [newsletter](#).

The Sierra Club, Southern Utah Wilderness Association, and Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) support this bill. [Utah Wilderness Coalition](#) volunteers helped select the many wilderness areas indicated in the bill. All lands proposed for wilderness designation in America's Red Rock Wilderness Act are already owned by the American public and administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

* **SIGN** the Sierra Club [Petition](#) to support America's Red Rock Wilderness Act.

* **MAKE** a [public comment](#) to the [Department of Interior](#) concerning the importance of keeping our National Monuments. Written comments relating to the Bears Ears National Monument must be submitted before May 26th. Written comments relating to all other designations subject to Executive Order 13792 must be submitted by July 10th.

* **Call or write Dick Durbin**. Thank him for continuing to stand up for the red rock wilderness areas that contain many cultural sites and rejuvenating red rock habitat of our Western American heritage that are important homelands of many groups of native peoples, as well as symbols of our rugged American identity.



Shawnee Group Sierra Club participated in our local sister march to the national [People's Climate March](#) in Washington, DC on Saturday, April 29, 2017. The [Climate March of Southern Illinois](#) had a fantastic turn-out, despite flooding storms the night before. The Shawnee Group led the march with our "We Resist, We Rebuild, We Rise" banner, plus offered a native plant sale on the same day.

SUMMER 2017 PROGRAMS

PLEASE NOTE: In contrast to our usual schedule, during June and July, there will be no second-Thursday-of-the-month General Membership program at Carbondale Township Hall.

Sunday, June 11, 2017 - Shawnee Group Potluck Picnic for Members & Guests

Mark your calendar and prepare for fun, food and socializing at the main shelter, Giant Sycamore, at Evergreen Park, right off of Pleasant Hill Road in Carbondale. Bring your own drink and, if you would like, a side dish to share.

Thursday, August 10 at 7 pm :

Speaker: Kevin Rohling, Project Coordinator, River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area

Presentation: Impacts of Invasive Plants on Wildlife and Processes

Dinner at 5 pm: TBA

Location: REAR entrance, through green door in alley, of the Carbondale Township Meeting Room at 217 East Main, across from Rock Hill Baptist Church (at Monroe and Marion Streets). The front door is locked! FREE and open to the public. Refreshments and socializing before and after meeting.

SUMMER 2017 SIERRA CLUB OUTING

Tunnel Hill Bike Ride

Sunday, June 25, 2017

Meet at the Rangers station on the Tunnel Hill bike trail in Vienna on Route 146 before 10:00 am. We will ride the trail to the tunnel about 9.3 miles (uphill) and 9.3 miles back (downhill).

You will need to bring your own bike. Also bring water and wear appropriate clothing.

You must contact Bob Mulcahy, the outing leader, at 618-942-6342, in order to attend the bike ride.

Tunnel Hill



Piasa Palisades Group Outings Chair:

Carol Klinger, 618-288-5506, ciklinger@yahoo.com
<http://www.sierraclub.org/illinois/piasa-palisades>

Eastern Missouri Group Outings Chair:

Doug Melville, 636-288-1055
douglas.k.melville@gmail.com
<http://sierraclub.org/missouri/eastern-missouri>

Future Outings TBA:

Updates listed on our or Illinois Chapter websites:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/illinois/shawnee>
<http://illinois.sierraclub.org/calendar>

Other short notice outings and events may be announced on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/SierraClubShawnee>

ATV Trails in Shawnee National Forest? Help us Resist!

We need your help and your voice to be heard against the clamor coming from ATV riders demanding the Forest Service (FS) designate trails in Shawnee National Forest (SNF) for Off-Road Vehicles (ORV) and All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV). State Representative Brandon Phelps has pushed a resolution through the Illinois legislature in favor of ATV trails in the Shawnee, and Mike Bost has been pressuring the FS to designate such trails. **We need your help to push back!!**

Motorized vehicles are incompatible with every other kind of recreation in the forest. Far more of us use the forest for a multitude of other reasons, such as quiet hiking, a search for solitude and undisturbed nature, bird watching, and horse-back riding, and not for disrupting the forest with noisy engines and speeding machines. In addition, there are significant problems caused by this proposed single use.

There will be an increase in expenditures for law enforcement, since 2/3 of the vehicle users admit to off-trail trespass and miles of illegal trails already exist. Remediation for trail maintenance, erosion control, and invasive species removal will also require staff time and money. Most of all, we object to the damage to native ecosystems, and the reduction of bird and wildlife numbers and diversity due to forest fragmentation, noise, and pollution.

The many neighbors who share boundaries with the Shawnee will also have problems. Off-Road Vehicle traffic already has had a negative impact on a majority of neighboring land owners, and there are thousands of them given the dispersed landholdings of the SNF. Vandalism, property damage, and more have happened where ORVs are allowed to run rampant.

What you can do:

- > Pass our petition that urges the Forest Service to protect Shawnee Forest by denying demands to designate ATV/ORV trails in the forest. Contact us and we will send you our petition by Email. Contact Jean at 618- 833-3179, or Barb at babitaji@aol.com
- > Contact State Rep. Brandon Phelps and U.S. Rep. Mike Bost to let them know you oppose designation of trails for motorized vehicles in Shawnee National Forest.
Rep. Phelps – 618-253-4189; 217-782-5131, bphelps118@gmail.com
Rep. Mike Bost – 618-457-5787; 202-225-5661 and/ or through Bost's website: bost.house.gov
- > If you have a state representative other than Phelps, contact that person.
- > If you have a U.S. representative other than Mike Bost, contact that person.
- > Help us spread the word with Email, Facebook, etc.

Call for articles and photographs for Shawnee Trails! The next issue will be published in May. Please send your Word, PDF or JPG files to sabrina@midwest.net by **August 7th**.

Volunteers Needed to Help Protect Shawnee National Forest

Protecting Shawnee National Forest involves frequent communication with the Forest Service, research on issues, and educating others about those issues. We especially need help in keeping oil and gas wells out of the forest - including fracking wells. Please contact Barb at babitaji@aol.com if you are interested in helping in any way.

May 2017 CAFO Update

Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) or factory farms are industries that confine animals in buildings for the purpose on producing meat, eggs, milk. Far more animal manure is produced than can be managed by land disposal, posing a threat to water, air, and soil. Illinois laws that oversee CAFOs are inadequate in protecting environmental and community well-being. Locally, a CAFO was built in Fall 2015 1/4 mile uphill from Cedar Lake.



In February, several concerned citizens including members of Sierra Club and League of Women Voters, small farmers, and neighbors met with legislators to explain problems with the current lack of regulation of CAFOs; first with Representative Terri Bryant and then with Senator Paul Schimpf. We then attended the Jackson County Board Legislative Committee's April meeting, where the attached resolution (see Page 6) advocating local rights concerning CAFOs was discussed. The board agreed with the premise for the need for local control but wanted to revise the

wording before revisiting it at their May meeting.

Particularly interesting in the CAFO issue--and convincing that action is needed--is the fact that Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Indiana all require their large livestock operations to notify their Department of Agriculture about new facilities and require also that each operation spell out their waste management plans. Illinois does not!

Also quite stunning, no further permitting is required when a CAFO starting with a certain minimal number of animal units (with chickens, it's 25,000) expands to include greater numbers; these operations are able to expand 25,000 chickens at a time up to 100,000!

Please ask your Jackson County Board Members to support the Resolution to regulate future CAFOs:

email

jcboard@jacksoncounty-il.gov

or

phone

618-687-7240



JACKSON COUNTY RESOLUTION 2017-XX
Resolution Opposing Future CAFOs

WHEREAS, the Jackson County Board has become aware of the existing CAFOs in Jackson County; and,

WHEREAS, Article XI of the Illinois Constitution was enacted by the people to protect the citizens' rights to live in a healthy environment; and,

WHEREAS, Section 1, Article XI of the Illinois Constitution-Public Policy-Legislative Responsibility states that the public policy of the State and the duty of each person is to provide and maintain a healthy environment for the benefit of this and future generations. The General Assembly shall provide by law for the implementation and enforcement of this public policy; and,

WHEREAS, Section 2, Article XI of the Illinois Constitution-Rights of Individuals states that each person has the right to a healthful environment. Each person may enforce this right against any party, governmental or private, through appropriate legal proceedings subject to reasonable limitation and regulation as the General Assembly may provide by law; and,

WHEREAS, the rights of the individual family that has lived in their home for at least one year under Article XI takes precedence and supersedes the right to farm law; and,

WHEREAS, CAFO locations pose a significant risk to citizens' health and damage to the environment; and,

WHEREAS, Spills from CAFOs routinely occur and surface water, ground water, and well water in our community will be threatened; and

WHEREAS, townships and counties end up paying for damaged local roads from the increased CAFO heavy semi-truck traffic; and,

WHEREAS, protecting the health and existing environment of the citizens of Jackson County is a number one priority.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Jackson County Board requests the representatives of the State of Illinois pass a bill giving our counties and townships binding local control of the siting and size of CAFOs within a county. The Livestock Management Facilities Act (LMFA) needs to be amended with increased setbacks and more to correct loopholes to protect the citizens of all counties in the State of Illinois; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Jackson County Board requests the Illinois Department of Agriculture to disapprove the applications from future CAFOs until there is meaningful reform to the LMFA.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2017

John S. Rendleman
Chairman, Jackson County Board

ATTEST:

Larry W. Reinhardt
Jackson County Clerk & Recorder

(SEAL)

Help Ban Coal Tar – A Potent Carcinogen – Call Today

- Coal Tar is used as a sealant for blacktop roads, driveways and parking lots. It contains volatile compounds that are 38 times more carcinogenic than the alternatives. HB2958 has been introduced in the Illinois legislature by Representative Laura Fine. Because of some opposition to the bill, Rep. Fine has amended HB2958 to change it from a statewide ban to allow local control at the county and municipal level.
- There are currently 31 “Yes” votes for the bill as amended (HB2958 HFA2), with 29 more needed to pass. We need to let our state representatives know that the bill has been amended to allow local control rather than a mandatory state-wide ban, and that it is important for our health and for the environment to reduce the use of this potent carcinogen. Let them know you want them to support HB2958-HFA2 to allow local communities to make the decision to keep their families safe from toxic coal tar.
- Call your state representative today! To find out who your state representative is, text your zip code to: 520-200-8660.
- Dist. 115 Rep. Terri Bryant 217-782-0387; Dist. 118 Rep. Brandon Phelps 217-782-5131; Dist. 117 Rep. Dave Severin 217-782-1051; Dist. 116 Rep. Jerry Costello 217-782-1018



Monarch Team News May 2017

To date the Monarch Team, Jane Cogie, Patty Weyhrich and I, have volunteered at the Crab Orchard Wildlife Refuge pollinator garden, and have connected with Carbondale Park District. We're working on a proposal to restore and reintroduce native plants and create other pollinator gardens within the Carbondale Park District.

Good news is we gained a number new of members for the Monarch Team during our recent Native Plant Sale and the local sister march to the national [People's Climate March](#). Thank you everyone! With many hands we can further the Illinois State Sierra Club's goals to increase pollinator habitat, promote native plant species, and educate the public.

Have you noticed any Monarchs? I'm counting Monarchs for [MonarchWatch.org](#) and am happy to report, even though we've had many days of hard rain, I've sighted eighteen since April 9th!

Kathy Belletire, Monarch Team Leader

KBelletireArt@gmail.com

The Illinois Chapter Sierra Club's Frack Fight Team is steered by Terri Treacy (terri.treacy@sierraclub.org).

To receive periodic updates and communications from local and national Sierra Club, become a member of Illinois Chapter's Frack Fight Team:

http://action.sierraclub.org/site/Survey?ACTION_REQUIRED=URI_ACTION_USER_REQUESTS&SURVEY_ID=138181

FYI, to receive more timely alerts from the Illinois Chapter of the Sierra Club, sign up online at their state website:

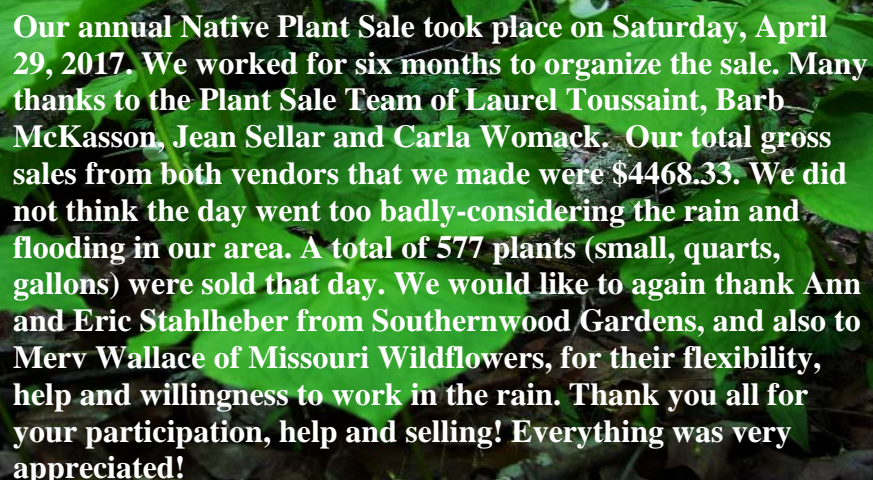
https://secure.sierraclub.org/site/SPageNavigator/Chapter/il_newsletter_signup.html;jsessionid=84420F4C49A5A8CD264E1E3C3F131E25.app205a

Has Your Email Address Changed?

To receive notification when the latest Shawnee Group newsletter is posted online, be sure to inform the Group when you change your email address. Send email address updates to: jane.cogie@gmail.com

Read current and past newsletters on our website: <http://www.sierraclub.org/illinois/shawnee>. The website also lists information on upcoming local programs and outings, plus state and national Sierra Club issues.

4th Annual Sierra Club Native Plant Sale: A Big Thanks to All!



Our annual Native Plant Sale took place on Saturday, April 29, 2017. We worked for six months to organize the sale. Many thanks to the Plant Sale Team of Laurel Toussaint, Barb McKasson, Jean Sellar and Carla Womack. Our total gross sales from both vendors that we made were \$4468.33. We did not think the day went too badly-considering the rain and flooding in our area. A total of 577 plants (small, quarts, gallons) were sold that day. We would like to again thank Ann and Eric Stahlheber from Southernwood Gardens, and also to Merv Wallace of Missouri Wildflowers, for their flexibility, help and willingness to work in the rain. Thank you all for your participation, help and selling! Everything was very appreciated!

Leadership Opportunities

Run for the Board! We need a few good women and men. Join the board of directors (the executive committee, also known as the ExCom) in overseeing the Shawnee Group's strategic direction and economic health. Board members meet monthly for about 2 hours. Board terms are for two years. We are always interested in potential candidates.

We need Hospitality team members
Provide refreshments for one monthly meeting each year (2nd Thursday).
Be the Hospitality Chair to organize refreshment providers and greeters
OR Act as a greeter for a monthly meeting or welcome and assist our speaker
OR Select and make reservations at a local restaurant for our monthly "Dinner Before the Meeting."
Contact Jane Cogie, 618-549-4673
jane.cogie@gmail.com.

Illinois Legislative Contacts: **CALL YOUR LEGISLATORS TODAY!**

State Dist. 109 Rep. David Reis: 618-392-0108 or 217-782-2087; www.davidreis.org
State Dist. 115 - Rep. Terri Bryant: 618-242-8115; 217-782-0387; staterepterribryant@gmail.com
State Dist. 116 - Rep. Jerry Costello II - 618-282-7284; 217-782-1018 Staterepcostello@gmail.com
State Dist. 117 - Rep. Dave Severin - 618-440-5090; 217-782-1051; www.ilhousegop.org/contactseverin
State Rep. 118 - Rep. Brandon Phelps - 618-253-4189; 217-782-5131; bpphelps118@gmail.com
Senate Dist. 55 Senator Dale Righter: 217-235-6033 or 217-782-6674
Senate Dist. 58 - Senator Paul Schimpf: 618-684-1100; senshimpf58@gmail.com
Senate Dist. 59 - Senator Dale Fowler: 618-294-8951; 217-782-5509; senatorfowler59@gmail.com
Governor Bruce Rauner: 217-782-0244, <http://www2.illinois.gov/gov/Pages/ContacttheGovernor.aspx>
Speaker of the House Madigan: 217-782-5350; 773-581-8000; <http://www.housedem.state.il.us>
Senate President Cullerton: 217-782-2728; 773-883-0770; jcullerton@senatedem.illinois.gov

Congressional Contacts: **CALL YOUR CONGRESSMEN TODAY!**

Senator Dick Durbin: 618-351-1122; 202-224-2152; <http://www.durbin.senate.gov/>
Senator L. Tammy Duckworth: (202) 224-2854; <https://www.duckworth.senate.gov/>
Representative Mike Bost: 618-457-5787; 202-225-5661; <https://bost.house.gov/>
Representative John Shimkus: 618-252-8271; 202-225-5271; <https://shimkus.house.gov/>