



# Natural Resource Appropriations Committee 2024

Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office (PLPCO)



Redge Johnson | Director



## Mission & Vision

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**Mission:** *To coordinate, promote, and implement Utah's public land priorities.*

**Vision:** *To empower all to enjoy and flourish from Utah's public lands, providing Utahns with unique and lasting opportunities for access, economic prosperity, and stewardship.*



# Key Objectives

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- Protect Access to Utah's Public Lands
- Defend Multiple-Use and Sustained Yield on Public Lands
- Promote the Stewardship of Utah's Natural Resources
- Strengthen Relationships with Key Stakeholders



## Key Objectives Are Implemented Through:

- Coordination
- Cooperation
- Consultation
- Consistency
- Policy
- Negotiation
- Litigation





# Coordination



STATE RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT PLAN  
JANUARY 8<sup>TH</sup> 2024



UTAH DEPARTMENT of  
**ENVIRONMENTAL  
QUALITY**



**Governor's Office of  
Economic Opportunity**



Utah Department of  
**Heritage & Arts**



**Plus, Congressional Offices, Utah's 29 counties,  
and many others.**



Utah Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office

[publiclands.utah.gov](http://publiclands.utah.gov)

# Policy



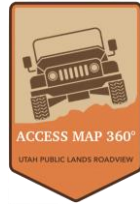
## PLPCO helps the state to speak with one voice

- Utilizes the goals, objectives and policies found in County and State Resource Management Plans.
  - *House Bill 76 (2024 General Session)*
- Develops cooperative agreements with federal agencies to ensure that the state has a seat at the table.
- Partners with state agencies and political subdivisions to develop consistency reviews in response to federal decisions.
- Permits archeologists working in the State of Utah.
- Promotes public meeting participation.





# Litigation



## R.S. 2477 statistics (2023):

Recorded testimony on 2,000+ roads

7,664 out of 12,326 roads have been filmed (68%)

### Wins:

- Judge Waddoups ruled that the State's 7-year statute of limitations does not apply to R.S. 2477 or federal Quiet Title actions
- Natural Asset Companies withdrawn by SEC

**Recent Actions:** PLPCO has filed challenges to San Rafael Desert and Labyrinth Rims/Gemini Bridges Travel Management Plans, and will be filing challenges on upcoming plans.

**Future Concerns:** The Biden Administration will be rolling out multiple decisions and regulations in the coming months.



# Looking Forward:

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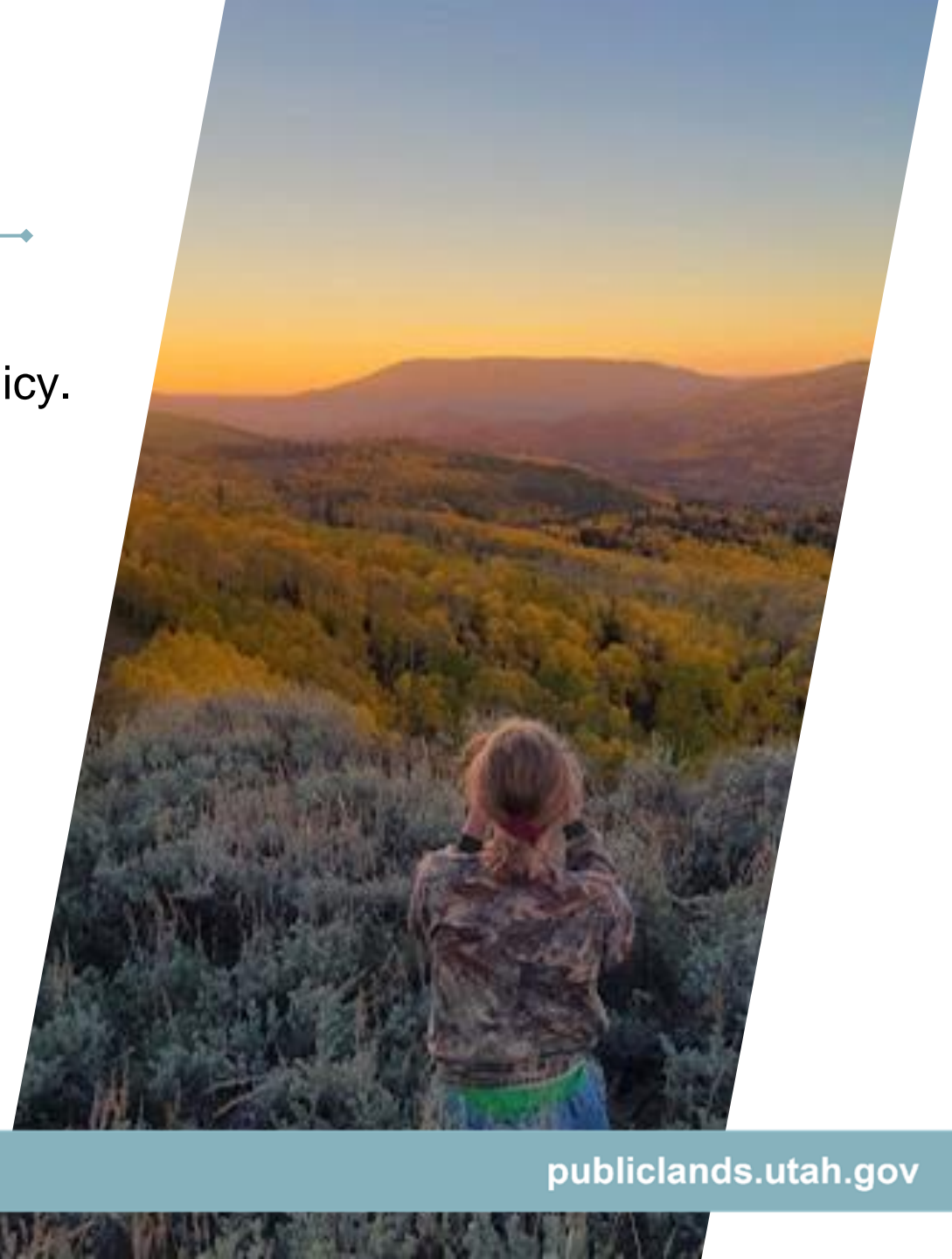
## Playing the “long game”:

- It takes time to create and implement good policy.
- It takes even more time to challenge and litigate bad policy.

## 4th Year Presidential Outlook:

- “[I]n case Biden loses, the administration will also be hustling to finalize big environmental rules on the early side of this year in the hopes that they won’t meet the same fate as some Obama-era rules that were swept away when Trump entered office.”

([E&E News](#))





# Looking Forward:

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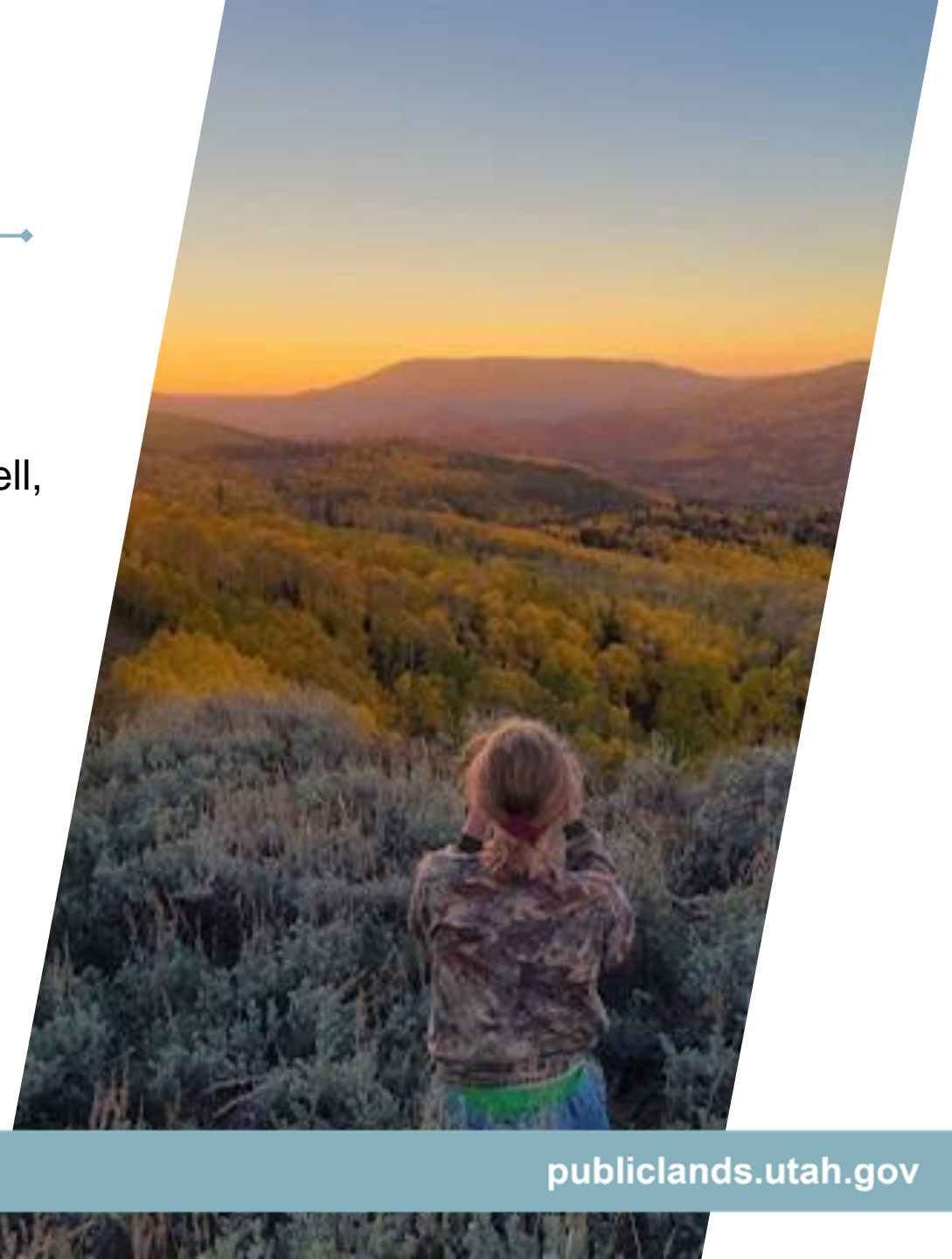
## BLM Travel Management Planning:

- 8 more TMPs to complete in the next 3 years (<https://publiclands.utah.gov/tmp/>).
  - Next TMPs: Henry Mountains, San Rafael Swell, and Trail Canyon

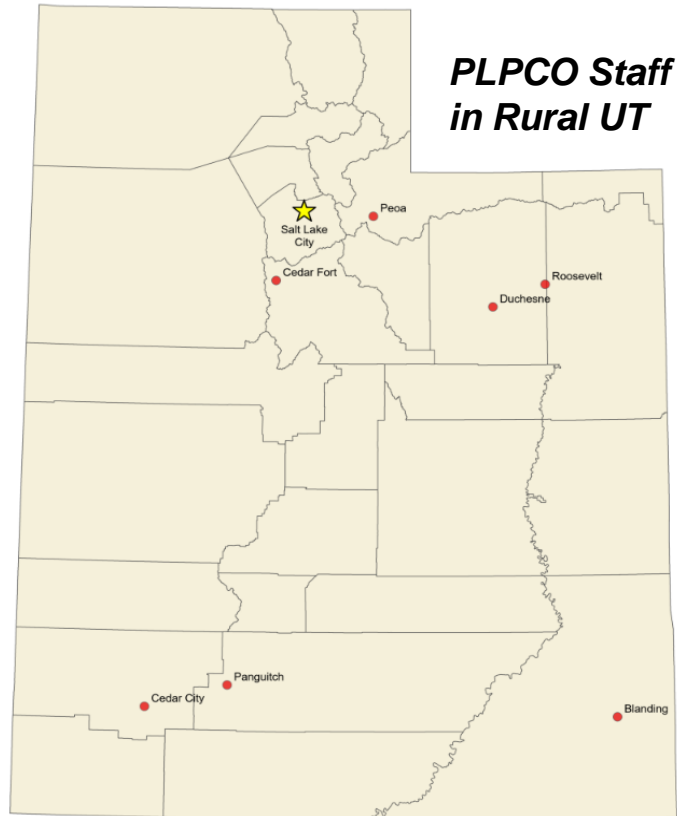
## National Monuments:

- Bears Ears and Grand Staircase Antiquities Act Challenge
  - Goal: 10th Circuit to Supreme Court
- Defending state interests in monument plans

**R.S. 2477 Depositions:** Witness pool is diminishing; PLPCO is making a concerted effort to preserve testimony.



# Request #1



## *Public Lands Legal Council*

### Request: \$521,000 ongoing

- (1) **Eliminate a salary structure inequity** between PLPCO attorneys and the attorneys from the Public Lands Section of the Office of the Attorney General;
- (2) **Increase the number of attorneys** on the PLPCO staff from five to seven which would allow PLPCO to better address the constant barrage of Federal public land policy changes and legal actions; and,
- (3) **Provide a much-needed research consultant** to address projects that are currently being addressed by attorneys who should be focusing on legal matters.



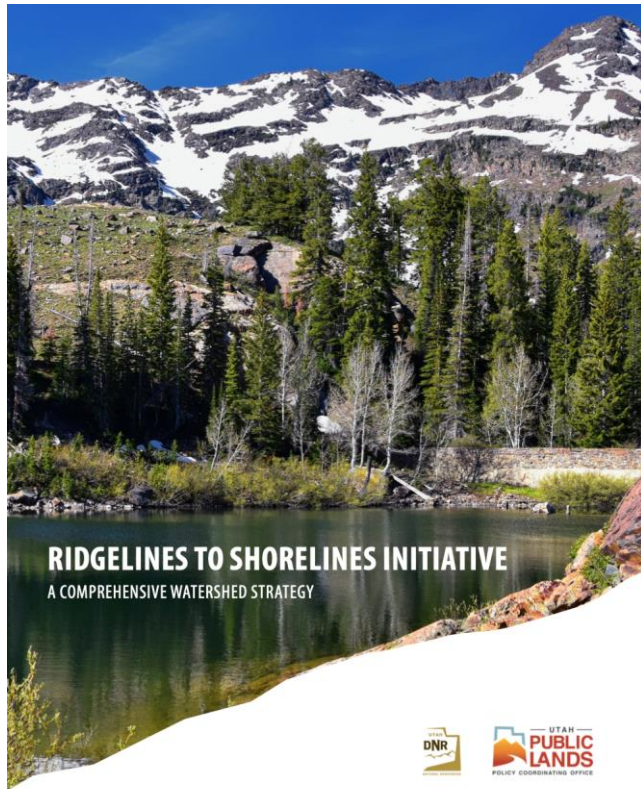


## Request #2

### *Ridgelines To Shorelines Initiative*

Request: \$20,000,000 one-time (3-year program)

- **Implementation**
  - landscape-scale watershed restoration
  - protect communities and infrastructure
  - improve wildlife habitat and rangelands
  - remove invasive plant species
- **Planning**
  - project planning and prioritization
  - NEPA
- **Education, Research, and Monitoring**
- **Administration**





# Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriations Update

## *Signed Cooperative Agreements*

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- **Provo Canyon Management Plan: \$225,000**
  - Utah County and Wasatch County
- **Grazing Study: \$500,000**
  - Garfield County







# Thank you

*for your support.*

**Utah Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office**  
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