

AGENDA ITEM #X-A.



**Kane County Land Use Authority
Planning & Zoning
180 West 300 North
Kanab, Utah 84741
(435) 644-4966**

April 8, 2016

Kane County Commissioners
76 N. Main Street
Kanab, Utah 84741

Dear Commissioners: Dirk Clayson, Jim Matson & Lamont Smith

Kane County strenuously objects to the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) proposed rulemaking "Planning 2.0" for the detrimental effects it will have on our county and the state of Utah. We have already experienced how excessive public input has delayed and killed economically viable projects that would have changed and uplifted the lives of our citizens.

We first want to state that the term *public input* that Planning 2.0 refers to does not come from the voting public; it comes from private interest groups (PIGs) who are organized and have great sway over the BLM, the Park Service and the Forest Service. That being said, Kane County has direct experience with how the PIGs heavily influence and kill projects in our area.

In January 1974, the Secretary of the Interior assigned the BLM to draft an environmental impact statement (EIS) on the proposed Kaiparowits Power Project for mining the low-ash coal that is in abundance within the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. The transmission lines would have crossed four states, serving electricity to Arizona and California.

The ten-volume final EIS shows the BLM specifically requested the views of non-government organizations that included: Sierra Club, Wilderness Society, Rocky Mountain Center on Environment, Environmental Defense Fund, Institute of Ecology, Natural Resources Defense Council, Enchanted Wilderness Association, Good Earth, Nature Conservancy, Defenders of Wildlife, and much more. A total of 66 groups provided input, and 57 of them were considered environmental groups. The BLM sent them a copy of the draft statement and requested they submit comments. The groups effectively inundated the "public" comment periods, meetings and hearings until the

AGENDA ITEM #X-A. (continued)

Kane County Commissioners
April 8, 2016
Page 2

Kaiparowits Power Project was delayed so long, it became too expensive to continue, and was abandoned.

The PIGs won that battle, and now Kane County cannot extract its own minerals. We are down to less than 10% of privately held land and we are fighting for our ranchers to continue to use public lands for their cattle, which the BLM is whittling away. If Planning 2.0 becomes the rule, we will have no recourse. The BLM will shut us down; a lifestyle and a culture will be lost.

These "public input groups" (still PIGs) are shutting down rural America. Their input closed the Denison uranium mine (Arizona-1) that employed a lot of people in Fredonia, AZ seven miles south of Kanab. The same groups caused the Kaibab Forest Products Company (lumber mill) to shut down putting another large group of people out of work. The PIGs don't want the locals to make a living on public lands; yet, they want to hike the Staircase with their friends from Europe as long as they don't have to step on a cow pie in their leather boots.

We need to keep coordination and cooperation working for us. If it wasn't working, the BLM wouldn't be trying to stop it. Please continue to support our efforts in stopping the proposed rulemaking Planning 2.0; we cannot allow the BLM to violate or change Federal law.

Sincerely,



Mary Reynolds,
Kane County Resource Management



Shannon McBride,
Kane County Land Use Planner

Cc: Mike Noel	Danny Brown
Redge Johnson	Tony Chelewski
Margaret Byfield	Dale Clarkson
Brian Thiriot	Hal Hamblin
Russ Cowley	Wade Heaton
Brian Bremner	Robert Houston
Celeste Maloy	Lou Pratt
Mike Worthen	Byard Kershaw