

# GRAND STAIRCASE-ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENT

## TRUMP ORDERS 48 PERCENT SHUT DOWN

Photo of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument courtesy BLM available for media use at <https://goo.gl/vn213A>

“Grand Staircase is a geologic wonderland. Its extraordinary human and natural histories make it critical to maintain for future generations.” — *Taylor McKinnon, Center for Biological Diversity*

[Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument](#) protects three major landforms, stunning landscapes representing a unique combination of archeological, paleontological, geologic and biological resources, marked by spectacular arches, natural bridges and canyons.

**WILDLIFE:** The area spans five wildlife zones and supports a staggering array of biodiversity. It's home to mountain lion, bear and desert bighorn sheep, dozens of reptile and amphibian species, and more than 200 species of birds, including the endangered [California condor](#) and [Southwestern willow flycatcher](#), bald eagles and peregrine falcons.

**PALEONTOLOGY AND HISTORY:** Fossil excavations in the monument have yielded more information about ecosystem change at the end of the dinosaur era than any other place in the world, including marine and brackish water mollusks, crocodylians and [20 new species of dinosaurs](#). Ancestral Puebloan and Fremont cultures left behind rock art panels. Southern Paiute and Navajo continue to use the area today.

**GEOLOGY:** The area's geologic formations are world-famous, from the White and Vermilion Cliffs and associated benches to the Kaiparowits Plateau, a 1,600-square-mile sweep of sedimentary rock plateaus, cut by steep-walled serpentine canyons. The stunning Escalante Natural Bridge and Grosvenor Arch, a rare double arch, are among dozens of rare geological features.

**WHAT'S AT STAKE:** Endangered wildlife habitat, geological and paleontology research, petroglyphs and other cultural artifacts.

**Status:** In litigation

**Original acres:** 1.9 million

**Proposed reduction:** 48 percent (or 900,000 acres)

**Designation date:** Sept. 18, 1996

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