

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/24/2022 4:25:39 PM

First name: Maren

Last name: Hargis

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have camped, canoed, hiked, and backpacked in southern Utah and am eager to help to protect its wilderness areas for future generations. It is uniquely beautiful in its redrock landscape and in the cultural history of its indigenous peoples, who lived in harmony with its arid climate. I am particularly concerned that its old-growth forests--pinyon pine and juniper--be preserved, in order to maintain their climate-resilient ecosystems. To remove these mature trees, which evolved in this ecosystem, to create grasslands to feed cattle where grasslands never grew, would be irresponsible and wrongheaded. Please preserve these native old-growth forests.