

URARA Conservation and Preservation

Update on Conservation and Preservation Committee Activities

URARA 2025 Symposium
Kanab, Utah



URARA Conservation and Preservation

Conservation and Preservation Committee

Kent Williams (Chair)

Diane Orr

Troy Scotter

Diana Acerson

Nina Bowen

Darlene Koerner

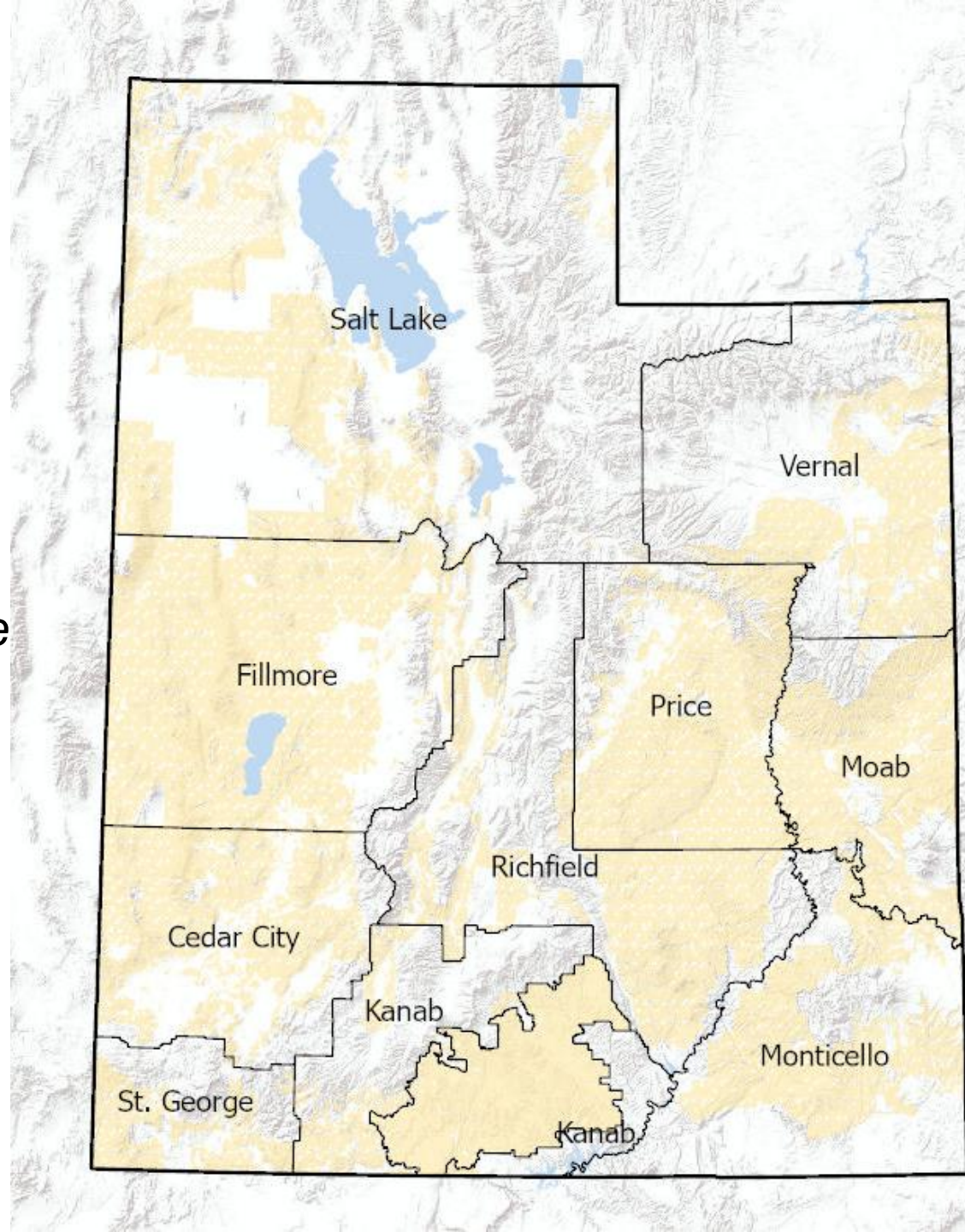
David Susec



URARA Conservation and Preservation

Conservation and Preservation Committee

*Diana Acerson
Nina Bowen
Dianne Orr
Werner Duecker
Darlene Koerner
Troy Scotter
David Susec*



URARA Mission

Preservation and Conservation of Rock Art

Make Site Information available to Decision Makers

- Land Management Agencies
- State Historical Preservation Office

Support Conservation Projects

Advocacy

Key Points for URARA

Most of the Rock Art in Utah is on Federal Land

- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Management of Cultural Resources is Guided by Federal Law

- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)

Development on Federal Land is Guided by National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

- Review Environmental Impacts

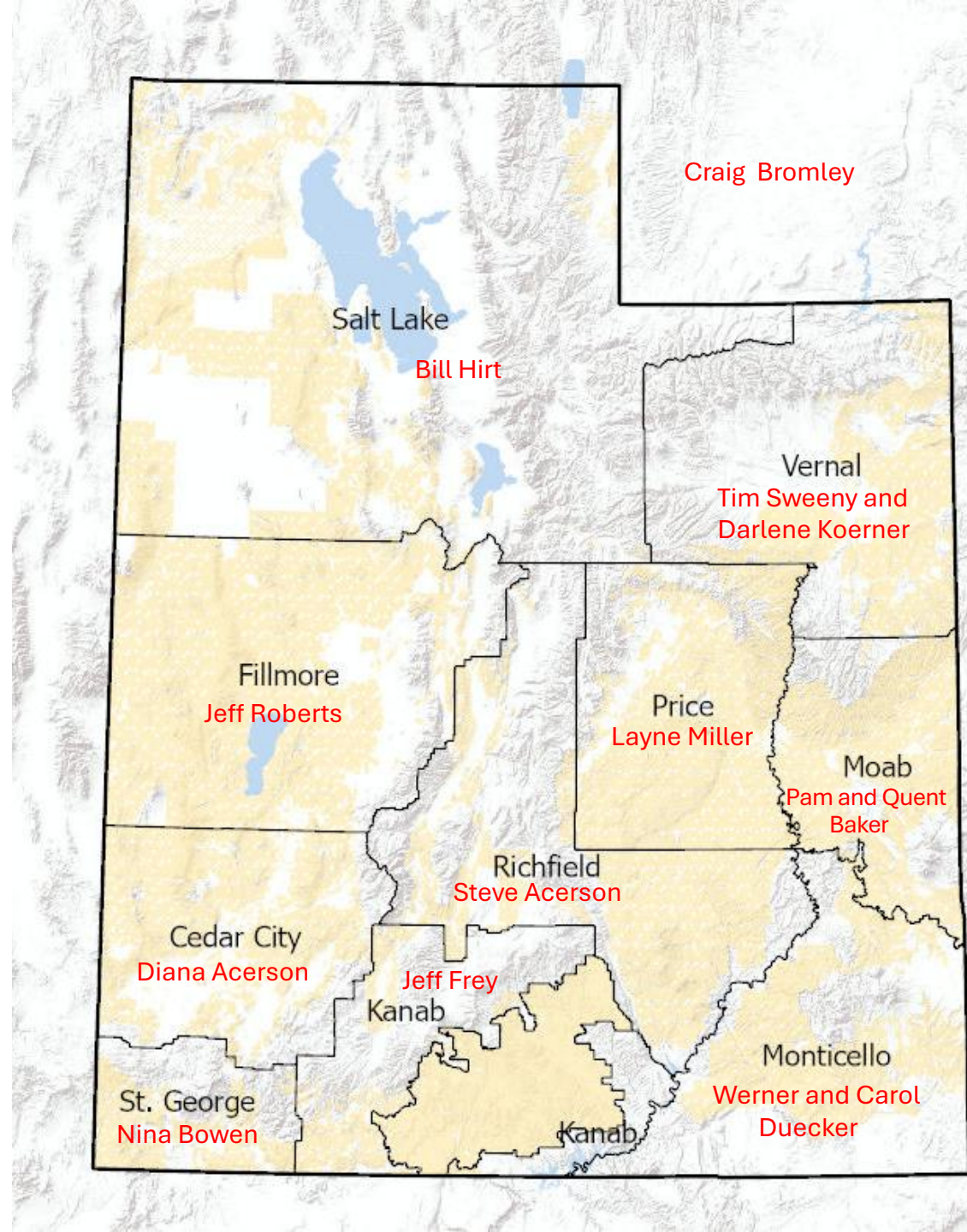
Key Points for URARA

URARA works closely with BLM to Protect Rock Art

- Formal Site Documentation
 - Under the direction of BLM Archaeologists
- URARA Site Recording
- Conservation Projects

URARA Conservation and Preservation

Conservation Coordinators



Key Points for URARA

Utah Cultural Site Stewardship Program

UCSS run by Utah State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO)

- Site Monitoring by Trained Stewards
- Sites assigned by SHPO and Land Managers

URARA Members are encouraged to become UCSS stewards

Making Site Information available to Decision Makers

Support Official Site Documentation

URARA Site Recording

Section 106 Consulting

Commenting through NEPA

Official Site Documentation

Vernal BLM Field Office

- Darlene Koerner and Dave Christensen (BLM)
- Documented 5 sites, June 2025
 - Collected the field information at least

URARA Site Recording

Complimentary to Official Documentation

Site Information collected by URARA members

- Since 2002

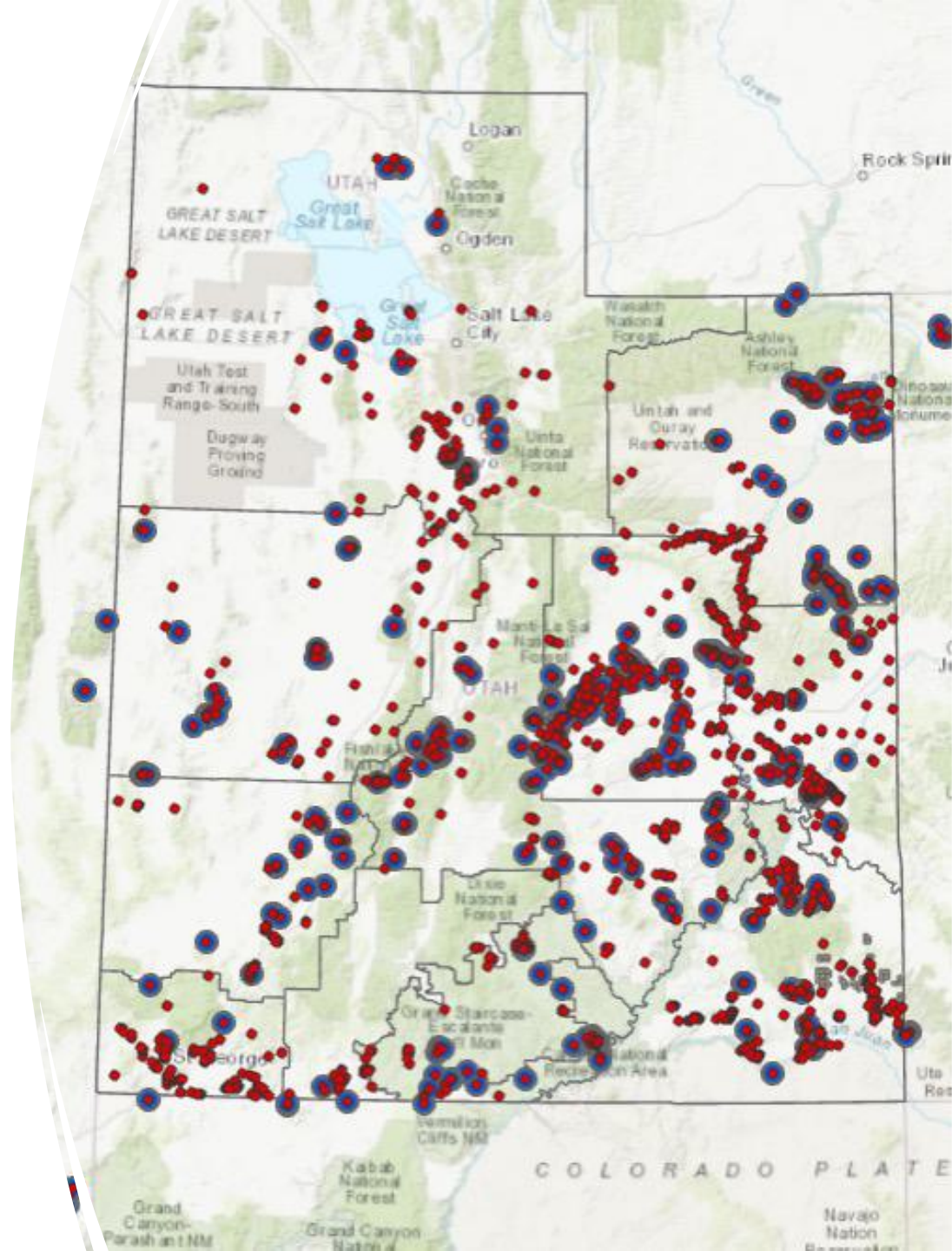
Get Information in front of SHPO and Land Managers

Ultimate Goal is Formal Documentation

- URARA Site Recording is halfway there

URARA Site Recording

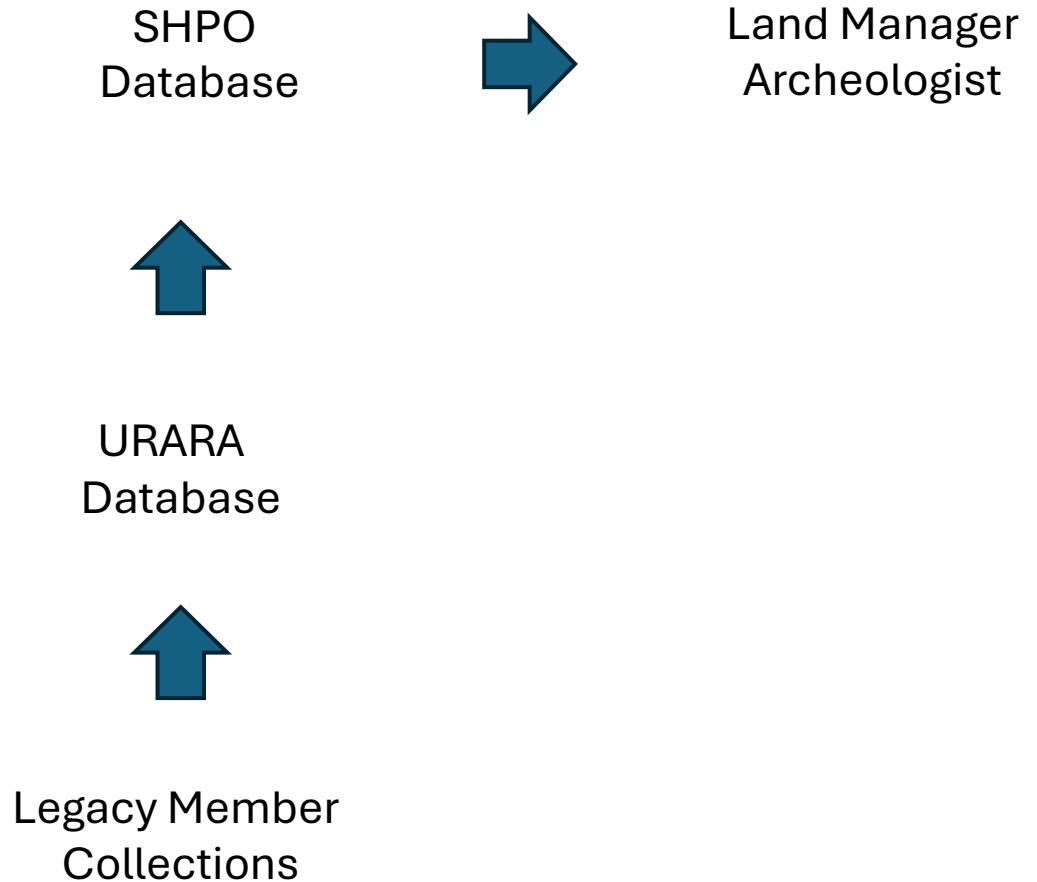
Red Dots and Blue Dots



URARA Site Recording

URARA “Red Dots”

- Location only
- Member collections going back to 2002
- Donated to SHPO in 2020
- Update Planned for 2026



URARA Site Recording

URARA “Blue Dots”

- Field Visits since 2020
- URARA Survey123 app
- Increased accuracy
- Photos
- Site Information

SHPO
Database



URARA
Database



URARA C&P
Field Visits



Land Manager
Archeologist



Section 106
Consulting

URARA Site Recording

Data Base

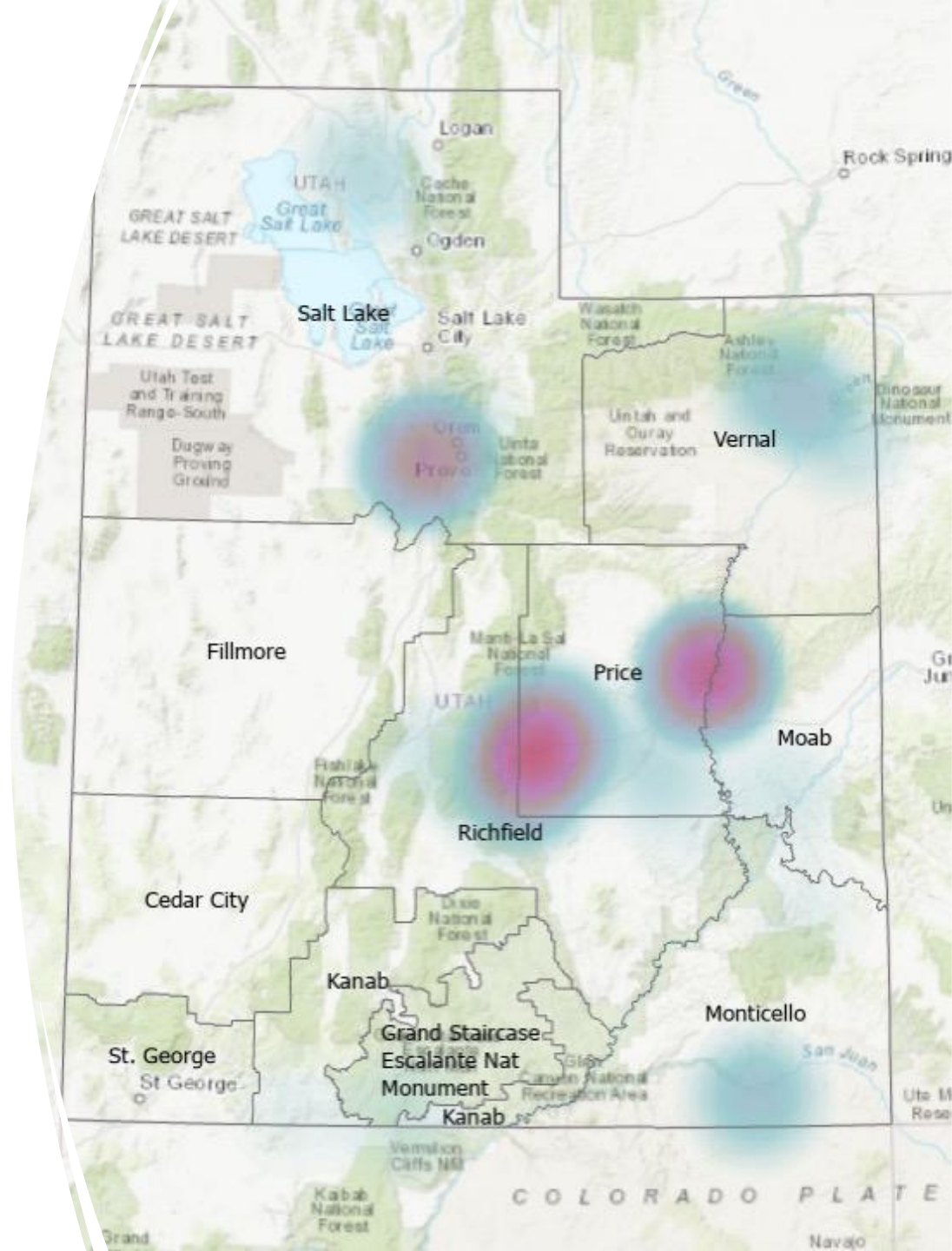
Used for URARA Conservation and
Preservation

- Section 106 Consulting

Shared only with Federal Land Managers
and SHPO

URARA Site Recording

99 Blue Dots in 2025



URARA Site Recording

99 Blue Dots in 2025

Recorded new (to us) sites, May 2025

- Price FO
 - Steve Acerson Crew and BLM River Ranger
- Vernal, Monticello, Salt Lake, Richfield FOs

Converted Undocumented Red Dots to Blue Dots

- URARA Conservation Coordinators
- Workshop on 10/8

Section 106 Consulting

Projects in 2025

Oil and Gas Lease Sales

- BLM 2025 3rd Quarter Lease Sale
- BLM 2026 1st Quarter Lease Sale
 - Vernal, Moab and Monticello FOs

Vegetation Treatment

- Monticello Upland Project

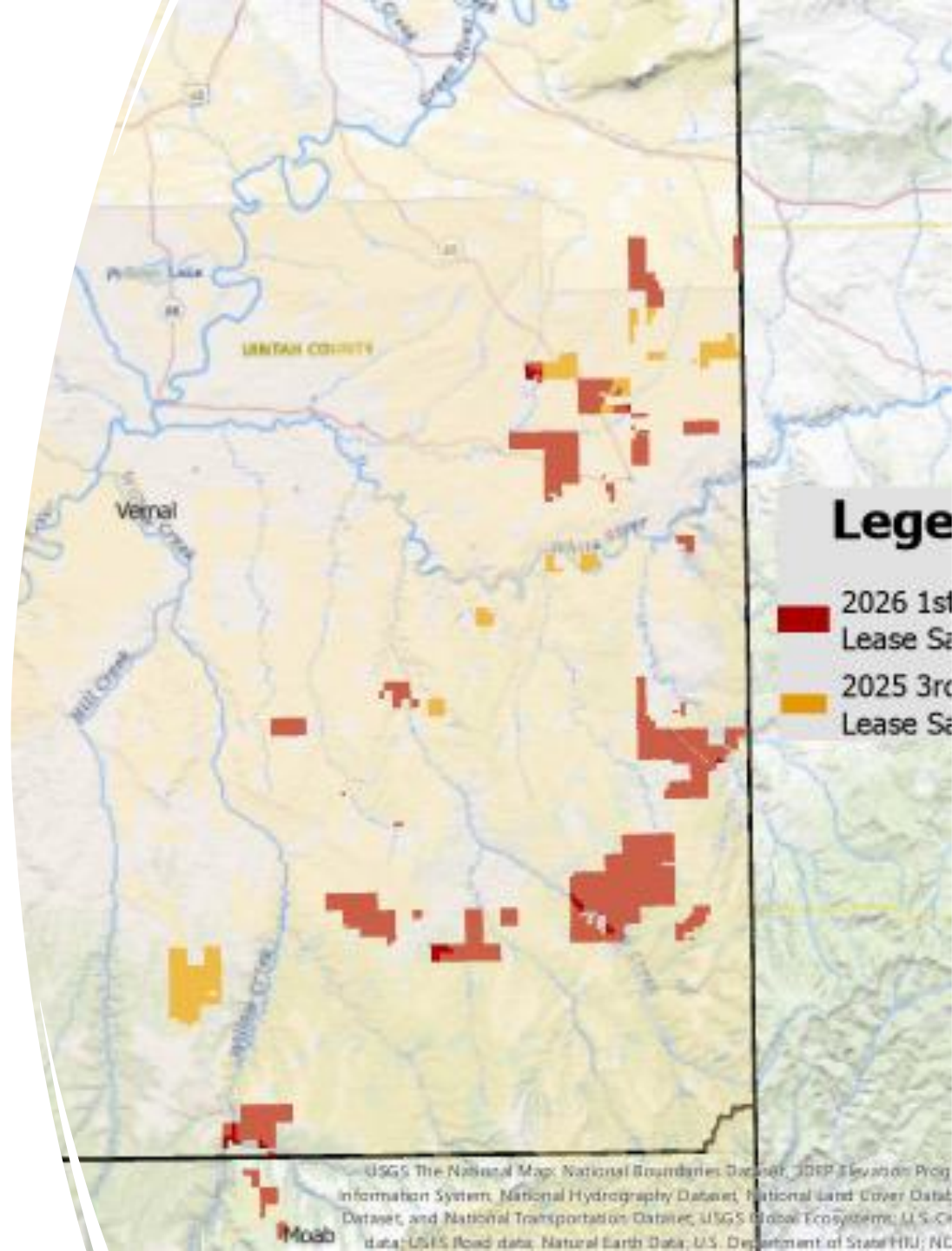
Travel Management Plan

- San Rafael Swell TMP Price FO

BLM Oil and Gas Lease Sales

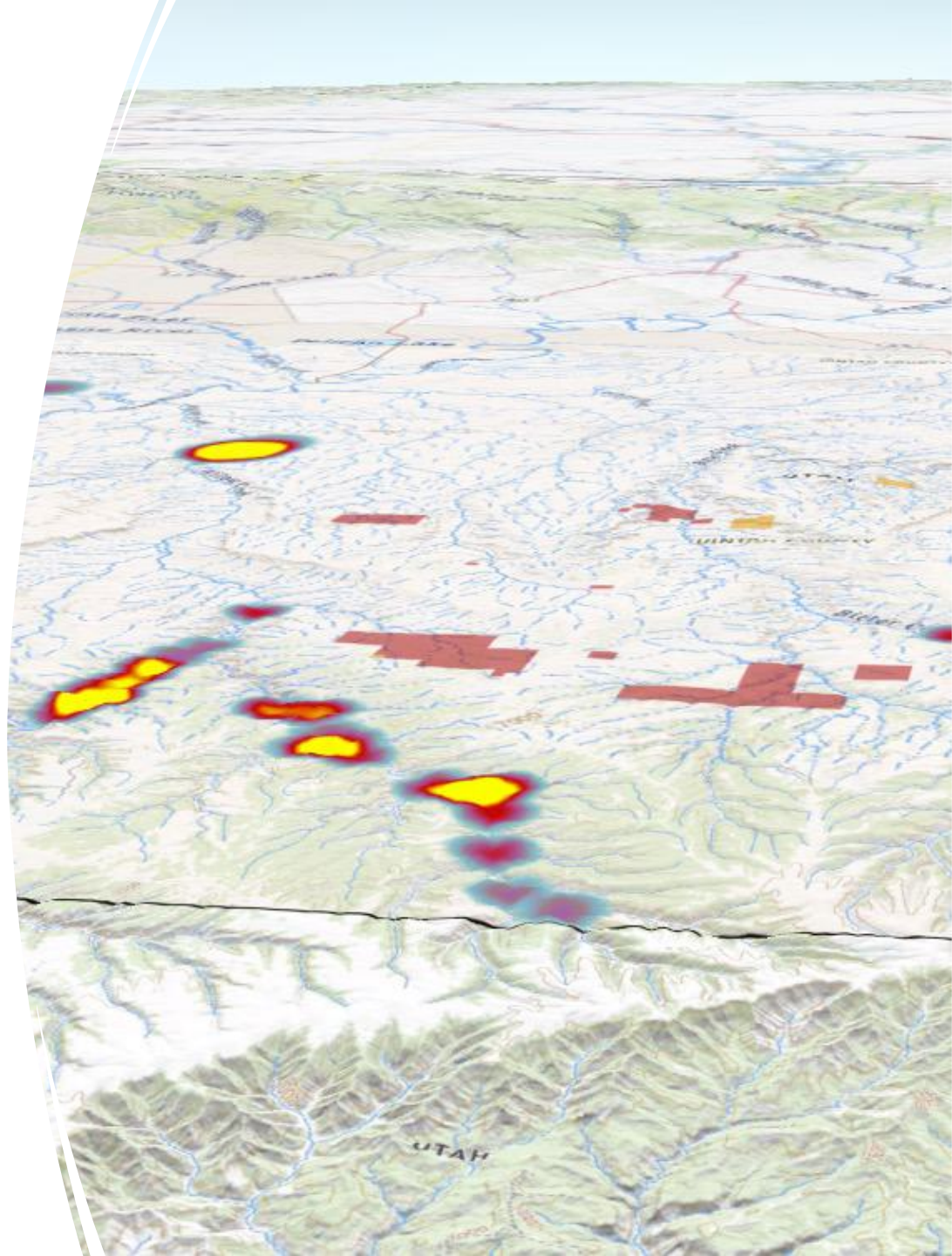
Lease Sale Parcels
offered in 1 year
period

18% of total BLM land
in Vernal FO



BLM Oil and Gas Lease Sales

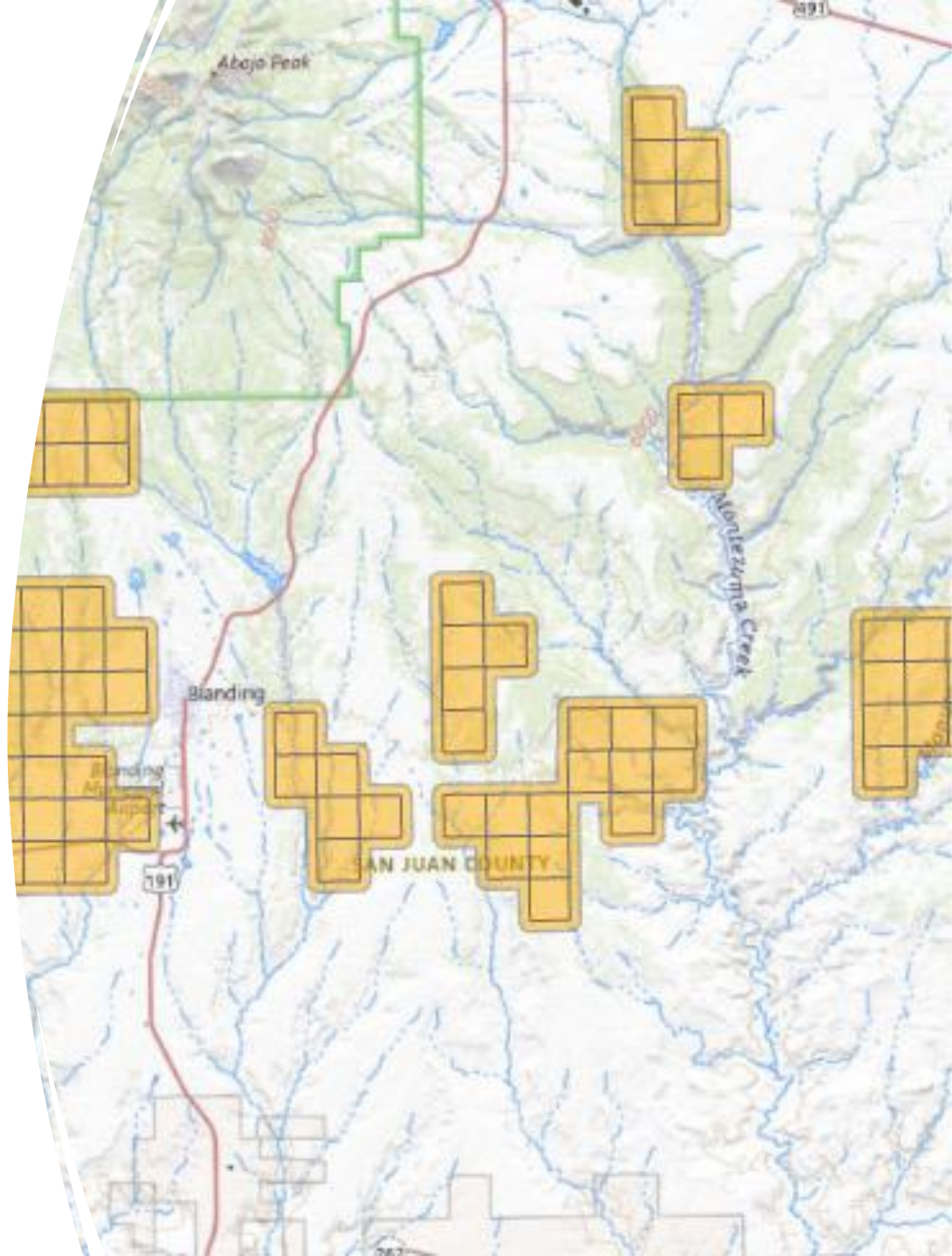
Rock Art Sites in
Canyons
Lease Sale Parcels on
Rims



Monticello Upland Project

Vegetation Treatment on
13,353 acres (21.8 sq miles)

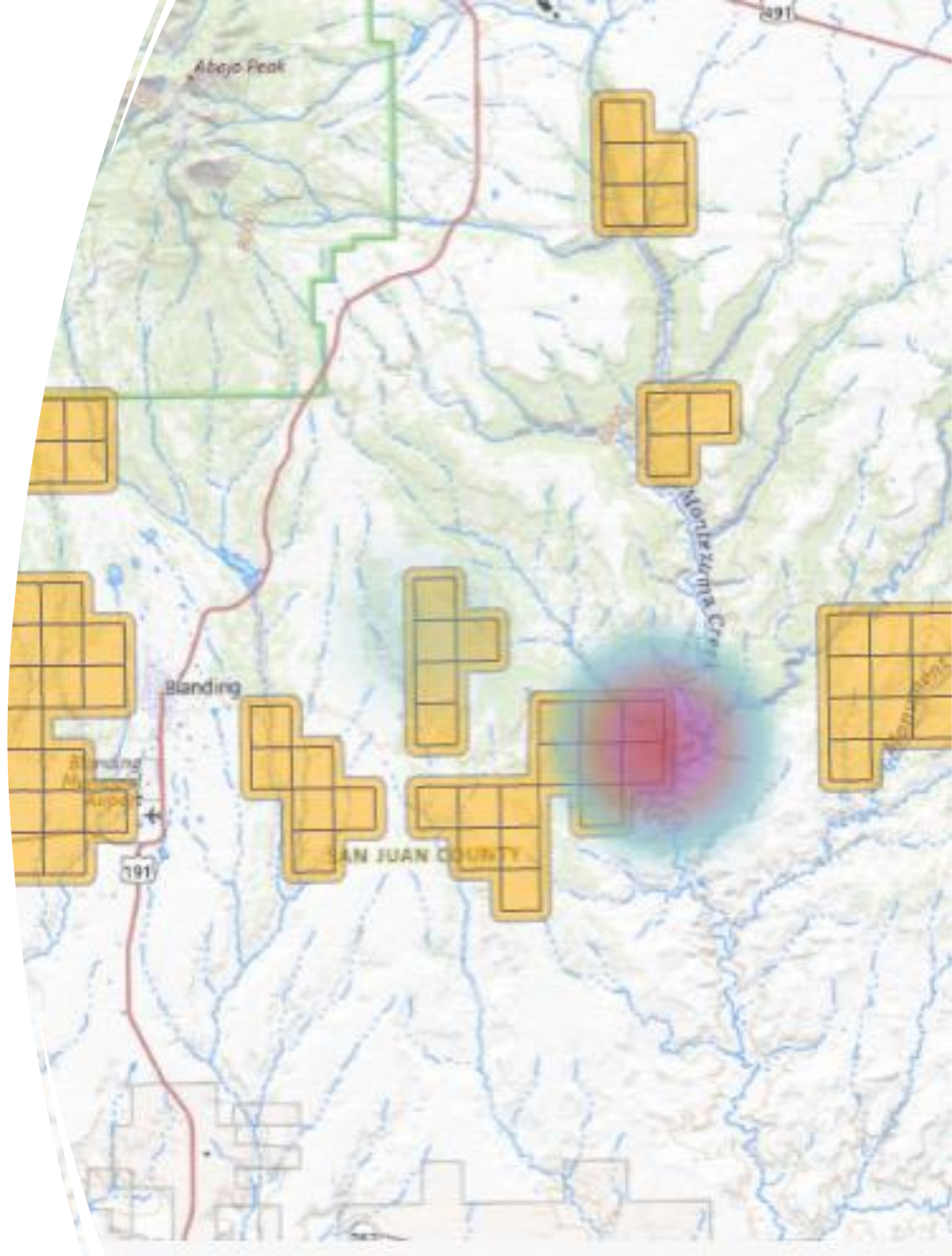
- Thinning
- Prescribed fire
- Mastication
- Herbicide



Monticello Upland Project

12 Undocumented Sites

Priority for Site Recording

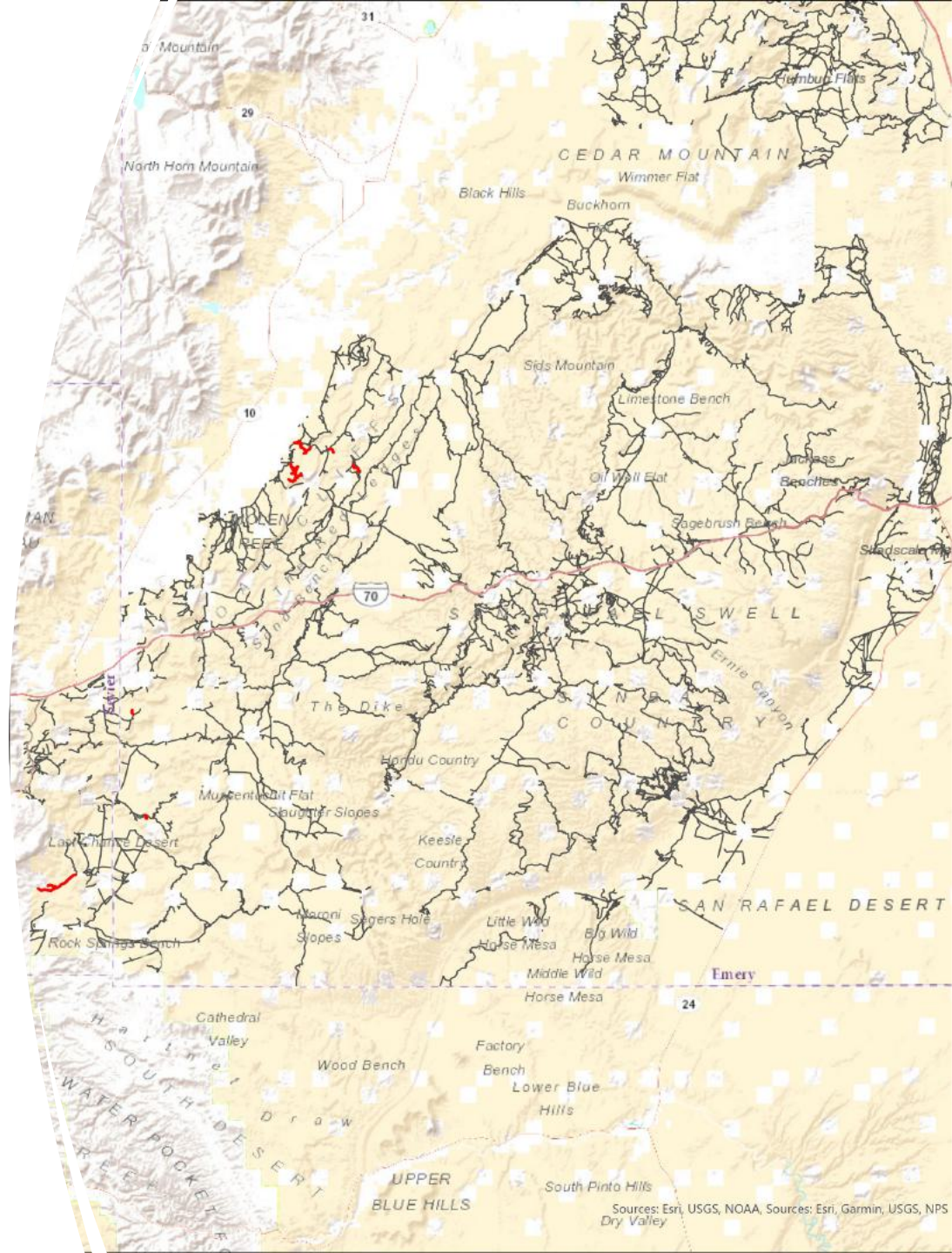


San Rafael Swell TMP

27 of 28 Routes closed
based (in part) on URARA
recommendations

- “Pioneered” routes that
led to Cultural Sites

Only 14 miles out of 2,459
total miles, **but still....**



Site Recording

Vandalism Reports - American Fork Canyon



Reported to USFS
LEO and SHPO

Conservation Projects

Sponsored by BLM

Rock Art Site Clean Up Project

- Cedar City Field Office, June 2025

Diana Acerson Conservation Coordinator, Cedar City FO

BLM Conservation Initiatives

BLM Employees Currently on Furlough

- Statewide Training for Graffiti cleanup
 - 12 archeologists
- Kanab Field Office
 - Signage at Mansard Site
 - Wire Pass Vandalism
 - Media Attention
 - ARPA investigation underway

Advocacy

Nine Mile Canyon

Layne Miller

Price FO Conservation Coordinator:

“Still very concerned about Oil Tanker Trucks traveling from Uinta Basin through Nine Mile Canyon to RR Load Out Facility in Helper”

Traffic is increasing despite road improvement project on hold.

Advocacy

Nine Mile Canyon

Layne Miller:

Recent Oil Tanker accident in Helper. “Could be a disaster if occurs in Nine Mile Canyon”



Advocacy

Public Land Sell Off Provision in BBB

If sold:

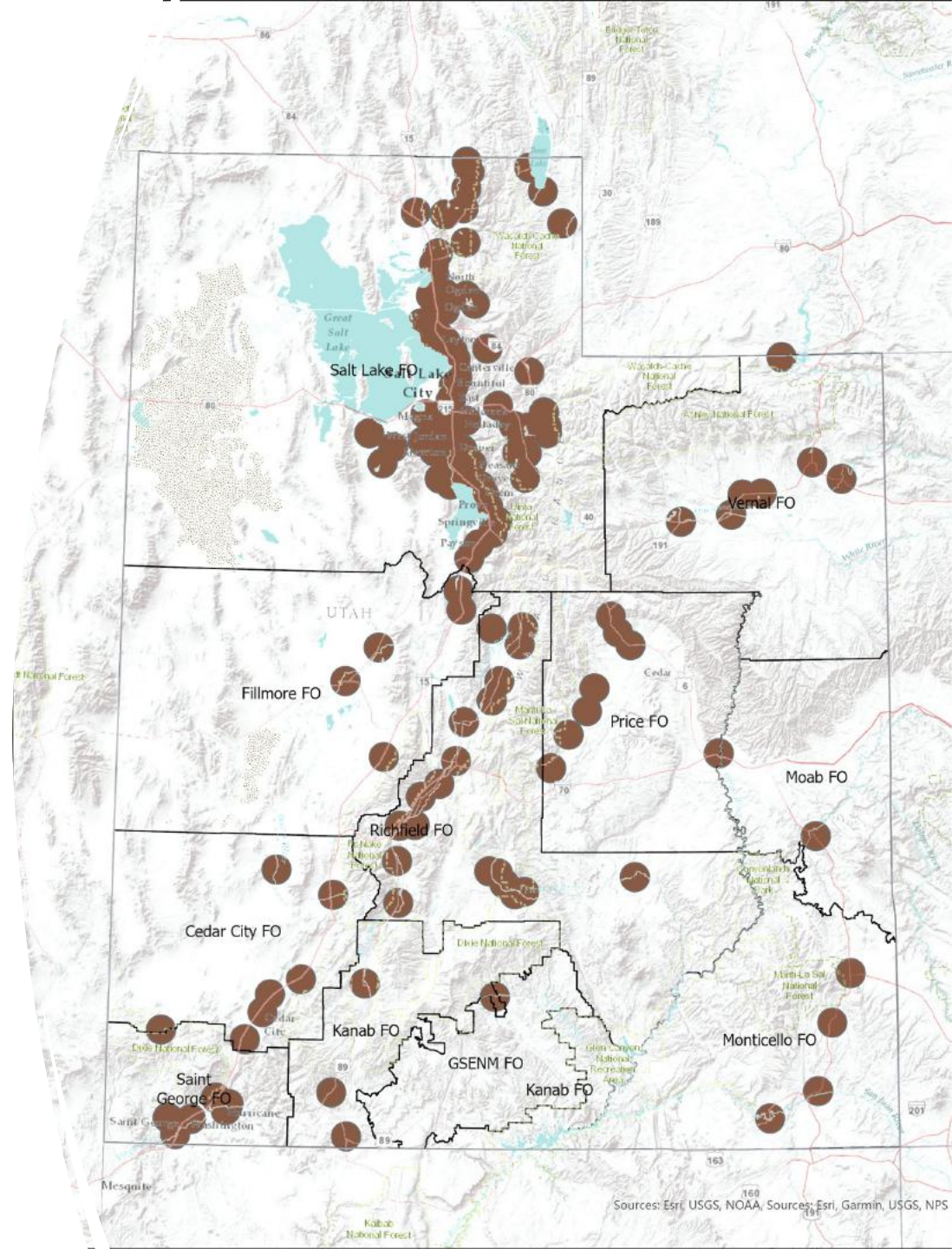
NEPA does not apply

- All those pesky regulations go away

No public input on protections for Rock Art

No Public Access to Rock Art

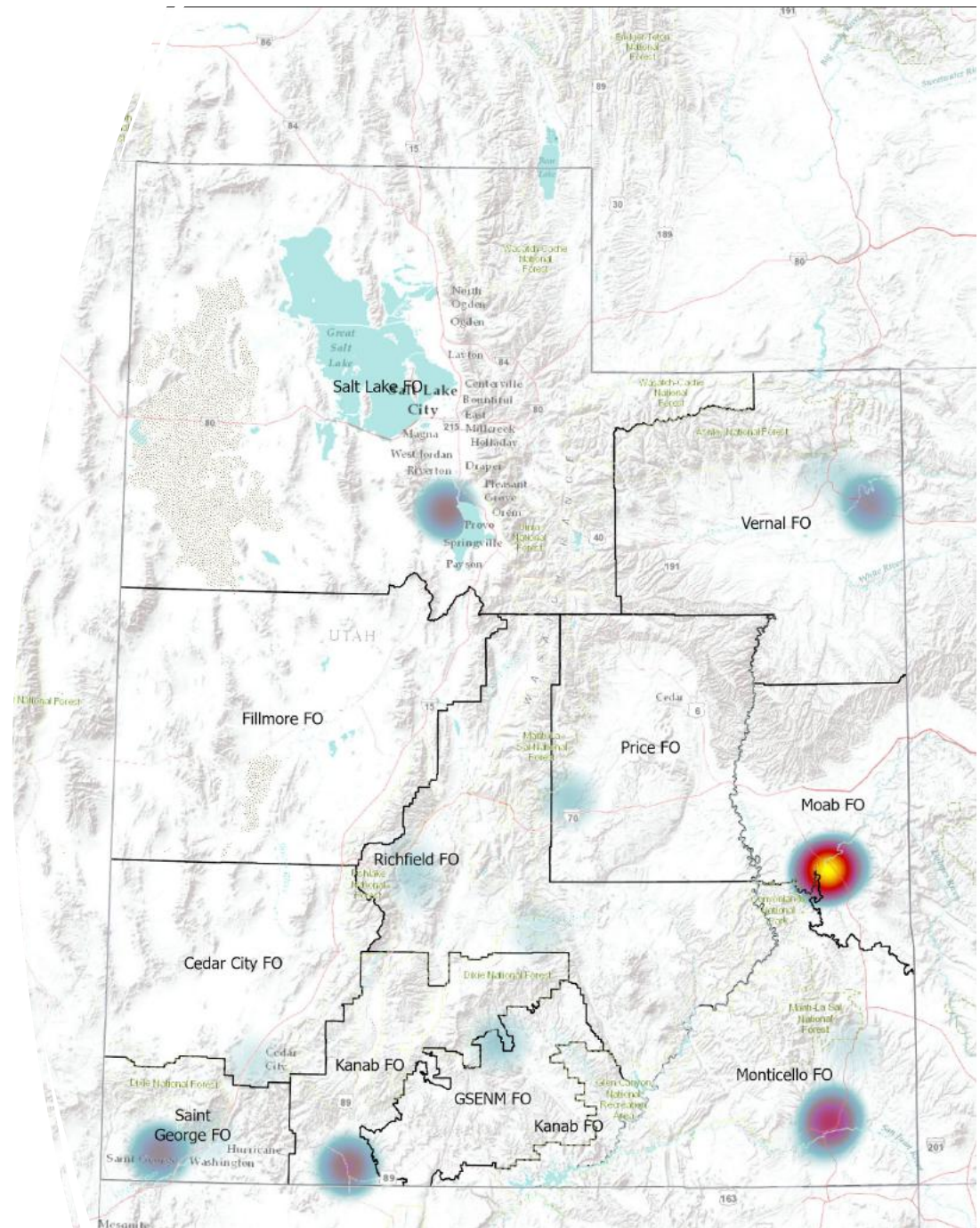
- 5 miles from population center
- No active grazing permits



Sites in Land Eligible for Sell Off

Prioritize 94 Red Dots for Site Recording

- Convert to Blue Dots
- URARA Conservation Coordinators Revisit



Advocacy

Public Land Sell-Off Status

Dropped from 2025 BBB but not going away

- Lots of Opposition
- Diverse Groups that have at least one thing in common – Public Land in Public Hands
 - Conservation Orgs
 - Hunters/Anglers
 - OHV enthusiasts
 - Outdoor enthusiasts

2025 Coal Lease Sale

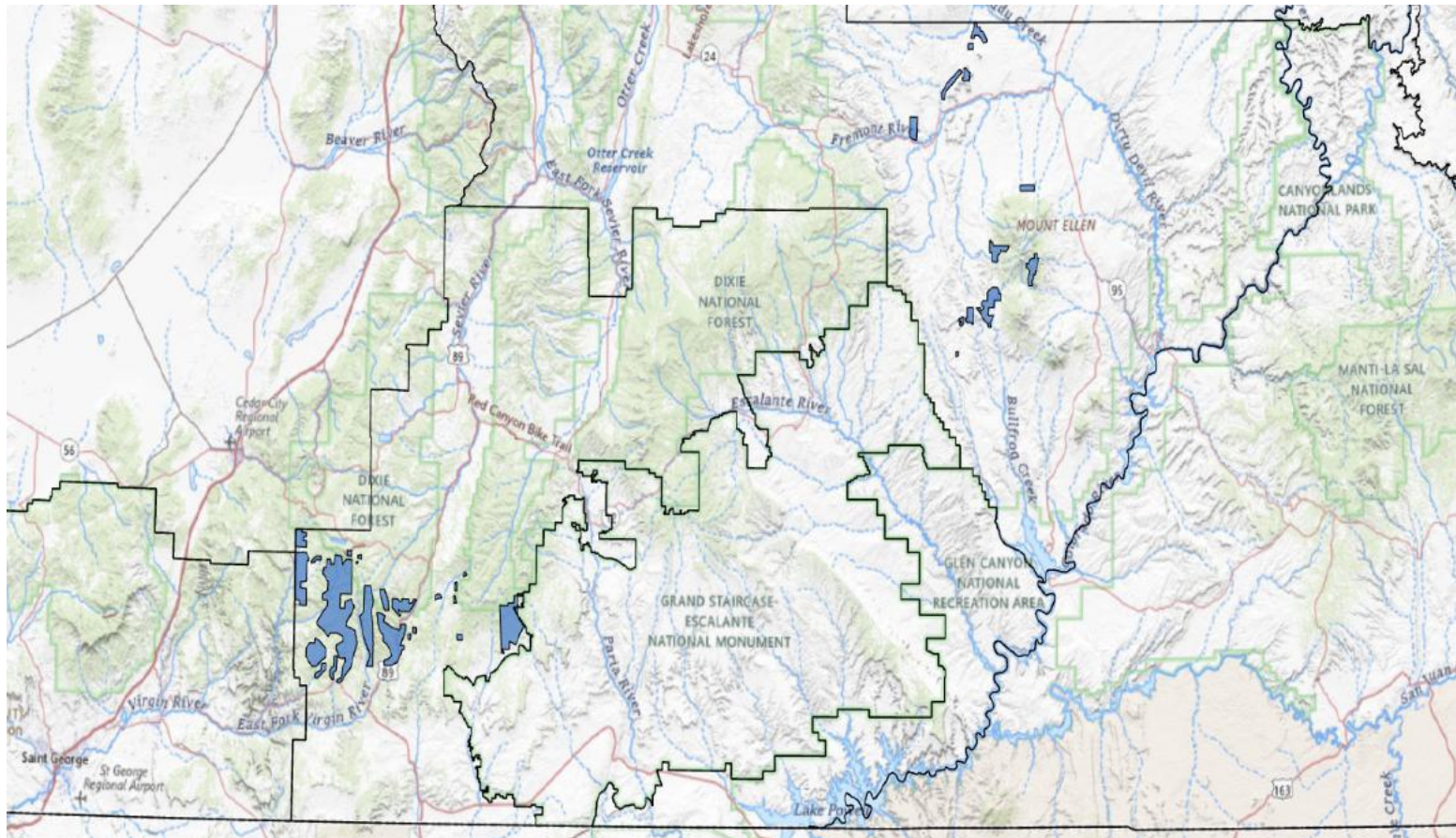
Utah BLM 48,000 acres

Bypassing NEPA and Section 106

- Announced 8/29/2025
 - Right before the shutdown
- Picked up by:
 - Conservation Community
 - SUWA 10/7 PA
 - Salt Lake Tribune 10/8

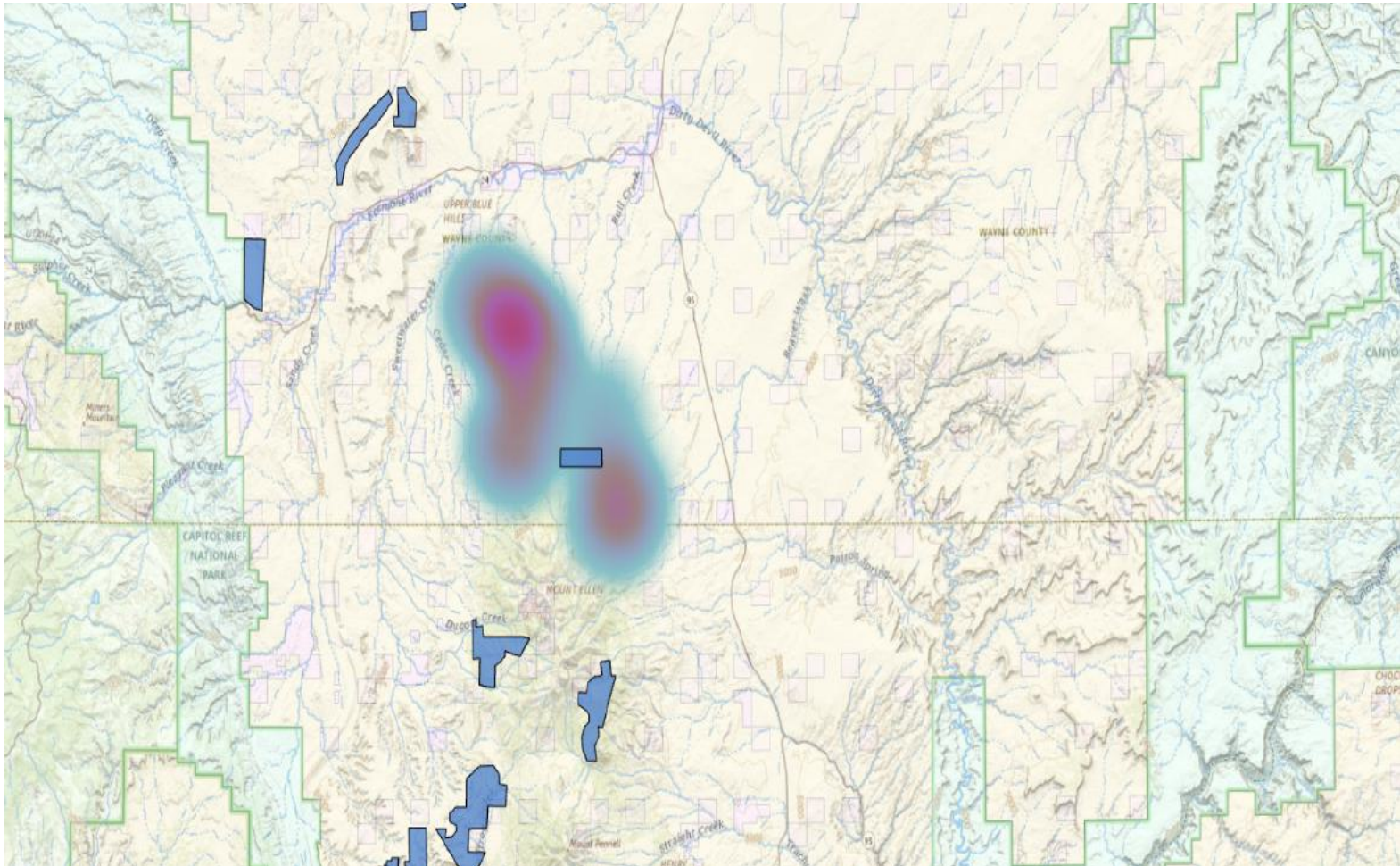
2025 Coal Lease Sale

48,000 acres on Richfield and Kanab Field Offices



2025 Coal Lease Sale

Cultural Resources on North Slope of Henry Mtns



Public Land and NEPA

Impacts on all Natural Resources are considered, including:

Cultural (rock art)

Recreation

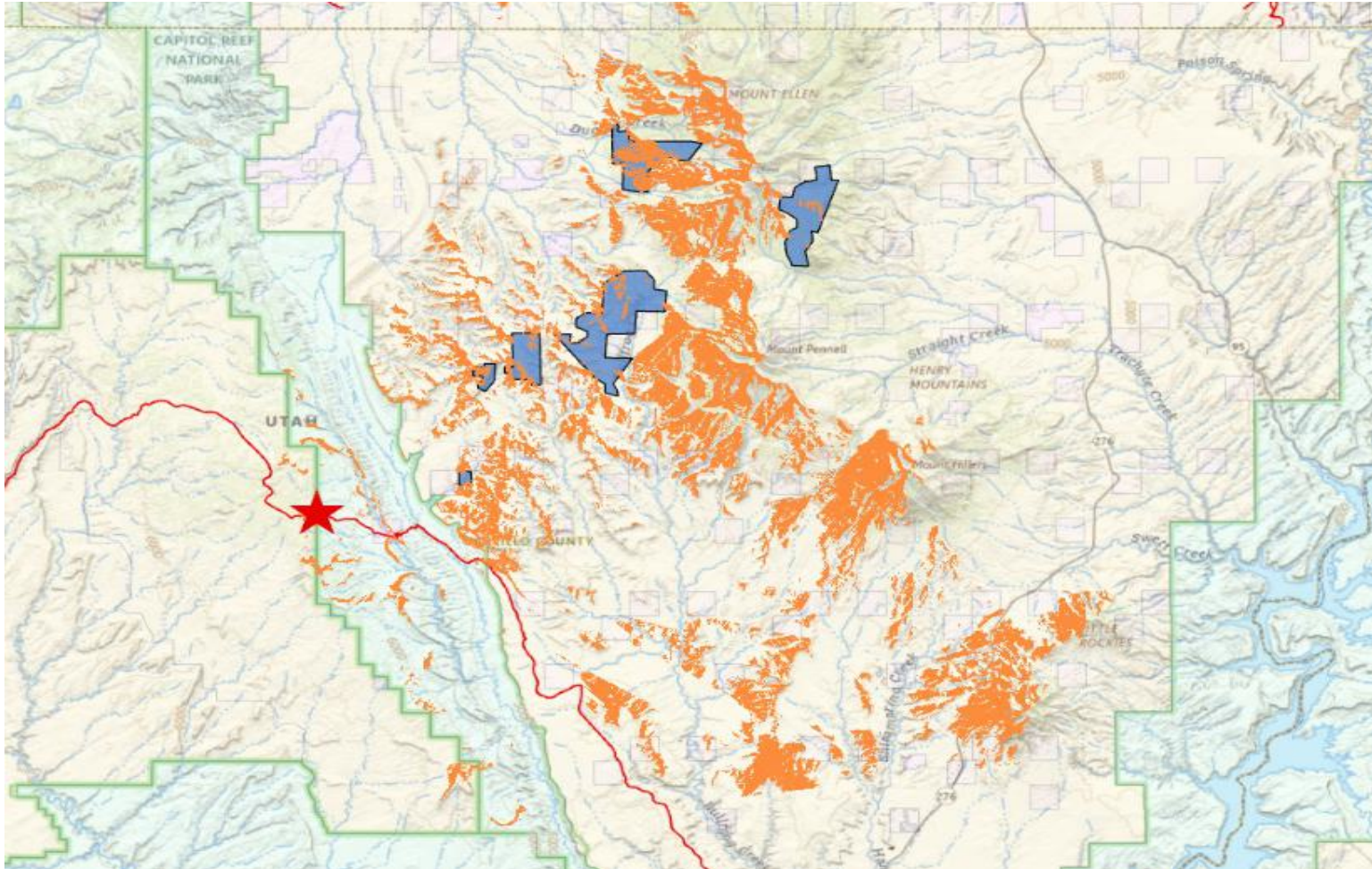
Air quality

Wildlife

Soils

2025 Coal Lease Sale

Viewshed from Burr Trail

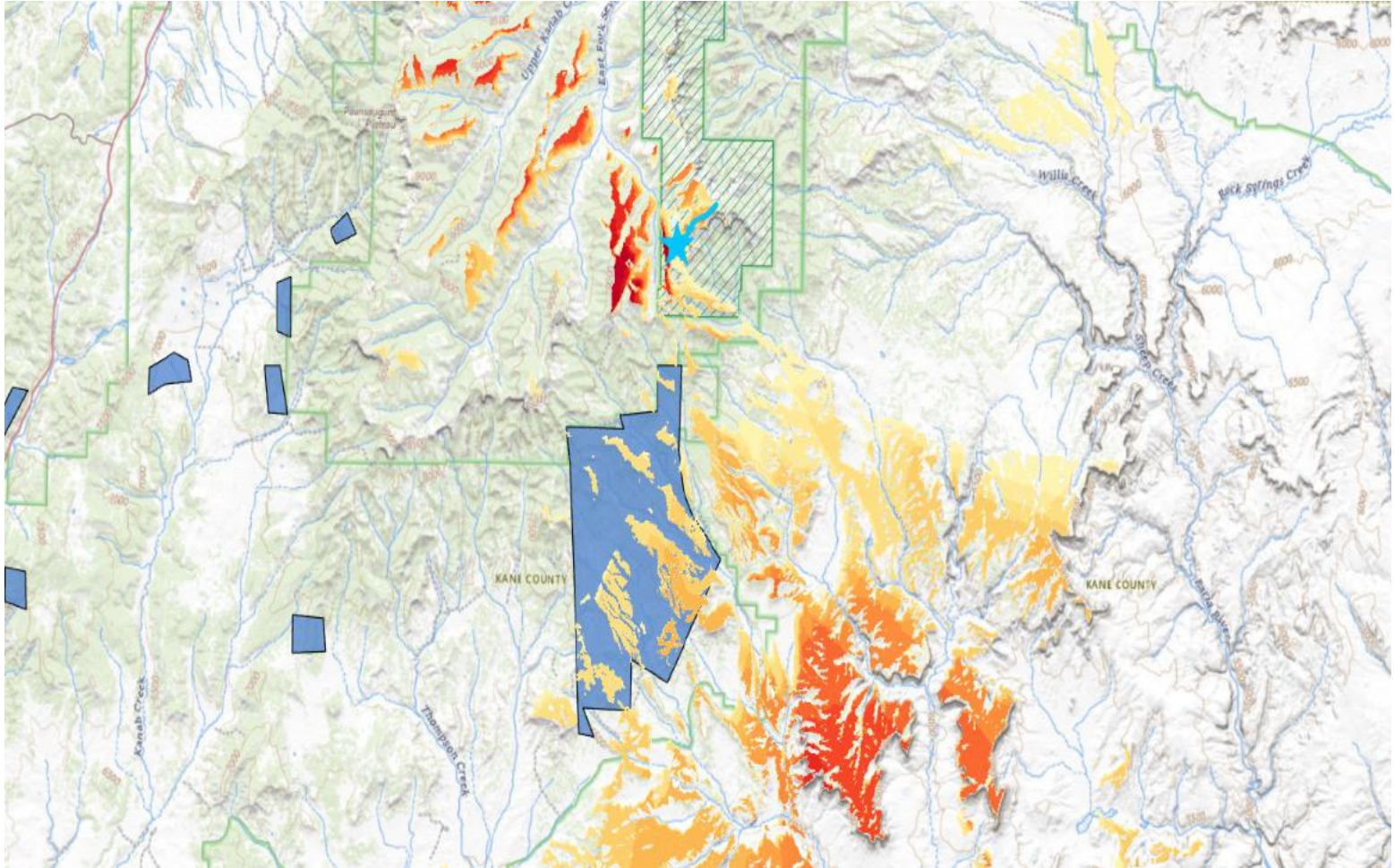


Capital Reef National Park

Lase Sale boundaries courtesy SUWA

2025 Coal Lease Sale

Viewshed from Yovimpa Point Trail



Bryce Canyon National Park
2.5 million visitors in 2024

Lease Sale boundaries courtesy SUWA

Advocacy

URARA Conservation Hub Web Site

- Compliments URARA Web Site
- Imbeds Story Maps
- Hub for posting C&P documentation
 - Restricted to CP Coordinators

<https://urara-conservation-and-preservation-urara.hub.arcgis.com/>

What can you do?

- Call your Congress Rep and Senators
- Download and use the URARA Site Information Collection app
 - home/members/URARA Site Information Collection app
- Inform us of any projects you hear about
- Support Professional Conservation groups
 - Southern Utah Wilderness Association
 - GSENM Partners
 - National Parks Conservation Association