In the heart of Utah there is an expanse of land known for its unparalleled natural beauty. Unfortunately, this land is not all protected. Despite numerous high-profile national parks and national monuments, there are millions of acres threatened by development. Visitors to the Greater Canyonlands area can find ancient archeology carved out of breathtaking rock formations and lofty plateaus illuminated by the setting desert sun. The land and wildlife that follows the Colorado River from Arches National Park to the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument needs protection. Establishing this land as a national monument would connect and protect this landscape and the ecosystem around both the Colorado and Green River basins.

**THREATS TO THE REGION**

**New invasive species: trucks**
Heavy truck traffic has increased as more developers move into the region. This causes the destruction of fragile topsoil, uprooted rare plant species, and increased noises and odors which ebb into recreation space, deterring visitors. The traffic also causes dust storms that cover snow on the Colorado mountains, leading to polluted water for 30 million downstream users and accelerated seasonal melts.

**The ruin of ruins**
The Greater Canyonlands region is home to stunning red rocks, ancient archaeology, and fossil fuels. Keeping these fuels in the ground will not only prevent acute effects of climate change, but will protect the natural beauty of these lands for generations to come. Despite a booming $5.8 billion outdoor recreation economy in Utah, the 1.8 million acres of land in the Greater Canyonlands region is one of the largest unprotected roadless area in the lower 48 states.

**Resource extraction**
Pipeline construction threatens to cut through miles of recreation space and scenic overlooks. Already Fidelity Exploration has built a pipeline that is rusted, bows over terrain gaps, and scars the views. Potash mining too poses a threat as miners scatter the area with potash brine collection ditches and evaporation ponds, as well as contribute to dust air pollution.

“There are places that are too special to develop, if you go hiking up into Canyonlands and you look over a vast landscape and then you are told by the Park Ranger that actually nothing you are looking at is protected from development, oil and gas and otherwise. Maybe, those local communities should work with people like us, to say we don’t want to develop this”

- Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
FAST FACTS: A GREATER CANYONLANDS NATIONAL MONUMENT WOULD:

- Safeguard Utah wildlife from being torn apart by hydrocarbon fuel transportation and other roadways for motorized vehicle use.
- Protect watersheds such as Lockhart Basin, near which the Bureau of Land Management is planning oil and gas development.
- Prevent development within the “Tar Sands Triangle,” a 200 square miles shale gas development zone located between the Colorado and Dirty Devil Rivers.
- End the potash and other fuel mining at three exploration sites surrounding Canyonlands National Park.
- Prohibit any future oil and gas exploration that would obstruct the scenic views of the landscape and encroach on recreation space.
- Ensure that the Colorado River basin continues to supply clean water to 30 million people by preventing harmful dust cover on the snow top mountains.
- Curtail the effects of climate change by prohibiting the acceleration of snow-cap melting from dust cover, and keeping 18 years’ worth of shale gas in the ground.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Tell President Obama how important it is to protect the Greater Canyonlands as a national monument! Visit sc.org/ProtectGreaterCanyonlands.

Support the Sierra Club: Follow the campaign at greatercanyonlands.org.

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