

Bellringer: T3D3

- ▶ What is your favorite National Park / Monument / State Park in Utah? Explain why!

Utah Studies

Day 3: Ch. 1: Regions, Lakes & National Parks
& Public Lands (pp 10–18)

Main Ideas:

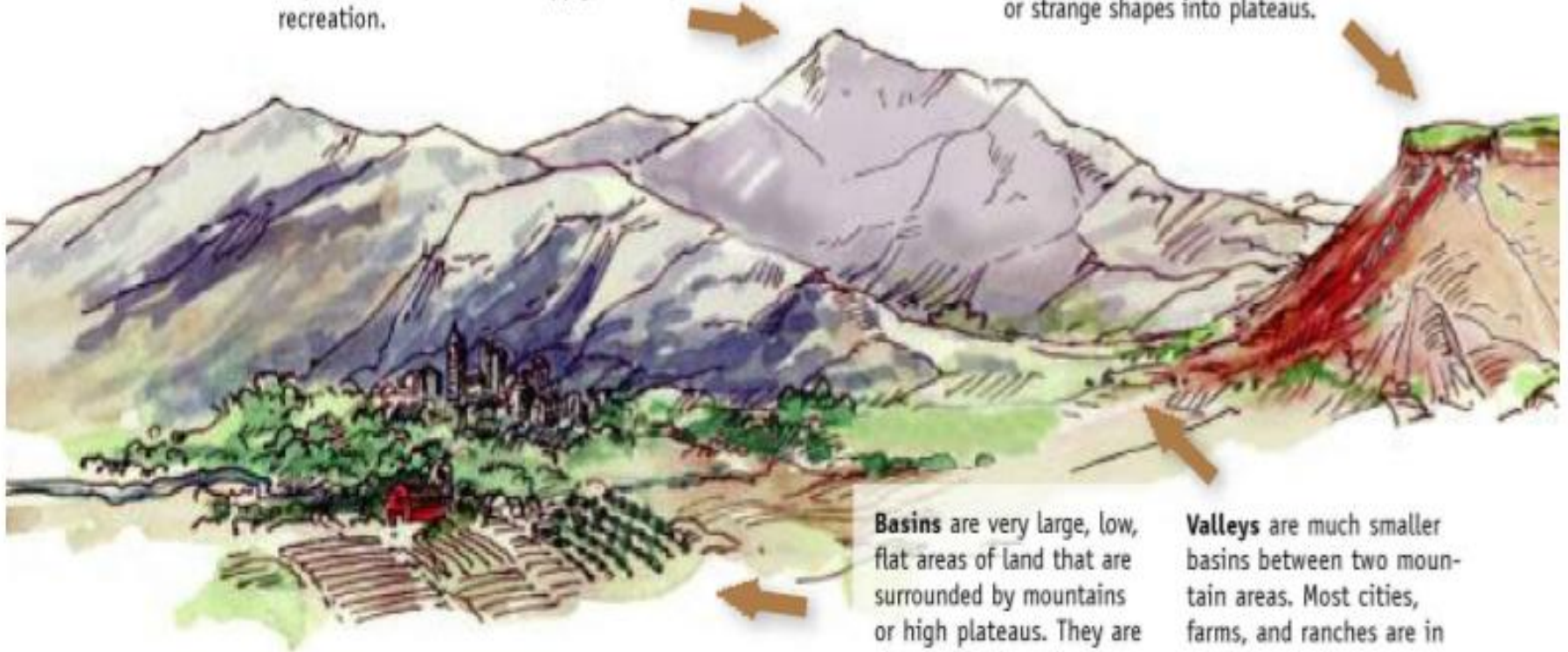
- ▶ **Regions**
 - **Great Basin Region**
 - **Rocky Mountain Region**
 - **Colorado Plateau Region**
- ▶ **Valleys**
- ▶ **The Great Salt Lake**
- ▶ **National Parks**
 - **Zion National Park**
 - **Canyonlands National Park**
 - **Bryce Canyon National Park**
 - **Arches National Park**
 - **Capital Reef National Park**
- ▶ **BLM (Bureau of Land Management)**
- ▶ **Public Land**
- ▶ **Wilderness Area**
- ▶ **Utah Trust Lands**
- ▶ **Grand Staircase–Escalante NM**

Utah's Regions

► Landform Review: What is a landform?

Mountains are very high land formations with large bases and small peaks. A long line of mountains is a mountain range. They are very important for our water supply, timber, and recreation.

Plateaus are high, wide, flat areas that often end with steep cliffs. They look like tables or wide steps many miles across. Wind and water often cut deep canyons or strange shapes into plateaus.



Basins are very large, low, flat areas of land that are surrounded by mountains or high plateaus. They are shaped like huge bowls.

Valleys are much smaller basins between two mountain areas. Most cities, farms, and ranches are in basins and valleys.

The Rocky Mountain Region

- ▶ The Rocky Mtn. Region in Utah includes the major mountain ranges, such as the **Wasatch** and **Uinta Mtns.**
- ▶ The snow that is trapped in these mtns provides some awesome skiing, and is sought by people all over the world (hence our skiing industry). Tourists bring \$\$, which is very important in Utah.
- ▶ That snow melts, and provides crucial water (aka **snowmelt**) for our state. That is why we have many reservoirs to store that water.
- ▶ The mtns also provide many minerals: coal, copper, silver, gold, etc. Many of the former mining towns are now ski resorts.

Rocky Mountains:



Rocky Mountains:



The Great Basin

- ▶ It is just that, a giant, desertous bowl. The water eventually all gathers into the Salt Lake. Most people in Utah live here, thanks to snowmelt.
- ▶ The Salt Lake is very shallow, but without an outlet the salt and other minerals the **tributaries** bring in lead to the lake getting more and more salty. It is a very important resource for birds, which eat the **brine shrimp** that live in it.

Great Basin

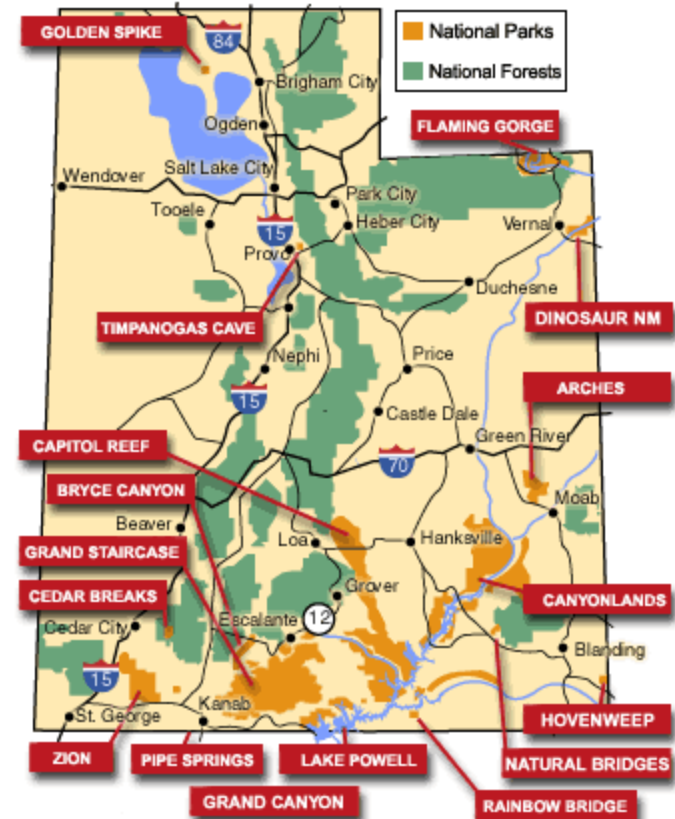


Great Basin



Colorado Plateau

- ▶ High, flat lands of Eastern Utah. Not a lot of rain there, but some beautiful scenery. Many of our National Parks are found there.
 - Zion National Park
 - Canyonlands National Park
 - Bryce Canyon National Park
 - Arches National Park
 - Capitol Reef National Park



Colorado Plateau



Colorado Plateau



Colorado Plateau

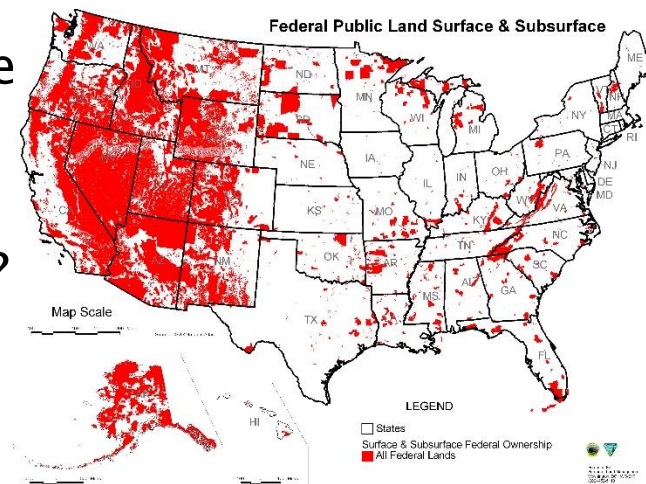


Utah's Public & Private Lands

- ▶ Over 60% of the state of Utah is owned by the federal government. In southern Utah, it's 80%. The state also controls a good chunk of Utah's land too.
- ▶ This land is made up of forests, parks, monuments, wilderness areas, reservoirs, military lands, etc. Some land is privately owned as well.
- ▶ The American Dream is realized in ownership of private land, and to what they will do with it.
- ▶ Recently, the State of Utah passed the **Utah Transfer of Public Lands Act** to gain control of all that land. [Vid](#)
- ▶ Some feel that the federal government is the best option to protect and guard this land: [Vid](#).
- ▶ What do you think; should the federal government control so much of Utah's land?



See the red? That is federal land in Utah...wow!



So What is “Public Lands”?



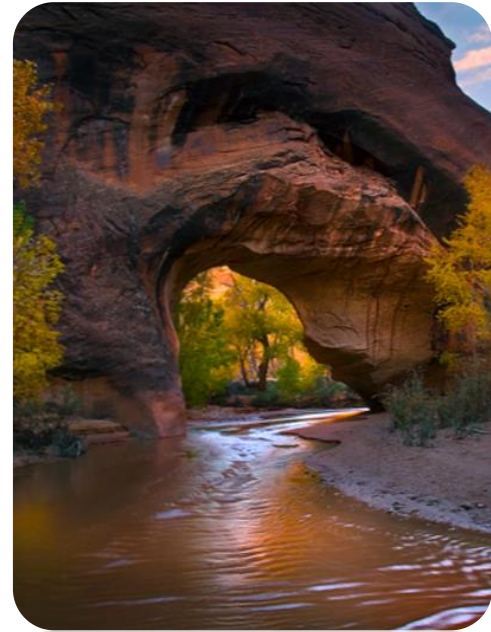
This map shows the BLM managed lands in Utah

- ▶ The government controls these lands, but since the **government** is supposed to be an **extension of the public**, then it is (in theory) supposed to be available to all, i.e., the public.
- ▶ There are some restrictions however, put in place to protect and preserve the land for future generations. What do you think? Should the land be restricted, or no? Why / Why not?
- ▶ The **BLM**, or **Bureau of Land Management**, is a federal agency that controls much of this federal land. It is supposed to manage such lands and allow for “multiple use”.
- ▶ Thus, many BLM lands are used for recreation, like: hiking, fishing, camping, target shooting, 4-wheeling, geocaching, etc. It also is used for timber cutting, mining, and wilderness areas, though restrictions still exist.



Wilderness Areas

- ▶ Some public lands are **set aside** to be preserved in their natural state, for their scenic beauty, solitude, geology, wildlife, etc.
- ▶ Many outdoor activities are still allowed, such as hiking, horseback riding, camping, fishing, hunting, etc.
- ▶ Many are not allowed however. Things like mining, building dams, harvesting timber / trees, paving roads, or constructing buildings are not allowed, and motorized vehicles are restricted. Ranching is not allowed, unless it was “grandfathered” in.
- ▶ Pros & Cons of these policies?



Utah Trust Lands

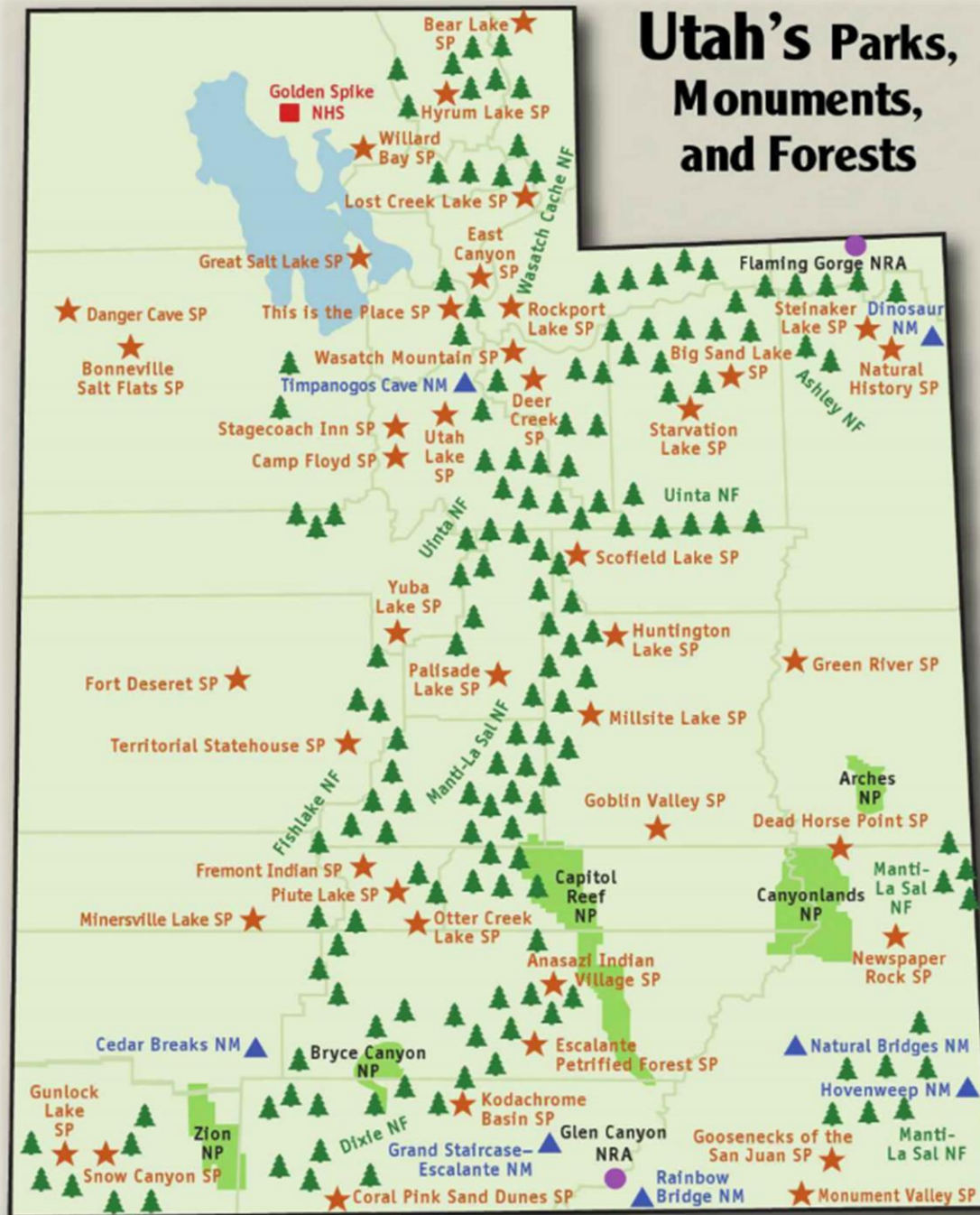
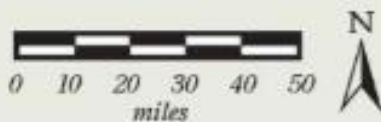
- ▶ When Utah became a state, millions of acres were set aside for Utah schools to use to make money for education, and these are called **School Trust Lands**. There are over 4 million acres of such land in Utah.
- ▶ So how do these lands make money for Utah?
 - **Surface:** People pay rent to use lands, for farms, movie sets, ski resorts, etc. Permits and fees are collected to graze cattle, cut Christmas trees, and gather dirt, gravel, etc.
 - **Mineral:** Many trust lands have what are called **mineral rights**, which allows access to mineral resources in the ground. Oil, gas, coal, gold, etc. would fall in this category.
 - **Sales:** Sometimes, it is more beneficial and profitable to sell the land to developers who want to build on and use the land. Utah schools retain **mineral rights** however, in case anything valuable is ever discovered there.
- ▶ Any such profits from the land are put into a savings account, and the interest is used to help fund Utah schools.

Public Lands in Utah:

Utah's Parks, Monuments, and Forests

LEGEND

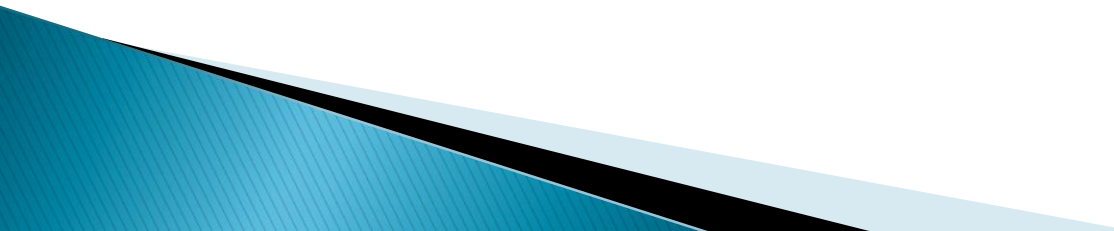
- ★ State Park (SP)
- National Park (NP)
- National Recreation Area (NRA)
- ▲ National Monument (NM)
- National Historic Site (NHS)
- 🌲 National Forest (NF)



A New Monument

- ▶ Read the “A New Monument” handout silently, and when I say, turn to a neighbor and start talking about it. Ask each other the following questions (write your answers on the back of your paper):
 - What do you think about monuments and parks in general; are they good or bad?
 - How did people feel about this monument? Do you agree / disagree? Why?
 - Is there a better solution? What do you think?

Caring for the Environment

- ▶ People can harm the environment, if they aren't careful. For a long time, people didn't think that they could use up all the wood, trees, animals, and other resources the earth provided.
 - ▶ By the time Utah became a state, people had learned that this wasn't the case; many laws were passed to prevent pollution, and land was set aside for national and state parks, forests, etc.
 - ▶ If there is one thing we can agree on, it is that we must protect the limited natural resources that we have. What is the best way to do that? People are still trying to figure that out.
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Homework:

- ▶ Start working on your WPA-style Park Poster (explained with the Bellringer); it is due T1 D7!
- ▶ Don't forget to get your Public Lands or Geocache activity completed for next time, D4!