



KSB eNews Today

Celebrating Our First 50 Years

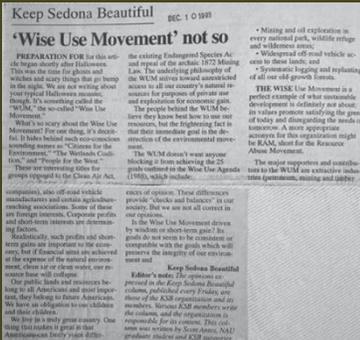
May 5, 2022



KSB 50th ANNIVERSARY HISTORY TOPIC

PRESERVING AND PROTECTING PUBLIC LANDS

As part of our 50th anniversary celebration, we're looking back at our past accomplishments and looking forward to the future. This month focuses on protecting our Public Lands.



News Clipping Courtesy of the Red Rock News

As we continue with our golden anniversary celebration, we're looking back at our past accomplishments and looking forward to the future. This month focuses on preserving and protecting our public lands.

The effort to ensure that public lands in the Verde Valley are permanently protected goes back to 1978 when US Representative Morris Udall proposed an amendment to a bill that would make Oak Creek Canyon a National Monument. That effort failed, as did

three subsequent initiatives to designate portions of the Coconino National Forest as either a National Scenic Area or a National Monument.

These initiatives highlighted the desire of many in the Verde Valley to ensure that the Coconino National Forest remains public land and is never privatized. KSB first highlighted the threat of privatization in 1993, when we published an article in the Red Rock News warning about the so-called Wise Use Movement. Among the goals stated in the Wise Use Agenda were: mining and oil exploration in national parks, wildlife refuges and wilderness areas, widespread off-road vehicle access to these lands and the systematic logging and replanting of our old growth forests.

Keep Sedona Beautiful has consistently advocated for protection of our public land and for

preservation of our open spaces. To that end, we helped lead the effort to adopt Amendment 12 to the Coconino National Forest Management Plan and to incorporate it directly into the subsequent plan. Amendment 12 set aside 160,000 acres, preventing the Forest Service from trading these acres for land privately held elsewhere, ending land trades that had resulted in development.

In 1996 we created the Land Preservation Task Force in partnership with the Trust for Public Lands and the National Forest Service. That task force raised over \$18 million dollars to purchase 513 acres of critically important private land that was then donated to the National Forest. Among the purchases were:

- The Thompson Original Homestead of 15.5 acres in Munds Canyon, a side canyon to Oak Creek Canyon and source of one of the main springs feeding Oak Creek
- The Cleeves Property, 110 acres at the end of the road just past Honanki Ruin in the Red Cliffs area of Yavapai County, 18 miles northwest of Sedona
- The Smyrnis property, a 25-acre parcel adjacent to Cleeves Property northwest of Sedona
- Woo Ranch, a 160-acre parcel in the Red Cliffs area, adjacent to Palatki Ruin about 10 miles northwest of Sedona
- Bradshaw Ranch, a 90-acre parcel in the area of Red Canyon northwest of Sedona
- Hancock Ranch, an 88-acre ranch and the residence of area pioneer rancher Mary Hancock, before her death at age 96
- Thomas Point, a rugged 25-acre parcel adjacent to Highway 89A in beautiful Oak Creek Canyon



Each time the Coconino National Forest Management Plan is updated, Keep Sedona Beautiful works diligently to evaluate draft versions and provide constructive comments that help ensure that our public lands continue to be protected.

Recently, we have become alarmed at the damage that Off Highway Vehicles (OHVs) have caused to the land and to the health and safety of residents. This is a problem that KSB first warned about in 1977, repeating that concern in 1981. The recent exponential increase in OHV activity has brought the issue to a critical head. Irresponsible OHV drivers chew up the land, leaving clouds of dust that kill trees and threaten the health of residents. In addition, the Broken Arrow neighborhood in Sedona experiences significant OHV traffic that extends into the night, disrupting that once quiet residential area

Keep Sedona Beautiful will be doing everything in its power to see that abuse of the land on OHV trails is curbed and that reasonable limits are placed on OHV use. This is a problem that must be addressed – quickly.

To help Keep Sedona Beautiful protect our priceless public land, become a member or renew your membership at [keepsedonabeautiful.org/donations](https://www.keepsedonabeautiful.org/donations).

You can read a chronological history of KSB by [CLICKING HERE](#).

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