



San Juan Record

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A lonely granery amidst the greenery of San Juan County. Enter your photos in our Photo of the Week contest. We will pay \$10 for each photo that runs in the *San Juan Record*. You can email your entries to sjnews@frontiernet.net. Shane Brewer photo

Another settlement in antiquities cases

Another settlement is expected in the federal antiquities cases related to the June, 2009 raids in Blanding. A trial was expected to begin on September 27 for Carl "Vern" Crites, age 75 of Durango, CO. However, court documents were filed that indicate that charges will be settled before they are brought to trial.

As a longtime antiquities dealer, Crites was considered one of the leading characters in the case. He gave up his massive collection of artifacts to federal agents in January, 2010.

The plea agreement is expected to include the charges against Crites, his wife Marie Virginia Crites and Richard Bourret. They are all Durango residents.

More than two dozen people faced federal charges related to digging up, buying and selling Native American antiquities. The June, 2009 raids triggered the suicides of three people, including two defendants.

In recent months, a host of the defendants have reached settlement agreements with federal prosecutors. The settlements have included the forfeiting of personal antiquity collections, fines, restrictions from accessing public lands and probation. To date, no one who faced antiquities charges has been sentenced to prison terms.

Gunnison Sage-Grouse to be designated a candidate for Endangered Species Protection

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has determined that the Gunnison sage-grouse, a bird species found only in southeastern Utah and southwestern Colorado, warrants protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), but that proposing the species for protection is precluded by the need to address other higher priority species.

A comprehensive status review determined that there is sufficient scientific and commercial data to propose listing the species as threatened or endangered throughout its range. However, the Service is precluded from beginning work immediately on a listing proposal because its limited resources must be devoted to other higher priority actions.

The Service will add the Gunnison sage-grouse to its list of candidate species and review its status annually. When a "warranted but precluded" finding is made for a species, the Service classifies it as a candidate for addition to the federal list of threatened and endangered species.

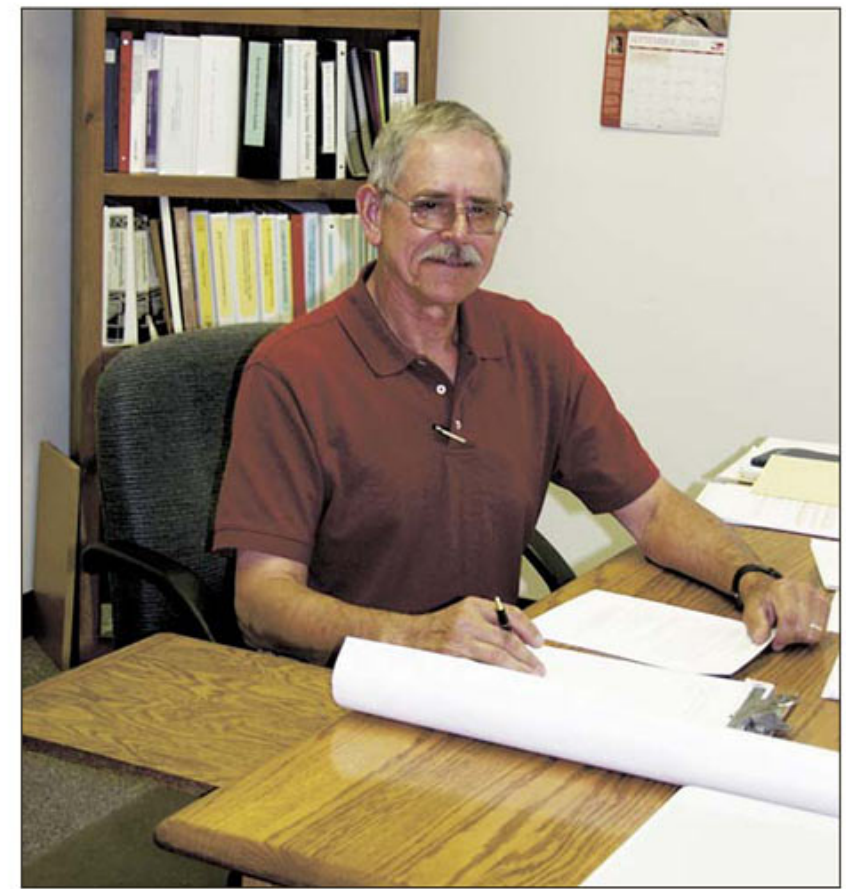
If the Service proposes the Gunnison sage-grouse for protection under the ESA in the future, the public will have an opportunity to comment. As a candidate species, the Gunnison sage-grouse will remain a state-managed species.

The Gunnison sage-grouse currently exists in seven populations, including one in San Juan County near Monticello. Gunnison sage-grouse historically occurred in southwestern Colorado, northwestern New Mexico, and southeastern Utah.

For several years, private landowners have worked with state and federal agencies to implement conservation actions under a Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA).

The cooperative efforts have led the way in conducting important research to enhance the understanding of the life history needs of Gunnison sage-grouse.

Local conservation groups have developed plans for six of the seven populations, as well as a range-wide Gunnison sage-grouse conservation plan.



Nick Sandberg is the new San Juan County Public Lands Coordinator. Staff photo

New Public Lands Coordinator

Nick Sandberg is the new Public Lands Coordinator for San Juan County. Sandberg began work on the job in September. He helps coordinate planning efforts for the county, with particular focus on public lands.

Nick retired in December, 2008 after a 38-year career with the Bureau of Land Management, with 36 years in the Monticello field office. He worked in various capacities during his BLM career, including wildlife management, range management, natural resource management, and finished his career as the assistant field manager.

Sandberg has been busy since his retirement. He worked with the staff of Senator Robert Bennett to help develop a San Juan County Lands Bill. The lands bill has failed to advance after Senator Bennett was defeated in his quest for another term in the U.S. Senate.

After enjoying his retirement for the past 18 months, Sandberg returns to work on a part time basis for San Juan County. He replaces Evan Lowry, who went to work for San Juan County after retiring from a lengthy career with the U.S. Forest Service.

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Homecoming week at San Juan

San Juan High School celebrates homecoming this week under the theme "Ya Gotta Love SJH".

Homecoming got an early start when the homecoming royalty was named at an assembly on September 23. Kelsi Meyer is the Homecoming Queen, with Abby Bayles first attendant, Katie Hiatt second attendant, Keosha Benally third attendant, and Erica Grover fourth attendant

Activities before the *San Juan Record* was published include the Mr. San Juan pageant on September 27, and hosting Monticello for a volleyball game on September 28.

A powderpuff football game is Wednesday at 7 p.m. with a tailgate party and bonfire on Thursday.

The homecoming parade begins at noon on Friday, with the football game against the North Summit Braves set to begin at 7 p.m.

Reservoir Report

Water level:	Loyds Lake	Recapture	Lake Powell
Winter low	7,122	6,033	3,618
High	7,155	6,058	3,639
Last week	7,143	6,051	3,634
Current level	7,143	6,050	3,634
% of capacity	69%	75%	63%

Weather

September 20-26

Monticello				Blanding			
Hi	Low	Prec	tr	Hi	Low	Prec	tr
20	81	45		20	87	59	
21	78	53		21	86	56	
22	79	46	.17	22	64	52	.80
23	67	43	.38	23	72	49	.02
24	72	36		24	76	49	
25	75	41		25	83	54	
26	79	42		26	83	54	

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