Glucose Guardians
Wage War on Diabetes Epidemic Gripping Zuni

A group of passionate Zuni High students is on a mission to combat the diabetes crisis overwhelming the Zuni community.

The Glucose Guardians, including Kaylia Baca, Alexandra Eustace, Taryn Neha, Kioni Kallestewa, and Nathan Hall, members of the HOSA-Future Health Professionals ZHS chapter, have launched an awareness campaign to empower residents to improve their health and prevent diabetes.

“Diabetes has become far too common in our community,” said Alexandra Eustace, 17, co-founder of the Glucose Guardians. “We want to give people the tools to fight back.”

The Guardians brought their message to the masses at the recent Fall Festival held at A:shiwi College in October. Armed with eye-catching infographics and interactive activities, they educated attendees about diabetes prevention and care. “So many people stopped to talk about their struggles with diabetes or their concerns about developing it,” Kaylia Baca said. “Just starting that conversation can motivate change.”

Recognizing that lasting change starts early, the Guardians also presented to faculty members at Zuni High School for Diabetes Awareness Day last month. “Teachers can have an enormous influence on developing healthy habits,” explained Taryn Neha, 16, another Glucose Guardian co-founder. “We want them to have the right knowledge to guide students.”

“This disease touches so many lives in our community,” added Kioni Kallestewa. “By working together, we have the power to make an impact.”

These events are just the beginning. The Guardians have arranged workshops, health fairs, and community discussions in the coming months to further spread understanding about diabetes.

“Diabetes has become far too common in our community,” said Alexandra Eustace. “We want to give people the tools to fight back.”

The group – comprised of Brooklyn Sanchez, Jaynie Lalio, LaNiya Kallestewa, Andruw Leekela, Gabby Peynetsa, and Kaliya Kallestewa – kicked off their awareness campaign at the Zuni Fair in September with an informational float and pamphlets.

“Seeking to combat the surge in vaping among youth, six sophomores at Zuni High School have created “Teens United Against Vaping” to educate their peers about the risks.”

The campaign culminated with Zuni High’s Anti-Vaping Spirit Week in December, showcasing a video and poster contest to rally support. “Seeing fellow students embrace our mission has been so inspiring,” noted Gabby Peynetsa.

Next, the group is preparing to present their work at the HOSA State Leadership Conference, for Future Health Professionals, to motivate youth action statewide. “By students uniting, we have the power to drive change,” said Andruw Leekela.

Follow along with Teens Against Vaping on Facebook and Instagram @teensagainstvaping2026. More events are coming as they continue their advocacy.

Zuni Youth Enrichment Project Receives Grant from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of New Mexico

The Zuni Youth Enrichment Project announced that it recently received a $20,000 grant from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of New Mexico’s Blue Impact initiative. The grant will allow Zuni Youth Enrichment Project to increase community-wide trail access and improve health outcomes for Zuni residents.

“Our Zuni ancestors were farmers, ranchers and hunters, so physical activity was part of their daily lives,” said Tara Wolfe, ZYEP program manager.

“During the times of the Pueblo Revolt, the Zunis were part of messenger teams that would hand deliver vital messages from pueblo to pueblo by means of running on trails. BCBSNM’s Blue Impact grant will allow us to increase the capacity of 60 miles of ancestral trails connecting Zuni neighborhoods, while also improving trail access, safety and performance.”

Ancestral Trails continues on page 7
Culture of Health Prize Winner

The Pueblo of Zuni is Named a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation 2023 Culture of Health Prize Winner

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has announced that the Pueblo of Zuni is one of nine communities chosen to receive the 2023 RWJF Culture of Health Prize. The prize celebrates communities across the country where people and organizations are collaborating to build solutions to barriers that have created unequal opportunities for health and well-being.

“For me, Zuni being a RWJF Culture of Health Prize winner is a great honor, and it is a step toward Indigenous ways of knowing and being getting recognition for the ways they help us and Mother Earth heal from the various traumas that have caused us to be ‘unhealthy,’” said Tahlia Natachu, executive director of the Zuni Youth Enrichment Project, a partner in the Pueblo of Zuni.

“When a community is entrusted with leaning into their strengths and culture, amazing things can happen. We saw that with our own eyes through our collaboration with Zuni on various initiatives. We hope that this prize will elevate our story and allow other communities to see that they can also accomplish their wellness and health goals through the teachings of our ancestors. We must return to our roots.

“I will never be able to fully express my appreciation for RWJF and our partners who made this experience possible,” she continued. “Every single person who invested a piece of themselves into this initiative is the reason we are successful today. It’s all for our youth. They are our greatest treasure.”

Since partnership within communities is at the heart of the prize, it is awarded to whole cities, towns, tribes, reservations, and counties. The Pueblo of Zuni joins eight other 2023 prize winners, including Austin, Texas; Baltimore, Maryland; Detroit, Michigan; Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Reservation; Houston, Texas; Los Angeles County, California; Ramsey County, Minnesota; and Tacoma, Washington.

“The work of our current and past prize winners highlights the real staying power of community-born solutions, and their success inspires greater collaboration across public and private sectors,” said Julie Morita, MD, RWJF executive vice president.

“This year’s winners demonstrate what’s possible when we work in partnership and ensure that commu...

When the sound of drum beats, “dom, dom, dom, don, don, . . .” rise from the Pueblo barrel drum, emotions stir. People gather. They dance. People embrace dance as a form of expressing joy, belonging, resilience. I know the joy and feeling of really appreciating dance as an art form, a form of expression, of being “Shiwi.” “Ho’ Shiwi. Hon A:shiwi. After having enjoyed the Harvest Dance on August 14, 2023, I am encouraged and inspired to write my reflection of that day.

First, if dance is a demonstration of resilience, what does it look like? The word loosely means flexible and strong. The day of the dance, the A:shiwi, who gathered, were at their best, in respect towards each other and show-casing the most basic of artistic expression – Dance – in a beautiful and sophisticated fashion. Hundres of dancers gave life to the beat of the drum as they carried themselves with great pride. “Look at me, I can dance. I am beautiful. I am Shiwi.”

Second, dance cannot be dance without song. Yes, song can be silently sung in your mind, or just under your breath. “—Isisik’yanña.” But on this day, it was robust singing! A full display of emotion and expression. Like the dancers, the singers were beautiful. They too, took song to the highest level of expression. “We must remind ourselves we are A:shiwi.” (We must also remember and honor those we lost, including those to COVID 19.)

The people came together. Let us remember how

ZYEP Celebrates Annual Down Syndrome Awareness Month

The Zuni Youth Enrichment Project commemorated its second annual Down Syndrome Awareness Month in October with a special “Buddy” event at Major Mar- ket’s Halloween Trunk or Treat.

ZYEP’s “Buddy” events raise awareness and provide support for special needs families, according to Buddy Booth organizer Kenzi Bowekaty, who is one of ZYEP’s Food Sovereignty leaders.

In advance of this year’s event, she worked with family, friends and colleagues to prepare gifts for all Zuni families that have a member with Down Syndrome. Along the way, they opened up the gift-giving effort to include families with other special needs.

As the parent of a 3-year-old son with Down Syndrome, Bowekaty said this inclusivity is important to her. She noted that all young people with special needs deserve to be recognized, as do their parents and caregivers.

Special needs children aren’t always included, so we want to let them know they’re special, they’re loved and cherished, and they’re being celebrated,” she explained. “And special needs parents aren’t always recognized for their hard work and the challenges they face, so we want them to know we see them.”

The ZYEP team had the gifts ready for families at the Buddy Booth on Oct. 28, but the blustery day kept many families home. Bowekaty said she understands that on a very personal level. “When you have a child with special needs, your day might not go as planned,” she said. “The weather might be too much for them, or a new event might seem scary. So, since I had the gifts in the trunk of my car, we decided to deliver them to the families at home!”

The goal was to provide each gift recipient with something to eat, to wear, and to do. Adorned with tissue paper and colorful helium balloons, each large gift bag included thoughtfully curated items such as a cake kit, a hot cocoa kit, a “squishmallow” that could serve as a pillow or trick-or-treat bag, a Slinky, fidget toys, a dart-board-style game, socks, a beanie and gloves for cold weather, wristbands, keychains, and more. The kits also incorporated a variety of positive messages, from the little keychains to treat sticks for the cakes.

“We reminded parents and caregivers that your child loves you even when you feel invisible, and real superheroes live in the hearts of children,” Bowekaty said. “We are The Lucky Few.” And we reminded the children that what makes you different is what makes you beautiful.

“Our families have a lot in common, and I’m so glad we could make this accommodation to go to their homes,” she continued.

“Everyone was happy. It was such a good feeling.”
The Zuni Youth Enrichment Project has announced that registration for the 6th annual Delapna:we Project has closed, and preparations for this year’s project are now under way. Made possible with support from the U.S. Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), New Mexico Arts (a division of the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs) and countless individual donors, this innovative project brings the Zuni people’s traditional oral stories to life.

A collaboration between the Zuni Youth Enrichment Project, A:shiwi A:wan Museum and Heritage Center, Edaakie Arts, ShiwiSun Productions, Zuni Public Library, KSHI Radio and other Zuni community members, the Delapna:we Project focuses on the performing arts.

According to Tahlia Natachu-Eriacho, ZYEP’s executive director, the 2023-24 Delapna:we Project will return to its roots with a traditional stage production. “The first year of Covid, we transformed the delapna-nne (story; singular of delapna:we) into a series of animations that we shared with the community through Zoom,” she said. “People loved them, so the following year, we decided to do a movie called ‘Turkey Girl.’ Last year, we let the kids choose between storyboarding, puppets, creative writing or film. “Now we’re ready to return to the stage, and everyone is really excited for the live performance,” she continued. “Our project leaders and partner organizations are currently meeting to select the stories.”

These stories are priceless treasures for the Zuni people. After being shared and passed down for generations, they were in danger of being lost forever by the mid-20th century. Fortunately, the Doris Duke Foundation in New York provided necessary funding in the 1960s so the Zuni community could record 19 elders sharing more than 800 stories. Curtis Quam, curator of the A:shiwi A:wan Museum and Heritage Center, digitized nearly 400 hours of those archived stories. He approached ZYEP in 2018 to see if there might be a way to bring the stories to life through the performing arts, which would bridge the learning gap between the elders from more than half a century ago and Zuni’s younger generations. “Those recordings captured Zuni stories from elders who are no longer with us,” Natachu-Eriacho said. “It is our responsibility to care for them, and share them during the traditional winter storytelling time, so the next generation can carry them forward.”

“Last year, 75 percent of parents and guardians reported that their children spoke more Zuni at home during the project, and 83.3 percent said their children connected with positive role models while they were with us,” she said. “One hundred percent said their children had fun and were positively impacted by the project.”

“The youth told us the same thing, with more than 90 percent telling us they felt more hopeful about the future,” she continued. “After last year’s project, more than 90 percent also said they also said they had positive role models in their lives, and believed that speaking Zuni is important. All of them, 100 percent, said traditional Zuni stories are important to them.”
This year’s Emerging Artist Apprenticeship program at the Zuni Youth Enrichment Project came to a close this fall, and to commemorate the occasion, ZYEP offered an exciting new opportunity for the art students. It hosted a Fall Youth Arts Market at Ho’n A:wan Park on Saturday, November 10 from 1-6 p.m.

Eleven youth artists ages 16-24 showcased and sold their work at the market, including paintings, prints, traditional and contemporary pottery, traditionally sewn clothing and apparel, woven sash belts, stickers and other merchandise. All the artists were graduates of ZYEP’s 2022-23 apprenticeship programs, which were made possible with support from Ancestral Rich Treasures of Zuni (ARTZ) and Administration for Native Americans (ANA).

“Friday evening was a preview event, reserved for our partners and the artists’ friends and family members,” said Kandis Quam, ZYEP’s assistant arts coordinator. “Saturday was open for the public to browse and purchase artwork directly from our students. Each student decided what art they wanted to present and sell, and they handled their own booth.”

In addition, the Fall Youth Arts Market showcased the work of the three top apprentices who recently completed the Emerging Artist Apprenticeship in sewing, which was ZYEP’s final cohort of 2023. They were: Talia Wallace, Omar Tuscon, and Keely Bobelu.

“The students spent three to four weeks working on their pieces prior to the art show,” said Elroy Natachu Jr., ZYEP’s arts coordinator. “We provided access to our studio, equipment and supplies so they could work on their art here at ZYEP as well as at home.”

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Natachu said he hopes to be able to open up the youth arts market to all young people, perhaps in spring 2024. “This really was a test run so we could figure out the nuances of organizing and hosting something like this,” he said. “At the moment, we’re tentatively planning to do another youth arts market during the

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Influenza (flu) is a contagious respiratory virus. It affects the nose, throat and sometimes the lungs. In some cases, may lead to pneumonia and hospitalization.

**What is Influenza (flu)?**

**How can I protect myself from the flu?**
- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water or use hand sanitizer
- Stay home if you sick and/or stay away from sick people
- Cover your cough and/or sneezes with tissue. If no tissue use the inside of your elbow.
- Wear a mask in large crowds
- Get an influenza vaccine (flu shot) once a year

**Why should I get a flu shot?**
- Protect yourself, family, and community members by being vaccinated
- If you do get the flu after being vaccinated, the shot will protect you from getting very sick.

**Who should get the flu shot?**
- Anyone age 6 months or older. Even those people with an egg allergy can get a flu shot

**Where can I get the flu shot?**
- If you are between the ages of 9 to 30 years old, call Shumak’olow'a Health Center to schedule an appointment at (505) 782-5719
- Anyone age 6 months or older can get their flu shot at Zuni Indian Hospital

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**Common Symptoms:**
- Fever
- Chills
- Muscle aches
- Cough
- Stuffy nose
- Runny Nose
- Headache
- Tiredness

**Public Notice from Zuni Solid Waste Program**

As a prize winner, the Pueblo of Zuni will receive $250,000, national and local promotion of the community’s stories to inspire others, and other opportunities to expand networks and accelerate progress toward building a healthy community.

For the Pueblo of Zuni, fostering a Culture of Health centers on reclaiming sovereignty by reintroducing centuries-old farming practices and working across generations to preserve language and cultural practices.

Because partners have focused their work on language and culture reclamation, they have been able to uplift culture as an avenue for achieving community health.

For information contact the Community Health Representative (CHR) at Shumak’olow'a Health Center (505) 782-5719

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As our annual festivities wind down, there were concerns from the Zuni Solid Waste Program.

During our Shalako festival, our program went to all the sponsored areas to pick up trash. Our team came across numerous amounts of baked goods that were thrown away.

This waste of bread could have been distributed throughout our community.

Please encourage each other during times of cooking to bake only what is needed, to not bake in excess, and to eliminate such waste.

Thank you
Zuni Little Colorado River Water Rights Settlement Update

Just over twenty years ago, the Zuni Tribe, to resolve all of the Tribe’s water rights claims in the Little Colorado River (LCR) basin in Arizona and to provide a resource to restore wetland and riparian habitats, settled its water rights claims in Arizona for Kolh:wa:wala:wa, Zuni Heaven. Thirteen parties signed off on the settlement agreement in June of 2002.


The primary purpose of the settlement is to restore, rehabilitate, and maintain the Zuni Heaven Reservation, including the Sacred Lake, wetland and riparian areas, in order to continue to protect the Tribe’s traditional cultural practices in perpetuity.

The Settlement Act established the Zuni Indian Tribe Water Rights Development Fund (LCR Settlement Fund) held by United States on behalf of the Tribe.

The use of these LCR Trust Funds is restricted by federal and tribal law to the restoration and maintenance of Kolh:wa:wala:wa (Zuni Heaven Reservation). They were received by the Tribe under its Settlement Agreement with the United States, the State of Arizona and other parties of its water rights claims in the Little Colorado River basin in Arizona, which Settlement was approved by the U.S. Congress in the Zuni Indian Tribe Water Settlement Act of 2003.

The purposes of the withdrawal of the LCR Settlement Funds from federal trust and transfer to professional investment management of Morgan Stanley are (1) to permit a wider range of investment options than are currently allowed to BTFA under federal law, (2) to allow a broader diversification of investments, which is expected to better protect principal and enhance earnings on the LCR Settlement Funds over time based upon generally recognized investment principles, and (3) establish professional management by Morgan Stanley in expectation of greater investment returns than, historically, through federal management.

The Governor and Tribal Council anticipate that this strategic plan will enhance the amount of financial resources available to fund the necessary actions to restore, rehabilitate, and maintain the Zuni Heaven Reservation, including the Sacred Lake, wetlands, and riparian areas.

Upon approval of the Tribe’s application to withdraw the LCR Settlement Funds from federal trust under BTFA’s administration and transfer them to tribal accounts under Morgan Stanley’s professional investment management pursuant to the American Indian Trust Fund Reform Act and associated Regulations, the Tribe and not the United States Government (a) will be responsible for management, administration, investment and use of the withdrawn LCR Settlement Funds, (b) will directly bear any investment loss with respect to such funds, and (c) will assume liability for any mismanagement or misuse of such funds. Neither BTFA, the Interior Department, nor any other Department or Agency of the U.S. Government will have any continuing responsibility or liability with respect to the management, administration, investment, or use of such funds.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please address them to the Governor’s office.

Formal notice of the Tribe’s intent to withdraw its settlement funds from federal trust is found in this edition of the Messenger, below on this page.

Withdrawal of the funds from federal trust administration will provide the Tribe broader investment opportunities than available to the United States because the federal limitations on investment of the settlement funds have limited the growth of those dollars and has slowed and delayed implementing the restoration options for the Tribe.

Now it is time to take another important step in the restoration and protection of Kolh:wa:wala:wa.

The Tribal Council, upon the recommendation and support of the LCR Wetlands Program, a program under the Division of Natural Resources, and the Tribe’s Investment Committee, has determined it is in the best interest of the Tribe to withdraw the LCR Settlement Funds totaling approximately $18 million from the federal Bureau of Trust Fund Administration and to invest those funds with the Tribe’s investment firm Morgan Stanley in order to better preserve and grow the settlement funds.

In the coming days, the Tribe will submit its application under the American Indian Trust Fund Reform Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 4001, et seq.) to withdraw the LCR Settlement Funds.

For additional information, please contact Councilman Edward Wemye’wa at the Governor’s Office (505) 782-7200 and/or Loren Panteah, Director of the LCR Wetlands Program at (505) 782-2123.

Ancestral Trails continues from page 1

BCBSNM’s Blue Impact grant is part of an ongoing commitment to invest in and collaborate with community organizations that offer sustainable, measurable programs that address the social and economic factors impacting health and wellness in our state.

ZYEP’s mission, to promote resilience among Zuni youth so they grow into strong and healthy adults connected to Zuni traditions, aligns with the vision of Blue Impact to improve health outcomes in communities across New Mexico.

“Spending active time outdoors is essential to our mental and physical well-being,” said Janice Torrez, BCBSNM president.

“We’re proud to support the health and well-being of Zuni residents by investing in programs that provide easy and safe access to outdoor trails and activities.”

Public Notice Concerning Trust Fund Withdrawal and Transfer

The Zuni Tribe is providing this notice to Members of its intent to (1) withdraw approximately $18 million of Little Colorado River Settlement Trust Funds (“LCR Settlement Funds”) from federal trust administered by the U.S. Interior Department’s Bureau of Trust Fund Administration (“BTFA”) and (2) transfer those funds to Tribal accounts under the professional investment management of Morgan Stanley.

The use of these LCR Trust Funds is restricted by federal and tribal law to the restoration and maintenance of Kolh:wa:wala:wa. They were received by the Tribe under its Settlement Agreement with the United States, the State of Arizona and other parties of its water rights claims in the Little Colorado River basin in Arizona, which Settlement was approved by the U.S. Congress in the Zuni Indian Tribe Water Settlement Act of 2003.

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Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please address them to the Governor’s office.
Key Private Property in Bears Ears National Monument to Be Protected Forever

Conservancy Acquisition Could Set New Standard for Private Lands Conservation in Utah

After a 16-month effort, the most important parcel of private land surrounded by Bears Ears National Monument has been permanently protected by The Wildlands Conservancy.

The 320-acre Cottonwood Wash property controls access to thousands of acres of the surrounding public lands inside Bears Ears National Monument. The property is critically important to the management of those lands, including access for cultural site stewardship and ceremony, research, restoration, education, hiking and nature enjoyment. It also has enormous biological significance.

A spring-fed pond, hanging gardens, and riparian forest along Cottonwood Wash support endemic plants and a variety of resident and migratory birds.

“As soon as we stepped foot on the property and recognized its incredible importance, we were dedicated to saving it,” said Frazier Haney, executive director of the California-based conservancy. “While it is surrounded by Bears Ears, the property was drawn out of the monument’s boundary, so acquisition by a private organization is the only real way to see it permanently protected.”

After years of collaborative efforts among Tribal nations, conservation organizations, archaeologists and other stakeholders, on December 28, 2016, President Obama used his authority under the Antiquities Act to designate Bears Ears National Monument. The Inter-Tribal Coalition — Navajo Nation, Hopi Tribe, Ute Indian Tribe, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and Zuni Pueblo — played a leading role in advocating for the monument’s protection. Tribal leadership continues in its management, formalized in the signing of a June 2022 cooperative management agreement.

“The entire Bears Ears region is the ancestral landscape of the Zuni people,” said Anthony Sanchez, Jr., head councilman and Bears Ears commissioner for the Zuni Pueblo Tribe and representative of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition. “We are a part of this place because our songs, prayers, and stories connect us to various landmarks across the region. We know our ancestors resided and traveled through here because various places, plants, and rock markings in Bears Ears are embedded in our cultural memory.”

The Wildlands Conservancy closed escrow on the Cottonwood Wash property on July 14. A cultural conservation easement over the land will be created in favor of the five Tribes of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition. The easement will end future development rights, return the right of access for ceremony and plant gathering, and provide for co-management of the property.

“The Cottonwood Wash property is an important part of the greater Bears Ears landscape; not only does it hold beautiful scenery, but it also instills in time the cultural significance of learning and connection we have as Pueblos,” said Sanchez. “Protecting these connections ensures that our children can have the same experiences, echoing our continuous existence since time immemorial, thereby allowing the protection of our cultural and spiritual values.”

The cultural conservation easement is the first of its kind in Utah and one of the first such partnerships in the nation. It brings together a private nonprofit and Tribal nations, each with a real interest in the property, to protect the land. This builds on many cooperative efforts already established by nonprofit groups and Tribal nations to protect the area’s public lands.

“Because of our unique model of permanent land stewardship that engages visitors and partners, our preserves benefit the public lands that often surround them,” said Dave Herrero, who will manage the preserve for the conservancy. “Over the last year, we’ve been working to cultivate relationships in the region and are humbled by the generous support from more than 200 organizations, foundations, and individuals, for not only the acquisition of the Cottonwood Wash property, but also the future stewardship of the land.”

The town of Bluff, its residents and the Bears Ears Partnership were integral to building momentum and gathering support for the project. Additional funding for the conservancy’s acquisition of Cottonwood Wash came from the Kisco Cares Foundation, Earthwalker Fund, Alnob Lewis Family Foundation, David Kelby Johnson Memorial Foundation, the Conservation Alliance and Grand Canyon Trust.

“The importance of the Cottonwood Wash property can’t be overstated. The canyon is not only stunning, it cradles hundreds of generations of human history within its walls,” said Tim Peterson, cultural landscapes director for Grand Canyon Trust. “Given that it could have been closed off and peppered with luxury homes, we are grateful that it will be forever preserved and co-managed with the Bears Ears Tribes.”

The Center for Biological Diversity was an early supporter of the conservancy’s purchase of the property, the third acquisition in recent years in which the two non-profit organizations have partnered. The Center and other conservation groups sued the Trump administration to protect Bears Ears and intervened to stop Utah’s efforts to gut the Antiquities Act.

“We’re thrilled to support the conservancy’s bold step to expand its preserve system into Utah and build a meaningful partnership with Tribal nations to protect this extraordinary place,” said Peter Galvin, director of programs and a cofounder of the Center. “The Center has been fighting for years to safeguard Bears Ears and protecting spectacular Cottonwood Wash is a critical step.”

The conservancy is now focused on next steps, including securing the property, providing pedestrian access, planning ecological restoration, and engaging with local partners.

More about the Cottonwood Wash acquisition is on The Wildlands Conservancy website.

The Center for Biological Diversity is a national, nonprofit conservation organization with more than 1.7 million members and online activists dedicated to the protection of endangered species and wild places.

Founded in 1995, The Wildlands Conservancy is dedicated to preserving the beauty and biodiversity of the earth and providing programs so that children may know the wonder and joy of nature.

In working to achieve this mission, the conservancy has established the largest nonprofit nature preserve system in the West, comprising 24 preserves encompassing nearly 200,000 acres of diverse mountain, valley, desert, river, and coastal landscapes.

These preserves are open to the public free of charge for passive recreation and host free outdoor education programs for underserved youth.