



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Washington, D.C. 20240

JUN 13 2005

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Durbin:

Thank you for your letter of May 26, 2005, to Secretary of the Interior Gale A. Norton regarding the placement of off-road vehicle route signs within areas of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument by Kane County officials. Secretary Norton asked me to respond.

The following is in response to your specific concerns:

- a. What specific actions and legal steps does the Department intend to take to compel Kane County officials to permanently remove all road signs illegally placed upon Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands in Kane County, both within the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and elsewhere.

The Department of the Interior and the BLM have requested the U.S. Attorney's Office to take affirmative legal action on both the removal of BLM route signs and the placement of unauthorized roads signs.

- b. When will this action take place.

The timing of any legal action regarding the signs is a decision made by the U.S. Attorney's Office.

- c. What are the consequences for those individuals who remain in defiance of federal law in this regard. "I am especially concerned that the Department remedies the situation as soon as possible and with finality."

Consequences for individuals and entities involved with this issue are contingent on the outcome of whatever decision is made by the U.S. Attorney's Office regarding these incidents.

Enclosed is a copy of correspondence from the BLM to Kane County. Be assured that both the Department and the BLM seek a clear and timely resolution to this issue.

Sincerely,

Rebecca W. Watson  
Assistant Secretary  
Land and Minerals Management

Enclosure