

Kya Marienfeld
Wildlands Attorney
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA)

Kya Marienfeld is an attorney within SUWA's Wildlands Program, which mixes legal, policy, and fieldwork to monitor activities on wilderness-quality public lands throughout southern Utah, with a focus on direct engagement with public land managers. Originally from northern Minnesota, Kya received a J.D. and Certificate in Environmental and Natural Resources Law from Lewis & Clark Law School in Portland, Oregon in 2014, with a specialization in public lands and wildlife law. Kya is a member of the Utah and Minnesota State Bars. Based out of SUWA's Moab office, she splits her time between legal work and on-the-ground fieldwork throughout southern Utah wildlands. In recent years, Kya's work with SUWA on monitoring the management of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument—including challenging projects and authorizations that violate federal laws and regulations such as the Federal Land Policy Management Act and the National Environmental Policy Act—has resulted in several site-specific projects and management decisions that would have compromised wilderness-quality lands being overturned or withdrawn.