

# The Truth About Zone 6



Zone 6 is a critical part of the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve. Its 6,800 acres of Mojave Desert habitat are home to the threatened Mojave Desert tortoise, rare plants like the dwarf bear poppy, and popular recreation areas including Moe's Valley, Green Valley Gap, Bearclaw Poppy trail, and Zen trail. With 3,341 acres of Zone 6 now under threat due to development plans from the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA), the goal of this document is to separate fact from fiction and outline viable paths to protect the Greater Moe's Valley Area permanently.

For more information about the history and ownership of Zone 6 lands, visit [www.conserveswu.org/zone-6/](http://www.conserveswu.org/zone-6/)

*FICTION: The Northern Corridor Highway must be built to protect the Greater Moe's Valley Area.*



**FACT:** Our local and State leaders can permanently protect the Greater Moe's Valley Area—regardless of the highway decision—with proven solutions such as land swaps, conservation agreements, conservation buyers, and federal programs like the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). [Sign our petition now to permanently protect the Greater Moe's Valley Area.](#)

*FICTION: The current Zone 6 designation protects the Greater Moe's Valley Area from development.*



**FACT:** The creation of Zone 6 does not ensure long-term or permanent protection of the state-owned lands within the Greater Moe's Valley Area. With or without the Northern Corridor Highway, SITLA lands within Zone 6 are subject to development. Notably, in prior negotiations, SITLA rejected language that would have perpetually protected its lands in Zone 6.

*FICTION: SITLA is required to develop their lands in the Greater Moe's Valley Area.*



**FACT:** SITLA is obligated to generate revenue, development of its land is not the only way to do so. There are plenty of alternatives to protect the Greater Moe's Valley Area AND meet SITLA's financial mandate.

*FICTION: If the Northern Corridor Highway is denied, SITLA will immediately move forward with developing the Greater Moe's Valley Area, leaving no time for alternative solutions.*



**FACT:** Any large-scale development plan takes considerable time and input from many voices. SITLA and Washington County officials have expressed openness to conservation-focused solutions for the Greater Moe's Valley Area, so there is still space for community input. Importantly, SITLA's ability to proceed may also hinge on other—currently speculative—actions by the BLM, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other local officials, providing time and opportunities to explore alternative paths.

## What Can You Do?

Washington County is at a crossroads. Our continued access to this area's unique landscapes depends on informed public action and persistent community advocacy. By understanding the challenges and misinformation surrounding Zone 6, and by advocating for permanent protection, we can preserve this cherished land for generations to come.

- [Sign our petition to protect the Greater Moe's Valley Area](#)
- **Share this document to educate others**