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**Bureau of Land Management
Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument**

**"TRACES IN TIME:
The Outdoor Laboratory of Grand Staircase-
Escalante National Monument**

Visitor Center Film

Final Script

"TRACES IN TIME:
The Outdoor Laboratory of Grand Staircase-
Escalante National Monument

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FADE IN:

A MONTAGE OF CAPTIVATING SHOTS, DRAMATIC AND INTRIGUING, INCLUDING AMAZING DETAILS, THAT EMBODY THE ESSENCE OF THE MONUMENT

For example:

1. The lookout from Rainbow Point with its unbelievable and hauntingly beautiful colors of the Chinle.
2. A view looking down to dinosaur tracks (with a person in the scene to clearly show the tracks' enormous size.)
3. Fanciful silhouettes of hoodoos.
 - 3a. Rolling hills of Tropic Shale.
4. An ultramagnification of the sand grains of cryptobiotic soil, connected by fragile threads.
 - 4a. Turning a corner in a narrow gold-sand slot canyon, sunlight and shadow revealing its sinuously curvy walls.
 - 4b. (Consider using footage of an expansive, frontier-representative landscape.)
 - 4c. (Consider using a scene of a plant.)
 - 4d. (Consider using a scene of an animal.)

MUSIC: A captivating piece with an aura of mystery UP AND UNDER

NARRATOR: (VOICE OVER)
(a compelling, actorly voice)

HERE IS A PLACE
WHERE SECRETS OF THE
EARTH MIGHT BE EXPOSED.

WHERE TRUTHS
OF HUMAN HISTORY

MIGHT BE UNCOVERED.

WHERE MYSTERIES

OF THE UNIVERSE

MIGHT BE REVEALED.

dissolve to:

A GRACEFUL, FLUID SEQUENCE OF CLOSEUPS AND EXTREME CLOSEUPS OF THESE (OR OTHER) EXAMPLES, LOOKING FOR THE SUBTLETIES, AS THOUGH A SCIENTIST.

4e. An extreme close-up of ammonite sutures.

MUSIC UP AND UNDER

5. An extreme closeup of charred, grey rows of corn on an ancient corn cob.

A THOUSAND-YEAR-OLD

CORN COB.

6. A close pan across the features of a dinosaur skull *in situ*, in the ground.

A DINOSAUR SKULL.

7. A gorgeous magnified photo of a microbe.

NEWLY-DISCOVERED

MICROBE.

8. Camera moves across pictographs of pronghorn antelope. Perhaps SUPERIMPOSE a scene of pronghorn bounding across a landscape.

PICTOGRAPHS OF

PRONGHORN.

9. An extreme closeup of the primrose's pollen grains, with threads that attach between the grains.

A BEE THAT SEEKS

POLLEN ONLY FROM THE

FLOWERS OF AN EVENING

PRIMROSE.

10. A pan across a "laid bare" landscape, perhaps an expanse of the Grand Staircase as seen from the Kaibab Plateau , or possibly The Blues off Highway 12.

HERE IS A PLACE WHERE
MORE THAN 250 MILLION
YEARS OF EARTH'S HISTORY
IS LAID... OPEN FOR
STUDY.

11. The TITLE "TRACES IN TIME" appears as the camera moves through a spectacular arch (like the Sunset Arch along the 40 Mile Ridge Road, or the double-arch Governor Arch).

TRACES IN TIME:

dissolve through to:

12. THE SUBTITLE is added as the scene dissolves into an almost-hidden-looking Anasazi or Fremont doorway or granary in a cliff face.

THE OUTDOOR
LABORATORY
OF GRAND STAIRCASE-
ESCALANTE NATIONAL
MONUMENT.

MUSIC segues to a livelier sound
UP AND UNDER

dissolve to:

12. A stylized map of the Monument, showing its area in Utah and the Colorado Plateau. Its three sections -- Grand Staircase, Kaiparowits Plateau, and Escalante Canyons -- are clearly identified. The surrounding National Parks -- Capital Reef, Canyonlands, Bryce -- and Dixie National Forest, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Vermilion Cliffs National Monument -- are identified as well.

THE MONUMENT SPANS
NEARLY TWO MILLION
ACRES OF MAGNIFICENT
LANDS ...

... THAT CONTAIN

WONDERS OF HUMAN AND
NATURAL HISTORY.

13. An outline of the Escalante Canyon section of the map is full screen, SUPERIMPOSED over a low, gorgeous aerial from that section of the Monument.

ESTABLISHED IN 1996,
IT WAS THE FIRST
NATIONAL MONUMENT ...

14. An outline of the Kaiparowits Plateau section of the map is full screen, SUPERIMPOSED over an awesome aerial from that section of the Monument.

... TO BE MANAGED BY
THE BUREAU OF LAND
MANAGEMENT...

15. An outline of the Grand Staircase section of the map is full screen, SUPERIMPOSED over a dramatic aerial from that section of the Monument.

... A VAST FRONTIER OF
PUBLIC LANDS ... OPEN
FOR THE ENJOYMENT
OF ALL ...

... WITH A FOCUS ON
PRESERVATION, AND
SCIENTIFIC STUDY.

15a. A sweeping landscape shot that reveals something of the "special" elements -- perhaps a cactus with a historic ranch structure in the background.

THE MONUMENT IS PART
OF BLM'S "NATIONAL
LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION
SYSTEM" ...

15b. People hiking with small backpacks at a place that feels like a special "western" site -- Maybe hiking through the Escalante River canyon with its dramatic sculpted rock walls.

... CREATED TO PROTECT
SPECIAL PLACES OF THE
AMERICAN WEST ... WITH
THEIR UNIQUE NATURAL,
CULTURAL AND HISTORIC
VALUES.

MUSIC segues into a piece with the feel of an
adventure UP AND UNDER

dissolve to:

A MONTAGE OF SCENES THAT SHOWS SCIENTISTS GETTING INTO THE FIELD
[DESCRIPTIONS DRAWN FROM INTERVIEWS WITH THE SCIENTISTS]. SCENES HAVE AN
AIR OF EXCITEMENT AND ANTICIPATION.

For example:

16. A team of two bee ecologists [Terry Griswald's team] setting up camp in a scenic locale like
Fifty Mile Mountain, preferably a location with easy access.

NARRATOR:

DURING THE FIELD SEASON,

17. Subjective camera, inside a 4WD vehicle with a team of scientists bouncing around on a
remote, bumpy dirt road.

[NOTE that there should not be an emphasis on 4WD on rough roads so as not to look enticing to
fans of off-road driving.]

... SCIENTISTS CONVERGE

ON THE MONUMENT.

18. A team of women geologists [Margie Chan and Brenda Beitler] setting up their instruments,
such as Brenda strapping a reflective spectrometer on her back.

THEIR RESEARCH PROJECTS

ARE FASCINATING...

19. A team of two scientists climbing really steep, erosional, dangerous-looking terrain.
Suggested here: Tom Stohlgren's vegetation team, or Vinson's crew.

... UNIMAGINABLY

DIVERSE,

20. A team of paleontologists [perhaps Scott Sampson's crew] wearing backpacks and hiking shoes, with radios, maps and field note pads, setting out somewhere on the Kaiparowits Plateau.
... AND INFINITELY

VALUABLE.

MUSIC segues to a fanciful beat, in keeping with the bizarre and wondrous geologic shapes UP AND UNDER

dissolve to:

A MONTAGE OF IMAGES OF SOME OF THE MONUMENT'S MOST INCREDIBLE AND STARTLING LANDSCAPE FEATURES.

For example:

- 21. The jagged rock upthrust of the Cockscomb.
- 22. Fluted aprons of Chinle.

THE MONUMENT'S
GEOLOGIC MARVELS
ARE OBVIOUS TO EVEN
AN UNTRAINED EYE:

- 23. Goblin-shaped hoodoos..
- 24. A dramatic hogback formation.
- 25. Fantastic sand pipe pinnacles.
- 26. Massive stone archway framing mountainous landscape beyond.
- 27. Sculpted spire.
- 28. Swirling labyrinth of a slot canyon.
- 28a. A rock face with layers clearly visible.

HOODOOS, HOGBACKS,
PINNACLES, ARCHES,
SPIRES, SLOT CANYONS:
... LAYERS UPON
LAYERS OF ROCK.

dissolve to:

- 29. A long sepia-tone pan across the landscape of the Grand Staircase.

IN THE LATE 1800s,
EXPLORERS JOHN WESLEY
POWELL AND CLARENCE

DUTTON RECOGNIZED THE
EARTH'S SKELETON:

30. The pan continues across a close shot of bands of color and crumbling rock.

... MILLIONS OF YEARS OF
GEOLOGIC EVOLUTION ...

31. An even closer shot of a colorful eroding rockface.

... EXPOSED IN THESE ROCKS.

MUSIC UP AND OUT

NATURAL SOUNDS UP AND UNDER
(wind, bird song, rustle of dry leaves, etc)

dissolve to:

32. Geologist Ron Blakey, at work in the field, creating a detailed illustration of the landscape before him.

TODAY, SCIENTISTS
SPECIALIZE THEIR
RESEARCH ...

33. A close shot of one of his completed drawings on a computer screen, fully colored and sophisticated looking, with landscape strata identified,

.... FOCUSING
ON PERHAPS ONE FACET
OF GEOLOGY,
LIKE SEDIMENTARY ROCKS.

dissolve to:

A SEQUENCE OF ARTFULLY SHOT SCENES OF THE MONUMENT'S LANDFORMS THAT CORRELATE WITH SOME SUPERIMPOSED IMAGES TO SUGGESTIVELY PORTRAY THE GEOLOGIC CHANGES TO THIS PLACE OVER THE AEONS.

For example:

34. A desert area of the Monument. SUPERIMPOSED is an image of two dinosaurs foraging in a dark forest with some sun streaking through.

[Production note: Contact Larry Felder at 908-218-0871; larryfelder@aol.com.

He is doing dinosaur artwork for the Visitor Centers and has incredible artwork of animals and scenes that were published in a new Time-Life book.]

READING THE ANCIENT

STONE, SCIENTISTS NOW
UNDERSTAND
THE ASTOUNDING
ENVIRONMENTAL
CHANGES OF THE PAST
250 MILLION YEARS.

35. A desert area of the Monument. SUPERIMPOSED is an image of a lush Southeastern cypress swamp.

THEY KNOW THAT:
THIS USED TO BE A
CYPRESS SWAMP.

36. A desert area of the Monument. SUPERIMPOSED is an image with a shark or "giant killer reptile" floating past .

THIS WAS A WARM,
TROPICAL SEA, WITH SHARKS
AND 40-FOOT
KILLER REPTILES.

38. An area with a great display of cross-bedding of Navajo Sandstone. SUPERIMPOSED is an image of high rolling dunes and blowing sand.

THIS IS THE REMAINS OF AN
ANCIENT FIELD OF SAND
DUNES THAT ONCE
BLANKETED A VAST REGION.

dissolve to:

39. A long slow tilt up the face of one cliff, showing the clearly defined different colors of strata. (An example can be found east of the Cockscomb on Highway 89.)

GEOLOGISTS CAN READ
THE STRATA LIKE A
BOOK,

REVEALING THE CHAPTERS
OF EARTH'S HISTORY.

SFX: Chink, chink sound of a hammer hitting a rock

This is page 10 of 48 pages

To see the complete script, contact me at matrazzo@msn.com
