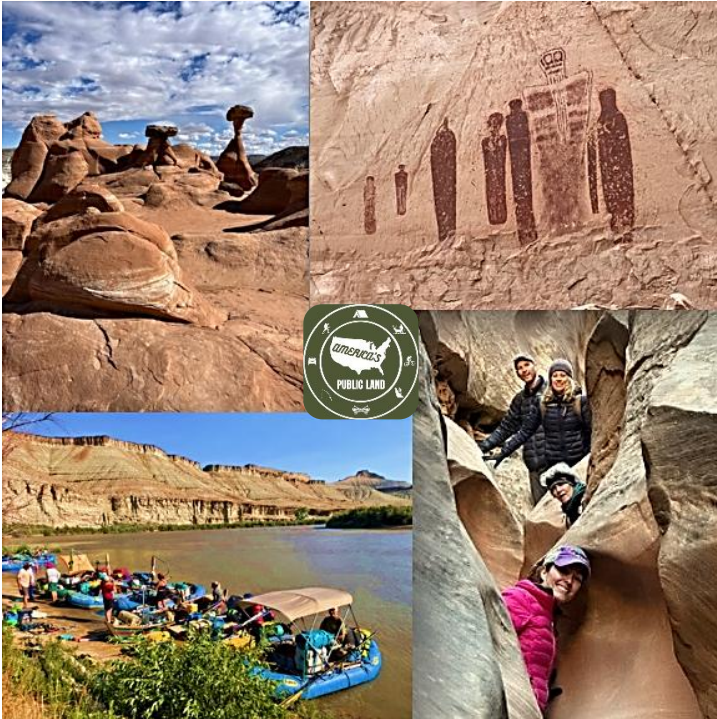




# The History and Future of America's Public Land

Presentation by Former National Park Service Superintendent Walt Dabney

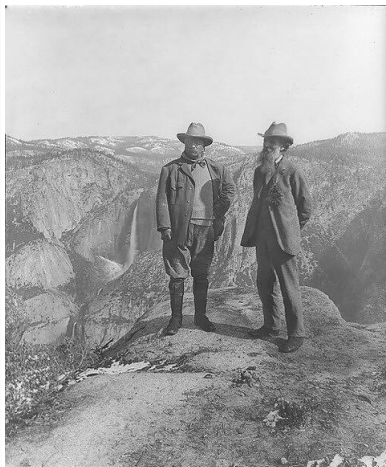


Discover the untold story of America's public land. Many Americans use public lands for recreation and business but don't understand where they came from or why they are the birthright of every citizen.

Now-retired National Park Service Superintendent and Texas State Parks Director Walt Dabney will give an eye-opening presentation showing how America's public lands came to be, why most are in the West, the economic value of these lands, and what we all stand to lose if they are transferred out of our common ownership.

These lands belong to all of us. Learn how and why that matters now more than ever.

*Some American public land gems – just in Utah!  
Clockwise from upper right: Great Gallery in Horseshoe Canyon;  
Little Wildhorse Canyon in the San Rafael Swell; the Green River;  
and goblin hoodoos in Goblin Valley State Park*



*Left:  
President Teddy Roosevelt  
and John Muir in Yosemite*

*All photos courtesy  
of Walt Dabney*



*Yellowstone National Park's Roosevelt Arch, on which the inscription reads "For the Benefit and Enjoyment of the People," was dedicated by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1903 to commemorate the world's first national park for public use.*

*(See next page.)*

**Thursday July 16, 2026**

**7 pm ARIZONA/Mountain Standard Time**  
(Same as Pacific Daylight Time)

**To register for the Zoom program, click on this link:**

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_hTj--F8qSo-9F-e2vSBvkg](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hTj--F8qSo-9F-e2vSBvkg)

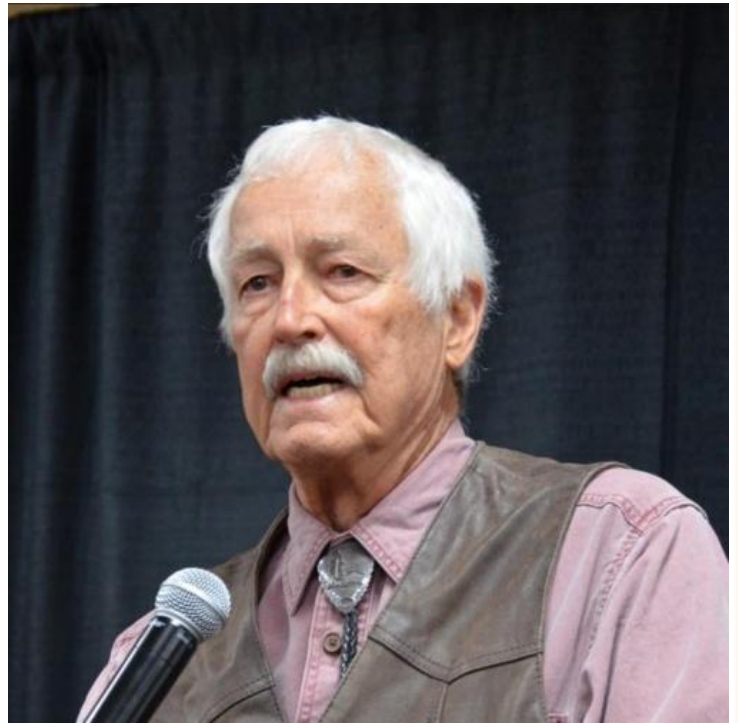
For more information contact Old Pueblo at [info@oldpueblo.org](mailto:info@oldpueblo.org) or **520-798-1201**.

## America's Public Land . . .

### Our Third Thursday presenter **Walt Dabney**

is a retired park professional with a 43-year career that spanned both the National Park Service (NPS) and Texas Parks and Wildlife. A Texas A & M graduate, he began as a ranger-naturalist in Yellowstone and went on to serve in key leadership roles across iconic United States parks including Yosemite, Grand Teton, Everglades, and Mount Rainier, and as Chief Ranger of the NPS in Washington, DC.

Walt later led the Southeast Utah Group of parks and served as Director of Texas State Parks. Known for his expertise in law enforcement, search and rescue, fire management, and public land policy, he now teaches at leadership institutes and universities and frequently speaks on the history of America's public land.



Left: Mountain biker Walt and friends on Island in the Sky, Utah



Right: Boatman Walt rowing the Moab Daily on the Colorado River

## The Third Thursday Series

Old Pueblo Archaeology Center's Third Thursday Food for Thought Zoom webinars on the Third Thursday evening of each month feature presentations about archaeology, history, and cultures.

If you would like to be added to Old Pueblo's list of persons who receive semimonthly email announcements about Old Pueblo's Third Thursday and other activities (and other southwestern archaeology organizations' activities), you can visit [www.oldpueblo.org](http://www.oldpueblo.org), scroll down to the Subscribe box, and enter your name and email address there. One can unsubscribe from our emailing list at any time.

