

Randy Catmull
Escalante Resident

Randy Catmull

My name is Randy Catmull. I'm the owner of Boulder Mesa Restaurant here in Boulder, Utah.

Interviewer-John Howe

Let's start out by talking about tourism. How's tourism in this area, and how has it changed since the coming of the monument?

Randy Catmull

I opened my restaurant in 1995. They made this a national monument in '96, I believe. Before then I used to see people in here all the time but I think it's starting to increase a little more every year. It's getting more publicized in this area. I think the beauty of it is a natural attraction and so that brings a lot of the people in here. I noticed, I keep a guest book, and I have people from all over the world that come to the restaurant. Now, how they find this area, it kind of amazes me but the beauty of it all speaks for itself and people have a natural tendency to go towards beauty and that's this area.

Interviewer-John Howe

What was your opinion when they actually created the monument here?

Randy Catmull

My opinion when they created this monument is--I've lived here since '79. They used to have town board meetings here, and it's always, this area to me, been earmarked towards something of a national eco-region. I think it was the Republicans' idea of what they wanted to call it. The Democrats called it the Grand Staircase Monument. I think that somebody was going to do something with it. I don't know if between the Democrats and the Republicans if they were upset that one didn't get the recognition for it, but the other one did. To me it's a double-edged sword in a way, you know. There are pros and cons to all of it. I think everybody should be entitled to, to be able to see it all regardless of their status in life or their ability as far as their health. I think that's something that you should be allowed to do.

Interviewer-John Howe

What happens when wilderness is created to handicap access, and things like that?

Randy Catmull

In my experience, I think a lot of wilderness limits the access to people as far as them being able to go enjoy what everybody else figures they're entitled to. I think it'd be something that everybody should be entitled to have, how they do that, it's tough to figure out, but I think there should be, learned to compromise. Everybody says you try to compromise. Well, that's not reality, but I think if people decide to sit down and really think about issues, I think they can. I think they need to discuss. It can't be all one way or the other but I think there are solutions to problems.

Interviewer-John Howe

How about roads and wilderness areas. What's your opinion of that and whether they should be paved or access?

Randy Catmull

Well I think roads in wilderness areas, I think there's some areas that should be controlled and limited access to it, and others, I think they should take a good look at what it is they're asking to do and to not allow people in there and what are their reasons for not allowing people into the areas. I think they need to look at issues and it's not just a cut and dry, yes or no. I think people need to look at issues and try to figure them out a lot better than they do.

Interviewer-John Howe

You were talking about the role of government and what your opinion of what that should be.

Randy Catmull

I think the role of government is to, is to start to listen to the people and figure out what their needs are instead of telling people what they can't do, and try to help figure out what it is that they can do, and I think, there, they should listen to try to help accomplish these goals and still, and try to keep what the needs of everybody is instead of just one-sided on issues.