

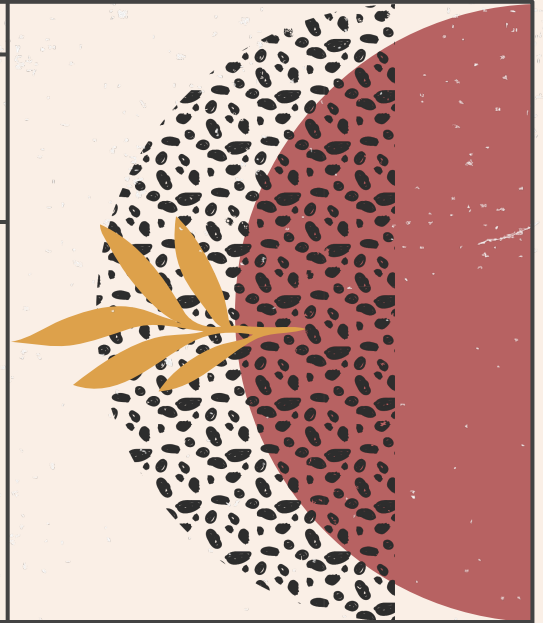
Why (and how) you should include public lands, tourism and Indigenous issues in your climate change coverage

K. Sophie Will
Senior National Parks Reporter, Editor
The Spectrum/USA Today/Report for America



Land recognition

We are on the ancestral land of the Mvskoke (Muscogee) people and the ᎠᎯᎩᎳᎿ Tsalagwetiya (Cherokee, East) people.

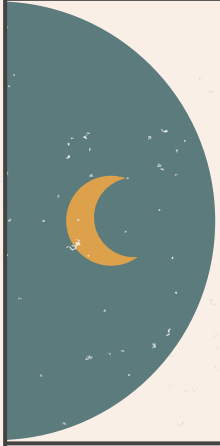


NAJA

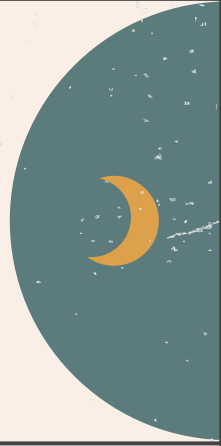


I am not indigenous and am definitely missing perspectives. The point of this is to get you to thinking about how to include indigenous perspectives and issues in your reporting and ask the experts.

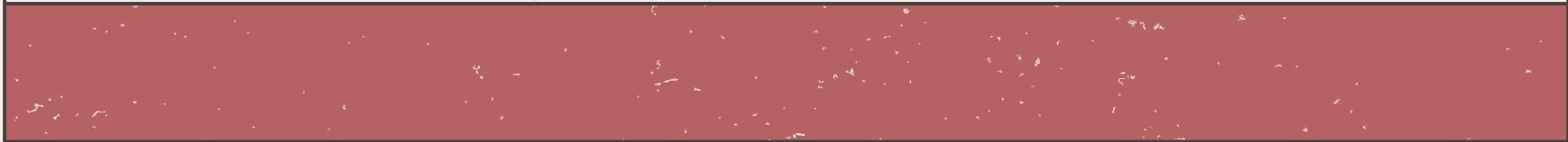




LAND



Why do I care?



ALREADY IN THE NEWS

- Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears National Monuments
- Great American Outdoors Act
- Keystone XL Pipeline
- Indian Boarding Schools
- Record tourism levels
- Oil and gas extraction
- Temperatures, seasons



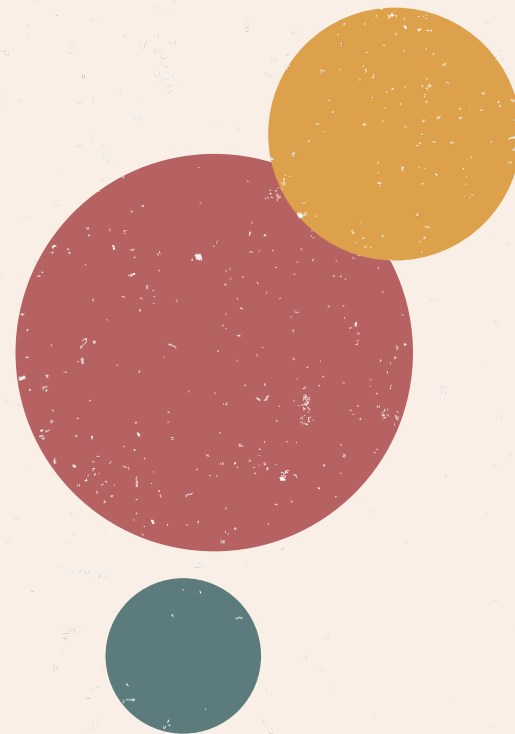
TOUCHES NEARLY EVERY BEAT

- Business/economy
- Environment and climate change (duh)
- Social justice
- Criminal justice
- Education
- Government
- Breaking news
- Human interest
- Etc.?



CLIMATE CHANGE FOR EVERYONE

- Climate change is one of the most important topics we cover -- it permeates everything
- Human-land relationship mindset
- How are you covering climate change already?
 - Focusing on land, add humans, vice versa
- For BOTH urban and rural reporters
- Ask where! Place is so important
- Water is life.
- People don't "believe" in climate change, they just don't *understand* it.

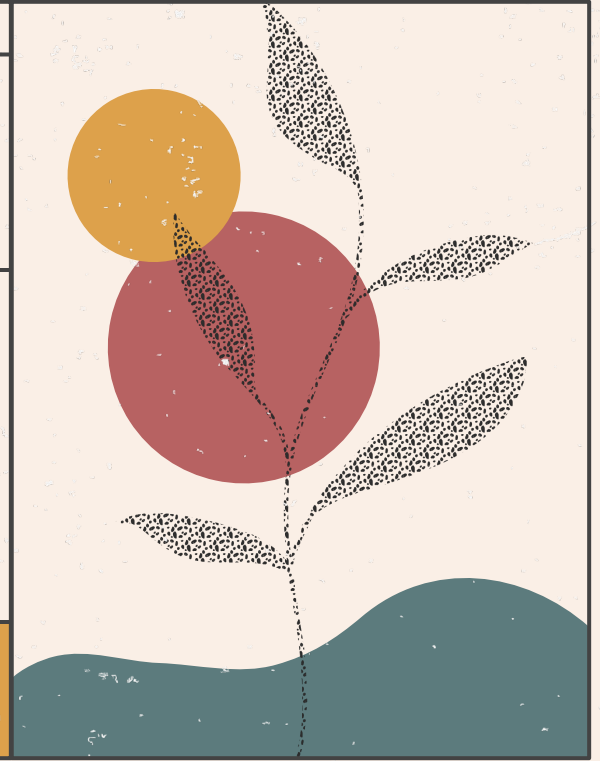




01

PUBLIC LANDS

Why they matter to your coverage



TYPES OF PUBLIC LAND



Federal

Department of the Interior, USDA



Non-profit

Conservations, organizations, coalitions



State

Both the actual state and the state branches of federal agencies



Local

Counties, cities, towns



Private

Citizen or business



Tribal

Reservation or sacred site (co-management?)



02

RECREATION & TOURISM

Why it matters to your coverage

EFFECTS OF TOURISM



Economy

Locals, transient room tax



Development

Zone changes,
government regulations



Nature

Trail overuse, campfires,
nearby cities, water, etc.



Traffic

Emissions, parking, road
closures



Housing

Short-term rentals v.
locals



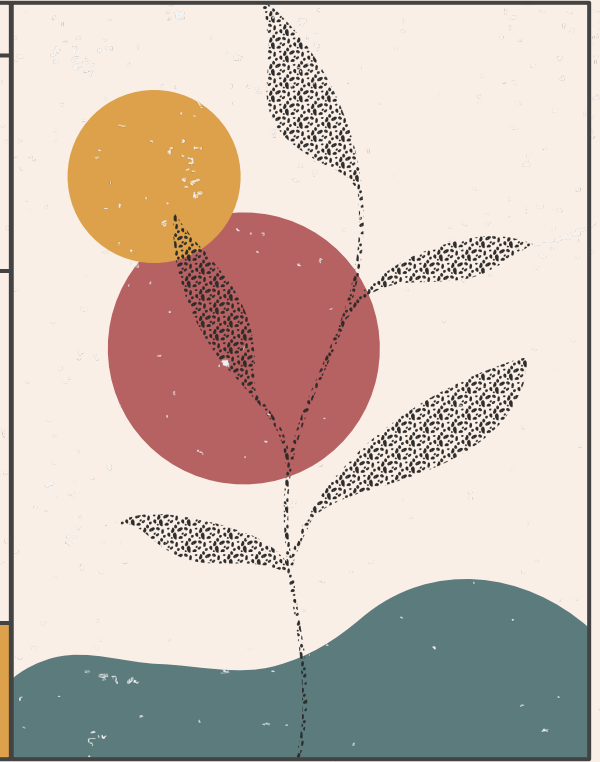
Crowds

Traffic, grocery stores,
attractions, parking

03

INDIGENOUS ISSUES

Why they matter to your coverage



INDIGENOUS ISSUES



Whose land?

Stolen land, reclamation?



Human rights

Water, internet access, healthcare, MMIW/P



History

Cultural and sacred sites, names, treaties, trauma



Jurisdiction

Sovereignty, intergovernmental relations, tribal councils, non-federally recognized



Reservations

Is it enough? Infrastructure funding, assistance, etc., energy impacts



Good news!

Stray the focus away from just bad news

DATASETS/STORY IDEAS

- Water
 - Use per area, per person, in what way
 - Algae, toxins (DEQ/EPA)
 - Drought, lake levels dropping

NEWS

How historic drought, cyanobacteria, tourism affects Utah's national parks, wildlife

 **K. Sophie Will**
St. George Spectrum & Daily News


Published 7:00 a.m. MT Aug. 2, 2021

[View Comments](#)   








NEWS

State funding cuts left Southern Utah waters untested for deadly algae

 **K. Sophie Will**
St. George Spectrum & Daily News

Published 6:35 p.m. MT Aug. 20, 2020 | Updated 7:00 a.m. MT Aug. 21, 2020

[View Comments](#)   



DATASETS/STORY IDEAS

- Human waste (both FOIAs)
 - Trash AND excrement
 - Vandalism (petroglyphs)

NEWS

Moab petroglyph defaced, BLM asking for public's help with third vandalism this year



K. Sophie Will

St. George Spectrum & Daily News

Published 12:24 p.m. MT Aug. 25, 2021 | Updated 4:51 p.m. MT Aug. 25, 2021

[View Comments](#)



NEWS

'Worst I've ever seen': First patrol since summer, rangers find human waste in Zion



K. Sophie Will

St. George Spectrum & Daily News

Published 7:30 a.m. MT Dec. 30, 2020

[View Comments](#)



When cyanobacteria reared its ugly face in Zion National Park's Virgin River in early July, rangers were forced to stop patrolling popular hike The Narrows for safety.

But this month, for the first time since Independence Day, rangers were able to recover pounds of trash and human waste left behind by the record-breaking number of visitors this season.

"All in all, I picked up 14 pounds of trash (9 pounds were human waste) and cleaned probably 1,000 handprints or etchings in less than a mile. While it



"Ranger John" holding trash and human waste found on the Narrows trail in Zion National Park. *National Park Service*

DATASETS/STORY IDEAS

- Vegetation
 - Invasive Species
 - Soil degradation/failure to thrive
- Wildlife
 - Roadkill (FOIA)
 - Endangered and invasive species
 - Birth and death rates of wildlife
 - Stressed and starving

NEWS

How historic drought, cyanobacteria, tourism affects Utah's national parks, wildlife

K. Sophie Will

St. George Spectrum & Daily News

Published 7:00 a.m. MT Aug. 2, 2021

[View Comments](#)



NEWS

Capitol Reef National Park orchards need rehab. Here's the plan, and why

K. Sophie Will

St. George Spectrum & Daily News

Published 7:08 p.m. MT March 6, 2021

[View Comments](#)



28 Photos

[VIEW FULL GALLERY](#)

PHOTOS: Capitol Reef National Park orchards are in need of rehab, public agrees

DATASETS/STORY IDEAS

- Traffic
 - Parking
 - Congestion
 - Roads and infrastructure (Mt. Carmel Tunnel)
 - Buses and shuttles
 - Rental cars
 - Regional transportation issues
 - (DOT and BTS)

NEWS

Data says traffic around Utah's national parks is getting worse. What's being done about it?



K. Sophie Will

St. George Spectrum & Daily News

Published 7:40 a.m. MT May 26, 2021 | Updated 11:15 a.m. MT May 28, 2021

[View Comments](#)



DATASETS/STORY IDEAS

NEWS

Zion National Park's shuttles are falling apart, but there is no funding to replace them. Why?



K. Sophie Will

St. George Spectrum & Daily News

Published 7:54 a.m. MT Aug. 13, 2020 | Updated 6:14 p.m. MT Aug. 13, 2020

[View Comments](#)



NEWS

Zion National Park receives \$33 million for electric shuttle buses



K. Sophie Will

St. George Spectrum & Daily News

Published 5:28 p.m. MT Feb. 2, 2021 | Updated 9:40 a.m. MT Feb. 8, 2021

[View Comments](#)



DATASETS/STORY IDEAS

- Search and rescue
 - Medical reasons (inexperienced hikers)
 - Missing people/overdue hikers
 - Investigation reports! (FOIA)
 - Suicides (FOIA)
 - Costs of SAR (FOIA)
 - Equipment and staffing (many are volunteer)

The screenshot shows a news article on the USA Today website. The article is titled "A woman went missing for 12 days in Zion National Park. Here's how her story led to an online frenzy" and is categorized under "NATION". The author is K. Sophie Will, a reporter for St. George Spectrum & Daily News. The article was published on October 28, 2020, at 1:21 p.m. ET and updated at 5:15 p.m. ET. Below the text is a photograph of two women standing in a parking lot in front of a mountain range. The woman on the left is wearing a black tank top and white shorts, and the woman on the right is wearing a white t-shirt and dark shorts. A USA Today logo is visible in the top right corner of the photo.

NATION

A woman went missing for 12 days in Zion National Park. Here's how her story led to an online frenzy

K. Sophie Will
St. George Spectrum & Daily News

Published 1:21 p.m. ET Oct. 28, 2020 | Updated 5:15 p.m. ET Oct. 28, 2020

Facebook Twitter Email

California hiker reunites with family after missing for two weeks in Zion National

DATASETS/STORY IDEAS

- Recreation
 - Bouldering, climbing, hiking, etc.
 - RVS and van life
 - Glamping v. tent camping
 - Minorities in the outdoors
 - Camping
 - Permits given
 - Campfires and wildfires
 - How many people (IRMA)
 - What type of people? (spontaneous v. planned, veterans or greenies)

NEWS

Inside how the Jacob Lake Inn narrowly survived the Mangum Fire



K. Sophie Will

St. George Spectrum & Daily News

Published 12:55 p.m. MT July 7, 2020 | Updated 5:26 p.m. MT July 7, 2020

[View Comments](#)



NEWS

We analyzed a year of Arches National Park closure data. Here's the best time to visit



K. Sophie Will

St. George Spectrum & Daily News

Published 9:12 a.m. MT June 8, 2021

[View Comments](#)



DATASETS/STORY IDEAS

NEWS

State of Zion National Park address: Chief concerned about overtourism after 2021 record



K. Sophie Will

St. George Spectrum & Daily News

Published 3:05 p.m. MT Feb. 28, 2022

[View Comments](#)



NEWS

'Glamping' proposal meets resistance at Kolob Mountain outside Zion National Park



K. Sophie Will

St. George Spectrum & Daily News

Published 9:30 a.m. MT June 8, 2020 | Updated 11:17 a.m. MT June 8, 2020

[View Comments](#)



Brian Passey's Backyard Rambblings column visits the Grafton ghost town and Zion National Park. *Brian Passey / The Spectrum & Daily News*

DATASETS/STORY IDEAS

NEWS

Illegal camping near Zion National Park poses fire danger, but agencies aren't stopping it

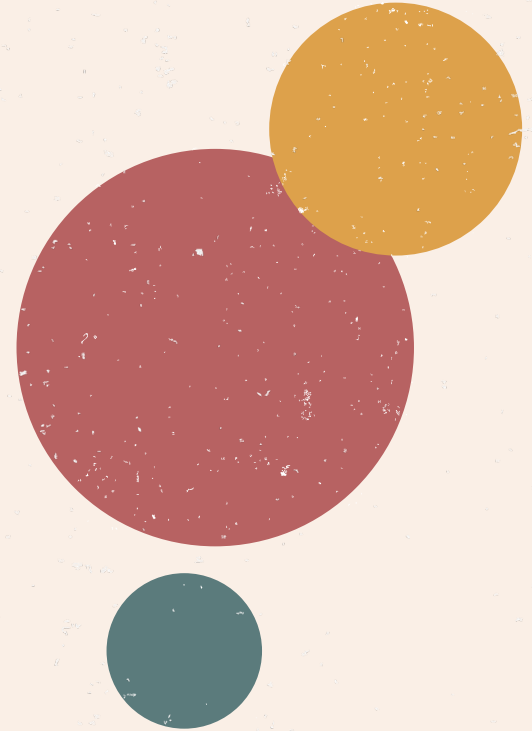


K. Sophie Will

St. George Spectrum & Daily News

Published 8:01 a.m. MT July 1, 2021 | Updated 11:11 a.m. MT July 1, 2021

[View Comments](#)



DATASETS/STORY IDEAS

- Economies
 - Labor shortage
 - Housing
 - Hotels/Airbnb
 - Restaurants
 - Shops
 - Events and festivals
 - Ghost towns/dispersal
 - Lack of international visitors



NEWS

COVID-19 kept international travel from Utah's national parks, hurting local businesses

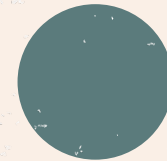


K. Sophie Will

St. George Spectrum & Daily News

Published 6:00 a.m. MT Dec. 21, 2020 | Updated 10:37 a.m. MT Dec. 26, 2020

[View Comments](#)



DATASETS/STORY IDEAS

- Staff
 - Instability
 - Mental health (mask mandates, harassment)
 - Housing
 - Transient Room Tax
 - Guides and tours, may not provide all

NEWS

Zion shuttle drivers quit over verbal abuse over masks, Bryce Canyon shuttles de-escalated



K. Sophie Will

St. George Spectrum & Daily News

Published 7:29 a.m. MT July 28, 2021

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DATASETS/STORY IDEAS

- Locals
 - Jurisdictional issues
 - Indigeneous v. homesteaders v. newcomers v. tourists
 - Farming or old businesses
 - Grow or die
 - Whose land is it anyway?

NEWS

'They're holding the mail hostage': Town in vote-by-mail Utah lost its only post office



K. Sophie Will

St. George Spectrum & Daily News

Published 12:01 p.m. MT Oct. 6, 2020 | Updated 1:48 p.m. MT Oct. 6, 2020

[View Comments](#)



FAQs

Vast, and vastly divided: Local Utah residents struggle with Grand Staircase-Escalante, Bears Ears



K. Sophie Will

St. George Spectrum & Daily News

Published 7:00 a.m. MT March 24, 2021 | Updated 11:00 a.m. MT March 26, 2021

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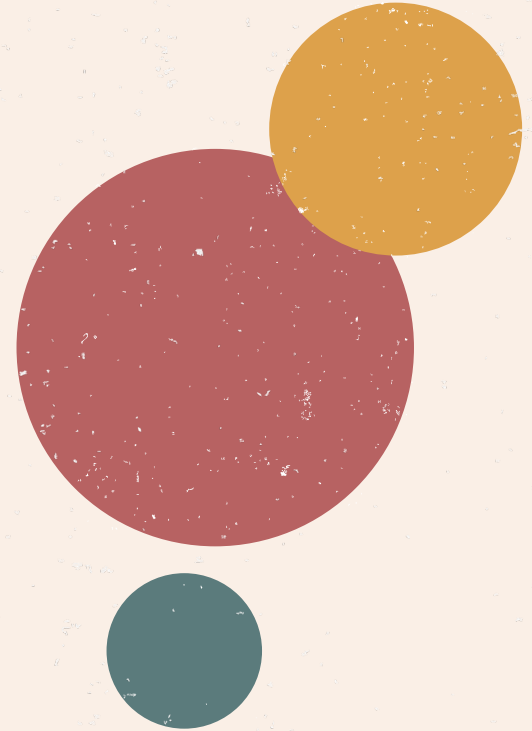


Chat with a local guide, author about Bears Ears National Monument

The Spectrum sits down with Morgan Sjogren, a local guide and author, about Bears Ears National Monument from the history to its future as a monument. *Chris Palkov and K. Sophie Will, St. George Spectrum & Daily News*

DATASETS/STORY IDEAS

- Planning Commissions/Land Use Authorities
 - Zone changes
 - Applications for glamping or development
 - Grant applications (also tourism offices)
 - Follow the money!



DATASETS/STORY IDEAS

- Skies
 - Dark sky communities
 - Air quality
 - Vehicle emissions
 - Nearby refineries or cities

NEWS

Dark sky concerns arise in Utah Senate bill allowing electronic billboards without local consent



K. Sophie Will

St. George Spectrum & Daily News

Published 5:57 a.m. MT Feb. 12, 2021

[View Comments](#)



During the Senate Business and Labor Committee meeting on February 2, 2021, Scenic Utah Director Kate Kopischke gives public comment on S.B. 61 on outdoor advertising. K. Sophie Will

DATASETS/STORY IDEAS

- Orphaned oil wells
- Temperatures, weather, seasons
- Disasters and FEMA
- Boundary maps
- Archaeology and paleontology

NEWS

BLM cancels sale of Moab land poised for oil drilling



K. Sophie Will

St. George Spectrum & Daily News

Published 1:06 p.m. MT Aug. 11, 2020 | Updated 11:07 p.m. MT Aug. 11, 2020

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NEWS

Caught in a flash flood in Zion National Park: What to do when a monsoon hits



K. Sophie Will

St. George Spectrum & Daily News

Published 2:05 p.m. MT July 14, 2021

[View Comments](#)



DATASETS/STORY IDEAS

- Trails
 - Overuse of trails/trampling
 - Cost of repair/rehabilitation
- Human waste
- Economies
 - Transient room tax, economy
 - Tourism offices
- Housing
 - Short term rentals
 - Housing for employees
 - Locals



DATASETS/STORY IDEAS

- Treaties/boundary lines
- Original name changed, purpose changed
- Sacredness taken away, destruction of sacred sites
- Internet access
- Health
- Economy: Navajo coal plant
- Missing persons
- Covering of tribal councils and/or administrations
- Protests
- Whose history are we telling
- Happy things too! Not just all bad news
- Use Google Scholar for data and leads and SciLine to get for quick experts!

NEWS

Sec. Haaland visits Bears Ears, but plans only one hour for Grand Staircase-Escalante



K. Sophie Will

St. George Spectrum & Daily News

Published 8:57 p.m. MT April 8, 2021 | Updated 4:23 p.m. MT April 9, 2021

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ENERGY

Navajo Generating Station — the largest coal plant in the West — has shut down

Ryan Randazzo and Shondlin Silversmith The Republic | acentral.com

Published 1:23 p.m. MT Nov. 18, 2019 | Updated 4:56 p.m. MT Nov. 18, 2019

NEWS

Stories of violence shared with Utah's Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women Task Force



K. Sophie Will

DATASETS/STORY IDEAS

NEWS

Stories of violence shared with Utah's Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women Task Force



K. Sophie Will

St. George Spectrum & Daily News

Published 8:14 a.m. MT Nov. 24, 2020

[View Comments](#)



NEWS

On the ground at the Panguitch Indian Boarding School where 12 Paiute children likely died



K. Sophie Will

St. George Spectrum & Daily News

Published 5:38 a.m. MT Sept. 2, 2021 | Updated 10:43 a.m. MT Sept. 2, 2021

[View Comments](#)



SOLUTIONS

The Four Pillars of Solutions Journalism

1. A solutions story focuses on a **RESPONSE** to a social problem — and how that response has worked or why it hasn't.
2. The best solutions reporting distills the lessons that makes the response relevant and accessible to others. In other words, it offers **INSIGHT**.
3. Solutions journalism looks for **EVIDENCE** — data or qualitative results that show effectiveness (or lack thereof). Solutions stories are up front with audiences about that evidence — what it tells us and what it doesn't. A particularly innovative response can be a good story even without much evidence — but the reporter has to be transparent about the lack, and about why the response is newsworthy anyway.
4. Solutions stories reveal a response's shortcomings. No response is perfect, and some work well for one community but may fail in others. A responsible reporter covers what doesn't work about it, and places the response in context. Reporting on **LIMITATIONS**, in other words, is essential.



SOLUTIONS

- Timed ticketed entry
- Lotteries
- Permits
- Licenses
- Reservations/Conservations and funds
- Education
- Coalitions and task forces
- Lobbying
- Grants
- Follow through
 - What does success look like for you?
- Shuttles and electric vehicles, regional transportation
- Applications for developments
- Dispersal
- Empowering locals, tribes
- Capacities



THANKS!

Do you have any questions?

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617-888-0900 (Also Signal + WhatsApp)

ksophiewill.com



@ksophiewill

AUDIO RECORDING OF THE SESSION:

https://otter.ai/u/FpKMxMrHQY5S36S3DT_2edCydBY