

Colorado Plateau

The Colorado Plateau is a region in the American southwest which was uplifted around 5 million years ago to elevations between 4k - 6k ft above sea level. The Plateau's interior has incredibly diverse geologic and landscape compositions, from volcanic alpine to Proterozoic bedrock. On top of these layers there is a tension between the desires of cultural, biological, and economic interests.

The Grand Canyon

The oldest exposed rock in the region is here, carved by the Colorado River and transforming the high elevation forest and scrub surrounding it to its current grandeur and natural border area.



Glen Canyon and Hoover Dams

These dams, demarcating the inception and terminus of the Colorado River in Arizona, were created for electricity generation and water control have created large lakes for recreation but have been criticized for landscape and ecosystem damage caused both up and down stream



San Francisco Peaks and Sunset Crater

This scattering of isolated mountains on the southern edge of the plateau is an active volcanic field creating one of the highest points between the Rockies and the Sierra Nevada



What are these blemishes?

These heat maps mark the frequency of old Uranium mines, existing in various size and scale from the beginning of US westward expansion. Though many are abandoned, the effect of radioactive exhumation is still present in the land and water requiring considerable decontamination efforts.

Abandoned Uranium Mine Density

Sparse

Dense

First Nation Land

Protected Land



Moab Region

Surrounded by its rocky parks and monuments like Arches and Canyonlands, this area is a popular tourist destination for recreation. However, there has been criticism for its overdevelopment and potential damage done to the delicate desert landscape



Indigenous Nations

The Plateau is home to many indigenous governments, including the largest and most populous, the Navajo Nation. Included in the territory is the famous Monument Valley buttes in Arizona along with other monoliths like Shiprock in New Mexico

