



# Scenic America

## Press Release

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### Scenic America Announces 1999 “Last Chance Landscapes”

*New Report Lists Nation’s Landscapes Most Threatened by Billboards, New Roads, Other Symptoms of Sprawl; Finds Scenic Beauty Can Be Saved*

(WASHINGTON, DC, November 23, 1999) – Today Scenic America, a national conservation organization, released its first annual report naming twelve *Last Chance Landscapes*. These endangered landscapes are places of beauty or distinctive community character with both a pending threat and a potential solution.

“As millions of Americans head home for the holidays, many will find that home isn’t what it used to be. Our everyday landscapes and scenic vistas are rapidly disappearing. As we sing ‘Over the river and through the woods’ let’s make sure the woods are still there,” said Meg Maguire, president of Scenic America.

Maguire said that unplanned growth is overrunning rural landscapes and draining America’s cities and towns. New and poorly designed roads and strip malls are paving over farmland and historic sites; billboards litter the nation’s roadsides; and wireless communication towers puncture communities and scenic vistas.

The 1999 *Last Chance Landscapes* report lists places ranging from the South Coast Foothills in southern California to Walden Woods in Massachusetts. Local individuals or groups nominated each area, and Scenic America’s report proposes remedies for each threat. This is the inaugural report in what will be an annual announcement. The 1999 *Last Chance Landscapes* include a scenic highway, coastal lands, historic towns, a state park, and other places treasured for their natural beauty and distinctive character.

The 1999 *Last Chance Landscapes* are:

- South Coast Foothills, California
- Swan River Wild Mile Corridor, Montana
- Moab Rims, Utah
- Guanella Pass, Colorado

(more)

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- The President George Bush Turnpike, Texas
- The Missouri Ozarks, Missouri
- Liberty Prairie Reserve, Illinois
- Gateway to the Mackinaw Bridge, Michigan
- Walden Woods, Massachusetts
- Kennett Pike, Delaware
- Downtown Fort Pierce and Indian River Lagoon, Florida
- Shenandoah to Catoctin Mountains (Portions of Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland)

“This report highlights a dozen places across our land that typify problems we all see in dozens of other places,” said Maguire. “But for every problem there is a solution which other communities have adopted showing once again that change is inevitable but ugliness is not.”

“Americans want to save natural beauty, protect open space, and live in well-designed communities,” continued Maguire, referring to over 200 ballot initiatives to protect open space that voters approved within the past year. “People everywhere need to look around, identify what they love, and demand better scenic conservation and land use practices as their communities grow.”

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*Scenic America is a national, nonprofit organization based in Washington, DC whose mission is to preserve natural beauty and distinctive community character. Since 1978, Scenic America has helped citizens and public officials in thousands of communities nationwide protect their scenic heritage. Scenic America advocates for federal, state, and local laws and policies that support scenic conservation and community livability.*

*The organization supports strong sign control, progressive transportation policy, responsible land-use planning, and other measures to preserve and enhance the scenic character of America's communities and countryside. Scenic America is dedicated to the principle that “change is inevitable; ugliness is not.” For more information on Scenic America, including memberships and our other publications, please visit our website at [www.scenic.org](http://www.scenic.org).*