



My Drift

Title: *SKINWALKER RANCH*

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Date: 30 November 2019

Article Number: 322-2019-20

What!!! You have never heard about the Skinwalker Ranch?

There's something very strange happening in northeastern Utah. Over the last five decades or so, residents of Uintah county have reported hundreds of UFO sightings, dozens of bizarre and inexplicable cattle mutilations, crop circles, encounters with otherworldly beings, and various other paranormal activities. Although some of these things are reported throughout the county, they are especially prevalent on a 512-acre plot of land known as Skinwalker Ranch. This place is located about 4 miles southwest of Fort Duchesne, Utah and it borders the Ute Indian reservation.



All those things are scary but encounters with the Navajo witches called Skinwalkers are much worse. For more than 150 years, the Ute Indian tribe has lived on the Ouray Reservation that covers over 4.5 million acres. The Indians have long said that the bordering ranch is “on the path of the Skinwalker” and for that reason, have long been forbidden to go near the property. The Skinwalker is a malevolent shape shifting witch of the Navajo people, which the Ute Indians take very seriously.



This fault-line that runs through Skinwalker Ranch is called “The Path of the Skinwalker”

A little history - Before the Utes moved to the reservation, they were a fierce and warlike people, who lived primarily in Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico. At one time, the Ute and Navajo fought together against their common enemies. However, later when the Ute first acquired horses from the Spanish, they began to abduct Navajo people and sold them in New Mexico slave markets.

Then, during the Civil War, some Ute bands joined with Kit Carson in a military campaign against the Navajo. This ended in the Navajo being expelled from their lands and forced to march to a reservation in Fort Sumner, New Mexico, called the “Long Walk of the Navajo”. Although the tribe was eventually allowed to return to their homelands in the Four Corners area several years later, the Utes believe that the Navajo put a curse on the Ute tribe for their previous transgressions. This is when the Skinwalkers began to plague the Ute Indians.

The Ute believe the Skinwalker presence in the Uintah Basin extends back at least 15 generations. They don’t believe that the Skinwalkers live on the ranch, but rather hide out in a place called the Dark Canyon, which is located nearby. Here are a few terrorizing Skinwalker facts:

- ❖ Yeah, they want your face and they'll steal your very skin if they get the chance.**
- ❖ Don’t even think about looking at a Skinwalker in the eyes. That’s how they absorb themselves into your body and then control your every move.**
- ❖ Navajo and Ute Indian tribes are notorious for not talking about Skinwalkers to outsiders. They are frightened of supernatural repercussions if they even mention the name.**

- ❖ **Skinwalkers can transform into any kind of animal - including you. The animal of choice at and near the Skinwalker Ranch seems to be the Wolf.**

According to reports, Skinwalkers have been seen in the area by the Ute numerous times. The witches have been spotted near the ranch, on the road to Fort Duchesne, and on various areas of the reservation.

The ranch, which takes its name from these shapeshifting witches, was first homesteaded by the Myers family in 1905 and consisted of a few small buildings on the northwest corner of the ranch at the foot of Skinwalker Ridge. Later, the original homestead was abandoned, and the Myers established a new home on the eastern side of the ranch. By the 1930s, it was occupied by Kenneth John Myers and his wife Edith Child Myers. They stayed on the property until 1987. During their occupancy, they made no reports of any strange occurrences, though some of their neighbors did.



UFO's in the Uintah Basin

Starting in the 1950s, other unusual events began to occur in the Uintah Basin like numerous reports of unidentified flying objects (UFO's). This continued throughout the next several decades and is still occurring today. Interestingly, these were not the first reports of strange aircraft in the sky. The earliest reports date back from the late 1700s when Spanish explorers in search of the Spanish Trail passed through the Uintah Basin and reported seeing strange aircraft in the sky over their campfires at night.

The UFO reports also included strange fireballs and aircraft that ranged in size from 20-30 feet across to as large as the size of a football field. They were described as round, oval, cigar-shaped, and triangular. Some were surrounded by a glowing green light, others emitted wavy red beams, and others appeared to shoot colored lights

from their underbellies. By the 1970s, the Utah Highway Patrol was getting so many UFO calls that the troopers stopped filling out incident reports. At the same time, local ranchers began to report bizarre cattle mutilations.

A retired science teacher named Joseph “Junior” Hicks from Roosevelt, Utah, investigated more than 400 UFO sightings in the Uintah Basin. He found that the UFO appearances often coincided with crop circles and cattle mutilations. Over the years, many of the eyewitnesses saw living beings in the windows or portholes of UFOs.



Cattle Mutilations

After the Myers vacated the ranch in 1987, it stood empty for seven years before it was purchased by Terry and Gwen Sherman in 1994. The couple moved in with their two children, dogs, and livestock. They were surprised to find that the previous owners had placed deadbolt locks on all the doors and windows, including those inside the house. Some of these had deadbolts on both the inside and the outside of the house. Even the kitchen cabinets had bolts on them. And at both ends of the house, iron stakes and heavy chains had been installed, which Sherman guessed were used by the previous tenants for large guard dogs.

The very day they took possession, the family spotted a large wolf in one of their pastures which soon approached, making its way to a livestock pen. It then grabbed a calf by the nose, trying to drag it through the corral bars. Terry Sherman and his father then began to beat the animal to make it release the calf but were unsuccessful. When that failed, Sherman shot the animal with a .357 magnum at point-blank range, but still, the wolf held onto the calf. After another shot, it released the calf and just stood there calmly looking at the men. After a few more shots, the animal trotted off. Amazingly, there was no blood or sign of injury in the animal. The men then followed

the tracks of the animal for about a mile, before they suddenly ended, as if it had simply vanished. This was just the first foreshadowing of the events that would follow.

A few weeks later, when Gwen Sherman was in her car, she encountered a wolf that was so large that its back was parallel with the top of her window. The large wolf was accompanied by a dog-like animal that she couldn't identify. Over the next two years, the Shermans, as well as their neighbors, reported seeing a number of strange birds and animals in the area. These included exotic multicolored birds not native to the region and tall dark beasts that resembled a Bigfoot or Sasquatch.

On one occasion, the Shermans saw a strange hyena-like creature attacking one of their horses, which they described as "low to the ground, heavily muscled, weighing perhaps 200 pounds, with curly red hair and a bushy tail." As Mr. Sherman approached the animal, it vanished before his eyes.

Afterward, they checked the horse and found numerous claw marks on its legs. A few months later, a neighbor reported seeing a similar beast running across their property.

The Shermans, like their neighbors, also saw strange lights and flying objects, including more than a dozen on one evening. On one of these occasions when they saw UFOs, they also experienced the death or disappearance of seven of their best cows. Four disappeared without a trace and three more were found dead and partially mutilated. Things like this happened on a regular basis and in all of them, there was no trace of blood found, a chemical odor was apparent, and no evidence of predators, footprints or tire tracks.

Of the cattle that disappeared, one seemed to have been magically lifted from the snow. Its hoofprints led into a field and then just simply stopped. The ground was littered with broken twigs and branches and the tops of the trees appeared to have been cut off.



Utah Wolf



Bigfoot or Sasquatch

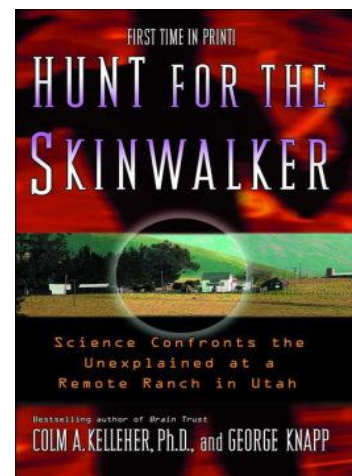
Other strange events were also happening during these years. Pastures would unexplainably light up at night, the sounds of heavy machinery could be heard that seemed to be operating under the earth, poltergeist types of activities were occurring such as items disappearing only to reappear at later times, and strange disembodied voices, often speaking an unfamiliar language, were heard from above. Crop circles of flattened grass were found on the ranch.

The final straw occurred one evening in May 1996 when Sherman was outside with three of his dogs. When he noticed a blue orb darting around in the field near the ranch house, he urged his dogs to go after it. The dogs chased and barked at the orb as they followed it into some thick brush. Sherman heard them make three terrible yelps and when he called for them they didn't respond. The next morning when he went to look for the dogs, he found only three round greasy lumps with what appeared to be a scorched spot. The dogs were never seen again.



After two years of these terrifying events, the family began to publicly speak out. The first strange claims about unusual events at the ranch first appeared in the Salt Lake City, Utah Deseret News, and later in the alternative weekly Las Vegas Mercury as a series of articles by journalist George Knapp.

George Knapp and co-author Colm Kelleher, subsequently authored a book in which they detail the earlier investigations into alleged UFO sightings in the Uintah County region, the vanishing and mutilated cattle, large animals with piercing red eyes that were not injured when struck by bullets, invisible objects emitting destructive magnetic fields, crops circles, bigfoot-like creatures, and other poltergeist activity.



The Shermans sold the ranch to Robert Bigelow, a millionaire businessman, a believer in ufology, and founder of the National Institute for Discovery Science, after he read about the events in the newspaper. Bigelow bought the ranch for \$200,000 contingent

on a non-disclosure agreement with the Shermans, who agreed not to talk further about the events on the ranch. He then began to establish a compound with high-tech sensing equipment, PhD-level field investigators, scientists, and a security detail which guarded the property 24 hours a day. The investigators were tasked with collecting evidence, interviewing witnesses, and searching for explanations.

In the next several years, \$22 million was spent on the program, which investigated reports of unidentified flying objects and was run by a military intelligence official, Luis Elizondo from the Pentagon. The shadowy program was largely funded at the request of Harry Reid, the Nevada Democrat who was the Senate majority leader at the time and who has long had an interest in space phenomena. He was also a longtime friend of Robert Bigelow.

This information, however, was not publicly known at the time, until it was released by the New York Times in 2017. When the story broke, a Department of Defense official confirmed the government-funded program and Senator Harry Reid admitted his complicity. Today, most parts of the study remain classified and the Department of Defense has never officially acknowledged the existence of the program.



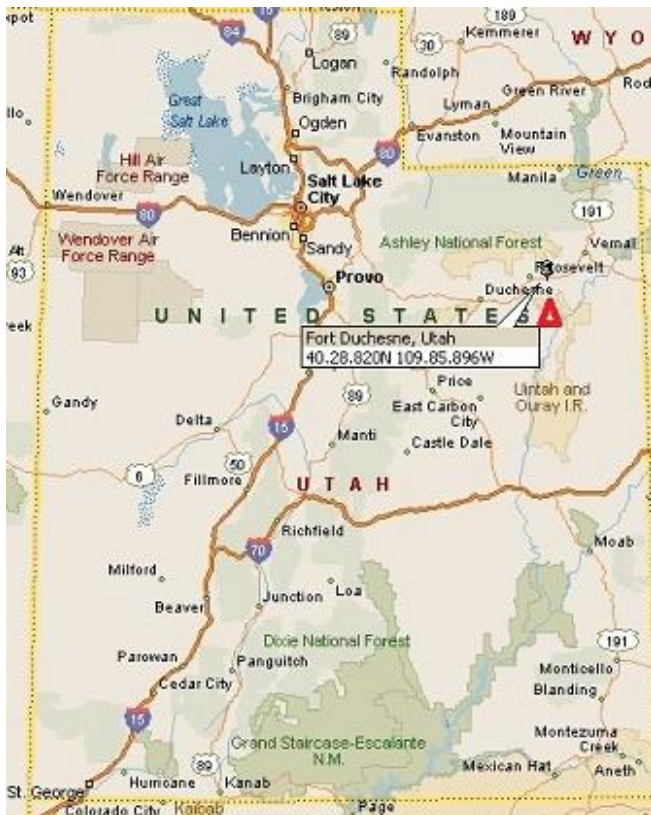
Hicken Ranch Road

That same year, the Hicken Ranch Road, an Uintah County public road, which bisects the Skinwalker Ranch, was illegally gated. Later that year, a representative of ranch owner approached the county for a road vacation, claiming rampant trespassing issues led the owners to make the road private. The request was granted and there is no access to the property today. It has concrete barrier walls blocking the entrance along with large warning signs. The entire ranch is off-limits to the public and is guarded 24/7 by armed guards.



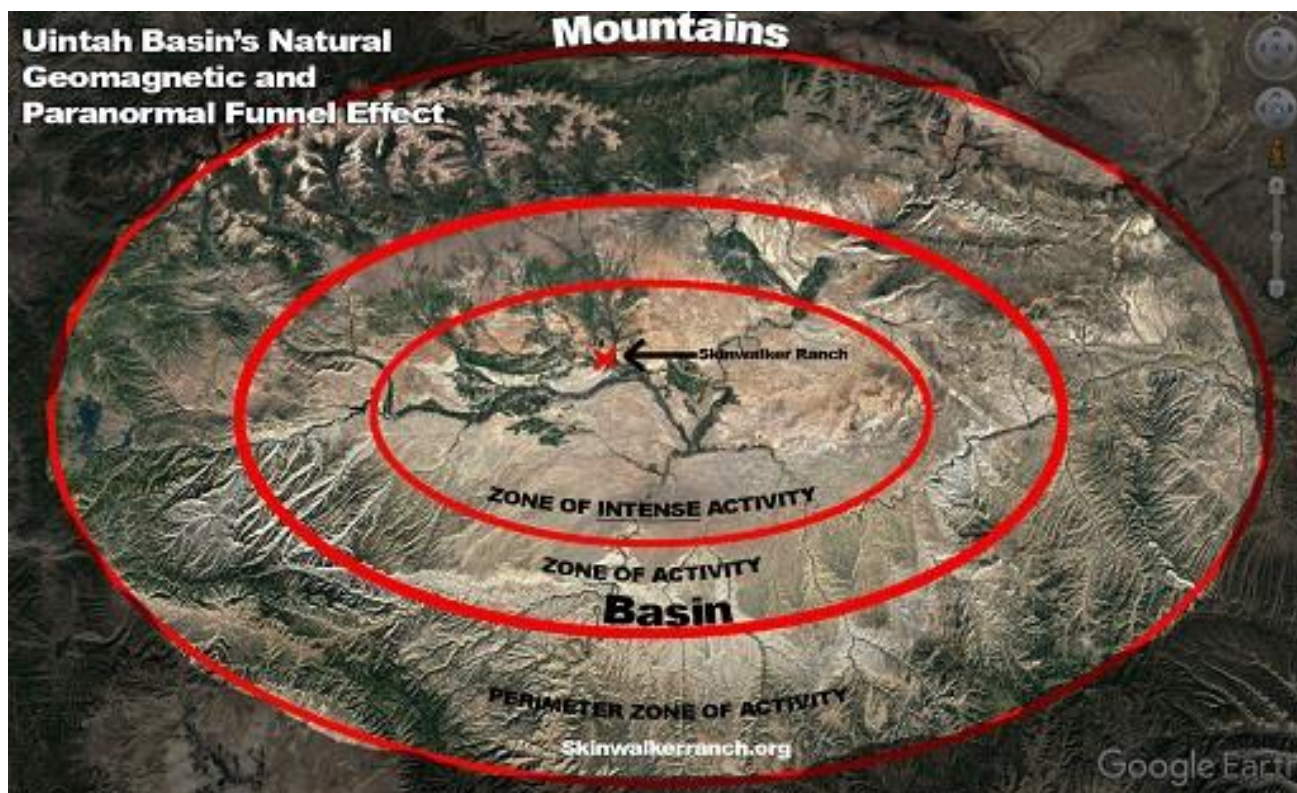
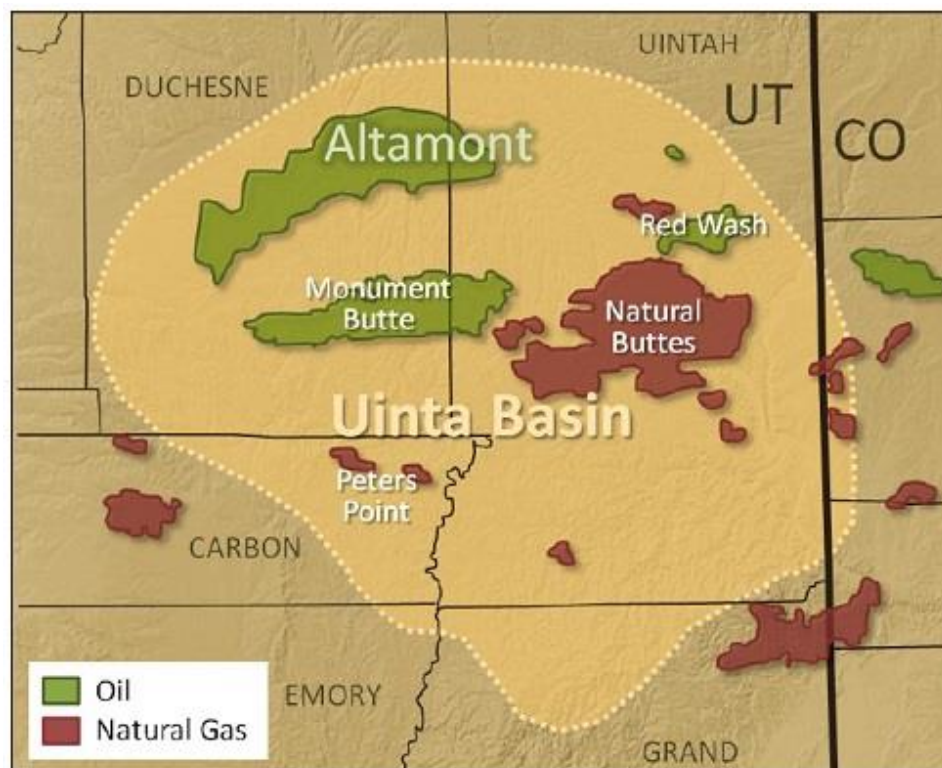
Yes, down this long dirt road in Utah is a rugged stretch of ranchland that just may be the strangest place on Earth!

Just in case you are very brave (or very stupid) and want to go Skinwalker hunting, here are a few maps that will get you close to the Skinwalker Ranch area where most Skinwalkers hang out.



In the great state of Utah, look for the little red triangle just to the right of the last “S” in United States. This is in the Uintah Basin and is the area where the Skinwalker Ranch is located. The closest town is Fort Duchesne (pop. 700). There are two more towns a little further down the road – Roosevelt (pop. 7,000) and Vernal (pop. 9,000). Duchesne is 167 miles southeast of Salt Lake City or 132 miles east of Provo. You will need to take highway US-40 East (the only major highway through this area) to get there. There are a couple of motels in Duchesne and much better lodging options in Roosevelt and Vernal. Hope you like Indians because there are a lot of them here. Now you can start the hunt – good luck!

Below are two more maps showing the Uinta Basin and the Skinwalker Ranch being in the center of a geomagnetic and paranormal zone.



Okay, that was a brief history of events happening in the Uintah Basin and at the Skinwalker Ranch. I also provided details and maps on how to get there.

I grew up in Utah and have traveled through this area on numerous occasions. There is some great fishing in the Uintah Mountains. Fort Duchesne and Roosevelt are good places to buy Indian souvenirs and learn more about the Ute Indians. Vernal is the considered by many as the dinosaur capital of the world. Oh, I didn't see any UFOs or any Skinwalkers.



Bottle Hollow Ute Tribal Resort and Reservoir in Duchesne, Utah

The Utes believe that Bottle Hollow Reservoir is inhabited by several large aquatic snakes with the first serpent sightings dating back just after the area was filled with water. Eyewitness claim that they have seen on occasion things crawling around from the marina all the way down to the end of the reservoir. According to tribal police officers, an inordinate number of drowning cases have occurred in the reservoir.

One case of a drowning investigated by police is that of a woman and her male friend that were swimming at night. Witnesses on the beach heard the woman scream that something in the water had grabbed her and was pulling her under. Her male companion dove under the water and claimed that he encountered a huge, black snake and attempted to free the woman from it. The woman was eventually pulled to the surface but did not survive the ordeal. There are also accounts of strange lights entering and leaving the water. Another report mentions a bluish light exiting the water and then disappearing over the Skinwalker ridge.

In summary, let's recap some of the bizarre things that have happened on and near the Skinwalker Ranch.

- 1. A giant wolf that dragged away young cows. These wolves were shot multiple times and would not die.**
- 2. Unexplained voices and lights that seemingly emanate from nowhere.**
- 3. UFO sightings are the norm, and to a point, it has become normal to see mysterious flying crafts throughout the Uintah Basin.**
- 4. Crop circles and cattle mutilations.**
- 5. Strange birds, creatures, and Big Foot sightings.**
- 6. Giant sea snakes living in lakes near the ranch.**
- 7. And of course, the scary Skinwalkers that we have discussed in detail.**

Lastly, here is another paranormal event that I find very interesting. Imagine seeing a giant hole open up in the sky and seeing another sky in a clearly different time of day peering through the other end. Wild, isn't it? According to people who have stayed at the Skinwalker Ranch, that's exactly what happens from time to time.



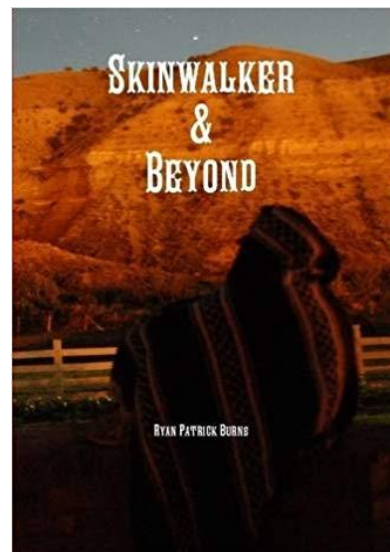
Hole or Portal in the Sky

The "hole in the sky" phenomenon is often described as a vortex, and from time to time, also has UFOs flying in and out of the hole. Most of the time, people who have seen the vortex open up describe seeing a bright, orange sky inside. These holes are only viewable from a certain angle. So, if you do see them, it's only from a "head-on" perspective.

Well!!

I know that most people will not believe any of this stuff but I'm not a complete idiot and I think there is something strange happening at the Skinwalker Ranch.

A lot of people ask me how I come up with all these topics that I write about. For this one, I was listening to a nightly radio show called “Coast to Coast” on AM 830 KHVH Honolulu. This show starts at 8 PM and runs well into the night. This popular broadcast discusses off-the-wall subjects like ghosts, paranormal activities, etc. I find it more interesting than watching TV. So anyway, the other night they had a guest on named Ryan Patrick Burns who purchased a small property near and overlooking the Skinwalker Ranch. He has saw many UFOs and experienced some of the events described above in this article. He has written a couple of books and several articles about what’s going on at the ranch.



If you are interest in reading or seeing more about the Skinwalker Ranch, just Google “Skinwalker Ranch”.

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