

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
March 23, 2006

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Utah Conservationist Wins International Award

Joro Walker of Western Resource Advocates Recognized by France's Yves Rocher Foundation

[Salt Lake City] - Joro Walker, director of Western Resource Advocates' Utah office, has won first prize in the U.S. category at the Yves Rocher Foundation's "Women of the Earth" award ceremony in Paris. Ms. Walker was honored for her long-term advocacy for Utah's public lands, red rock wilderness, and the Great Salt Lake. The Yves Rocher Foundation supports women and environmental causes. It is the philanthropic arm of the French beauty company Yves Rocher, a world leader in botanical beauty care. Jim Martin, executive director of Western Resource Advocates, says, "The Yves Rocher Foundation's recognition of Joro Walker is an honor for all of us at Western Resource Advocates. It is fantastic that conservation initiatives that protect Utah's splendor are now internationally recognized."

Along with the thanks that Ms. Walker received for her tireless environmental advocacy, Western Resource Advocates was granted a 10,000 Euro award, which equals about \$11, 934 USD. The monetary award will benefit the special places that Joro has worked so hard for over the years.

Ms. Walker traveled to Paris in early March to receive the award in person. She enjoyed the free trip, French meals, and the opportunity to walk around the city and play tourist. Joro said, "It was like being at 'Miss America' except I was there for my work," and noted, "Conservationists in the U.S. never get treated this luxuriously!"

The other Americans who won awards were Carol Childress of the Opacum Land Trust in Massachusetts and Bonnie Hoag of the Dionondehowa Wildlife Sanctuary and School in New York. Both women focus on land trustee/conservation easement work. The other country categories were won by women across the world who do work preserving heirloom peach orchards, and developing primate habitats in Ecuador, to name just two.

Western Resource Advocates is a nonprofit conservation organization dedicated to protecting the Interior West's land, air, and water. Western Resource Advocates Utah office, opened in 1999, is committed to protecting Utah's public lands, lakes, and rivers.

Visit us online at www.westernresourceadvocates.org.