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Where have all the salamanders gone? page 5

The Utah Global Warming Initiative: Action in a Positive Direction

by Tim Wagner

While the Bush administration tries its best to dispel the truth behind global warming and at the same time work to further America's addiction to fossil fuels (if that's even possible), state and local leaders from all over the country are taking matters into their own hands by pledging to reduce their respective greenhouse gas footprints through energy efficiency programs and promoting smart, clean energy alternatives.

Case in point is the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement, an effort started by Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels to advance the goals of the Kyoto Protocol by individual U.S. cities. As of this writing, 262 mayors representing 47 million Americans have signed onto this agreement, including Salt Lake City Mayor Rocky Anderson, Park City Mayor Dana Williams, and Moab Mayor Dave Sakrison.

This past spring, Governor Jon Huntsman announced one of this country's most aggressive energy efficiency plans in the nation, pledging to reduce the state's energy consumption by increasing our overall efficiency by **20 percent by the year 2015.**

Many states are also taking individual and collective actions to address the looming threat of global warming. An example is the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, or RGGI, a cooperative effort by Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic states to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. Eight states have now signed onto the agreement including Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Vermont, and Maryland.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



"Ski Season cancelled due to global warming."



Lisa Romney, Environmental Advisor to Mayor Rocky Anderson speaks.



Park City Mayor Dana Williams speaks.



Global Warming Rally audience.

CITIZENS GATHER TO SUPPORT GLOBAL WARMING INITIATIVE

by Tim Wagner

Becoming aware of the potential impacts from global warming is one thing.

Taking action to find solutions is another. But that's just what approximately 120 people did on June 17th when they showed up for the Utah Chapter's Global Warming Action Rally.

Participants enthusiastically signed the petition to Governor Huntsman asking him to issue the proposed Executive Order to set reduction targets for greenhouse gas emissions for the state and also signed up as volunteers to help gather support for the initiative. Attendees listened to speakers including House Minority Leader Ralph Becker, Lisa Romney from Mayor Anderson's office, Park City Mayor Dana Williams, Black Diamond's Kenyon Kopp, and former Salt Lake City Mayor Ted Wilson, and entertainer Slick-rock Stranger.

In addition, several local organizations came out to dispense information on energy and global warming. All in all, the rally was a big success as it gave locals an opportunity to take specific actions to reduce global warming.

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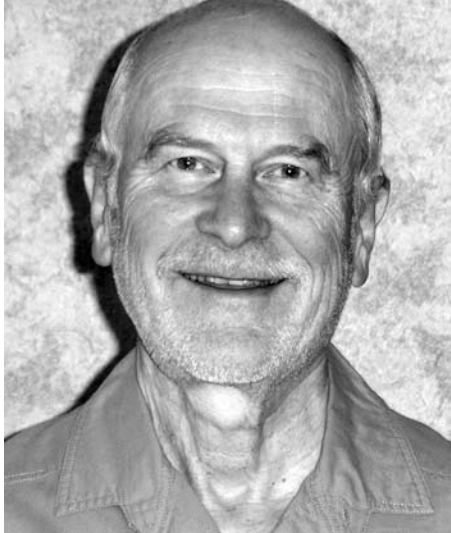
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The Rewards of Being an Activist

by Al Herring, Chapter Chair



How about helping Utah wilderness areas get the protection they so desperately need?

Being a Sierra Club activist can be frustrating and sometimes maddeningly disappointing. The odds are stacked against us on many issues. This is especially true with the Bush administration in power and the likes of Richard Pombo, R-Calif., chairing the House Resources Committee. (You remember Rep. Pombo: he wants to gut the Endangered Species Act, drill the coastlines, sell off our national parks, etc.) However, some of the issues we work on can be extremely rewarding. I want to mention three that I am, or have been, personally involved with.

HILL AFB ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION

Elsewhere in this issue I give an overview of environmental issues at Hill Air Force Base and the role of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). The Sierra Club has been represented on the RAB since its inception, first by George Schrader and now by me. (Gary Hidden serves as my alternate.) The Sierra Club is the lone environmental organization on the RAB, a situation both flattering and intimidating.

It is also rewarding. I say this because great progress is being made to identify and clean up groundwater contamination on and off the base. The work is also rewarding because I enjoy my associations with other RAB members and the people of the Environmental Restoration Branch. The entire staff is composed of dedicated and highly skilled professionals. I know there is a general distrust of the government, but trust me, these people are trustworthy.

Restoration Branch personnel are also highly skilled. Because of these factors – and, I like to think, because of an effective RAB – the Hill group has won awards as the “Best Restoration Team” in the Department of Defense and most recently as the best in the Air Force Materials Command.

LEGACY PARKWAY

After the long and originally contentious battle over Legacy, design of the highway is now nearly complete and dirt is being moved. Thanks to the efforts of Sierra Club members and a whole lot of other people we are going to have a true parkway bounded on the west by a 2,225-acre Legacy Nature Preserve.

It has been my recent privilege to attend monthly meetings with the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) team and other members of the environmental community to review and give input on the design. I have been thrilled to hear John Thomas, Project Director, and his Legacy Parkway Team talk about designing a highway that will be a “pastoral driving experience.” It has been tremendously rewarding to see details of the trails, trailheads, and viewing platforms being developed. It has also been rewarding to learn that municipi-

palities and developers along the corridor are planning to create more parks and connectors, and leave more open space in order to leverage the benefits of their proximity to the parkway. Ditto for integration of the parkway trails with trails along the Jordan River and the D&RG rail bed. And imagine my joy in hearing recently that the Legacy Parkway Project may actually create more wetlands than will be destroyed! This is truly smart growth.

Another reward has been the opportunity to interact with Sierra Club volunteer activists such as Bob Adler and Nina Dougherty and staff like Marc Heileson and Lawson LeGate. Their leadership and dedication has been truly inspiring.

...you will be the better for the experience and that I and others who care about Mother Earth and our future generations will give thanks for your effort.

RAIL TRANSIT

I arrived in Utah late in 1997 and just in time to get involved in the many transportation issues facing the Wasatch Front. The chapter made Transit First a priority and (again, with help from many others) got voters in three counties to voluntarily increase sales taxes to provide the critical initial funding for the project. And thanks to the leadership of our own Sen. Robert Bennett, the commuter rail project is now fully funded.

Talk about rewarding! It made attending and speaking at all those meetings, writing letters, and putting up yard signs all worthwhile. And now every time I drive south on I-15 to Salt Lake City from my home in Davis County I have the satisfaction of monitoring the progress being made on construction of the new rail bed.

As it turns out, rail transit will – by a narrow – margin be operational before the Legacy Parkway. I hope this earlier start will help assure that FrontRunner ridership will exceed all projections, just as happened with TRAX in Salt Lake City.

About 80% of all cars currently carrying commuters to and from Salt Lake City on I-15 contain only the driver. The ultimate reward will be our cleaner air and less congested roads as some of these commuters board those fast, clean, comfortable trains.

I look forward to riding with them.

So how are you going to get your feelings of reward?

I encourage all able Sierra Club members to become activists. There is no end of issues to choose from. How about helping protect the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve in Washington County from death by a thousand cuts? How about helping with the chapter's new campaign to promote east-west light rail in the rapidly growing areas south and west of Salt Lake City? How about helping with our Utah Smart Energy Campaign aimed at developing clean and sustainable alternatives to more coal-fired power plants in the state? How about helping keep more dangerous nuclear wastes from arriving in our back yards? How about helping Utah wilderness areas get the protection they so desperately need? How about helping protect our precious water resources? How about it?

I can't promise that your activism efforts will lead to success and a feeling of reward. However, I know you will be the better for the experience and that I and others who care about Mother Earth and our future generations will give thanks for your effort.

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Chemical Weapons

Utah's Connection to the 2006 Goldman Prize

by Cindy King

Three days before my oldest was to start her first day of school, I received a call from the Washington D.C. Sierra Club office asking if I would be one of three Sierra Club members to attend a conference sponsored by the Department of Defense, called "Defense and the Environment." It was early September 1990. The conference was to be held for three days, addressing issues of how the Defense Department was addressing environmental problems. Unknown to me at the time, prior to this conference one of the Sierra Club members wrote to the Secretary of Defense, Dick Cheney, questioning the Department of Defense's ability to address environmental issues, since they were not known as environmentalists. The Department of Defense agreed with the points raised and sent us to Washington D.C., along with about 50 other citizens affected by Department of Defense sites, and also several hundred various representatives of the Department of Defense and their contractors. As we all know, more business gets done in the informal settings than actual formal conference settings, but I believe the Department of Defense were the ones mostly caught off guard by this simple wisdom.

After the first day of the conference, I and the other two Sierra Club members from Colorado and a citizen from Kentucky, along with the national Sierra Club representative, met for dinner in a very small Italian restaurant within walking distance of our hotel. After ordering, the various briefcases of both the Colorado Sierra Club members and the citizen from Kentucky disgorged onto the table some maps and technical data to justify their reasons why their weapons of mass destruction should be moved to Utah. I listened, but I had no maps or technical data. The waiter was able to find non-traditional places on the table to put our food.

The conclusion was simple common sense: no more chemical weapons were coming to Utah, period!

The maps and technical data didn't win the day, however. The conclusion was simple common sense: no more chemical weapons were coming to Utah, period! The four of us, to the amazement of the National Sierra Club representative, came to the conclusion that what was needed was to form a citizen's group with national and international organizations, and residents living near the chemical weapons sites. Over the next seven months the two Sierra Club members, the citizen from Kentucky, and myself worked on what we called "accords." The accords were to address national issues that were common to the destruction of chemical weapons at all sites, and to organize meetings of various residents, national and international groups for the purpose of coming together to find a solution. We agreed to have this done by April 1991. It was agreed to get at least one or more people from each of the nine chemical weapons sites, and someone from Russia. Another member from Kentucky volunteered to get rooms and conference places for about thirty to forty people, and a grant to cover most of the cost of travel, meals, rooms and other materials needed for the conference. By mid-April in Berea, Kentucky, sat representatives from the various chemical weapons sites, a Russian representative, and representatives from national and international organizations.

The goals of the conference were simple: agree to the accords, which came to be known as the "Citizens Accords on Chemical Weapons." The first six accords dealt with the United States sites; the last six accords dealt with international sites, and a name for the new citizens' group. At the end of the conference all participants came to an agreement on the Citizen Accords, and chose the name Chemical Weapons Working Group (CWWG). This was announced to the media at our first press conference. Over the next year the participants, who were representing national or international organizations, were to get approval to sign on to the Citizen Accords, and to arrange for our first Washington D.C. conference to lobby congress, the US Department of Defense and EPA. This also occurred in 1992; after the congressional Easter break we were there lobbying them.

Over the next sixteen years CWWG held numerous conferences in the Washington D.C. area. We lobbied congress each time, and some other federal agencies. Some of the members of CWWG testified before various congressional and senatorial hearings. Various members traveled to Russia to meet various Russian organizations working on the destruction of their chemical weapons. A minor victory came in 1996 when three attorneys agreed to volunteer their time to represent the CWWG and the Sierra Club as plaintiffs in the first federal lawsuit, which was filed in Utah against the Department of the Defense and their contractor. Soon to follow were three more federal lawsuits in Oregon, Alabama, and Arkansas. Another small victory was the passing of the National Defense Appropriation Act for fiscal year 1997, establishing the Assembled Chemical Weapons Assessment (Public law 104-208), which provided \$40 million to identify and demonstrate not less than two alternatives to incineration. There were representatives of each of the nine US sites working on this assessment, along with state and federal regulators, the Department of Defense and various contractors. It became known as the Dialogue of Assembled Chemical Weapons Assessment. Six alternative technologies to incineration were defined and demonstrated. It was one of the first times that the Department of Defense was recognized with a national award for public participation. By the time the Dialogue of Assembled Chemical Weapons Assessment disbanded, they had received at least one more national public participation award. Numerous universities across the nation have used the same formula in getting participation of citizens, technical people and regulators. To date, there are several whistle-blowers from each site, currently three federal lawsuits, and four chemical weapons destruction sites that have gone to alternative technologies. Two alternative technology sites have completed destruction of chemical weapons at their sites, and one incinerator site has completed its destruction. The cost difference and environmental harm between the alternative and incineration site is substantial. Currently, the Utah site will not meet the International Treaty deadline (year 2012) on destruction of chemical weapons, even with the extension of time. Costs continue to skyrocket.

In the last sixteen years CWWG has been amazed at what we joke about as being one of the few organizations that could run on a "broken shoe string and a pretzel." This past April, CWWG was awarded the prestigious 2006 Goldman Environmental Prize. In 1990, the philanthropist Richard N. Goldman created an environmental heroes award, one for each of the six continental regions. CWWG was presented this award because of its non-stop diligence and strategic acuity to successfully convince the world's biggest bureaucracy (the Pentagon) to stretch far beyond its historic mindset. With all that said—I just wanted to say thank you Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club—for your trust and the honor you bestowed on me to be your representative to CWWG.



Bulk Processor at Aberdeen Proving Ground

DON'T FORGET!

In March we sent out an appeal to each of our members, asking for contributions directly to our Chapter. These contributions really do make a difference to us, and are an important part of our Chapter's budget. When you make a donation to the Chapter, you support the Sierra Club's work in our own backyard. You allow us to continue our work to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities, and to promote the enjoyment of nature.

Please be as generous as you are able - and remember, these funds directly affect your way of life in your neighborhood.

Mail your contribution to

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Restoration Efforts

Environmental Restoration at Hill Air Force Base

By Al Herring, Sierra Club RAB Representative

The Sierra Club has been involved in the environmental restoration effort at Hill Air Force Base since 1995 when a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) was created.

RAB members give input on cleanup plans and operations, provide liaison with their organizations, and assure public oversight of base environmental activities. The board, which currently consists of 21 members, meets quarterly to discuss issues related to the cleanup program. There are also regular training events. All RAB meetings are open to the public.

The Sierra Club is the only environmental organization represented on the RAB. Besides being a primary environmental watchdog, I have also felt a keen responsibility in representing all taxpayers to make sure that restoration funds are being effectively spent. The cleanup costs are sobering: \$23 million requested for fiscal year 2007, a total of about \$225 million spent thus far, and ultimate restoration costs of somewhere between one-half and one billion dollars.

The following information is extracted from a brochure recently issued by the base's Environmental Restoration Branch. (Also note my comments on this topic in this issue's "All Al" column.)

HISTORY

Since Hill Air Force Base was established in 1939, the base has been used as an aircraft maintenance facility to support the Air Force mission, especially during times of war. From the 1930s to the 1970s, thousands of gallons of chemicals were used to clean, degrease, paint and maintain aircraft and other machine parts.

Unlike today, where the use and disposal of chemicals is closely tracked and regu-

lated, there were few laws in place to regulate the use, storage and disposal of these chemicals. As a result, waste chemicals were routinely dumped in disposal pits and trenches around the base. These chemicals soaked into the ground, eventually reached the shallow groundwater and were carried off-base.

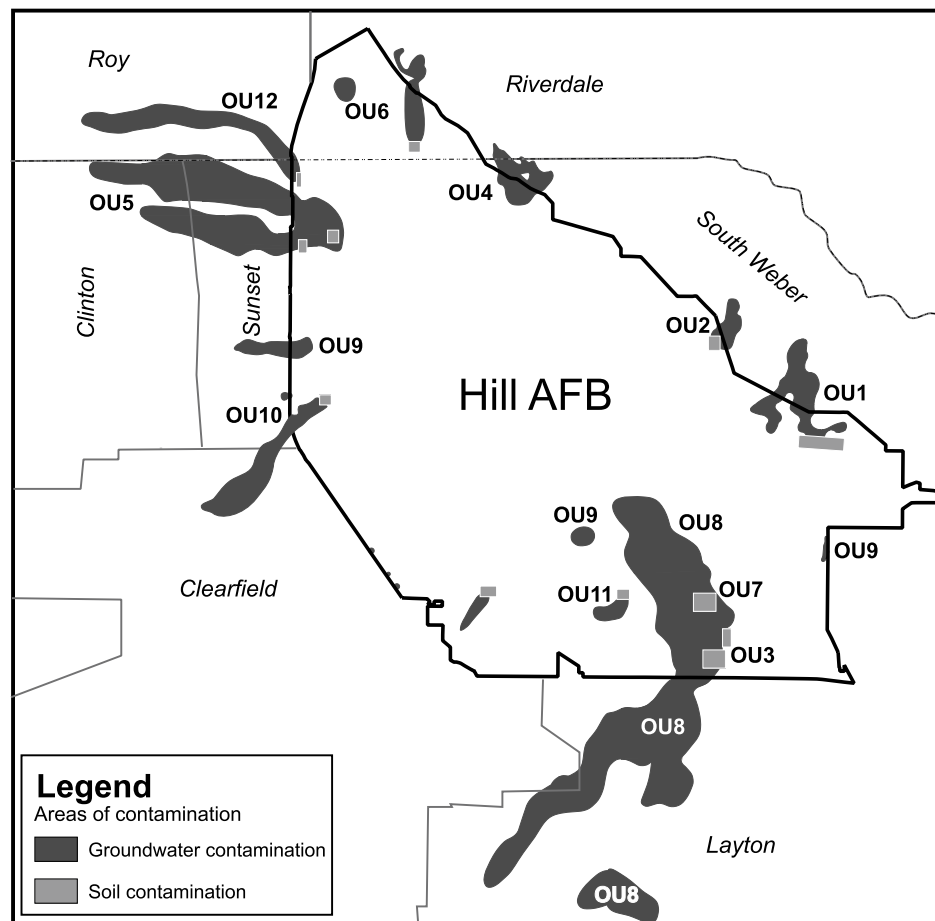
Once environmental regulations were put into place in the 1970s, an investigation began at Hill AFB that looked at the old disposal sites to see if there was contamination associated with these sites. In 1987, Hill was placed on the National Priorities List, making the base a Superfund Site.

Cleanup systems, both temporary and permanent, have been installed at a number of locations both on- and off-base, with more on the way.

WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW

Today, there are 12 operable units (OUs), or cleanup sites, around Hill AFB, nine of which affect communities off-base. Hill has an active environmental investigation and cleanup program to address the contamination caused by past operations.

The purpose of the cleanup program includes locating and defining areas of contamination, determining potential risks the contamination poses to people and the environment, and implementing cleanup systems to remedy the problem



STEPS TOWARDS CLEANUP

Once discovered, the cleanup of a site progresses under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA). The CERCLA methodology is detailed below.

- Preliminary Assessment - determines site conditions
- Remedial Investigation - determines nature and extent of contamination
- Feasibility Study - looks at cleanup alternatives
- Proposed Plan - outlines suggested cleanup remedy
- Record of Decision (ROD) - legal document detailing the chosen cleanup remedy

Hill's environmental work is overseen by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Utah Department of Environmental Quality. These agencies ensure the cleanup is progressing and that all environmental laws and regulations are being followed.

Once a ROD is in place, construction must begin on the cleanup remedy within 15 months. Cleanup systems, both temporary and permanent, have been installed at a number of locations both on- and off-base, with more on the way.

The Utah Global Warming Initiative CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Such discussion has to also include California where Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has taken one of the most aggressive stands in fighting global warming. In an Executive Order issued in June of 2005, the governor called for a reduction of GHG emissions to 2000 levels by 2010; to 1990 levels by 2020; and a reduction to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. The California Energy Commission and the California Public Utilities Commission followed suit last fall by restricting future out-of-state power purchase agreements to generation sources utilizing either natural gas, coal gasification, or renewables. This decision prohibits the future purchase of electricity from traditional coal-fired power plants, the largest single source of CO2 in our atmosphere.

So where is Utah in all of this? Hopefully, jumping on the bandwagon. This past spring, Governor Jon Huntsman

announced one of this country's most aggressive energy efficiency plans in the nation, pledging to reduce the state's energy consumption by increasing our overall efficiency by 20 percent by the year 2015. This means that we will be powering a lot more with the same amount of energy produced--a huge positive step. But when it comes to addressing the state's greenhouse gas footprint, we have a lot of work to do. This is where you come in. As part of the Utah Smart Energy Campaign, we launched the Utah Global Warming Initiative in March. The Initiative is an effort to convince Governor Huntsman to issue an Executive Order/Resolution similar to Governor Schwarzenegger's, thereby setting specific GHG emission reduction targets for the state. In addition to getting Utah to take proactive measures in addressing global warming, we also believe this effort will help tremendously in spawning renewable energy development

in the state, an area where we are miserably lagging behind other western states.

As a way to build support for the Utah Global Warming Initiative, we have been circulating a petition throughout neighborhoods and at numerous events since launching the campaign. We have also created a website where interested parties can sign the petition. Go to the Utah Chapter's website (www.utah.sierraclub.org) and follow the global warming and energy links, where you can read our proposed Executive Order/Resolution and also sign the petition.

More importantly, we need volunteers willing to collect signatures in their neighborhoods, at their local churches, civic organizations, classrooms, etc. We will provide all the necessary materials and training. The amount of effort you want to put into this is really up to you. But be assured

you'll receive tremendous gratification in knowing you're doing something positive for the planet while also having fun.

For more information on the initiative and how you can get involved, please call Tim Wagner at (801)467-9294 or email at tim.wagner@sierraclub.org.

For more information on:

U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement:

<http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/mayor/climate/>

Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative:

<http://www.rggi.org/index.htm>

California's efforts on Global Warming:

<http://www.climatechange.ca.gov/>



NICHOLE STEVENS

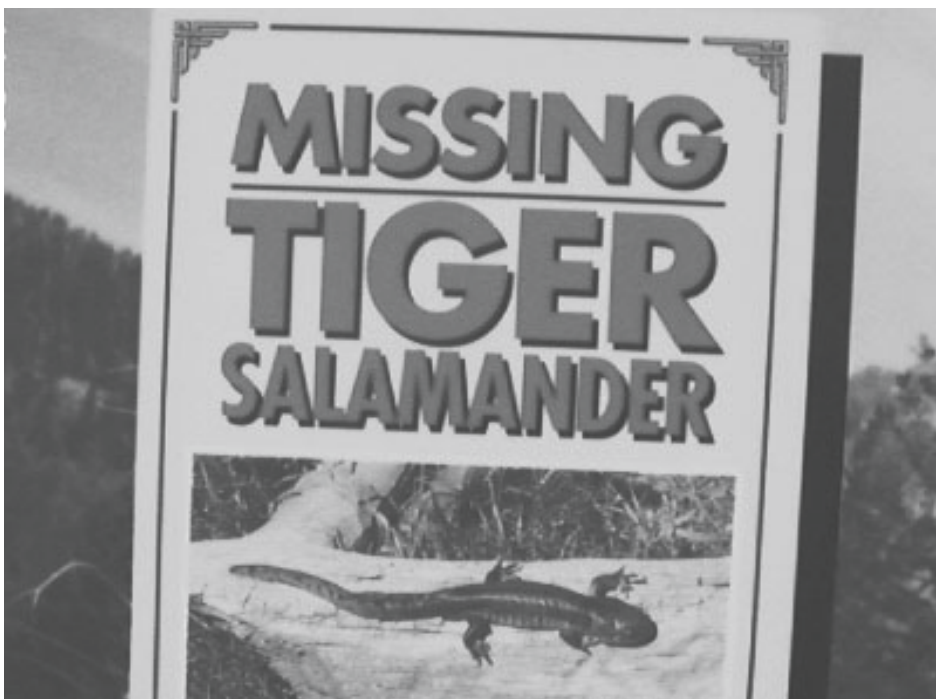
Flies were making short work of the rotting bodies. We had to wade on an old log to get this shot. There was a higher concentration of dead Salamanders just to the left of this photo. But it was just too vile to wade through.



NICHOLE STEVENS

Almost all the dead Tiger Salamanders we encountered were still young; meaning they still had gills and a back tail fin - water bound.

This is a visitor information sign posted at Brighton's Sliver Lake.



NICHOLE STEVENS



NICHOLE STEVENS

This part of the lake smelled so bad. It was the highest concentration of dead Tiger Salamanders. There were hundreds in this area. The sun had dried and shrunk dozens of the bodies. They were hard to see and easy to step on.

A MASSACRE IN BIG COTTONWOOD CANYON

On Friday, July 7th, Nichole Stevens hiked to Desolation Lake from Big Cottonwood Canyon. She was horrified to find the lake and shore covered with hundreds of dead juvenile salamanders. She kindly allowed us to reproduce her photos and captions.

It would be irresponsible to make a conclusion about the deaths of these specific salamanders without a thorough investigation. However, as noted elsewhere in this issue, amphibian numbers are declining catastrophically in many places. One source of stress for these delicate creatures is the acid rain generated by coal-fired power plants and other fossil fuel use.

The Utah Chapter has provided these photos to the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and calls on the department to investigate and explain these deaths.

Flip a Switch and Kill a Salamander?

by Tim Wagner

As you've read in past issues of the Sierran, the Utah Chapter is fighting tooth and nail against more dirty coal-fired power plants in our great state. Utah derives 95 percent of its electricity from coal—almost twice the national average—and less than one-tenth of one percent from renewables. Yet coal profiteers want to burn more coal, not less, with little regard for the long term consequences, including global warming.

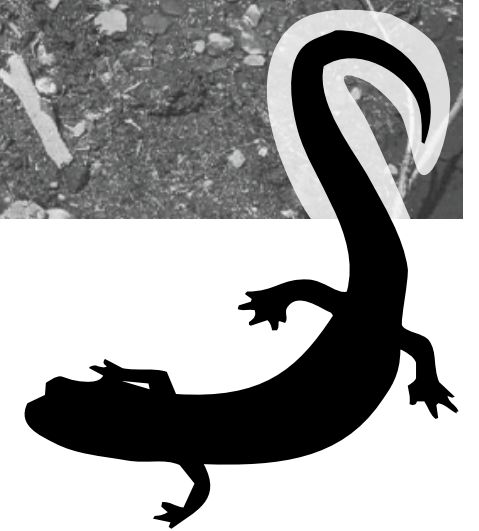
Intermountain Power near Delta already has one the West's largest pulverized coal burning plants and has received a permit from the Utah Division of Air Quality to build a third 950-MW unit. Sevier Power Company has also gained approval to build a 270-MW plant near Sigurd in Sevier County. The Sierra Club, led by the Utah Chapter, has appealed both these permits. And word has recently come down that the Environmental Protection Agency's Region 8 office in Denver has given preliminary approval to Deseret Power to build a new 110-MW unit near their existing coal-fired power plant at Bonanza, Utah, a plant that will burn waste coal: dirty coal with a

lower thermal value that it currently is not allowed to use.

To complicate the situation even more, word also has come about another proposed 1,600 MW coal-fired power plant near Ely, NV, in addition to the proposed 800-MW plant near White Pine. That's 2,400 MW of additional dirty coal to be burned upwind of Utah!

One of nature's best indicators of ecological health is the lowly amphibian—you know, the frogs and salamanders.

As if we need to hear about another external cost associated with our coal habit, we shouldn't forget what all of this airborne pollution is doing to our ecosystems. Among the types of pollution produced by



coal-fired power plants are sulfur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen. When these pollutants mix with water, they create potent acids, sulfuric and nitric acid, that wreak havoc on lakes, forests and animals.

One of nature's best indicators of ecological health is the lowly amphibian—you know, the frogs and salamanders. Amphibians breathe through their skin and are thus particularly sensitive to pollutants. The UN Environmental Program (UNEP) estimates approximately one-third of all amphibian species worldwide are at great risk of extinction due to pollution and global warming, according to a 2005 UNEP report.

Is that what's responsible for the massive die-off of tiger salamanders in the Wasatch's Desolation Lake? It's likely difficult to say until researchers study the situation. But it goes without saying that we need to all be more conscious of what happens when we turn on that light switch.

In Memoriam

Larry Mehlhaff

by Tom Valtin (reprinted from Sierra Club website)

On June 21, 2006, Sierra Club Deputy Field Director Larry Mehlhaff died at his home in Salt Lake City, of complications related to brain cancer. He was 49.

“Larry’s death is a great loss to this organization and the planet,” said Club Executive Director Carl Pope. “He spent his life speaking for the prairies, mountains, and wildlife with passion and good cheer. More importantly, he inspired others to join that work. There are rivers and lands that are protected for generations to come because Larry was there for them.”

Among Mehlhaff’s many conservation accomplishments were helping secure passage of the Wyoming Wilderness Act of 1984 and the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993; leading the Club’s successful efforts to block oil and gas leasing and development in national forest roadless areas and wilderness; organizing and assisting wilderness and wild river campaigns in Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska; leading the Club’s efforts to reintroduce wolves into Yellowstone National Park and to protect the grizzly bear from threats to its habitat and protected status; and helping countless Sierra Club staff and volunteers to raise funds to support critical Club conservation programs.

The son of a grain-elevator operator in Freeman, South Dakota, Mehlhaff became interested in conservation as a college student in Colorado. “Like other Sierra Club members, I got hooked because I cared about a place,” he told Club staffer Jenny Coyle in 2001. “The Pawnee National Grasslands were proposed for wilderness designation. I checked them out and decided they were worthy of protection.” Mehlhaff went on to be a leader in the efforts to protect those grasslands and the Soldier Creek Wilderness in Nebraska. He also played a key role in shepherding Wild and Scenic River legislation through Congress for the Clarks Fork River in Wyoming and the Niobrara River in Nebraska.

In the early 1980s Mehlhaff combined his passions for organizing and baseball in a successful campaign to get former Minnesota Twins star Harmon Killebrew elected to the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame. In 1984, Mehlhaff moved to Sheridan, Wyoming, where he worked for many years as the Club’s Northern Plains field director. He relocated to Salt Lake City in 2004, after becoming Deputy Field Director.

The week before he died, Mehlhaff was presented with the Club’s John Muir Award, one of the highest honors in the environmental movement. He joined former executive director Mike McCloskey as the only Club staffer to receive the award. “John Muir would be honored to have Larry Mehlhaff follow in his footsteps because Larry has helped so many ordinary citizens protect the wild places they love,” said Pope, who presented the award along with several of Mehlhaff’s colleagues, family, and friends.

“Receiving the John Muir Award is like being inducted into the Sierra Club Hall of Fame for environmental champions,” said Rob Smith, the Club’s Southwest Regional Staff Director, who was present at the ceremony. Pope took the occasion to announce the creation of the new Larry Mehlhaff Award, honoring employee excellence and special achievement.

“Larry represents the best of Sierra Club tradition—dedication to the environment, commitment to grassroots involvement, and a great sense of humor to sustain us over the long haul,” said Club director Joni Bosh, who was also present.

Mehlhaff receives the Sierra Club’s John Muir Award, one of the highest honors in the environmental movement. Named for the Scottish-born naturalist who founded the Sierra Club in 1892, the award was established to honor “a distinguished record of leadership in national or international conservation causes such as to continue John Muir’s work of preservation and establishment of parks and wilderness.” On the left is Sierra Club Executive Director Carl Pope; on the right is Board member Joni Bosh.

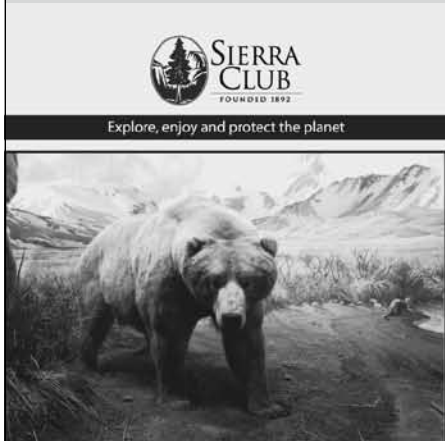
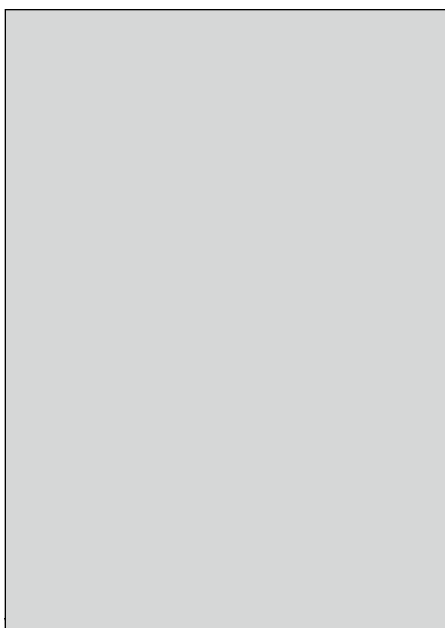
“I’ll always remember Larry’s smile and the way he made us laugh,” said National

Field Director Bob Bingaman. “To me he was a brother, a friend, a highly respected professional colleague, and one of the highest-quality individuals I have known in my life. I’ll miss him and our daily conversations about baseball. I’ll miss his advice and counsel. But most of all, I’ll miss his smile.”

A Club staffer for 21 years, Mehlhaff is a previous recipient of the Mike McCloskey Award, the Club’s highest staff award for service to the organization.

“Our thoughts, prayers, and expressions of concern go out to Marion Klaus, Larry’s lifetime partner, Larry’s family, and the many Sierra volunteers and staff who knew, respected, and loved Larry Mehlhaff,” said Pope. “His death is a loss which will be felt deeply by those of us who knew and loved him.”

Klaus requests that people wishing to honor Larry make contributions to the National Brain Tumor Foundation or to the Sierra Club Foundation, Larry Mehlhaff Memorial Conservation Fund. Those who choose to contribute to the Foundation should make checks payable to the Sierra Club Foundation and note on the check that it is a contribution to the Larry Mehlhaff Memorial Conservation Fund.



Bear in mind the consequences.

The Yellowstone grizzly bear is an irreplaceable part of America’s natural heritage, a symbol of the independence that defines the American character and an icon of all that is wild and free. The Bush administration set forth a proposal that would remove federal protection for the Yellowstone grizzly bear. Help Sierra Club protect our forest friends; they prefer the woods than being on display.

Get grizzly and JOIN Sierra Club.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____
 Zip _____ Phone (____) _____
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Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.
 Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX
 Cardholder Name _____
 Card Number _____
 Exp. Date ____/____/____

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

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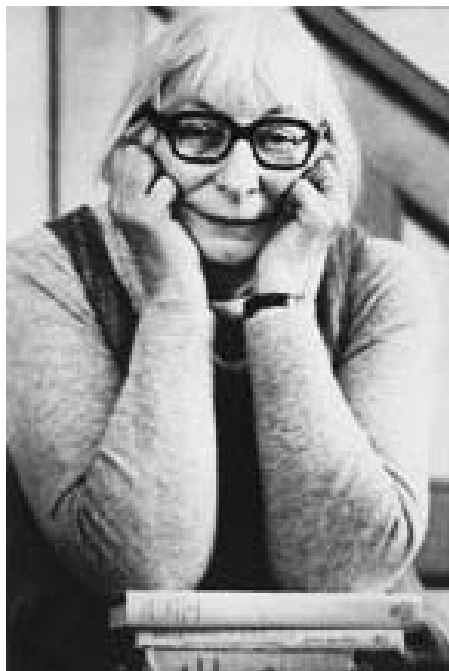
Larry Mehlhaff, Carl Pope and John DeCock.



Carl Pope, Larry Mehlhaff and Joni Bosh.

Jane Jacobs: An Appreciation, 1916-2006

by Mark Clemens



Jane Jacobs

The French are a prudent, thrifty people who manifest their practicality by reading, celebrating and then often ignoring their prophets and intellectuals. When Charles-Edouard Jeanneret, better known as Le Corbusier, proposed in 1925 to demolish a vast area of Paris' right bank to replace it with a grid of skyscrapers and expressways, he was ignored. (One can get an idea of the scale of the vandalism he proposed at <http://www.fondationlecorbusier.asso.fr/voisin.htm>). Le Corbusier built a number of handsome buildings in France, but, with a few exceptions, his urban planning ideas were not adopted there.

American planners, with the support of well-known architects such as Phillip Johnson and Mies van der Rohe, took up Le Corbusier's ideas. General Motors sponsored a highly-successful pavilion at the 1939 Worlds Fair that popularized the idea that cities should be built, or re-built if necessary, to accommodate the automobile, not the pedestrian. From the Second World War through the 1970s, these planners and architects destroyed the townscapes and economies of a number of American cities.

With unprecedented power as chairman of the Tri-borough Bridge Authority and a number of other offices, Robert Moses planned to do the same in New York City. His lamentable Trans-Bronx Expressway across the South Bronx destroyed a thriving borough that has never recovered from the shock. Moses' megalomaniacal plans for Manhattan included three, eight-lane expressways crossing the island from east to west. The one he planned to build first, the Lower Manhattan Expressway, would have displaced thousands of residents and businesses as it ran across Manhattan following generally along the route of Canal Street through Greenwich Village.

Progress of the kind advocated by Moses

not only had substantial corporate and institutional support, but it was also the received wisdom of most of the New York City intelligentsia at the time. It was a vaporous, Auntie-Mame kind of progressivism that might be summed up as, "First we'll move them out of a lot of bourgeois old buildings, and then we'll redeem them from a lot of bourgeois old opinions."

Jacobs argued that all wealth is created in cities, and that cities, not nation states, are the principal macro-economic players.

Jane Jacobs and others organized the *Joint Committee to Stop the Lower Manhattan Expressway*, but it might not have been successful if it were not for the intellectual grounding that Jacobs provided in lectures and books such as *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, published in 1961.

Jacobs argued that all wealth is created in cities, and that cities, not nation states, are the principal macro-economic players. Jacobs denounced the arbitrary separation of functions in urban planning—putting industrial, residential and commercial uses in separate zones—and championed the kind of chaotic, organic urban area of which Greenwich Village is such a good example. Jacobs' ideas, further developed in *The Economy of Cities* and other works, are the foundation on which subsequent movements like the New Urbanism were built.

In December 1962, the New York City Board of Estimates voted unanimously to scuttle the Lower Manhattan Expressway, although a 150-foot, below-ground section was eventually built. Jacobs organized and intellectually galvanized a process that led to the defeat of disastrous urban freeways proposed in cities from San Francisco to New Orleans and along the way to Moses' ouster from office.

Jane Jacobs' contributions reach well beyond urban planning to economics and even archaeology. From an environmental perspective Jacobs will probably not be remembered as reaching the stature of John Muir or Rachel Carson because her contributions in urban planning are counter-revolutionary, not revolutionary. However, her work redefined the importance of cities and how they work best. And her creative legacy is found in thriving, sustainable cities like New York City, Portland, Toronto, and one hopes increasingly, Salt Lake City.

Thank You

Park City members and the chapter Executive Committee thank Treasure Mountain Inn and Conference Center in Park City for hosting our Breakfast Social and ExCom meeting on July 8th. TMI continues as a major supporter of the Utah Chapter and the environment during 2006. As a member of 1% for the Planet, Treasure Mountain Inn donates one percent of sales to benefit the natural environment. For more information about 1% for the Planet, check out <http://www.onepercentfortheplanet.org/ourmembers.htm>.

Special thanks to the members listed below for their contributions to the chapter's 2006 fundraising drive. Thanks also to other members who contributed anonymously. These contributions make possible our conservation programs to protect air and water quality in Utah, our crusade to protect Utah wild lands, the Smart Energy Campaign and our ability to reach out to you and other Utahns.

Katherine Astin
Laurie Baefsky
Amanda, Ariana, Lawrence &
Nathaniel Barusch
Mike & Jean Binyon
Dennis V Chamberlain
Richard Lance Christie
Lawrence Culver
Brandon Derfler
Heather Dove
Wynette Erickson
Roxane Googin
Donna Hawxhurst
David & Jennifer Heldenbrand
Randi Hollaway
Owen & Sandy Johnson
Kathleen & Rob Jones
Barbara Kerwin
Randy & Bobbi Klein
Martin Kogut
David E Leta
Nancy Madsen
Lois Mansfield
Larry Meyer
Sharon Meyer
LE Modesitt

Joy & Fred Pashley
Sally Patrick & Chris LaTour
Judy Pechmann
Carolyn Pedone & John Rose
Glenn Prestwich &
Barbara Bentley
Mark & Janet Riding
Janie Ruff
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Orion Sherwood
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Steven M Thiese
Gary A Thorne
Dorothy M Uherka
Emilee Walker
Chip Ward
Alyce Wasden
Rita S Wechter
Ron Williams
Helen Wilson
Heather Young

To protect our members' privacy, if no publishing preference is specified, we do not publish contributors' names. If you don't see your name listed and would like for it to be published, please call Mark at (801) 467-9297. We try hard to spell people's names correctly; please accept our apologies if we misspelled your name!

The Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club
extends a special thanks to the

**GEORGE B. AND OMA E. WILCOX
AND GIBBS M. AND CATHERINE W.
SMITH CHARITABLE FOUNDATION**

for its continuing generous support of
the Chapter's programs.

The Foundation challenges you to increase
your support for the Utah Chapter in 2006.



Out&About

ROBERT JENNINGS



Hedgehog cactus bloom.

Kanab Outing Report

by Al Herring and Rob Jones (trip co-leaders)

In late April, eleven Utah Chapter members gathered in northern Arizona to begin an outing into the Kanab Creek Wilderness. Our goal was to explore for rock art in the canyons and enjoy the dramatic landscapes. For four in the group it was a four-day outing and then back to jobs in the Salt Lake City area; for the remainder (the "magnificent seven") it was on to our exit point at Sowats Point, a total backpacking distance of about 60 miles in nine days.

Details and more photos of the trip can be found in Rob's report posted at <http://users.sisna.com/vagabond/kanabcr06/kanabcr06.htm>. In brief, we had almost perfect weather, the rock art and scenery exceeded expectations, everybody in the group stayed healthy, we saw only two other people during the entire nine days, and—more importantly—we saw zero cows.

And we only got lost once. Our longest day was to be on the Ranger Trail around Jumpup Point, with an estimated distance of 14 miles to the next water source. It was the only section of the route that neither Rob nor I had been on. It also turned out that the Ranger Trail did not connect with Kanab Creek as shown as the topographical map. After extensive exploration we determined that the trail we planned to take no longer existed. This left us in the uncomfortable position of going to bed without knowing what we would be facing the next day.

However, we found a new Ranger Trail connector early the next morning and were on our way. The 14 miles turned out to be more like 17 and as dusk approached we were still three miles from our lower Jumpup Spring destination and out of gas. Fortunately, it had rained earlier in the day and Mother Nature gave us the option of camping on the esplanade formation and using water from pockets on the slickrock. We attributed this fortunate opportunity to all the good karma group members had accumulated through their environmental activism.

ESPLANADE TERRAIN

Lyrics by Rob Jones

Sung to the tune of "Acid Rain"
by the Austin Lounge Lizards:
Highway Cafe of the Damned
1988
(Sugar Hill Records; SUG-CD 3901)

*Off we go, the intrepid eleven;
As we grunt into Snake Gulch heaven.
While we keep on rolling,
Without refrain;
Toward that Esplanade terrain.*

*Because of monstrous pack weight, we
are all in pain;
Packing for 9 days; we do not hike
in vain.
On and on we are hauling, toiling;
Thinking Esplanade terrain.*

*Esplanade, keep on rolling;
As we 11, we are stolling.
While here is great, we all exclaim;
Where's that Esplanade terrain?*

*Seeing pictos in the shelters;
And some petros, scattered
helter-skelter.
This is just exactly what we came to do;
You cannot imagine doing this, can
you?*

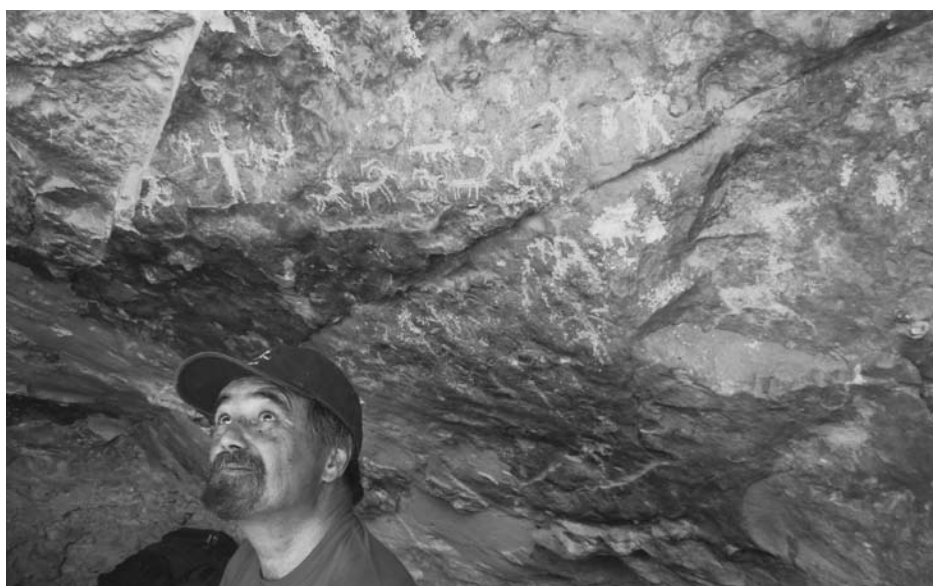
The rest of the improvised lyrics are available at <http://users.sisna.com/vagabond/kanabcr06/kanabcr06.htm>.

ROB JONES



Snake Gulch hikers.

ROBERT JENNINGS



Paul Gardner scrutinizes pictographs.

ROBERT JENNINGS



Pictograph in Snake Gulch.

ROBERT JENNINGS



Ken Evans examines pictographs.

On Transportation

The Campaign For Regional Transit Keeps Rolling

by Marc Heilesen

The launch from our Legacy Parkway settlement victory has created tremendous momentum towards a true regional mass transit system for Utah. TRAX light rail is currently carrying over 58,000 riders per day, triple the ridership predicted by the year 2020. Commuter rail is busily under construction, and the new FrontRunner rail cars have come off the assembly line. Most recently, commuter rail secured a full funding agreement with the federal government, and rumor has it Utah may receive a FrontRunner Christmas present in 2007. In addition to commuter rail heading north, the new transit funding provided by our Legacy Parkway settlement has enabled the state to begin the environmental studies for a new TRAX or Bus Rapid Transit system (light rail on tires) from Salt Lake City to Farmington. In summary, Utah will be gain a commuter rail system and will complete all of the necessary preparations for a Farmington TRAX or BRT line. It will add to the new Great Salt Lake buffering 2200 acre Legacy Nature Preserve and the total redesign of the Legacy Freeway to an environmentally sensitive protective parkway. This completes nearly all of what the Sierra Club had proposed as the Citizens Smart Growth Alternative to the Legacy Highway.

Riding this snowball towards new transit, the Sierra Club's East-West TRAX First campaign is quickly advancing. Utah chapter volunteers have been actively promoting the construction of three new TRAX lines to service the rapidly growing western Salt Lake County. The three TRAX extensions will connect our current system to the airport, West Valley City and South Jordan. These new lines of TRAX are needed quickly in an attempt to reverse the

current explosion of unplanned sprawl occurring in our valley's western areas. New TRAX extensions will give Utah families more transportation choices and encourage smarter development patterns along the transit corridors. This will protect better air quality, open space and encourage safer, more livable communities.

On Earth Day, a large group of Sierra Club volunteers took our TRAX campaign door-to-door in the Daybreak community near the terminus of the proposed Mid-Jordan TRAX line. Our hard-working volunteers educated and helped activate many enthusiastic area residents to support new east-west TRAX construction. Big thanks to the great people who came out on Earth Day to help this effort.

We are now seeing the results! The proposed east-west expansion of TRAX in recent polling has shown overwhelming public support. In addition, community leaders are promoting measures to create funding sources for all of the proposed TRAX extensions. East-West TRAX First could be a reality soon if these efforts are successful. Recognizing these developments, Sierra Magazine, Sierra Club's largest national publication recently designated Salt Lake City as "America's Biggest Transit Turnaround."

Stay tuned to additional Sierra Club updates and announcements this year as things will develop quickly. Many additional volunteers will be needed as we reach out to greater numbers of people throughout Salt Lake County. To volunteer and be a part of the East-West TRAX First campaign, please contact me at the Utah Sierra Club office at (801) 467-9294.



Forest Service Blinks on ATVs

by Dan Schroeder, Ogden Group Conservation Chair

The Ogden Ranger District of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest issued a decision in early spring to open dozens of additional forest routes to motorized travel, and to construct several new, looping ATV trails in the northern Wasatch Mountains. This decision had been in the works for several years, motivated by pressure from ORV users, local governments, and the Utah State Parks Department. One goal of the Forest Service is to help establish the Shoshone ATV mega-trail, a 500-mile system of interconnected, looping ATV routes extending from Brigham City to Bear Lake. Also, the Forest Service seems to feel that where motorists are illegally using a route, it is easier to make the activity legal than to enforce the law.

A consortium of conservation organizations, led by the Sierra Club's Ogden Group, appealed this US Forest Service decision in May. Joining us in the appeal were Save Our Canyons, the Western Wildlife Conservancy and Wild Utah Project; we also received a great deal of legal assistance from Western Resource Advocates. Together, we argued that the

environmental analysis behind the decision was inadequate, especially in its failure to consider the impacts of the Shoshone trail system. We also cited Executive Order 11644, signed by President Nixon in 1972, which requires federal land managers to locate ORV routes so as to minimize impacts to wildlife habitat, nonmotorized recreation, and other resources.

On July 3 we learned that our appeal was successful, at least in part. Forest Supervisor Faye Krueger reversed the Ogden District Ranger's decision to implement the new travel plan, indicating that the decision had been made with insufficient analysis of "cumulative impacts" to forest resources. As of this writing, we are still waiting to learn more about why the decision was reversed and what the next steps in this process will be. Meanwhile, the old travel plan will remain in effect for the rest of this season. We hope that the forest service will aggressively enforce this plan until a new (and, we hope, better) one legally takes effect.

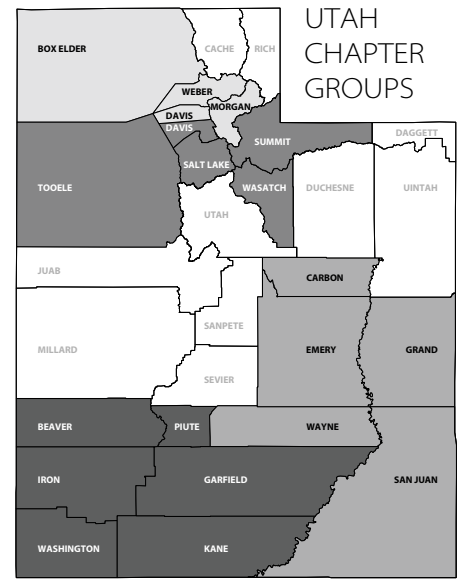


Earth Day Volunteers at Daybreak.

UtahChapterOutings

Abbreviations in capital letters signify the group planning the outing. [E] = educational content, [C] = conservation focus, [S] = service activities. All members and nonmembers are welcome on any of the chapter or group activities listed. Radios, firearms and dogs are not welcome on Sierra Club outings. Interested participants are strongly encouraged to contact the outing leader in advance and inquire as to updates, degree of difficulty, and other outing details. Participants should be prepared for various seasonal weather conditions, temperature changes that occur due to rapid increases/decreases in altitude, and bring enough food, water, and appropriate clothing for the given outing. Outing leaders reserve the right to turn away anyone who appears unprepared for scheduled outings.

The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel. If you choose to carpool to the trailhead, it is only fair for fees charged by the U.S. Forest Service to be shared by all participants. For the most current and updated outings listings, please visit the website utah.sierraclub.org and look at the outings under the Salt Lake, Ogden and Glen Canyon Groups.



- NO GROUP AFFILIATION
- GLEN CANYON GROUP
- OGDEN GROUP
- SALT LAKE GROUP
- SOUTHWEST UTAH GROUP

Glen Canyon Group (GCG)
Participants are requested to call leaders in advance for outing details & to give the leader an idea of group size.

Ogden Group (OG)
P.O. Box 1821, Ogden, UT, 84402
utah.sierraclub.org/ogden

The public is welcome on all outings. Participants are requested to call the leaders in advance for outing details. For information related to outings in general, contact John Besbekos, 801-985-6854.

Salt Lake Group (SLG)
Call the trip leaders for meeting times, places, & other details regarding the outings.

august

SLG, Tues, 8/1, Tuesday Night Hike in Elbow Fork Millcreek Canyon. This hike begins at Elbow Fork in Millcreek Canyon and loops up and over a nice wooded ridge before descending to the Terraces picnic area. The trail is cool and shaded most of the way and offers scenic overlooks of the canyon below the trail. Meeting place is the Skyline High School parking lot at 6:30pm. Call Debbie (435/830-9021) for info.

SLG, Fri-Sat, 8/4-8/6 Hike and Campout to Mt Timpanogos. A great opportunity to join a group of seasoned hikers and summit one of the most challenging yet beautiful hiking trails in the state. The plan is to arrive Friday night and car camp at a nearby campground. Early Saturday morning hikers will begin the 8.5 mile(one way) ascent of Timpanogos. Due to the vertical elevation gain and length of the trail, participants need to be in good physical condition, wear suitable well-fitting boots, carry appropriate gear and food and water for a strenuous

all day hike. The group will return to camp Saturday evening to enjoy a well-deserved dinner prior to Sunday's departure after a delicious pancake breakfast Sunday morning. The number of participants is limited to 8 so RSVP ASAP. If necessary, another campsite will be reserved. Call or email Rebecca 487-4160/rebeccawallace38@msn.com for more information and to RSVP.

SLG, Tues, 8/8, Tuesday Night Hike to Greens Basin. This hike begins at the trailhead at the Spruces Campground in Big Cottonwood Canyon. The trail winds through an enchanted forest of tall pines and lush emerald undergrowth to an open meadow and the turnaround point. Meeting time is 6:30pm at the Big Cottonwood park & ride at the mouth of the canyon. Bring water and lights in case the hike extends beyond dusk. Call Margaret (292-7602) for information.

OG, Sat, 8/12, Island Lake loop in the Uintas. Join us to explore this popular region in the Lakes District. 8-9 miles, 6 hours, 700' gain. Most of the trail is above 10,000'. Call Larry Woolsey for meeting time and place at 731-3701.

SLG, Tues, 8/15, Tuesday Night Hike to Brighton Lakes Big Cottonwood Canyon. We plan to hike around the very scenic Brighton Lakes at the top of Big Cottonwood Canyon near the Brighten and Solitude ski resorts. Expect moderate elevation gain and hiking pace. Bring flashlights in case the hike extends beyond dusk. Meeting time is 6:30 pm at the park & ride at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon. Call Jan (712-8956) for info.

GCG, Sat 8/19, South Mountain hike. The hike follows the trail from the north, starting near La Sal Pass. Distance is less than 5 miles, and elevation gain is about 2000 feet. Fine views all around: canyon country, central La Sals, Colorado salt anticline country and San Juan Mountains. Meet at Star Hall at 8 AM. For details contact Tom Messenger at 259-1756.

SLG, Tues, 8/22, Tuesday Night Hike to Albion Basin in Little Cottonwood . This popular trail offers prime opportunities for breath-taking views of majestic mountain peaks and clear alpine lakes. Be prepared for some steep terrain and possible wildlife encounters. Bring flashlights in the event the hike extends beyond dusk. Meeting time is 6:30 at the park & ride at the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon. Call Kurt (550-4674).

SLG, Tues, 8/29, Tuesday Night Hike to Leaders Choice in Millcreek Canyon. Take this opportunity to hike with one the premier hiking leaders of the Salt Lake Group to a prime hiking venue in Millcreek Canyon. Although the destination was not determined at press time, possible choices include Elbow Fork and The Pipeline trail. Meeting time is 6:30 pm at the Skyline High School parking lot. Bring flashlights in case the hike extends past dusk. Call Tim (484-4334) for info about the hike.

september

SLG, Tues, 9/5, Tuesday Night Hike to Davis County Overlook. This hike is a repeat of a hike cancelled earlier in the season. This moderate hike offers participants an opportunity to enjoy impressive views of the Salt Lake and Davis counties as well as the possibility of an awe-inspiring sunset. Bring flashlights in case the hike extends beyond dusk. Meeting time is 6:30pm the Popperton Park at the northeast corner of Virginia St. and 11th Avenue across the street from the Shriners Hospital. Hikers will then car pool to the trailhead. Call Ken (484-3112) for more info.

UtahChapterDirectory

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April 21, 2006: Friday snowshoe to Willow Heights (Lake) in Big Cottonwood Canyon.

OG, Sat, 9/9, Day Hike on the Skull Crack Trail. We'll start at the south end of Causey Dam. Elevation: Beginning: 5,800 feet Ending: 5,900 feet, Length: 2.4 miles one-way. Difficulty: Moderate. Call Joanie at 801/399-0034.

SLG, Tues, 9/12, Tuesday Night Hike on the Jordan Parkway Trail. This hike will be the last Tuesday Night Hike of the season. An easy hike with no worries of hiking boots, difficult terrain, or wild animal encounters. Enjoy good company on a paved trail, the primary objective being to enjoy an easy hike prior to socializing at a nearby restaurant after the hike. Meeting time is 6:30pm at the Jordan Park Pavilion at 11th West and Freemont Ave in Salt Lake City. Call Debbie (484-3112) for info.

OG, Sun, 9/17, Centennial Trail, North Fork Park. Start at Cutler Flats bowery, head north to the trail gaining the col at the base of the east ridge of Willard Peak. Thence follow horse trails back to the bowery. About 3 hours. Bring snacks. Meet OHS at 9:30 am. Jock Glidden 394-0457.

GCG, Sat 9/23, Pilot Peak via Dry Fork Trail. Eight miles round trip and about 2800 feet total elevation gain. A pleasant hike from Warner Lake to Jackass Pass and then a short climb (with no significant talus) to the peak at 12,200 feet. Great views from the top. Come prepared for possible bad weather, but unlikely at this time of year. Meet at The Branding Iron parking lot at 8 AM. For more information call Mike Binyon at 259-1633

OG, Sat, 9/23, Come Conquer Ben Lomond Peak. Start at North Fork Park to the peak. Return via North Ogden divide. 3800' gain, 16 miles, 6-7 hours. Tough hike but good views of the lake and Ogden valley. Call Larry Woolsey for meeting time and place. 731-3701.

SLG, Sun, 9/24, Brigham City Bike Ride. Celebrate the Fall equinox with a bike ride in the beautiful Brigham City area. One likely option is to soak up the early fall ambiance in a hot pool inside the Crystal Hot Springs resort near Brigham City during the ride. A stop at a restaurant after the outing is also a choice. Ride distance and pace will be determined by experience level of participants. Road or mountain bikes are appropriate, helmets are required, and pack plenty of water and snacks for the ride. Call Ken (484-3112) for meeting time, place, and other details.

SLG, Fri 9/29- Wed 10/4, Escalante Backpack. Join a group of capable and spirited hikers for a classic 26-mile backpack trip through one of Glen Canyon's most spectacular slickrock canyons. Two unforgettable arches and a natural bridge are among extraordinary features of the trip. Participants need to be in good physical shape and able to carry their own backpacks and gear. Participants are encouraged to attend a planning meeting prior to the outing. This backpack could be considered a good introduction to backpacking for those in good physical condition but who have never experienced a backpack. The trip will be limited to 12 so RSVP to Rebecca (487-4160/rebeccawallace38@msn.com) as soon as possible. [E]

october

SLG, Sun, 10/1, Wasatch Mountain Hike From the Back. Come out and enjoy the vibrant fall colors of the valleys and mountains from the back side of the Wasatch Mountain range. Although not determined

at press time, there are several excellent trail possibilities to choose from in this area. Call Gaynelle (435-649-8917) for meeting time, place, and other details.

OG, Sat, 10/7, Day Hike to Jardine Juniper. 8.8 mi. out/back, 800 ft., 4 hrs. The juniper in question is a gnarled, tenacious, three-thousand-year-old tree. The trail climbs to it through forests with nice views of the Bear River Range. The trailhead is at the turn-off to Wood Camp, 10 miles up the canyon. Call Joanie for details at 801/399-0034.

OG, Sat, 10/14, Ogden Valley Overlook. A 5 to 6 mile round trip hike with a 600' gain starting at Snowbasin. We'll climb a well-maintained trail with great views of Snowbasin area and Ogden Canyon. Call John Besbekos for meeting time and place. 985-6854

SLG, Sat, 10/14 to Sun 10/15, West Desert Getaway Weekend. Join us for a car camping expedition to Swasey Peak in the House Range in the West Desert. This area is a Wilderness Study Area offering participants an opportunity to learn about wilderness issues. Most important, you'll enjoy one of Utah's most beautiful desert areas and the highest peak in the House Range. Contact Kurt via email desertquest99@yahoo.com for info. Co-listed with the Tooele Hikers. [C]

OG, Sat, 10/21, Antelope Island Hike to Frary Peak. Frary Peak is the highest point on the island. 7.5 miles round trip, 4 hours. Good views of the Wasatch and best views of the lake. Maybe we'll see the bighorn sheep and bison that flourish on the island. Call Larry Woolsey for meeting time and place. 731-3701.

GCG, Sat 10/28, Bartlett-Tusher Rim hike. The hike follows the east rim of Bartlett Canyon until we reach a saddle that separates Bartlett and Tusher canyons. We will return on the Tusher canyon side. There are great views and the hike is fairly level. Distance is about 4½ to 5 miles, and high-clearance vehicles are needed to reach the trailhead. Meet at Star Hall at 9 AM. For details contact Richard Anderson at 259-7602.

november

SLG, Fri, 11/3 through Mon 11/6, Moab Folk Festival. A great opportunity to enjoy rousing folk music with good friends and new acquaintances in the red rock splendor of Moab. The festival runs Friday through Sunday and includes acoustic artists such as Kenny White, Trout Fishing in America, Sloan Wainwright and many other fabulous folk entertainers. A possible option is to hike and/or bike the slickrock during the day and partake in the music and revelry at night. The plan is to drive to Moab midday Friday and stay at the Lazy Lizard Hostel in the cabins, or choose the hotel of your choice. There is no limit on participants but plan on making your own reservations. Be sure to contact Rebecca (487-4160/rebeccawallace38@msn.com) for accommodation recommendations and other details.

GCG Sat 11/4 short day hike. Destination to be determined. Meet at Star Hall at 9 AM. In October contact Tom Messenger at 259-1756.

SLG, Sun, 11/12, Snowshoe/Hike. A pre-holiday season snowshoe or hike depending on trail and weather conditions. Destination to be determined at time of outing. Call Ken (484-3112) for meeting time, place, and other details.



win a backcountry guide

AUGUST 1, 2004: Tuesday evening trekkers at the Elbow Trailhead for the Millcreek Pipeline Trail. Be the first (before August 15, 2006) to correctly list the first name of seven of these trekkers and receive a Backcountry Guide Book for the High Uintas. Send your list to Ron Younger at 920 East 1500 South, Bountiful, UT 84010-2138.

FREE SEMINAR:

**POLES FOR HIKING, WALKING & TREKKING
Tuesday, August 8
Salt Lake City REI – 7 pm
3285 E 3300 S
801/486-2100**

Used *correctly*, poles

- reduce stress on knees and spine,
- increase power on uphill,
- improve balance, endurance and posture on all terrain,
- achieve bi-lateral stability,
- make hiking a total body workout,
- recruit more muscles while walking which facilitates fat-burning & weight loss, and
- help reduce injuries & falls and are way sportier than a cane or walker.

This clinic is for everyone - walkers, hikers, seniors and backpackers. Regardless of athletic ability, hiking poles (also known as trekking poles or walking sticks) can expand hiking and walking capabilities and can re-open doors for seniors.

Jayah Faye Paley, the author of the Award-Winning DVD, *HIKING POLES - Techniques & Tips for All Ages and Abilities*, will make this one-time appearance in Salt Lake City. She'll be bringing about \$11,000 worth of top quality poles so participants will have a chance to practice techniques and experience the benefits of an "extra pair of legs."

Techniques developed by Paley show how to avoid hand/wrist/shoulder strain and convert effort into an upper body/core workout. Learn how correct use enables hikers and walkers to more safely and completely enjoy mobility and the outdoors. Come learn about equipment, how to adjust poles correctly and efficiently, prevent common mistakes, and how to achieve optimum benefit from hiking poles.

For more information, you can visit www.AdventureBuddies.Net



OurLand

Draft Legislation for Zion: An Update

by Lawson LeGate

As reported in the last issue of the *Sierran*, Utah Senator Bob Bennett and 2nd Congressional District Representative Jim Matheson have unveiled a draft bill dealing with land-use issues in Washington County. The Sierra Club has joined its Utah Wilderness Coalition (UWC) allies to work toward significant improvements in the draft or, if necessary, to oppose its passage if introduced. As noted in the previous article, the draft bill would direct the sale of up to 25,000 acres of publicly-owned land and would direct some of the proceeds to the county as well as to the Washington County Water Conservancy District. The water district would be permitted to use the revenues to build the proposed Lake Powell Pipeline and other facilities, including dams.

As written, the draft legislation would also authorize the construction of a freeway by-pass as well as water developments in the Red Cliffs Tortoise Reserve; create an off-road vehicle trail on public lands in the western part of the county; protect only one-third of the identified wilderness-quality public lands in the county; permit dams in the Beaver Dam Narrows and Ft. Pierce Wash; and sanction the construction of new sprawl-inducing freeways surrounding St. George.

Beginning in April UWC representatives have met twice with Sen. Bennett's and Rep. Matheson's staff in an effort to secure agreement for significant changes in the draft bill. Thus far, reports indicate that the draft bill will be changed to drop the proposed dam in the Beaver Dam Narrows and to remove a specific authorization for the Tortoise Reserve freeway by-pass. It should be noted, however, that the proposed Narrows dam has not been at the top of the water district's list. Also, the door would be left deliberately ajar for the by-pass to be built in the future.

The wilderness coalition has asked the congressional representatives to hold public hearings in Utah so that citizens can express their views on the draft bill. As of this writing, there have been no plans to do so. Consequently, the UWC spon-

sored a Citizens' Hearing in Salt Lake City in late June at which approximately 200 Utahns gathered to express their opposition to the draft legislation. The hearing was held after a public opinion poll revealed that 89% of Utahns support the idea of holding such hearings.

Concerns remain about the draft bill's provision to go beyond existing law to sell off public lands to finance local government development schemes. In this regard, information gleaned from the website of the St. George Chamber of Commerce is interesting (http://www.stgeorgechamber.com/EcDev/future_vision.htm). According to the chamber's own calculation, the current St. George area population of 120,000 occupies about 20,000 acres of private land, or about 9% of the total private land base of 225,000 acres in Washington County. Based on the current level of residential density and projections of a county population of 600,000 by the year 2040, the projected population would still only need about 44%, or 100,000 acres, of currently available private land in the county.

Clearly they believe that, rather than holding our public lands as a heritage to be treasured, our public lands are most valuable as a cash cow.

Why, then, would bill proponents insist on mandating that *an additional 25,000 acres* of public land be sold into private hands? Perhaps, as Deep Throat advised Woodward and Bernstein, we should follow the money. It appears that it isn't



Desert Globemallow in bloom.

about the land as much as it is about the revenue. Local politicians have many pet projects, including planned freeways, reservoirs, dams, and the pipeline from Lake Powell. These are very expensive pipe dreams. Clearly they believe that, rather than holding our public lands as a heritage to be treasured, our public lands are most valuable as a cash cow.

The Sierra Club and its coalition partners remain deeply concerned about the potential that a statewide and national precedent would be set for diminishing America's heritage of public lands. A similar nationwide public land sale proposal by the Bush Administration earlier this year was met with resounding criticism. Some of the loudest critics have been Republican senators from western states, including Idaho's Larry Craig and Montana's Conrad Burns.

On June 29 the UWC received a letter from Sen. Bennett and Rep. Matheson indicating their intention to introduce a bill "in the coming weeks." It is not clear from

this statement of intent whether the congressional representatives wish to continue with negotiations to improve the bill.

To read the full text of the bill or the UWC press release on the bill, go to <http://www.zionmojavewilderness.org/bennett/index.html>.

Please contact Senator Bennett and Representative Matheson to tell them the bill language must be amended before it is worthy of passage. Rep. Matheson has set up a page on his website specifically for taking comments on the proposed Washington County bill. Check it out at http://www.house.gov/matheson/info_draft-bill.shtml. His phone numbers are as follows:

Toll-free 1 (877) 677-9743
Washington County (435) 627-0880
Salt Lake County (801) 486-1236
Carbon County (435) 636-3722
Washington, DC (202) 225-3011.

Sen. Bennett accepts e-mail comments at http://www.bennett.senate.gov/contact/email_opinion.cfm.



Treasurer Needed

Can you count, and do you want to help save the environment? If so, then please join our team of volunteer leaders at the Utah Chapter as our Chapter Treasurer. Our Treasurer works with other volunteers and staff to monitor and report on the chapter's financial position. The Treasurer leads the budgeting process and helps the chapter fit its conservation priorities into available funds. Come join a great group, and help us save the Earth. Some formal training is available, and our outgoing Treasurer is willing to help answer questions in the meantime.

Please reply to utah.chapter@sierraclub.org. Thanks!

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