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# Utah Sierran

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## Take Action!

learn how on page 9

## Zion Wilderness Bill Miscarries

by Lawson LeGate & Mark Clemens

Even for those who've never visited the wilderness of Zion country, the names are evocative—even pungent. Red Mountain, Beartrap Canyon, Canaan Mountain, The Watchman, Black Ridge and Doc's Pass. For those who have seen them, the names conjure magical redrock sculpture equal to anything on the Colorado Plateau. More people see them every year, but more to the point, thousands of new residents move into Washington County every year. Some of these newcomers use public lands recreationally; virtually everyone drives; and of course, everyone needs access to clean water. These growth-related demands require intelligent planning and legislation.

As the draft bill stands, we **cannot** support it.

It was with those demands in mind, presumably, that former Governor Olene Walker began the process that led to Senator Bob Bennett's Washington County Growth and Conservation Act of 2006. Bennett and Representative Jim Matheson unveiled the draft at a news conference in late March. Some credit adheres to the impulse to plan for growth that everyone foresees. Unfortunately this proposed legislation would make growth-related problems in Washington County even worse.

Bennett consulted with a fairly broad spectrum of land users and advocates, but the draft legislative language largely reflects the interests and preoccupations of the Washington County Commissioners. When the Sierran went to press, this proposed legislation had not been introduced in either house of congress.



Bobcat photographed in Red Cliffs Habitat Reserve.

### WILDERNESS CALCULATIONS

The Utah Wilderness Coalition (UWC), of which Sierra Club is a founding member, proposes approximately 300,000 acres of the incomparable public lands in Washington County for protection as statutory Wilderness. The acreage of public lands—outside of Zion National Park which is already well protected—that would be protected under Matheson and Bennett's proposed bill is only 95,242. By contrast,

former Rep. Jim Hansen's Utah National Parks and Public Lands Wilderness Act of 1999 would have designated 45,000 more acres of BLM wilderness than the Bennett draft bill.

The bill would add about 1,800 acres of public lands currently managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to Zion National Park. The proposed legislation would also give Wilderness protection to 123,743 acres within Zion National Park; however, most of the park is already man-

aged in a fashion consistent with the Wilderness Act so the additional protection provided would be small, but welcome.

Although the UWC accepts that, in some cases, we might have to support compromises that don't give us the acreage of Wilderness proposed in our legislation, America's Redrock Wilderness Act, this draft legislation seriously shortchanges our goal.

### PIPELINE FROM LAKE POWELL

In order to help fuel the uncontrolled growth in Washington County, the local water conservancy district has had inserted a provision which would authorize rights-of-way for alternative pipeline routes for the purpose of importing vast quantities of water from Lake Powell. Washington County is one of the driest counties in the nation, but it uses twice as much water per capita as Tucson, Arizona, in the heart of the Sonoran Desert. Washington County's priorities need to be put in the proper order with the adoption of a state-of-the-art water conservation program before water importation schemes are authorized.

### A SNEAK ATTACK?

Matheson and Bennett's bill would also create a Red Cliffs National Conservation Area (RCNCA). This new designation would cover the publicly-owned lands of the Red Cliffs Habitat Preserve—established several years ago to protect the endangered Mohave desert tortoise. The paradox of the situation is that despite the grand new title, the lands would actually have less protection under the RCNCA than they have now.

The Red Cliffs Habitat Preserve was established under the strict guidelines of the Endangered Species Act. The new RCNCA would promote a number of new developments currently banned, including

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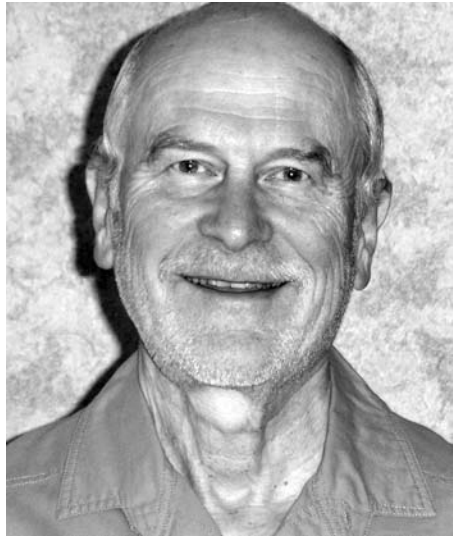
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# The Zoning of Utah

by Al Herring, Chapter Chair



Please help  
protect Utah  
wilderness.  
It is unique.  
And when it is  
gone, it's gone  
forever.

The days of vast tracts of public lands in the west with few user conflicts or restrictions are nearly gone. Trust me. I have lived long enough (68 years) to see it happen.

I was raised in rural Oregon where I spent lots of time hiking, camping, fishing, and hunting. There was so much open space that we went out with little or no thought of whether the land we were on was private or public, BLM or Forest Service or anything else. The population of the country was about half what it is now, mountain bikes hadn't been invented, four-wheel drive vehicles were rare, all the gasoline we needed came in from places like California and Texas, and the Bonneville Power Administration was hard pressed to find enough customers. Ah, the good old days!

But this is now. Conflicts are rampant and restrictions increase continually. The present reality is that everyone is scrambling to protect their public land interests. We are now seeing the active zoning of the remaining open spaces of the west. Some will be zoned primarily for fuel extraction, some for mining, some for timber production, some for military use, some for off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation, and some will be sold outright for development. Hopefully, an appropriate share will also be zoned as parks, wildlife preserves, and wilderness.

As we are reminded nearly every day, Utah is a key battleground in the public-land wars. The most recent zoning effort is contained in the Washington County Growth and Conservation Act of 2006

proposed by Sen. Bob Bennett, with Rep. Jim Matheson tagging along. At a press conference announcing the bill, Bennett said, "It wasn't easy, it was a lot of hard work, but the only way we're going to make progress on these issues is to have a comprehensive effort with all the stakeholders on public land use." What he didn't say was that the "comprehensive effort" shut out the Sierra Club and other environmental organizations after the first few public hearings.

Although the bill does incorporate some environmental protections, it also has a lot of ugliness. For example:

- BLM land designated as wilderness is just 93 thousand acres, compared to approximately 300 thousand acres identified as worthy of protection in America's Red Rock Wilderness Act of 2005. In other words, only 31% of the BLM wilderness-quality land was included in Bennett's bill.
- All other wilderness study areas in Washington County are released back to the agencies for whatever use they deem appropriate.
- Up to 25 thousand acres (forty-square miles!) of our public land will be sold off to make room for more urban sprawl.
- Authorization is provided to build a four-lane highway through the heart of the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve, destroying vital desert tortoise habitat.
- Authorization is provided for a "High Desert Off-Highway Vehicle Trail" which would cut through biologically sensitive land in Beaver Dam Wash and other areas.

Bennett also said the bill, is "not a finished product" and there will be a public comment period. As I write this column in late March, I can only hope that the public input process will be meaningful and that our good senator will take to heart recommendations from the Sierra Club and others who want to protect more wildernesses in Washington County.

Bennett's bill is just, as the saying goes, "the tip of the big box store." As a March 23 Salt Lake *Tribune* article noted, "The [Washington County] land-use blueprint may be imitated in many areas of the state." Iron, Beaver and Millard Counties have already held their hearings and they are ready—if not downright eager—to get control of more public lands within their boundaries and to pursue ever-tempting development dollars.

As the zoning of our public lands continues, all involved need to appreciate that open space and wilderness will become only more precious to following generations. Let's try to make sure that succeeding generations praise us for our foresight in protecting these special places, rather than curse us for allowing their destruction.

Please help protect Utah wilderness. It is unique. And when it is gone, it's gone forever. Voice your opinion, vote for candidates who care, and support the Sierra Club and our partner organizations who are fighting for wilderness protection. Take action while there is still an opportunity to get Utah zoned right.

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## THE GLEN CANYON GROUP ACTS

by Jean Binyon, Glen Canyon Group Treasurer



We've been working and winning! Our annual meeting drew 25 participants and featured Ronni Eagan, Executive Director of Great Old Broads for Wilderness (GOBW). Ronni described the GOBW's Healthy Lands Project which trains volunteers to monitor OHV impacts on public lands and to input photos and data on a software program. Between her lively presentation and the discussion that followed, both the Great Old Broads and the Sierra Club picked up new members, and SUWA lined up volunteers to monitor selected routes of the Moab Jeep Safari, which BLM renewed the permit for another five years.

Both in conjunction with the GCG Nuclear Waste Committee and on her own, Sarah Fields was recently credited with persuading the State's Radiation Control Division to provide internet access to information on the International Uranium Corporation's White Mesa mill near Blanding. Ever since the state assumed oversight of the mill about two years ago, it has been difficult to find out what wastes were approved for recycling and storage at White Mesa.

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# OnEnergy

## Is Nuclear Energy the Solution?

by Naomi Franklin

**H**eads up for congressional hearings this Spring on the future of atomic energy in the US—and in the world. President Bush has been promoting a Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) ([www.gnep.energy.gov/](http://www.gnep.energy.gov/)) for which the US Congress has already allocated a multibillion-dollar package of nuclear incentives. Now at last congress is ready to consider whether this policy is desirable, whether \$250 millions more should be committed to this quest in 2007.

There are a few problems for the U.S. to overcome:

- 1) A looming energy deficit, as oil sources become depleted worldwide; A need to find energy sources that produce no greenhouse gases and therefore do not contribute to global warming;
- 2) A very large backlog of radioactive nuclear waste: the spent fuel rods from some 100+ nuclear plants that have been operating now for 30-50 years; also the demolition debris from these plants, now scheduled for decommissioning; and the waste from nuclear weapons manufacture;
- 3) The worldwide threat from groups and individuals, willing to serve their own interests by using nuclear materials for blackmail; and
- 4) A limited economic base, now deeply in the red.

Nuclear energy generation has the appeal that it emits no greenhouse gasses. Furthermore it might now be based upon the spent nuclear fuel waste that we would so like to dispose of, since that spent fuel can be reprocessed, removing the highly radioactive components and generating pure plutonium that is itself a nuclear fuel that can be used and reused in special fast-neutron reactors. The latter is a new generation reactor of much greater cost than the old light water reactors now in use.

Unhappily, reprocessing cannot neutralize radioactive waste, for which no geologically safe hole-in-the-earth has yet been created anywhere in the world. Both the 'hot' radioactive components of nuclear reactor waste and the 'cool' plutonium product are major biological hazards, inducing cancers and birth defects. The plutonium component is hard to detect, since it emits only low energy alpha particles; yet just a few pounds suffice to make an enormously destructive nuclear bomb, and only a few grains inhaled can corrupt a lung. Because plutonium is not easy to detect, it can be stolen and transported with impunity: a terrorist's dream. Thus the stuff of nuclear power is an ongoing hyper-hazardous material that cannot be neutralized. The more we move it around, the more we chemically manipulate it, the greater its spread and menace like a sticky bit of chewing gum—except that nuclear waste comes in mountain-loads.

For thirty years, the U.S. has pursued a course of limited uranium usage, allowing no reprocessing, precisely to forestall the generation of that major angel of death, plutonium. We have engaged 189 other nations in compliance with a Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT): only India, Pakistan, Israel and Cuba have abstained, and North Korea and Iran are considered to have violated. The acknowledged nuclear weapons states (U.S., U.K.,

Russia, China and France) are obligated to transfer no nuclear weapons or technology to any non-nuclear-weapon state. The latter agree not to acquire or produce nuclear weapons; they declare all nuclear materials in civilian facilities to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and are inspected by IAEA.

Now the Bush Administration is fostering a switcheroo: In the name of abundant, CO<sub>2</sub>-free energy, the GNEP proposes to facilitate nuclear energy use worldwide. Its

concept is to recycle existing nuclear reactor waste into a nuclear fuel that would not have weapons potential—but such a product is yet to be known. The recycled fuel would be supplied to non-nuclear countries, and the waste from their reactors would be returned to the provider nations for disposal, thus restricting nuclear reprocessing to the few nuclear weapons states. Such a program has been under consideration by IAEA, which recognizes the strict international monitoring that is an essential feature.

It was India that first corrupted the NPT thirty years ago, by taking material and means from the U.S. Atoms for Peace program to manufacture nuclear bombs. The nuclear pact offered by Bush to India during March 2006 would forgive that infraction, calling India a "responsible nuclear state." Unfortunately, to close this deal India is not required to sign the NPT, nor may they so long as they continue to produce weapons-grade material.

Nuclear energy could be  
abundant and CO<sub>2</sub>-free,  
but the costs needed for research  
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And the hidden costs to health  
and security are incalculable.

Furthermore a 1978 U.S. law bans our nuclear trade with nations that do not accept the safeguards established by the IAEA. Thus the Bush pact with India undermines the NPT treaty as well as IAEA authority.

Since the desired technical solution (nuclear fuel with no weapons potential) is not anticipated before many years, the proposed treaty with India is jumping the gun. The U.S. is also aggressively proceeding with both uranium enrichment (two private firms are building plants in New Mexico and in Ohio) and with reprocessing, for which a major facility is being built in South Carolina. In Utah we observe first hand through the aggressive advertising by Energy Solutions (nee Envirocare) that business interests see profits from expected increases in nuclear waste. Nuclear waste, however, is another unsolved aspect of accelerated nuclear energy production.

Thus the world is faced with difficult trade-offs in planning its energy future. Britain has called for eighteen months of deep analysis; the IAEA favors a 5-to-10-year moratorium for nuclear reprocessing. Yet the U.S. plunges ahead, without having held any public discussion.

Nuclear energy could be abundant and CO<sub>2</sub>-free, but the costs needed for research and new nuclear facilities are vast. And the hidden costs to health and security are incalculable. On the other side, great energy gains have been shown possible by increased efficiency and by development of the safe, renewable sources in wind, tides and sun. Could these suffice to power a world of insatiable appetites? Perhaps if the militarism could be curbed? If population size were held constant? If we could learn to husband, rather than plunder, the resources we have been given?

*Naomi Franklin has been an active member of the Utah Chapter's Conservation and Political Committees for several years.*

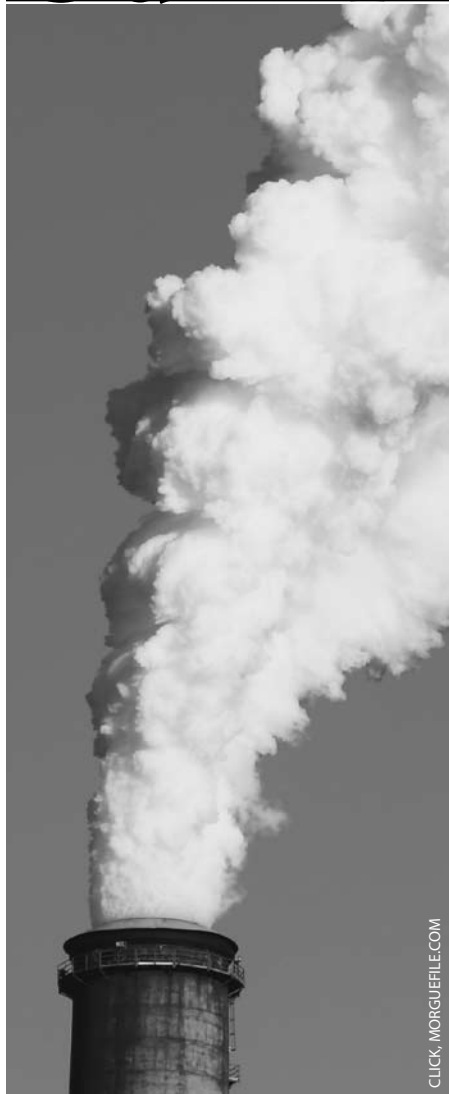
### NUCLEAR POWER: ON THE OTHER HAND...

**P**rofessor James Lovelock, author of *The Gaia Theory* and *The Ages of Gaia*, argues that greenhouse gases from fossil fuels constitute a much greater and more imminent danger to life on earth than the waste and by-products of the civilian nuclear power cycle. Lovelock summarized his position in a widely-read editorial in the UK's *Independent* newspaper in 2004. This article can be read on the web at <http://www.ecolo.org/media/articles/articles.in.english/love-indep-24-05-04.htm>. Lovelock, a fellow of the Royal Society, invented the electron capture detector and is currently Honorary Visiting Fellow at Green College, Oxford University.



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# OurAir



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## Clean Air Victory: Modern Controls Win

by Nina Dougherty

**O**n March 17, 2006, a federal court killed a Bush administration rule that would have sabotaged a key provision of the Clean Air Act. Agreeing with a number of states and a coalition of public health and environmental groups, the U.S. Court of Appeals ruled that a loophole the Bush administration adopted for the law's New Source Review (NSR) program would have allowed thousands of aging power plants and other industrial facilities to emit more air pollution, threatening the health of millions of Americans.

The court found that the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) loophole contradicted the purposes and plain language of the Clean Air Act. "Indeed," the court stated, "EPA's interpretation would produce a 'strange', if not 'indeterminate', result: a law intended to limit increases in air pollution would allow sources operating below applicable emission limits to increase significantly the pollution they emit without government review."

The rule would have allowed more than 20,000 power plants, refineries and other industrial facilities to replace existing

equipment with "functionally equivalent" equipment without undergoing the clean air reviews required by the new source review program if the cost of the replacement did not exceed 20 percent of that of the entire "process unit." This exemption would have applied even if a facility's air pollution increased by thousands or tens of thousands as a result of the replacement.

...the EPA's loophole contradicted the purposes and plain language of the Clean Air Act.

Many of the nation's older power plants have operated long beyond their expected lifespans, polluting at excessively high levels, largely because utilities have rebuilt these grandfathered plants over time. Often they modified these facilities in ways that increased air pollution without complying with New Source Review requirements to install modern emissions controls.

The Clean Air Act's new source review program was designed to curb air pollu-

tion from the old power plants and other industrial facilities by requiring them to install up-to-date pollution controls whenever they made physical or operational changes that increased air pollution. The court referred to the loophole as promulgated by EPA to provide a way "for stationary sources of air pollution to avoid triggering New Source Review."

### How does this victory affect Utah?

The Court of Appeals issued a stay in December 2003, which blocked EPA's loophole from taking effect. Utah did not include the vacated loophole in their recent New Source Review rulemaking.

### What would have happened if the pollution loophole were in effect?

It would be interesting to know why the Utah Attorney General's office joined Wyoming and some other states to support the EPA loophole. New Mexico and California were among the States opposing the provision, as was Calpine, a natural gas and co-generation company. Other western states apparently declined to participate in the lawsuit.

## CLEAN AIR BATTLE: Health Standards

by Nina Dougherty

**N**ew national air quality health standards (NAAQS) for particulate matter (PM), our devil in winter inversions, is a hot topic this year. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed lenient new standards in January with the comment period ending April 17. They are required to issue the final standards by September 2006. And then the lawsuits will probably begin, given that EPA, ignoring the conclusions of their Clean Air Advisory Committee (CASAC) experts and of their own scientific staff, proposed lax new standards with incomprehensible exemptions for pollution from mining and agricultural operations and for populations less than 100,000.

Harbinger of a rough road ahead—on April 3, 2006, two senior EPA officials recommended that EPA scientific staff no longer include specific recommendations for NAAQS. The staff paper has been used to turn scientific data into relevant policy suggestions. EPA mostly ignored the staff paper's conclusions in the current process.

NAAQS are to be set at levels that protect health with an adequate margin of safety for all the population, including groups of sensitive people. This didn't happen in 1997. EPA selected the laxest of the standards they were considering. Not long after the lenient 24 hour standard of 65 ug/m<sup>3</sup> (micrograms per cubic meter) was in effect, EPA required notification of

the vulnerable population to curtail activities when 24 hour averaged levels were 40 ug/m<sup>3</sup> or more.

### How will Utah be affected by change in standards?

EPA estimates that areas in Utah wouldn't meet the proposed PM<sub>2.5</sub> 24 hour standard of 35 ug/m<sup>3</sup> and would have to reduce pollution. See <http://www.epa.gov/air/particlepollution/actions.html>.

### How can we or other areas in the country reduce directly emitted or secondarily formed in the air from sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions?

"Controlling Fine Particulate Matter Under the Clean Air Act: A Menu of Op-

tions" a March, 2006, by STAPPA/ALA-PCO (State and Territorial Air Pollution and Program Administrators/Association of Local Air Pollution Control Officials) is a very useful publication available at <http://www.valleywatch.net/>.

### Additional important web sites:

[www.cleanairstandards.org](http://www.cleanairstandards.org)

American Lung Association site—all you want to know about NAAQS process, particulate matter and ozone and supporting health studies

[www.sierraclub.org/cleanair/soot/](http://www.sierraclub.org/cleanair/soot/)

### STANDARDS PROPOSED BY EPA AND PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS

	PM <sub>2.5</sub> (Particulate Matter 2.5 microns and less)	EPA	Health/ Environmental
24 hour		35 ug/m <sup>3</sup> (currently 65)	25
Annual average		15 (same as now)	12 or below
Days excused per year		2% of monitored days	1% of monitored days
	PM Coarse (10-2.5 micron) (replaces PM <sub>10</sub> )	EPA	Health/ Environmental
24 hour		70 ug/m <sup>3</sup>	25-30 ug/m <sup>3</sup>
Days excused per year		2% of monitored days	1% of monitored days

### OTHER EPA PROPOSED ASPECTS OF PM NAAQS

Proposed	Our Position
Mining and agricultural PM Coarse emissions exempted	<b>We oppose exemption</b>
PM Coarse NAAQS will only apply in areas with populations of 100,000 or more	<b>We oppose</b> - PM coarse should apply to all areas, urban and rural
"Visibility" standard, principally for urban areas. Considering range of 20-30 ug/m <sup>3</sup> of PM <sub>2.5</sub> . Averaged over 4 to 8 hours.	<b>We support 20 ug/m<sup>3</sup> PM<sub>2.5</sub> or lower averaged over 4 hours</b>





## The Right to Question

by Tim Wagner, Utah Smart Energy Campaign Coordinator

Should a local citizen's group have the legal right to challenge the actions of a state agency when such actions pose significant health and environmental risks to those citizens?

In our democratic form of government the answer to this question would be a no-brainer along with a big fat "YES!" Unfortunately the Utah Air Quality Board (AQB), the appointed body that oversees actions of the Division of Air Quality, may think otherwise.

In a potentially landmark case, that very question is now before the Utah Supreme Court. The issue stems from permits issued in October of 2004 by the Utah Division of Air Quality, that gave the regulatory green light to Intermountain Power Agency and NEVCO to construct two new proposed coal-fired power plants, in Delta and Sigurd respectively. The Utah Chapter and the Grand Canyon Trust immediately and jointly filed administrative appeals of those two permits with the Air Quality Board, questioning the division's decision on a variety of health and environmental issues.

In a surprising move, the board voted in 2005 to deny us legal standing saying, among other things that the Utah Chapter or the Grand Canyon Trust did not best represent those who may be affected by the proposed project. In effect the decision says, in the case of IPP for example, that the millions of tons of toxic pollutants emitted from those 700' tall stacks do not go beyond the Millard County line.

I could hear the AQB almost saying, "So

all you good folks in Salt Lake and Utah Counties 100 miles downwind, you got nothin' to worry about. But to those living in Millard County, we sure do hope you enjoy those coal plant jobs!"

The facts paint a far different picture, however. Emissions from coal-fired power plants happen to be the some the worst culprits in this nation when it comes to birth defects from mercury, respiratory illnesses and death, acid rain, and global warming, to name a few. In the case of IPP's proposed unit #3, here's what we can expect to be fanning out across our state, in one year: nearly 500 tons of particulate matter, over 3,500 tons of sulfur dioxide, nearly 2,800 tons of nitrogen oxide, nearly 6,000 tons of carbon monoxide, over 100 tons of ozone, and over 80 lbs of mercury. This is in addition to what we are already seeing from its two existing generating units of similar size.

And then there's carbon dioxide, the largest single source of greenhouse gas emissions and the scientifically documented principle cause of global warming. IPP's existing two units pumped out nearly 15 million tons (that's TONS!) of CO<sub>2</sub> in 2003, placing it 24 on the top 50 CO<sub>2</sub> emitters in the nation. To put that into perspective, that's roughly the same amount of CO<sub>2</sub> in one year from 2.6 million cars, which is about 900,000 more than all of the cars, trucks, and motorcycles registered in the entire state of Utah!

And the Air Quality Board doesn't think an organization with 5,000 members across the state has a legal standing to challenge these potential impacts. Does

Emissions from coal-fired power plants happen to be the some the worst culprits in this nation... And then there's carbon dioxide, the largest single source of greenhouse gas...

anyone see an injustice here? We did, which is why we appealed the board's decision to the Utah Court of Appeals. The court then certified the case up to the Utah Supreme Court, which heard oral arguments in late February. As of this writing, the court had not issued a ruling, but let's wish them wisdom in their decision making process.

While on the subject of global warming, the NEVCO coal-fired power plant pro-

posed near Sigurd in Sevier County is expected to release 2.2 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year. Failure to address that particular impact was one of nine separate points in our administrative appeal of that project's permit. But due to the Air Quality Board's denial of our standing on that case as well, and repetitive on their ruling of IPP, the division is again turning a blind eye to the most devastating environmental threat facing our planet.

The appeal of the NEVCO permit is far from over, however. While we await a decision from the court regarding our legal standing over our appeals of the permits, the board did grant standing to the Sevier Citizens for Clean Air and Water, and will hear their appeal on May 10 in Richfield. This will be a perfect opportunity for those concerned with another potential dirty coal-fired power plant in our midst to make their presence known. The hearing will be held at ????. Please consider attending this hearing so the Air Quality Board knows they cannot simply hide behind legal and regulatory double-speak when it comes to their responsibility to protect our health and environment.

Clean air and water are our two most very basic rights. When those two rights are put at risk by narrow definitions of already-lax regulations or laws in order to maximize investment returns for a few, it's not only your *right* to question such actions, it's your *responsibility* to do so, for our families and for our future.

# UtahPolicy

## Legislative Round-up

by Mark Clemens

Each general session of the Utah legislature holds the seeds of either environmental greatness or disaster. Rumors circulate of disastrous budget cuts and draconian bills. Sugarplums dance in the heads of pro-environmental lobbyists; perhaps this year we'll get a decent appropriation for the LeRay McAllister Open Space Fund. In Utah it seems too often to veer towards disaster, but this session didn't turn out too bad. For this we have to thank friends on both sides of the aisle.

What appeared at the beginning of the session to be the biggest ogre we would have to face during the session was Senate Bill 170. SB 170, sponsored by Alma Mansell (R-Sandy) would have eliminated planning and zoning in Utah. The stand-out provisions forbade cities from zoning to diminish congestion or sprawl, to protect hillsides, or to provide for density in one area different from contiguous areas; however, the more insidious effect was to change technical and procedural aspects of the law uniformly to favor any proposal brought forward by developers. With the passage of SB 170 cities would have been substantially unable to deny anything a developer dreamed up.

Mansell was reported saying that SB 170 was a "report card" prepared by developers. "I decided to put this out there and let the cities see how unhappy their customers are with them," Mansell said. [Salt Lake Tribune, 31 January 2006] No, you didn't read that last quote incorrectly. Mansell does believe that cities should be accountable to *developers*, not citizens.

### IMPROPER INFLUENCE?

Chris Kyler, registered to lobby for both the Salt Lake Board of Realtors and the Utah Association of Realtors, was quoted with great authority about what the bill was going to contain and what it was intended to do. Neither Kyler nor Mansell took any trouble to disguise the fact that the most extreme faction of developers and their registered lobbyists wrote the bill and its watered-down successors: SB 267 and SB 268.

Environmental organizations and the Utah League of Cities and Towns were among the many groups that opposed his bill. Save Our Canyons and the Utah Chapter teamed up to issue a press release alerting the public to its dangers.

Although Mansell, himself a realtor, abandoned the bill after several weeks and conceded that parts of the legislation were "over the top," the sour smell of conflict of interest hung over the whole debate. Mansell, who stepped down as president of the Utah Senate after the 2005 session to serve as president of the National Realtors Association, is not running for re-election in 2006 so perhaps he's just indifferent to how corrupt his behavior appeared.

As the session progressed, the more pressing threat was clearly a trio of bills that would have denied Utahns their day in court. House Bill 100, sponsored by Rep Aaron Tilton (R-Springville), would have required organizations appealing for a stay or an injunction in either state or federal court under a long list of environmental protection statutes—including the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act—to post a bond equal to the putative losses incurred as a result of the stay. Its homely siblings, HB 259 and HB 335, would have imposed similar bonding requirements on organizations appealing any decision of the Air Quality Board or the Radiation Control Board.

Of the three, only HB 100 survived the senate. Whether we attribute the failure of the other two to the superior wisdom of the solons of the upper house or friction between the leadership of the house and the new senate president is a matter of personal taste and judgment.

### VETO GLORY HALLELUJAH

Governor Huntsman vetoed HB 100. Huntsman also vetoed Senate Bill 70 which would have limited his own authority to influence future decisions about importing hotter classes of low-level nuclear waste. Governor Huntsman reminded us (if that were necessary) of the virtues of checks and balances.

It wasn't only the bad that fell by the wayside unfortunately. Rep Craig Buttars (R-Logan) introduced his very modest open space bill that would have allowed a handful of smaller counties to decide—only after a popular vote—to increase sales taxes slightly to pay for protection of agricultural lands and watershed. Buttars has introduced this narrowly-crafted bill for at least three sessions. This session it actually passed out of committee but failed in the house. Alas Buttars has decided not to run for re-election so this bill is orphaned for the time being.

And even from a \$1 billion surplus, the legislature could find no more than \$1 million for the LeRay McAllister Open Space Fund that was originally projected to be funded with at least \$3 million per year.

### ENVIRONMENTAL HEROES

Rep Sheryl Allen (R-Bountiful) introduced an extension of the renewable energy tax credit that will expire at the end of 2006. The credit supports a range of renewable energy installations in both commercial and residential settings. The credit fell victim to the uncertainty surrounding tax reform this session. Allen was also one of several Republicans who voted against Tilton's unconstitutional bills.

Proving once again that even the best idea should be rejected at least two or three times before it's adopted, the senate voted down Sen Scott McCoy (D-Salt Lake City)



Sen Scott McCoy  
(D-Salt Lake City)

moratorium on the disposal of electronic waste after 2007. (Rep Ralph Becker has tried similar legislation in the house.) McCoy watered it down to a task force to study electronic waste disposal, but the amended legislation died in the senate during the last hours.

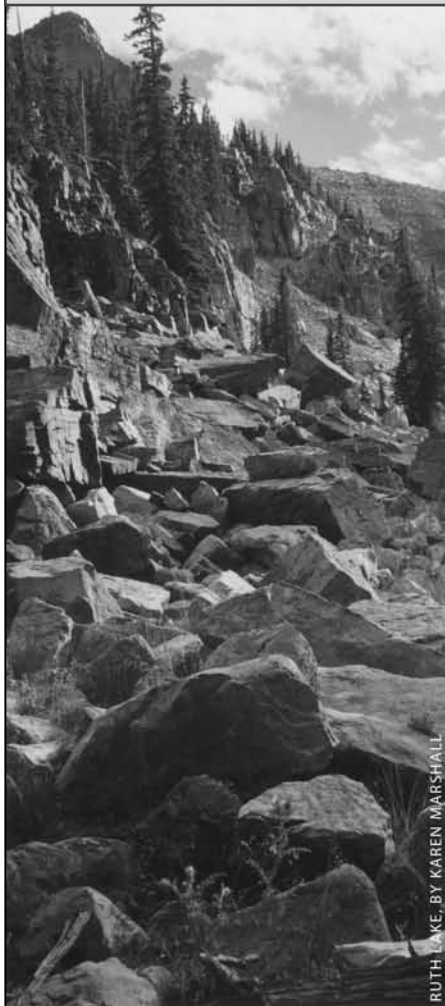
McCoy is one of four senators with perfect scores on the legislative scorecards. Six representatives share the same honor. The complete scorecards for the 2006 General Session and several past sessions are also available on the chapter website, <http://utah.sierraclub.org/legislative.asp>.

Progressive environmental legislation did come out of this session. Rep Ronda Menlove (R-Garland) took a swipe at Utah's mercury crisis with House Bill 138 that mandates the removal of mercury switches from junked automobiles. And we took a small step forward towards energy efficiency with Rep Fred Hunsaker's (R-Logan) HB 80 that establishes procedures for saving energy in state buildings and recommends energy-saving devices and appliances.

With deep regret, I have to report the retirement of two senators who have scored one hundred percent for several years running, Patrice Arent and Karen Hale. Arent and Hale have served with integrity, perseverance and grace. The upper house won't be the same without them.



Rep Sheryl Allen (R-Bountiful)



RUTH LAKE, BY KAREN MARSHALL

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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



# Utah Senate Scorecard

2006 GENERAL SESSION

0=ABSENT | 1=YEA | 2=NEA

SENATOR	HB 45	HB 47	HB 80	HB 100	HB 138	SB 70	SB 215	CORRECT VOTE TOTAL	ABSENCE COUNT	AVERAGE
<b>CORRECT VOTE =</b>	2	2	1	2	1	2	1			
ARENT	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	7	0	100%
BELL	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	2	1	33%
CHRISTENSEN	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	0	43%
BRAMBLE	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	0	29%
BUTTARS	0	1	1	0	1	0	2	2	3	50%
DAVIS	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	4	0	57%
DMITRICH	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	0	43%
EASTMAN	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	0	29%
EVANS, B	0	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	33%
FIFE	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	7	0	100%
GOODFELLOW	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	5	0	71%
HALE	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	7	0	100%
HATCH	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	2	1	33%
HELLEWELL	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	0	43%
HICKMAN	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	50%
HILLYARD	1	0	1	2	0	2	0	3	3	75%
JENKINS	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	0	43%
KILLPACK	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	50%
KNUDSON	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	0	43%
MADSEN	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	0	43%
MANSELL	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	0	29%
MAYNE	2	1	1	2	1	2	1	6	0	86%
MCCOY	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	7	0	100%
PETERSON	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	2	1	33%
STEPHENSON	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	3	0	43%
THOMAS	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	0	43%
VALENTINE	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	0	29%
WADDOUPS	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	0	43%
WALKER	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	0	43%
<b>CORRECT VOTE =</b>	2	2	1	2	1	2	1			

HB 45	Bear River Development Act allows diversion of water from the Bear River to several northern Utah counties. This water is not needed in the foreseeable future & would devastate the Bear River refuge.
HB 47 S1	Sales Tax Diversion for Water Projects increases the amount of sales tax diverted into a fund to pay for water projects such as the Bear River & Lake Powell pipelines. The first substitute of this bill passed.
HB 80	Energy Savings in State Buildings establishes procedures for saving energy in state buildings, sets goals for each department and recommends the use of energy-saving devices and appliances.
HB 100 S1	Environmental Litigation Bond requires organizations to post a bond if they appeal a decision & ask for a stay or injunction under a number of statutes such as the Clean Water Act. The first substitute passed.
HB 138 S1	Mercury Switch Removal Act requires auto manufacturers to create a plan to recover mercury switches from junked cars and requires them to re-imburse \$5 for each switch removed by car crushers, etc.
SB 70	Process for Approval of Waste Disposal Amendments would have eliminated the governor's authority to veto an approval for importing more intensely classes of radioactive waste. Governor Huntsman vetoed it.
SB 215	Electronic Waste Task Force would have established a legislative task force to investigate safer ways to dismantle & dispose of electronic waste. The bill failed for lack of time.



# Utah Chapter Funding



TALIESIN.MORQUEFILE.COM

Treasure Mountain Inn and Conference Center in Park City has been a major supporter of the Utah Chapter 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.

Alan P Agle	Robert Kirby
Ken Anderson	Steve Krueger
James M Banner	David Polster
Dick Brandt	Janiece Pompa
Russ Chase	Eric Rickart
Dale Davis	Guy R Toombes III
Jan Hull	Teri Underwood
Birgitta Johnsson	Jean Anne Waterstradt
Barb King & Randy Tucker	Patricia L Whalen
Clark & Cindy King	

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 chapter would like to acknowledge generous gifts from Al & Mary Herring and Ken Johnsen in support of the Utah Smart Energy Campaign.**

**Keith & Carlita Hilton donated to the chapter in memory of Francis Zimbeaux.**



*The Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club thanks 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 2005.*



# Volunteer Spotlight

## Jean and Mike Binyon: UTILITY PLAYERS PAR EXCELLENCE

by Mark Clemens

Between them Jean and Mike Binyon have held virtually every volunteer position in the Utah Chapter and its groups: chapter chair, recording secretary, treasurer, conservation chair, committee chair, group chair and outings leader. And this dedication has extended over decades. Jean served as chapter chair during the 1980s and then again in 2003. They've distinguished each term in office with intelligence, hard work and innovative ideas.

For several years they served as chairs, primary propulsion and organizing principals in the chapter's legislative (Jean) and political (Mike) committees. Their expertise was invaluable not only in making these committees effective but also in providing institutional memory—an especially important function in political and legislative matters.

This recitation of functions filled seems dry as dust, but a conversation with the Binyons is anything but. They're full of pepper, passion and strong opinions, and they've always put that enthusiasm to work in the service of important conservation campaigns. Jean's attention to detail and Mike's

zeal have been important factors in the Glen Canyon Group's successful drive to get the Atlas Uranium Mill tailings moved from the bank of the Colorado River, and now Mike helps kindle the passion of new wilderness advocates by leading outings for the Glen Canyon Group to into the wilderness fastness around Moab.

The Binyons' universal curiosity keeps them in motion in redrock de-files on the Colorado Plateau and on steep hillsides in Nepal. They try to understand the culture and art as well as the topography of the places they visit, and their house contains selected art and mementos from around the world—a more elegant token of their travels than the old-fashioned steamer trunk plastered with place labels. Two of their passions, opera and art history, dictate the next stop: northern Italy and Tuscany.



Mike and Jean Binyon cling to the ne plus ultra of North America at Cape Spear, Newfoundland.



continued from page 1

**Zion Wilderness Bill Miscarries**

a new highway, a new utility corridor and new water developments that would make the habitat considerably less congenial to the tortoise. Approximately 3,950 acres would be lost under the draft legislation.

**OTHER PROVISIONS**

Other provisions of the bill are a grab bag of good and bad policy. The bill would designate the Virgin River as the state's first Wild and Scenic River. Matheson and Bennett's draft bill also mandates the disposal of up to 25,000 acres of publicly-owned land through sales—one of the most objectionable parts of the draft bill. Already 13,000 acres of public land have been sold off as part of the normal land disposal process authorized by the Federal Land Policy Act of 1976 (FLPMA). The bill's proposed sales would come in addition to outright giveaways of land to local government entities in Washington County.

The proceeds from the sale of public lands would be spent for a little bit of everybody's agendas, including

- a new High Desert Off-Highway Vehicle Trail,
- trail-building in Dixie National Forest,
- facilities in Zion National Park,
- acquisition of Dwarf bearclaw poppy habitat on state-owned land,
- acquisition of conservation easements on private property in the headwaters of the Virgin River, and
- building new water infrastructure for the Washington County Water Conservancy District,

among other things.

As the draft bill stands, we cannot support it. The wilderness acreage is too stingy, and the growth-management provisions, namely new highways and water pipelines, stoke sprawling, unplanned growth rather than guiding it. And fundamentally we cannot support legislation that would undermine critical habitat protections for the endangered desert tortoise—agreed after difficult and prolonged negotiations. 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>.

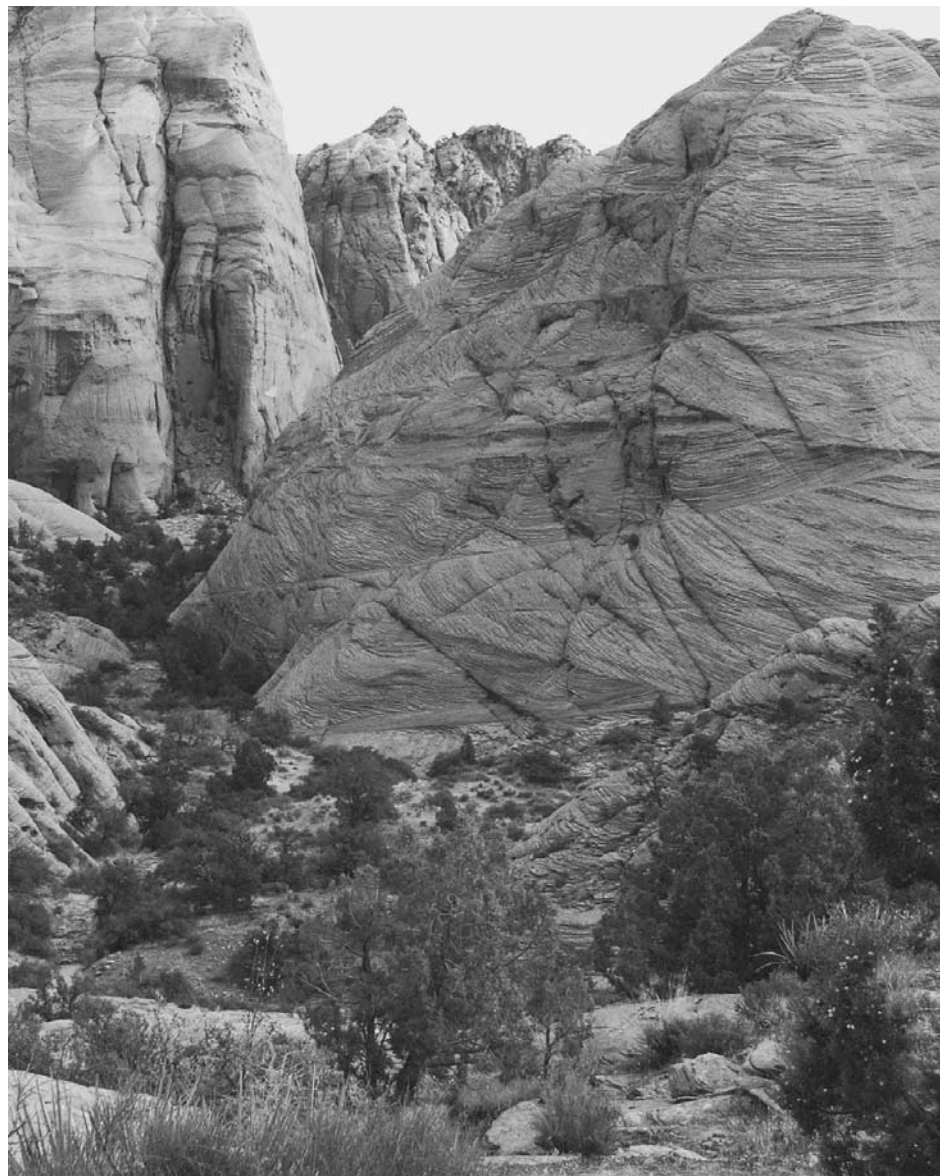
Please contact Senator Bennett and Representative Matheson to tell them the bill language must be amended before it can be passed. Matheson has set up a page on his website specifically for taking comments on the proposed Washington County bill. Check it out at [http://www.house.gov/matheson/info\\_draft-bill.shtml](http://www.house.gov/matheson/info_draft-bill.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.

Or write to:  
 Rep Jim Matheson  
 1222 Longworth HOB  
 Washington DC 20515

Bennett accepts e-mail comments at [http://www.bennett.senate.gov/contact/email\\_opinion.cfm](http://www.bennett.senate.gov/contact/email_opinion.cfm). His address is:

Senator Bob Bennett  
 431 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
 Washington DC 20510



Pot Canyon in Red Cliffs Habitat Reserve.

**PARK CITY SUMMER SOCIAL**

Join Utah Chapter members and leaders for a summer social in Park City. Treasure Mountain Inn has kindly offered to host us from 10 am to noon on July 8th, 2006. We'll discuss conservation issue in Park City and Summit County in a relaxed atmosphere. Come renew acquaintances with old friends and meet new ones! Treasure Mountain Inn is at 255 Main Street in Park City. For directions, check out <http://www.treasuremountaininn.com/maps.htm>.

The Utah Chapter Executive Committee will be meeting afterwards from 1:30 to 5 pm, also at Treasure Mountain Inn. All members are welcome to attend that meeting too.

**JOIN US!**

Please bring a friend and join the Sierra Club for an evening of socializing and programs.

Wednesday, May 17th, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.  
 Elliot Hall, First Unitarian Church  
 569 South 1300 East

Meet new members and fellow activists, learn the highlights about the Chapter's newest environmental campaigns and how you can make a difference!

- Utah Global Warming Initiative
- Smart Energy vs more dirty coal
- Cool Cities and East-West TRAX vs sprawl & congestion

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.

Sponsored by the Salt Lake Group of the Sierra Club.

**6TH BIENNIAL GREAT SALT LAKE ISSUES FORUM**  
 SALT LAKE CITY & BRIGHAM CITY, UT - MAY 4, 5, & 6, 2006



Great Blue Heron by Art Morris

**RANGE-WIDE MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION  
 AND GREAT SALT LAKE'S ROLE IN  
 LINKING PARTNERSHIPS WITHIN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE**

Join Friends of the Great Salt Lake for a hemispheric perspective about ongoing efforts to promote migratory bird and habitat conservation in Canada, Mexico and the United States. Learn about the research and community efforts to fulfill the promise that habitats will be there when the migratory birds arrive.

**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:**

- Brad Andres, *USFWS National Shorebird Coordinator*
- Ian Davidson, *South American Coordinator for Bird Life International*
- Charles Duncan, *Director WHSRN Executive Office*

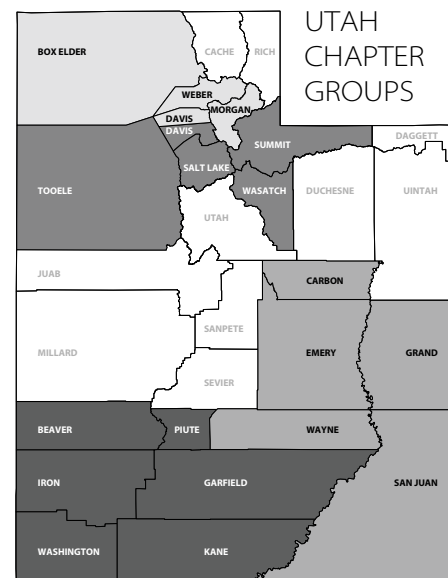
MORE DETAILS AVAILABLE AT [WWW.FOGSL.ORG](http://WWW.FOGSL.ORG), OR CALL 801-5593.



# 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](http://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](http://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.

**MAY**  
**SLG, Tues, 5/2, Leader's Choice Hike.** An after-work hike on a nearby lower elevation trail, the living room above Red Butte Gardens is one of many nearby possibilities. Destination determined by weather and trail conditions. Call Dee (718-1970) For meeting time, place, destination, and other info.

**GCG, Sat, 5/6, Hike in Nash Wash, Book Cliffs.** 7-8 miles easy walking on a seldom-used road up a canyon with abundant trees and a perennial stream at 5700'. The canyon, in the heart of winter range for Book Cliffs deer, is managed for wildlife protection. We hope to see spring foliage. Meet 8AM at Star Hall. The trailhead is about 90 minutes from Moab. Bring lunch and plenty of water. For details contact Mike Binyon, 435/259-1633 [C]

**SLG, Sun, 5/7, City Creek Bike Ride.** A great venue for a leisurely mid spring ride up one of Utah's most scenic canyons, a recreational

paradise void of motorized traffic. The ride through City Creek Nature Preserve is about 5 3/4 miles long with about 1500 feet of elevation gain. The ride will begin in Salt Lake City within a few miles of the canyon. Call Tim (484-4334) for meeting time, place, and other info

**SLG, Tues, 5/09, Tuesday Night Hike on Jordan River Parkway.** Enjoy an easy hike on a section of the Jordan River Parkway trail in Salt Lake City. The trail is paved, flat; and hiking boots are not required. The trail serves as a pleasant riparian sanctuary in the middle of the urban environs of the Salt Lake Valley. Meet 6:30pm at the Jordan Park pavilion, 1100 West & Fremont Avenue, Salt Lake City. Call Ann (585-3296) for info about the hike. [C]

**OG, Weds, 5/10, Evening hike on the Bonneville Shoreline Trail.** Join us for a hike along the Bonneville Shoreline Trail. We'll view Ogden and Weber County night lights. The hike is about 2 hours, approx. 3 to 4 miles. Call Larry Woolsey, 731-3701

**OG, Sat, 5/13, Faust Valley Bike Loop.** A 30 mile bike ride almost totally traffic free in Box Elder County. Flat except for a 1,100' climb over Blue Spring Hills. Good view at the top. We will stop at an interesting private, folk art park. Bring snacks. See Ogden Area Outings Guide, 2004 ed., p.98, for full description. Meet at Ogden High School, 9 am. Jock Glidden. 394-0457

**SLG, Tues, 5/16, Tuesday Night Hike on Parleys Railroad Trail.** Led by a veteran leader and wildflower expert, this is an excellent hike to kick off the Tuesday Night hiking season. The flowers will be blooming and the evening sun shining for hikers anxious to enjoy a mid spring hike on a trail not far from the city. Meeting place is the east part of the K-Mart parking lot on Foothill Drive and Parleys Way at 6:30 pm. Call Ron Younger (292-4040) for info. [E]

**GCG, Tues-Wed, 5/16&17, Arch Canyon Hike and Car Camp.** Meet at 4pm on Tuesday May 16th at Star Hall, Moab, to caravan to a campsite near Arch Canyon-- about a 2-hour drive. Spend Wednesday the 17th hiking in Arch Canyon and either return that night or camp a second night. The hike is pretty easy, the difficulty determined by how far we want to hike in the canyon. Cathedral Arch is 6 or 7 miles up the canyon. Call Mike Binyon, 435/259-1633, for more information.

**OG, Sat, 5/20, A Reckoning for Dyer's Woad Project.** Come take out your aggression on Dyer's woad, our area's most notorious noxious weed. Our goal will be to protect native vegetation by containing Dyer's woad invasions and preventing them from spreading. Location will depend on conditions--probably somewhere on Ogden's

east bench. We'll start at 9 am and finish by noon. Call leader Dan Schroeder (393-4603) for meeting place and other details. [S]

**SLG, Sun, 5/21, Cycling Utah County.** Although Utah County has experienced tremendous growth and development in recent years, there are still plenty of excellent cycling trails running through old quiet towns and wooded neighborhoods. The proposed route is the Alpine City area near American Fork Canyon. Enjoy great cycling weather and good company. Road or mountain bikes are welcome; call Ken (484-3112) for meeting time, place, and info.

**SLG, Tues, 5/23, Tuesday Night Hike to Davis County Overlook.** An opportunity for spectacular views of both Salt Lake and Davis counties. The hike will begin at the mouth of Citycreek Canyon just behind the state Capital and continue to the Davis County Overlook, approximately 4 miles and 1000' of elevation gain. Bring water, snacks, and lights in case the hike extends beyond dusk. Meeting place is Popperton Park at the northeast corner of 11th Avenue and Virginia Street, across the street from the Shriners Hospital at 6:30 pm. Call Ken (484-3112) for info about the hike.

**SLG, 5/27 to 5/29, Memorial Day Russian Olive Appreciation.** Special Memorial Day outing opportunity in southern Utah! Join Utah Chapter and Utah Wilderness Task Force volunteers on a service trip in Harris Wash, a tributary of the Escalante River, with famed National Park Service Ranger Bill Wolverton to help win his war against Russian olive. Please check out [http://www.utah.sierraclub.org/Mday\\_esc\\_so.asp](http://www.utah.sierraclub.org/Mday_esc_so.asp) for details. [S]

**SLG, Tues, 5/30 Tuesday Night Hike in Heughs Canyon.** The trailhead is only a few minutes from the freeway and in close proximity to hillside housing. But noise and houses quickly fade as the trail winds through a narrow oak wooded canyon where jagged multi-colored peaks and a quiet stream belie the beauty of the forest beside the beast of urban clutter. This has become one of the most popular hikes of the summer season. Meeting place is the Skyline High School parking lot at 6:30 pm. Call Dee (718-1970) for info.

# UtahChapterDirectory

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 Rane Johnson .....raneejohnson\_27@msn.com  
 Kathleen Jones, secretary .....galbuplace@yahoo.com  
 Gordon Lind .....gordylind8@cs.com, (801) 571-4185  
 Lois Mansfield .....lem@virginia.edu  
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 Ann Wechsler, Salt Lake Group .....awechsler@sa.utah.edu, (801) 583-2090  
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 Kathleen Jones, political/leg co-chair .....galbuplace@yahoo.com

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 Lawson LeGate, Wilderness, Public Lands .....Lawson.legate@sierraclub.org, (801) 467-9294



## JUNE

**GCG, Sat 6/3, Great Wall, Arches NP.** An easy hike with very little uphill including a very easy scramble down some ledges. About 3 to 4 miles depending on side trips to the rim. We'll start near Balanced Rock and exit near the Courthouse Wash bridge. A short car shuttle is required. Meet at Star Hall at 8 AM. For details, call Ed Brandstetter 435/ 259-9427.

**OG, Sat, 6/3, Mantua Mountain Bike Loop.** Spring mountain biking doesn't get any better than this. Starting in Mantua, we'll make an all-day, 25-mile tour through forests and flower-speckled meadows on both public and private land. This route is at the heart of a controversy in which federal, state, and local governments are attempting to force private landowners to open their lands to off-road vehicle use. The affected landowners have generously given us permission for this tour, and most of the Forest Service areas should still be closed to motorized use for the wet season. The route is on roads and double-track trails, but parts of it are steep and rough. We'll take our time but good endurance is a must. Contact leader Dan Schroeder (801-393-4603) for details. If it's too muddy on the 3rd, we'll postpone the outing a week or more. [C]

**SLG, Tues, 6/6, Tuesday Night Leaders Choice Hike in BCC.** Although the hiking venue has yet to be determined, expect a great hike in the glaciated grandeur of Big Cottonwood Canyon. There are abundant hiking possibilities and trekkers will enjoy the evening hike wherever the hike may be. Meeting place is the Big Cottonwood Canyon Park & Ride at 6:30 pm. Call Jan (712-8956) for info.

**SLG, 6/8 to 6/14, Escalante Base and Backpack.** Join in for a cooperative base camp and perhaps one to two overnight trips into the Canyons of the Escalante. We hope to visit the last known camp of Everett Ruess, a dauntless wanderer, adventurer, and artist who loved and sought out the wild places of the Colorado Plateau. In 1934, at the age of twenty, he disappeared in the Escalante canyons. Options include hikes into Coyote Gulch, to Nemo Arch in Davis Canyon, a loop through 40-mile to Willow Gulch, etc. This is a co-adventurer trip. The trip size limit is 6. Respond before May 28th to Kathleen or Rob at 801-485-3262 or email at wildvagabond@yahoo.com

**OG, Sat, 6/10, Adams Canyon Day Hike.** Hike up this scenic canyon to a 30' waterfall. It's 4 to 5 miles round trip with a 1300' elevation gain. See great views of Davis County on the hike out. Call Larry Woolsey, 731-3701

**SLG, Tues, 6/13, Tuesday Night Hike in Millcreek Canyon.** The leader will choose the trail at the meeting place. Either choice will offer a moderate but invigorating hike through the emerald alpine ambiance of Millcreek Canyon. Meeting place is the Skyline High parking lot at 6:30 pm. Call Tim (484-4334) for info.

**OG, Sun, 6/18, Malans Basin Hike.** Starting from 29th Street trailhead, we will climb up to Malans Peak & Malans Basin. The hike will be approx. 6 miles round trip with a steep 2100' elevation gain. This popular hiking destination above Ogden may become the site of a resort and aerial tramway. As of this scheduling, public access has not been restricted. Could this be your last chance to see this area in a natural setting? Contact John Besbekos, 985-6854. [C]

**OG, Tues, 6/20, Evening Hike in Hidden Valley.** 4.5 miles round trip from the 22nd Street trailhead. Plan on a moderately strenuous hike that gains 2100 ft in elevation as it winds up along hillsides to an overlook above Taylor Canyon. Call Rane Johnson, 985-0158

**SLG, Tues, 6/20, Tuesday Night Hike to Mt Wire.** The trail to Mt Wire begins at the mouth of Emigration Canyon and leads to microwave towers and an old abandoned fire watch station. Although strenuous the turnaround point offers panoramic views of the Salt Lake valley and copious amounts of beautiful blooming wildflowers. Bring extra water, snacks, and lights for after dark. Meeting place is the park parking lot east (across the street) of the Hogle Zoo parking lot. Call Rebecca (487-4160) for info.

**OG, 6/23-6/25, Car camping/Day hiking in the Deeps.** You are invited to join Al and Mary Herring on a car camping expedition to the Deep Creek Mountains of far western Utah. During the days we will hike into the wilderness study area to enjoy the scenery and wildlife. During the evenings we will socialize and talk about why this special region is worthy of wilderness protection. Participants are requested to contact the Herrings at (801) 444-9574 or al.mary.herring@worldnet.att.net\_by no later than June 21 to reserve a spot and get trip details. [C]

**SLG, Tues, 6/27, Tuesday Night Hike to Katherines Pass.** Celebrate the passing of the solstice with a hike up one of the premier trails of Little Cottonwood Canyon. The views are spectacular, wildlife abounds, and lively company will grace this relaxing summer excursion. Meeting place is the Little Cottonwood park and ride at 6:30 pm. Call Dee (718-1970) for info.

## JULY

**SLG, 7/10 to 7/16, Hendrys Canyon Backpack.** Join in for an exploratory ramble and traverse from Hendrys Canyon on the east side of the Mt Moriah Wilderness in Nevada, over The Table (combined with a walk about of Mt. Moriah, 12,067'), and down Big Canyon on the west side of the Snake Range. Before and after the backpack, we will search for elusive natural arches in the area. The Hendrys trail climbs from 6000 feet through a diversity of tree species along a rare stream. The Table is a unique two-square mile plateau at 11,000 feet and is home to ancient Bristlecone pines and many colorful wildflowers. The trip size limit is 6. This is a co-adventurer trip. Respond before July 1st to Kathleen or Rob at 801/485-3262 or email at wildvagabond@yahoo.com.

**SLG, Tues, 7/11, Tuesday Night Hike to Big Mountain.** Beginning at the Big Mountain Summit trailhead in East Canyon, this hike is the leader's favorite Tuesday hike, and for good reason. The trail passes through groves of oak, aspen, & pine stands & gentle rolling terrain spotted with colorful wildflowers. Round trip distance is about 5 1/2 miles and about 750 feet total elevation gain. Meet 6:30pm at the east part of the K-Mart parking lot. Bring lights for after dusk. Call Debbie (435-830-9021) for info.

**OG, Sat, 7/15, Day Hike Lewis Peak from North Ogden Pass.** This hike will be 10 miles round trip with a 2300' elevation gain. Most of the hard climb is done in the first mile, the rest of the trail is rolling terrain along the ridge with 360 degree views of Mount Ogden, Great Salt Lake, Ben Lomond Peak, and Ogden Valley. For meeting place and time contact: John Besbekos, 985-6854.



RON YOUNGER

# win a backcountry guide

**JANUARY 8, 2006: Sunday snowshoers at North Fork Provo River (Uintas) trailhead. Be the first (before May 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.**

## AUGUST

**OG, Tues 8/1, Evening Hike on the Indian Trail.** We'll meet at the 22nd Street trailhead and shuttle cars to the Ogden Canyon trail head. This trail is well shaded at the start and temperatures should drop by the time we reach the open area closer to 22nd Street. Plan on a pleasant break from the summer heat. Call Rane Johnson, 985-0158

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

**SLG Tues, 8/8 Tuesday Night Hike in Greens Basin.** The trail begins at the Spruces Campground in BCC and winds through an enchanted forest of tall pines and lush emerald foliage to the destination, an open meadow. Meeting place is the Big Cottonwood Canyon park & ride at 6:30 pm. Bring plenty of water and lights for after dusk. Call Margaret (292-7602) for info.

**OG, Sat, 8/12, Island Lake Loop Day Hike.** Expect 8-9 miles, 700' elevation gain, and approx. 6 hours for this hike in the Uinta Mountains. Most of the trail is above 10,000' in elevation. The hike and travel time will make take up most of the day. Call Larry Woolsey, 731-3701

**GCG, Sat 7/15, Manns Peak.** A hike from Warner Lake to Burro Pass and Manns Peak. About 8 miles round trip, 2800' elevation gain. Escape the heat and get fine views of the northern La Sals and the canyon country to the west. Good footing all the way. Last 1000' from Burro Pass to the peak is steep and unrelenting--pretend you're admiring the view while you stop and wheeze. Meet at Star Hall at 8 AM. Contact Tom Messenger 435/259-1756.

**SLG, Sun 7/16, Broads Fork Meadow.** Enjoy a moderately paced hike in a cool glaciated section of Big Cottonwood Canyon. The meadow is surrounded by Twin, Dromedary & Sunrise Peaks. Expect a 5 mile round-trip distance with an elevation gain of just over 2000'. Bring plenty of water & snacks & other essentials for a moderately paced day hike in the mountains. Call Margaret, 801/292-7602.

**SLG, Tues 7/18, Tuesday Night Hike to Mineral Fork.** The trail is just above the S-Curve in Big Cottonwood Canyon. The hike will follow an old mining road & offers great views of the surrounding peaks. Bring flashlights for after dusk. Meet 6:30 pm at Big Cottonwood Canyon Park & Ride at the mouth of the canyon. Call Margaret (801-292-7602) for info.

**OG, Sat, 7/22, Day Hike in Logan Canyon.** You must see this 4-star hike in Logan Canyon. The hike will be 6.6 miles round trip. Expect about 4 1/2 hours. See wildflowers and a scenic alpine lake. Call Larry Woolsey, 731-3701

**SLG, Tues 7/25, Tuesday Night Hike in Bells Canyon.** Although strenuous, the natural beauty of this area near Little Cottonwood Canyon is well worth the effort. The trail winds pass a couple reservoirs, crashing waterfalls, and abundant wildflowers line the path all along the way. Bring lights for after dusk. Meet at Little Cottonwood Canyon park & ride. Call Rebecca (487-4160).



# service & adventure

MEMORIAL DAY 2006

## Russian Olive Appreciation Festival

**S**pecial Memorial Day outing opportunity in southern Utah! Join Utah Chapter and Utah Wilderness Task Force volunteers on a service trip in Harris Wash, a tributary of the Escalante River, with famed National Park Service Ranger Bill Wolverton to help win his war against Russian olive.

What, again!? You bet! Fun, frolic and useful work, all in a gorgeous late-spring redrock setting. It doesn't get much better than this, friends.

This outing offers (optional) central commissary dinners and breakfasts (2 of each) by Utah Task Force member Vicky Hoover, for a total cost of \$12 per person; participants must bring own eating utensils and three lunches, plus of course, backpacks (spacious enough to hold a share of the central commissary), and personal camping gear. Also bring STURDY, heavyweight work gloves (Russian olive has sharp thorns!) Even knee pads have proved useful.

Participants will meet at 9:30 am on Saturday, May 27, at the Grand Staircase Escalante Visitor Center in Escalante, Utah. From there, we'll caravan to the trailhead, which is about 20 miles from Escalante, including about 15 miles of dirt road driving, the last few miles on



a rough dirt road for high clearance vehicles only.

At the trailhead, commissary loads will be distributed, and we'll start our 3.5 mile backpack into Harris Wash, with some walking in and out of the creek; wading shoes may be appropriate.

Once at our campsite, a spectacular redrock overhang some 200 yards from the creek itself, we'll set up camp and give battle to Russian olive in the after-

noon. Olive Sunday, work on the R.O. Then on Monday, the 29th, backpack out again, and head home.

### NOTE:

Rubber boots or at least very sturdy leather ones will be useful, as there will be some shallow wading in Harris Wash. Also, participants will need a good stout pair of all leather gloves. Work will involve lopping and clipping relatively small Russian olive growth and immediately applying garlon

Fun, frolic and useful work, all in a gorgeous late-spring redrock setting.

VICKY HOOVER

herbicide(provided by NPS) with a hand-trigger sprayer (also provided) to the newly-cut surfaces, plus clearing and stacking the cut branches, in preparation for later heavy-duty chainsawing of the larger trees. Pruning saws and loppers will be provided, but if you have loppers of your own, you could bring them as a few extras would be desirable.

### RESPOND TO:

**Jim Catlin**  
jamesc@xmission.com

OR

**Vicky Hoover**  
vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org

## Spring Forest Route Workshop

**W**ould you like to hike and explore the local mountains and at the same time, make a difference?

This is your chance to learn how.

Two workshops (in Ogden and Logan) will teach citizens like you how to document recreational impacts in our National Forests.

Citizen-volunteers will walk local Forest Service routes and when they witness impacts such as unauthorized roads, severe rutting, and dispersed camping damage, take digital photos and GPS (Global Positioning System) waypoints.

The resulting information will be entered into an online database developed by Great Old Broads for Wilderness. The data will be available for sci-

entists who will analyze and assess the impacts of various uses in the context of the broader forest landscape. This is a very powerful tool, and your contribution to this process can make a meaningful difference in the future condition of our local forests.

The workshop will include a 2-hour class session and an afternoon field trip to practice data collection skills. The workshop will cover the use of GPS units and what type of impacts to photograph. There will be extra cameras and GPS units available.

If you, your organization, or others are interested in attending, please contact Dan Miller at (435) 258-4432 or Dmill235@aol.com to reserve a space.

Workshops are sponsored by Bear River Watershed Council, the Ogden

Group of the Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club, Great Old Broads for Wilderness, and Wild Utah Project.

### OGDEN

Saturday, May 13, 2006  
Ogden Nature Center  
966 W. 12th St.

### LOGAN

Saturday, June 3, 2006  
Edith Bowen Elementary Laboratory School on the USU Campus

10:00 AM	Class
12:00 PM	Bring your own lunch (fruit & juice provided)
1:00 PM to 5:00 PM	Field Workshop

For more information, visit [www.BRWCouncil.org](http://www.BRWCouncil.org)



### MAKE A DIFFERENCE THIS FALL

**E**ver wondered how to make a difference politically for the environment? Find out at the Sierra Club Political Committee's training on Saturday, July 29th, from 1 pm to 4 pm in Salt Lake City. We'll have a lively give-and-take with the Sierra Club's national Political Director Cathy Duvall. The centerpiece of the training will be hands-on planning for the Utah Chapter Political Committee's main campaign in 2006. For more information or to sign up, call Mark Clemens at 801/467-9297 or e-mail [mark.clemens@sierraclub.org](mailto:mark.clemens@sierraclub.org).

ADVERTISE IN THE *UTAH SIERRAN* AND REACH 5,000 HOUSEHOLDS IN UTAH! CALL (801)467-9297 FOR OUR RATE CARD, OR EMAIL [UTAH.CHAPTER@SIERRACLUB.ORG](mailto:UTAH.CHAPTER@SIERRACLUB.ORG).