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Utah Sierran

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Winter2006 Vol. 39 No. 4

Time to Vote! ExCom Elections

page 4

A Katrina Refugee's Story of Climate Change

by Casey DeMoss Roberts

A refugee is defined as a person who flees to a foreign land in order to escape danger or persecution. I call myself a climate change refugee because I fled my home in New Orleans, Louisiana (NOLA) in the wake of a monster storm made higher and stronger by the effects of a warmer ocean. Leaving my home was not a choice I wanted to make, it was a choice my husband and I felt we had to make in order to protect our family from physical, emotional, and financial harm. We have become acutely aware of the substantial consequences of ignoring nature.

There are 3 major issues facing NOLA that make it the poster problem child for global warming:

1. Subsidence of the land and an eroding coast create the bowl effect, undermine the levee system from underneath, and lessen the critical hurricane buffer zone. Louisiana lost twenty-five years' worth of erosion during Katrina; over 200 square miles of coastal marsh are now ocean.
2. Rising seas increase storm surge and overtop levees more easily. When you live inside a bowl the high walls are great until they are overtopped. Then you have a very serious problem of how to get the water out. This is very corrosive salt water with an interesting mix of contaminants that wreaks havoc on electrical wires, metal, wood, everything.
3. Warmer oceans are linked to stronger hurricanes. There has been a well-documented increase in the number of category 4 and 5 hurricanes worldwide. Though we are having a quiet season in the Atlantic this year, the Pacific has had a most active year that has devastated parts of Asia.

The physical danger starts when the weather center reliably calls the location of the hurricane's landfall, about two days out. Evacuating a large metropolitan city is not as easy as you might think. There

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



New Orleans devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina.



Shrimp boat deposited by Hurricane Katrina.

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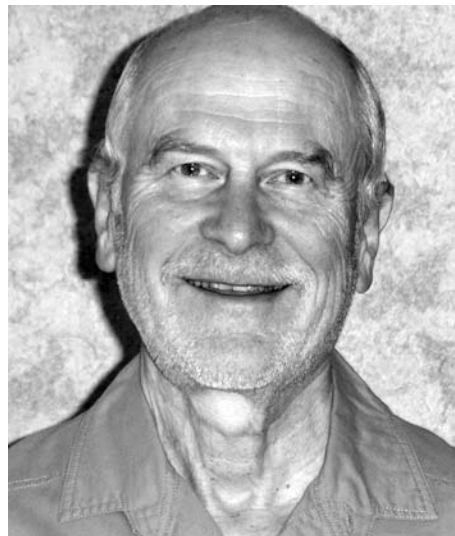
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AI

The End [of Oil] is Near!

by Al Herring, Chapter Chair



...probably my children and certainly my grandchildren will see the end of oil.

Don't be fooled by the recent drop in fuel prices. Cheap, abundant oil is about to become history. We won't run out during my lifetime. However, probably my children and certainly my grandchildren will see the end of oil.

The numbers are sobering. Proven oil reserves on planet earth were 1.2 trillion barrels at the end of 2005, while consumption last year was 30.1 billion barrels. Divide this out and you get a 40-year supply.

Of course it won't happen exactly this way. Worldwide consumption continues to increase at about 1.5% per year, mainly because the Chinese and Indians are becoming more affluent. This will run us out of oil sooner. On the other hand, some new reserves will be developed which will buy more time.

Since 1995 we have been consuming oil about three times faster than we have been finding it. The world is about to (if it hasn't already) hit "peak oil," the phrase coined by geologist M. King Hubbert to define when production hits a maximum. (See Fig. 1.) After the peak is hit, production goes down, down, down. Peak oil occurred in the US in 1970, and production has since fallen by about 50% despite the addition of Alaskan fields.

The global oil production peak also defines the point at which about half the planet's oil has been consumed. And the first half was the most easily found and pumped stuff. Worldwide discovery of oil peaked in 1964 and it has been firmly downhill ever since. Now Wall Street and our politicians go all atwitter when it is announced (Sept. 6) that a new field with estimated reserves of 3 to 15 billion barrels has been discovered in the Gulf of Mexico. However, it should be noted that much of the oil is beneath 30,000 ft of ocean and it can be profitably extracted only if oil prices remain at least \$40 per barrel, and that the find increases world reserves by only about 1%.

So how will this running-out-of-oil happen? Many analysts think we will remain on a so-called bumpy plateau for a decade or so with production and consumption in rough balance. However, during this period we can expect significant swings in availability and price, and we will be highly vulnerable to Middle East supply disruptions. Following the bumpy plateau, production will steadily fall behind demand as reserves are depleted. (See Fig. 2.)

In his 2001 book, *Hubbert's Peak: The Impending World Oil Shortage*, Kenneth Deffeyes predicted that in sixty years, conventional oil production will be one-fifth of the present volume. That's an 80% cut in gasoline supplies by the year 2066. Can you imagine the impacts?

To help people imagine, James Kunstler researched and recently published *The Long*

World Oil Production¹⁹

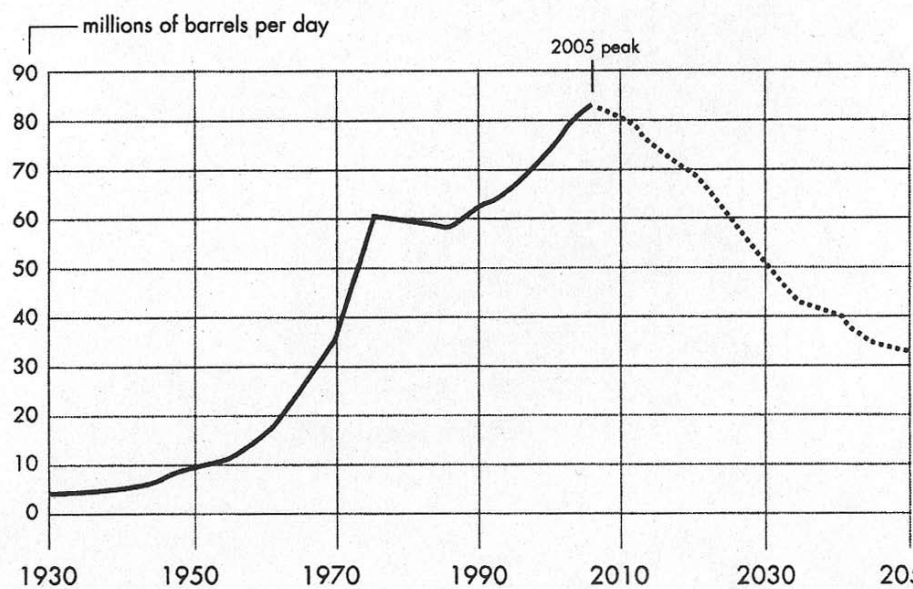


Figure 1_ From Over a Barrel: A Simple Guide to the Oil Shortage by Tom Mast

World Oil Shortfall²¹

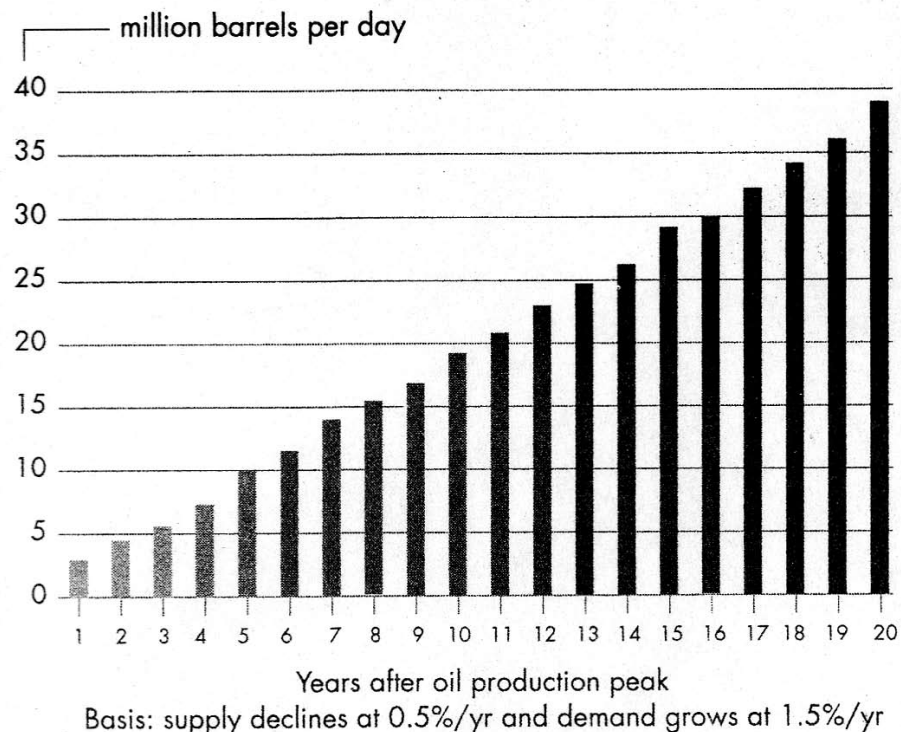


Figure 2_ From Over a Barrel: A Simple Guide to the Oil Shortage by Tom Mast

Emergency: Surviving the Converging Catastrophes of the Twenty-First Century. In it he repeatedly hits the reader over the head with the likely economic, political, social consequences of dwindling petroleum supplies. It is not a pretty picture.

Kunstler claims, "America is still sleepwalking into the future." He points out that "no one in the upper echelon of the federal government has even ventured to state that we face fossil fuel depletion by mid-century and severe market disruptions long before that." I agree with his assessment as the Bush administration energy policy clearly prioritizes drilling over conservation, efficiency, or development of alternative fuels. This administration is seemingly pushing us to consume our precious remaining oil (and natural gas) reserves as quickly as possible.

Of course there are alternative fuels. However, our transportation industries

are currently 97% dependent on oil-based fuels. Can we make a timely and cost-effective transition?

Not at our present rate of development and not by pursuing the president's "hydrogen economy." Elemental hydrogen is not found in nature, and it should be classified as a storage system for energy, rather than a source. In fact, it takes about 1.4 units of energy to produce the hydrogen needed to generate 1.0 unit of energy.

In Utah we are blessed (or cursed, depending on your point of view) with significant coal and oil shale reserves. As the Germans proved during WW II, coal can be processed into high-grade synthetic oil and gasoline. However, the process is expensive, and I am not aware of any synthesis plants being built in the US. In similar fashion, fuel from oil shale or corn is another alternative, but it is questionable whether there is a net energy gain. Natural gas makes a fine fuel, but peak natural gas

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OnTransportation

RS 2477: Rogue Highway Claims Tamed in Salt Lake County

by Mark Clemens, Utah Chapter manager



Highway Claim in Church Fork



Another Highway Claim in Killyon's Canyon

RS 2477 is a simple statute passed by the US Congress in 1866, repealed in 1976. It consists of one sentence as follows, "The right-of-way for the construction of highways over public lands, not reserved for public uses, is hereby granted." The consequences of this bill are far from simple, however. By grandfathering in RS 2477 claims that were valid as of 1976, Congress—in repealing the law and replacing it with a more systematic and consultative process—unwittingly sowed Western landscapes with a kind of land mine that is still out there waiting to explode and blow away environmental protection of public and private lands.

Some county commissioners, state legislators, attorneys general and even governors have since then conspired to use this defunct legislation to thwart wilderness protection and responsible management by federal land management agencies, such as the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the US Forest Service. In various parts of the West, these authorities have lodged frivolous highway claims to try to disqualify land from being considered as wilderness or to prevent land management agencies from closing abused and eroded trails to motorized vehicle use.

After spending millions in taxpayer funds on making its case, the Utah Attorney General's office filed a map showing a vast web of highway claims across the state with the BLM in 2000 claiming that this was just their current estimate of RS 2477 claims and that they might come back at a later date with additional claims. This map included thousands of miles of wash bottoms, sheep trails and scarcely visible ways that petered out in the sagebrush. When it was discovered that the attorney general's office was claiming the hiking trail to the top of Mount Olympus and the Angel's Landing Trail in Zion National Park, the whole process was exposed to well-deserved derision.

The State of Utah was so eager to have more of these highway claims to use as a weapon against the federal land management agencies that it offered counties \$2,000 for each claim they submitted up to a maximum amount. Check out some of the absurd highway claims Utah counties have made in the photo gallery at <http://members.aol.com/gshiker999/index.html>.

At the urging of the attorney general, the Salt Lake County Commission embarked on the process in 2000 and voted to approve a hastily-compiled list of 15 RS 2477 highway claims. At the same time, they signed an agreement that appointed the attorney general to represent Salt Lake County's claims in litigation with the federal government. Included among these claims were Church Fork (in Millcreek Canyon) and Killyon's Canyon (in Emigration Canyon), pictured here.

When he was elected in 2004, Salt Lake County Mayor Peter Corroon began—partly at the urging of Save Our Canyons, the Wasatch Mountain Club and the Utah Chapter—an investigation of these RS 2477 claims and discovered that many of the claims (such as Church Fork and Killyon's Canyon) not only were not of any significance for the county's transportation network but were actually potential Trojan horses that would have harmed recreational and watershed values.

The Utah Chapter of Sierra Club, Save Our Canyons, and the Wasatch Mountain Club had been meeting to discuss the RS 2477 problem for several months by this point. As a result of a generous anonymous contribution, Save Our Canyons was able to hire a limited duration employee, Parker Scrafford, who did an excellent job compiling documents, maps and photos on each of the 15 highway claims. Virtually all of these materials are available on

line under the RS 2477 tab at <http://www.saveourcanyons.org/currentissues/>.

With this documentation, Corroon was also able to establish that Salt Lake County already possessed a right-of-way issued by the US Forest Service to one of the highway claims, the Millcreek Canyon Road, and that local forest service officials would be happy to work with the county to grant rights-of-way to other legitimate segments such as the road in Lamb's Canyon.

In April of 2006, Corroon concluded the process by writing to the attorney general to tell him that Salt Lake County would not be pursuing a right of way claim to many trails including Killyon's Canyon, Church Fork, Porter Fork, Pole Canyon, Mill D North and South Forks, Silver Fork, Day's Fork and Willow Heights Canyon, and that the county either already possessed rights of way in Burr's Fork, Emigration Canyon, Lamb's Canyon and Millcreek Canyon or else it would pursue those requests with the US Forest Service in amicable negotiations.

In an era when so few disagreements are resolved through diplomacy and negotiation, and the political standard seems to be bluster, litigation and deadlock, it's refreshing to witness a solution that simplifies and erodes disputes in a way that protects the environment.

Keep an eye out in the Spring 2007 issue of the Utah *Sierran* for outings that will explore some of the trails, formerly highway claims, in Salt Lake County that have been reprieved and protected by Mayor Corroon.

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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Salt Lake City, Utah 84106-3785



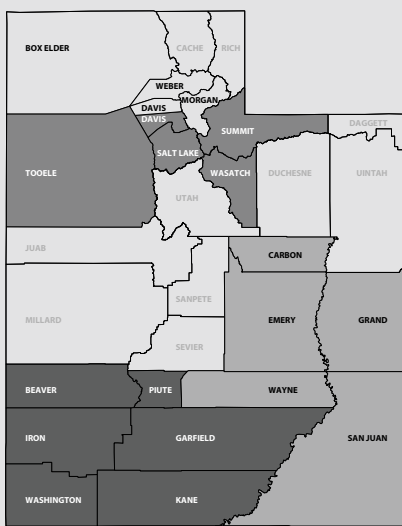
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UtahChapter ExComElections 2006

This year's ballot includes candidates for the chapter executive committee as well as for the Ogden and Salt Lake groups. The Glen Canyon Group will mail its own ballot.

All members—even those who don't live in one of these areas with groups—are welcome to vote for candidates for the chapter executive committee—the volunteers who decide Sierra Club policy at the state level. If you live in an area affiliated with the Sierra Club group, you're also requested to vote for the members of your group executive committee—the volunteers who apply Sierra Club policy at the local level. Consult the map, below, or the list of ZIP codes preceding each group's candidate statements to see if you're affiliated with one of the groups.

Please read the candidate statements, vote, and return your anonymous ballot in the envelope provided. All ballots must be post-marked no later than 5 December 2006.

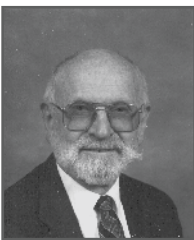


- NO GROUP AFFILIATION
- GLEN CANYON GROUP
- OGDEN GROUP
- SALT LAKE GROUP
- SOUTHWEST UTAH GROUP

UtahChapter

JIM CASE

I have been a Sierra Club member since 1957, but retiring to Cedar City 18 years ago has given me the opportunity to hike most everywhere in southern Utah. My greatest concern has been the protection of Utah's wilderness, so I formed the Southwest Group and am on its Executive Committee. I attended Wilderness Week lobbying event in Washington, D.C. to attract new sponsors for America's Redrock Wilderness Act, and have attended the Land Use Planning Group meetings of Washington and Beaver Counties. I serve on the Iron County Land Use Planning Group, and the task force to consider expanding Cedar Breaks National Monument. I am currently serving out Al Herring's position on the chapter ExCom.



There are many challenges facing southern Utah, including the Southern Nevada Water Authority's grand scheme to mine the shared aquifer, the Lake Powell pipeline, noise mitigation from the proposed St. George airport, and the indiscriminate activity of off-road vehicles, forest management and

rangeland abuse. I hope to continue to devote my attention to these issues as a member of the chapter's ExCom.

KEN EVANS

My name is Kenneth Evans, and I have been a member since 1993. For most of my membership I have been honored to serve as outings chair for the Salt Lake Group.



I wish to continue as Outings Chair, as the challenge of attracting new leaders and organizing a diverse array of outings activities is a rewarding ongoing duty. I am also a member of the executive committee, and as a voting delegate was privileged to participate in the decision making sessions during the Sierra Summit in September 2005.

During my membership I have also taken part in several volunteer efforts including monitoring a potential Wilderness Study Area as part of the Adopt-A-Wilderness Program. If elected to the executive committee, I will continue to facilitate the Sierra Club's mission

to explore and enjoy the planet for the Salt Lake Group.

GORDON LIND

I agreed to run for a place on the Utah Chapter Executive Committee because of my environmental expertise and my belief that I can bring a fresh perspective to the group. I have a fervent confidence in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. However, that process only works well when there is someone there ready to hold the agencies' feet to the fire. I believe I have the knowledge, experience, and expertise to help the Utah Chapter do that.



I have a BS and MS in Wildlife Biology. My hobbies are birding, photography, and backpacking. I have lived in Utah for the last 23+ years. After working for twenty-five years as an environmental specialist, I retired from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in 1997. During those years, I was involved as an author/editor of several major NEPA documents, and literally hundreds of minor ones.

SaltLakeGroup

INCLUDING ALL MEMBERS IN THE FOLLOWING ZIPS 84006, 84010, 84011, 84014, 84017, 84020, 84022, 84025, 84029, 84032, 84035, 84036, 84044, 84047, 84049, 84054, 84055, 84060, 84061, 84065, 84068, 84070, 84071, 84074, 84084, 84087, 84088, 84090-95, 84098 AND ALL 841

EDIE DAVIS

My interest in the Sierra Club stems from a real appreciation and love of this local landscape as well as a desire to be of service to such renowned organization.



Originally from the east coast, I came to Utah with firm environmental convictions in place and continue to believe that the only sane way to live in these times is to tread lightly while letting our actions speak louder than our words. Always a little "greenie" at heart, at a young age I was the kind of kid who would go around picking up litter in her neighborhood, offended at other's carelessness (and no, my parents didn't put me up to it!). I have volunteered in the past with the Utah Rivers Council, learning

about water issues in our state and the complicated politics involved. Also, there have been fits of tree planting with Tree Utah over the years, and most recently, outings with the Sierra Club Tuesday night hikers have sparked an interest in running for the position of a member of the Salt Lake Group's Executive Committee. I look forward to becoming further involved with the Sierra Club.

ANN HOAGLAND

"A vision without a task is but a dream, a task without a vision is drudgery, a vision and a task is the hope of the world."

From a church in Sussex, England 1790

In my mind the Sierra Club and its ideals is the vision and we as keepers of the Earth have the task to ensure this vision goes forward. Briefly, I attended the Sierra

Summit in San Francisco as a delegate from Utah, I assisted Al Herring and Mark Clemens on the March window fundraising pamphlet and I am the moderator for the Environmental Club at the school where I teach. I would be honored to be chosen to serve on the executive committee.

PRESTON MOTES

I am Preston Motes. I have been an active member of the Utah Chapter since 1987. I have served in numerous positions in both the Chapter and the Salt Lake Group. I have been the Group Treasurer for the past 12 or more years and would be happy to continue in that position. Thank you for your support.



ExComElections 2006

OgdenGroup

INCLUDING ALL MEMBERS IN THE FOLLOWING ZIPS: 84015, 84037, 84040, 84041, 84050, 84056, 84067, 84075, 84089, 84302, 84307, 84309, 84310, 84312, 84315, 84317, 84324, 84334, 84337, 84340, all 844__

RANEE JOHNSON

I am a Licensed Professional Counselor who was born and raised in Weber County. I have been a member of the Ogden Executive Committee for 2 years and the Chapter Executive Committee for a year. I am currently serving as the Ogden Group Chair, and Chapter Delegate to the National Council of Club Leaders. It has been exciting for me to make a link between group, chapter, and national campaigns and priorities and I look forward to contributing in any way I can to preserving the natural beauty that we enjoy in this state and area.



“Women In Utah Politics.” In *Women in Utah History Paradigm or Paradox?*, edited by Patricia Lyn Scott & Linda Thatcher. Logan: USU Press, 2005.

ASSOCIATE EDITOR *Weber Studies* (responsible for the “Reading the West” section.)

MEMBERSHIPS: Faculty Advisory Committee, Honors Program, 2002- | Senate Standing Committee, Curriculum and General Education, 2005- | Landmarks Commission, Ogden City (reappointed to 3-year term, Fall 2005) | Advisory Board, Traditional Building Skills Institute, 2006 | Friends of Ft Buenaventura, 2004- STATE SCHOLAR

Between Fences, Smithsonian Exhibit Utah Humanities Council, 2005-

ARCHIVAL CONSULTANT St. Benedict’s Monastery, 2001-



DAN SCHROEDER

I’ve been a Sierra Club member for 19 years and an active member of the Ogden Group for 13 years. During this time I’ve served as Ogden Group Chair, Outings Chair, Webmaster, Newsletter Editor, Outings Guide Editor, and delegate to the Utah Chapter ExCom, where I was Secretary and Treasurer for two years. For the last two years I’ve also served on the club’s national Recreation Issues Committee. As the current Ogden Group Conservation Chair, I’ve been focusing my efforts on promoting better public transit, preserving Ogden’s publicly-owned open space, and protecting our mountains from inappropriate off-road vehicle use. If re-elected to the Ogden Group ExCom, I will continue to work on local issues where the club can make a difference, developing alliances with other groups and individuals to achieve our important goals.



KATHRYN MCKAY

PUBLICATIONS

“Native American Folklore.” In *Folklore in Utah A History and Guide to Resources*, edited by David Stanley. Logan: USU Press, 2004.



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UTAH CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB 2006

Executive Committee Election Ballot

Your ballot must be received by December 5, 2006. Mail your completed ballot in the enclosed envelope. The second set of boxes below are for the second member of a joint membership only. Blank lines are for write-in candidates.

UtahChapter	SaltLakeGroup	OgdenGroup
JIM CASE <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> J	EDIE DAVIS <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> J	RANEE JOHNSON <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> J
KEN EVANS <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> J	ANN HOAGLAND <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> J	KATHRYN MCKAY <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> J
GORDON LIND <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> J	PRESTON MOTES <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> J	DAN SCHROEDER <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> J
<input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> J	<input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> J	<input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> J
VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN 4 (INCLUDING WRITE-INS)	VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN 3	VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN 3

YOUR ZIP CODE:

Thank You!

On Waste & Warming

One Hurdle Overcome to Protect Utah from More Radioactive Waste

by Sarah Fields

On September 8, 2006, the Utah Radiation Control Board voted to grant standing to the Sierra Club to participate in a formal legal proceeding to appeal the Division of Radiation Control (DRC) decision to allow International Uranium Corporation (IUC) to process radioactive wastes from the FMRI, Inc. (former Fansteel) facility in Muskogee, Oklahoma.

FMRI is a wholly owned subsidiary of Fansteel, Inc. FMRI was established as part of Fansteel's bankruptcy agreement in order to carry out remediation of the site. The Muskogee facility, which is licensed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), is undergoing reclamation and cleanup due to hazardous and radiological contamination, pursuant to a reclamation plan approved by the NRC. *The Oklahoma cleanup would include the shipment of 32,000 tons of radioactive wastes for processing and disposal at the IUC mill near Blanding.*

Over the past several years, IUC has been processing radioactive waste and mixed hazardous and radioactive waste that is trucked through Moab, Monticello, and Blanding to IUC's uranium mill on White Mesa in San Juan County, Utah. The mill is adjacent to the community of

the White Mesa Band of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, about 4 miles south of Blanding. Ute and Navajo tribal members in San Juan County have consistently voiced their opposition to the processing of radioactive waste at the mill.

Fansteel produced tantalum and columbium (niobium) metals for approximately 33 years, from about 1956 to 1989, when operations ceased after a major spill of contaminants into the Arkansas River. The raw materials were from several international locations. These included ores, chemically or physically upgraded ores and concentrates, and slag acquired from tin-smelting operations in Thailand. The residues contain numerous toxic chemicals at higher concentrations than found in the existing tailings in Cell 3 at the IUC mill. The waste contains high levels of radium and thorium, in addition to uranium, and an unacceptable level of chromium (a hazardous waste). There are health, safety, environmental, and legal issues that will be brought forward in the proceeding.

This proceeding will be the first time that a Utah agency has formally considered the question of what types of materials may be brought to Utah for processing at a uranium mill. This is the first time that

there has been a formal opportunity to question the uranium mill licensing program since 2004, when Utah assumed jurisdiction for uranium recovery facilities in Utah as a Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Agreement State.

Travis Stills, attorney with the non-profit Energy Minerals Law Center in Durango, Colorado, argued the standing issues on behalf of the Glen Canyon Group (GCG) of the Sierra Club at the board hearing. The Energy Minerals Law Center will continue to represent the club as the proceeding moves forward. After written briefs are submitted, the board will hear oral arguments.

Donations to help cover legal costs will be greatly appreciated. Checks for tax-deductible donations (at least \$25) should be made out to The Sierra Club Foundation. Other donations can be made out to the Glen Canyon Group. All donations should be sent to the Chair of the GCG Nuclear Waste Committee: Sarah Fields, P.O. Box 143, Moab, UT 84532. For additional information please contact Sarah Fields: 435/259-4734 or sarahmfields@earthlink.net.



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 _____
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City _____ State _____
Zip _____ Phone (____) _____
Email _____

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

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F94Q W2900

Speak Out on Clean Energy and Global Warming

by Tim Wagner, Smart Energy Campaign Coordinator

So you've seen "An Inconvenient Truth" and "Too Hot to Handle," and read Tim Flannery's book *The Weather Makers: How Man Is Changing the Climate and What It Means for Life on Earth*. There's no doubt in your mind that global warming is a real-life, human-caused phenomenon and that we have no choice but to make some drastic changes in our energy-driven cultures.

You've changed all of your home and office light bulbs to efficient compact fluorescents (CF's), installed more insulation, a highly-efficient furnace, and new windows in your home along with an energy star refrigerator. You're now investigating and saving up for that solar system you want to put on your roof within the next two years. And you traded off that gas-guzzler off for a hybrid and have committed to riding your bike or taking transit to work no less than three times a week.

To top it off, you're one of 16,000 Utahns who have signed up for Rocky Mountain Power's (formerly Utah Power) Blue Skies program, thereby offsetting your previous coal-based electrical habits with clean wind power. Based on all of these well-intentioned endeavors and according to the personal carbon audit you did online, you've cut your CO₂ footprint

by 40 percent. And you're saving hundreds of dollars per year. All of the efforts are worthy of a major pat on the back because you know that you're doing your part to reduce the effects of global warming.

**You may be
doing all the right
things to help address
the most serious
environmental,
social, and economic
problem ever faced
by the planet.
But is your power
provider?**

Not so fast. You may be doing all the right things to help address the most serious environmental, social, and economic problem ever faced by the planet. But is your power provider?

UTAH CHAPTER SECURES POSITION ON GOVERNOR'S CLIMATE PANEL

In an attempt to grapple with Utah's contribution to global climate change and to establish direction on how the state can reduce its impact, Governor Jon Huntsman Jr. established in August 2006 a Blue Ribbon Climate Change Advisory Panel. Made up of representatives from state and local governments, state regulators, energy and conservation experts, and industry, the panel convened its first meeting in late August and will continue to meet in the future.

The Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club's Tim Wagner, who directs the Chapter's Utah Smart Energy Campaign, was named a member of the panel.

"I applaud Governor Huntsman and his energy advisor Dr. Laura Nelson for taking this first critical step in addressing such a hugely important issue," said Wagner. "I'm very proud to represent the Chapter and I look forward to working with this group now and in the future."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

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Rocky Mountain Power, Utah's largest regulated utility, provides electricity to approximately 80 percent of all Utahns. Its parent company, still known as PacifiCorp and now owned by Warren Buffet's MidAmerican Energy, recently filed with the Utah Public Service Commission a Request for Proposals (RFP) for 2012. The RFP details where PacifiCorp intends to buy a significant portion of its electricity by that year.

To the surprise of PacifiCorp observers, the utility has identified three major proposed coal-fired power plants as these sources. They include the proposed Hunter 4 plant, a fourth 600-megawatt (MW) unit built at PacifiCorp's Hunter plant near Huntington, Utah; Jim Bridger 5, a fifth 750MW unit near Rock Springs, Wyoming; and a 340MW portion of the proposed 950MW IPP#3, near Delta, Utah. All of these proposed facilities are slated to use pulverized coal combustion, the oldest and dirtiest form of power generation.

From the global warming perspective, each of these plants represents a tremendous risk to both ratepayers and our environment. But one must look at the collective impact to fully understand the significance of such a long-term 21st century investment in dirty coal.

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is of course the principle gas responsible for global warming. And globally, burning coal is the largest single source of CO₂. The estimated total emissions of CO₂ for IPP #3, Jim Bridger 5, and Hunter 4 could easily top 18 million tons, *annually*. PacifiCorp's portion would be an estimated 13 million tons. Now consider that these types of facilities have a life expectancy of around fifty-to-sixty years. So sixty years at 13,000,000 tons comes in at 780 million tons of added CO₂. And that's just three proposed plants compared to approximately 150+ of this type currently proposed across the country.

Now consider the financial risk posed by PacifiCorp to its customers, you and me, who buy its electricity. Because global warming has become a mainstream issue, most experts in the energy fields are in agreement that the federal government will implement in the future some type of carbon tax and/or carbon caps. A tax will likely entail a per-ton-assessment based on a facility's emissions. Numbers heard throughout the industry vary anywhere from \$8 to over \$100 per ton. The money collected could then be used to offset the costs of building carbon-neutral energy supplies or direct mitigation measures for impacts from climate change. The issue is quite complicated, but the bottom line is that fossil-fuel-based energy supplies will surely be much more expensive in the not-so-distant future.

This presents a financial risk to ratepayers, particularly when regulated utilities like PacifiCorp are willing to spend billions of your money on power supplies that will not come online for at least six or more years. In that time, the need to address global warming will become much

more urgent than it is today. Also, it is widely expected in that same time frame, renewable sources like wind and solar will become much cheaper and more prevalent. In other words, when 2012 rolls around, will Utahns be saying, "Gee, I'm sure glad my utility investing in more renewable sources back in 2006 because it has really helped to stabilize rates. Or will we be saying instead, "Gosh, look at what we're paying this month for our electricity, simply because they built those billion-dollar dinosaurs!"

So what can you do? Vote with your dollar.

So what can you do? Vote with your dollar. First of all, for those who have not yet done so, sign up for Rocky Mountain Power's Blue Skies program, which directs a purchase of your monthly power bill to purchase wind-based electricity. One can do this online at <http://www.utahpower.net/Homepage/Homepage65672.html> or by calling 1-888-221-7070.

Secondly, write a letter to Gregory Abel, Chairman and CEO of PacifiCorp. Keep your letter brief but consider making these points.

- As a customer of Rocky Mountain Power, you are very concerned with global warming and want to see the utility take all measures possible to reduce its CO₂ footprint.
- You do not want your rate money to be used for risky investments such as industrial-age coal technology.
- You would rather see the utility invest in renewable energy in Utah to help keep that money in our state, and to also expand its energy efficiency measures in order to further each kilowatt of electricity.

You can also call the utility's toll free customer hotline at 1-888-427-5632. When calling, it's important to say that you want your message delivered to Mr. Gregory Abel. Or you can mail your comments to:

MidAmerican Energy Holdings
Company
Gregory Abel, President
P.O. Box 657
Des Moines, IA 50303-0657.

Please add this to your list of global warming efforts. It will take only a few minutes and you'll feel good about it.

For those with a stomach for technical information and who would like to learn more about PacifiCorp's filing on this matter, go to: <http://www.psc.state.ut.us/elec/Indexes/0503547indx.htm>. It is under Docket 05-035-47.

Thank You

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.

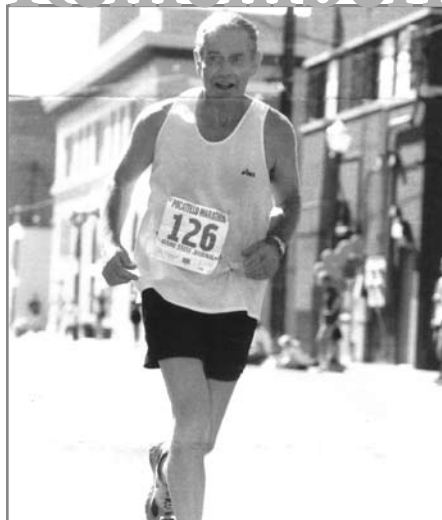
John Bogart

Edward A Kearney

Ted Rokich

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!

Remembering Leo



The chapter gratefully acknowledges a generous gift made in loving memory of
Leo Slowikoski
by his family.

Leo was an avid marathoner whose inspiration came from Utah's pristine landscapes. The Sierra Club will work to fulfill Leo's hope that Utah should remain as beautiful as when he experienced it.

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.



From Washington

A Timeline of the Bush Administration's Environmental Record

by Mark Clemens

Warn you in advance that the timeline of the Bush Administration's environmental record is both monotonous and depressing. This administration works hard to betray and undermine the environment; sometimes three times in one week they've suppressed science, rewritten a rule to reflect industry wishes or cut an important public health budget.

We have run a timeline for George Bush's first term twice in previous issues. This chronology covers 2005-06. You owe it to yourself to read at least part of it.



National Park management.

On June 19, 2006, incoming Interior Secretary Kempthorne overturned anti-conservation revisions to National Park Service management policies proposed by Administration political appointees in October 2005. The management policies serve as a handbook for Park Service officials. The June 19 draft policies also reinstated "natural soundscapes and clear skies" as valued park resources and acknowledged the need to monitor climate change.



Water transfers.

On June 1, 2006, the Administration released a draft rule removing water transfers through floodgates, canals, tunnels or natural stream courses from federal pollution regulations. The rule was proposed while the Miccosukee tribe and environmentalists have pending lawsuits to stop the transfer of polluted stormwater from city streets and farms in Florida to the Everglades and Lake Okeechobee.



Greenhouse gas emissions.

On May 25, 2006, the GAO released a report finding that federal voluntary programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions lack effective management to ensure participants are meeting their reduction goals. The report studied the EPA's Climate Leaders Program and the DOE's Climate VISION program.



Pesticides testing.

On May 24, 2006, labor unions representing over 9,000 EPA scientists and specialists sent a letter to EPA Administrator Ste-

phen Johnson asserting that agency managers and the pesticide industry were exerting political pressure to allow continued use of certain pesticides. The scientists and specialists are studying the health effects on humans of organophosphates and carbamates and assert, "the integrity of the science upon which agency decisions are based has been compromised."



Clean air.

On April 20, 2006, the EPA released a report finding that 21 percent of coal plants would not have modern emissions controls for smog and soot-forming pollutants (sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide) by 2020 under the Administration's Clean Air Interstate Rule. A similar study conducted by environmental groups found that as many as 50 percent of coal plants could lack modern technology by 2020 under the rule.



Forest land sales.

On April 19, 2006, the Bush Administration admitted it had not done management cost analyses on 300,000 acres of land parcels it proposed to sell to finance reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools program. Earlier this year, the Administration cited high management costs as one of the factors in choosing which land parcels to sell.



Greenhouse gas emissions.

On April 17, 2006, the EPA released a report showing that greenhouse gas emissions in the United States grew by 1.7 percent from 2003 to 2004, nearly triple the 0.6 percent increase from 2002 to 2003.



National Parks.

On April 5, 2006, the GAO released a report finding that rising costs are causing National Parks to cut back on visitor services, resource protection, and maintenance. The report states that at all 12 parks surveyed, managers did not receive enough funding to address increases in operating costs.



Nuclear safety.

On April 4, 2006, the GAO released an audit finding that the weakening of NRC safety regulations for nuclear reactors appeared to be based on industry demands, not objective assessments of terrorist threats. The regulations require that plants have

the ability to withstand certain threat scenarios but not others, including a rocket-propelled grenade or large truck bomb.



Hazardous pollutants.

On April 3, 2006, environmental groups obtained a draft rule from the EPA that would allow an industrial plant currently classified as a "major source of hazardous air pollutants" to be regulated as an "area source" at any time. This change would allow plants to avoid upgrading to maximum achievable control technology (MACT), which reduces emissions by 95 percent or more.



CAFÉ standards.

On March 29, 2006, the Bush Administration finalized its rule revising the vehicle classification system in the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFÉ) program and slightly increasing the miles per gallon requirement for large SUVs in the future. That rule contains unrelated material aimed at precluding California, as well as many other states, from adopting carbon dioxide emission controls under the states' Clean Air Act authorities.



Road maintenance.

On March 22, 2006, the Bush Administration issued a controversial order allowing state laws to determine ownership of rights-of-way that existed before land was designated as federal property. The order could result in environmental degradation across thousands of miles of roads, trails, and fences on protected federal land.



Air pollution exemptions overturned.

On March 17, 2006, a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia overturned the Bush Administration's "routine maintenance" rule, which exempted thousands of major air pollution sources from regulation. The court referred to the EPA rule as only applicable in a "Humpty Dumpty world" and illegal under the Clean Air Act's explicit wording.



Clean drinking water.

On February 16, 2006, the Bush Administration proposed criteria to allow lower drinking water quality standards for low-income and rural communities with small systems. According to the EPA, as many as 10 million Americans drink water that does not meet current standards for levels of arsenic, a known carcinogen.



Budget cuts. On February 6, 2006, President Bush released a budget for Fiscal Year 2007 that would cut funding for the EPA by \$304 million, including cuts of \$200 million in grants to states for clean water projects and \$23 million in state grants for air quality management.



Efficiency and conservation.

On February 6, 2006, President Bush released a budget for Fiscal Year 2007 that would cut funding for energy efficiency and conservation programs by \$21 million and for the weatherization assistance program by \$92 million.



Interior funding cuts.

On February 6, 2006, President Bush released a budget for Fiscal Year 2007 that would cut funding for the Department of the Interior by \$393 million, including a \$90 million cut to construction and maintenance projects in the National Park Service and elimination of the Land and Water Conservation Fund state grant program.



Oceans.

On February 3, 2006, the Joint Oceans Commission released a report criticizing the Bush Administration's oceans policy and funding levels. The report stated that "significant steps must be taken immediately to avoid substantial and perhaps irreversible damage" to oceans and wildlife.



Lead contamination.

On January 26, 2006, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report finding that the EPA has failed to collect thorough data from states regarding lead levels in water. The lead contamination database was found to contain no or limited data for over 70 percent of community water systems.



Snowmobiles in Yellowstone National Park.

On January 18, 2006, the National Park Service admitted that the Bush Administration's revised rule allowing increased snowmobile use in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks is not improving air quality as administration officials had predicted. The emissions from four-stroke snowmobiles have not proven to be significantly lower than those from dominant two-stroke snowmobiles.



Oil and gas. On January 11, 2006, the Bush Administration approved expanded oil and gas drilling in Alaska's National Petroleum Reserve. The expanded area was off-limits for drilling under the Clinton Administration due to expected negative impacts on wildlife.



Disregarding science. On December 21, 2005, EPA proposed revisions to the air quality standard for fine particulate matter (PM-2.5) and chose standards that were weaker than and outside the range of the recommendations made by the Clean Air Science Advisory Committee.



Superfund. On September 30, 2005, the EPA's Inspector General released a report noting a significant decrease in Superfund project funding, causing a backlog of project proposals. At the same time, administrative expenditures have increased by \$38.6 million between 1999 and 2003.



Toxics. On September 21, 2005, the Administration proposed limiting reporting requirements on businesses that release toxic emissions. EPA proposed changing reporting requirements to the Toxics Release Inventory from annual to biennial reports and increasing the emission threshold for more detailed reports from 500 to 5,000 pounds of toxic emissions.



Human testing. On September 7, 2005, the EPA released draft rules regarding testing of pesticides, claiming that no tests including pregnant women or children were valid. In fact, the rule allows for abused or neglected children to be exposed to chemicals without the permission of a parent or guardian.



Light truck fuel economy. On August 23, 2005, the Bush Administration announced new fuel economy standards for light trucks, without proposing standards for the largest SUVs. The new standards would hardly increase fuel economy and could encourage automakers to avoid standards by building heavier, and less fuel efficient, vehicles.



Chemical safety. On July 13, 2005, the GAO released a report concluding that EPA lacks sufficient data regarding toxic chemicals to protect public health. The EPA has not banned a chemical from production since asbestos in 1989.



Clean air. On June 30, 2005, the Bush Administration dropped requirements for industries in more than a dozen urban areas to meet ground-level ozone air quality standards.



G-8 Climate plan. On June 17, 2005, the Washington Post reported that officials from the Bush Administration were working to weaken a proposal by the eight largest industrial nations to combat climate change despite agreement by most of the other nations that mandatory controls are needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



Rewriting science. On June 8, 2005, the *New York Times* reported that White House political appointee Philip Cooney edited language in government reports approved by scientists to downplay the link between greenhouse gas emissions and global warming. Before joining the administration, he headed climate policy for the American Petroleum Institute. Cooney resigned immediately after these reports. And on June 15, 2005, Exxon Mobil announced its decision to hire Cooney.



Roadless areas. On May 5, 2005, the Bush Administration repealed the Roadless Area Conservation Rule, replacing it with a rule requiring states to petition to protect 58.5 million acres of roadless areas in national forests.



Delayed data. On April 29, 2005, the Washington Post reported that a 14-month-old report commissioned by the EPA found a "hot spot" of mercury contamination in the Atlantic Ocean between North Carolina and Florida. The report also found that cutting mercury emissions from power plants would generate up to \$5 billion in health and other benefits nationwide.



Toxics. On March 29, 2005, the EPA issued new guidelines to determine whether a chemical causes cancer. The new guidelines require more evidence of the link to cancer and would generally allow higher exposure to toxic substances.



Mercury. On March 15, 2005, the Bush Administration issued a final rule on mercury pollution from power plants that would delay reductions for ten years beyond legal requirements.



Clean air. On March 7, 2005, the EPA's Inspector General issued a

report finding that proper monitoring for air toxics is lacking in 45 out of 50 areas where the risk of cancer is believed to be highest.



Forest closures. On March 4, 2005, the Bush Administration asked regional foresters to consider closing campgrounds, trails, and other recreational sites in national forests to save money for other activities.



Budget. On February 7, 2005, the Administration proposed to cut funding for environmental programs by 10 percent, including a \$373 million cut to clean water and safe drinking water programs.



Clean water. On January 25, 2005, the EPA approved Florida's plan to clean up phosphorus pollution in the Everglades. The revised plan gives the state until 2016, ten years later than the original goal, to complete remediation.



Oil and gas. On January 24, 2005, the Bush Administration decided to allow oil and gas

drilling on New Mexico's Otero Mesa, despite opposition from the state. The Otero Mesa in New Mexico is the largest undisturbed Chihuahuan desert grassland in the nation.




Energy efficiency. On January 22, 2005, the Washington Post reported that the Department of Energy has illegally delayed issuing energy efficiency standards for many household and commercial appliances.



Clean air. On January 21, 2005, the Bush Administration announced an agreement under which factory farms would be exempted from Clean Air Act standards in exchange for EPA monitoring of air quality at their factories. This agreement gives factory farms a shield from enforcement actions relating to air emissions for at least three years.

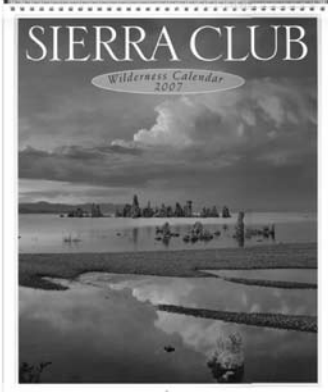


Clean air. On January 18, 2005, the Bush Administration announced it would not take on any new cases against the utility industry for Clean Air Act violations.




Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Sierra Club 2007 Calendars




Wilderness Wall Calendar



Engagement Calendar

**Available in the chapter office
at discounted prices.**

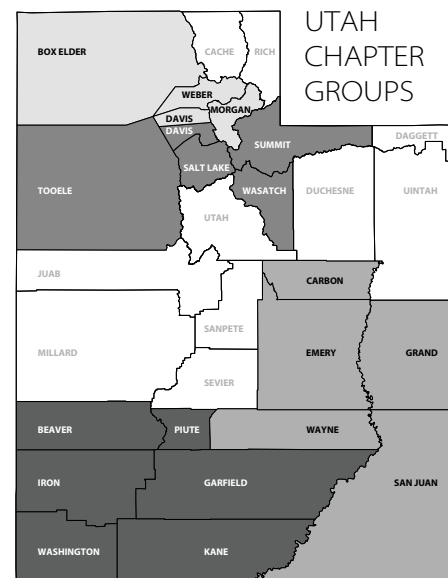
**2120 South 1300 East, Suite 204
Salt Lake City, UT 84106**



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.

November

SLG, Fri-Mon, 11/3-11/6, Moab Folk Festival. A great opportunity to enjoy rousing folk music with good friends and new acquaintances in the red rock splendor of Moab Utah. The festival runs Friday through Sunday and includes various 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 during the evening. 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 or rebeccawallace38@msn.com) for accommodation recommendations and other details about the trip.

OG, Fri, 11/3, Friday Night Lights. Hike up Beus Canyon Trail to the Bonneville Shoreline Trail over to Ogden Canyon. Crisp Fall

evenings make Ogden City lights beautiful. Expect 2 hours, approx. 4 miles. Call Larry Woolsey (731-3701) for meeting place and time.

GCG Sat 11/4 Great Wall at Arches. Five miles of mostly level walking along the top of the sculpted Great Wall with unusual views of the park. You'll like it; everybody does. Moderately steep slickrock and talus descent at the end. Short car shuttle. Meet at Star Hall at 9 AM. Call Tom Messenger at 259-1756 for details.

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 about the outing.

GCG Sat 11/18 Upper Negro Bill Canyon. The hike is approximately 7.5 miles. The trail descends 400ft into Negro Bill Canyon off the Sand Flats Road and follows the creek for about 5 miles, then up 400ft to exit the canyon. Bring a lunch, water, and a 4x4 or high clearance vehicle to reach the trailhead. We will do a short shuttle leaving a vehicle at the radio tower. Meet at Star Hall at 8:30am. We'll get back around 4pm. Call Sandy Freethy for details 259-0253.

SLG, Sun, 11/19, City Creek North Cove Loop Hike. Weather and trail conditions permitting, this trek will take us up the north slope of city Creek Canyon and back down the shoreline trail. Call Ron (292-4040) for meeting time, place and details.

OG, Sat, 11/25, Turkey Burn Hike on the West Skyline Trail. We may or may not go to North Ogden Divide, depending on weather and participants. Meet at Rainbow Gardens 10 am. Call Joanie at 801/399-0034 for additional info.

December

SLG, Sat, 12/2, Moonlight Snowshoe in Millcreek Canyon. Weather and snow conditions permitting. Just a couple days before the full moon, should be plenty of light for an evening excursion into the Millcreek Canyon. In the event of marginal snow conditions the outing will proceed as a winter hike. There are a variety of trails to choose from, exact trailhead will be determined by leader prior to the trek. Bring sturdy hiking shoes (if marginal snow), headlamps, and appropriate clothing for colder temperatures. Meeting place is the Skyline High parking lot at 6:30 PM. Call Rebecca (487-4160) for information about the outing.

GCG Sat 12/9 Arches Above the Gossips. After a short car shuttle, we'll begin at a locked gate at the Arches NP boundary accessible by dirt road (4x4 or high clearance) off US-191. We will follow the old roadway plus some slickrock travel to various points overlooking Sheep Rock, The Gossips and Park Avenue. We will then descend by scrambling down a crack near the parking lot at Park Avenue. This easy hike can be extended by numerous side trips to overlook points. Meet at Star Hall at 10am. Call Ed Brandstetter 259-9427 for details.

SLG, Sun, 12/10, Twin Hollow Snowshoe or Hike. Weather and trail conditions permitting this trek will start from Bountiful on the Bonneville Shoreline Trail. Call Ron (292-4040) for meeting time, place and/or alternative event.

UtahChapterDirectory

Chapter Executive Committee

Jim Casejimcase@netutah.com, (435) 586-4720
 Scott Danielssctdaniels@aol.com, (801) 582-8080
 Al Herring, chairal.mary.herring@worldnet.att.net, (801) 444-9574
 Wayne Hoskissonwyh@xmission.com, (435) 260-9045
 Rane Johnsonranejohnson_27@msn.com
 Gordon Lindgordylind8@cs.com, (801) 571-4185
 Lois Mansfieldlem@virginia.edu
 Brad Yates, vice-chairbnyslc@earthlink.net, (801) 521-4185

Group Delegates

Judy Allison, Southwest Utah Groupjudithallison@msn.com
 Tom Messenger, Glen Canyon Groupmessengertj@citlink.net, (435) 259-1756
 Ann Wechsler, Salt Lake Groupaweck@jawex.aros.net, (801) 583-2090
 Larry Woolsey, Ogden Grouplandcrun@hotmail.com, (801) 731-3701

Issue & Committee Chairs

Jean Binyon, membership chairbinyon@binyon.us, (435) 259-1633
 Scott Daniels, political/leg co-chairsctdaniels@aol.com, (801) 582-8080
 Angelika Davis, treasurerapgconsulting@hotmail.com
 Ken Evans, outings chairkcestardust@qwest.net, (801) 484-3112
 Sarah Fields, nuclear wastesarahmfields@earthlink.net
 Claire Gardner, trainingClaireGar@msn.com
 Wayne Hoskisson, forest issues/grazingw.y.hoskisson@frontiernet.net, (435) 259-0328
 Ken Johnsen, legal chairkencjohnsen@hotmail.com, (801) 272-5622
 Gordon Lind, CCL delegategordylind8@cs.com, (801) 571-4185
 Tom Messenger, web mastermessengertj@citlink.net, (435) 259-1756
 Dan Schroeder, ORV impactsdschroeder@weber.edu, (801) 393-4603
 Kevin Walker, public landskwalker@xmission.com, (435) 259-7540
 Rebecca Wallace, secretaryrebeccawallace38@msn.com
 Brad Yates, UWC representativebnyslc@earthlink.net, (801) 521-4185

Group Chairs

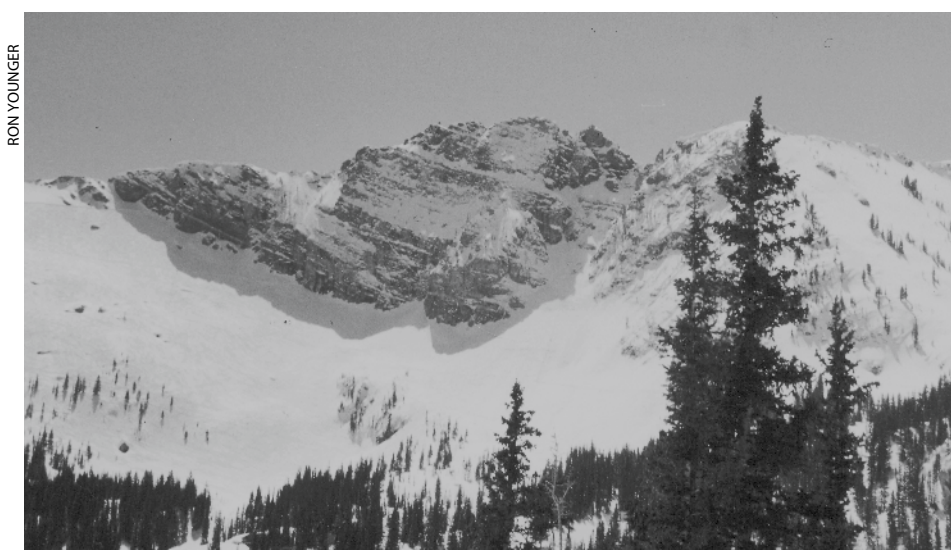
Mike Binyon, Glen Canyon Groupbinyon@binyon.us, (435) 259-1633
 Rane Johnson, Ogden Groupranejohnson_27@msn.com
 Ann Wechsler, Salt Lake Groupaweck@jawex.aros.net, (801) 583-2090
 Lois Mansfield, Southwest Utah Grouplem@virginia.edu

Utah Chapter Staff

Mark Clemens, chapter co-ordinatormark.Clemens@sierraclub.org, (801) 467-9297
 Tim Wagner, Smart Energy Campaigntim.wagner@sierraclub.org, (801) 467-9294

Southwest Field Office Staff

Marc Heilesen, Legacy Highwaymarc.heilesen@sierraclub.org, (801) 467-9294
 Lawson LeGate, Wilderness, Public LandsLawson.legate@sierraclub.org, (801) 467-9294



April 15, 2001 | View of Devils Castle (10,930') from Catherine Pass Trail at 10,000'.

OG, Sat, 12/16, Snowshoe at Snowbasin.

A moderate climb to Ogden overlook. Expect approx 5 miles roundtrip and 3 hours. A favorite trail with great views of Snowbasin and Ogden. Let's hope for adequate snow. Call Larry Woolsey (731-3701) for meeting place and time.

SLG, Sun, 12/17, Little Dell Snowshoe.

An easy excursion in the foothills near the Little Dell reservoir. A great way to take a break from the stress of the holiday season. Bring appropriate hiking gear if snow conditions are marginal. Meeting place is the parking lot of the Foothill Drive parking lot. A great introduction to Salt Lake City's watershed in winter conditions. Call Ann 583-2090 for questions and information about the outing. [E]

SLG, Sun, 12/31, Silver Fork Canyon Trail Snowshoe.

Weather and snow conditions permitting, this will be an intermediate level trek in Big Cottonwood Canyon Silver Fork. Call Ron (292-4040) for meeting time, place and/or alternative event.

January

GCG Sat 1/6 Dinosaur Megatracks hike. 6 miles round trip with 500 ft elevation gain. The hike begins at the base of the Salt Valley Anticline east of Highway 191 about 5 miles north of the Moab/Canyonlands airport. We will follow a drainage up to a sandstone slope containing a large number of theropod dinosaur tracks. (Similar to tracks along Klondike Bluffs trail, but more isolated.) Meet at Star Hall at 9 AM. For details contact Richard Anderson at 259-7602. [E]

SLG, Sun, 1/7/2007, Art Nord Ice Box Canyon Snowshoe Loop. Weather and snow conditions permitting, we'll carpool to Snow Basin for this winter outing. Call Ron (292-4040) for meeting time, place and/or alternative event. [C]

SLG, Sat, 1/13/2007, North Fork Provo River Snowshoe. It should be an excellent day for a winter adventure along the North Fork of the Provo River. The plan is to follow the river via the trail towards Crystal Lake. Bring enough food, water, and winter gear for a most-of-the-day outing in the Uintas. Meeting place is the east part of the Parleys Way K-Mart parking lot at 10 AM. Call Ken (484-3112) for more information about the outing.

OG, Sat, 1/20, Snowshoe Wheatgrass Canyon. Located near Causey Reservoir, it's one of the most beautiful canyons in Northern Utah. Very interesting cliff and canyon walls. We'll have a chance to see wildlife in a winter setting. Moderate hike of about 5 miles roundtrip, 3-4 hours. Call Larry Woolsey (731-3701) for meeting place and time.

GCG Sat 1/27 Herdina Park. Herdina Park is a beautiful outcropping of sandstone knobs in Arches NP that is dissected by 4 main canyons. Eye of the Whale is on its eastern edge. There are 10 to 15 arches in this complex of slick rock. The hike will be 4 to 5 miles long with some scrambling on sandstone slopes, depending on how much canyon exploring we do. The drive in on the Willow Springs Road is about 5 miles of dirt, rock, & sand and will require 4WD. Meet at Star Hall at 9 am. Contact Sandy Freethey for questions 259-0253.

OG, Sat, 1/27, Snow Shoe/Cross Country Ski. We'll snowshoe or hike the Green Pond trail, near Snow Basin. Call Joanie 801/399-0034 for meeting time and place.

SLG, Sun, 1/28, Rose Canyon—Yellow Fork X-Country Ski Outing. Weather and snow conditions permitting, this outing will be in the foothills south of Herriman and is suitable for beginners. Call Ron (292-4040) for meeting time, place and/or alternative event.

February

SLG, Fri, 2/2, Full Moon Snowshoe in Millcreek Canyon. A bright full moon will provide light and a mystical winter perspective of Millcreek Canyon for midwinter trekkers. An option for enjoying hot beverages after the outing will depend on length of outing and discretion of participants. Bring appropriate winter gear, head lamps, and snacks for the trail. Meeting place is the Skyline High parking lot at 6:30 PM. Call Rebecca (487-4160) for more information about the outing.

OG, Saturday, 2/3, Cross Country Ski. Join us for a XCcountry-ski tour of North Fork Park. Expect 6 or 7 miles round trip with a lunch break. Contact John Besbekos (985-6854) for meeting place and time.

GCG Sat 2/10 River to Courthouse Wash over the top. This slickrock hike will take us from the Colorado River near Moab up over the high rim and down to Courthouse Wash. It is short, but may take us some time, as it will involve some scrambling, including a possible belay or two. Bring a light lunch, and warm clothing. Meet at the MIC (Moab Information Center) at 9 am Distance 2½ - 3 miles; elevation gain approximately 700 feet. Leader: Bonnie Crysdale, 435/259-0246.

OG, Sat, 2/10, Snowshoe hike. Wheeler Creek Loop near Snowbasin. This is an approx. 5-mile loop. Contact John Besbekos (985-6854) for meeting place and time.

OG, Sat, 2/17, Snowshoe Mill Creek Canyon area. A favorite Salt Lake County snowshoe area. We will hike the Bowman Fork area. Depending on snow conditions, expect 3-4 hours and 4-5 miles. Enjoy views of the Salt Lake Valley and snowcapped mountains similar to the Alps. Call Larry Woolsey (731-3701) for meeting place and time.

SLG, Sat-Mon, 2/18-2/19, Presidents'/Valentine's Day Weekend in Red Rock Country. This is one of the premier outings of the year. The trip typically begins with a tour of the Anasazi State Park in Boulder, Utah on Saturday afternoon. Saturday evening may include a Dutch oven dinner and a conversation/history discussion led by former park superintendent (and wonderful storyteller) Larry Davis. The rest of the weekend will include options for x-country skiing on Boulder Mountain, mountain biking, hiking, a visit to nearby Capital Reef via the Burr Trail, and horseback riding. This is an excellent opportunity to explore the Escalante Grand Staircase and enjoy one of Utah's largest unprotected Forest Service roadless areas. Contact Kurt Alloway via e-mail desertquest99@yahoo.com for meeting time, place, and other information regarding the outing. [E]

March

OG, Sat-Sun, 3/17-3/18, Hiking in Moab. Let's spend St. Patrick's Day in Moab. The slickrock area is a great place to kickoff the Spring hiking season. The weather is usually great and the scenery splendid. We will do hikes both Saturday and Sunday. Call early to get info on reservation requirements. Contact Larry Woolsey (731-3701).



RON YOUNGER

win a backcountry guide

FEBRUARY 26, 2005: Saturday snowshoe group starting out on Ogden Overlook trail at Snow Basin. Be the first (before November 15, 2006) to correctly list the first name of seven of these trekkers and receive a Backcountry Guide Book for the Uintas. Send your list to Ron Younger at 920 East 1500 South, Bountiful, UT 84010-2138.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKI & SNOWSHOE CLINIC: 2006

Session I

Wednesday, November 29

6:30 pm,

Shepard Union Bldg, Room 347

This indoor session covers technique, equipment and where to ski & snowshoe. New and rental equipment on display.

Session II

Saturday, December 2

[alternate snow check date: December 9]

10:00 - 12:00 pm

On-The-Hill clinic at North Fork Park, Ogden Valley

Instruction for all abilities

Both sessions FREE and open to the public.
Suggested donation for environmental protection: \$12.00

Sponsored by: Ogden Group, Sierra Club and Weber State University Wilderness Recreation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Jock Glidden, 394-0457 or
John Hinds, 621-0196





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are three roads out of New Orleans, a city surrounded by water. Having 500,000 people try to leave a city all at once creates an instant traffic jam. It can take 12+ hours to travel 100 miles—very hard on children, pets, and the gas tank.

The decision to evacuate is also tough. You have to ask yourself how serious the threat is. Do I really want to go through the whole process of boarding up the house, packing up our photos, the cats, clothes, important papers (especially insurance documents!), jewelry, etc. You have to consider that you may never see your possessions again. Of course, this was the sixth time in three years that we had evacuated and nothing happened before. It is major work to put your house back in order after a false alarm hurricane evacuation. Of course, it is better than the alternative, staying in the city during a major storm and drowning in the bowl.

Returning to a devastated city brings other physical dangers. Environmental contaminants were spread all over the city, including debris from old homes built before asbestos and lead paint laws. The water treatment plant was demolished and sewage from the city went straight into the Mississippi River. Outdoor mold counts were extremely high. When you consider that all but two hospitals in the city were devastated, you begin to understand the risks to your health.

The emotional pain has been the hardest to overcome. The sudden loss of your

whole life is traumatic. Your friends, work, daily life, routines and habits are all washed away overnight. We were evacuated for six weeks and were among the first to return in early October; there was no trash pick-up, no grocery store, no post office, few police, no internet. Businesses started returning slowly, having difficulty competing for construction workers, electricians, plumbers, roofers, employees, etc. There were very few women in town and no children. It was eerily quiet.

Stress-related suicides increased dramatically. It is something that no one really

“The decision to evacuate is also tough...Of course, it is better than the alternative, staying in the city during a major storm and drowning in the bowl.”

talks about. New Orleans is a whole city of people suffering from post-traumatic stress. At a presentation on public health, there was a speaker covering the mental angle. She gave a list of symptoms for PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder): forgetfulness, irritability, lack of concentration, etc and asked if anyone had been experiencing any of the symptoms. There was an audible boisterous reaction as we all realized that we and everyone we knew had

all of those symptoms.

The long-term costs to an individual family after a disaster of this magnitude are hard to calculate. Having to suddenly leave your home and job for an extended unknown amount of time is expensive. Think about it: eating out every meal, unexpected travel costs, house payments for a house you can't live in, and replacing needed essentials adds up fast. If you are able to move back into your home, then the costs are more manageable. This was not the case for thousands of families. I was so thankful and grateful that my home was spared.

Property values plummeted in the areas of town that flooded by about 75-100%. There were million dollar homes up for sale for \$80,000 and I wondered who would even pay that for a devastated house? I understand why people were trying to re-coup their losses especially for a house that cost more than the federal flood insurance program will cover (only up to \$250,000). People from all walks of life lost fortunes.

The dust from the economic fall-out has yet to settle. The insurance commissioner allowed the insurance companies to raise rates the maximum amount allowable in 1 year before resigning. In addition, the tax burden on property owners is scheduled to increase significantly in order to offset the revenue shortfall from the loss of businesses and sales tax revenues.

Even with all this bad news, there is an opportunity to transform the city into a place that is less dangerous to people physically, emotionally, and financially. Unfortunately, the people in place to influence these decisions are in denial, think short-term, and do not acknowledge global warming. *The hope for southern Louisiana lies in the coastal restoration plan. Sadly, the current plan only accounts for 3 feet of sea level rise.* Three feet is the bare bottom of the range predicted for sea level rise expected worldwide over the next 100 years. The maximum is ten feet. This is not the cure desperately needed; it simply puts New Orleans on life-support.

I am genuinely heartbroken over the state of Louisiana, which is perhaps the most beautiful and culturally rich part of America. I now live in southern Utah and am learning to appreciate other parts of the country. I miss my home, but I am now acutely aware of the substantial consequences of ignoring nature and as much as I love Nawlins, I refuse to be a martyr for her.

Casey has worked as a volunteer leader with the Sierra Club in New Orleans and is now executive director of Global Health Inc.

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is not far behind peak oil.

Is the end of oil all bad news? I think not. In fact I must confess that I felt a certain calm descend on me while reading *The Long Emergency*. Less fuel means fewer cars, less air pollution, and reduced need for new highways.

The Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club has been in almost continual battles during the last decade over proposals to build more highways. Why do politicians and agencies say we need more highways? Because history has shown that more people mean more cars. Using the Legacy Parkway as an example, the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) projected that by

2020 the population in the Northern Corridor would grow by 18% whereas traffic in the corridor would increase by 37%. In similar fashion, UDOT is projecting that east-west traffic in the northern portion of St. George will nearly double between now and 2035 based on socio-economic data from long-range plans. To meet this demand, they propose routing more traffic through the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve.

Neither of these traffic studies (or, I would guess, any others being proposed) questions whether there will be fuel available at any reasonable price to power these vehicles. *To UDOT and other traffic planners, I say “future traffic volumes cannot be*

projected from past experience.” It is possible, if not probable, that traffic volumes will decrease over the next few decades even if population increases.

In closing I quote from Paul Roberts, author of *The End of Oil*: “Not only are the new energy technologies emerging more slowly than optimists had hoped, but many of the new fuels and technologies lack high power density and simply will not be able to deliver the same energy punch as the hydrocarbons they replace. To put it another way, energy efficiency will be not simply a sign of moral virtue, but an absolutely essential component of the future energy economy.”

Roberts' observation makes me feel mighty good about the work the Sierra Club is doing to promote public transportation, alternative fuels, improved efficiency, and conservation.

The end of oil is near. You can help prepare for the “long emergency” by voting for candidates who understand, care, and will work for sound, long-range alternatives rather than quick fixes; and also by improving your personal fuel efficiency and conservation. Let's not be guilty of sleepwalking into the future. Too much is at stake.

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