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Utah Sierran

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Your Vote is Needed! Excom Elections

page 4

Progress and Pitfalls: An Energy Update

By Tim Wagner, Director, Utah Smart Energy Campaign

EPA SNUBS HIGH COURT BY ISSUING COAL PERMIT

Readers of the previous edition of *Utah Sierran* may recall the chapter's celebratory tone after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in May against the Bush Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency over its refusal to regulate carbon dioxide as a pollutant. As noted in the case, the court told the agency that carbon dioxide or CO₂ does indeed qualify as a pollutant and that the Clean Air Act therefore requires the regulation of such. In order to do, the EPA would then have to go through a standard rulemaking process, including a draft rule and allowing public comment.

In standard this-makes-no-sense logic, however, the EPA instead granted its first air quality permit for another coal-fired power plant, right here in Utah of all places.

Deseret Power's proposed Bonanza Power Plant, an 86-megawatt coal-fired generating unit, was issued its permit on August 30. Fitting with the Bush White House tradition of releasing controversial decisions hours before the start of a weekend in hopes of avoiding media scrutiny, the permit was issued less than 24 hours before the Labor Day holiday weekend.

The Bonanza plant, while small on the scale of most coal-fired power plants, will generate an estimated 1.8 million metric tons of CO₂. But what makes this particular project especially noteworthy is that it is the first such permit issued by the EPA following the Supreme Court decision. Many environmental organizations, including the Sierra Club, who were party to the case, are following this issue very closely.

SEVEIR POWER COMPANY – 'BUY OUR "CLEAN COAL" AND WIN A FREE GUN!'

The attempt by NEVCO LLC and Sevier Power Company to build a 270-megawatt coal fired power plant near Sigurd has been greeted by an ever-increasing wave of opposition in recent months as propo-



PHOTO © 2007 J WESTWATER

A Sevier County mother testifying at the NEVCO plant hearing with her son who is sensitive to particulates.

nents regularly try to pull the wool over eyes of the good people of beautiful Sevier County.

SPC's most recent ploys include erecting signs which proclaim "Clean Coal Technology" at both the proposed plant's location and also on Main Street in downtown Richfield, sponsoring local radio and newsprint ads claiming that its facility will be the cleanest in the land, and giving away free guns.

SPC has, however, vastly underestimated the diligence of locals who are calling the company's bluff.

Literally the night before a County Planning Commission public hearing over SPC's application to re-zone its plant site from agricultural to industrial, the company hosted a free picnic in order to garner

supporters. As an enticement, the company offered a raffle for a free gun.

"SPC's most recent ploys include erecting signs which proclaim "Clean Coal Technology" ... and giving away free guns.

Suffice to say the offer did little to change the minds of many Sevier County residents who, by some estimates, are against the proposed coal plant by approximately 85 percent and who showed

up in mass on August 25th to let the planning commission know their feelings. Nearly three-fourths who testified spoke out against the project. The hearing was attended by Sevier Citizens for Clean Air and Water, Sierra Club members, and also Utah Moms for Clean Air.

Additional opposition was mounted on September 6 when the Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment, the Moms, and the Sierra Club traveled to Sevier County make presentations on the health and environmental consequences of building the plant. You can make your voice heard on this issue by writing the Sevier County Commission, 250 N Main St, Room 106, Richfield, Utah 84701, or by calling (435) 893-0401.

INTERMOUNTAIN POWER UNIT #3 MIRED IN LEGAL QUAGMIRE

The 950-MW coal-fired plant proposed by Intermountain Power near Delta, Utah, met yet another snag recently when two of the project's main participants decided to sue the Intermountain Power Authority Board of Directors and the Los Angeles Dept. of Water and Power. Rocky Mountain Power and the Utah Association of Municipal Power Systems, who between the two have agreed to buy 88 percent of the plant's output, cried foul when LADWP and the IPA Board agreed that Unit #3 should not be built in its present permitted form.

The result has been a state of confusion over who really owns the air quality permit (on which the Utah Chapter has filed an appeal). In response, the Utah Division of Air Quality Board voted in its September meeting to cancel the hearing for the Chapter's appeal that was scheduled for November 2007. When the hearing will be rescheduled is unknown at this time.

The future of this plant remains in even more limbo, as most of the southern California cities that currently buy power from Units 1 & 2 have decided to opt

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

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Wayne's World

A Spotlight on Subtle Changes

by Wayne Hoskinson, Utah Chapter Chair



“When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe.”

John Muir

The Sierra Club recently decided to make climate recovery to combat the damage and dangers of uncontrolled global warming one of its top priorities. By now I think most Sierra Club members have seen articles or information about climate change. We understand that the average temperature of the earth is rising and rising rapidly, far more rapidly than in earlier eras. Most club members understand that this will mean changes in our water supply, droughts will be worse or last longer, fires will increase in number and size, and weather in general will change.

The details of the effects of global climate change on living organisms need to be fleshed out. The changes in average temperature are not uniform. Temperate zones are rising faster than tropical zones. Because these zones share migratory species, huge consequences will come from subtle changes.

In 2004 Daniel Grossman published an article in *Scientific American* that describes several consequences of climate change that I do not believe many people recognize. In England a botanist kept records of the earliest blooming of plants over nearly 50 years. The record showed that 385 plants species were blooming an average of 4.5 days earlier. Sixty of those species bloomed two weeks early. A few plants bloomed later.

Ecologists describe the relationship between species in many ways. One of the ways plants and animals relate to each other is in a food chain. Food chains are complicated relationships that involve many layers of consumers and food, of prey and predators. Reproductive success results from complex relationships such as the availability of food and the ability to avoid predators. We all know that many plants require the active participation of intermediaries such as bees, moths and butterflies.

Climate change will result in disruptions of food chains and reproduction because of a mismatch or decoupling of various kinds. The disruption of biological and ecological processes will be far more subtle and pervasive than the popular media has portrayed.

Grossman gives several examples. In Holland the great tit (a bird) feeds on

winter moths. The caterpillar of the winter moth “must hatch almost precisely at ‘bud burst,’ when oak leaves open.” The caterpillar will starve if it hatches too early or too late. The bud burst is happening 10 days earlier than it did 10 years ago and the caterpillar hatch is happening 15 days earlier than it did 10 years ago. The population of winter moths is declining. The great tits continue to lay their eggs at the same time. The chicks now hatch two weeks after the caterpillars reach their peak and when the total food available to sustain the chicks is less. The ecological relationship of oaks, winter moths and great tits has been disrupted. The results of this will repeat itself up and down the food chain.

I doubt the full complexities of the impacts of climate change are understood. Probably we will not know all the consequences until after the impacts have happened.

Long-distance migrants face ecological decoupling as well. Some migrant birds travel from summer breeding grounds to winter habitat. The timing of migrations may no longer coincide with optimal conditions in either breeding or winter habitat, especially if those areas are separated by thousands of miles. Many birds do not base migration upon climate cues but on the length of days. When they arrive at summer breeding grounds their prey (insects or other food sources) will have already peaked and will be in decline. The food supply will not meet the needs for reproduction or sustaining hatchlings. The insects may have already consumed too many plants because the birds did not arrive in time to devour them and reduce total numbers. The insects and plants will enter a spiral of declining abundance and distribution. The birds will soon be swallowed in the vortex of declining numbers.

The pied flycatcher exemplifies this decoupling or mismatch. The flycatcher migrates 5,000 kilometers from West Africa to Holland. Similar to the great tits, flycatchers feed their hatchlings on caterpillars. Unfortunately, the caterpillars “reach peak abundance half a month earlier than they did 20 years ago,” according to Grossman. The flycatchers arrive in Holland on nearly the same day they did in 1980.

These are only a few examples of the way climate change is likely to tear apart the intricate connections in the web of life. A 2002 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change review of research literature indicated that 80 percent of 500 birds, plants, amphibians and other organisms altered the timing of reproduction, migration, length of growing season, and population size or distribution “in ways that might be expected from warming temperatures,” according to Grossman. Each of those changes results in one or more tears in the web of life. And these are only the ones we know about.

I doubt the full complexities of the impacts of climate change are understood. Probably we will not know all the consequences until after the impacts have happened. Even if we manage to curb and reverse the abrupt (in geological time) climate change we humans are causing, the Sierra Club will still have an immense task ahead. Humans continue altering the world in complex ways that tear at the web of life. We continue to destroy or fragment habitat and thus isolate members of species from other members of that species.

We isolate some species from other species that have been related in ecological processes for tens of thousands of years. For example we have separated elk from wolves and beaver from aspen and willows. But in the great dance of life all four of these whirled together to create healthy streams and rivers, healthy stands of aspen, and meadows and wetlands. Together they created a much more resilient landscape and a much more productive landscape. John Muir said it a long time ago, “When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe.” Even if we solve the problem of global climate change we will not have solved all our problems.



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Sierra Club's sexual harassment policy can be found online at mitchell.sierraclub.org/leaders/policies/sexual-harassment.asp or by contacting the Salt Lake City office.

OnEnergy



Energy Vote Strikes Sparks with Environmental Voters

by Sierra Club Energy Team and Field and Chapter staff

The Sierra Club has focused special attention this summer on two key legislative proposals aimed at combating the threat of radical climate change through global warming. Two major contributors to global warming are the energy and transportation sectors. Though both the U.S. Senate and House considered provisions to deal with both sources of greenhouse gasses, they ended up passing differing versions of energy legislation.

In June, in what was described as a major defeat for the automobile industry's lobbying effort, the senate passed a provision that would mandate an increase in auto fuel efficiency to 35 miles-per-gallon by the year 2020. (Automobiles sold in the U.S. currently average about 25 mpg.) If signed into law, this would save about a million gallons a day. This is the first major legislative increase in CAFÉ (corporate average fuel economy) standards in thirty years.

Unfortunately, thanks to a parliamentary maneuver initiated by Republican senators led by Sen. Pete Domenici of New Mexico, the senate failed to vote on requiring U.S. utilities to obtain 15% of their power from a combination of clean, renewable sources

(such as wind, solar and geothermal) and efficiency measures by the year 2020.

The situation was reversed in the US House of Representatives in August. There lawmakers passed the Udall Renewable Electricity Standard amendment by a margin of 220 to 190 votes. The amendment requires 15% of electricity come from renewable sources (geothermal, wind and solar power) by 2020. It includes an option to meet 4% of the goal with energy efficiency that governors can enact based on their states' renewable energy potential. This electricity standard exempts rural electric co-ops and does not pre-empt state programs.

The 35 by 2020 goal the senate set in its energy bill in June must be strengthened in the process called a conference committee in which the differing energy bills passed by each chamber will be merged. This fall, congress will have the opportunity to marry the renewable electricity standard passed by the house and the increased fuel economy standards approved by the senate to make real progress on building a new energy economy and cutting global warming pollution.

THE HOME TEAM LETS US DOWN

All Utah's house members voted against the renewable energy provision and final passage. Second District Congressman Jim Matheson was one of only nine Democrats to vote against the bill. This is particularly disappointing in light of a June poll conducted on behalf of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). The poll sampled the opinion of 400 2nd District voters. It found that 84% supported a renewable energy standard of 20% to be achieved by the year 2020. (The same poll also found that 86% supported tougher emissions standards for all new cars and trucks, as well as increasing fuel economy to 35 mpg within a decade.)

Utah Chapter Sierra Club members who would like to weigh in with their representative on the most recent action in the house should call and express their disappointment. The phone numbers are as follows:

- 1st District – Rep. Rob Bishop:
(202) 225-0453
- 2nd District – Rep. Jim Matheson:
(202) 225-3011
- 3rd District – Rep. Chris Cannon:
(202) 225-7751

It's unfortunate that in this instance Matheson failed to vote for a progressive and pro-environmental measure, the Renewable Energy Standard, that an overwhelming majority of his constituents support. However, when considering Matheson's overall environmental record, one should keep in mind that he still votes in favor of the environment much more than either of his fellow Utah representatives. During 2006 for example, Matheson scored 58% according to the non-partisan League of Conservation Voters, <http://capwiz.com/lcv/bio/keyvotes/?id=10412&congress=1101&lvl=C>. By contrast, both Rep Rob Bishop and Rep Chris Cannon scored 0%.

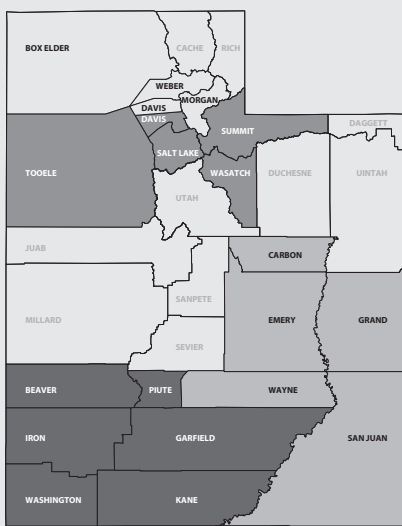
Although Utah's Second District has elected champions such as Karen Shepherd and Wayne Owens who voted more consistently in favor of the environment than Matheson, we could have much worse. Owens and Shepherd were both elected at a time when the Second District did not include significant numbers of voters outside Salt Lake County.

UtahChapter ExComElections 2007

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 postmarked no later than **November 10, 2007.**



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

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__

BOB BECKER

I'm 62 years old, originally from Brooklyn, NY. Been backpacking and day hiking in mountains and desert country all my life, whenever I got the chance. I retired to Ogden three and a half years ago from Baton Rouge, LA, finally realizing a life-long dream of living in the mountain west, and within walking distance of a trailhead. I work part time, teaching American History at WSU, and have been active of late on the Ogden Group's political committee [drafting candidate questionnaires, interviewing Ogden city council candidates, etc.] My part-time status means I have time available to devote to ExCom work for the Ogden Group. Sierra Club priorities: [a] wilderness and natural resource protection, and marshalling public support for same [b] improving the urban environment of Ogden [c] encourage WSU student involvement in the Group and [d] attempt to involve more young people in the Group's outings program.

ROBIN BUSHMAN

I joined the Sierra Club in 2004. My love of hiking and good company keeps me coming back. Recently, I was asked to serve



as the Membership Chair for the Ogden Group. On occasion I lead hikes and support other activities such as cleaning up the garbage in the Ogden River and digging up dyer's woad. I have a teenager daughter who also enjoys hiking, volunteering time to the community. I've lived in Ogden most of my life and enjoy the natural wonders of Utah. I look forward to serving the Ogden Sierra Group.

JOHN HINDS

John served on the Ogden Group Executive Committee (ExCom) at one time or another since the 80's as political action, programs, or outings chair, secretary, chapter delegate, and ExCom chair. He has also volunteered to lead outings, staff information booths (especially at Ogden's Farmer's & Arts Market), beat the bush for ExCom nominees, and generally helped the functioning of the group. With the political environment heating up, suggestions of program meetings being considered, and more diverse outings in the planning, he thinks it's a great time to run for ExCom again. John was born of Utah roots, raised variously from San Diego to Chicago, helped rear 3 fine daughters (thank you very much), teaches in the Weber School District, and is married to the lovely Karen Thurber.

LARRY WOOLSEY

Graduated from Weber State University in 1970 with a degree in history and political science. He retired in 2001 after teaching in the Weber School District for thirty-one years. He also served for thirty years in the United States Coast Guard Reserve. Larry enjoys marathon running, hiking and fishing with his wife Chris.

Larry has been a member of the Sierra Club since 1994 and believes strongly in its goals and mission. He currently serves on the ExCom as political action chair and is frequently one of the Ogden Group's trip leaders. He feels that the citizens of our nation need to be educated about our environment, that our resources need to be better managed, and that there should be more protection and further designation of wilderness areas. We must always be aware of the kind of environment we are going to pass on to future generations.

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__

MARGARET GROCHOCKI

Margaret is a candidate for the Salt Lake Group Executive Committee. She has spent her career in county and municipal government, is well versed in citizen issues, having served as a coordinator for community councils and managed political campaigns.



Margaret will be an immense resource to the Salt Lake Group. She has served as the Public and Recycling Information Officer for the Salt Lake Valley Solid Waste Management Facility for Salt Lake City from 1995 to 2002.

Until 2006, Margaret lived in Cedar City where she helped organize the then-fledgling Southwest Utah Group of the Utah Chapter. She has been a member of the Utah Chapter continuously since 1988 and now lives in Salt Lake County.

ANN WECHSLER

I am seeking another two year term on the Salt Lake Group Executive Committee because, as with most conservation work, issues are rarely resolved in that time frame.

The Salt Lake Group is the largest in the state and can complement the vital work of the Chapter in multiple ways. The most important of these is recruiting members and activists. I have filled many roles in the Utah Chapter's governing structure and find both local and national committees to be immensely rewarding to work with. Most recently, lobbying with members of the National Water Committee in Washington, D.C. on some important bills that aim to restore and protect the nation's drinking water was especially gratifying. I hope to stimulate passage of such legislation by involving local members.



My membership in the national Sierra Club dates back to the 1970s when I was living in New York City, but it was when Salt Lake City opened an office in 1980 that I became an active participant. I have never ceased to be amazed at the scope of the issues that the Chapter embraces, from protecting Red Rock wilderness, to containing urban sprawl, to fighting for the remaining open spaces on our shrinking valley floor. These are enormously complex environmental concerns and our membership has never been timid in addressing them.

I have recently retired and hope to vigorously pursue the conservation work I have been doing for the past few years, as well as involving others in the benefits of volunteerism. It is also a delight to work with other organizations with similar interests, and to be able to represent the Sierra Club when action is called for. I hope you will support my candidacy for the Salt Lake Group of the Utah Chapter.

UtahChapter

RYAN BARKER

My name is Ryan Barker; I am a conservation biologist, avid back-country skier, alpine climber, and a dad to two little boys. I love our wild places as does my family and we spend as much time exploring Utah as we can.



Previously I have worked for Utah State University and in environmental consulting. Currently, I work as a nonprofit consultant in natural areas planning and development. In that capacity I manage the Spring Creek Restoration and Conservation Project.

I have two Bachelor of Science Degrees (Restoration Ecology, Biology) and have had considerable experience in project management, having coordinated projects with the BLM and the Department of Natural Resources.

I have spent two years participating in environmental education programs for Utah County youth, writing a conservation guide for Lehi residents, teaching for the Hutchings Museum of Natural History, and directing outdoor leadership and youth conservation programs. As a student I participated in the Legacy Highway issue and am now actively involved in the UDOT proposed Mountain View Corridor as it relates to Utah County.

If elected I hope to contribute towards the enhancement of sensible, ecologically based perspectives across Utah. I also look forward to building a diverse, responsive, and responsible Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club.

WAYNE HOSKISSON

For many years I have been committed to volunteering with the Sierra Club. Currently I am the Chair of the Utah Chapter Executive Committee. If I am re-elected I am willing to serve another term as Chair. This summer I completed a national Sierra Club training session that qualifies me to supervise



our two Chapter employees. As a Chapter volunteer I work on issues related to wilderness, National Forest management, and National Park management. I wrote Sierra Club comments on Wild and Scenic River designation on National Forests in Utah this year. For many years I have been involved in RS 2477 right of way issues including keeping the Utah Chapter a key partner in the campaign against county and state claims for so-called highways that would ruin our wild places.

RANEE JOHNSON

I am a Licensed Professional Counselor who was born and raised in Weber County. I have been a member of the Sierra club off and on for 15 years, and steadily for the past 6. I have been a member of the Ogden Executive Committee for 3 years and am currently serving as the Ogden Group Chair. I was elected to the Chapter Executive Committee 2 years ago, and have very much enjoyed and appreciated the opportunity to serve. I am the 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. I value clear direct communication and see my position on the CCL as an opportunity to work toward forging better lines of communication within the club. I look forward to contributing, in any way I can, to preserve and protect the natural beauty that we enjoy in this state.



PETE KUENNEMANN

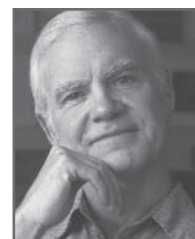
Thomas Edison said, "the world belongs to the energetic." Now is the time to devote our energy to changing our world for the better. I am Error! Contact not defined., a 27-year-old native of Utah, and recently graduated from Westminster College with a Bachelor's degree in Biology. My ambition is to attend law school soon. I am grateful to my professors who encouraged me to pursue what I thought was most



important. This led me to change my goal from a career in medicine to environmental protection. As a senior I was fortunate enough to acquire an internship with the Building Environmental Communities (BEC) campaign at the Sierra Club Field Office in Salt Lake City. Global warming is a threat that demands our attention. One way to meet this threat in Utah is by planning smart transportation systems. To this end I have worked with Marc Heilesen and others to stop the destruction of wetlands along Utah Lake from a proposed Legacy-like freeway in the Mountain View Corridor. We were successful in persuading the City of Lehi and UDOT to adopt a different plan, saving the wetlands and avoiding a large polluting freeway. I am excited at the opportunity to continue using my energy for the Sierra Club as a member of the Executive Committee.

JAMES WESTWATER

James Westwater has a unique career. He is a photochoreographer. For over 30 years he has created, marketed and performed giant-screen, panoramic, multi-image photographic essays, set to great works of classical music. His pieces attempt to inspire people to care for the earth. He has performed his photochoreography as a guest artist appearing with the principal orchestras of Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Saint Louis, Minneapolis, Baltimore, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Detroit, Seattle, Saint Paul, Salt lake City, Houston, Denver, Milwaukee and Washington DC. Twice a National Endowment for the Arts Resident Artist, Westwater photographed in Antarctica as the National Science Foundation's Artist-in-the-Antarctic. Mr. Westwater is a past fellow of The Explorers Club and a recipient of the Antarctic Medal. He has performed before audiences of the national Sierra Club, the National Academy of Science and the World Congress of Local Government. Westwater earned a Ph.D. from The Ohio State University. A 20-year plus member of the Sierra Club in Ohio, in November of 2006, Westwater helped re-establish the Sierra Club presence in Utah Valley, being elected the first Chair of the Utah Valley Sierra Form (<http://uvsf.blogspot.com>). As an ExCom member I would work for a better, smarter, greener sustainable Utah and planet.



DETATCH AND MAIL

UTAH CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB 2007

Executive Committee Election Ballot

Your ballot must received by November 10, 2007. 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.

OgdenGroup

BOB BECKER	S	J
ROBIN BUSHMAN	S	J
JOHN HINDS	S	J
LARRY WOOLSEY	S	J
	S	J

VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN 3

SaltLakeGroup

MARGARET GROCHOCKI	S	J
ANN WECHSLER	S	J
	S	J

VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN 3

UtahChapter

RYAN BARKER	S	J
WAYNE HOSKISSON	S	J
RANEE JOHNSON	S	J
PETE KUENNEMANN	S	J
JAMES WESTWATER	S	J
	S	J

VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN 4 (INCLUDING WRITE-INS)

ThankYou!

YOUR ZIP CODE:

ChapterNews

New Faces and New Roles on the Executive Committee

By Mark Clemens

Wayne Hoskisson, formerly the Utah Chapter Vice-chair, has agreed to serve out the remainder of Al Herring's term as chapter chair. The chair became vacant when Al and Mary moved to Idaho to pursue their dream of operating a small organic farm.

Wayne has served in many positions as a volunteer in the Utah Chapter. For example, he co-ordinated an ambitious and complicated campaign to document all the rural highway claims lodged by anti-wilderness forces in parts of Utah containing BLM lands qualifying to become wilderness. At the national level, Wayne serves on the Wild Planet Strategy Team (WPST). The WPST helps to form policy and promote conservation campaigns across a spectrum of issues. And from that vantage, he serves as the liaison with two national committees reporting to the WPST, the grazing committee and the wildlands committee.

The newest member of the executive committee is Leslie Hugo. Leslie moved recently from Illinois where she was active both as chapter secretary and with her group, the Sauk-Calumet Group. Leslie says she, "fell in love with and joined the Sierra Club in 1994 while I was living in Nebraska, after I went on a club-led backpacking trip."

Leslie was appointed to a chapter executive committee vacancy at the ExCom's 14 July meeting and will serve until January 2009. She immediately agreed—God bless her—to serve as Utah Chapter secretary. This role is vital to non-profits but is not sufficiently recognized. We're lucky to have Leslie's energy. She reports that she's very excited to be living in Utah. Having served in a number of roles in a large and very effective chapter, she'll have expertise and ideas that we look forward to poaching.

We're also proud to have Gordon Lind, a member of the Utah Chapter Executive Committee, serving on the Sierra Club's Canyons of the Colorado River Committee. He was selected to work on the committee earlier this year. Gordon has extensive experience with water and National Environmental Policy Act issues. He worked for the US Bureau of Reclamation for many years.



Leslie Hugo



Gordon Lind



PHOTOS © 2007 JNW

Sierra Clean-up Team Strikes at Diamond Fork Hot Springs

by Jim Westwater

Seven Sierrans hiked up to beautiful Diamond Fork Hot Springs and bagged five trash sacks full of junk. After lunch and a refreshing soak in some delightfully cool pools (The springs have both hot and cool pools, and it was about 96° in the shade.), we hiked back the 2.25 miles to the trail-head before carpooling it to Spanish Fork to deposit the goods in proper receptacles.

The service hike was organized by the Utah Valley Sierra Forum. A really good time was had by all while we did a little deed to help the environment and Mother Earth. As it turned out, the majority of us were Native Americans. The Utah Valley Sierra Forum blog has additional photos of the event at <http://uvsf.blogspot.com/2007/06/sierra-cleanup-team-strikes-diamond.html>.

SOUTHWEST GROUP DISSOLUTION NOTICE

The Utah Chapter Executive Committee will discuss the possibility of dissolving the Southwest Group at its meeting in Salt Lake City on Saturday, November 10th, 2007. (Consult the chapter website for meeting time and location, http://www.utah.sierraclub.org/ut_chapter.asp#excom.)

The Southwest Group of the Utah Chapter did not have any candidates for its executive committee election in 2006. It has also not held regular executive committee meetings. The Chapter Executive Committee commends the contributions of individual volunteers in the Southwest Group, but the group has been unable to sustain the level of activity required

by chapter by-laws and Sierra Club policy. Southwest Group members and other chapter members are welcome to attend the meeting in Salt Lake City to comment on the proposed dissolution.

Chapter members living within the boundaries of the former group would still be eligible to participate on chapter committees, vote in chapter elections and receive the chapter newsletter. If the Southwest Utah Group is dissolved, the action will not preclude the establishment of local committees or the future establishment of groups.



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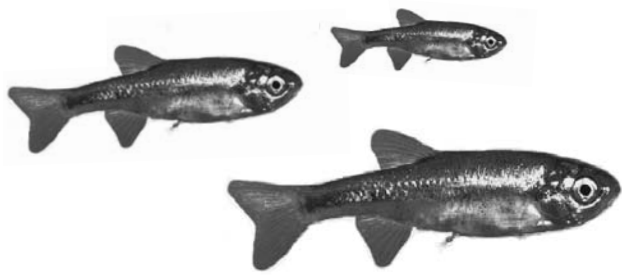
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Our Water

Swimming Around an In-box: an Update on the Least Chub

by Mark Clemens

The Utah Chapter joined a petition to list the least chub as a threatened or endangered species in June 2007. The Center for Biological Diversity, the Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation and the Great Basin Chapter of Trout Unlimited are the other petitioners. Our objective is both to protect a native species of fish but also the West Desert springs ecosystem for which they are now an important indicator species.



On July 13th, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) responded to our petition with a letter in which they complained they have no funds available in the budget for Region 6 to review the fish's status, and they don't believe the circumstances warrant an emergency listing. If USFWS has not been able to review the status of the least chub within the year prescribed the Endangered Species Act, the Utah Chapter along with its co-petitioners will consider all options available under the law to compel the agency to comply.

Populations of the least chub had been on a downward trend for several years despite recovery efforts by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR), and the fish had been considered for endangered or threatened status as long ago as 1980. The proposal by the Southern Nevada Water Authority to pump tens of thousands of acre feet of groundwater from the Snake Valley, one of the best remaining strongholds of the least chub, to accommodate growth in Las Vegas could well strike a death blow not only to the least chub but also to the farming communities in the West Desert.

DWR continues very actively to attempt to recover the least chub according to the terms of the Least Chub Conservation Agreement and Strategy, drawn up to try to forestall listing the chub as either threatened or endangered. In October 2006, DWR introduced 19,000 least chub to Athey Reservoir near Faust, Utah.

DWR Native Aquatic Project Leader Mike Mills said, "They appear to be doing well. In a few months, we'll do our full-blown monitoring where we trap the whole reservoir and wetland below to see how many are left out there."

However the primary threats to the least chub, including the groundwater pumping proposal, continue to threaten its future. Fish habitat is also threatened by Utah's growing population. Mills acknowledged, "Least chub like areas that are swampy that people normally wouldn't see as appealing, but as our population grows, these areas are being drained or built over."

Neffs Dodges a Dam

by Ann Wechsler

A proposed debris basin and dam at the mouth of Neffs Canyon, a popular recreational trailhead to a spectacular wilderness area, is shelved for five years at least. Salt Lake County was seriously considering construction of a retention basin, the size of three football fields, and a forty-foot dam stretching from the trailhead past the backyards of a number of Olympus Cove homes. Some of those homeowners took the lead in opposing its construction.

There is the potential for a major debris flow from the canyon, particularly if a wildfire denudes the steep slopes anywhere above the cove's alluvial fan. However, the business of calculating the risk to residents is not business as usual. Consultants to the County Engineering and Flood Control (the firm of Hansen, Allen and Luce produced the study) failed to convince the Mount Olympus Community Council and concerned residents and conservationists that danger of flooding—sufficient to warrant such draconian measures—is imminent. In fact, the decision to examine the need for a debris basin came, not from the prospect of a life-threatening event, but from cove homeowners who complained to their Community Council that they were required to purchase federal flood insurance; they reside on a flood zone designated by the Federal Emergency Management Administration as likely to experience a flood

within 100 years. Actually, the number of homes in the specified Flood Zone A is relatively small, about 150 out of 1,000, but the council requested that Salt Lake County offer a mitigation plan for consideration.

When presented with the plan, many residents of this scenic residential area, as well as citizens from beyond the cove, voiced a healthy skepticism at a February meeting hosted by the Mt. Olympus Community Council. Conservationists, who are interested in protecting the foothills and canyon mouths from unsightly mitigation projects of dubious utility, also spoke against the faulty and incomplete projections in the proposal. Save Our Canyons, the Utah Rivers Council, and the Salt Lake Group of the Sierra Club urged Mayor Peter Corroon to scuttle the project. For now, the proposal is not in the five-year plan and will not proceed to a design phase or be funded anytime soon.

For all those who prefer their canyon and foothill interfaces free of bulldozers that would level and denude a vast area in the name of efforts to control a habitually fickle nature, breathe a sigh of relief. Better still, take a walk from the public trailhead into the Mount Olympus Wilderness and be grateful for this reprieve.

A Tale of Three Acts

by Ann Wechsler, Salt Lake Group Chair

The decades old and stringent Clean Water Act has been under siege of late, especially during the George W Bush Administration. It was the persistent erosion of protection for the nation's wetlands and streams that prompted Frank Orto and me, both members of the National Water Committee, to visit Capitol Hill to register our support for the Clean Water Restoration Act (HR2421) and the Clean Water Protection Act (HR2169). On July 25th, the Clean Water Restoration Act (S1870) was introduced in the senate by Russ Feingold.

Based on the notion that constituents from home districts carry some weight with their congressional delegations, Frank contacted the offices of all twenty-one members of his Illinois delegation, and Utah added three to the appointment schedule. Those members who were already original or co-sponsors of either bill were thanked – and reminded that 30,000 members of the Illinois Sierra Club would be watching their environmental voting record – while others were urged to sign on.

Most meetings involved a perfunctory explanation of the legislation by Frank or me, followed with a commitment by the aide to follow-up with the Congress member, but a few

Navigating the halls of Congress, not to mention the elevators jammed with visitors in June, is not a relaxing summer junket, but the weekly Coffee with Constituents forum hosted by Senators Durbin and Obama is a slice of efficient governing. The senators appear precisely on time and begin taking questions, substantive questions, from a diverse audience. Frank's question regarding the senate version of the CWRA, when introduced, received a crisp and positive reply from Senator Obama. And we appreciated the free donuts and photo-op in spite of the early hour.



Our aquatic grassroots lobbyists in DC, left to right, Senator Dick Durbin, Frank Orto, Ann Wechsler, and Senator Barack Obama.

were surprisingly receptive. One aide remarked, "we get the national people coming in here and yelling at us, but it's nice to see someone from back home!" Others invited us to bring environmental concerns to them in the future; still another suggested that his office be flooded with phone calls urging his boss to sign on—a gentle reminder that participatory democracy in America lives on.

The National Water Committee of the Sierra Club, chaired by Debbie Neustadt of Iowa (who also lobbied Iowa's members on these bills) was responsible for funding this modest venture. It should be remembered that, as the club becomes increasingly staffed by professionals, volunteers can continue to make a significant contribution to the nation's critical public policy decisions.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



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.

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Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
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Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

F94Q W 2900



Utah Moms for Clean Air with Governor Huntsman.

out of Unit #3. Other smaller cities and municipalities around the Intermountain West have also shunned the project due to concerns over greenhouse gas emissions and global warming, and the desire to find cleaner, renewable sources of electricity. Under its current permit, IPP Unit #3 would emit approximately 7 million tons of CO2 in addition to the approximately 16 million tons emitted by Units 1 & 2. If Unit #3 were built, IPP would become the nation's second largest CO₂ emitting coal power plant.

GOVERNOR'S CLIMATE PANEL WRAPS UP, INCLUDING ADVANCING RENEWABLES

Governor Jon Huntsman's Blue Rib-

bon Advisory Council on Climate Change (BRAC) finished up its work and report in August, making a list of 80+ recommendations to the governor on how the state can reduce its greenhouse gas footprint. The chapter's own Tim Wagner served on the BRAC in its more than one year duration.

Part way through the process the governor directed the BRAC to also develop a proposal on how best to advance renewable energy sources in the state. Dubbed the Renewable Energy Initiative Focus Group and co-chaired by Wagner, part of the sub-group's emphasis has been to consider a possible Renewable Portfolio Standard, or RPS, for Utah. The group has spent considerable time reviewing the

Oregon RPS, that was recently passed and signed into law, which mandates that 20 percent of Oregon's electricity comes from renewables such as wind and solar.

As of this writing, the REI Focus Group is still meeting and considering several options before making specific recommendations. You can read all that the BRAC has considered and passed, as well as the REI Focus Group's work by going to: http://www.deq.utah.gov/BRAC_Climate/. Please consider sending a letter or email of support to the Governor for showing progressive leadership on this issue. Contact information can be found at: <http://www.utah.gov/governor/contact.html>.

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

Utah Chapter Sierra Club
 2159 South 700 East, Suite 210
 Salt Lake City, Utah 84106



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



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 2007.

OurLands



Hunting and fishing contributes over \$3 billion to the economy of the Rocky Mountain West.

SIERRA CLUB REPORT:

The New Economy of the West:

The new report, "The New Economy of the West: From Clear cutting to Camping," shows that increasingly, western communities depend on public lands for jobs, economic growth, and vitality. It's time to change the way we think about our western public lands.

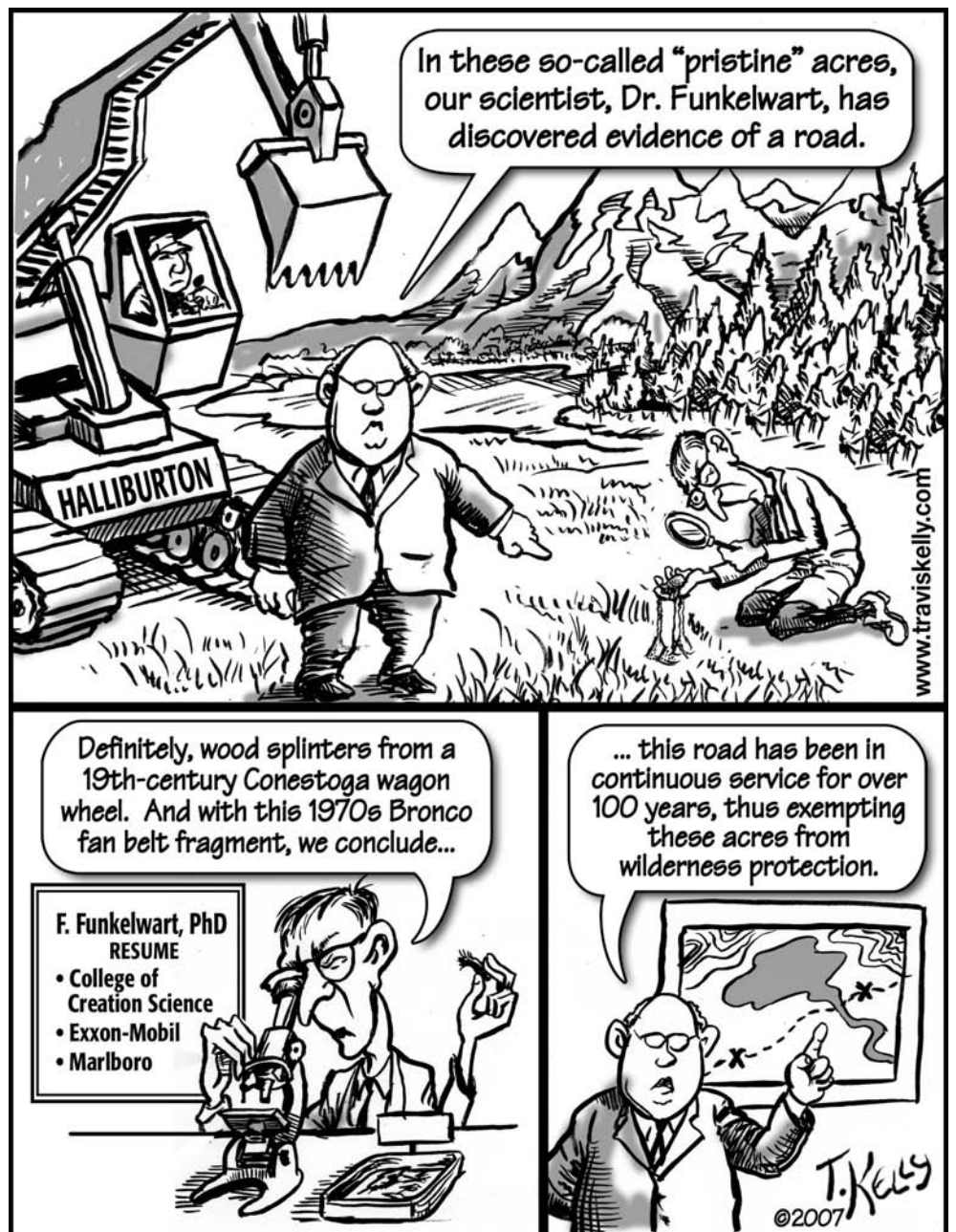
The economics of The West have shifted dramatically over the past few decades. Mining, timber, and oil —industries that shaped the old West—no longer drive the region's economy. Recreational activities like camping, fishing, hunting, skiing, hiking, and boating support more jobs and economic growth than extractive industries.

Some key findings in the report:

- One in twenty Americans rely in some manner on outdoor recreation to make a living
- In 2006, outdoor recreation in the West generated \$61 billion and 617,186 new jobs
- Communities that are closest to federally-protected public lands show the strongest economic growth
- Hunting and fishing contributes over \$3 billion to the economy of the Rocky Mountain West

The lands where Americans camp, hike, hunt, fish, watch wildlife, and vacation are one of our nation's greatest economic assets. But we must work vigilantly to protect this asset from runaway oil and gas drilling. By permanently protecting our outdoor heritage, we ensure that future generations can enjoy unspoiled landscapes, and the jobs and vitality that come with them.

Download the report at: <http://www.sierraclub.org/wildlegacy/downloads/2007publicwildlandsreport.pdf>



Courtesy of www.traviskelly.com

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. 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.

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.

October

SLG, Fri-Sat, 10/5-10/6, Hike the Land of the Sleeping Rainbow. Join Margaret Fahey on the weekend of Friday, October 5th and Saturday, the 6th for day hiking in the inspiring redrock country around Torrey, Utah. Car camping will be on private land in Torrey. For more information, contact Margaret at redrockmiss@yahoo.com.

SLG, Sat, 10/6, Dry Creek Hike. Join a group of hearty hikers for a trek to the Dry Creek area above the Avenues area of Salt Lake City. Although a popular area for hikers, there are less frequented areas that may hold a surprise or two for those venturing out to enjoy fall foliage on a perfect day for hiking. Call Rebecca (487-4160) for meeting time, place, and details.

SLG, Sun, 10/7, Lake Blanche Hike. Enjoy a hike to the very lovely Lake Blanche when temperatures are pleasant and the canyons may still boast some vibrant fall colors. Al-

though the trail is moderately steep, hikers will meander up at a leisurely pace to take pleasure in the autumn canyon ambiance. Call Jan (712-8956) for meeting time, place, and info about the hike.

GCG, Sat 10/13, 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 The Moab Information Center at 9 AM. For details contact Richard Anderson at 259-7602. [E]

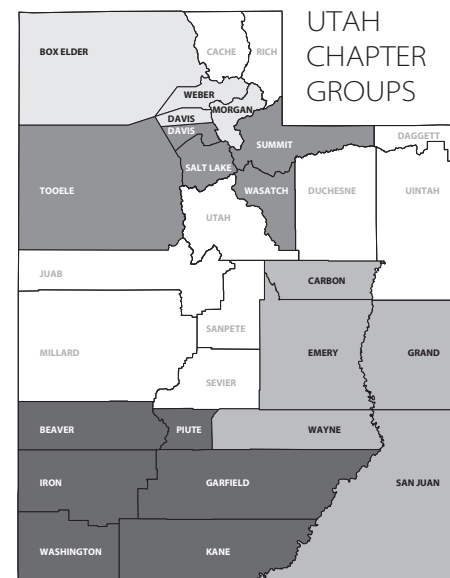
OG, Sat, 10/13, Lakeside Trail on Antelope Island. An easy hike with the possibility of seeing wildlife. This is approximately a 4-mile loop. There is an entrance fee to drive onto the island. We will meet and carpool onto the island. Call Robin for meeting time. 334-8805

SLG, Sun, 10/14, Fall Colors Dayhike in Big Cottonwood Canyon. This loop hike starts near Solitude Ski Resort on the Willow Lake East Trail, reaches about 9,000 feet elevation and comes down past Willow Heights Lake to join the Willow Lake Trail back to the highway. About four miles roundtrip and 1,000 foot ascent. Meeting time is 9 am at Big Cottonwood Canyon Park and Ride for carpooling. Call Ron at 801/292-4040 for more info or if weather conditions are doubtful.

GCG, Sat 10/20, Upheaval Dome. A moderately difficult hike of six miles or so with rock scrambling to explore this weird, spectacular feature. Starts at the Upheaval Dome parking lot and descends about a thousand feet. We'll spend several hours exploring the crater and its geology (salt diapir? meteor crater? coesite?). Return to the parking lot. Meet at Moab Information Center, Center and Main, at 9:00 AM. Leader: Ed Brandstetter, 259-9427 or Tom Messenger, 259-1756. [E]

OG, Sat, 10/20, Road Biking Expedition on Antelope Island. Meet in the parking lot at the east side of the causeway at 10 am. There is a fee for each biker. We will bike across the causeway, then around paved island roads, as far as the group would like to go, then back to our cars. We will stop to eat lunch, and break as needed. For more information call Raneer at 985-0158

SLG, Tues, 10/23, Moonlight Mystery Hike. Venture out on a mild late autumn night and partake in a magical mystical moonlit hike in one of the beautiful Wasatch canyons. Although the location has not been chosen for sure, Millcreek Canyon is a popular night time hiking venue. Hikers usu-



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

ally gather at one of the night-time cafes for hot beverages after the hike. Call Dee (718-1970) for meeting time, place and info.

OG, Sat, 10/27, Antelope Island's Sentinel Trail. Join us for a moderate hike on the south end of the island that goes about six miles round trip to a high point. This is one of the newest trails to be developed on the island. An optional visit to the Garr Ranch House near the trailhead can also be done. Call Larry Woolsey at (801) 731-3701 for more details.

SLG, Sun, 10/28, Dayhike on the Alexander Creek Trail. Join Ron Younger for this exploration of the Alexander Creek Trail to the junction with the Great Western Trail in Parley's Canyon. Weather and trail conditions permitting this trek starts near Mt Dell Golf Course. Call 292-4040 for meeting time or alternative event.

November

SLG, Sun, 11/4, Notch Peak Hike. Notch Peak is an excellent setting for a fall hike in the middle of the West Desert. Rising 5000 feet above the desert floor, the cliff face of Notch Peak is one of the highest in North America. In spite of the harsh desert environs, the trail passes by steep multicolored rock walls, ancient bristle cone pines, and through lush desert vegetation. Expect a moderate slope for most of the hike although some scrambling may be necessary near the summit. This will be a one day, all-day hike, leaving early in the morning and back late in the evening. Bring plenty of water, snacks, and appropriate hiking gear. For meeting time, place and other details, call Ken (484-3112).

GCG, Sat 11/10, Mary Jane Canyon to Castle Valley. Approximately 6-mile hike that crosses the gap between Castle Rock and Adobe Mesa with an elevation gain of about 750'. Excellent views of both valleys, Castle Rock, Fisher Towers and Round Mountain. We will walk most of the way on seldom-used trails. Meet at Moab Information Center, Center and Main, at 9:00 AM. Leader: Tom Messenger, 259-1756.

OG, Sat, 11/10, Skyline Trail. We will start at the trailhead near Pineview Reservoir. We will hike approximately 2 hours up the trail; expect a moderate climb. Participants will get a chance to see the heart of the Lewis Peak roadless area. Call Robin for meeting time. 334-8805

OutingsPhotos



KAREN MARSHALL

SEPT. 6, 2006: Wednesday Trek. Secret Lake (9460') from the top of Sugarloaf Peak (11,051').



RON YOUNGER

JAN. 25, 2007: Thursday Showshoe. Willow Heights East Trail (BCC). Solitude Ski Area through the trees.

SLG, Sat, 11/10, Leader's Choice Big/Little Cottonwood Snowshoe/Hike. Depending on snow conditions, this will be a hike or snowshoe or both. The location of the trek will also depend on conditions at time of outing, but will probably take place in either Big or Little Cottonwood Canyon. Call Rebecca (487-4160) for time, location, and details.

SLG, Sun, 11/11, Winter Hike in the West Desert. This is a leader's choice hike in the West Desert for which the destination will depend on weather and road conditions. Contact Ron (292-4040) for time, place and/or alternate event.

GCG, Sat 11/17, Mill Creek. This hike explores a portion of Mill Creek Canyon adjacent to Johnsons Up On Top. We will drive up to the north mesa past the big water tank and park at the south end near the rim on Mill Creek. The hike will take us down into the canyon, upstream for about 1 mile until we reach private property, then back down stream where we will climb out of the canyon. The hike is about 3.2 miles with a ~200-foot descent and ascent. Meet at Moab Information Center, Center and Main, at 9:00 AM. Leader: Geoff Freethy, 259-0253.

OG, Sat, 11/17, Downhill at Snow Basin. Like to hike downhill? Then this is for you. We will start at the Green Pond trailhead on the road that goes to Snow Basin, hike down to Ice Box Canyon, go to Wheeler Canyon, and end up at Ogden Canyon. It will be approximately six miles one way of easy to moderate hiking. Call Larry Woolsey at (801) 731-3701 for more details.

OG, Sat, 11/24, Turkey Burn. Forget the shopping Malls, get outdoors. Join us on the Maple Loop near Snow Basin, about 6 miles. Weather permitting; we'll meet at 10 am. Call Joanie @ (801) 399-0034.

December

GCG, Sat 12/8, Day Canyon. An approximately 5-mile hike the length of Day Canyon with shuttle and key exchange. Day Canyon is on highway 279, Potash highway, 10+ miles from the highway 191 junction. The plan is to have half of the group shuttle to the top of Day Canyon and hike down canyon. The other half of the group starts at the bottom of Day Canyon and hike up. Somewhere half way we will exchange car keys. The canyon has a very old unused road extending about 4 miles from the bottom. From there an old cattle trail that the cowboys built leads to the top of the canyon. The shuttle vehicles at the top of the canyon can get there either from the top of Long Canyon or from the Dead Horse Point road extension to Long Canyon. Meet at MIC 9 AM. For details contact Mike Stringham, 259-8579.

SLG, Sun, 12/09, 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 or alternate event.

SLG, Sun, 12/16, Leader's Choice Ski Trip In The Mountains. Get away from the maddening holiday crowds and indulge in an exhilarating ski excursion. Depending on snow conditions at the time, there are several excellent locations for an early winter day ski trip including the Mirror Lake Highway, Great Western Trail, or anywhere there is adequate snow. Intermediate level backcountry ski skills are recommended. Call Ken (484-3112) for meeting time, place, and other info.

GCG, Wed 12/19, White's. Some mild slick-rock scrambling over a knob before entering a side canyon to Spring Canyon on an old cattle trail. We follow the side canyon to Spring then descend Spring half a mile or so to a dry fall. Climb a couple of hundred feet to start then descend about 800 feet (400 feet to top of cattle trail, 400 feet in canyons) to dry fall. About six miles round trip. Meet at Moab Information Center, Center and Main, at 8:30 AM. Leader: Tom Messenger, 259-1756.

OG, Sat 12/22, Ogden Overlook Snowshoe in Snow Basin. T'is the season for a snowshoe at Snow Basin. We'll be going to the Ogden overlook which is about 5-6 miles (about 3 hours) round-trip. Hope to see you there. Call Larry at (801) 731-3701 for details.

January

GCG, Sat 1/12, Trough Springs Canyon. Approximately 5mile round trip hike from the bottom of Kane Springs Canyon to top of Canyon Rims area near the Anticline view point. We will drive up Kane Springs Canyon past the junction for Hurrah Pass to the bottom of Trough Springs Canyon. This may require 4-wheel drive because of sand on the road south of the junction. This trail is an old stock trail and seldom traveled. Meet at MIC 9 AM. For details contact Mike Stringham, 259-8579.

SLG, Sun, 1/13/08, Snow Basin Snowshoe/ X-country Ski Tour. Join us on the Outback Trail at Snow Basin for a snowshoe or X/C ski outing. We'll head out from Bountiful for the trailhead. Call Ron (292-4040) for meeting time, place or alternate event.

GCG, Sat 1/26, Cross Country Skiing in the LaSals. Meet at the MIC at 9 a.m. Leader: Mike Duncan 259-0246. Drive to the Geyser Pass parking area (4wd req'd, last 6 mi steep and snowpacked) in the LaSals. Ski along easy road at first, then climb through gently sloping, open meadows as far as we have time for. Use skins, fishscales or climbing wax to climb. Lunch long or short depending on weather. Beautiful views. Telemark on way back, lessons if you need them. Back to parking lot by mid/late afternoon.



win a backcountry guide

JULY 5, 2005: Tuesday evening trekking group at Mineral Fork Canyon trail head. Be the first (before October 15, 2007) to correctly list the first name of nine of these trekkers and receive a Guide Book for the High Uintas. Send your list to Ron Younger at 920 East 1500 South, Bountiful, UT 84010-2138.

Utah Chapter Directory

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- Tom Messenger, web master..... messengertj@citlink.net, (435) 259-1756
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- Kevin Walker, public landskwalker@xmission.com, (435) 259-7540

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

The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ridesharing 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 US Forest Service to be shared by all participants. Text of the outings liability waiver may be found at <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/index.asp>. CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

Out&About

Who's the Strongest Environmental Leader in 2007 in Utah?

by Mark Clemens

The Utah Chapter of Sierra Club congratulates Summit County Commissioner Sally Elliott on her selection as Political Leader of the Year Award in 2007. Elliott has a confluence of talents that one can call a genius for politics. She likes people and can talk to anybody about anything. She is quite impossible to intimidate. She has a ready ability to size up situations. From way down deep, she believes things can be improved.

These qualities—however meritorious—aren't alone sufficient to put her at the top of the Sierra Club hit parade in 2007. Sally's been organizing to improve things—probably from the day she touched down in Utah—and certainly didn't wait to become a county commissioner to start. I'll give you just the briefest abstract of Sally's extraordinary record on the environment.

The list starts with trails, trails, trails. There are now trails reaching out like filaments to virtually every point of the compass. To cite just a handful, in the northwest corner of Summit County, there are miles of new trails in The Preserve. In the south, the Phoston Spur trail testifies to Sally's energy and persistence. The one that she promoted and in large measure built—the 28-mile rail trail from Park City to Echo—reaches out towards the northeast end of the county. This legacy of trails will be one of her most important and enduring contributions.

I dip my toe briefly into the miscellaneous environmental category to mention that Sally has supported acquisition by the US Forest Service of thousands of acres of oil and timber company inholdings scattered among public lands managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest on the north slope of the Uintas. These lands, important for wildlife habitat, watershed and recreation, were threatened with logging, and development as vacation home colonies. She has spoken warmly in support of Wild and Scenic River designations in Summit County. Sally was also a founding director of Recycle Utah.

Another major theme in this story of strong support of the environment is open space. Sally has fervently supported and defended acquisition of open space as a commissioner. But her commitment goes beyond voting the right way at commission meetings. Elliott was a founding director of Utah Open Lands, a land trust that has protected over 44,000 acres statewide.

She campaigned vigorously for the passage of open space bonds on more than one occasion. She has certainly not been alone in the fight for open space in Summit County—the list of enthusiastic advocates of open space includes other commission-

ers, mayors and private individuals. Below is a list of some of the open space acquisitions in which Elliott has played a role:

- 1) McPollin-Osguthorpe Farm,
- 2) SR 224 Highway frontage protection,
- 3) McCloud Creek wetlands and frontage,
- 4) Virginia Mining Claims in Old Town,
- 5) Frank Richard Ranch frontage,
- 6) Round Valley, and
- 7) Gambel Oak Park.

Governor Huntsman recently appointed Elliott to the board of the Utah Quality Growth Commission. From this new post, she'll be able to influence the LeRay McAlister Critical Lands Fund to disburse as effectively as possible funds needed to protect Utah's magnificent scenery.

When one has taken up a position to fight for open space in Summit County, one is on good ground. Despite the length of the foregoing list, it's actually another issue that will be Commissioner Sally Elliott's greatest environmental legacy. And that is to fight for a democratic (with a small d) community's right to decide what it is going to look like now and in the future through zoning and planning.


Summit County has taken stronger and more aggressive measures to regulate density, protect trail corridors and enhance open space than virtually any other county in the state. Although popular with most Summit County residents, it has raised the ire of developers and landowners. And those interests have fought back with a bevy of lawsuits.

Sally's own words (from an editorial she co-authored in the *Park Record*) tell it best, "The truth is you elected us to protect the special quality of life we enjoy here in Summit County.... You told us in no uncertain terms that open space, trails, appropriate densities, views, ridgelines and a unique but threatened lifestyle are all vital to our future. Not everyone is happy with our accomplishments. Certain developers, large landowners and their lawyers have challenged our efforts seeking to overturn your desires at every turn. There are now 26 lawsuits pending against the county. So next time you wonder why there are so many lawsuits, ask yourself a few simple questions: 1) Why did I move here? 2) What quality of life do I want now and for my kids? 3) Who is filing all these lawsuits against Summit County, and what is it they want?"

Then ask yourself what you want your elected county commissioners to do to protect Summit County and its future, and we think the answer will be obvious." In the time since the editorial was written, some of those suits have been dismissed in Summit County's favor, justifying Elliott's faith and commitment.

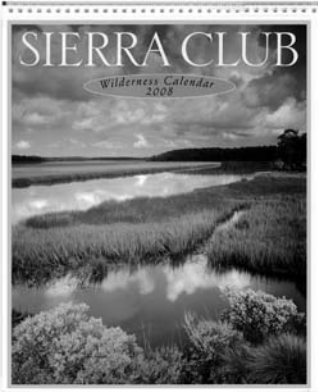


Al Herring and Mark Clemens congratulate Sally Elliott on her selection as the 2007 Political Leader of the Year award.




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