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America's Red Rock Wilderness [map on page 7](#)

People & Wilderness:

THE HISTORY OF THE UTAH BLM WILDERNESS CAMPAIGN

by Lawson LeGate, Senior Southwest Representative

Earlier this year, America's Red Rock Wilderness Act was re-introduced in both houses of congress. This bill is the result of long and effective efforts by wilderness advocates, including Sierra Club members, who have fought to protect deserving public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management. This article tells how we got to this historic point in the battle to protect wild Utah.

The history of the BLM wilderness campaign is still being written. It has involved thousands of people throughout Utah and the nation. It is a story of one of the most intensive citizen-led campaigns ever mounted to protect a portion of America's wilderness heritage. Over the years, important contributions have been made by organizations such as the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, the National Parks and Conservations Association, The Wilderness Society, and the Wasatch Mountain Club. Some groups that have come and gone, such as the Utah Wilderness Association, have also contributed. This particular history will focus especially on the contributions of Sierra Club volunteers and staff. It would be impossible in the space available in this issue of *The Utah Sierran* to list every volunteer who worked on the campaign, but it is hoped that the reader will understand that each individual effort cited represents many more unsung contributors. Without the dedication of wilderness volunteers, there would be no Utah wilderness campaign.

A growing awareness of the extraordinary treasures of America's wilderness heritage in Utah coalesced in the early 1970s. The tragedy of the damming of Glen Canyon on the Colorado River had underscored the dangers faced by the canyon country. With attention drawn to the newly established Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (GCNRA), one of the earliest threats surfaced. Local politicians, enamored of the notion of filling in the blank spots on the American map, devel-

oped the idea to build the Trans-Escalante Highway that would have linked the Hole-the-Rock Road in central Garfield County with Bullfrog on Lake Powell to the east. This roadway would have added the crosspiece to the wound created by the reservoir behind Lake Powell by opening up a vast area of Escalante Canyons wilderness. Two Sierra Club volunteers from Salt Lake City, Bill and June Viavant, took up the challenge and in so doing helped introduce Utahns and others to the wonders of the canyon country. The highway was never built, thanks in large part to the Viavants' efforts. In their work to protect the GCNRA the Viavants were assisted by a young volunteer named Jim Catlin who would later figure prominently in the Utah wilderness campaign.

Soon thereafter, the infamous Kaiparowits Power Plant was proposed, and environmental opposition inspired some locals in the town of Escalante to burn Robert Redford, a vocal opponent, in effigy. A thick coal seam on Collette Top on the Kaiparowits Plateau posed a great temptation to commercial interests who wanted to build a coal-fired power plant there. This largely unknown wilderness of canyons and mesas and fascinating geology would have been turned into an industrial zone had the plant been built there. There were also accompanying proposals to build a dam on the Escalante River and a second power plant in Alvey Wash. Sierra Club volunteers helped to publicize the threats by organizing outings, publishing newsletter articles, and arranging for an article on the Kaiparowits to appear in *National Geographic* magazine.

Also in the early 1970s, a University of Utah librarian named Ruth Frear took on the issue of proposed oil and gas wells in the Circle Cliffs area of the Escalante Canyons. Ruth's work resulted in a successful Sierra Club lawsuit litigated by Salt Lake attorney Wayne Petty and Denver attorney Tony Ruckel. (Both Ruth and Tony went



JAMIE HOGGARD

Mineral Canyon.

on to serve on the Sierra Club's national Board of Directors.)

All these defensive endeavors built a foundation for the Utah BLM wilderness campaign that emerged in the late '70s. In 1964 the Wilderness Act directed the U.S. Forest Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Park Service to examine the lands within their jurisdictions to determine which should be recommended to congress for wilderness designation. But the Bureau of Land Management, the nation's largest federal land manager, was left out.

The Federal Land Protection Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) corrected the situation by directing BLM to conduct an inventory of its lands to determine their wilderness values. From the start, however, the BLM's process in Utah was driven by anti-wilderness politics. In examining which lands should be subjected to further wilderness study, BLM's approach can best

be summed up by the directive given by one BLM manager in southeastern Utah, "When in doubt, throw it out." The chief concern of the anti-wilderness forces within the agency was FLPMA's requirement that any inventoried wildlands that were recommended for further study would have to be protected from damaging development pending a final congressional decision.

Throughout the state, the BLM conducted the inventory in great haste. In numerous instances, senior managers in the BLM overruled survey teams who had conducted the inventory. One infamous case was that of Mancos Mesa in the southeast corner of the state. There BLM personnel had one day to survey an area of 110,000 acres. During the day, two members of the team could not be found by the helicopter that dropped them off. Eventually, after all team members were accounted for, the team returned to head-

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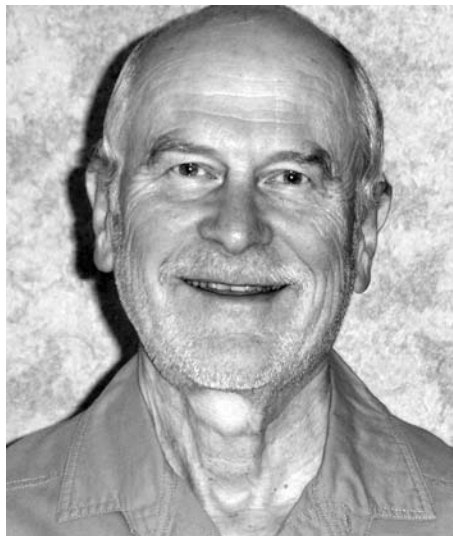
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The Many Friends of Utah Wilderness

by Al Herring, Chapter Chair



“I think of wilderness in Utah as MY wilderness just as much as yours. It’s America’s.”

- VICKY HOOVER



RS 2477 highway claim in the streambed of the Paria River inside proposed wilderness and the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

“I think of wilderness in Utah as MY wilderness just as much as yours. It’s America’s.”

Vicky Hoover recently emailed me the above words. Vicky happens to live in San Francisco, but she loves Utah wilderness and is here frequently to explore our wild areas and show them to other Sierra Club members. Thanks, Vicki!

Like Vicky, people from across the US (and many foreign countries) recognize the value of our wilderness-class areas and are working to protect them. However, many Utah Chapter members are unaware of the many friends of Utah wilderness. This was certainly my situation until recently. My goal in this column is to give some well-deserved recognition and thanks to these individuals and groups.

I will start with the legislators in Washington who are working to pass America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act of 2007 (known as ARWA). This Act was reintroduced in the 110th Congress by Rep Maurice Hinchey (D-NY22) and Sen. Richard Durbin (D-IL) on April 18. Thus far, it has gathered 129 cosponsors in the House and 19 in the Senate. On behalf of all Utah Sierra Club members, I thank each of these sponsors and cosponsors. (I just wish there were some Utah legislators among them to thank.)

Within the Sierra Club, the National Utah Wilderness Task Force led by Bob Jordan in Vermont and Clayton Daughenbaugh in Illinois organizes club activists across the nation on behalf of Utah wilderness. (Thanks, Bob and Clayton!) And their efforts bear fruit.

In Virginia, Pete Bsumek wrote an article for their chapter newsletter titled, “Why Utah wilderness is an important issue in Virginia, or time for Congress to get serious about our Redrock wilderness.” In it he encouraged Virginia members to contact their senators and representatives and tell them, “It is time to get serious about our Redrock Wilderness!” Thanks, Pete!

In Minnesota, Joshua Houdek and Lois Norrgard recently wrote an article for the *North Star Journal* in which they asked the question, “What do Utah’s redrock country and Alaska’s arctic have in common?” Their answer was, “Both of these special regions contain pristine wilderness that may soon be lost forever!” They, like Pete in Virginia, encouraged Minnesota members to contact their elected officials and urge them to support ARWA. Thanks, Joshua and Lois!

In Illinois, over the last ten years the chapter has periodically run newsletter articles and utilized an in-state alert list to get their activists involved in efforts to protect Utah wilderness. Thanks to all of you in the Illinois Chapter!

The same thing is happening in California through Mike Painter’s group, Californians for Western Wilderness. (Thanks, Mike, and the rest of you!) Others involved in the effort include the ColorUWild group in Colorado, Wisconsin Friends of Utah Wilderness, Michigan Friends of Utah Wilderness and the Illinois Task Force for Utah Wilderness. Then there is Rich Csenge, coordinator of Mainers for Utah Wilderness, who helped organize the first annual AMAZING EARTH-FEST in Kanab last May. Oh, and I would be remiss if I didn’t mention the Illinois Clergy and Laity for Utah Wilderness. I suspect there are other groups of which I am unaware. Regardless, thanks to all of you whoever and wherever you are!

Aron Ralston, the fellow who cut off his own arm to save his life when he was trapped in a Utah slot canyon, is also an advocate for ARWA. Thanks, Aron! Tony Musset, who lives in Europe, is an important supporter of Utah wilderness. Thanks, Tony!

And, as Gov. Mike Leavitt learned after he secretly negotiated his no-more-wilderness pact with Interior Secretary Gale Norton, members of the Outdoor Industry Association care deeply about Utah Wilderness. Thanks retailers!

Then, of course, we have our Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance friends. Like many of you, I am also a member of SUWA. And, as with the Sierra Club, SUWA supporters come from across the country and beyond. Thanks, SUWA members!

The efforts of these many people and organizations are coordinated through the Utah Wilderness Coalition. The coalition is lead by the Sierra Club, SUWA, The Wilderness Society, and the Wasatch Mountain Club, but over 200 member organizations are involved. Thanks to all of you!

Finally, one must mention Jim Catlin. Catlin has been a benevolent genie keeping watch over the red rock wilderness for nearly thirty years. He has been involved in every aspect of wilderness protection: inventorying roadless areas, studying maps, catalyzing funding, surveying ORV damage, lobbying congress and administrative agencies, writing, evangelizing and inspiring. Thank you Jim!

What this all says is that people from across the nation—and beyond—recognize the value of Utah wilderness and want to see it protected. Why? For some, perhaps many, of them, it is because they have visited and fallen in love with wild Utah. Others may simply support wilderness on principle, recognizing that these wild places are critically important to our clean air and water, our wildlife, and our sanity. Still others depend on Utah wilderness for their livelihood.

Whatever the reasons, I hope that all Utah Chapter members recognize and appreciate the efforts being made by Sierra Club members and friends from across the nation to Protect Wild Utah. We would be remiss if we did less than our best to support America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act. It is, after all, our backyard.

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OurPublicLands

Destruction Comes in Many Forms

by Wayne Hoskisson, Utah Chapter Public Lands Chair

Since Rep. Wayne Owens first introduced legislation to protect America's Redrock Wilderness, a number of misguided projects have threatened it. In the second half of the 1990s when the Sierra Club and our Utah Wilderness Coalition partners decided a new inventory was needed, part of our concern was about areas we may have lost to continuing encroachment on our natural landscapes. We were worried that impacts from off-road vehicles and a few other activities may have diminished some portions of our proposal. We were right to be worried. We did drop some areas mostly around Moab because of increased off-road vehicle use. While the total acreage was not huge if it were to happen every few years it would not take many decades to erode hundreds of thousands of acres that currently qualify for wilderness designation. The wide spread and largely uncontrolled use of ORVs and ATVs continue to impact many of our units such as Arch Canyon, Upper Red Canyon, San Juan River, Muddy Creek, San Rafael Reef, Sids Mountain and many others. Without wilderness designation the impacts of ORVs will be tremendous and disheartening.

The struggle over RS 2477 highway right of way claims is related to off-road vehicle use. Many Sierra Club members in Utah know first hand about this issue. We were part of a multi-year effort to document claims by rural Utah counties for highways within America's Red Rock Wilderness Act. If you want to know more about this issue you can visit <http://www.rs2477.com/lands/utah8.htm>. The counties tried to portray these strange highways as crucial transportation infrastructure, but fieldwork amply demonstrated that these "highways" never went any place. R.S. 2477 was and is a dishonest ploy to eliminate large areas from designation as wilderness. Some of the fieldwork led us to consider founding a new organization we called the Kane County Vertical Highway Society (with membership likely to be posthumous only).

RS 2477 highway right of way claims also threaten National Parks, National Monuments, and National Forests. On June 3, 2007, the Salt Lake *Tribune* published an article about Cache County claiming hundreds of miles of highway claims in the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. A few years ago Kane County pulled up closed signs on routes in the Grand Staircase/Escalante National Monument and installed their own signs on their so-called roads. The issue never has been about transportation but about control of the public lands, and the counties want control over lands that do not belong to them.

Oil and gas leasing, exploration, and development threaten some portions of America's Redrock Wilderness Act. These areas are primarily in northeastern and eastern Utah. While a lease would not necessarily preclude an area from being

considered for wilderness, it does create a valid, existing right that would have to be recognized if the lease area were designated wilderness. If some amount of oil or gas lay beneath the lease, it would be incredibly difficult if not impossible to stop the lease holder from drilling and developing a production field. We may need to drop acres from our White River and Bitter Creek proposed wilderness areas because of current leases and developments. Fortunately we expect problems from oil and gas development in only a few areas. While we did not avoid considering areas with potential for oil and gas development when we inventoried BLM lands for wilderness qualities, we did not find many places with such potential to include in America's Red Rock Wilderness Act. Oil and gas exploration has been going on for a hundred years in Utah. Those places where oil and gas are likely to be found have been too impacted to make it into our proposal.

A more nebulous problem threatens America's Redrock Wilderness Act.

Tar sands and oil shale could at some time in the future threaten America's Red Rock Wilderness. Utah contains some significant deposits, some of which lie beneath our wilderness proposal. Currently the technology to tap into both tar sands and oil shale remains uneconomical. The technology would create huge environmental impacts beyond the demise of a wilderness area, impacts that might make them difficult to implement.

A more nebulous problem threatens America's Redrock Wilderness Act. Before I try to explain, let me quote the first sentence of the Wilderness Act of 1964, "In order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States and its possessions, leaving no lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition, *it is hereby declared to be the policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness.*" (emphasis added)

This should set the frame for discussing wilderness among our selves, with our family and friends and with the public. Too often we get side tracked into arguments or discussions that leap out of this frame and push us into words and topics that can ultimately shrink our frame of reference. Administrative agencies like the Bureau of Land Management and US Forest Service never truly bought into this concept of wilderness. Ultimately they saw the Wilderness Act as simply creating another zoning procedure for recreation



ATV riders in a rare desert stream. This canyon recently flooded. The old legal ATV trail is the severe erosion and exposed roots you can see just above the riders' heads. Motorized trails cause severe erosion problems.



Huge seismic buggies on the Dome Plateau. These vehicles travel cross country to create vibrations to find oil and gas. You will note one has large chains on the tires. This was not allowed in seismic exploration permit.



Kane County sign inviting ATVs to drive on one of their highways in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

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Oregon County Says No to Dirty Coal

by Tim Wagner

Perhaps it's a sign of desperation. Whatever the reason, one has to give the proponents of the proposed third unit at the Intermountain Power Project near Delta credit for sheer determination. Still, one has to wonder how much bigger the anti-coal tide must get in this country before they let this \$2.6 billion coal-fired dinosaur die a peaceful death.

Even after numerous cities in California, Idaho, and Utah have rejected long-term contracts (30 to 50 years!) to buy into this monster, with a keener eye more towards new and cleaner renewable energy projects, Utah officials are still out roaming the hinterlands courting small cities, municipalities, and utility districts in the hopes of a few still willing to bite on old king coal.

Such was the case this spring when Oregon's Wasco County Public Utility District (45 miles east of Portland) seemed convinced that a 10 MW purchase in IPP would be the best and most economical future source of electricity for its customers. But when some locals started raising concerns about their utility investing in a

Utah coal project, the PUD decided to put it to a ballot vote.

One has to wonder how much bigger the anti-coal tide must get in this country before they let this \$2.6 billion coal-fired dinosaur die a peaceful death.

Surprisingly, residents voted by a margin of 81% in a municipal election on Tuesday, May 15th, against buying coal-fired power from a plant in Washington state and from the proposed IPP project. Based on the number of votes collected (over 3600) it appears that participation exceeded 20% which is actually high for an off-year municipal election.

Some voters appear to have been influenced by the environmental arguments. The local newspaper ran a critical letter to the editor from one of the Utah Moms for Clean Air. It also ran a guest editorial against the proposal by Dr Brian Moench of Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment. The measure was also weakened by the fact that had the county contracted for the energy, the terms of the contract didn't even oblige the power suppliers to follow through with the juice. Some votes may have been motivated by that fiscal irresponsibility.

The Utah Chapter of Sierra Club provided background, advice and a financial contribution that helped the coalition fighting the proposal to run a newspaper ad and numerous radio spots. Last we heard, Wasco County organizers are looking to form a citizen's renewable energy committee to help their county go forward with cleaner options.

Tim Wagner leads the Utah Chapter's Smart Energy Campaign.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

and other uses. For the most part they identified small sample areas of wilderness that could be locked up in legislative cages. We get caught up in this kind of wrong-headed discussion when we talk about 1 million acres versus 5 million acres, or get involved in strange non-wilderness legislation that gives us a few wilderness cookies and some delicious land and water cookies to local governments and developers. Congress has already told us what policy they

have chosen. We should aspire to keep the same policy.

We should not let ourselves get into the debate about multiple-use and who gets to use the land in what way, about hikers versus ATV riders. Congress has already stated the aspiration that "expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States..." We are fortunate in Utah to

have a large number of wilderness areas both large enough and contiguous enough to create real wilderness. Read the entire Wilderness Act at <http://www.leaveitwild.org/reports/wilderness1964PF.html>

Utah Wilderness

Wasatch Wilderness Proposal

by Carl Fisher and Mark Clemens



Maybird Creek.

The Utah Chapter and Save Our Canyons have worked side by side on too many issues to count. We have stood together to fight ski resort expansion and inappropriate development for the 2002 Winter Olympics. We worked with Salt Lake County to prevent phantom highways claimed under an obsolete law from harming the watershed.

Some of our most distinguished volunteer leaders have also served on the board of Save Our Canyons.

We're looking forward to another chapter in this collaboration as the Utah Chapter joins Save Our Canyons to fight for permanent wilderness protection to otherwise unprotected US Forest Service-owned lands in the Tri-Canyons Area. The Central Wasatch Mountains provide the backdrop to Salt Lake City and can be accessed within 15 minutes of most places in the city. These mountains provide the city with its water supply, recreational activities, and provide a refuge from the hustle and bustle of urban life.

Although the Wilderness Act was passed in 1964, it wasn't until 1978 that Utah got its first wilderness. The Lone Peak Wilderness Area was established through the Endangered American Wilderness Act in 1978 when a bouquet of spectacular wilderness areas across the country was permanently preserved. Since then congress has turned away from bills that establish wilderness in more than one state.

Utah had to wait until 1984 for US Forest Service roadless areas to be considered in a systematic way, but that system was deeply flawed. The result was that a handful of areas in Utah—predominantly rock and ice above timberline—was preserved. At the time, more than half of Utah's eight million acres of US Forest Service lands were roadless. The Utah congressional delegation led by former Representative Jim

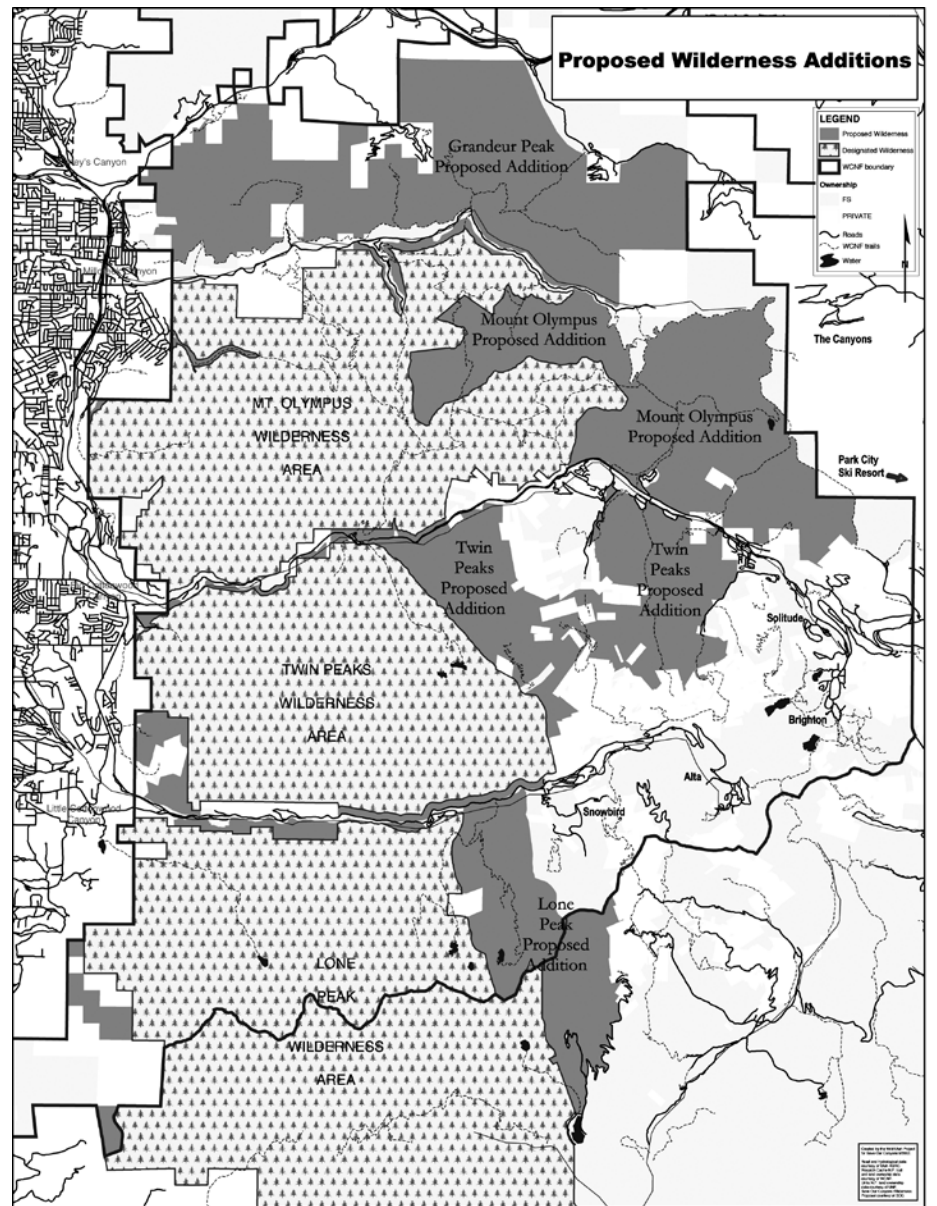
Hansen and former Senator Jake Garn saw fit to protect only approximately 700,000 acres.

The Mount Olympus and Twin Peaks Wilderness Areas in the central Wasatch were designated in that bill, the Utah Wilderness Act of 1984. Garn insisted that a substantial acreage of roadless lands fully meriting inclusion in the wilderness be excluded in order to allow continued heliskiing in Millcreek Canyon and to allow future ski resort expansion.

Although the Wilderness Act was passed in 1964, it wasn't until 1978 that Utah got its first wilderness.... Since then congress has turned away from bills that establish wilderness in more than one state.

Volunteers and staff from Save Our Canyons and other environmental groups have re-inventoried these public lands to confirm their roadless status and suitability for wilderness designation. Our members, and Utahns generally, understand the best long-term protection for critical watershed in the Tri-Canyons Area is wilderness protection. The time has come to correct the oversight in the 1984 bill.

Save Our Canyons seeks to expand the Wilderness Areas in the Wasatch by 56% in response to population growth that has



placed unprecedented pressures on our water supply. We would like to extend the boundaries to include what was originally proposed and have organized the roadless lands into four sections as follows:

- 1. Mount Aire Wilderness Addition** – One of the most frequented areas in the tri-canyon area as it offers easy access to the beautiful vistas of the entire range. This addition would also provide safe corridors for wildlife which would nearly double the current range of uninterrupted habitat.
- 2. Mount Olympus Wilderness Addition** – An area that was left out of the 1984 Wilderness Bill to accommodate for helicopter skiing. These lands are inventoried roadless, home to many species of plants and animals including the threatened Wasatch Shooting Star.
- 3. Twin Peaks Wilderness Addition** – This area is precious to backcountry hikers and skiers because it contains some of the most beautiful wildland in the Wasatch Mountains. It is also home to golden eagle nesting sites that need undisturbed habitat to sustain the species in their current location.
- 4. Lone Peak Wilderness Addition** – A sliver of land that is located between existing Wilderness and a ski area. Under current Forest Service Regulations, ski area special use permit expansions are not permitted. Sensitive watershed areas, wildlife habitat, and splendid backcountry views would be jeopardized if ski areas did expand into this area.

The boundaries of these proposed wilderness additions have been drawn to minimize conflicts with mountain bikes. Popular trails such as Millcreek Pipeline, Dog Lake and the Great Western Trail all lie entirely outside of the wilderness proposal in order to respect other non-motorized trail users while providing maximum protection to the watershed.

The Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities, the managers of Salt Lake City's water supply, supports wilderness designation for most of these lands. They have not yet (as of publication of this issue) taken a position on wilderness on the north slope of Millcreek Canyon. Salt Lake City does not yet use its share of water from Millcreek for culinary water. Salt Lake County Mayor Peter Corroon, and a number of partnering environmental organizations have also endorsed the proposal.

The time is now to expand Wasatch Wilderness and ensure protection for Utah's mountain jewels. The political climate is nearing a tipping point as are global issues that are threatening precious resources such as water and wildlife habitat. Visit the Save Our Canyons website (www.saveourcanyons.org) for more information.

Carl Fisher is Issues Director of Save Our Canyons. Save Our Canyons was founded in 1972 in response to pressures exerted upon the Wasatch Mountains from increased population and the ski industry.

Utah Wilderness

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

quarters. Their recommendation: Mancos Mesa met all the criteria and should be designated as a WSA. But when the final report came out, the team's recommendation had been overruled by senior officials in the Utah State Office of BLM. [For more on this episode, see *Wilderness at the Edge*, "The BLM Wilderness Review" by Ray Wheeler, published by the Utah Wilderness Coalition.]

Of the roughly 22 million acres managed by the BLM in Utah, the agency designated only 2.5 million acres as WSAs. This did not long stand, however, thanks to the Sierra Club and its allies. The Utah Chapter made wilderness protection a top priority. On behalf of the club, the Utah Chapter filed appeals of wilderness study decisions on Muddy Creek in the San Rafael Swell and the Dirty Devil. The chapter joined other groups to file a massive appeal of the statewide wilderness inventory. Well-known areas such as the slot canyons in Spooky and Peek-a-Boo Gulches in the Escalante Canyons were accorded interim protection as wilderness study areas. Ultimately, through decisions made in favor of the wilderness appeals, the Department of Interior's Board of Land Appeals compelled the BLM to expand Utah WSA acreage to 3.2 million acres. But this figure still did not reflect what Utah wilderness advocates knew were wilderness-quality lands.

These events led Sierra Club Utah Chapter volunteers to join with individuals and partner organizations to form the Utah Wilderness Coalition (UWC) in 1985. The coalition's first goal was to put together a fact-based, well researched wilderness proposal for BLM lands in Utah. Volunteers pored over maps on kitchen tables and walked and camped in wild areas to gather first-hand information. This work resulted in the first UWC wilderness proposal of 5.1 million acres. The proposal included lands in three major ecoregions in the state: Colorado Plateau, Great Basin, and Mojave Desert.

The next major task of the coalition was to organize for the hearings conducted by the BLM to review the agency's wilderness studies. The Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club played a key role in turning out approximately 700 citizens in sixteen hearings around the state. Wilderness supporters proclaimed the message that Utah's wildlands deserved far better than the BLM had thus far acknowledged.

Sierra Club volunteers were also active on the political front helping to send Wayne Owens to congress to represent Utah's 2nd Congressional District in 1986. Rep. Owens became a staunch wilderness advocate, so much so that in early 1989 he introduced the first Utah BLM wilderness bill to protect the Utah Wilderness Coalition-identified 5.1 million acres. This moved the Utah wilderness campaign to a new level of recognition. Public opinion polls conducted in Utah began to show solid support for adding these lands to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

The next big event in the history of Utah wilderness was the publication by the

UWC in 1990 of *Wilderness at the Edge*. This 400-page, carefully researched book explored the various issues surrounding Utah wilderness and covered in detail each of the units in the Coalition's proposal. (By this time the proposal had grown to 5.7 million acres due to the completion of additional fieldwork.) UWC Chair and Sierra Club leader Rudy Lukez sat at the anchor desk of KSL-TV News for a live broadcast to help unveil the book.

Wayne Owens left Congress in 1993 with the bill still pending. The baton was picked up by Representative Maurice Hinchey, a former New York state legislator with a long history of work on environmental issues. Rep. Hinchey introduced the bill that came to be known as America's Red Rock Wilderness Act. His bill was the flag around which wilderness advocates rallied when the Republicans took over the Congress two years later. Utah's congressional delegation, with the backing of Gov. Mike Leavitt, introduced weak Utah BLM wilderness legislation. Not only would these bills have left many deserving wild areas unprotected, but also loopholes would have created many exceptions to the strong standard of protection deserved by the areas to be designated.

Thanks to Rep. Hinchey and co-sponsors in the house, and to a filibuster mounted by then-Senator Bill Bradley of New Jersey, Utah's congressional delegation failed in their legislative goal. But they succeeded in unintentionally shining a national spotlight on Utah wilderness. In the campaign to defeat the bad wilderness bills, wilderness advocates from across the country called and wrote their members of the U.S. House and Senate. News stories were produced and editorials published.

Utah wilderness also drew the attention of the White House. As a new, large-scale coal mining proposal threatened the Kaiparowits Plateau, President Clinton responded by establishing the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in September 1996. Though the monument would not be managed as wilderness per se, it did afford a high degree of protection for well over a million acres of land in the UWC proposal.

Utah wilderness advocates had successfully fended off poor wilderness legislation in the mid-1990s. In addition to the new national monument, two other results ensued. First, Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt ordered a re-inventory of the coalition's 5.7 million-acre proposal which largely agreed with the UWC's determination of wilderness suitability.

At the same time, the UWC embarked on the most ambitious citizen-led wilderness inventory ever attempted. The coalition borrowed survey techniques, originally designed to evaluate county highway claims, from a group of volunteers led by the Sierra Club's Wayne Hoskisson and Will McCarvill of the Wasatch Mountain Club.

Volunteers and staff from the Sierra Club and its coalition partners spent thousands of hours and took over 50,000 photographs to document the field work

which looked at new areas of potential wilderness that had never before been examined due to a lack of resources. The new inventory found that about 9.5 million acres of BLM land in Utah are deserving of wilderness protection including many expanded units in the red rock terrain of the Colorado Plateau as well as new areas in the West Desert.

In 1997 Utah wilderness achieved another milestone when Illinois Senator Richard Durbin introduced America's Red Rock Wilderness Act (ARWA) in the U.S. Senate. ARWA has been re-introduced

into congress this year by Rep. Hinchey and Sen. Durbin. With recent changes in congressional leadership a new momentum has developed. Building on decades of determination and hard work by Utahns and their allies, the Sierra Club and its coalition partners look forward to the day when America's wilderness heritage in Utah achieves lasting protection.

Thanks to Jim Catlin for providing information on the early history of the Utah Chapter's work on the Utah wilderness campaign.

You Can Help!

SEND A LETTER—YOU STILL KNOW HOW TO WRITE ONE OF THOSE

Utah's congressional delegation needs to hear from you. Please write Utah's two senators and your congressman to ask them to support America's Red Rock Wilderness Act. The senate bill is S. 1170; in the house it's H.R. 1919.

Because physical mail to their Washington, DC, offices can be delayed by security precautions, letters should be sent to the Utah offices of these representatives. Their addresses are below. At this stage, a letter will be most effective. However, you can also call to register your support for America's Redrock Wilderness Act. We've listed the main phone number in their district, but other phone numbers are available on their websites.

US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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<http://robbishop.house.gov/Contact/>
801/625-0107

The Hon. Jim Matheson
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South Salt Lake UT 84115
<http://www.house.gov/matheson/contact.shtml>
801/486-1236

The Hon. Chris Cannon
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US SENATE

The Hon. Orrin Hatch
8402 Federal Bldg
125 S State St
Salt Lake City UT 84138
<http://hatch.senate.gov/index.cfm?FuseAction=Offices.Home>
801/524-4380

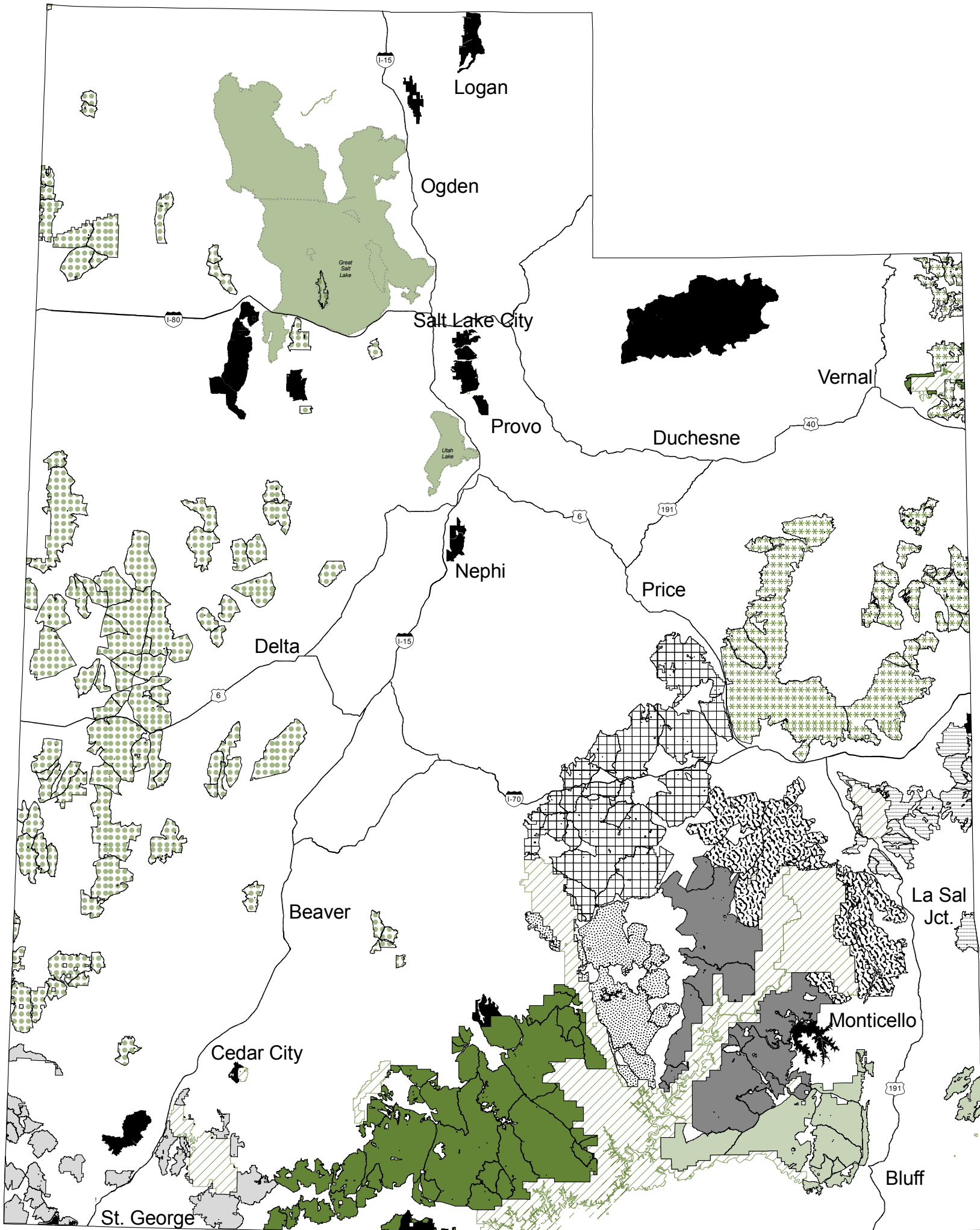
The Hon. Robert Bennett
125 S State St, #4225
Salt Lake City UT 84138-1188
<http://bennett.senate.gov/contact/contact.html>
801/524-5933



Cottonwoods in Squirrel Canyon.

MARK CLEMENS

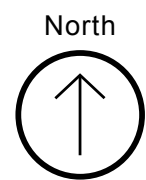
America's Redrock Wilderness Proposal



America's Redrock Wilderness Proposal by Region

- | | |
|---|--|
| Book Cliffs and Uinta Basin - 1,168,800 acres | Henry Mountains - 434,300 acres |
| Canyonlands Basin - 678,000 acres | Moab-La Sal Canyons - 296,800 acres |
| Glen Canyon - 902,000 acres | San Juan-Anasazi - 531,300 acres |
| Grand Staircase-Escalante - 1,729,540 acres | San Rafael Swell - 1,106,900 acres |
| Great Basin - 2,239,700 acres | Zion and Mojave Desert - 375,500 acres |

- Roads
 - Designated Wilderness
 - National Parks & Recreation Areas
- 0 5 10 20 30 40 50 Miles



Map courtesy Wild Utah Project.

ChapterSupport



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

Farewell to Al & Mary Herring

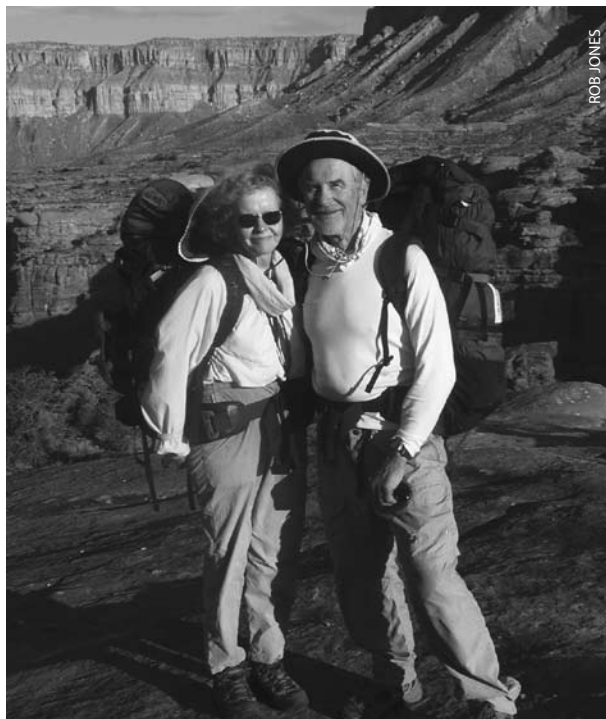
by Mark Clemens

President James Monroe was elected to his second term in 1820 with all but one electoral vote cast in his favor. That elector would also have voted for Monroe, but he believed that only George Washington deserved the historical imprimatur of unanimity. Monroe's popularity resulted from a strong, successful foreign policy, the virtual disappearance of the opposition Federalist Party, and public confidence in his impartiality. People in that period realized that this absence of party rancor was unusual; a Boston journalist christened it the Era of Good Feelings in 1817.

The Utah Chapter has enjoyed an Era of Good Feelings during the three years Al Herring served as chapter chair. Al's leadership has been so deft and so easy to get used to that most of us can scarcely believe he's really going to leave. He always comes to meetings briefed; he presides genially and efficiently; and most of all, everyone who knows him implicitly trusts his fairness.

The Herrings have been sufficiently gracious to fill virtually any position in which they've been needed. Al has served as chapter chair and vice-chair of the Ogden Group. Mary has served as chapter secretary and membership chair of the Ogden Group. They've also led hikes and backpacking outings.

Serving as chapter chair involves reading too many e-mail messages, participating in too many conference calls



Mary & Al Herring in Snake Gulch, 2006.

and presiding over too many meetings. Despite the authoritative and even-handed way he manages these responsibilities as chapter chair, Al would really rather be outdoors. He and Mary have had a chance to get their hands

dirty as the volunteer adopters of the Deep Creek Wilderness Study Area. For nearly ten years they've backpacked the Deep Creeks, surveyed potential RS 2477 highway claims, kept an eye peeled for overgrazing and off-road vehicle abuse, and corresponded with the land management agency, the BLM, when they've found problems.

It's easy to become enamored of spectacular terrain like the Deep Creeks. It's a little harder to be passionate about serving on a committee overseeing groundwater clean up. But Al's been doing that too. Since the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) for Hill Air Force Base was set up in 1995, the Sierra Club has been actively represented. The late George Schrader represented the club initially and was succeeded by Al Herring. The RAB has supervised the nearly \$225 million spent so far on environmental cleanup.

Al and Mary moved to Utah to be close to family and the terrain they love, but they've also been nurturing a dream to start a small organic farm. Recent events allowed them to move from dreaming to reality so Al and Mary might be selecting or closing on a property somewhere in the Northwest as you read this sentence. And then who knows? You might be eating organic asparagus or salad greens or Braeburn apples from Herring farms in the near future.



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.

Thank You

2007 SUPPORTERS

TMI continues as a major supporter of the Utah Chapter and the environment during 2007. As a member of 1% for the Planet, Treasure Mountain Inn donates one percent of sales to benefit the natural environment. For more information about 1% for the Planet, check out <http://www.onepercentfortheplanet.org/ourmembers.htm>.

Special thanks to the members listed below for their contributions to the chapter's 2007 fundraising drive. Thanks also to many 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.

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!

Dave Becker
David Bernhisel
Michael & Jean Binyon
Bryan Brown
Russ Chase
Mark Clemens
Jen Colby
Culley
Lawrence Culver
Sean & Krista Damitz
Nina Dougherty
Robert Cullimore Faux
Naomi Franklin
Jock Glidden
Chauncey & Emily Hall
Sherrie & Chris Hall
David Heldenbrand
Al & Mary Herring
Nancy P Hersey
Karen Horne & Michael Rowley
Ann Johnson
Rodney Johnson
Vinson M Johnson
Birgitta Johnsson
Lisa Kendall
Martin Kogut
Jon Kusner
Greg Libecchi
Hans Lundgren
Diana Maxell

David L McCann
Scott McCoy & Mark Barr
Mike Morrison (Mike says, "Hi to all hikers and that he misses Utah." When are you coming back, Mike?)
Reece E Newman
Richard K Olsen
Katie Pappas
Judy Pechmann
Carolyn Pedone & John Rose
David Polster
Insa Riepen
Cindy Ciciliano Roberts
Marcel Rodriguez
Theodore Rokich
Page & Robert Speiser
Howard S Spurrier
Duna Strachan
Jim Strong
Jim Struve & Jeff Bell
Kirk Thomas
Gerald I Thompson
Dorothy M Uherka
Teri Underwood
Dr Edward Vendell
Nelson Wadsworth
Chip Ward
Amy Weiss
Carol Withrow

As Goes the Least Chub, So Goes the Snake Valley

The Center for Biological Diversity, Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation, Great Basin Chapter of Trout Unlimited, and Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club filed a petition today to protect the least chub, a rare fish species found only in Utah, as a threatened or endangered species under the federal Endangered Species Act. The least chub has been reduced to just six fragile wild populations, three of which occur in the Snake Valley, where planned pumping of water for runaway growth in Las Vegas is a serious threat to their survival. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has twelve months to determine whether protection is warranted.

"The least chub is on the edge of extinction," stated Noah Greenwald, conservation biologist with the Center for Biological Diversity. "The chub is an important part of the web of life in Utah and needs the effective protection of the Endangered Species Act to survive."

Least chub were once widely distributed in the rivers, streams, marshes and springs over much of Utah west of the Wasatch Front. Today, they are found naturally in just six complexes of springs and ponds, where they are threatened by a combination of non-native fish, particularly


mosquito fish, livestock grazing, suburban sprawl, and of greatest concern, proposed groundwater pumping by the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA), that has proposed to drill nine groundwater pumping stations just inside Nevada from the Utah/Nevada border in Snake Valley to withdraw up to 25,000 to 30,000 acre feet a year of ground water.




"In 30 years of working with the least chub, I've seen populations drop precipitously in the face of excessive groundwater pumping, exotic species, and other factors," stated Don Duff, president of the Great Basin Chapter of Trout Unlimited, former federal fisheries biologist, and a landowner in Snake Valley. "Decline of the least chub is an indicator of declining water tables that will also harm farmers, ranchers and dozens of other species that depend on desert streams and springs of the Snake Valley, including the Bonneville cutthroat trout—state fish of Utah."

The least chub was proposed for protection as an endangered species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1995, but protection was never finalized based in part on the efforts of Utah Division of Wildlife Resources to conserve the fish. These efforts culminated in the development of a conservation agreement and strategy in 1998, which called for, among other things, surveys to clarify the chub's status and creation of new populations through translocation. These admirable efforts resulted in finding one new population and establishment of four refuge populations in recent years in largely human-modified habitats. These efforts, however, will be undermined if SNWA is allowed to move forward with groundwater pumping and if more is not done to protect populations from ongoing threats, such as non-native fish and suburban sprawl.

"The least chub is an ambassador from an imperiled ecosystem--desert springs in western Utah," stated Mark Clemens from the Utah Chapter of Sierra Club. "If we can save this fish, we know we will have protected an ecosystem and the people whose lives depend on it for future generations."



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.


Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone (____) _____

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Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!

Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.
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Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

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

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org **F94Q W2900**

Utah Chapter Outings

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.

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.

July

SLG, Tues, 7/3, Tuesday Night Hike to the Salt Lake Overlook. Come and find out why this is one of the most popular hikes in the Wasatch. Lush vegetation, wildflowers, and great views are the highlights of the trail. This trail begins in Millcreek Canyon and winds to a valley overlook. Meeting time is 6:30 pm at the Skyline High parking lot. Call Margaret (292-7602) for more info.

OG, Weds, 7/4, Mollen's Hollow Overlook Hike. This spectacular hike in the Monte Cristo Range has become a 4th of July tradition. About 6 miles round trip, not too steep (great for families!), through meadows and forests atop a rolling plateau. Unfortunately, the Forest Service recently decided to open the first half of the trail to ATV's--but perhaps when they see hikers they'll go another way. We'll see how much impact they've had so far. Call Dan Schroeder (393-4603) for details. [C]

SLG, Tues, 7/10, Tuesday Night Hike in Mineral Fork. The Mineral Fork trail is just above the S-Curve in Big Cottonwood Canyon. The hike will follow an old mining road & offers great views of the surrounding peaks. Bring flashlights for after dusk. Meet at 6:30 pm at the Big Cottonwood Canyon Park & Ride at the mouth of the canyon. Call Ken (484-3112) for more info.

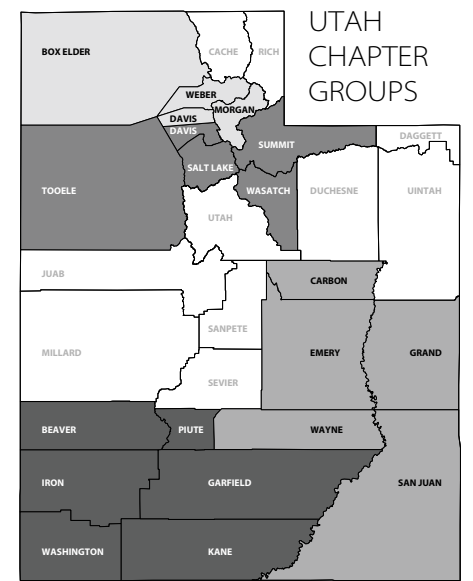
OG, Thurs, 7/12, An Ogden Group Classic: Indian Trail Hike. Meet at Rainbow Gardens at 5:30 and we will shuttle cars to the trailhead. We will start this moderately difficult 4-mile hike in Ogden Canyon and finish at the Rainbow Gardens trailhead so that we can hike in the shade until afternoon temperatures cool. Call leader, Rane, at 985-0158 for more information.

GCG Sat 7/14 Miners Basin. Beat the heat in the La Sals. Explore ruined dwellings at old mining claims at the head of a high wooded valley. The road in from the La Sal Loop Road is steep and rough enough to require four-wheel drive. Another possibility would be to climb over the ridge from Warner Lake, a much more strenuous hike. Or perhaps change destination to Gold Knob. Further details posted later on the Glen Canyon Group outings page: <http://utah.sierraclub.org/glencanyon/outings.htm>. Meet at Moab Information Center, Center and Main, at 8:00 AM. Leader: Tom Messenger, 435/259-1756.

OG, Sat, 7/14, Deep Canyon to Stewart Pass Wellsville Mountain Range. Cache Valley Strenuous 4.5 mi. one-way 3,075 ft. 4-1/2 hrs. This trail starts easily through maple and aspen before switch backing steeply up to the range's ridge (8,120'). The trail follows the ridge south 1.6 miles to Stewart Pass (8,375') and meets Maple Bench Trail. The trailhead is at the western end of 300 North in the town of Mendon. Call Joanie @ 801/399-0034 for details.

SLG, Tues, 7/17, Tuesday Night Hike in Mill B North Fork. Following the Mill B trail towards Mt Raymond, the hike passes through tall pines and stands of oak. The slope is moderate and offers nice views of surrounding peaks as well as peaceful shaded groves. The plan is to hike about 2 1/2 miles before turning back to trail head. Meeting time is 6:30 PM at the Big Cottonwood Park and Ride at the mouth of the Canyon. Car pool to trailhead. Call Ken (484-3112) for information.

OG, Sat, 7/21, A dayhike to see the other side of the Uintas. We'll be on the Fish Lake Trail, 4-5 hours, 8 miles round trip, 2400' elevation gain. We'll access the



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

trailhead outside Oakley in the Holiday Park area. Hike past Round Lake and Sand Lake before reaching Fish Lake for lunch. We'll trek along Dry Fork Creek through a beautiful heavily forested area. For meeting place and time, contact Larry Woolsey, 731-3701.

OG, Sat, 7/28, Mt. Naomi Peak hike out of Logan. Beginning Elevation: 8000, Ending Elevation: 9980, Round Trip: 6.6 Miles. Naomi Peak is the highest point in the Bear River Range. The trail goes through spectacular meadows of wildflowers which are at their peak in July and August. This is a strenuous hike, with the reward of a wonderful view. Call Robin 334-8805 for information.

SLG, Tues, 7/31, Tuesday Night Hike to Bells Canyon. Bells Canyon is a delightful hike in spite of its proximity to development. Under the shadow of majestic peaks, the hike offers a tranquil and easily accessible mid week getaway. Meeting time is 6:30 PM at the Little Cottonwood Park and Ride at the mouth of the canyon. Car pool to trailhead. Call Rebecca (487-4160) for information.

August

OG, Thurs, 8/2, Afternoon Hike to Hidden Valley. Meet at the 22nd street trailhead at 5:30 pm for a strenuous 4.5 mile round trip hike. Bring plenty of water. Call Rane, at 801/985-0158 for more information.

OG, Sat, 8/4, Ogden Valley Overlook. A 5 to 6 mile round trip hike with a 600' gain starting at Snowbasin. We'll be on a well-maintained trail with great views of Snowbasin area and Ogden Canyon. Call John Besbekos for meeting time and place, 985-6854.

SLG, Tues, 8/7, Tuesday Night Hike to Cecret Lake. Near the Alta Ski Resort, the Cecret Lake hike is a short, moderately steep yet rewarding hike to a small emerald lake in the Albion Basin. Insect repellent is strongly recommended and bring flash lights in the event the hike

Outings News

LABOR DAY SERVICE TRIP IN THE TUSHAR MOUNTAINS

FRIDAY 8/31 - MONDAY 9/3

The Sierra Club will join a number of other conservation organizations and perhaps the Forest Service and the local rancher to conduct range monitoring in one of Utah's wildest and least-known mountain ranges. The Tushar Mountains east of Beaver Utah include high alpine peaks, rugged escarpments, wildlife rich meadows, aspen and conifer forests still wild. We will be joining a number of people to collect important on-the-ground information to be used in a joint collaborative process to resolve a grazing decision. The Sierra Club and others appealed this decision and the result created a collaborative process to change grazing management in order to bring beaver to key streams and improve aspen regrowth.

What better way to learn more about this important issue than on a service trip in a beautiful place!

Dates: From the evening of the 31st of August through the 3rd of September (Labor Day). Central commissary will be provided for 2 days by Vicky Hoover. For more information contact Jim Catlin at 801/328-3550 or jim@wildutahproject.org.

Delano Peak.



continues until dusk. Meeting place is the Little Cottonwood Park and Ride at the mouth of the canyon. Hikers will car pool to trail head. Call Ken (484-3112) for information.

OG, Sat, 8/11, Hike to White Pine Lake, Logan. Beginning Elevation: 8000, Middle Elevation: 8800, End Elevation: 8400, Round Trip: 9 miles. This hike will take you to a glacial lake in a beautiful setting of cliffs and high mountains. Wild flowers are abundant during July and August. Call Robin at 801/334-8805 for information.

SLG, Tues, 8/14, Tuesday Night Hike: Circle All. Circle All is a fabulous hike in the splendor of Big Cottonwood Canyon. The trail passes through beautiful wild green foliage and leads to a panoramic view of the Salt Lake Valley. Bring snacks, water, and flash lights in case the hike continues into dusk. Meeting time is 6:30 PM at the Big Cottonwood Park and Ride at the mouth of the canyon. Car pool to trail head. Call Rebecca (487-4160) for information.

GCG Wed 8/15 Morning Glory Bridge. Easy four-mile round trip (300' elevation gain) in scenic canyon to sixth-longest natural rock span in the United States, back easily by noon. Reasonably early start and running water should avoid/mitigate heat. Meet at The Moab Information Center at 8 AM. For more information call Tom Messenger at 435/259-1756.

SLG, Tues, 8/21, Tuesday Night Hike on the Great Western Trail. This trail is a favorite of the leader and worthy of doing twice in one season for those who may have missed the same hike earlier in the season. The Big Mountain hike follows rolling hills through variations of pine, oak, and quaking asp stands as well as broad green meadows. Bring flash lights in case the hike extends into dusk. Meeting time is 6:30 PM at the Foothill K-Mart on Foothill Blvd. and Parleys Way. Car Pool to trail head. Call Ken (484-3112) for information.

OG, Sat, 8/25, Day hike to Lake Blanche. In Big Cottonwood Canyon, hike 6 miles round trip, 2600' elevation gain, 4 hours. There are 3 alpine lakes in this area. A steep climb, but well worth it. Views of Sundial Peak and evidence of ancient glaciers. For meeting place and time contact Larry Woolsey, 801/731-3701.

SLG, Tues, 8/28, Tuesday Night Hike to Little Mountain Summit. An easy hike to spectacular overlooks in Emigration Canyon of the valley floor and the Great Salt Lake. Meeting place is the This is the Place State Park parking lot across the street from the east Hogle Zoo parking lot at 6:30 PM. Then car pool to trail head. Call Ken (484-3112).

September

SLG, Sun, 9/2, Dayhike in the Uintas. A moderate trek up Boulder Creek trail from the North Fork of Provo River: about six miles roundtrip. Meeting time is 10 am at the North Fork of Provo River parking lot (south side) on Mirror Lake Highway, or 8:30 am at the Parley's Way K-Mart. Call Ron at 801/292-4040, if weather conditions are doubtful.

SLG, Tues, 9/4, Tuesday Night Hike in City Creek Canyon. The exact trail head not determined, leader will choose between hiking the trail next to the road in City Creek or following the Shoreline trail as long as light allows. Either way the hike will be an invigorating way to end the workday. Meeting time is 6:30 PM at the Popperton Park across the street from the Shriners Hospital at 11th Avenue and Virginia Street. Then car pool to trail head. Call Ken (484-3112) for information.

SLG, Tues, 9/11, Tuesday Night Hike to the Living Room. This will be the last Tuesday Night Hike of the season, also a favorite of leader. A moderate hike in the foothills above the University, hikers will relax in stone furniture before heading back to the city. Bring snacks and lights in case hike extends into dusk. Meeting time is 6:30 PM at the Red Butte Gardens parking lot. Call Ken (484-3112) for more information.

GCG Thursday 9/13 Pilot Peak via Dry Fork Trail. Eight miles round trip and about 2800 feet total elevation gain. A pleasant hike from Warner Lake to Jackass Pass and then a short climb (with no significant talus) to the peak at 12,200 feet. Great views from the top. Come prepared for possible bad weather, but unlikely at this time of year. Meet at The Moab Information Center at 8 AM. For more information call Mike Binyon at 435/259-1633.

OG, Sat-Sun, 9/15-9/16, Torrey Road Trip & Day Hikes. Saturday hike to Hickman Bridge, 2 hours, 3 miles round trip, a favorite of the locals. On Sunday, we'll hike to Sulphur Creek (Larry's favorite canyon outside Zion). 6 miles, 4 hours. We will be hiking 4 miles in a shallow creek with several passable pour offs. Great desert hiking! For meeting place and time contact Larry Woolsey, 731-3701.

October

SLG, Sun, 10/7, 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 10/13 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 435/259-7602.



win a backcountry guide

AUGUST 11, 2002: Sunday Sierra Club group starting out on Lofty Lake (Uintas) Trail Loop. Be the first (before July 15, 2007) to correctly list the first name of six 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.

Utah Chapter Directory

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Out&About

Ogden Groups Clean Up the Ogden River

by Ranee Johnson, Ogden Group Chair

Nearly one hundred volunteers, on Earth Day, cleaned the Ogden River from the spillway below Pineview Dam to its confluence with the Weber River. The project was jointly sponsored by the Ogden Canyon Club, Utah Rivers Council, and the Ogden Group of the Sierra Club. The Ogden Canyon Club, mostly home owners who live in the canyon, clean the upper portion of the river each year on the Saturday closest to Earth Day and again in the fall. They met in the canyon that morning and cleaned the upper part of the river.

The other volunteers met at 9 am on the Ogden River Parkway, and after hot drinks and snacks, set out to clean the lower portion. One large dumpster, provided by Ogden City, was filled to overflowing, and in addition, stacks were left in several other locations for later pick up. At noon after the work was done, Keith Runkles, owner of The Oaks in Ogden Canyon, hosted the entire group for lunch. Food and additional staff was also provided by Snow Basin Resort. The few showers that fell during lunch didn't dampen spirits as drawings were held for a variety of door prizes. The Ogden group would like to make this clean up an annual event.



Ogden River pre-cleanup.

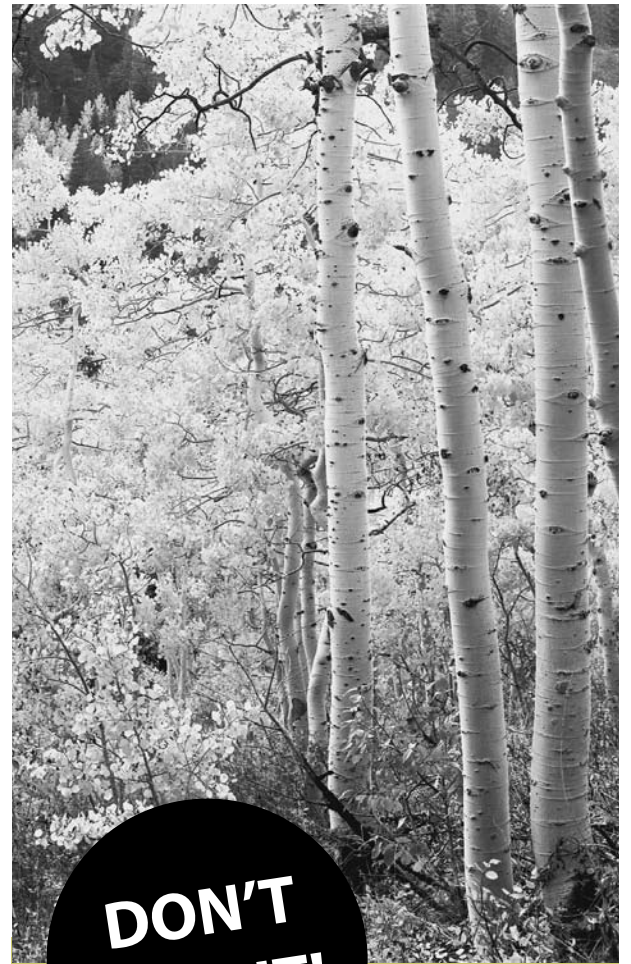
CALL FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CANDIDATES

The Utah Chapter is governed by a group of volunteers called the executive committee. This committee consists of eight members elected by the chapter membership and one voting representative appointed by each of the Sierra Club groups in Utah. The terms of elected executive committee (ExCom) members are staggered so that four members' terms expire each year.

Members of the ExCom are expected to attend approximately six meetings each year held in Salt Lake City and around the state, must be able to handle e-mail correspondence of as many as 5 to 10 messages per week, and usually help either with chapter administrative functions—such as recording secretary or treasurer—or with conservation activities such as organizing, writing and researching to protect public lands or environmental health.

If you should be interested in running for a two-year term on the ExCom from January 2008 through December 2009, please send a 200-word bio or CV and a photo in digital format to the nominating committee at cgardner@media.utah.edu. If the committee decides not to nominate you after reviewing these materials, you have the right to run as a petition candidate provided you supply the nominating committee with a petition for your addition to the ballot signed by 15 current Utah Chapter members.

All submissions must be received by the nominating committee before Monday, 20 August 2007, at 12:00 noon, MST. You will be informed within 48 hours about the status of your submission. The ballots will be distributed in the Fall 2007 issue of the *Utah Sierran* newsletter during the first week of October 2007. Ballots will be counted in December 2007, and the results published in the Winter 2008 newsletter.



DON'T MISS IT!

SUMMIT COUNTY PUBLIC LANDS FORUM

**Saturday, July 14
10 - 11:30 a.m.
Sheldon Richins Building
6505 N Landmark Dr,
Park City UT 84098**

Join Summit County Commissioner Sally Elliott, Sierra Club leaders and public lands protection advocates for a forum on public lands issues in Summit County. We'll have audio-visual presentations, discussions of new wilderness issues, information available about trail access and recent open space acquisitions.

We'll take time for your questions too.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SIERRA CLUB

We send out an appeal in March 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 your 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 S. 700 E. Suite 210 | Salt Lake City, UT 84106

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