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# Utah Sierran

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Spring 2007 Vol. 40 No. 1

What Lies Ahead: '07 Legislative Preview page 6

## High Court to Air Quality Board, "Sorry, you're wrong."

### APPEALS OF COAL POWER PLANTS NOW GO FORWARD

by Tim Wagner

The Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club was handed a monumental victory on November 21, 2006, when the Utah Supreme Court voted unanimously, 5-0, that we have the legal right or standing to challenge the Division of Air Quality (DAQ) over its issuance of permits for two new coal-fired power plants.

It was over two years ago, in October of 2004, when DAQ approved and issued air quality permits, known as Approval Orders, for a 900 megawatt (MW) coal-fired power plant addition to Intermountain Power's current facility near Delta and a new 270 MW coal plant by Sevier Power Company proposed near Sigurd, Utah. Shortly afterward, the Utah Chapter and the Grand Canyon Trust, through the legal efforts of Western Resource Advocates, filed two separate administrative appeals with the Air Quality Board. (The board is a group of representatives from varied interests appointed by the governor with the task of overseeing activities of DAQ.)

In our appeal we asserted, among other things, that DAQ did not adequately consider other, cleaner forms of coal-based electricity in its analysis. Nor did they properly consider the potential visual impacts to our sacred national parks, all of which are designated Class I airsheds (the most restrictive) by the Environmental Protection Agency.

In a vote that shocked many in air quality and environmental circles, the Air Quality Board on April 15, 2005, decided that the chapter and the GCT did not have the necessary legal standing to challenge DAQ over their decision. Part of the AQB's



rationale was that because the majority of Utah Sierra Club members reside along the Wasatch Front, we didn't best represent those who may be affected by the emissions from the proposed plants. Which is tantamount to believing that emissions from a 700-foot-high stack will not travel outside the county where it is located.

It begged the question, "How can an organization of nearly 5,000 members

scattered across the state NOT have the right to challenge two major toxin-spewing, coal-fired power plants?" That is the challenge we put before the Utah Court of Appeals that summer.

The case was soon certified up to the Utah Supreme Court, who heard oral arguments in February, 2006 from our attorneys, Joro Walker and Sean Phelan from Western Resource Advocates.

In the November decision, the court stated:

"We hold that the Board erred in denying standing to the Sierra Club. In accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, we also hold that the Board's decision substantially prejudiced the Sierra Club by denying it the opportunity to challenge the Executive Secretary's order or to defend its interests. We therefore reverse and remand to the Board with instructions to allow the Sierra Club to intervene in the proceedings."

"The Utah Supreme Court recognized that Sierra Club members have a legal interest in protecting their health as well as their ability to enjoy Utah's most spectacular places and vistas," said WRA attorney Joro Walker upon hearing the news. "And that those values are threatened by the emissions from these coal-fired power plants."

Our appeals for the two permits now go back to the AQB for their full review. As of press time, the hearings are scheduled for the fall of 2007.

The chapter would like to offer our sincere gratitude to Joro, her associate Sean Phelan (who has since moved to Arizona), and Sean's replacement, Dave Becker. Through their knowledge of environmental law, professionalism, and sound judgment, these three have once again shown that, in our democracy, standing up for what you believe can carry the day. We also want to say a big thank you to our colleagues at the Grand Canyon Trust, also represented in this matter by Western Resource Advocates.

*Wagner is the Utah Smart Energy Coordinator.*

WE'VE  
MOVED!  
see page 5

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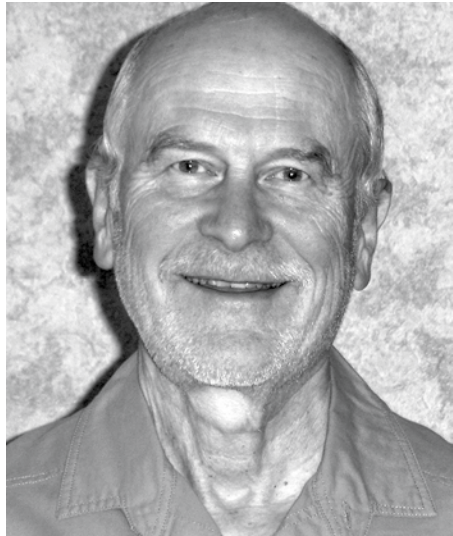
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# Vegetarianism

by Al Herring, Chapter Chair



So here's what I mean by being a vegetarian: No animal had to die in order for me to eat.

*While the Sierra Club does not advocate vegetarianism per se, our agriculture policy promotes "a greater reliance on vegetable protein."*

**B**y the time you read this I will have completed my second year as a vegetarian. Like many terms, "vegetarian" requires definition. I am amused when someone tells me they are also a vegetarian and, upon further discussion, I learn they eat fish, poultry, and, oh, sometimes pork, "the other white meat".

So here's what I mean by being a vegetarian: No animal had to die in order for me to eat. However, I am still comfortable with eating dairy products and eggs. Thus, I am actually a lacto-ovo vegetarian, a term far too cumbersome for my comfort.

I share this information primarily to give myself a lead-in to write about a topic that is important to many in the Sierra Club. For example, James Corcoran, a club member in Michigan wrote to *The Planet Newsletter* (July/Aug., 2000) to give his view, "As environmentalists, responsible stewards of the earth's other inhabitants and role models, we have an overwhelming obligation to become vegetarian." (The editor's response is given in italics above.)

A bit of internet research reveals that vegetarians comprise only 1.5% of the U.S. population, but the percentage among Sierra Club members must be significantly higher. Although I could find no data, I know that many of my club friends avoid eating meat. At a dinner with over a dozen club activists in San Francisco I noted with interest that at least half of them ordered vegetarian. The organizers of our national outings always provide a vegetarian option. So, it's pretty obvious to me that being vegetarian is important to many who feel the Sierra Club is also important.

In fact, in 2004 a vegetarian/PETA faction allied with anti-immigration proponents in an effort to elect board members who would use club funds to promote vegetarianism, ban hunting and fishing, etc. Fortunately, (in my opinion) they were unsuccessful.

Why become a vegetarian? There are a host of reasons. For some people it is concern for their own health, for others it is concern for the health of the planet. Others are motivated by moral and ethical concerns.

My personal reasons for giving up meat were twofold: First, I hate what cows are doing to our public lands through overgrazing, and I hate what we are doing to the fish's ocean environment through overharvesting. Thus, becoming a vegetarian is part of my protest of these destructive practices. (Pigs, poultry, and other critters come along for the ride, although I also feel good about no longer supporting factory farms.) Second, I thought that I could and should eat a healthier diet.

Now for a confession: I have consumed at least a herd of cows, several flocks of chickens, a school of tuna, and enough pigs to fill a pen during my life. In fact, while working in Green River, Wyoming, during the 1970s I usually ate a 40-oz. T-bone steak during business dinners. In contrast, I now find that even looking at the raw meat displayed in grocery stores is rather repulsive. Perhaps the spirits of those animals are trying to tell me something.

It is probably too late in life for me to enjoy the health benefits of vegetarianism, but studies show that long-time vegetarians live a bit longer, have lower rates of colon cancer, experience fewer problems with obesity, etc. And it's comforting knowing that one runs no risk of *E. coli* infection from an undercooked burger or mad-cow disease. What I know is simply that I feel great on my meatless diet.

The only problem I have experienced with becoming a vegetarian is when friends invite us to eat a home-cooked meal with them. I don't want to blindside the cook, but it is awkward to say, "By the way, did you know I am a vegetarian?" I say awkward because some people then feel they need to fix a special entree for the vegetarian. This makes me very uncomfortable, and I always try to head off the situation by explaining that I would prefer to just have an extra serving of salad or vegetable while everyone else eats the planned meat dish. However, I have vegetarian friends who will eat 'other people's meat' just to avoid this situation.

I admire all vegetarians (and vegans even more, although I don't think I could ever become one), no matter what their motivation. As shown by the factoids in the accompanying box (all collected from internet sources), eating meatless is good for planet earth. If you're not doing so already, I encourage you to try "a greater reliance on vegetable protein."

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF MEAT PRODUCTION

- Growing the crops necessary to feed farmed animals requires nearly half of the United States' water supply and **80** percent of its agricultural land. Additionally, animals raised for food in the U.S. consume **90** percent of the soy crop, **80** percent of the corn crop, and a total of **70** percent of its grain.
- Between 1960 and 1985, nearly **40** percent of all Central American rain forests were destroyed to create pasture for beef cattle.
- It takes nearly **78** calories of fossil fuel (oil, natural gas, etc.) to produce one calorie of beef protein and only two calories of fossil fuel to produce one calorie of soybean.
- Percentage of total livestock (cattle and sheep) in the United States supplied from federal lands: **2**. Average number of acres required to feed one cow and calf for one month on all Bureau of Land Management rangelands: **13.7**. Total acres of public lands involved in the Federal Grazing Program: **383,332, 069**. Damage done (Al's opinion): **Priceless**.

## AL'S BOOK CLUB...

**W**ant some inside scoop on the cattle and dairy industries? If so, check out *Mad Cowboy: Plain Truth from the Cattle Rancher Who Won't Eat Meat* by Howard Lyman. In fact Mr. Lyman didn't just become a vegetarian: he became a vegan. The author was a fourth-generation dairy farmer and cattle rancher in Montana, and he ran a feedlot for twenty years. Then things changed. By the time he wrote his book (1998), he had become president of the International Vegetarian Union.

Lyman covers mad-cow disease, pus in milk, and a host of other topics associated with modern farming practices. His book is informative, fun to read, and frightening.



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# OurPublicLands



## An open letter to all Utah Sierra Club members and friends:

### SUBJECT: PROTECTION OF UTAH WILDERNESS

First off, Happy New Year! Last year was a good one for wilderness in Utah. It started out on Jan. 6, 2006, when President Bush signed into law legislation introduced by Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT) giving wilderness protection to 100,000 acres in the Cedar Mountains. And it ended on a positive note when the 109th Congress failed to act on the anti-wilderness Washington County Growth and Conservation Act. Sierra Club members and staff can take credit for helping in both these achievements.

In 2007, with your involvement, there is every reason to hope for even more gains, especially now that additional members who value environmental protection have been elected to both the US House and Senate. The new Congress is a great opportunity for the Sierra Club to seek positive change in the environmental policies of our nation.

Our biggest challenge in 2007 will be to secure passage of America's Redrock Wilderness Act. This legislation would protect about nine million acres of wilderness on public lands administered by the BLM in Utah. In the new Congress we will have opportunities to gain new co-sponsors and supporters of the proposed act.

What can you do to help get this important wilderness legislation passed? First, educate yourself on the bill. (Links to current information on America's Redrock Wilderness Act can be found on the web at <http://www.suwa.org/>.) Second, let your elected officials know that you support the act.

For Sierra Club members living in Utah's Second Congressional District, I encourage you to ask Rep. Jim Matheson to step forward and become a sponsor of America's Redrock Wilderness Act. You

can leave a message for him at his toll-free number, 1 (877) 677-9743, or you can write to him at: 240 East Morris Ave. #235; South Salt Lake City, UT 84115.

What else can you do to help protect Utah's wilderness areas? Use them. Go hiking, horseback riding, fishing or hunting, or simply go enjoy the solitude of the wilderness. Then talk about your experience with family, friends, and neighbors. Invite them along on a future exploration. Write a letter to the editor of your newspaper. Let people know how you feel about protecting Utah wilderness. It's too precious to lose.

Sincerely,  
Al Herring,  
Utah Chapter Chair

## Washington County Bill Dies in 109th Congress

by Lawson LeGate

Thanks to an outpouring of opposition from Utahns and others throughout the nation, the so-called Washington County Growth and Conservation Act (S.3636) died when Congress adjourned the 109th Congress. The Sierra Club, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance and The Wilderness Society had attempted through several meetings with staff of Sen Bob Bennett (R-UT) and Rep Jim Matheson (D-UT) to improve the bill, but those efforts were unsuccessful.

Sierra Club members and their coalition partners sought to improve the bill in a number of areas, including:

- woefully inadequate wilderness protection (less than a third of qualifying BLM lands)
- a plan to sell up to 25,000 acres of public lands and to use the revenue to fund local development projects
- opening the door for possible construction of a freeway by-pass and authorize water developments in the Red Cliffs Desert Tortoise Habitat Reserve

- establishment of an off-road vehicle trail on public lands in the western part of the county

The Washington County bill generated considerable controversy. Newspapers throughout the country editorialized against the bill, including the New York Times, LA Times, Denver Post, Arizona Republic, the Sacramento Bee, and the Salt Lake Tribune (four separate opposing editorials).


A hearing was held on the bill in a subcommittee of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee in early November. One member of the committee, Democrat Maria Cantwell of Washington, asked tough questions about the bill. She made it clear that she did not like the idea of pairing wilderness designation with attempts to sell off public land. She stated that she worried about the precedent that would be set if the bill became law.

Sen Bennett openly declared that he would search for unrelated must-pass legislation to which he could attach his bill. Time ran out, however, and the bill died when the session came to an end. (The legislation had been the subject of a House Resources Committee hearing earlier in the year, but no further action occurred in that body.)


Both congressional champions of America's Redrock Wilderness Act, Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) and Sen. Richard Durbin (D-IL), circulated letters of opposition to the Washington County bill. They were joined in signing the letters by a number of Congressional colleagues.

Thanks to all who took the time to speak out against this legislation. Let us hope that with the new Congress we can look forward to legitimate efforts to protect our precious wildland heritage.

*LeGate is a Senior Southwest Regional Representative of Sierra Club.*



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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.

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# On Transportation



Failing Jersey barriers.



Rock walls could replace Jersey barriers.

## Changes to Highway 12: Safety Upgrades or Tampering?

by Jim Catlin

One of Utah's most scenic highways, State Highway 12 between Escalante and Boulder, is proposed for highway "improvements." Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) wants to make some changes, and now is the time to let them know what you think. Will these changes respect the unique character of this stretch of highway?

I have been a member of a context-sensitive advisory committee created by UDOT and facilitated by a consulting firm called Lochner. This has been one of the best processes that I have participated in. Utah Department of Transportation deserves praise for establishing this process that has led to healthy discussions that seem, at this point, to have made a positive difference.

If you are fascinated by this place as much as I am, I suggest visiting the project website, <http://www.udot.utah.gov/sr-12>. The background maps and information are excellent.

Next year an environmental impact statement (EIS) will be prepared, and a more formal process will begin. Now, draft ideas are out for consideration, and this is a good time to try to shape what might happen.

Many earlier ideas that I saw as problems have been abandoned. Cliff cutting to take out a tight turn, lowering the road on the Hogbacks, and long passing lanes are no longer being considered. I remain wary, however. In rough terrain like that through which this segment passes—superlative canyons and buttes even by Utah standards—the objective should be to build a safe road within the existing road prism. We still need to persuade UDOT on several points.

On the map accompanying this article, you'll find the locations associated with the proposed alterations described below.

These projects are conceptual and, based on your comments, may change. I have found UDOT and Lochner responsive to comments they receive concerning this stretch of highway. I have described these projects below and added my own thoughts.

**1. Obtain a highway right of way under "Title 23."** In my view this is the right approach. Given a RS2477 right of way from BLM in the 90s, Utah Department of Transportation has concluded that they need a highway right of way wider than the width of the historic route. Some required repairs cannot be completed with a RS2477 right of way. I support this approach.

**2. Replace Calf Creek Bridge which is beyond its service life.** The replacement is likely to be the same profile and size. I am concerned that UDOT may want four-foot shoulders on each side widening the bridge. I hope not.

**3. Stabilize roadway South of Calf Creek Camp Ground (MP 73.3).** Part of the road is hanging precariously behind a gerrymandered piece of guardrail holding the slope. One option is to build a wall using local stone. The option, more favored by UDOT, is to move the road east cutting into the cliff. I favor a rock wall instead of more cutting into the cliff.

**4. Remove the Jersey barriers and replace them with something more stable and aesthetic.** Sprayed concrete that simulates rock (which I personally don't like) has been suggested. A low rock wall or a cement wall with rock fascia are also under consideration. In order to gain stable footing, UDOT may want to cut into the cliff to widen the road. Another option is to build a wall within the current road width, an approach I favor.

**5. Widen shoulders in conjunction with other projects.** UDOT suggests four-foot paved shoulders be added to each side of the road. I have the most trouble with this recommendation. Widening this road in some cases would cut into the cliff eight or more feet—significantly changing the character of the road. On the other hand, having a three-foot shoulder on steep uphill sections might help where this can be done without cutting into the cliff.

**6. Passing turnouts in perhaps seven locations.** Some of these are on the attached map. We don't have full details on these yet, and the specific location will need to be known before I feel comfortable with these. These smaller turnouts are a better choice than the much longer and wider passing lanes no longer suggested.

**7. Improve the Hole in the Rock Road junction and Calf Creek Camp-ground junction.** For the Hole in the Rock Road, Lochner has suggested a left turn lane for westbound and a right turn lane for east bound. This would widen the road, but at this location, I don't see this as a problem.

Of more concern is what might be planned for the Calf Creek Camp-ground junction. UDOT still wants to make changes to help larger vehicles enter this campsite. Right now a sign says that vehicles over 25 feet long (RVs and large buses) are not allowed. These large vehicles can't turn around once they enter. I think this is a bad idea, and we don't need to build to suit RVs.

**8. Roadside parking.** Stabilize needed parking, restore unwanted parking areas. There isn't a clear list of these, and more will be provided about this in the future.

**9. Widen the road at the Tank at one of the sharpest turns below the Head of the Rocks.** The proposal is to widen the road to the inside with four-foot shoulders added to each side of the road. This may widen this corner by as much as eight to twelve feet.

The argument for this is that snowplow blades protrude into opposing lane on this narrow road and this presents a safety problem. I agree that these lanes could be widened but question the need for wide shoulders. I support the idea of a three-foot bicycle lane on the uphill side of the road (inside the turn) and no shoulder on the downhill side (the outside). This will minimize the cutting into this five-foot high cliff.

Stabilizing the roadway in a few places, using the right laws for a highway right of way, keeping projects within the current highway footprint, and improving the aesthetics of retaining walls and guard rails are good ideas. Adding four foot paved shoulders with associated cliff cutting is one of the bad ideas in my view.

If you value the pristine nature of this landscape and the modest place of Highway 12 in it, please send comments in the next month via e-mail to [sr-12@hwlochner.com](mailto:sr-12@hwlochner.com) or via US Mail to

H W Lochner, Inc.  
310 East 4500 South, Ste 600  
Salt Lake City UT 84107.

Thanks for doing your part.

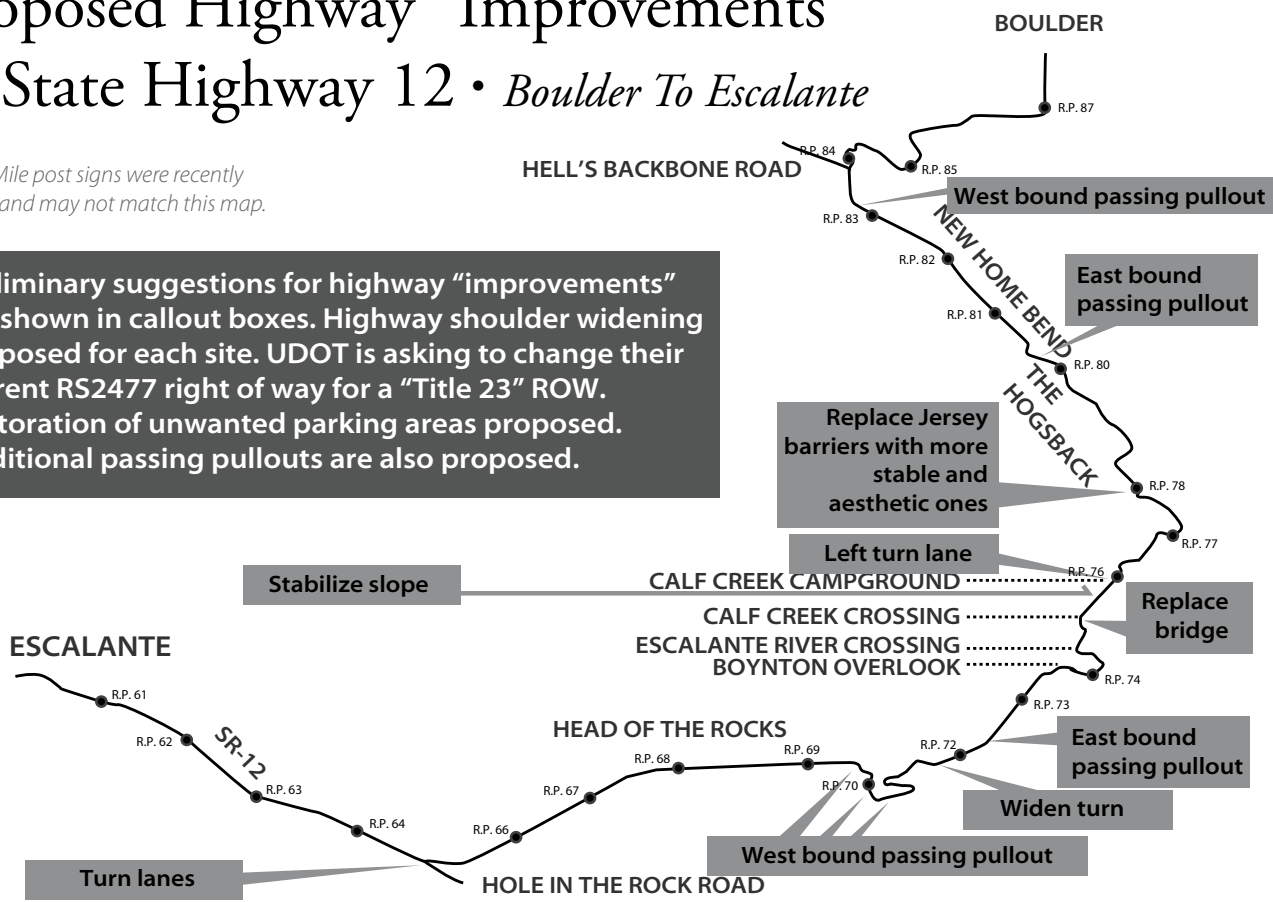
*Jim Catlin is executive director of the Wild Utah Project and a member of the Sierra Club Board of Directors.*

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

## Proposed Highway "Improvements" to State Highway 12 • Boulder To Escalante

NOTE: Mile post signs were recently moved and may not match this map.

Preliminary suggestions for highway "improvements" are shown in callout boxes. Highway shoulder widening proposed for each site. UDOT is asking to change their current RS2477 right of way for a "Title 23" ROW. Restoration of unwanted parking areas proposed. Additional passing pullouts are also proposed.



# New Mass Transit Was A Big Winner in 2006

by Marc Heilesen, Southwest Representative

What a time to celebrate! The year 2006 has set the beginning stages of a true regional mass transit system for Utah. As the year began, many hard working Sierra Club volunteers went door-to-door in western Salt Lake County to create public demand for funding new extensions of the East-West TRAX light rail. Sierra Club volunteers also staffed several booths and tables, wrote letters, and distributed post-cards calling for more TRAX expansion.

This public demand for new mass transit has become a reality.

This public demand for new mass transit has become a reality. On November 7<sup>th</sup>, both Salt Lake and Utah Counties overwhelmingly passed ballot initiatives to raise their sales taxes a quarter of a cent for new transportation. This result gave our county mayor, commissioners and council a clear mandate to fund the construction of four new TRAX lines and to extend Frontrunner commuter rail all the way south to Provo. Soon people will be taking TRAX



A TRAX train leaves the EnergySolutions Arena stop.

to the airport, West Valley City, South Jordan, and Draper. Frontrunner commuter rail will also connect cities of the Wasatch Front as a backbone to encourage more and more transit expansion. This shift away from complete automobile dependency with a regional transit network will lead the efforts to curb urban sprawl, improve air quality, and protect our precious wildlife habitat.

Many thanks to everyone who voted and helped get the word out to pass Salt Lake

County's Proposition 3 and Utah County's Commuter Rail Opinion/Question. The campaign was attacked several times by confusion, but the voters' faith in their local community leaders won out in the end. The final package of massive expansion of TRAX and Frontrunner rail was better than anyone could have imagined when the campaign began. Utah voters truly made the difference. I look forward to seeing everyone on the train.



The Utah Chapter and the Southwest Field Office of Sierra Club have moved. Our new office address is:

2159 South 700 East Suite 210 Salt Lake City, UT 84106

We're in a two-story office building immediately north of the Olympian Restaurant on the east side of 700 East. Feel free to stop by to say hello and check out the new office. It's practical, a little more economical than our last office, and fully ADA-compliant.



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# OnPolitics



## State Legislative Preview

by Mark Clemens

**W**e've got an interesting group of issues barreling towards us—some good, some bad. Stay informed on the bills that will affect the environment with the chapter legislative committee's bill tracker, <http://www.utah.sierraclub.org/tracker/index.html>. We update the tracker throughout the day during the general session.

### GROUNDHOG DAY

Again this session we're faced with legislation that would eliminate any reasonable zoning for environmental protection. Last year it was a sweeping bill introduced by Sen Al Mansell that would have torpedoed all zoning. This year a somewhat narrower version is brought to us by Rep Michael Morley (R-Spanish Fork), himself a developer, who just wants to eliminate zoning that protects communities from things like landslides. This legislation, House Bill 233, provides that developers can shop around until they find a geologist who will say that the dangers of building houses and roads on steep slopes can be mitigated, establishes in law that developers are presumed to be right and communities have to prove them wrong, and forbids communities from zoning to protect wildlife, vegetation, scenic vistas, or the municipal budget from excessive costs for services.

### ENERGY

Representative Barrus (R-Centerville) has two bills proposed related to energy. One would create a revolving loan fund for energy efficiency projects. This idea could turn out to be useful, but the bill language has not yet been released. The other bill, HB 243, proposes to add hydroelectric energy to the list of energy types defined by the state as renewable. By making this

change, certain bad dam projects that the Utah Chapter and other groups have toiled long to inter could be revived. It would be a shame if the first result of the renewal of the renewable energy tax credit (See below.) were the revival of the Gooseberry Narrows Dam project on an upper tributary of the Price River.

Bigger news is the renewal, amendment and extension of tax credits for alternate power generation in Senate Bill 13. The previous tax credit for residential and commercial energy installations expired on December 31, 2006. This year's bill is sponsored by Sen Howard Stephenson (R-Draper). The new formulation changes the calculation for commercial systems from a one-off credit to a four-year credit based on the amount of power generated. This might actually be an improvement since it requires that the installation actually produce electricity. I spoke to Tracy Livingston from Wasatch Wind who says that this legislation would at least get them back financially to where they were before the legislation expired.

### WATER RIGHTS

There are many water issues before the legislature this year. We actually have three potentially good bills to support. Senator Knudsen is sponsoring SB 29, instream flow rights for trout. This provision would allow non-profit groups that promote fishing in Utah to apply for 10-year water rights to protect or promote three native species of trout. Currently DWR and state parks are the only entities permitted to hold water rights exclusively for instream flow purposes. For political and financial reasons, they have acquired very few water rights to date. Although it's frustrating that these water rights would last for only

10 years, if passed, this legislation would let non-profits into the game for the first time. Stronger legislation has been proposed, I believe, twice already and failed. There has been a fair amount of paranoia about the Sierra Club somehow using provisions like this to destroy agriculture in Utah by buying up all the water rights. Perhaps this milder legislation would allay the paranoia.

We've got an interesting group of issues barreling towards us—some good, some bad.

There's also a resolution (HJR 1) asking the governor to hold off on any agreement with Nevada over division of the Carbonate Aquifer before scientific studies are completed. The Carbonate Aquifer underlies eastern Nevada and Utah's West Desert and supplies agriculture, springs and natural wonders like the Fish Creek National Wildlife Refuge. The resolution also requests him to include a resident of Snake Valley in the negotiations with Nevada.

### WATER QUALITY

There will also be a struggle this year between publicly-owned water treatment works (POTWs) and farmers. POTWs—some might still think of them as sewage

treatment plants—want to acquire water rights to allow them to diminish the effects of their effluent. I believe this motive derives from the increasingly-strict requirements of the total maximum daily load (TMDL) provisions of the Clean Water Act. With additional water, some of it from agriculture, to mix in with their effluent, they'll be able to comply more easily or, perhaps, at all. The Legislative Water Task Force reported a bill—for which the language is still in process—that would reportedly allow them to acquire temporary water rights. Senator Dmitrich has introduced a bill, SB 95, that would allow them to acquire these rights permanently. It's possible that Dmitrich's bill is intended to be the scary one so legislators accept the diluted provisions from the task force.

### MISCELLANEOUS

Sen Scott McCoy has an electronic waste recycling bill in process.

Rep Mike Noel has introduced legislation, HB 97, to allow a new checkoff donation through motor vehicle registration to be used for smothering federal land managers with lawsuits and for off-highway vehicle education programs. The bill provides no oversight whatsoever that both ends must be served.

OHV use on designated trails should be permitted, and most motorized users are respectful of the rules, other recreationists and wildlife. These people—many of whom are rightly concerned about improving OHV education—should not have to gamble that their donations might all go to lawsuits. HB 97 should therefore alarm both motorized and non-motorized users.

*Clemens is the Utah Chapter manager.*

The Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club &  
Westminster College Environmental Center  
present

# AN ENERGY FILM FESTIVAL



Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
1:00 pm to 6 pm  
Westminster College

“Cry, laugh, get informed, take action!”

[ Stay tuned to [www.utah.sierraclub.org](http://www.utah.sierraclub.org) for forthcoming details. ]

## Thank You

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

Liz Abel  
Fred Adler  
Earle Bevins  
Mike Davies  
Richard Jirik  
in honor of Bob & Carol Lakin  
Kathy M Olsen  
Doug Stark  
Henry Whiteside

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 in the next issue, 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!

## 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.

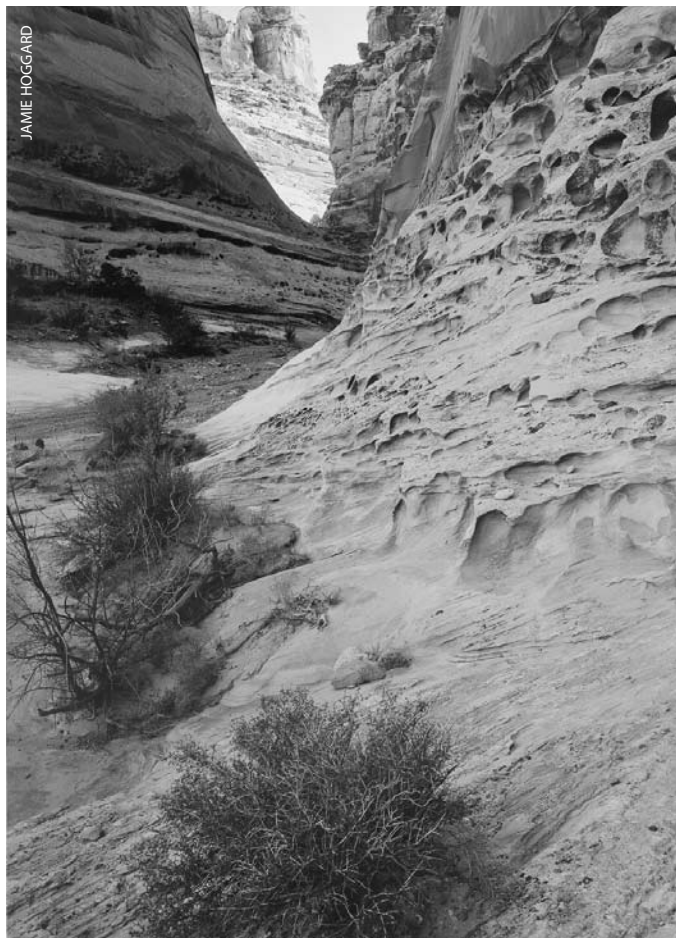
Please be as generous as you are able - and remember, these funds directly affect your way of life in your neighborhood.

### 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.

# Out&About



WESTWATERARTS.COM



WESTWATERARTS.COM

## Utah County Sierrans Get Together for Fun and Service

by Bepe Kafka

**A**fter a hiatus of over a decade, the Sierrans in Utah County are organizing. In response to a mailing, twenty-five members and prospective members showed up at Jim Westwater's home in Spanish Fork, and expressed interest in group activities and/or service projects. Some had been active in the past, and some were new members. There was a wide variety of backgrounds and ideas about what to undertake as a group. In fact, it could be said that ideas flew thick and fast, far too many to undertake right away. Everyone, to a person, however, expressed happiness to be around like-minded people. Mark Clemens of the Utah chapter attended the meeting, and arranged to have a UT-COUNTY-FORUM listserv set up to facilitate communications.

The group's first outing was a spur-of-the-moment hike in Diamond Fork Canyon on Sunday, November 19. Please see the accompanying photos.

Two events are planned for January. The first will be a presentation by Tim Wagner on Wednesday, January 24 at the Provo Public Library entitled, "Smart Energy for Utah County." He will educate us, and as many people as we can pull in, on Utah's current energy picture and other issues. Tim is the Director of the Utah Smart Energy Campaign, as well as a member of Governor Huntsman's Blue Ribbon Climate Change Advisory Panel and Utah's Mercury Work Group.

Also planned for Saturday, January 27 is an excursion with Marc Heileson, Sierra Club's Transportation Expert, to investigate and experience firsthand the wetlands at the north end of Utah Lake. This area is currently threatened by the state's plans under consideration to build the southern extension of the Mountain View Corridor, a planned alternative route to I-15, right through the wetlands. We plan to make this one of our major issues, and publicize the importance of preserving this fragile nesting place of the North American Bald Eagle, and stopover for many other migratory species.

We are also planning an eagle watch outing when the eagles arrive for the carp feed in late February/March.

And we are just beginning. Care to get involved or learn more about helping the environment here in Utah and Utah County? We need your ideas and energy, because we plan to make a difference. If you are interested in participating in some or all of our projects, or at least getting on our email list to hear about what we're up to, please feel free to email Jim Westwater at [SierraForum@WestwaterArts.com](mailto:SierraForum@WestwaterArts.com). We welcome your participation in helping to "explore, enjoy and protect the planet" and Utah.

## The State of the Salt Lake Group

by Ann Wechsler, Chair



USUTEXAN\_FLUKR.COM

**T**he Salt Lake Group of the Sierra Club welcomes two new officers to its ranks – Edie Davis and Ann Hoagland. Preston Motes has agreed to serve as treasurer, again, having done so since 1987 (and managed our calendar sales). Rebecca Wallace and Ken Evans have been carrying on the group's outings program with the help of willing leaders, especially Kurt Alloway, Ron Younger, Margaret Fahey, and many others. We could not thrive without dedicated volunteers who, like Dick Dougherty, began leading natural history hikes in the Wasatch back in 1974, after moving here from Nebraska. Decades of Sierra sponsored outings in the west desert, the Wasatch range, and the high and low Uintas have provided participants with a wealth of knowledge about local wildlife, geology, and respect for a land that we local citizens have come to treasure.

Although the group may be best known for its outings program, which anyone can attend, we have a long history of conservation activities that make us meeting junkies as well as weekend recreators. We have played an important role in protecting the

local canyons from over development of ski resorts, preserving the city's watershed (especially during the Winter Olympics of 2002), reminding the US Forest Service of its obligations to the land, and augmenting the many statewide campaigns taken on by the Utah Chapter, just to name a few. For many years, the Salt Lake Group sponsored monthly program meetings at the Sugarhouse Garden Center. We have been entertained by filmmaker Trent Harris, author of the *Wild Goose Chronicles*, Stephen Trimble, noted author, naturalist, and photographer, and representatives of the forest service and Bureau of Land Management who have treated us to tales of mining history in the tri-canyon area or concretions from eons past. We also contributed mightily to the Wasatch Front Forum series of the 1990s, which is now being resurrected by the new Environmental Studies program at Westminster College.

The Salt Lake Group currently has approximately 3,000 members, but it takes only a few activists to make our presence felt in this locale. The group encompasses

a geographic area, like the other groups in Utah – the Ogden Group, the Glen Canyon Group, and the Southwest Group (each has its own roster of officers). There used to be active groups in Logan and Park City, but it is difficult to enlist the leadership necessary to keep them afloat. The recent renaissance of interest in Sierra Club activism among Utah County members is described above, in Bepe Kafka's article.

Fortunately, the Salt Lake Group has the bulk of the chapter's membership because most of us live along the Wasatch Front. Unfortunately, however, the Wasatch Front is experiencing phenomenal pressure to develop, urbanize, and sprawl into once untrammeled lands. So, if you want to continue to appreciate a cow parsnip in full bloom, or examine the fresh tracks of some little critter in a peaceful canyon setting, the group needs the support of old and new members. We welcome your ideas, your dollars, and your skills to carry on a fine tradition of socializing and conserving our local heritage.



STEGNER CENTER

TWELFTH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

University of Utah  
S.J. Quinney College of Law  
Salt Lake City, Utah

Friday & Saturday March 2-3, 2007

*“No society is healthy without both the will to create anew and the will to save the best of the old.”*

—Wallace Stegner

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# The Colorado River Compact in the 21st Century: Time for Change?

**Registrations now being accepted!**

The Wallace Stegner Center's 12<sup>th</sup> annual symposium will explore issues of Colorado River management, focusing on the seven-state Colorado River Compact and other aspects of the "Law of the River," the complex set of laws, treaties, cases, regulations, and other documents that govern use and management of the Colorado River. The fundamental question to be explored in this two-day symposium is whether the 1922 Compact is resilient enough to meet the environmental needs and to withstand the hydrological, climatic, economic, and other real-world changes of the next century, or whether significant changes to the compact or other laws are necessary.

The Stegner Center will be joined by policy analysts, water users, scientists, economists, political leaders, environmental advocates, and others to consider whether the Colorado River Compact needs to be refashioned. Critical issues include how Colorado River water might be re-allocated among the Upper and Lower Basin states, Native American tribes, Mexico, and instream environmental uses, and what effect this might have on the ecological health of the river as well

as surrounding communities and other users of Colorado River resources.

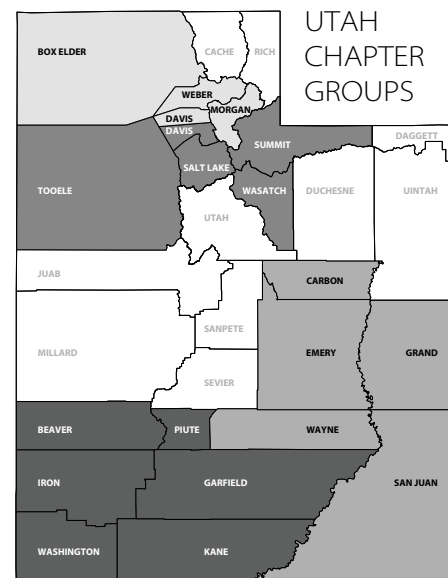
The goal for this year's symposium is to promote understanding of the cultural and historical forces that shaped the Colorado River Compact and how the realities of the New West, including the urbanization of the region, population growth, environmental damage, and increased water demands, along with a changing environmental ethic, might suggest a need to reconsider something as fundamental as the 1922 Colorado River Compact.

For a symposium brochure, including an agenda, list of speakers, and registration fees, please see our website at [http://www.law.utah.edu/\\_FILES/stegner/brochures/symposia\\_2007.pdf](http://www.law.utah.edu/_FILES/stegner/brochures/symposia_2007.pdf). For additional questions or to register, please contact the Stegner Center at 801-585-3440. Principal funding by the R. Harold Burton Foundation and Chevron. Additional support provided by the Cultural Vision Fund and The Nature Conservancy in Utah.

# UtahChapterOutings

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

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



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

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

**Ogden Group (OG)**  
P.O. Box 1821, Ogden, UT, 84402  
[utah.sierraclub.org/ogden](http://utah.sierraclub.org/ogden)

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

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

## February

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

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

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

## GCG, Sat, 2/10 River to Courthouse Wash.

This slickrock hike will take us from the Colorado River near Moab up over the high rim and down to Courthouse Wash. The hike involves a day of scrambling up and down slickrock, exposure, a belay, large potholes up on top, beautiful views, and stream hopping. Bring a lunch, snacks, water and extra warm clothing. This hike is also very weather dependent; icy or snowy conditions will require an alternate plan. Meet at Star Hall at 9 am, return around 4 pm. Distance is 6½ - 7 miles; elevation gain approximately 1000 feet. Leader: Bonnie Crysdale, 259-0246.

## SLG, Sun, 2/11, Snowshoe Mueller Park Bountiful.

A great venue north of Salt Lake City for a change of pace. A moderate excursion in the foothills of Bountiful. Meeting place will be the entrance of the park at 10:15 a.m. Call Margaret (292-7602) for directions if needed and other info about the outing.

## OG, Sat, 2/17, Snowshoe Mill Creek Canyon area.

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

## SLG, Sat-Mon, 2/17-2/19, Presidents/ Valentines Day Weekend in Redrock Country.

One of the premier outings of the year. In years past we began with a tour of the Anasazi State Park in Boulder, Utah, on Saturday afternoon. Saturday evening may include a home-cooked Dutch oven dinner and a conversation/history discussion led by former park superintendent (and wonderful storyteller) Larry Davis. The rest of the weekend will include options for x-country skiing on Boulder Mountain, mountain biking, hiking, a visit to nearby Capital Reef via the Burr Trail, and horseback riding. This is an excellent opportunity to explore the Escalante grand Staircase and enjoy one of Utah's largest unprotected forest service roadless areas. Contact Kurt Alloway via email [dertquest99@yahoo.com](mailto:dertquest99@yahoo.com) for meeting time, place, and other information regarding the outing.

## SLG, Sun, 2/18, X-Country Ski Snow Basin.

Weather and snow conditions permitting. An off-trail snowshoe excursion at Snow Basin with scenic views and relatively easy terrain. Participants will carpool to Snow Basin from Bountiful. Call Ron (292-4040) for meeting time, place, and an alternative outing location.

## GCG, Sat, 2/24 Amasa Back.

This is a moderate hike of about 8 miles plus. Trail starts at junction of Kane Creek and Colorado River and follows the Colorado down river for about 2 miles. This part of the trail is on the Kayenta formation and gradually rises to reach the top of the Amasa Back peninsula.

From there we may explore part of the peninsula to the north. To complete the hike we will follow the Cliff Hanger bike and 4x4 road back to Kane Creek. Along the way we should see some petroglyphs and dinosaur tracks. Meet at Moab Information Center, Center and Main, at 9 am. Contact Mike Stringham (435 259-8579) for more info. [E]

## March

### SLG, Sat, 3/3, X-Country Ski at Norway Flats.

This ski adventure in the Uinta's offers a variety of remarkable scenic and wildlife viewing opportunities. The trail follows an old logging road beginning from the popular Mirror Lake Highway and ending at a secluded overlook offering a panoramic view of snow covered peaks, narrow river drainages, and clear blue skies. Expect a moderately paced climb and 3 miles one way distance. Call Ken (484-3112) for meeting time, place, and more information about the outing.

### GCG, Sat, 3/10 Gemini Bridge Exploratory.

Exploratory trip in the Gemini Bridges area. There will be a lot of up and down slickrock hiking, up to 8 miles distance, with some rock scrambling. Bring lunch, snacks, extra water and clothing. Meet at the MIC (Moab Information Center, Center and Main) at 8:30 am. Leader: Bonnie Crysdale, 259-0246.

### SLG, Sun, 3/11, Snowshoe the Great Western Trail.

North from Parley's Summit (I-80). Although there is one steep section, most of the trail covers easy terrain. Some surprisingly secluded and scenic country so near the highway. Call Ron (292-4040) for meeting time, place, and alternative route depending on weather and trail conditions.

### OG, Sat-Sun, 3/17-18, Green Slickrock in Moab.

Let's spend St. Patrick's Day in Moab. This slickrock area is a great place to kick off the Spring hiking season. The weather is usually great and the scenery splendid. We will do hikes both Saturday and Sunday. Call early to get info on reservation requirements. Contact Larry Woolsey (731-3701).

### SLG, Sun, 3/18, Ski East Canyon.

The trail will follow the East Canyon road which is closed to vehicle traffic for the winter. Although most of the trek will be on the road, there are several interesting side trails to explore. It will be no surprise to encounter

# UtahChapterDirectory

## Chapter Executive Committee

- Jim Case .....jimcase@netutah.com, (435) 586-4720
- Scott Daniels .....sctdaniels@aol.com, (801) 582-8080
- Al Herring, chair .....al.mary.herring@worldnet.att.net, (801) 444-9574
- Wayne Hoskisson .....wyh@xmission.com, (435) 260-9045
- Ken Johnsen .....kencjohnsen@hotmail.com, (801) 272-5622
- Ranee Johnson .....raneejohnson\_27@msn.com
- Gordon Lind .....gordylind8@cs.com, (801) 571-4185
- Lois Mansfield .....lem@virginia.edu

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- Jim Case, Southwest Utah Group.....
- Mike Stringham, Glen Canyon Group.....mikechrista@earthlink.net, (435) 259-8579
- Ann Wechsler, Salt Lake Group .....awech@jawex.aros.net, (801) 583-2090
- Larry Woolsey, Ogden Group .....landcrun@hotmail.com, (801) 731-3701

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- Jean Binyon, membership chair.....binyon@binyon.us, (435) 259-1633
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- Sarah Fields, nuclear waste.....sarahmfields@earthlink.net
- Claire Gardner, training.....ClaireGar@msn.com
- Wayne Hoskisson, forest issues/grazing.....w.y.hoskisson@frontiernet.net, (435) 259-0328
- Ken Johnsen, legal chair .....kencjohnsen@hotmail.com, (801) 272-5622
- Gordon Lind, CCL delegate.....gordylind8@cs.com, (801) 571-4185
- Tom Messenger, web master.....messengertj@citlink.net, (435) 259-1756
- Dan Schroeder, ORV impacts.....dschroeder@weber.edu, (801) 393-4603
- Kevin Walker, public lands.....kwalker@xmission.com, (435) 259-7540
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- Brad Yates, UWC representative .....bnysl@earthlink.net, (801) 521-4185

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- Ann Wechsler, Salt Lake Group .....awech@jawex.aros.net, (801) 583-2090
- Lois Mansfield, Southwest Utah Group.....lem@virginia.edu

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- Mark Clemens, chapter co-ordinator.....mark.Clemens@sierraclub.org, (801) 467-9297
- Tim Wagner, Smart Energy Campaign .....tim.wagner@sierraclub.org, (801) 467-9294

## Southwest Field Office Staff

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

Moose and/or Elk in this beautiful area near the reservoir. Bring snacks for lunch along with plenty of water. Call Rebecca (487-4160) for meeting time, place, and info about the outing.

**GCG, Sat, 3/24 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 am. Leader: Ed Brandstetter, 259-9427. [E]

## April

**OG, Fri, 4/6, Bonneville Shoreline Trail Full Moon Outing.** 6.5 miles one way, dress for the weather. Start @ Rainbow Gardens at 7 pm, then car shuttle to Beus Canyon trailhead. Joanie 801-399-0034

**OG, Sat, 4/7, Moderate day hike to Antelope Island Rock Corral.** Hike on the west side of the island to one of the most beautiful spots in northern Utah. We will have lunch at the historic rock corral and enjoy great views of the lake and western shoreline. Expect about 4 hours and 11.5 miles round trip. For meeting place and time call Larry Woolsey, 731-3701.

**SLG, Sun, 4/8, Ski/Snowshoe Cecret Lake.** Contingent on the closing of the ski lifts. After the ski season but before the snow melts. Ski or snow shoe to the serene beauty of Secret Lake near the Alta Ski resort. Moderate slope but not far in distance. Call Ron (292-4040) before April 2nd for meeting time, place, and other info about the outing.

**GCG, Sat, 4/14 Behind the Rocks.** Moderate hike with some strenuous parts and about 6 miles long. This is a beautiful hike into a little explored region. We begin on the Kane Creek road about a quarter mile before it turns to dirt and head south. We will see Tear Drop arch and look down into tributaries of Pritchett Canyon. This may be an out and back hike unless I discover beforehand a way to make it a loop. Meet at Moab Information Center, Center and Main, at 9:00 AM. Contact Mike Stringham (435/259-8579) for more info.

**OG, Sat, 4/14, Waterfall Canyon day hike.** Meet @ 10 am at the trailhead at the top of 29th Street. Call Joanie 801-399-0034

**SLG, Sun, 4/15, Day Hike on Antelope Island.** Explore Antelope Island while the temperatures are mild and before the annoying bugs arrive. Although the trail has not been determined, there are several excellent choices of easy hikes on the Island. Bring lunch snacks and plenty of water. Meeting place is the booth at the beginning of the causeway at 10:15-10:30 a.m. This is a fee area, car pooling and sharing of fees recommended. Call Margaret for more information about the hike.

**OG, Sat, 4/21, Urban River Cleanup.** Celebrate Earth Day by joining in an Urban River Clean Up from 9 am until noon. In conjunc-

tion with other concerned volunteers, we will clean up the Ogden River, and if enough volunteers are recruited, also a portion of the Weber River in the Ogden area. Lunch will be provided. Plans are ongoing and the extent of the project will be determined later in the spring. To participate, or to volunteer as a clean up area leader, call Rane Johnson, 985-0158 by April 14. [S]

**GCG, Thu, 4/26 Lower Courthouse Wash.** An easy walk, about 5 miles, thru Lower Courthouse Wash from the bridge to the exit near the river. If the water is high you might get your feet wet, so bring appropriate shoes or boots. Meet at 9 AM at the Moab Information Center. A short car shuttle will be necessary. More information, call Mike Binyon, 259-1633.

## May

**OG, Fri, 5/4, Moderate day hike on the Indian Trail.** Hike the Indian Trail, one of the most beautiful trails in Weber County. We will start this late afternoon/early evening hike in Weber Canyon and continue to the Rainbow Gardens Trailhead. We will have a rest stop at the Nevada Point Shelter to see the valley and lake before us. Expect approx 2.5 hours and 5 miles. For meeting place and time call Larry Woolsey, 731-3701.

**GCG, Sat, 5/5 Mary Jane Canyon.** Hike up Mary Jane Canyon as it narrows, frequently hopping across the ankle-deep stream, for ~4 miles to a pour-off and return. Last hundred feet to the base of the pour-off will likely require wading. Little elevation change. Meet at Moab Information Center, Center and Main, at 8:00 AM. Leader: Tom Messenger, 259-1756.

**OG, Sun, 5/6, Outdoor Beautification/Noxious Weed Service Project.** Come take out your aggression on northern Utah's most visible noxious weed—Dyer's woad. We're making great progress on the area we informally adopted two years ago; this follow-up visit will be the next step towards eradicating Dyer's woad from this area. This project is helping out the native plants and wildlife. We'll start at 9 am and finish by noon. Call leader Dan Schroeder (393-4603) for meeting place and additional information. (If spring arrives late, we may need to postpone for a week or two.) [S]

**GCG, Fri-Sun, 5/11 to 5/13 Lewis Lodge car camp and day hike.** Meet Gene Foushee at 4 PM at the Blanding airport (south of town, mile north of junction US-191 and U95) to convoy to cook and camp above the head of Arch Canyon. High clearance vehicles needed to reach the campsite, 25 miles (15 or so dirt) from the road junction. Gene has room for three in his Suburban, and cars may be left at the airport. Moab participants may coordinate carpools with Tom Messenger, 259-1756. Hike to Lewis Lodge down a short side canyon to Arch Canyon first thing Saturday. Lewis Lodge is a remarkable set of Anasazi ruins strung out along a broad shelf in a sheer cliff. Same camp Saturday night. Possible day hike and return Sunday. Bring your own food and cooking equipment. For more details, contact Gene Foushee, genemary@frontiernet.net, cell 520/730-5604 before about 5/1, 435/672-2238 afterwards. [E]



RON YOUNGER

# win a backcountry guide

**AUGUST 8, 2004: Sunday trekkers starting out on Notch Mtn. Pass trail from Crystal Lake parking area in the Uintas. Be the first (before February 15, 2007) to correctly list the first name of seven of these trekkers and receive a Backcountry Guide Book for the Uintas. Send your list to Ron Younger at 920 East 1500 South, Bountiful, UT 84010-2138.**








**R**on Younger celebrates his 80th birthday at the home of Margaret Fahey, which could barely accommodate his legion of followers. Ron has been leading Sierra Club hikes for decades and is not about to let another year slow him down. A Happy New Year and a resounding thanks to Ron from the Salt Lake Group.



MARK MACLEAN, FLICKR.COM

# Top 10 Sierra Club Achievements in Utah in 2006

<p><b>1</b></p>	<p>Sierra Club activists from around the country and national lobbyists helped persuade senators not to pass Senator Bennett's growth-on-steroids Washington County Growth &amp; Conservation Act of 2006. Defeat of this bill means no public lands in Washington County sold to developers, and revenues from such sales will not fund inappropriate development projects.</p>	
<p><b>2</b></p>	<p>The Sierra Club was granted standing by the Utah Supreme Court to appeal the permits issued by the Utah Air Quality Board (AQB) for two new power plants. With this victory, the AQB will be compelled to consider our arguments that these coal-fired power plants, as permitted, would pollute the air and diminish visibility in nearby national parks because they're refusing to use the best available technology.</p>	
<p><b>3</b></p>	<p>The Utah Chapter's Smart Energy Coordinator Tim Wagner alerted California activists and club members to the furtive attempt by five California municipalities to sign up for nearly 30 more years worth of dirty coal-fired electricity. Wagner helped galvanize the movement that got Burbank, Riverside and three other cities instead to prod Utah's coal utility, IPA, to think about renewables.</p>	
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p>Our Building Environmental Communities activists promoted and helped passed Proposition 3 in Salt Lake County. Then those same Sierra Club volunteers helped hold politicians accountable to voters' wishes by directing the overwhelming preponderance of funding to commuter rail and light rail.</p>	
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p>Sierra Club Political Committee volunteers helped raise funds and make get-out-the-vote phone calls for pro-environmental candidates for state legislature. We helped make the difference in a close race for newly-elected Representative Phil Riesen.</p>	
<p><b>6</b></p>	<p>Anti-nuclear activists led by Sarah Fields from the Glen Canyon Group are educating the public about the dangers of recycling a witches' brew of nuclear and hazardous waste at the International Uranium Mill outside of Blanding, Utah. Their appeal before the Utah Radiation Control Board aims to keep this waste out.</p>	
<p><b>7</b></p>	<p>Salt Lake County Mayor Peter Corroon signed orders repudiating highway claims, called RS2477 claims, in Salt Lake County that could have harmed watershed, disrupted existing Wilderness and interrupted peaceful recreation. Sierra Club worked with Save Our Canyons and Wasatch Mountain Club to get Corroon the information he needed to make this decision.</p>	
<p><b>8</b></p>	<p>Wasatch Cache National Forest Supervisor Faye Krueger ruled in favor of an appeal by our Ogden Group of the Ogden Ranger District Travel Plan. This victory helps slow or prevent forest service from turning non-motorized trails into motorized trails.</p>	
<p><b>9</b></p>	<p>Ogden Group Conservation Chair Dan Schroeder unearthed and publicized a number of documents detailing Ogden Mayor Matt Godfrey's plans to sell city park land for a private, gated golf development. The more the public hears about this plan, the less they like it.</p>	
<p><b>10</b></p>	<p>Sierra Club activists like Vi and Bill Corkle helped tip the scales for the Cedar Mountain Wilderness Bill, signed by President Bush on January 6, 2006. The Cedar Mountains, 50 miles west of Salt Lake City, are the first significant Wilderness addition in Utah in over 20 years.</p>	

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