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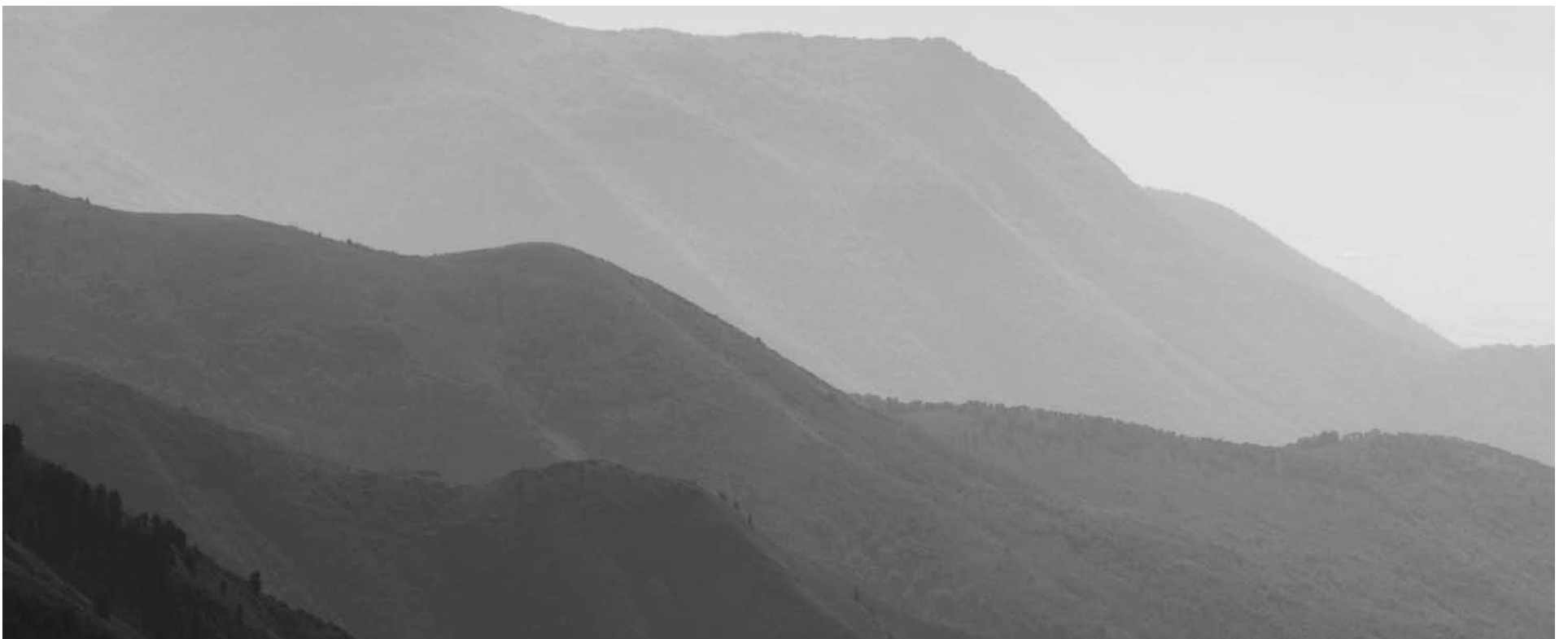
Utah Sierran

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Summer2007 Vol. 40 No. 2

Who voted for the environment? Utah Senate Scorecard **page 7**

High Court Rebukes Bush EPA's Climate Neglect



In a huge victory in the fight against global warming the US Supreme Court issued a ruling on Monday, April 2nd, in the case of Massachusetts v. EPA decisively rejecting the Bush administration's inaction on global warming. In a 5-4 vote, the court sided with the Sierra Club, 12 states, 3 cities, and the other petitioners in the case by agreeing that carbon dioxide and other global warming pollutants can be regulated under the Clean Air Act (CAA). Additionally, in a separate 5-4 ruling, the Justices wrote that the EPA cannot refuse to regulate these pollutants for political reasons. The court gave its overwhelming stamp of approval to states that are taking action to fight global warming. At a time when automakers are suing states for taking this step forward, the Supreme Court stated clearly that states have the right to protect their citizens and the environment. It also provides momentum for efforts in congress to reduce vehicle emissions.

"Today's ruling is a watershed moment in the fight against global warming," said Carl Pope, Sierra Club Executive Director. "The ruling is a total rejection of the Bush administration's refusal to use its existing authority to meet the challenge posed by global warming. It also sends a clear signal to the markets that the future lies not in the dirty, outdated technologies of yesterday, but in the clean energy solutions that will fuel the economy of tomorrow."

In the majority opinion, the court ruled that carbon dioxide and other global warming pollutants meet the definition of "air pollutant[s]" under the plain language of the CAA. This ruling, in and of itself, does not compel EPA to issue regulations limiting the emissions of global warming pollutants. However, the CAA states that EPA "shall regulate" any air pollutant "reasonably anticipated" to endanger "public health or welfare," which includes effects

upon "climate or weather." Since EPA incorrectly argued that carbon dioxide was not an air pollutant under the CAA, it refused to even issue an endangerment determination. Today's ruling compels EPA to issue such a determination.

"Today's ruling is a watershed moment in the fight against global warming."

Carl Pope

"It's unfortunate--but not surprising--that it took a Supreme Court case to clarify the meaning of words such as 'pollutant,' 'endanger,' 'weather,' and 'climate' for the Bush administration," commented David

Bookbinder, Sierra Club's Director of Climate Litigation. "The only way EPA can continue to refuse to do its job and not regulate global warming pollutants is by claiming that the effects of global warming pose no danger to the public. Bush's EPA may try do so, but I suspect they'd be laughed out of court."

The court's secondary ruling compels EPA to follow the CAA provision that states that EPA "shall regulate" any air pollutant that it determines is reasonably anticipated to pose a danger to public health or welfare. EPA had made a wide variety of specious arguments claiming why, even if they had the authority to regulate global warming pollutants, it could simply choose not to do so. Today's ruling compels EPA to adhere to the unambiguous language found in the CAA. The CAA already affords the agency wide latitude in its rule-

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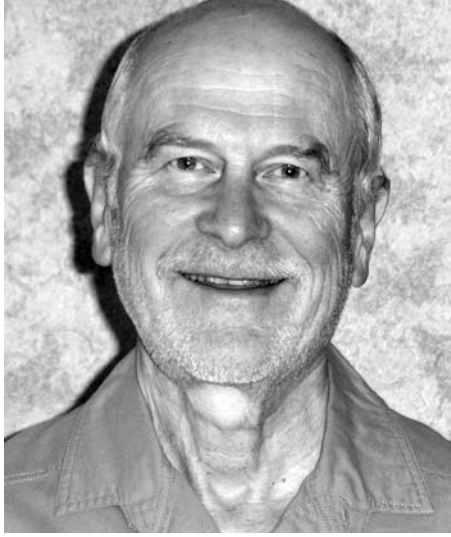
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Climate Change Coming to White House?

by Al Herring, Chapter Chair



Is it possible that Karl Rove and the other Republican brains have decided they need to court some green voters?

"Perhaps folks have not taken notice of the fact that this is an administration that's been keenly committed both to environmentalism and conservation from the start."

Say what? I was stunned when I first read the above statement made by Tony Snow, White House spokesman. It seemed so outrageous that I even wondered if it was valid. However, a little internet research confirmed that Snow made it on February 1.

A week later White House officials announced, "Beginning in June 2001, President Bush has consistently acknowledged climate change is occurring and humans are contributing to the problem." They also claimed, "Climate change has been a top priority since the President's first year in office." Say what?

Well, *denial* of climate change has certainly been a top priority for the administration. These are, after all, the same White House people who hired Philip A. Cooney, an oil industry lobbyist, who "edited government climate reports to play up uncertainty of a human role in global warming or play down evidence of such a role" in hundreds of instances according to recently released congressional documents. (See Thomas Friedman's column of March 29, 2007, "Of all the lobbyists, Bush chose this guy?")

And these are the same White House people who tried to sell off large chunks of our public lands, have opposed any significant increase in the Corporate Average Fuel Economy standard, and have taken a starve-the-beast approach when funding the Department of Interior and Environmental Protection Agency. (See the winter 2006 *Utah Sierran* for "A Timeline of the Bush Administration's Environmental Record.")

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

making process--specifically stating that any potential regulations must meet tests for economic and technological feasibility.

"EPA pursued a kitchen sink strategy by throwing a variety of arguments at the court about why it could simply choose to ignore the law and come up with its own political criteria for deciding what is a pollutant and whether or not to regulate it," said Bookbinder. "This ruling simply sets into motion the process to establish the kind of regulations for global warming pollutants that have successfully regulated other pollutants for decades without the kind of dire economic effects predicted by industry."

While it's too early to determine how this ruling will affect individual states and their efforts to control or reduce greenhouse gas emissions, most agree that it will undoubtedly have an important ripple effect on the electrical generating and util-

ity sectors and their intent to construct as many as 150 additional coal power plants across the country, including four here in Utah. These four new plants would add an estimated 14 million tons of CO₂ to Utah's 70 million tons of annual greenhouse gas emissions (2005 data).

So, what are we to make of these recent startling statements from Snow and other officials? One possibility is simply that White House opinion manipulators have been turned loose to rewrite the abysmal environmental record of the current administration. In other words, it may be nothing more than spin-city, Snow-job time. You know, confabulate public opinion through disingenuous statements. This administration is, after all, pretty good at it.

However, another possibility occurs to me. After losing control of both houses of Congress in the last election and seeing an ever-growing concern among U.S. voters about global warming, perhaps the White House is signaling that they are undergoing a climate change. In other words—as much as they hate Al Gore and the message of *An Inconvenient Truth*—perhaps they see the necessity of getting on the environmental bandwagon.

Is it possible that Karl Rove and the other Republican brains have decided they need to court some green voters? Even Richard Nixon, who personally didn't give a damn about the environment, had the good sense to court voters who did. As a result, Nixon's legacy includes some of the most important environmental actions taken by the Feds during my lifetime. These include Clean Air Act Amendments, Water Pollution Control Act Amendments, an extension of the Endangered Species Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the

Coastal Zone Management Act, a dramatic extension of the National Park System, and establishment of the EPA.

Perhaps Republican leaders are finally hearing people such as Russell Train, lifelong Republican and head of the EPA under Nixon, who said, "I think this [Bush] administration is not a conservative administration. I think it's a radical administration. It represents a radical roll-back of environmental policy going back to a period many, many years ago. It's backward." Perhaps they envy the success being enjoyed by Arnold Schwarzenegger as he takes action to protect California air quality and fight global warming. Perhaps they are actually reading those annoying petitions signed by Republicans for Environmental Protection that say, "I am a Republican who is disappointed that my Party, and much of its current leadership, has abandoned the Republican Party's conservation heritage and is promoting policies that degrade the environment."

So, is climate change coming to the White House? Out of desperation to sway some voters, will the current administration finally do some good for the environment, or at least stop doing harm? I hope this is what their statements are signaling.

"Perhaps folks have not taken notice of the fact that this is an administration that's been keenly committed both to environmentalism and conservation from the start." Well, that's right, Tony. This "folk" has not taken notice of this "fact" because it hasn't happened. However, I look forward to seeing it start.

As one internet commenter said about these recent White House statements, "Hilarious—but good news in its own way." Let's hope.

other states derive their authority to enact stricter standards from the same passage of the Clean Air Act at issue in *Mass. v. EPA*, so the high court's ruling should strengthen the states' hand in cases pending in California and Vermont.

Today's ruling does not affect the ability of Congress to address global warming through new legislation. Congress remains free to amend the Clean Air Act or pursue alternative legislation to limit global warming emissions.

"Considering the often glacial pace of rulemaking at EPA and the Bush administration's long-professed opposition to mandatory carbon limits, any new regulation coming out of EPA is likely to be years in the making..." said Bookbinder. "The next administration will probably be largely responsible for implementing the court's decision."

This article was compiled from a Sierra Club press release and local sources.

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OurPublicLands



RAY WHEELER



RAY WHEELER



RAY WHEELER

Bristlecone Pine; Abajo Peak from Shay Mountain, Manti-La Sal NF; Pink Cliffs at Powell Point, Dixie NF.

Life Elevated & Better Protected in Utah's Forests

by Wayne Hoskisson, Utah Chapter Public Lands Chair

In 2003 the Manti-La Sal, Dixie and Fishlake National Forests announced they would be preparing revisions of the Land and Resource Management Plans (LRMPs). An LRMP is more commonly known as a forest plan. The forest plan creates a framework to help guide how different parts of the forest are managed, how much timber can be logged, which areas of the forest can be grazed by privately-owned livestock, etc. The Dixie and Fishlake NFs are working jointly on preparing revised LRMPs. Since 2003 the Sierra Club has been working on all three forest plans.

In conjunction with The Wilderness Society, the Grand Canyon Trust, the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, Red Rock Forests, Wild Utah Project, the Utah Environmental Congress, Wildlands CPR and other organizations, we are coordinating efforts to influence forest-planning decisions in the three national forests in southern Utah. We have created a loose coalition to keep us all in contact and working together called the Three Forests Coalition (TFC). The coalition focuses on the Dixie, Fishlake and Manti-LaSal National Forests whose lands are spread like an archipelago of forest scattered across southern Utah from St George to Price and beyond to Moab and Monticello.

The coalition consists of a web site and frequent conference calls to review progress on the revision of the forest plans and some additional site-specific decisions. Each organization must participate and approve of any comments submitted, and no comments are submitted in the name of the Three Forests Coalition. The Sierra Club has been and remains a significant part of this coalition by writing portions of comments and reviewing all comments before we place our name on the comments. We would be unable to engage in forest planning and decisions to the extent we have without the work of our coalition partners. You can find most of the work we have been engaged in by going to www.threeforests.org.

As the main thrust of our efforts, we have developed complete forest plans for the Manti-La Sal, Dixie and Fishlake National Forests to compete with the plans developed by the forest service itself. (Actually we have created several versions of the plans as we responded to changes in planning designs and regulations over the years.) The forest service tradition is to create several options in their forest plan-

ning process: one might be a little better than another, but they're all pretty weak. We call *our* plans the Sustainable Multiple Use Alternatives. We have asked each of the forests to analyze the plan along with any alternatives they developed. We had varying success with getting the forests to agree to this.

We have been able to show that forest plans would have significant effects on the environment and would have on-the-ground impacts.

In 2005 the Forest Service gutted the existing National Forest Management Act (NFMA) regulations. The Bush administration planning regulations propose that forest plans will include no standards, and no site-specific commitments—and thus no significant environmental impacts. As a result of this supposed lack of significant environmental impacts, the three Forests proposed to prepare its plan revisions as a so-called categorical exclusion from the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review. In the past, categorical exclusions were used to diminish paper work for small federal actions that clearly did not have significant environmental impacts like minor changes to a campground or a small borrow pit for road surface materials. Some of the implications of the propose Bush regulations are:

- No Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared
- Alternatives to what the Forest proposes do not need to be considered (although the Forests are supposedly allowed to consider "options" if they want to)
- Environmental impacts do not need to be considered (because the Forests contend there will be none)
- Conclusions do not need to be documented
- Public comment does not need to be specifically responded to

The Sierra Club along with other organizations filed a lawsuit to overturn the Bush NFMA planning regulations. We made claims under the Administrative Procedures Act (APA), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Some particular issues that concerned the club include eliminating the requirement to retain viable populations of all species on the National Forests, loss of public participation in the planning process, and a failure to look at the environmental consequences of the new planning regulations.

On March 30, 2007, United States District Court Judge Phyllis J. Hamilton stopped the US Forest Service from using the new planning regulations until they have complied with APA, NEPA and ESA. We think the three forests were shortsighted and wasted nearly two years of planning based on the dubious legal theory that forest plans are only "aspirational," have no on-the-ground effects and thus have no significant effects on the environment.

The TFC still put the Sustainable Multiple Use Alternative (SMUA) to good use. We made appropriate portions of the SMUA a critical part of comments on a number of specific projects on each of the forests. In this way we have been able to show that forest plans would have significant effects on the environment and would have on-the-ground impacts. If the case against the Bush planning regulations had failed our efforts could have been critical in challenging the rule when it was applied to specific projects such as logging, new all-terrain vehicle trails, and the negative impacts of domestic livestock grazing.

Among others we followed two specific projects on the Fishlake National Forest. One project was a new off-road vehicle management plan. This plan implemented one very important new rule. With the exception of only a few hundred acres, the entire forest would be closed to cross country travel. While this is an exceptionally good change in the management of motorized recreation (that the forest undertook even before it was required to by a new Forest Service rule) it came at the expense of adding many miles of motorized routes to the current travel map. Some of these routes are within Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs). We appealed the decision to the Regional Forester. He sided with us on the issue of routes within the IRAs. There will have to be a modification of the final



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decision that will change the designation of routes in the IRAs. We will be working with the US Forest Service to get the best resolution we can. The record of this work can be found on the TFC web site, www.threeforests.org.

We appealed a decision to renew the permits on ten grazing allotments in the Tushar Mountains, near Beaver. Mary O'Brien from the Grand Canyon Trust leads this effort. The Sierra Club wrote portions of comments developed by the TFC at each step. In the end we had a strong case to appeal the decision to the Forest Supervisor. We have yet to hear about a final decision (although it could be out by the time this is published).

OnEnergy

Momentum Builds For An Energy Revolution

by Tim Wagner, Director, Utah Smart Energy Campaign

If someone had asked me two years ago to write a summary of the changing energy picture in the US, it would have been a stretch to fill a page.

My, how things have changed in those two years.

Now, if Mark allowed me the literary license (and I had the time!), I could fill this entire newsletter that you hold in your hand with energy stories. But out of respect for the other authors and critical issues that you, our members, are interested in, I will honor the brevity code.

I can sum it up simply. Coal is out; efficiencies and renewables are in. But to avoid replicating the approach of a certain White House occupant, it's not quite so black and white.

First, some background. The US derives about 52 percent of its electricity from coal combustion. In Utah, it's nearly 95 percent. There are approximately 1,100 coal-fired power plants in the US, most of them east of the Mississippi River. Large population concentrations, large power demand.

Depending on whom you talk to, estimates for the amount of coal under the soil here in the US are around 200 to 250 years' worth, with approximately half of that coming from Wyoming's Powder River Basin. Utah has an estimated 15 to 20 years of coal remaining, but that too seems to be subject to varying opinions. What is important to note is that these figures are based on or near today's combustion rates. In other words, if all the new plants that are being planned actually get built, along with speculative proposals for coal-to-liquid fuel to power our transportation fleet, that U.S. supply could shrink to about ten to twenty years.

Getting back to the subject at hand, many would say the tipping point was when the wind blew. As in Hurricane Katrina. Regardless of its causation, that one 2005 storm put the issue of global warming on the front page. Overnight, it went from an abstract theory to a reality for many Americans. With it came the awareness of greenhouse gases, how they are generated, and a desire to see something done about it.

While many prominent individuals deserve credit for changing the debate on energy and global warming, it's reasonably safe to say that no one has had a more profound effect on the issues than four specific notables. Al Gore and California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger for what they have done, and George W. Bush and Dick Cheney for what they haven't done.

In June of 2005, Governor Schwarzenegger issued a resolution calling on

his state to set specific greenhouse gas reduction targets. He directed state agencies to stipulate that all future power contracts—whether with suppliers in California or outside—be from sources as clean as natural gas-fired generation, which has a fraction of the CO₂ emissions of coal. These initiatives were ratified last year by the California Energy and California Public Utility commissions, followed by the California State Assembly and Senate.

This one action has sent a tidal wave throughout the energy markets in the West, particularly for numerous coal power plants that were proposed to capitalize on the growing California energy demand. Since then we've seen several proposed coal-fired plants in Idaho and Nevada bite the dust, and on

Then there's the backlash effect, triggered by our president and vice-president with such jewels as Cheney's 2002 remark, "Conservation is a virtue but not sound policy." Yea, right, Dick.

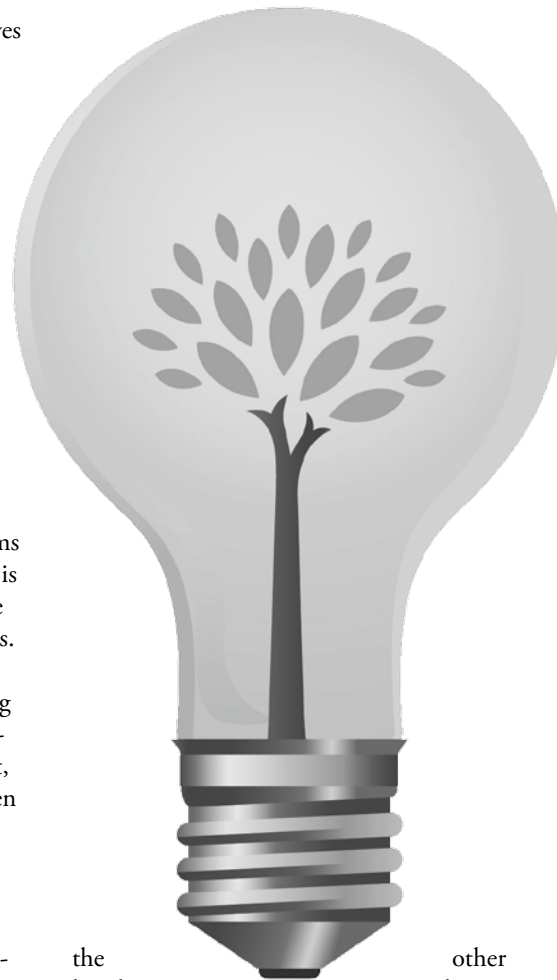
Nationally, the demand for more renewable energy has exploded. Twenty-two states have now passed some form of Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), a requirement that utilities obtain a percentage of their energy from renewable sources. Despite the fact that Texas has one of the nation's lowest RPSs, a paltry two percent, (But that's 2% more than Utah!) that red state just last year surpassed California as the nation's largest producer of wind power. Meanwhile, the world's largest wind turbine manufacturers are reporting two-year backlogs in production due to the growing demand.

Speaking of Texas, no deal in the energy business has made headlines like the recent TXU buyout. One of the nation's largest energy producers, TXU was proposing to build eleven new pulverized coal-fired power plants in Lone Star country. In spite of protests from ranchers, enviros, and even the mayors of cities such as Dallas, Texas, Governor Rick Perry fast tracked the permitting process in hopes of getting these carbon emitters up and going before Congress had time to impose caps and taxes.

But in the nation's largest-ever corporate buyout, TXU accepted a \$45 billion offer from two private equity firms, a deal brokered by the heads of Natural Resources Defense Council and Environmental Defense. As part of the deal, eight of the eleven proposed coal plants went south, and the new owners agreed to reduce the company's NO_x and SO₂ emissions by 20 percent and CO₂ emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 while investing up to \$80 million in efficiency measures and also developing a whole lot more wind power. Similar deals have been brokered in Florida and Illinois.

Lacking national leadership, since 2005 435 mayors across the country, including Salt Lake City's Mayor Rocky Anderson, have joined up with Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels to adopt the goals of the Kyoto Protocol through the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. Anderson continues to travel around the world speaking out on the urgency of the issue and pleading with other leaders to do the responsible thing. Kudos, Rocky!

And on April 14th, millions of Americans participated in thousands of Step It Up events in nearly every US city, demanding that Congress and the Bush Administration get serious about addressing global warming. Let's hope they heard us.



the hand, other plans take flight for a 400-megawatt wind farm in southwestern Utah that will feed LA and Pasadena. Then there's California's "Million Solar Roofs" program which now has the Golden State in second place overall, behind Germany, as the world's largest solar market.

Of course no one has cemented the issue of global warming into the minds of Americans like Al Gore and his Oscar-winning documentary, *An Inconvenient Truth*. The film industry responded with equally fine films on energy and global warming such as *Too Hot Too Handle*, *Kilowatt Ours*, and *Who Killed the Electric Car*.



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MORE CITIES OPT OUT OF DIRTY COAL CONTRACTS – LET'S THANK THEM

by Tim Wagner

In another sign of the times, the City of Logan, Utah, recently rejected a proposal to enter into a long-term contract for coal-based electricity. Located in beautiful Cache Valley and home to approximately 50,000 residents and Utah State University, Logan has been experiencing tremendous growing pains in the last decade. So it makes sense that city leaders would try to exercise sound judgment to keep their customers supplied with reliable and economic electricity in the future. Some felt that a proposed thirty-year contract for 20 megawatts of power from the proposed Unit #3 at the Intermountain Power Authority's generating station near Delta, Utah, would fit that bill. But fortunately, three of the five city council members exhibited true vision and concern for future generations by rejecting the proposal.

Why? Like many energy experts, the council recognized coal is not the cheap, reliable source of energy it once was. Perhaps it was best said by Councilmember Laraine Swenson in a recent Logan *Herald Journal* editorial. "All around, putting our eggs in the coal basket is a poor choice environmentally and a risky choice financially." The city is instead pursuing a new clean, renewable geothermal project. Please consider sending a letter to the *Herald Journal*, publicly thanking the council for making the right choice. Letters can be sent via email to letters@hjnews.com.

It should also be noted that the Murray and Heber City recently rejected a similar contract, following the lead of several California cities, including LA, Pasadena, Riverside and Truckee. But two major Utah cities are also considering such a contract and are slated to vote very soon. Please consider contacting the leaders of Bountiful and Springville if you have not already. Urge them to diversify their energy portfolio with more renewables such as wind, solar, geothermal and landfill biomass instead of more coal. As always, be respectful.

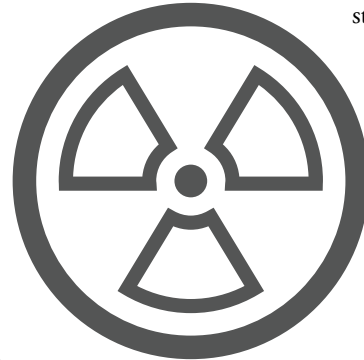
Bountiful City Council Members and the Mayor can be found at <http://www.bountifulutah.gov/MayorCouncil/MayorCouncil.html>. They can all be reached by one email address: ecall@bountifulutah.gov

Springville City Council Members and the Mayor can receive phone messages at (801) 491-7801. Or you can email each individual by going to <http://www.springville.org/mayor-council/> and clicking on the name of each council member or the mayor.

Changes at Dugway

by Cindy King

The Dugway Proving Ground, a US Army facility about sixty miles southwest of Salt Lake City, is in the process of developing an environmental assessment (EA) for the Baker Laboratory renovation, a part of the Life Science Complex. Dugway has been a testing site for a number of weapons and most recently has been used to test biological agents. The proposal is to remove all plumbing, electrical, and heating and air condition systems in order to meet current safety standards. The renovation of the Baker Laboratory is intended to allow so-called full system testing. Full system means to quality assure and quality control equipment to assist in protection against biological and chemical contamination.



Under the army's proposal, Baker Laboratory would be Bio-Safety-Level (BSL) 2 and 3. BSL 2 means that there are antigens for the pathogens, such as strep, for example, that could be administered very easily; i.e., the antigens are easily accessible. BSL 3 means more complex antigens are needed for the pathogens, such as so-called milled anthrax, and the access to antigens is limited. The environmental assessment will be released as early as April 2007. You should be able to download the environmental assessment by going to www.Dugway.mil or request a copy by calling the public affairs officer at (435) 831-2116.

Report from Utah Valley

by Bepe Kafka

After five meetings the Utah Valley Sierra Forum is gathering momentum. Our e-mail list has grown from 24 in November to over 80. Our meetings are open to the public, and at every one we see new faces. All real growth is bumpy, but we are definitely finding our unique way.

We take seriously our mandate to enjoy the planet. Some members have met for spontaneous outings in Diamond Fork Canyon. Earl Owen recently led a three-day hike along the Boulder Mail Trail from Boulder to Escalante.

Our biggest issue continues to be the protection of the valuable Class I wetlands north of Utah Lake, which are threatened by UDOT's proposed six-lane highway, the Mountain View Corridor. We decided to research the matter by seeing the area for ourselves. About 40 people, Sierrans and allies from areas nearby that would be affected by the freeway, turned out in frigid January weather for a field trip led by Ryan Barker, a biologist employed by the nearby Spring Creek development. It was one of those record-breaking string of heavily polluted inversion days, perhaps an omen, as Ryan pointed out owls and hawks, and tracks of an incredible variety of wildlife. He pointed out how the water flows through the area, and explained the effect that the weight of a twenty foot high wall of concrete would have on the underground water system. Well, that's not hard to picture, but standing in the gorgeous marshland and imagining such a thing was pretty heartbreaking.

We left determined to protect that very special bit of real estate, and we have until October 31 to raise public awareness. Many of us have written letters to UDOT as well as the US Army Corps of Engineers, who will be involved in approving the project. We plan another field trip to the area on March 31, and hope to be able to photograph the bald eagles that are stopping over on their migrations.

Now we really are starting to feel that we are in the twenty-first century, because we have entered the blogosphere. Jordan and Ashley Haug started us out, setting up our blog on a free Google blog site. All members are invited to post their thoughts, ideas, suggestions, accounts of their excursions, etc., as well as to comment on other postings. Check us out at <http://uvsf.blogspot.com>.

And, last but not least, our meetings are improving, with the wonderful innovation of a kitchen timer, so that no one will be too long winded. Sound like fun? And want to do some good? You are welcome at the Utah Valley Sierra Forum! Check our blog site (above) for meeting details.



Utah Lake Fieldtrip.

UtahPolicy



'07 Legislative Wins and Losses

by Mark Clemens

Good news from the legislature comes in two forms: good bills passed and bad bills defeated. We had enough of each to be grateful during the 2007 General Session. In the former category, Sen Howard Stephenson (R-Draper) carried a bill to restore the tax credits for residential and commercial installation of renewable energy systems including wind, solar, geothermal, hydroelectric and biomass. The tax credit available to businesses will be calculated based on output rather than capacity, but otherwise most of the provisions of the credits that expired as of 31 December 2006, have been retained. Ultimately, Stephenson's bill was rolled into the omnibus tax reform bill, Second Substitute Senate Bill 223, that passed easily.

Further incremental steps in improving energy efficiency were made with Rep Fred Hunsaker's (R-Logan) HB 110 that directs all state agencies to submit vehicle efficiency plans and provide written justification for vehicles that are larger than standards. Rep Roger Barrus (R-Centerville) shepherded HB 351 that creates an energy efficiency fund to improve efficiency in schools. A one-time appropriation of \$5,000,000 creates a revolving loan fund that will support projects from around the state.

The legislature expressed its reservations about the speed with which Department of Natural Resources Director Mike Styler is working with the State of Nevada to divide the groundwater aquifer in western Utah's Snake Valley between the two states. Rep Richard Wheeler's (R-Ephraim) House Joint Resolution 1 urges the governor to include a citizen from Snake Valley in the negotiations and encourages him to refrain from concluding the agreement before scientific studies have been completed. Another bill, Third Substitute HB 422, sponsored by Rep Jackie Biskupski (D-Salt Lake City), would have established a committee to look over Styler's shoulder during these negotiations. That bill passed the house but never made it out of senate committee. However, Styler must now understand the unease in both parties about his haste.

BAD BILLS DISPATCHED

Rep Mike Morley (R-Spanish Fork) introduced a bill, HB 233, to make zoning for environmental protection almost impossible. Morley's legislation would have forbidden any municipality from zoning based on aesthetics, protection of wildlife habitat or vegetation, or on the cost of

delivering services, and would have compelled municipalities to enter into binding arbitration—paid for by the municipality—with developers if their application is denied. Fortunately this bill never made it to the house floor, but another bill limiting environmental zoning protection did pass.

Senate Bill 183, sponsored by Sen Sheldon Killpack (R-Syracuse), demonstrates the legislature's infinite mutability on constitutional principle when it can advance its ideological agenda. The federal government is always wrong—at least according to legislative leadership—when its laws conflict with what's convenient or profit-

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able for the Utah legislature. However, if a Utah city or town should decide that a wetland unprotected by federal wetlands regulations deserves to be spared from developers, SB 183 now forbids it, "A municipality may not designate or treat any land as wetlands unless the United States Army Corps of Engineers or other agency of the federal government has designated the land as wetlands." Corps of Engineers take note. The Utah Legislature is now on record that you are always right.

Rep Mike Noel (R-Kanab) came to the 2007 session armed, as usual, with bills to give all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and their users priority over every other conceivable use or need. Noel's First Substitute HB 425 would have opened all highways in Utah to ATVs. Although municipalities would be able to limit—not prohibit—ATV use on some roads, this legislation would have applied to all other highways in Utah except in Salt Lake County.

Noel and certain Kane County commissioners have declared war on the Department of Interior's authority to control

vehicle access within the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument. Their suit to vindicate their presumed authority over federal land is expensive so they were banking on this legislation forcing the State of Utah to take over the costs. If ATVs were legal under the terms of HB425S1 on all the fictitious trails and washes Kane County claims within the monument, then the Utah attorney general would be required to defend their claims.

Fortunately this bill was defeated, but another Noel-sponsored bill, HB 97, passed. HB 97 mandates another voluntary check-off on motor vehicle registration forms that will channel donations into smothering federal land managers with lawsuits promoting ATV access *and* for off-highway vehicle education programs. The bill provides no oversight whatsoever that both ends must be served.

TWO BIG DISAPPOINTMENTS

Our most painful loss this session was Rep Roz McGee's (D-Salt Lake City) Fourth Substitute HB 122, Clean Air and Efficient Vehicle Tax Incentives. The bill would have provided a \$1,000 tax credit to businesses or individuals purchasing low-emissions, high efficiency vehicles such as hybrids and alternate-fuel vehicles. Although the bill passed the house on a 68-0-7 vote, it never made it out of the Senate Rules Committee.

Bills allowing non-profits agencies to own water rights to guarantee some minimum amount of flow in rivers and streams have been introduced in at least three different sessions. This session the bill, SB 29, was sponsored by Sen Pete Knudson (R-Brigham City). In order to allay outlandish fears that some environmental non-profit might buy up water rights in order deliberately to put farmers out of business, this bill was very narrowly written. Only non-profit organizations dedicated to promoting fishing would be able to hold these new rights, and they would last for only ten years. The bill failed on a 36-32-7 vote in the house. Kudos to McGee and Knudson for sponsoring them; we hope to see these bills again next session.

The complete scorecards for the 2007 General Session, including the house scorecard which takes up too much space to fit in a newsletter, and several past sessions are all available on the chapter website, <http://www.utah.sierraclub.org/legislative.asp>.



Sen Pete Knudson and Rep Roz McGee sponsored vital pro-environmental legislation this season.

Utah Senate Scorecard

2007 GENERAL SESSION

0=ABSENT | 1=YEA | 2=NEA

SENATOR	HJR1S	HB 97	HB 192	SB13S3	SB 29	SB 155	SB 183	CORRECT VOTE TOTAL	ABSENCE COUNT	AVERAGE
CORRECT VOTE =	1	2	2	1	1	2	2			
BELL	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	0	43%
CHRISTENSEN	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	2	1	33%
BRAMBLE	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	0	43%
BUTTARS	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	0	43%
DAVIS	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	0	43%
DAYTON	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	0	43%
DMITRICH	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	0	43%
EASTMAN	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	3	1	50%
FIFE	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	4	0	57%
GOODFELLOW	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	4	0	57%
GREINER	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	0	43%
HICKMAN	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	0	43%
HILLYARD	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	50%
JENKINS	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	0	43%
JONES	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	5	0	71%
KILLPACK	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	2	2	40%
KNUDSON	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	4	0	57%
MADSEN	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	0	43%
MAYNE	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	4	0	57%
MCCOY	1	2	2	1	1	2	2	7	0	100%
NIEDERHAUSER	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	3	1	50%
PETERSON	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	0	43%
ROMERO	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	6	0	86%
STEPHENSON	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	33%
STOWELL	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	0	43%
VALENTINE	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	4	67%

HJR 1 S	Joint Resolution on Groundwater in Snake Valley urges the governor to include a citizen from Snake Valley in the negotiations over groundwater division & to wait for scientific studies to be completed.
HB 97	Motor Vehicle Registration Checkoff mandates the use of state facilities for diverting registration form contributions to groups advocating & prosecuting litigation to force the opening of public land to ATVs.
HB 192	Revoking Authority to Use State Lands repeals decades-old laws authorizing the Fish & Wildlife Service to manage state-owned land inside the Bear River Wildlife Refuge. A badly-conceived bargaining ploy.
SB 13 S3	Tax Incentives for Alternate Power Generation provides income tax credits for both business & individual installations of wind, solar, geothermal or biomass electricity generating facilities.
SB 29	Instream Flow to Protect Trout Habitat Act would have created a new category of temporary water right that could be held for up to 10 years by non-profits to benefit 3 species of trout.
SB 155	Waste Amendments exempts the current Energy Solutions radioactive waste disposal site in Tooele County from certain approval and siting requirements.
SB 183	Restrictions on Designation of Wetlands prevents municipalities from designating or protecting through zoning any wetlands not recognized as such by the US Army Corps of Engineers.



Utah Policy

Legislative Sausage

by Mark Clemens

House Bill 102 is an interesting case study in messy compromises. It originated from a collaboration between The Nature Conservancy and Utah Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife. An early version of the bill would have provided continuing funding of \$5,000,000 per year for each of three different programs, one of which was the LeRay McAllister Critical Land Conservation Fund. The LeRay McAllister Fund has been an important, albeit under-funded, source of matching funds for protecting open space.

The bill, as passed, provides a *one-time* appropriation of \$2,000,000 for the Le-Ray McAllister Fund, but \$2,000,000 in continuing funding for both the Rangeland Improvement Fund and the Department of Natural Resources' watershed rehabilitation programs. It's hard to avoid the impression that a bait and switch occurred.

House Bill 102 is an interesting case study in messy compromises.

Section 4-20-3 of the Utah Code lists projects that may be funded through the Rangeland Improvement Fund. Funds may be spent on the following:

- a) range improvement and maintenance;
- b) the control of predatory and depre-dating animals
- c) the control, management, or extermination of invading species, range damaging organisms, and poisonous or noxious weeds;
- d) the purchase or lease of lands for the benefit of a grazing district;
- e) watershed protection, development, distribution, and improvement; and
- f) the general welfare of livestock grazing within a grazing district."

Over the years, a great deal of mischief has been done with rangeland improvement funds including brutal and unscientific extermination campaigns against coyotes, cougar and other native predators and vast, destructive chaining projects in which thousands of acres of pinyon and

juniper stands are knocked down and deforested by an enormous anchor chain dragged between two tractors. There's no reason to believe these practices won't continue with the augmented funding.

One can cherish hopes of better things from the additional \$2,000,000 in annual funding for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) watershed rehabilitation program. DNR's website has a page listing many projects proposed for funding under this program, <http://wildlife.utah.gov/watersheds/proposed.php>. There are more than sixty projects proposed for DNR's Southern Region alone.

These proposals range from projects about which the Utah Chapter would be enthusiastic, such as a proposal to decommission and restore an informal dirt road that's hemorrhaging sediment into Purple Lake on the flank of Boulder Mountain, to projects about which we are likely to be dubious, such as a plan to use a mechanical juggernaut called a bullhog to obliterate 300 acres of pinyon and juniper on Archee Ridge in the Book Cliffs in east central Utah. It goes without saying that we oppose any projects that disturb roadless lands or disbar them from being considered as wilderness.

The common thread in many projects is reducing the acreage of pinyon and juniper. A strong case can be made that pinyon and juniper have invaded other habitat types, sagebrush steppe for example, and reduced overall species diversity. Perhaps sage grouse and other sagebrush-steppe-dependent species numbers will rebound handsomely with expanded and rehabilitated habitat. But the gods sometimes confound us by granting our wishes. Pinyon-juniper woodland is an important habitat type for migrant songbirds, and the war on it might turn out to be too effective.

Because The Nature Conservancy endorsed this legislation without extensive consultation in the conservation community, it's incumbent on them to use their influence and resources to steer the substantial stream of new funds provided by this bill into helpful rather than destructive projects.

Political Committee Supporters



Political Committee Fundraising Chair and Treasurer Claire Gardner and Committee Chair Scott Daniels thank the following generous contributors to our successful 2006 Political Committee Fundraiser at Uinta Brewery. Remember to buy local and support these businesses that support us.

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Sandy, Utah

SUNDANCE RESORT
Tree Room - Mari Turner
Provo Canyon

MIKE AND JEAN BINYON
Moab, Utah

Thank You!



Utah Backcountry Volunteers is Utah's newest nonprofit service organization. We partner with agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management, National Forest Service, and National Park Service to identify on-the-ground projects and needs, then actively recruit, organize, and lead volunteers on service trips that restore, repair and maintain our public lands.

We are very excited to announce the 2007 service trip schedule for our inaugural season in the field. Reserve your place on a trip today to plan a week out enjoying Utah's spectacular public lands, and contribute some muscle to keep it that way!

Trip size is limited to 10 participants (you). Work is usually with hand tools provided by agencies and is generally active and at times strenuous. Being in good physical condition is important. The participant fee for each trip is \$175, which includes food for the week. Travel to and from the worksite is your responsibility.

MAKE YOUR RESERVATION TODAY

Reservations held upon payment of participant fee with check or money order. Use form below. You will receive immediate confirmation by email, and by letter with more details. For more information about trips or reservations call (435) 785-8955 or email dave@utahbackcountry.org.

MEMBERSHIP

Utah Backcountry Volunteers is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Membership is \$30 for one year, please be as generous as you can. Charter Membership for first 100 members, who remain current, includes discounted participant fee of \$30 off any trip.

Name: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____
 ZIP: _____
 E-mail: _____
 Phone: _____
 \$30 membership
 more! _____
 \$175 trip fee
 Name of trip: _____

Make check payable and mail to:
 Utah Backcountry Volunteers
 PO Box 526197
 Salt Lake City, UT 84152.
 info@utahbackcountry.org
 (435) 785-8955

www.utahbackcountry.org

SIERRA STUDENT COALITION

BE A FORCE FOR CHANGE!

Student Environmental Leadership Training Programs

Week-long training sessions in organizing skills led by the nation's top student organizers. Learn to develop effective groups that can tackle serious environmental issues, and network with other activists to build your region's student environmental movement. Then take what you've learned and put it to into action at your high school, on your campus and in your community.

ENERGY AND GLOBAL WARMING FOCUS

Global warming presents an enormous threat to the health and the sustainability of our planet. The good news is youth everywhere are rising to the climate challenge and the SSC can give you the skills you need to succeed. It's time for our schools and communities to take the lead for clean energy and challenge our political leaders to follow. Energy's not your thing? Don't worry—the skills you'll learn at the summer program will be applicable to whatever issues excite you the most.

DATES & DETAILS

New Hampshire: June 18-24 Kimball Union Academy
 Northern Virginia: July 9-15 Prince William Forest Park
 Louisiana: July 16-22 Hidden Oaks Family Campground
 Iowa: June 18-24 Iowa 4-H Center
 Michigan: TBD
 Washington: June 15-22 Lewis & Clark State Park
 Los Angeles, CA: June 18-24 Loyola Marymount College
 New Mexico: July 23-29 Glorieta Lifeway Conference Center
 Puerto Rico: TBD Native Spanish speakers only

COST

The subsidized cost of the program is set up on a sliding scale, from \$150-200 (please pay what you can afford). This covers tuition, room and board, local transportation to and from the site, and all the benefits of membership in the Sierra Club. Don't let money concerns keep you from applying and attending. We are dedicated to helping you request funds from your school or local Sierra Club chapter, and you can also apply for a need-based fee waiver from the SSC. Travel scholarships are also available.

****Special Group Rate: \$480 for 4 people/\$400 for 3 people****

APPLY NOW online at www.ssc.org/sprog
 Questions? Call 1(888) JOIN-SSC

WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING

*"I never learned more in my life...it was an intense week of connections and learning about ourselves and our complex world."
 -Hannah Wade, SSC Leader, Columbia University*

*"[I met] the most wonderful people, in the most wonderful places, and [they] showed me how to use my passion and power to make a real difference."
 -Anna Pierce, SSC Community Organizer, Austin, TX*

*"...it bridges the gap between wanting to make a difference, and actually being able to make one."
 -David Bronstein, SSC Leader, St. John's College*

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.

UtahChapterOutings

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

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

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.

May

SLG, Tues, 5/1, Leaders Choice Hike in the Salt Lake Foothills. A primer to the official Tuesday Night Hike Season. Enjoy an easy hike in the foothills near Salt Lake City, most likely in the area near Red Butte Canyon and gardens. Call Dee (718-1970) for more info about the hike.

OG, Fri, 5/4, Moderate Day Hike on Indian Trail. Hike the Indian Trail, one of the most beautiful trails in Weber County. We will start (late afternoon) in Ogden Canyon and hike 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 4 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. Contact Tom Messenger, 259-1756 or Mike Binyon, 259-1633.

OG, Sun, 5/6, Service project: Dyer's Woad Eradication. Come take out your aggression on northern Utah's most visible noxious weed! We're making great progress on the area we informally adopted two years ago; this follow-up visit will be the next step toward eradicating dyer's woad from this area. Dyer's woad is not native to North America and has created havoc among native plant communities in Utah not adapted to it. We'll start at 9 am and finish by noon. Call leader John Hinds (621-0196) for meeting place and additional information. (If spring arrives late, we may need to postpone for a week or two.) [S]

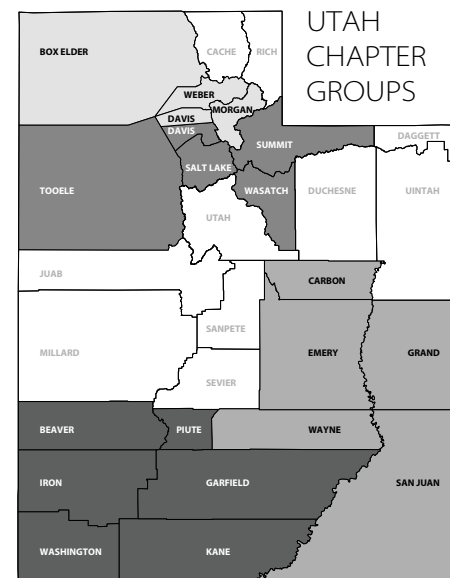
SLG, Tues, 5/8, Tuesday Night Hike to Parley's Canyon. An easy hike on the old (historical) railroad grade in upper Parley's Canyon. We'll be seeking wildflowers in the high season. Meet at the K-Mart parking lot (east side) at 6:30 PM. Or meet at 6:45 PM at exit 137 on east lane at I-80. (Lambs Canyon Exit) Call Ron 801-292-4040. [E]

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 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. Contact Gene Foushee, genemary@frontier.net, cell 520-730-5604 before 5/1, 435-672-2238 afterwards.

SLG, Tues, 5/15, Tuesday Night Hike on the Jordan Parkway Trail. Enjoy an easy hike on a section of the Jordan River Parkway trail in Salt Lake City. The trail is paved, flat; hiking boots are not required. The trail serves as a pleasant riparian sanctuary in the middle of the urban environs of the Salt Lake Valley. Meeting time is 6:30 pm at the Jordan Park pavilion, 1100 West & Fremont Avenue, Salt Lake City. Ann Wechsler will lead this hike. [C]

OG, Sat, 5/19, Moderate Day Hike on the BST. Join us in hiking the length of the Ogden portion of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail. We will begin at the 46th Street trailhead, and cover 6 miles and 1400 feet of elevation gain/loss to the trailhead at 12th Street (car shuttle required). The hike will pass through some city-owned park lands the mayor has proposed for sale and development. (The city-owned segment is just north of Strong's Canyon.) Contact John Besbekos, 985-6854.

SLG, Sun, 5/20, Yellow Fork Trek. Weather conditions permitting. This hike is in the foothills south of Herriman, Utah, and But-



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

terfield Canyon. Meeting time is 10 am at Rose Canyon/Yellow Fork parking lot. Or call Ron (292-4040) to carpool from Salt Lake City.

SLG, Tues, 5/22, Tuesday Night Hike to Twin Peaks. Twin Peaks is a moderate hike in the foothills above the Avenues in Salt Lake City. A fabulous hike close to downtown. Bring water, snacks and appropriate hiking footwear. Meeting time is 6:30 pm at the Popperton Park across the street from the Shriners' Hospital on Virginia Street and 11th Avenue. Call Jan (712-8956) for info about the hike.

OG, Sat, 5/26, Box Elder Creek Hike. This may be your last chance to hike this lovely valley, south of Mantua, before the Forest Service opens the area to ATVs. Expect sunny slopes, shady forests, flowers starting to open, and a good chance of seeing wildlife. The hike is a 4.5-mile loop with a steep climb at the beginning, but easy after that. Families are welcome! Call leader Dan Schroeder (801/393-4603) for meeting time and place.

SLG, Tues, 5/29, Tuesday Night Hike on the Mt Olympus Trail. The group will hike the first few miles of the Mt Olympus Trail. Expect mostly moderate but some steep sections along the trail. Bring plenty of water and adequate hiking footwear for typical single track trail in the Wasatch. Meeting time is 6:30 pm at the Skyline High School parking lot. Call Dee (718-1970) for more information about the hike.

June

OG, Sat, 6/2, Mantua Loop Mountain Bike. Spring mountain biking doesn't get any better than this. Starting in Mantua, we'll take an all-day, 25-mile tour through forests and flower-speckled meadows on both public and private land. This route is at the heart of a controversy in which federal, state, and local governments are attempting to force private landowners to open their lands to off-road vehicle use. The affected landowners have generously given us permission for this tour, and most of the Forest Service areas should still be closed to motorized use for the wet season. The route is on roads and double-track trails, but parts of it are steep and rough. We'll take our time, but good endurance is a must. Contact leader Dan Schroeder (801/393-4603) for details. If it's too muddy on the 2nd, we'll postpone or cancel the ride. [C]

SLG, Sun, 6/3, City Creek Bike Ride. A great venue for a leisurely mid-spring ride in one of Utah's most scenic canyons, a recreational paradise empty of motorized traffic.

OutingsNews

IT'S BACK! THE RETURN OF THE TUESDAY NIGHT HIKE

Volunteer outings leaders have put together an excellent roster of outings for the next nine to ten weeks. With more daylight in the evenings, the Salt Lake Group brings back the evergreen favorite—the Tuesday Night Hike. Check out the schedule; we have 11 to choose from in this issue. The group designation is for geographical reference. All members and non-members are welcome on hikes.

2007 SIERRA CLUB NATIONAL ACTIVIST OUTINGS ANNOUNCED

A unique and lesser-known category of outings, Activist Outings offer participants an opportunity to immerse themselves in issues surrounding a particular area, followed by training in how to advocate effectively for those special places. Turn to page 12 for more information on how to participate in one of this year's seven incredible service trips of a lifetime.

Activists on the flank of Mt. Ibapah during a 2006 Sierra Club Activist Outing. Missed it? Join the Ogden group as they set out on their own exploration of this stunning area. Thurs to Sun, 6/14-17. Also, see page 12 for more on this year's Activist Outings.



The ride through City Creek Nature Preserve is about 5 3/4 miles long with about 1500 feet of elevation gain. The ride will begin in Salt Lake City within a few miles of the canyon. Bring plenty of water, snacks, and helmets are required. Call Tim (484-4334) or Ken (484-3112) for meeting time, place, and other info.

SLG, Tues, 6/5, Tuesday Night Hike in Heughs Canyon. The Heughs Canyon Trailhead is only a few minutes from the freeway and in close proximity to hillside housing. But noise and houses quickly fade as the trail winds through a narrow oak-wooded canyon where jagged multi-colored peaks and a quiet stream belie the beauty of the forest beside the beast of urban clutter. This has become one of the most popular hikes of the summer season. Meeting place is the Skyline High School parking lot at 6:30 pm. Call Rebecca (487-4160) for info about the hike.

GCG, Fri-Sat, 6/8 to 6/9, Dark Canyon. Friday car camp near the Horse Pasture trailhead, about 2 1/2 hours from Moab via UT-211 and Cottonwood Canyon. Wet weather will cause cancellation of the trip due to slippery, gooey dirt roads. Carpool from town. Saturday hike down steep Horse Pasture trail (1500' descent) a couple of hours (3 miles or so) to Scorup Cabin and spring. Explore short distance up or down Dark Canyon if desired. Return to rim. Return to town or camp another night and return next day. For more details and to arrange carpools, call Tom Messenger, 259-1756.

OG, Sat, 6/9, Skyline Trail Day Hike. Hike 9 miles one way from North Ogden Pass to Pineview. This outing requires a car shuttle. Hike through conifers, grassy ridges, scrub oaks with views of Ogden Valley and Pineview Dam. May see late season snowfields and the best view of Mt Ogden. For meeting place and time contact Larry Woolsey, 801/731-3701.

SLG, Tues, 6/12, Tuesday Night Hike to Davis County Overlook. A fantastic hike even considering the proximity to downtown Salt Lake City. A prime opportunity to enjoy panoramic views of Davis and Salt Lake valleys. Meeting time is 6:30 pm at the Popperton Park across the street from Shriners Hospital on 11th Avenue and Virginia Street. Call Ken (484-3112) for more info.

OG, Thurs to Sun, 6/14-17, Climb Mt. Ibapah in the Deep Creek Mountains. Strenuous backpacking in a beautiful, remote wilderness study area in far western Utah. June 14: Car camp at CCC campground near Callao, 230 miles from Ogden, the last 25 on gravel. June 15: Drive to nearby trailhead; park at 6,000 ft and backpack up Granite Creek Canyon to saddle at 10,000 ft. June 16: Climb Mt. Ibapah, elev. 12,087 ft. (This is a non-technical ascent; in fact, there is a trail to the top.) Enjoy the views/lunch and return to base camp. Along the hike, we'll observe the qualities that make this area so suitable for designation as wilderness. June 17: Descend and drive home. Contact Al or Mary Herring at 801/444-9574 to get more details or make arrangements. [C]

SLG, Fri to Sun, 6/15 to 6/17, Lone Peak Trail Building Service Outing Back Pack. A great opportunity to participate in trail improvement and enjoy a back pack experience in one of the most majestic areas along the Wasatch front. The trail building will be above the 2nd Hamengog, the trail to Lone Peak from the Utah County side. Expect steep terrain and working with hand tools during the weekend outing. Forest Service personnel will supervise the trail improvement on Saturday and Sunday. Back packing experience is recommended for this outing. Call Rebecca (487-4160) for meeting time, place, and other details. [S]

SLG, Tues, 6/19, Tuesday Night Hike on the Great Western Trial. Beginning at the Big Mountain Summit trailhead in East Can-

yon, this hike is the leader's favorite Tuesday hike, and for good reason. The trail passes through groves of oak, aspen, & pine and gentle rolling terrain spotted with colorful wildflowers. Round trip distance is about 5 1/2 miles and about 750 feet total elevation gain. Meet 6:30 pm at the east part of the K-Mart parking lot. Bring lights for after dusk. Call Debbie (435/830-9021) for info.

GCG, Sat, 6/23, Gold Basin. Beat the heat in the La Sals. About five miles with moderate elevation gain. Explore a wooded valley with a running stream. Ruined dwellings at old mining claims. Above two little ponds in the woods is a tarn amid rock glaciers at the head of the basin with views of Mt Tuku-nikivatz and the ridge between Mellenthin and Tuku-nikivatz. Meet at Moab Information Center, Center and Main, at 8:00 AM. Leader: Tom Messenger, 259-1756.

OG, Sat, 6/23, Day Hike to Jardine Juniper. The juniper in question is a gnarled, tenacious, three thousand year old tree. The trail climbs to it through forests with nice views of the Bear River Range. The trailhead is at the turn-off to Wood Camp. Length: 8.8 mile roundtrip. Elevation: 800 feet. Time to Allow: 4 hours. Call Joanie @ 801/399-0034 for more info.

SLG, Tues, 6/26, Tuesday Night Hike in Neffs Canyon. A great hike in the Millcreek Canyon area. Expect a moderate pace and some steep sections, but forest ambiance and fabulous views make it well worth the effort. Meeting time is 6:30 pm at the Skyline High Parking Lot. Call Dee (718-1970) for more info.

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 US 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. Call leader Dan Schroeder (801/393-4603) 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.

GCG, Sat, 7/14, Day Hike in 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 required 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, 259-1756.



RON YOUNGER

win a backcountry guide

AUGUST 8, 2006: Tuesday evening Sierra Club trekkers starting out for Green's Basin. Be the first (before May 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.

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Out&About



Activists checking road impacts in the Deep Creek Range.

ACTIVIST OUTINGS HIGHLIGHT ADVENTURE AND ADVOCACY

by Vicky Hoover

The Sierra Club organizes outings at the group, chapter and national level. The national outings are published in *Sierra Magazine* and at the website, <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/>.

One of the less well-known national outings categories is the Activist Outing. These outings feature several special trips each year that inform participants about the issues surrounding their particular trip and train them on how to advocate effectively for the relevant campaign. Wilderness and other preservation campaigns are the chief focus for 2007's seven activist trips, headed for West Virginia, Alaska, California, Utah, New Mexico, Washington, and Nevada.

❶ **Wild and Wonderful West Virginia, May 18-25.** Learn about the push to establish new wilderness in the scenic Monongahela National Forest as your tour this lovely area, in the height of spring with leader Joan Saxe and local activists Mary Wimmer and Beth Little. Day hikes accent this van touring trip. (Trip #07190A, \$625)

❷ **Brooks Range on a Budget.** Eric Rorer's June 10-23 backpacking trip in Western Alaska's contested National Petroleum Reserve is filled, with a waiting list. (Trip 07014A \$1,375)

❸ **Walk Among Giants in California's Sequoia National Monument, June 17-23.** Study management problems in this new Monument proclaimed by President Clinton. Learn the ongoing threats to these unique big trees and their ecosystem, on day hikes with veteran leaders Cal and Letty French and former Sierra Club president Joe Fontaine. (Trip 07191A \$395)

❹ **Rafting and activism, in Dinosaur National Monument, July 5-9.** A family activist adventure from that brings kids too into figuring out why we care so much about saving Wild Utah's dazzling landscapes. Join leader Pat Fritz on the historic Green River. (Trip 07261A \$855/\$755 child)

❺ **Wild in the Wide Open Wild Sky, backpacking in Washington State, August 15-21.** Study the recently well-publicized Wild Sky Wilderness campaign. Participants will enjoy trails and views in designated wilderness and candidate areas in the heart of the Mount-Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. (Trip 07175A, \$495)

❻ **Valle Vidal Service and Advocacy, July 22-29.** This trip focuses on New Mexico issues of public land protection. Join leader Gene Goldberg and local volunteer Norma McCallan in scenic day hiking plus two novel service projects, for trail and river restoration. Northern New Mexico's Valle Vidal—the Valley of Life—has just gained some protection from proposed oil and gas drilling. (Trip 07315A, \$525)

❼ **Eastern Nevada's Wild Heights, September 1-9.** White Pine County has just won landmark wilderness designation for many of its beautiful wild mountain ranges, all too little-known, that leader Melinda Goodwater shares with you. Besides a brief visit to Great Basin National Park, this remarkable trip, while mostly scenic day hikes with car camping, features a two-day traverse of the dramatic High Schells on an overnight backpack. Mt Grafton and the Egan Range, and possibly the Highland Range, are other memorable destinations. Learn the ins and outs of Nevada wilderness politics. (Trip # 07196A, \$495)

To learn about some partial scholarships available for bringing qualified activists to these advocacy trips, contact activist outings chair Vicky Hoover (vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org) (415) 977-5527).



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START A COMMUNITY SHARES/UTAH CAMPAIGN AT YOUR WORKPLACE

by Mark Clemens

On the front page of each issue of the Utah Sierran, you'll find the logo of Community Shares/Utah (CS/U), and you might have wondered what it is. CS/U is a workplace-giving federation that allows employees to donate any specified amount through payroll deduction to a range of agencies and charities that work to benefit the environment, deliver critical human services, improve the community, protect human rights and promote animal welfare.

The Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club helped to found CS/U in 1989. Check out the full roster of agencies at <http://www.communitysharesutah.org/>. CS/U helps raise money for the chapter and the other member agencies in most public-sector and several private sector workplaces too.



Fall is usually the season to harvest pledges for workplace giving, and thank you to all of those who already give. If you don't have the chance to contribute to Community Shares at work and would like to, call me at (801) 467-9297 or send me an e-mail at mark.clemens@sierraclub.org or Lynne Brandley, the executive director of Community Shares at (801) 486-9224 or lbrandley@xmission.com.

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