



SIERRA
CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

Utah Sierran

utah.sierraclub.org

Winter 2008 Vol. 41 No. 1

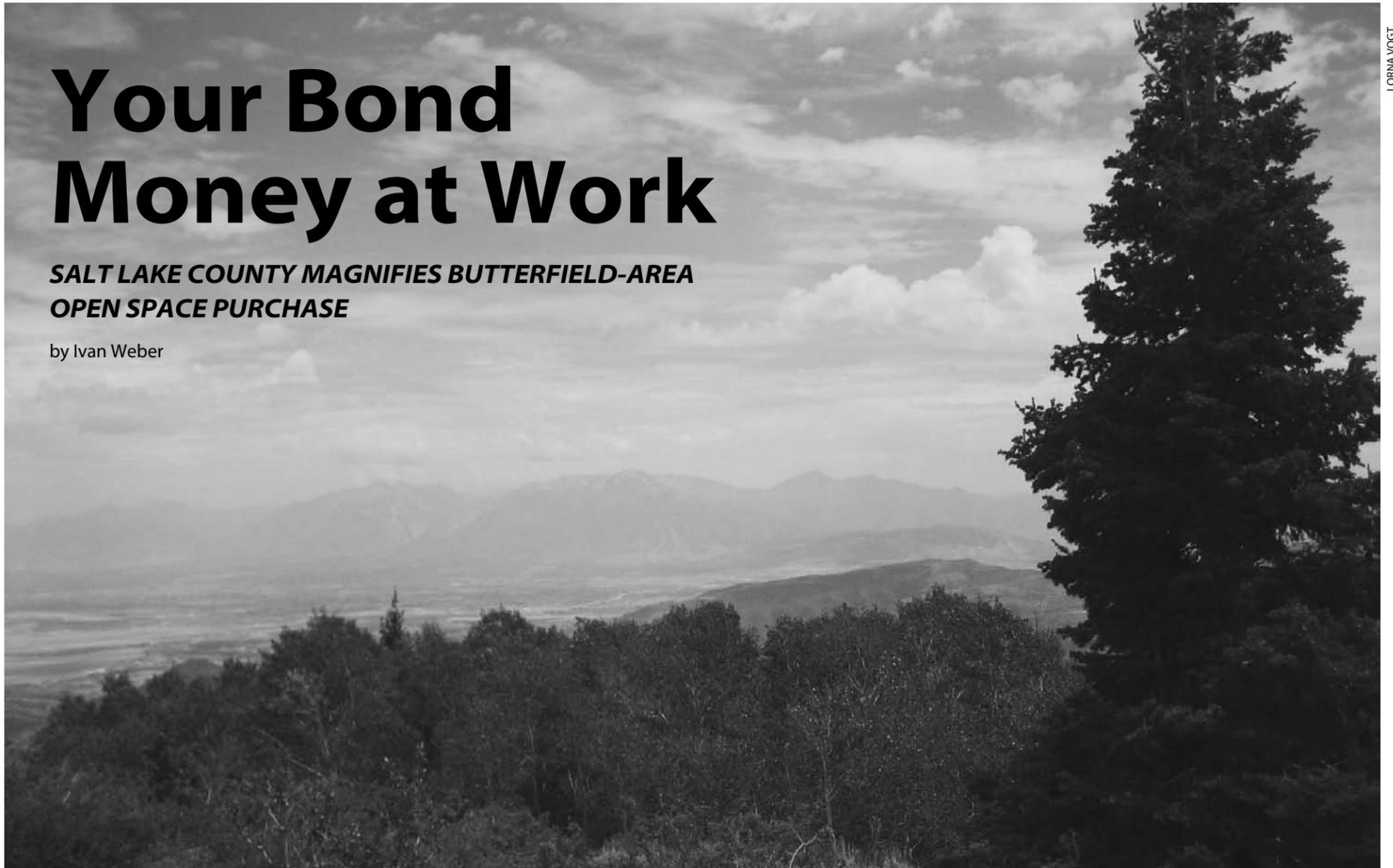
Complementary Colors? Going Green in Ultra-Red Utah Valley

page 6

Your Bond Money at Work

SALT LAKE COUNTY MAGNIFIES BUTTERFIELD-AREA OPEN SPACE PURCHASE

by Ivan Weber



LORNA VOGT

Vista eastwards of the Wasatch Range from high on a ridge of the newly-acquired Rose Canyon Ranch.

Just when many of us were falling into despair over preservation of public-access open space, the county's recently adopted open space bond funds have come to the rescue. It's not often that a land purchase can be leveraged into more than twice the open space acquired. But the Salt Lake County Open Space Trust Fund has done just that with the acquisition of Rose Canyon Ranch. In mid-December, 2007, Salt Lake County expects to close the deal to purchase one of the largest parcels of relatively pristine foothill and mountain terrain left in Salt Lake County—outside the immense Oquirrh Mountain land holdings of Kennecott.

The Rose Canyon Ranch, approximately 1,700 acres of rugged mountain, forest and secluded glens south of Butterfield Canyon, lies at the abutment of the Traverse Range with the Oquirrh, south of the Bingham Canyon Mine. Predominantly north-facing, the property harbors relatively undisturbed and diverse forest, as well as sagebrush, wetlands and trails. Wildlife abounds. From as high as 7,000 feet, views of the Wasatch, almost the entirety of Salt Lake County, and Kennecott's oldest mine dumps present vistas without end. The area will be open for hiking, horseback riding and mountain biking, and simple solitude, subject to a thoughtful, long-term management plan to protect valuable

It's not often that a land purchase can be leveraged into more than twice the open space acquired.

wildlife and recreational assets. Rose Canyon Ranch is home to a herd of hundreds of elk, mule deer, Rio Grande turkeys, fox, grouse, chukar and cougar. Visitors can access Yellow Fork Park at 8094 West Rose

Canyon Road (15000 S.), but are asked to stay on established trails, and to respect private property ownership in the area.

Salt Lake County's contiguous Yellow Fork Canyon Park property of 800 acres lies to the northeast of Rose Canyon Ranch, and a further 1600-acre BLM parcel to be cooperatively managed by Salt Lake County, will combine for roughly 4,000 acres—6.25 square miles!—of park land forever preserved as public open space. Given the sprawl tsunami sweeping into the Herriman corner of the Jordan Valley floor, it would not have been long before this dazzling and precarious, mid-elevation forest land would have become

continued on page 3

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SLC UT
PERMIT NO. 571

A MEMBER OF
COMMUNITY
SHARES
UTAH

EnergyUpdate

Which is Worse? The Message or the Messenger?

by Tim Wagner, director, Utah Smart Energy Campaign

If you just listen to what the coal and utility industries are saying... we will be at the mercy of terrorists, that our lights will soon go out and Grandma will soon be on the street.

You've heard the old saying, "When the going gets tough, the tough get going." Of course, it conjures up images of soldiers in dire combat or the time when your high school football team was down by 20 points going into the 4th quarter, but they fought back and won the conference tournament.

We'd like to think that such a phrase that is historically steeped in raw determination and pride would remain so. But in the case of global warming awareness and big king coal...well, it stands to reason that in due time, those with deep pockets would fight back.

With ever-increasing public sentiment building in this nation against the plans to construct more coal-fired power plants, the coal and utility industry are gearing up a major multi-million dollar media and public relations blitz to convince us stupid Americans that coal is truly our energy future. Never mind global warming and that burning coal is responsible for nearly half of the United States' greenhouse gas emissions. Never mind that renewable technologies like wind, photovoltaic and concentrated solar, and geothermal are very quickly becoming mainstream energy sources. If you just listen to what the coal and utility industries are saying, one would believe that without building new coal plants, we will have run out of options, we will be at the mercy of terrorists, that our lights will soon go out and Grandma will soon be on the street.

Take the situation in Kansas where in October the state's Department of Health and Environment denied Sunflower Electric Power Corporation's permit application to build two 700-megawatt coal-fired generators near Holcomb, KS, over concerns for that state's health and environment from an estimated 11 million tons of CO₂ emissions annually. In addition to taking legal action against the state of Kansas, Sunflower and the other project participants soon began running ads in Kansas newspapers (at right) with the smiling faces of Russian President Vladimir Putin, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, and Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad with the caption "Why are these men smiling?" The ad goes on to warn Kansans that without the proposed plant, they will be at the mercy of these three foreign leaders who will be happy to supply Kansas with high priced natural gas. In essence, higher electricity costs, lost economic opportunities, and loss of energy security, the ad explains. I don't know, but the last time I was in Kansas, the wind never stopped blowing.

A recent newspaper ad making the rounds in New Mexico and other states shows the coal industry's response to proposed legislation in Congress that will mandate 15 percent of this nation's electricity come from renewables (15%!!!! compared to coal's 52% already), shows a bright red wrapped Christmas package

with an attached bow that reads "Reduced energy supplies", "Higher energy costs" and "5 million jobs lost." Oh my! If we're talking about increasing energy from renewable sources, aren't we actually "increasing" our supply, increasing new jobs and opportunities, and actually offering more choices and competition to our energy portfolio thereby helping to keep costs low?

(As I write this, word has trickled in that the U.S. House of Representatives has passed this legislation!)

Or let's not forget what's going in Nevada where plans to build three major coal-fired power plants are being met with stiff opposition over concerns for air quality and greenhouse gas emissions. This is in a state that possesses some of this country's best solar and geothermal resource availability. In response, another coal-funded lobby group that strategically calls themselves "Americans for Better Energy Choices" has purchased this fall over \$500,000 worth of radio ads trying to convince Nevadans that, again, coal is their future, in spite of the fact that all of the coal would be railed in from Wyoming.

Lastly, let's consider the phrase "clean coal." While the concept was first coined for a Department of Energy research project in the mid-1980s, the terminology was thrust into the American consciousness by President Bush on May 17, 2001, when he announced his newly developed National Energy Policy, in which he said that America is "blessed" with an abundance of coal and that the federal government was going to pour billions into "clean coal" research. His statement came less than three weeks after Vice President Dick Cheney publicly announced his endorsement of a plan to build 1,300 new coal power plants, one per week, for the next 20 years. For the record, that would be the same Dick Cheney who, three weeks prior, convened a series of secret meetings in the White House with the CEOs of the nation's largest coal, oil and gas companies, out of which came that National Energy Policy touted by the President a month later. We now are seeing the fruits of that plan.

It's clear, according to the DOE website, that the phrase "clean coal" is most frequently applied to a process known as integrated gasification combined cycle, or IGCC, in which the coal, instead of being burned, is converted to a synthetic gas and then burned to make steam needed to turn the turbines. It's been proven that IGCC results in significant reductions of most of the major pollutants associated with burning coal, such as nitrogen oxide and sulfur dioxide. While it's still a long way from zero emissions, is better than conventional technology. The other valuable feature of IGCC is that it allows the capture of the majority of the global warming-causing CO₂ before it is emitted into the atmosphere.



Why are these men smiling?

Because the recent decision by the Sebelius Administration means Kansas will import more natural gas from countries like Russia, Venezuela, and Iran.

As demand for electricity increases in Kansas and across the country, our state has the opportunity to be a leader in the fight to reduce our reliance on foreign energy by utilizing America's most abundant fuel resource - clean coal.

Unfortunately, the Sebelius Administration rejected a plan to build a much-needed, coal-fueled power plant near Holcomb. The implications of this decision - higher electric bills, lost economic activity, and reduced energy security - will affect Kansas for years to come.

Without new, next-generation coal-fueled plants, Kansas will be captive to high-priced natural gas, allowing hostile foreign countries to control the energy policy of Kansas and America. We are already being held hostage to some of these same countries for oil.

The choice is simple... clean coal from Middle America versus expensive gas from the Middle East.

FACT: Natural gas prices have more than tripled since 1999.

FACT: Domestic natural gas production is flat and well below peak production levels. Liquefied Natural Gas imports have risen 44 percent this year alone.

FACT: Government experts predict that growth in natural gas demand will have to be met by imports - much of it coming from hostile countries in unstable parts of the world.

FACT: The United States has enough coal for the next 250 years, and it's cleaner than ever before.

FACT: Without new coal-fueled plants in our state, experts predict that electric bills will skyrocket and Kansans will be more dependent than ever on hostile, foreign energy sources.

Call your state legislators today at 1-800-432-3924 and tell them our state's electricity must come from clean, affordable, reliable coal - America's energy future.

Sources: U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration
Paid for by Kansans for Affordable Energy, Roy Dixon, Treasurer

Sunflower Electric Power Corporation ad. Run in Kansas newspapers after the state's Department of Health and Environment denied their permit application to build two 700-megawatt coal-fired generators.

Of the approximately 150 new coal plants that have been proposed in the U.S. in the last 7 years, less than 20 have been considered or permitted for IGCC. The rest are conventional coal combustion units, many of which have already been postponed or cancelled due to public opposition, economics, regulatory hurdles, or a combination thereof.

continued on page 3

UtahSierran
Winter 2008 Vol. 41 No. 1

EDITOR: Mark Clemens
DESIGN: Peridot Design

Utah Sierran © Copyright 2007, The Utah Chapter Sierra Club (USPS 5375). The *Utah Sierran* is published quarterly (February, May, August, November) by the Sierra Club's Utah Chapter, 2159 South 700 East Suite 210, Salt Lake City, UT 84106-3785.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Utah Sierran*, Sierra Club, 2590 South 700 East Suite 210, Salt Lake City, UT 84106-3785.

Annual dues for the Sierra Club are \$39, of which \$1 is for a subscription to *Utah Sierran*. Non-member subscriptions are available for \$10 per year from the Utah Chapter office.

Submit all articles, artwork, photographs, letters and comments to utah.chapter@sierraclub.org. Phone: 801-467-9297. The *Utah Sierran* reaches more than 5,000 members and friends of the Sierra Club in Utah. Display advertising is accepted. For a current ad rate card, contact Mark Clemens, utah.chapter@sierraclub.org or 801-467-9297. We reserve the right to refuse advertising that we feel conflicts with the goals and purposes of the Club.

Bylined articles represent the research and opinions of the author and not necessarily those of the Sierra Club or the Utah Chapter.

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

OurLands

YOUR BOND MONEY AT WORK continued from page 1



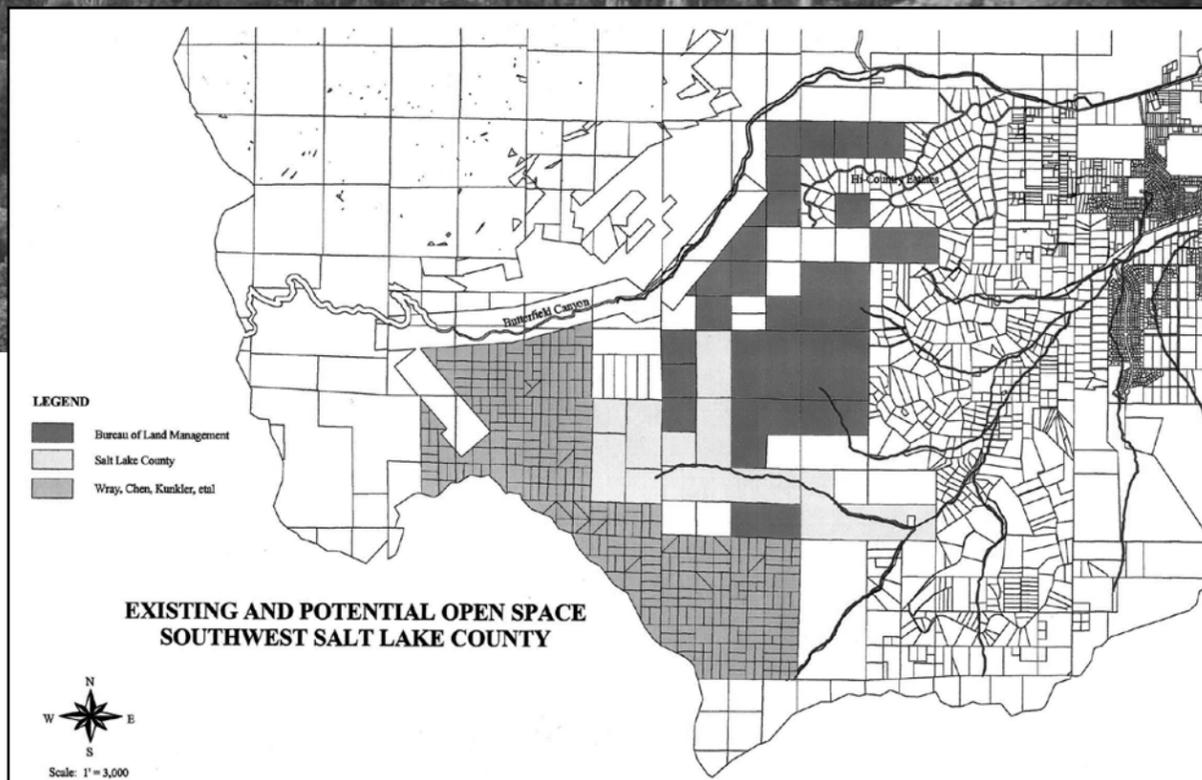
LORNA VOGT

victim to development. Instead, the citizens of Salt Lake County can thank Mayor Corroon and staff, with the unanimous support of the county council, for their decisive response to this remarkable opportunity.

The enlightened assistance of the Wray and Kunkler families opened the gate for a county offer. Of the \$24 million placed by the 2006 voter-approved Bond into the Open Space Trust Fund, this purchase consumes more than one-third (\$8.7 million). Partners are being sought to replenish the trust fund, however, and to strengthen future capacity for strategic land protection by leveraged acquisition.

The county recently engaged a consultant to prepare a dynamic, county-wide Open Space Master Plan, particularly geared toward creation of tools and understandings to guide and assist strategic acquisition of further open space properties. Jordan River corridor, Great Salt Lake shoreland migratory bird habitat, threatened riparian zones, wetlands, and other lands with meaningful recreational, ecological and conservation values will be considered as opportunity arises.

We urge citizens not only to attend Open Space Trust Fund meetings, to express their suggestions and concerns, and to follow process developments, but also to thank Mayor Corroon and each of the county council members



for their historic acquisition of Rose Canyon Ranch. Special thanks are due, as well, to Lorna Vogt, Open Space Program Manager, and to Ann Ober, Mayor Corroon's Environmental Coordinator.

Links: <http://www.openspace.slco.org/html/committee.html> for the Open Space Trust Fund Advisory Committee, mission, meeting schedule, definitions of terms, contact information and links to partner organizations and agencies.

Ivan represents Salt Lake County Council District 1 on the Salt Lake County Open Space Trust Fund Advisory Committee. He is also a former chair of the Utah Chapter, Sierra Club.

TOP: A forested canyon in the newly-acquired Rose Canyon Ranch.

MAP: Location of the Rose Canyon Ranch in southwest Salt Lake County. The ranch will be managed with existing county and contiguous BLM lands for watershed, wildlife and non-motorized public recreation.

WHICH IS WORSE? THE MESSAGE OR THE MESSENGER? continued from page 2

Many of the proposed plants still on the table are being publicly promoted as "clean coal" even though most are using conventional combustion technology. An example right here in Utah is the Sevier Power Company's proposal to build a 270-megawatt coal plant in Sevier County.

On company signs and literature, SPC shamelessly refers to their project as "clean coal technology" and company executives have publicly stated that "this will be the cleanest coal plant in the nation." We should ignore the fact that, among other toxins, SPC is expected to emit over 1000 tons of nitrogen oxides and 177 tons of particulate matter, per year, in a valley so tight one can hear sheep

calling from one side to the other. Or we should ignore that SPC will emit nearly 2 million tons of CO₂ per year as well. Clean coal? I think not.

The same kind of misrepresentation is occurring at an even larger scale just over the Nevada line where Sithe Global, LS Power, and Sierra Pacific are all proposing massive new coal power plant projects, over 4,000 MWs total, all upwind of Utah.

To be sure, every group vying for public and media attention uses strategic messaging to get their message out. But when it's used in direct contradiction to the health and

welfare of our citizens and our planet, that's disingenuous. Playing tough is one thing. Playing dirty is another. Is it any wonder that the American public is becoming more suspicious every day of the business as usual model when it comes to energy?

Legislative Update

Scenes from the Legislature

by Mark Clemens

Admit it. The annual spectacle of the Utah legislature in general session is the best cheap entertainment in the state. It combines some of the worst adult behavior, evoking parents throwing tantrums at their children's little league games, with the most childish scenes—willful, wicked boys tearing around in a high-fructose-corn-syrup-fed frenzy.

What will they get up to this year? The Republican majority, prodded by private-sector water speculators that would like to get their claws into long-appropriated municipal water rights, has set its sights on attacking Salt Lake City. Salt Lake City's offense, aside from electing Democrats, is to have had the foresight to acquire water rights sufficient to meet current demands and likely growth in demand over the next twenty to thirty years.

As global warming diminishes annual snowpacks and brings more precipitation in the form of rain, Salt Lake City's water rights will likely look only a little more than adequate. But of course, this legislative majority looks for expertise on climate issues from Paul Mero, executive director of the right-wing Sutherland Institute. Bills are in process dealing with water law amendments and water right forfeiture protection. On the brighter side, a promising freshman Rep Stephen Sandstrom (R-Orem) has a bill in process titled, In-stream Flow to Protect Trout Habitat.

For representatives who consistently work to undermine the environment, bad ideas are especially welcome when they're stale. Rep Mike Noel (R-Kanab) has a bill in process titled Street Legal All-Terrain Vehicle Amendments. This might be a reprise of his crazy bill, HB 425, from the 2007 General Session that would have made ATVs street-legal on every highway in the state of Utah, outside Salt Lake County.

Rep Mike Morley (R-Spanish Fork), a developer himself, wants to give himself and his developer cronies a big sugarplum in the form of a bill that would ban municipalities from using zoning to protect the environment with regulations preventing development on steep slopes, etc. Last year, he ran this stinker as HB 233. He has a bill in process for 2008 titled Environmentally Restricted Zoning Districts.

Energy, global warming and clean air will be the biggest battlegrounds for the environment in the 2008 General Session. We hope Rep Roz McGee (D-Salt Lake City) will run her Clean Air and Efficient Vehicle Tax Incentives again this year. It passed the house last year on a 68-0-7 vote but never made it out of the Senate Rules Committee.

Rocky Mountain Power previewed a bill before the November 2007 meeting of the Public Utilities and Technology Interim Committee that they hope to substitute for any meaningful reduction in global warm-

ing gasses. After having participated in the governor's Blue Ribbon Committee on Climate Change, they launched this initiative without any consultation with most other members of the committee.

Their proposal is a Bush-style, all-carrots-no-sticks voluntary program. If the monopolist misses its renewable energy targets, it would pay penalties—to itself! The Senate Majority Leader Curtis Bramble (R-Provo), a global warming skeptic, has announced that he will sponsor the legislation. This might be the bill he has in process titled Energy Resource and Carbon Emission Reduction Initiative.

Maybe we'll make some headway with bills in process from Sen Dennis Stowell (R-Parowan), Renewable Energy Zones, or Rep Brad Last, (R-St George), Income Tax—Solar Energy Credit.

You can stay abreast of all the latest twists and turns on bills of environmental significance on the Utah Chapter's bill tracker, <http://www.utah.sierraclub.org/tracker/>, during the general session.

The Salt Lake Tribune and folks in Wasatch County seem exercised about the effects of HB 466, passed during the 2007 General Session. To understand the significance of this legislation, it's important to understand the scope and nature of land-holdings in still-rural northern and eastern Utah. Large chunks—sometimes many thousands of acres—of grazing and forest lands were bought up over the last thirty years in rural parts of Cache, Morgan, Summit, Wasatch and Weber Counties. Now the corporate interests that own these big parcels want to cash in on the land boom extending out from Park City.

Many big developments are already under way across thousands of acres in Deer Mountain, Promontory Ranch, and Victory Ranch with additional vast developments being eyed in Snow Basin and at Powder Mountain. Alarmed at the impact of the rapid growth, some of the counties concerned have enacted ordinances protecting open space, hillsides and watersheds, and limiting development options in remote areas where new infrastructure would be burdensome to taxpayers.

These restrictions might be inconvenient to big landowners so Rep Mel Brown (R-Coalville) introduced legislation, HB 466, that essentially cuts the host county out of the decision over whether to allow incorporation of a new city by big landowners. The bill creates a new category of incorporation petition for any landowner who owns more than 1/2 of the property value in the proposed city. The presumption is now in favor of the incorporation petition, provided a handful of conditions are satisfied. Once the new city has been created, all those fussy county ordinances about slope stability and access for emergency vehicles can be safely and profitably ignored. County planning and zoning ordinances only apply in the un-incorporated areas of the county.

The first fruits of Brown's legislation are now visible in the proposed new city of Aspen, Utah. Arizona developer Dean Sellers bought 5,700 acres adjacent to the southwest side of US 40 for four miles through Daniels Canyon. The new city would include his parcel and adjacent acreage making 8,900 acres total. If the incorporation petition is successful, Aspen will be largely outside Wasatch County's land-use and planning ordinances.

Almost every legislative session witnesses a scramble by pro-development legislators to see who can give land speculators and rural builders the biggest gift. Brown wins the palm for the 2007 session. Unless HB 466 is repealed, you'll be seeing many replications of this story playing out across Utah in the next few years. Perhaps we should call them Brownvilles. To be fair to Brown, this legislation was pushed on him by lobbyist Frank Pignanelli, who served for a time as Democratic minority leader in the Utah house.

With the imprimatur of Brown, Pignanelli and the still-ambiguous role of the Utah League of Cities and Towns, HB 466 passed both houses without a single nay vote. We are sometimes sold the idea that our part-time legislature costs us less than a full-time legislature would. Once the cost of this shambles is reckoned, one might legitimately dispute that thesis.

Remembering Leo



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

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



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Create an Environmental Legacy.

Bequests have played a key role in Sierra Club's environmental successes over the years.

Planning now may make your gift more meaningful and reduce taxes on your estate. We have many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter.

For more info and confidential assistance, contact
Gift Planning Program
85 Second St, 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105
(800) 932-4270
planned.giving@sierraclub.org

A Bill For All Seasons: TROUBLED WATERS AND THE CLEAN WATER RESTORATION ACT

by Ann Wechsler, Salt Lake Group Chair



PHOTO COURTESY NELSON BROOKE, RIVERKEEPER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF BLACK WARRIOR RIVERKEEPER

Avondale Creek looking upstream from the mouth at Village Creek.

Thirty years after the passage of the Clean Water Act, it needs resuscitation. Why? In 2003, the Bush administration began removing protection from small streams and wetlands that could not be proven to have a connection to navigable rivers and major lakes. H.R. 2421, the Clean Water Restoration Act of 2007, seeks to reverse this trend by clarifying jurisdiction of the United States over its waters. The bill amends the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to replace the term “navigable waters” throughout the act with the term “waters of the United States.”

Rep. James Oberstar (D-MN) introduced the bill in May, 2007, and currently it has 172 co-sponsors. A related bill in the senate, introduced by Russ Feingold (D-WI) is S. 1870. The Sierra Club and other national conservation organizations have been vigorously supporting these bills because the “waters of the United States” that are at risk are 20 million acres of wetlands, and almost 2 million river miles that are small streams, many of them ephemeral. In Utah, it is estimated that almost 80 % of those small streams contribute to public drinking water supplies. Several Supreme Court decisions have also aggravated the loss of protection for these seemingly isolated water bodies. Such rulings have allowed some industry groups, Bush administration officials, and regulators to deny the protection normally afforded by the Clean Water Act. A court case in Alabama involving Avondale Creek illustrates the risks to a small but continuously flowing stream and provides an alarming precedent.

Avondale Creek flows into Village Creek which, after 28 miles, enters Bayview Lake. On the other side of the lake, Locust Fork runs for 20 miles to the Black Warrior River, understood to be navigable. A pipe manufacturer, McWane, Inc, was found guilty of knowingly discharging oil, lead, zinc, and grease into Avondale Creek in violation of the CWA. McWane received 60 months probation and a 5\$ million fine. The convictions were later overturned on appeal citing a Supreme Court decision in 2006 (*Rapanos v. United States*). In that pivotal case, four justices would refuse to protect any water body that was not “relatively permanent, standing or flowing.” Justice Kennedy, however, would require a “significant nexus” to navigable waters in order to receive protection.

Ultimately, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit reversed the convictions and remanded the case for a new trial. It wanted more evidence of “the possible chemical, physical, or biological effect that Avondale Creek may

have on the Black Warrior River (the significant nexus). Prior to the *Rapanos* decision, Avondale Creek would have been protected from McWane’s nasty discharges. Now, the burden is on the clean creek’s advocates to prove that it is not isolated, as relatively few truly are, and needless to say, a time-consuming and costly process. *The best answer to this required proof of a hydrologic nexus to a traditionally navigable water body is passage of H.R. 2421, which would restore to Avondale Creek and countless other streams, ponds or wetlands, the protection originally afforded by the Clean Water Act.*

One would think that being the second driest state in the nation would grant our precious streams, seasonal wetlands, playas...the attention they deserve.

H.R. 2421 has over 170 co-sponsors, and S. 1870 has 20, but none of the Utah delegation is among them. One would think that being the second driest state in the nation would grant our precious streams, seasonal wetlands, playas—all of them nature’s sponges that sustain wildlife, endangered species, and protect riparian integrity—the attention they deserve. Lack of protection under the CWA puts sources of drinking water at risk through depletion or pollution, threatening public health. *The National Sierra Club reports that EPA’s most recent data show that nearly half of the nation’s rivers, streams, lakes and coastal estuaries are not safe for fishing, swimming or boating.* How many more pipe manufacturers and other industries are out there ready to exploit the Avondale creeks of the nation by discharging their pollutants into clear flowing waters with impunity? Passage of H.R. 2421 and S. 1870 would broaden the scope of the Clean Water Act and restore its protections as originally intended by Congress.



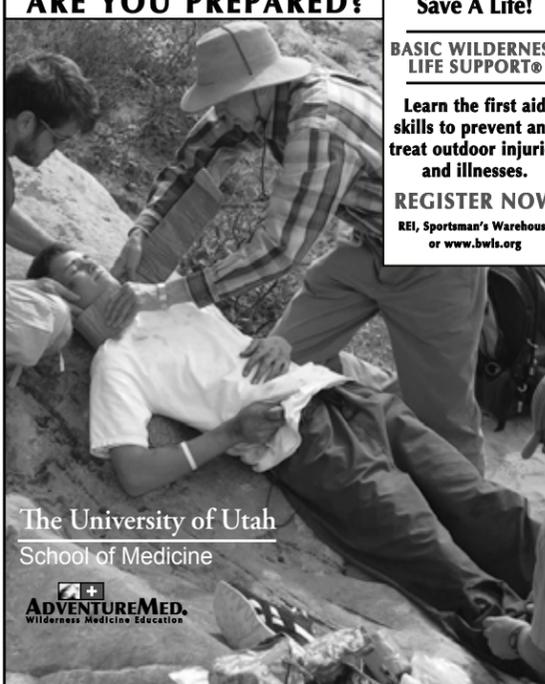
The Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club extends a very special thanks to the

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 2008.

ARE YOU PREPARED?



One Day Could Save A Life!

BASIC WILDERNESS LIFE SUPPORT®

Learn the first aid skills to prevent and treat outdoor injuries and illnesses.

REGISTER NOW

REI, Sportsman’s Warehouse or www.bwls.org

The University of Utah School of Medicine

ADVENTUREMED.
Wilderness Medicine Education

ChapterNews

Spreading the Green Word in a Red Valley

by Tom Valtin



Utah Valley Sierra Forum members on a field trip to wetlands threatened by a route proposed for the Mountain View Corridor.

It's been awhile since the Sierra Club has had much of a local presence in Utah Valley. Nestled between Utah Lake and the Wasatch Mountains about half an hour south of Salt Lake City, the fast-growing valley centers on the cities of Provo and Orem in Utah County, sometimes referred to as "the reddest county in the reddest state in the union."

But for the last year the Utah Valley Sierra Forum (UVSF), some members of which are pictured above at an outing to the endangered wetlands of Utah Lake, has been meeting monthly at the Provo Public Library. Comprised largely but not exclusively of Sierra Club members, the UVSF isn't an official Sierra Club group, but it operates with the blessing of the Utah Chapter office in Salt Lake City. In addition to its monthly meetings, the group conducts outings, organizes rallies, hosts panel discussions and speaking engagements, and sponsors a variety of green events.

"We're happy with our status as an informal Sierra Club group," says UVSF Chair Jim Westwater, pictured at right. "We do the kind of work we want to do, enjoy fellowship, and get results along the way." The group doesn't yet charge dues, but some of its elected officers have been invited to chapter ExCom meetings, and it is closely involved with the Club's state-wide efforts.

Westwater and his wife Merrilyn moved to Utah Valley from the Midwest in 2004. "We relocated here mostly for the world class natural beauty and outdoor opportunities," he says. "I'd been a Sierra Club member for 25 years, but moving to this incredibly beautiful part of the world and seeing how we humans are increasingly harming the planet spurred my activism."

Hoping to team up with other "like-minded and like-spirited people," Westwater contacted the Club's Utah Chapter office to get info about the local group in Utah Valley, only to learn that it had been

defunct for more than a decade. But there were still about 200 members in the valley, so he decided to host an informal get-together.

"The chapter office agreed to send out a postcard to all Utah Valley members," he explains, "inviting them to a party at my home to decide what kind of presence we might collectively want to have in this valley." Twenty-six people showed up and decided to "reactivate," albeit unofficially, drafting Westwater as the group leader.

One of the UVSF's first orders of business was to set up a Web site in blog format, hence inviting comments and feedback and helping foster a sense of community. The site outlines the group's objectives and provides updates on relevant topics, links to related Web sites, and info on monthly meetings, other events, and how to join the forum and the Sierra Club.

The UVSF's priorities have been wilderness and public lands preservation, smart energy, clean air, smart transportation, sprawl, water issues, and nuclear waste. More specifically, the group has been: promoting public transit alternatives to the Mountainview Corridor, a proposed 8-lane freeway that would harm nearly 50 acres of Utah Lake Wetlands; advocating for transit-oriented development; promoting energy conservation and opposing more coal-fired power plants in Utah and neighboring states; and promoting more designated wilderness, particularly America's Redrock Wilderness Act, which would protect more than 9 million acres of BLM lands in Utah.

"We now have more than 300 people on our e-mailing list," Westwater says. Although it's not mandatory, members of the forum are encouraged to join the Sierra Club. But Westwater says the idea of public education is paramount. "We're attempting to work with all 'players' in this valley known for its conservatism, and to move this part of Utah in better, smarter, healthier and sustainable directions. I'm encouraged with the prospects, but I know

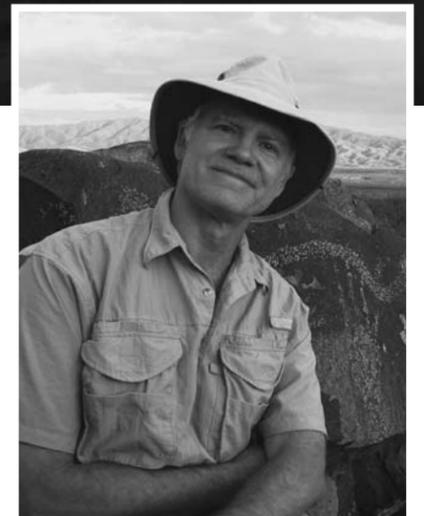
it will require lots of effort, patience, and the involvement of many others."

Nuclear waste disposal is a big issue in Utah, which has no nuclear power plants yet, but is proposed as a recipient of such waste at a disposal site 80 miles west (upwind) of Provo, Orem, and Salt Lake City. This summer, the UVSF invited both HEAL Utah, the primary anti-nuclear group in the state, and EnergySolutions, which operates the waste disposal facility, to participate in a public forum. EnergySolutions declined to present and defend its position on equal footing with HEAL Utah, but subsequently agreed to make its case at a UVSF meeting so long as it was not on the same program as its adversary.

In July, the Deseret Morning News ran an article, "Sierra Club is blossoming in Valley," which stated that the Utah Valley Sierra Forum is growing in number and purpose. "I think we're on the cusp of a wave because everybody's starting to be worried about global warming," UVSF leader Bepe Kafka told the Morning News. "People from all over come to our meetings; our membership has the full spectrum of people."

Among the UVSF's activities are service outings, like the cleanup of Diamond Fork Hot Springs pictured above, where volunteers bagged five sacks of trash from around the springs and nearby waterfalls. In September, the UVSF was deeply involved in establishing the first annual "Living Green in Utah Valley" Expo in Provo, pictured below, featuring green exhibitors, environmental demonstrations, and guest speakers such as Governor Jon Huntsman's energy advisor, Dr. Diane Nelson. Other recent events include a lecture at the Provo Public Library on "The Air Quality Crisis in Utah Valley," featuring a presentation by the newly-formed Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment and Utah Moms for Clean Air.

There has been some perhaps predictable negative reaction to the Sierra Club's rekindled presence in the valley from residents



"Our objective is to help move this valley in a more sustainable direction for the good of all of the people who live here."

Jim Westwater

who instinctively don't much cotton to environmentalists in general and the Sierra Club in particular. "But we're gaining traction," Westwater says. In addition to more and more people coming around and embracing a greener point of view, he believes partnerships with students and faculty at Brigham Young University and Utah Valley University—which between them have more than 50,000 students—hold great promise.

"We're not here to say we know all the answers," he says. "Our objective is to help move this valley in a more sustainable direction for the good of all of the people who live here. We think it makes sense to try to behave in a responsible, intelligent, healthy way. After all, this is our home, right?"

Reprinted from the Sierra Club website: <http://www.sierraclub.org/>

Our Congratulations

Green Groups Award Pfeifferhorn to Mayor Corroon

by Mark Clemens

Several leading environmental organizations in Utah presented the annual Pfeifferhorn Award to Salt Lake County Mayor Peter Corroon for 2007. The Pfeifferhorn, named for a prominent peak in southeastern Salt Lake County, is awarded to a citizen or government official who has made extraordinary contributions to protecting the Wasatch Range and the environment in Utah generally. "Corroon has been refreshing as a leader who brings together stakeholders to have open and candid discussions about positive problem solving," said Lisa Schmidt, executive director of Save Our Canyons, one of the organizations presenting the award.

The list of Corroon's environmental good works is already long, despite the fact that he's still in his first term, and includes significant victories for open space preservation, trails, watershed preservation and promotion of new wilderness.

Perkins Flat, 190 acres of open space in Emigration Canyon, was purchased by Utah Open Lands in 2005 with substantial support from Salt Lake County and Mayor Peter Corroon. Of the total purchase price of \$1.4 million, Salt Lake County provided \$485,000. Corroon also strongly supported another project involving Utah Open Lands and Save Our Canyons on the west flank of Grandeur Peak. Fourteen acres formerly owned by Utah Power were acquired by Salt Lake County with a conservation easement conveyed to Utah Open Lands. This acreage is crucial for trail access and protection of views from around the valley.

By seeking a \$1,000,000 appropriation for further open space funding in fiscal year 2006, Corroon helped insure that Salt Lake County will have the means to continue the current pace of open space acquisition.

Working closely with Public Works Director Linda Hamilton and environmental groups, Mayor Corroon identified the county's transportation needs in canyons and watershed and discovered numerous errors and problems in the so-called highway claims made by vote of an earlier county commission under the now-repealed, 19th century law called RS 2477. At least one of the claims—Mill Creek Canyon—was made for a road alignment on which the county already had a legally enforceable right of way. Other claims were made on narrow trails in sensitive watershed lands. After careful review, Corroon issued an order vacating the previously-lodged RS 2477 claims. "Our collaboration on the highway claims set a positive precedent for the rest of state to deal with the RS 2477 issue," observed Schmidt.

Corroon has also endorsed the Wasatch Wilderness Proposal to protect the remaining roadless lands in the Tri-Canyons Area with congressional wilderness designation. This move is more evidence of his profound commitment to protecting the sources of clean water on which we all rely,



Mayor Peter Corroon accepts the 2007 Pfeifferhorn Award. Though still in his first term, Corroon's list of environmental good works is already long.

Each year the award honors an individual whom these organizations believe should be recognized for serving the public interest by helping to preserve and protect some aspect of the natural environment of the State of Utah.

The county council and Mayor Corroon stuck their necks out to support an important new mountain bike/hiking trail system to be built in Emigration Canyon that will improve access to public land and link together a number of existing trails such as the Bonneville Shoreline Trail and the Great Western Trail. Although opposed by a vocal minority of homeowners in the canyon, county leaders realized that most of the arguments made against pedestrian trails; eg, trails encourage crime, decrease property values and make wildfires more likely, are specious.

With the mayor's support and invaluable contributions from staff, Salt Lake County has implemented a new landscaping ordinance. The new ordinance establishes water allowances and professional standards

for new or upgraded developments that will hold down water usage and promote native and drought tolerant species.

As the name suggests, most of the recipients of the Pfeifferhorn Award have made significant contributions to the protection of the Wasatch Range. A little-understood aspect of protecting our wild and open spaces is the promotion of good urban design. Walkable, mixed-use developments help create an attractive urban environment that makes new construction on open land less necessary. Corroon understood this before becoming mayor. One of the best examples of pedestrian-friendly, mixed income housing was built near the 900 South Trax Station by Green Street Development of which Corroon was a partner.

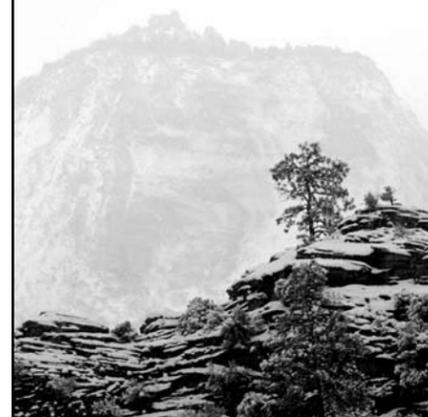
The Pfeifferhorn Award was inaugurated in 1995 and has been presented over the years to Gale Dick, George Hansen, LeRoy Hooten and Dianna Lehmann Smith, among others.

Great Salt Lake Audubon, The Nature Conservancy, Save Our Canyons, the Utah Chapter of Sierra Club and Wasatch Mountain Club jointly select the winner and present the award. Each year the award honors an individual whom these organizations believe should be recognized for serving the public interest by helping to preserve and protect some aspect of the natural environment of the State of Utah. This year the award was presented on Monday, October 8th, 2007, at Vienna Bistro restaurant in Salt Lake City.

CALLING ALL
PHOTOGRAPHERS!

The *Utah Sierran* needs your help. We're on the prowl for great shots of Utah wilderness to enhance our stock photo library. Send your high-resolution (300 dpi) photos along with a description of each photo and your name as you would like to be credited, to:
peridotdesign@mac.com

Your photos could be published in an upcoming issue of the *Sierran*!



On Conservation

Wildflowers Gain Protection

by Tony Frates, conservation co-chair, Utah Native Plant Society



DORDE WOODRUFF

The rare Pariette cactus (*Sclerocactus brevispinus*). Now protected under the Endangered Species Act.

Three rare and declining wildflowers ranging in parts of western Colorado and northeastern Utah gained Endangered Species Act protection on 18 September 2007, culminating a citizen-led effort to safeguard the imperiled plants from rampant oil and gas drilling.

"This decision is long overdue and will ultimately provide the short-spined Pariette cactus with the separate recognition and protection it deserves," said Tony Frates, Conservation Co-Chair for the Utah Native Plant Society. "The Pariette cactus is in danger of becoming extinct, and needs to be separately listed as endangered as quickly as possible in light of extensive oil and gas development that exists throughout its extremely limited habitat which must also be protected."

In 2005, Center for Native Ecosystems and the Utah Native Plant Society petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to protect the Pariette cactus under the Endangered Species Act. In response, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agreed to protect the Colorado hookless cactus (*Sclerocactus glaucus*), Uinta Basin hookless cactus (*Sclerocactus wetlandicus*), and Pariette cactus (*Sclerocactus brevispinus*) under the Endangered Species Act. All three plant species bear brilliant pink-purple flowers. The Colorado cactus is found along the Gunnison River near Grand Junction, while the Uinta Basin hookless cactus and Pariette cactus are found along and near the Green River of northeastern Utah.

While the Uinta Basin hookless cactus was previously protected under the Endangered Species Act, recent studies supported the opinion of cactus experts that there were three separate species ranging in isolated parts of western Colorado and north-

eastern Utah all mixed together under a single prior listing. Today's decision makes clear that all three species need individual protection.

The finding is good news for the Pariette cactus, which lies squarely in the path of oil and gas drilling. In 2005, the Bureau of Land Management authorized over 900 oil and gas wells to be drilled by Newfield Energy in the Castle Peak area, where key populations of Pariette cactus exist. Because there was previously only a single listing, impacts to the three species were lumped together. While the Pariette cactus can ill afford to lose even one population, federal agencies previously could justify the loss of an entire population by adding together all of the occurrences of all three species. They will no longer be able to do that.

"The BLM needs to rethink its decision to drill the Pariette cactus into extinction," said Jeremy Nichols, Conservation Director with Center for Native Ecosystems. "We can have oil and gas drilling, but it needs to be done right. Doing it right means safeguarding native wildlife, fish, and plants from extinction."

The Colorado cactus, Uinta Basin hookless cactus, and Pariette cactus all remain threatened by overgrazing, illegal collecting, off-road vehicles and energy development including related road and other construction."

Endangered Species Act protection will provide additional safeguards to ward off these threats and prevent the extinction of the wildflowers.

What Protection for Non-Wilderness Lands?

by Mark Clemens

Conservation groups and environmental voters have mostly viewed the Bush Administration's industry-guided attack on public lands from the perspective of how much potential wilderness it has sacrificed. But the wilderness lands for which we've fought represent a small percentage of public lands exploited for fossil fuel exploration and production.

The preponderance of permits to drill on non-wilderness public lands goes uncontested, and we'll be living with the consequences for many years. In its recent series of articles titled "Beyond the Boom," (<http://www.rockymountainnews.com/special-reports/colorado-oil-gas/beyond-the-boom/>) the Rocky Mountain News has catalogued some of the destruction wrought by the gigantic drilling boom, "Colorado is on the front end of what may prove the greatest natural resource boom in its history, with more than 33,000 oil and gas wells pumping and tens of thousands more on the drawing board. It is a multi-billion dollar energy bonanza with potentially enormous social and environmental consequences for the state."

Utah is probably not far behind in total number of wells, and Wyoming has far more. These numbers can seem academic and incomprehensible to the average urbanite, but a tool exists to allow one to see the impacts. It's called Google Maps, <http://maps.google.com/>. It allows one to swoop in on virtually any spot on earth to see detailed satellite photographs or maps.

The disturbance from oil exploration and production consists of service roads and drill pads branching off from main roads in a stylized foliated pattern that covers tens of thousands of square miles. Each drill pad and road represents vegetation destroyed, more silt in streams and gullies, lots of opportunities for noxious weeds to get established and choke out native plants, and the fragmentation of populations and the habitat they depend on. This habitat destruction makes life harder not only for species like the Pariette cactus (See related article.) but also for animals ranging from sage grouse to elk.

In sparsely-settled eastern Utah south of Jensen, one can see this pattern sprawling along the Glen Bench Road and the Old Bonanza Highway, for example. The pattern is especially visible south of Pinedale, Wyoming along US Highway 191.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

All Creatures Great and Small



"Every good thing, great and small, needs defense"

- John Muir

Join Sierra Club and help protect all creatures, great and small.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone (____) _____

Email _____

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club. Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX
Cardholder Name _____
Card Number _____
Exp. Date ____/____/____
Signature _____

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

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

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

F94Q W 2900 1



RECYCLE

Your old cell phones, pagers, PDAs & chargers at your nearest



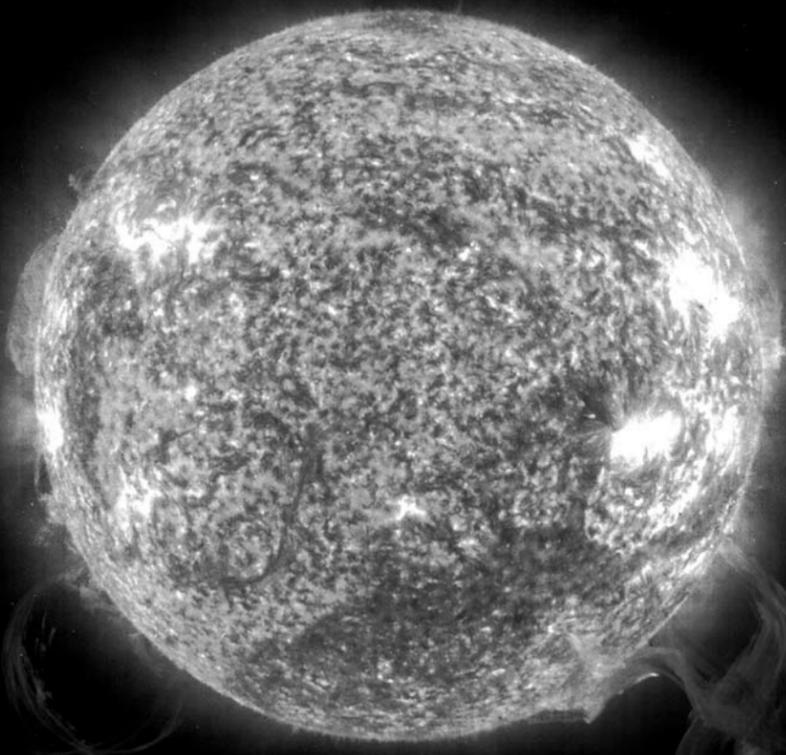
SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

a portion of the proceeds come back to Sierra Club!



STEGNER CENTER

13TH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM



Alternative Energy: Seeking Climate Change Solutions

Friday & Saturday March 7-8, 2008

University Park Marriott Hotel, Salt Lake City



Wallace Stegner Center
for Land, Resources and the Environment
THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH S.J. QUINNEY COLLEGE OF LAW

The Wallace Stegner Center's 13th annual symposium will focus on the question of whether and how alternative energy sources can help to solve the climate change problem. The symposium is multi-disciplinary in both its nature and format and will include scientists, engineers, economists, and policy analysts, offering perspectives from industry, government, academia, non-profit organizations, and research and development. We will consider the current energy landscape, what alternative technologies are now available or have future promise, economic constraints and political barriers that may be faced to transition away from fossil fuels, and potential alternative energy policy solutions to the climate change problem.

Speakers include:

- Lincoln Davies**, University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law
- Roberto Denis**, Sierra Pacific Resources
- Ned Farquhar**, Natural Resources Defense Council
- Jeffery Greenblatt**, Environmental Defense
- Maureen Hand**, National Renewable Energy Laboratory
- Peter Hoffman**, Hydrogen & Fuel Cell Letter
- Neville Holt**, Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)
- Chuck Kutscher**, National Renewable Energy Laboratory
- Bill McKibben**, Middlebury College
- Dianne R. Nielson**, State of Utah Governor Jon Huntsman, Jr.
- Brian Murray**, Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions, Duke University
- Victor Reis**, Office of the Secretary, Department of Energy
- Terry L. Root**, Center for Environmental Science and Policy and Institute for International Studies, Stanford University
- David L. Stone**, Chevron Energy Solutions
- Randy Udall**, Community Office for Resource Efficiency
- Sarah Wright**, Utah Clean Energy

TO REGISTER CALL
801-585-3440

FOR ADDITIONAL INFO, SEE:
law.utah.edu/stegner

REGISTRATION FEES

EARLY	LATE
\$130	\$175
\$ 75	\$100
University & College Faculty & Staff and Seniors	
\$ 60	\$ 80
Students	
C.L.E. credits will be available.	

Principal funding: R. Harold Burton Foundation and Chevron

UtahChapterOutings

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

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

Ogden Group (OG)
P.O. Box 1821, Ogden, UT, 84402
utah.sierraclub.org/ogden

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

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

January

OG, Sun, 1/6, X/C-Ski/Snowshoe near Monte Cristo. Lower Monte Cristo: Gaults Gulch or 1000 Beaver Ponds. X-C [or snowshoe] day tour up one of these snowmachine-proof gulches. Count on being out all day, so be sure to bring a lunch. Meet OHS 0900. Jock Glidden, 394-0457.

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

OG, Sat, 1/12, Wheeler Creek Snowshoe. Wheeler Creek loop starting at Art Nord Trailhead in the Snow Basin area. About five miles. Call John for meeting time and place, 985-6854.

SLG, Sun, 1/13, Little Dell Reservoir Overlook. This easy snowshoe tour will begin at Little Mountain and climb an area of Salt Lake City's watershed that provides splendid views of Little Dell's shimmering waters and East Canyon environs. We are likely to see moose. Meet at the parking area across from Hogle Zoo on Sunnyside Ave. at 9:00 a.m. for carpooling through Emigration Canyon. The tour's duration will depend on weather conditions, but not more than a half day. For details, call Ann Wechsler at 583-2090. [C]

OG, Sat, 1/19, Wheat Grass Canyon Snowshoe. Snowshoeing in Wheat Grass Canyon. It will take 3-4 hours, is approximately five miles round trip, and has a moderate intensity. It is one of the most beautiful canyons in northern Utah and offers a chance to see wildlife in a winter setting and great views of cliffs and canyon walls. Call Larry at 801-731-3701 for time and meeting place.

SLG, Sat, 1/19, Moonlight Millcreek Snowshoe. Celebrate the winter by joining a spirited group of hikers for a special birthday outing on a very picturesque Millcreek Canyon trail. The trek will take place a few days before the full moon, so there should be ample light to guide the way. The plan is to snowshoe along the Pipeline Trail, but call the leader for any changes due to weather. Participants may be interested in visiting a local café for hot beverages after the hike. Meeting time is scheduled for 6:30. Contact Rebecca at 487-4160 for meeting place and more information.

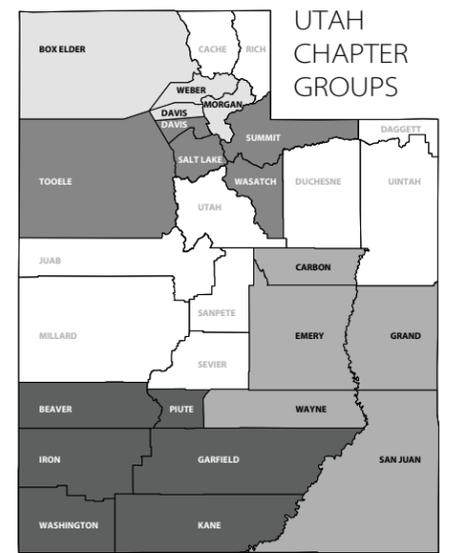
GCG, Sat, 1/26, Cross Country Skiing in the La Sals. Meet at the MIC at 9 a.m. Drive to the Geyser Pass parking area (4wd required, as the last six miles are steep and snowpacked) in the La Sals. Ski along easy road at first, then climb through gently sloping open meadows as far as we have time for.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

OG, Sat, 1/26, Wolf Canyon Snowshoe. Join us for a pleasant, steady three mile uphill climb on the southwestern side of the canyon that leads to James Peak and Powder Mountain Ski Area Canyon. The trail begins on the north side of Powder Mountain Road (State Route 158), at mile 8.2; just past the gates used to close the road. The trail begins behind the gate. Bring water and a snack. Call Joanie at 801-399-0034 for time and place.

February

OG, Sat, 2/2, Ogden Outlook X/C Ski. Cross Country Ski around the area of the Ogden Outlook by Snow Basin. This is an easy to moderate trail, depending on the snow conditions. We will ski for about two hours, exploring the area. Weather permitting. Call Robin 334-8805.

SLG, Sun, 2/3, Norway Flats Ski Outing. The Norway Flats trail follows an old logging road leading to a couple of lakes about



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

six miles from the Mirror Lake Highway where the trail begins. Although trekkers will probably not make it that far, this is a beautiful route through a forest of pine and quaking aspen trees. The planned destination is an open area overlooking nearby drainage's and spectacular views of majestic mountain peaks. This will be an all day outing and intermediate backcountry ski skills are recommended. Call Ken at 484-3112 for meeting time, place, and more info about the trip.

GCG, Sat, 2/9, Rainbow Rocks. The hike goes along a ridge past a couple of old manganese mines and unusual and imaginative rock formations. The hike then follows a route towards the Tombstone and Rainbow Rock, crosses a huge slickrock bowl with great views of Rainbow Rock and Redwall Mesa. Time permitting, we can climb Rainbow Rock. This is a fairly easy hike without much elevation change and with good footing. Meet at the Moab Information Center, Center and Main, at 9 a.m. Contact Tom Messenger for more information, 259-1756.

OG, Sat, 2/9, North Fork X/C-Ski. Join us for a cross-country ski tour in beautiful North Fork Park. Our five-six mile route will take us across rolling terrain. Call John for meeting time and place, 985-6854.

SLG, Sun, 2/10, Diamond Fork Dayhike. The Diamond Fork hot springs hike is a fantastic venue for a mid-winter outing. The slope is not too steep, the path is hauntingly scenic, and hikers will be invigorated by the misty steamy ambiance of hot water spring-fed pools. Be prepared for an all-day outing. Also be aware that the trail can be icy and there may be unclothed visitors bathing in the pools. The trail head is located in Utah County, so expect about two hours round trip driving time. Weather conditions may alter plans, so be sure to contact the leader prior to the outing date. Bring warm clothes, appropriate hiking gear, and snacks. Also, snowshoes may be required for this outing depending on snow conditions. Meeting time is scheduled for 9 a.m. Contact Rebecca at 487-4160 for meeting place and further information about the hike.

OG, Sat, 2/16, North Ogden Pass Snowshoe. We'll snowshoe up the south side of the North Ogden Pass to a beautiful overview of the Ogden Valley and Pineview Dam. It will take three-four hours to complete this four mile round trip hike; the trail is moderately difficult. Call Larry at 801-731-3701 for time and meeting place.

GCG, Sat, 2/23, Slickrock and Views. This fun hike goes mostly on slickrock domes and fins near and on the Slickrock Bike trail.

OutingsPhotos



October 28, 2007: Sunday trekkers (Dan, Merrill, Nanci, and Maris) head up Alexander Creek Trail from Parley's Canyon Trail.



November 25, 2007: Sunday trekkers (Karen, Mark, and Richard) starting out from Rattlesnake Gulch Trailhead.

Enter Sand Flats through the back door and head to Mountain View Cave. We will then continue on to Swiss Cheese Ridge for large potholes and great views of Moab and the mountains (weather and time permitting). The ridge is exposed, so be prepared for wind and cold weather. Bring lunch and water. 6 1/2 miles round trip minimum, up to 9 miles depending on how far we decide to walk. Short (1 mile) car shuttle. Meet at the MIC at 9 a.m. Leader: Bonnie Crysdale, 435-259-0246.

OG, Sat, 2/23, X-Country Ski – Snowshoe Costume Party. Come dressed in your most bizarre or creative winter outfit (prize for the best two). North Fork Park Trail. About two miles one way, trailhead is located near the horse corrals, small hills and winding path. Trail is not part of the groomed path. Bring water and lunch; some refreshment will be provided. Call Joanie at 801-399-0034 for time and place.

SLG, Sun, 2/24, Ancient Lake Bonneville Shoreline. Salt Lake City recently acquired acreage along its northern boundary preserving a portion of shoreline from the ancient lake. We'll enjoy views of the Oquirrh and the Great Salt Lake. The climb out of City Creek Canyon requires some exertion, but the rest of the hike is just up and down. Meet at 9 a.m. in the streetside parking above the west side of Memory Grove Park just south of the junction of E Capitol Blvd & W Bonneville Blvd. Be prepared for snow, mud or a combination. Call Mark at 835-9184 for more details. [C]

March

GCG, Sat, 3/1, Tombstone-Pritchett. We'll do a loop hike beginning at the Amasa Back trail parking lot in Kane Creek. Form there, we will hike to the base of Tombstone Rock. The climb to the top is optional (so is a parachute). We will then go through a crack to Pritchett Canyon and return up Kane Creek wash. The distance is three to four miles with some easy scrambles. Meet at the Moab Information Center, Center and Main, at 9 a.m. Contact Ed Brandstetter, 259-9427.

OG, Sat-Sun, 3/8-3/9, Slickrock Dayhike Weekend. We will hike Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning in the beautiful slickrock country of Moab. This is a great time to hike in this area. And, as usual, it is absolutely gorgeous. Call Larry early for lodging information and details at 801-731-3701.

SLG, Sun, 3/9, Doughnut Falls Snowshoe. Doughnut Falls is a delightful place to spend a day in a mountain; it's a winter scene worthy of a post card. Peaceful surroundings away from the clutter of the city, awe inspiring frozen water falls, and solitude make this a popular destination for cold weather trekkers. Bring appropriate winter gear, snacks, and an adventurous spirit. There is the option to enjoy hot beverages at a café after the snowshoe. Contact Dee at 718-1970 for meeting time, place.

GCG, Sat, 3/15, Winter Camp Wash near Delicate Arch, Arches NP. An easy little-used route goes over a little slickrock and then into this wash. There are beautiful views of Delicate Arch. The intent is to split the hike into a wash bottom hike to a pour-off; it will be necessary to go up one steep slope to go around a rock ledge, but overall the hike is flat and sandy and rocks underfoot. This out-and-back is two miles each way. The rest of the group will take a loop hike, which basically circumnavigates Delicate Arch, intersecting the trail near the top so that hikers can visit the arch. Return route in the drainage to the NW of Delicate Arch.

Spotting cars at the DA trailhead or walking the road back to the DA viewpoint parking lot. This is a cross-country hike, partially on soils and washes. Four miles point to point with another mile on the road if cars aren't spotted. An extra half-mile to go to Delicate Arch. Both hikes are off-trail. Meet at Moab Information Center, Center and Main, at 9 a.m. Contact Tom Messenger, 259-1756.

OG, Sat, 3/22, Snow Basin X/C Ski. Cross Country Ski Old Snow Basin Road. This road is a gradual to steep climb to the lodge. We will work our way to the lodge for a hot beverage. Weather permitting. Call Robin, 334-8805.

OG, Sat, 3/29, Legacy Tour Road Bike. Weather permitting, bike on country roads, along the proposed North Legacy Corridor. This will be an easy ride of 15 to 20 miles to view rural areas that will be impacted with the current proposal for the north section of the Legacy Highway. Time and place to be determined. Call Raneer, 985-0158 for details. [C]

SLG, Fri, 3/21, Big Cottonwood Canyon Evening Snowshoe/Hike. An evening snowshoe/hike to celebrate the equinox and take advantage of an almost full moon. Depending on snow conditions, this hike will take place somewhere in Big Cottonwood Canyon. A great way to unwind after a grueling work week. There is the option of visiting a bistro for refreshments after the outing. Bring warm clothes, snacks, and a light heart for the hike. Call Ken (484-3112) for meeting time, place, and more details.

April

GCG, Sat, 4/5, Moab Geology Tour. Exposures of all the rocks in the Moab area are a geologist's heaven. This hike/car tour looks at some of the very obvious geologic faults near town, as well as the strata. There will be some easy hiking to see different features, as well as driving to various sites. Meet at the MIC at 9 a.m. Contact Bonnie Crysdale, 435-259-0246. [E]

OG, Fri, 4/18, Almost Full Moon Hike. Leaders Choice!!! Weather permitting. Dispel the stress of the week. Call Joanie at 801-399-0034 for time and place.

OG, Sat, 4/19, Antelope Island Dayhike. Join us for a hike along one of the newest trails at Antelope Island State Park, the Sentinel Trail. It will take three to four hours, is approximately six miles round trip, and has a moderate intensity. The trail leads to a high spot on the island's south side. The views of the Wasatch Mountains are beautiful. Call Larry at 801-731-3701 for more information.

GCG Fri-Sun Apr 25-27: Car Camp/Day Hikes - Yellow Cat region. Yellow Cat includes the area south of I-70 from Thompson to Cisco, north of the Colorado River, and northeast of Arches NP (Klondike Bluffs and Mollie Hogans quads). It has a history of uranium mining and homesteading. This trip must have dry roads. High clearance vehicle necessary & 4WD highly recommended. We will leave Moab Friday morning and drive about 30-35 miles to the planned camping area. We will do day hikes from camp on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. All hikes will be exploratory into the area north of Devils Garden, Eagle Park, or the canyons on BLM lands. Hikes could involve scrambling, climbing slick rock slopes, and possibly belays in the canyons and between the fins. Be prepared for anything. Contact Geoff Freethey at 259-0253 for meeting time and place.

The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ridesharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel. If you choose to carpool to the trailhead, it is only fair for fees charged by the US Forest Service to be shared by all participants. Text of the outings liability waiver may be found at <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/index.asp>. CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.



RON YOUNGER

win a backcountry guide

JULY 31, 2007: Tuesday evening trekkers at trailhead for Bell Canyon Trail. Be the first (before January 15, 2008) to correctly list the first name of nine of these trekkers and receive a Guide Book for the High Uintas. Send your list to Ron Younger at 920 East 1500 South, Bountiful, UT 84010-2138.

Utah Chapter Directory

Chapter Executive Committee

- Jim Casejimcase@netutah.com, (435) 586-4720
- Scott Danielssctdaniels@aol.com, (801) 582-8080
- Wayne Hoskisson, chairwyh@xmission.com, (435) 260-9045
- Leslie Hugo, secretary.....autumnoak@yahoo.com
- Ken Evanskcestardust@hotmail.com, (801) 484-3112
- Raneer Johnsonraneerjohnson_27@msn.com
- Gordon Lindgordylind8@cs.com, (801) 571-4185

Group Delegates

- Jim Case, Southwest Utah Groupjimcase@netutah.com, (435) 586-4720
- Mike Stringham, Glen Canyon Groupmikechrista@earthlink.net, (435) 259-8579
- Ann Wechsler, Salt Lake Groupawech@jawex.aros.net, (801) 583-2090
- Larry Woolsey, Ogden Grouplandcrun@hotmail.com, (801) 731-3701

Issue & Committee Chairs

- Jean Binyon, membership chair.....binyon@binyon.us, (435) 259-1633
- Scott Daniels, political/leg co-chair.....sctdaniels@aol.com, (801) 582-8080
- Ken Evans, outings chairkcestardust@qwest.net, (801) 484-3112
- Sarah Fields, nuclear waste.....sarahmfields@earthlink.net
- Claire Gardner, training.....ClaireGar@msn.com
- Wayne Hoskisson, forest issues/grazingw.y.hoskisson@frontiernet.net, (435) 259-0328
- Raneer Johnson, CCL delegate raneerjohnson_27@msn.com
- Gordon Lind, CCL alternategordylind8@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 landskwalker@xmission.com, (435) 259-7540

Group Chairs

- Mike Binyon, Glen Canyon Groupbinyon@binyon.us, (435) 259-1633
- Raneer Johnson, Ogden Group raneerjohnson_27@msn.com
- Ann Wechsler, Salt Lake Groupawechsler@sa.utah.edu, (801) 583-2090

Utah Chapter Staff

- Mark Clemens, chapter managermark.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

OtherNews

Green Math

0

Number of climatologists speaking when Paul Mero, executive director of the Sutherland Institute, testified about global warming before the Utah Public Utilities & Technology Interim Committee on November 14, 2007.

4

Number of new hybrids on show at the Los Angeles Automobile Show in the week of 16 November 2007.

6

Number of additional miles per gallon a driver of the new Cadillac Escalade Hybrid might expect over the conventional Cadillac Escalade in city driving (Source: <http://www.hybridcars.com/suvs-minivans/cadillac-escalade-hybrid.html>).

28

Number of additional miles per gallon a driver of the conventional Cadillac Escalade would gain in the Honda Civic Hybrid in city driving (Source: <http://automobiles.honda.com/civic-hybrid/environment.aspx>).

3,693

Number of miles of motorized routes designated by the preferred alternative draft RMP for the BLM's Richfield Field Office. This is in addition to 2,600 acres open to off-trail play in the Factory Butte area.

Utah Chapter Annual Executive Committee Election Results

by Mark Clemens

The Utah Chapter and its groups had an excellent roster of candidates for the 2007 executive committee elections. Thank you to everyone who participated in the election, including Gordon Lind who led the ballot count and Mike Binyon for the Glen Canyon Group report. The chapter ballots are available for inspection during business hours in the chapter office.

UTAH CHAPTER

Five candidates ran for four two-year seats on the chapter executive committee, and the candidates receiving the highest vote totals were elected. The totals are listed below.

Ryan Barker--23
Wayne Hoskisson--26
Ranee Johnson--24
Pete Kuennemann--12
Jim Westwater--23
Toni Wall (write-in)—2

Jim Case, Leslie Hugo, and Gordon Lind will continue on the executive committee in terms that expire in 2008.

GLEN CANYON GROUP

The Glen Canyon Group sent out its own separate group ballot again this year and had twenty-three votes, a response from 15% of the membership. The new ExCom members are Mary Suarez (re-elected), Johnna Tipton and Laura Cameron; they will join Tom Messenger and Mike Stringham as the Glen Canyon Group ExCom for 2008. Our meeting will be held on January 9th to elect new officers: chair, vice-chair, delegate and alternate delegate to the chapter ExCom. The time and location for that meeting, along with an agenda will be sent out in early January

OGDEN GROUP

Four candidates ran for three two-year seats, and the candidates receiving the highest vote totals were elected. The vote totals are below.

Bob Becker--8
Robin Bushman--9
John Hinds--2
Larry Woolsey--6

SALT LAKE GROUP

Both candidates running for the Salt Lake Group were elected to two-year terms.

Margaret Grochocki--10
Ann Wechsler--11



Thank You

At the beginning of the New Year, we want to remember and thank some of the friends who helped us in the year gone by. A special thank you is due to the graphic designers who volunteer their time so that the Sierra Club puts its best foot forward in Utah. Thank you Cecily Ellis (pictured at left with fiancé Kellen, enjoying a hike in the Oregon Cascades), Monique Heilesen and David Stoker!

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