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A Bit Brighter! The Positive Side of the 2008 General Session

page 4

Report from a Paradox

THE CLEAN-AIR ROAD TRIP

by Tim Wagner

“Let’s hear it for Steven, our bus driver,” I proclaimed in the PA.

A round of cheers and applause resonated as the driver navigated the large rig through snarls of traffic to find I-80 Westbound. A sense of pride welled inside as I realized that a crazy idea had morphed into reality. A collection of moms, grandparents, students, and activists, just common folks, were giving up 24 hours of their busy lives to travel via what we were calling the NO COAL EXPRESS to Ely, Nevada, to deliver a message to Nevada Governor Jim Gibbons and his team of environmental regulators.

The message? “Please be a better neighbor, Governor.”

Sponsored by the Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club, the NO COAL EXPRESS delivered that message, with visuals, at a public hearing in January held by the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection (NDEP) in Ely, Nevada, over the agency’s plans to issue a permit to Nevada Power for a proposed 2,500 megawatt coal plant located just outside this small eastern Nevada community. This plant, along with two additional coal plant proposals, all hugging the Utah border, threaten to add hundreds of thousands of tons of air pollutants to Utah’s already impaired air quality, and emit over 30 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions annually.

I first floated the idea of taking a busload of Utahns to the Nevada hearing back in October during a conference call with several colleagues. Apparently, it struck a chord. Within a couple of weeks I started receiving calls from media outlets noting the significance of the story. Eventually a film production company got wind of it and called. Questions coming at me were “What was I going to achieve?” and “How many people were going?” I had to ad lib, conveying assuredness that this was going to be a big deal. Quietly, I admitted to myself that I had no idea.



Utahns’ message to Nevada utilities: don’t pollute our air.



PHOTO BY UVSF CHAIR JIM WESTWATER, ©JWESTWATER

...one does not need to be an energy or air quality expert to make a difference... all you need is the passion to care about an issue and the courage to stand up and voice your concerns.

My apprehension continued as I put out the call in December. “How many people would actually commit to going immediately after the holidays?” I wondered. They would be partly responsible for the cost, after all. But slowly the emails and calls began trickling in.

My enthusiasm soared when I unexpectedly received a call from the owner of Washakie Renewable Energy, a biofuels manufacturer from Plymouth, Utah. As I explained the mission of the NO COAL EXPRESS, he graciously offered a generous cash donation to help defray the costs of the trip and the necessary biodiesel, refined from organic feedstock and waste vegetable oil to power the bus to and from Ely. This was way beyond my dreams. Not only were we working to prevent another CO2 emitting coal plant, we would also be reducing our own carbon footprint while supporting a local business.

Two days before the trip, Travis Harvey, one of the founding members of Utah Moms for Clean Air enlisted the help of her members to make signs. In addition to a huge ‘NO COAL EXPRESS’ banner, colorful signs were drawn that included “Choose Clean Power,” “Let’s Be Good Neighbors,” and “We Want Clean Air.” This was turning into a real grassroots effort.

Still, January’s accumulating record storms and snowfalls were adding to my worry. The day before the trip had me scanning live weather maps. California was sending another large front our way. Committed riders were calling me. “Are we going?” they wanted to know. I called the bus company. “Unless it’s an all-out blizzard, we should be fine,” the owner calmly assured me.

The morning of departure found me scrambling as I printed out information packets for participants, fielding calls from local media outlets and last minute inquiries from those who wanted to know if we were still going. As promised, the Utah Trailways bus pulled into our parking lot at 11 a.m. Soon participants began arriving. Jill Atwood from ABC4 News showed up, camera man in tow. FOX13 News also sent a camera. I circled from interviews to riders to the bus driver for final instructions.

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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

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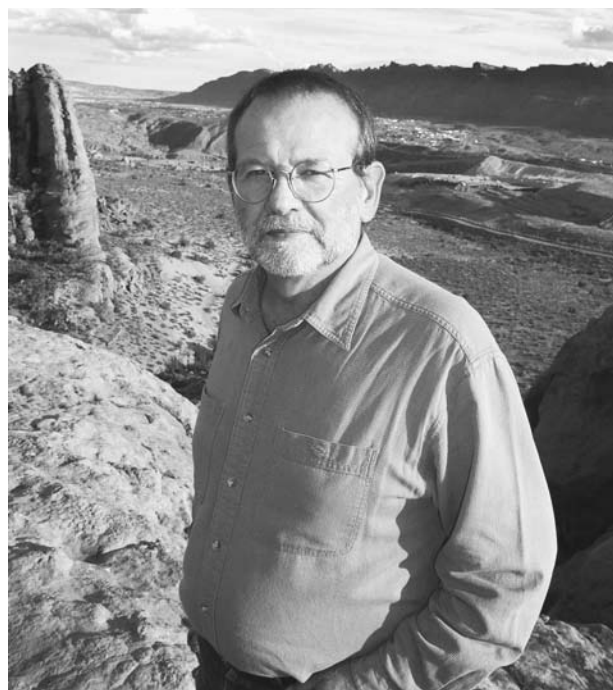
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Wayne's World

Lame Duck BLM Won't Be Exonerated for these Plans

by Wayne Hoskisson, Utah Chapter Chair



It seems that somehow the BLM got the message that those nice, wilderness-friendly tools were to remain locked in the tool shed.

Six of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Field Offices are revising their Resource Management Plans (RMPs). There seems to be a push from the Bush Administration to complete these RMPs before they leave office at the end of the year. It is not hard to understand why. The Field Offices under pressure to complete RMPs are the ones with potential for oil and gas leasing and drilling. The RMPs are heavily weighted towards fossil fuels both in resource extraction and recreation. The draft RMPs show almost no restraint in what places will be leased for oil and gas.

They also designate 10,000 or more miles of motorized routes across most of southern and eastern Utah. From looking at the maps it looks like the Field Offices will designate as much as 1,000 miles of motorized routes in places the BLM determined still possess wilderness characteristics. These places are beyond the already designated Wilderness Study Areas.

Ex-Governor Leavitt and Ex-Secretary of the Interior Norton reached an agreement we call the "no more wilderness" memo. At the time Secretary Norton assured us and the rest of the citizens of the United States that the BLM possessed plenty of tools to protect those special places that still remain wild. Our characterization seems particularly prescient now. It seems that somehow the BLM got the message that those nice, wilderness-friendly tools were to remain locked in the tool shed.

The Monticello Field Office wrote one of the most false statements I have ever seen in an environmental impact statement. They wrote:

San Juan County has route numbers for each road in their inventory. B roads are identified with three-digits (BXXX), and D routes with four-digits (DXXXX). This system has been carried forward from the county baseline data by the BLM Monticello Field Office in developing their travel plan. Because many of the routes are already marked on the ground by the county, for consistency in developing maps and information for the public, and *because BLM Monticello Field Office does*

not have any BLM-specific roads, the field office has chosen to use the same numbers as the county. (emphasis added)

The Utah Chapter responded:

The idea that the Monticello FO "does not have any BLM-specific roads" is completely false. In fact all vehicle routes on federal lands within the Monticello FO planning area belong to the United States until proven otherwise. San Juan County and the State of Utah have failed to show that such roads belong to or could be called county roads. San Juan County lost such a case in the courts. The burden of proof remains with San Juan County and it has yet to make any such valid claims. The DRMP fails to recognize this fact. This taints the entire planning process.

The RMPs contain multiple problems that will eventually lead to the courtroom unless the BLM makes major changes in the new RMPs. Unfortunately they are under so much pressure from the current administration that they will fail to meet the legal requirements for writing legitimate plans.

The BLM also completely ignored the problem of climate change. They gave no thought to the dust pollution that is likely to impact snow packs down wind of the field office areas. They ignored the likelihood of continuing drought and the need to adjust management in light of this. They completely ignored that they manage millions of acres and are responsible to manage the land in the face of climate change.

It is not like this is news to them. In August 2007 the United States Government Accountability Office issued a report to Congress titled [CLIMATE CHANGE: Agencies Should Develop Guidance for Addressing the Effects on Federal Land and Water Resources](#).

We hope our comments and the comments of our conservation partners will influence the final decision. Any one want to give me the odds?

National Club Election Coming This Spring

The annual election for the Club's Board of Directors is now under way. Those eligible to vote in the national Sierra Club election will receive in the mail (or by Internet if you chose the electronic delivery option) your national Sierra Club ballot. This will include information on the candidates and where you can find additional information on the club's website.

The Sierra Club is a democratically structured organization at all levels. The club requires the regular flow of views on policy and priorities from its grassroots membership in order to function well. Yearly participation in elections at all club levels is a major membership responsibility. Your Board of Directors is required to stand for election by the membership. This board sets club policy and budgets at the national level and works closely with the executive director and staff to operate the club. Voting for candidates who express your views on how the club should grow and change is both a privilege and responsibility of membership.

Members frequently state that they don't know the candidates and find it difficult to vote without learning more, but we've got some ideas to help. You can learn more by asking questions of your group and chapter leadership and other experienced members you know. Visit the club's election website: <http://www.sierraclub.org/bod/2008election>. This site provides links to additional information about candidates, and their views on a variety of issues facing the club and the environment.

You should use your own judgment by taking several minutes to read the ballot statement of each candidate. Then make your choice and cast your vote. You will find the ballot is quite straightforward and easy to mark and mail. A growing number of members find the user-friendly internet voting option to be very convenient as well as saving postage.

This article was written by the Sierra Club Inspectors of Election.

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sierraclub.org/leaders/policies/sexual-harassment.asp](http://mitchell.sierraclub.org/leaders/policies/sexual-harassment.asp) or by contacting
the Salt Lake City office.

OurLands

The Great Salt Lake Gets a Little Help in its Fight for Existence

by Joro Walker



Although the proposed reduction in habitat could threaten many of the 250 species that call the lake home, American white pelicans are particularly at risk.

On behalf of the Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club, FRIENDS of Great Salt Lake, Utah Waterfowl Association, National Audubon Society, Audubon Council of Utah, including the four local societies of Bridgerland Audubon Society, Great Salt Lake Audubon Society, Red Cliffs Audubon Society and Wasatch Audubon Society, League of Women Voters of Salt Lake, League of Women Voters of Utah, Utah Airboat Association and Utah Rivers Council, I filed an appeal with the Utah Supreme Court on February 15, 2008. By this appeal, Sierra Club seeks the opportunity to challenge administratively a management decision by respondent Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands ("Division") allowing industrial development of approximately 33,000 acres of the bed of Great Salt Lake.

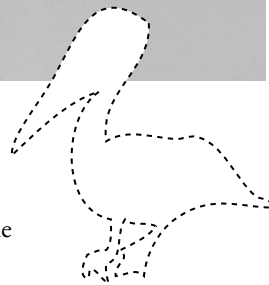
The Division approved a proposal by Great Salt Lake Minerals to construct huge evaporation ponds on these sovereign lands for the purposes of extracting mineral salts from the waters of Great Salt Lake. The conservation groups appealed that decision to the Executive Director of the Department of Natural Resources and the Director of the Division. Sierra Club asserted that the Division's management actions violated the agency's public trust and management planning responsibilities. Sierra Club also asked the Division to review existing, but undeveloped Mineral Company leases in Bear River Bay and Clyman Bay to determine if these leases complied with Utah law, including the Public Trust Doctrine.

In a January 18, 2008 order, the Division and DNR denied Sierra Club's appeal, effectively preventing the club from challenging the Division's approval of the development proposal. Having exhausted the Division's internal appeal process, the Sierra Club and its co-appellants decided the integrity of the Great Salt Lake was sufficiently important to require the further appeal to the Utah Supreme Court described above.

At low water levels, the total area exploited as evaporation ponds including the proposed expansion could represent as much as 13% of the lake's surface; at high water, approximately 7%. Although this reduction in habitat could threaten many of the 250 species that call the lake home, American white pelicans are particularly at risk. The birds breed on Gunnison Island, currently remote from industrial development and human intrusion.

Because the birds are intolerant of intrusions at their breeding sites, Gunnison Island might be lost as a breeding location if additional dykes and evaporation ponds are built nearby.

Joro Walker is an attorney and director of Western Resource Advocates' Utah Office.



The Political Committee Wants You!

**HELP MAKE 2008
THE YEAR OF THE
ENVIRONMENT**

by Scott Daniels, Political Committee Chair

The Utah Chapter's Political Committee works to identify strong pro-environmental candidates for office and then tries to get them elected. We work on a non-partisan basis in races in which we can make a difference from city council to state legislature and occasionally even with candidates for higher office such as governor or representatives in the US House.

Volunteer support is crucial to make this effort successful. The political committee needs volunteers who can help us with writing and filing compliance reports, organizing and motivating volunteers and writing candidate questionnaires and researching candidate positions.

If you'd like to help the political committee during 2008, please send an e-mail to me at sctdaniels@aol.com or call me at 801-582-8080 or send an e-mail to Mark Clemens at mark.clemens@sierraclub.org.



Legislative Update

The Sausage Tastes a Little Better This Year

by Mark Clemens

During the 2008 General Session of the Utah Legislature, the rules committees on both the house and senate side seemed to withhold fewer bills. For the most part, this was a boon to the environment because good bills that might have been delayed, or even aborted, in previous years got to the floor with sufficient time to pass both houses. Whether this change arose as a reaction to the public rebuke in the special election that repealed private school vouchers or simply from a blossoming respect for legislative comity, one can only guess.

ROZ MCGEE'S LEGISLATIVE SWAN SONG

Anyone who has worked with Rep Roz McGee (D-Salt Lake City) can tell you she's patient, good humored and always comes to meetings prepared. She has served three terms in the Utah house representing the east side of Salt Lake City but will not seek a fourth term. This year's passage of Substitute House Bill 106 is a tribute to her effectiveness as a legislator.

She sponsored similar legislation last year that made it through the house but didn't have sufficient time to get through the senate. By working hard to enlist the support of Questar for a compromise bill that boosts a variety of clean fuels vehicles, including hybrids and compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicles, the bill gained the momentum needed to pass both chambers.

Starting on 1 January 2009, buyers of hybrids and other clean-fuel vehicles, except CNG vehicles, will be able to claim a \$750 tax credit. Buyers of CNG vehicles will be able to claim a credit of the smaller of \$2,500, or 35% of the purchase price.

A FRESHMAN'S IMPRESSIVE BATTING AVERAGE

It's a puzzlement that the most beneficial measures can take years to pass the Utah legislature. Some measures, such as the bottle bill that would cut down on litter by imposing a recoverable deposit charge on containers, sponsored for several years by Sen Gene Davis, are repeatedly defeated by stubborn special interests.

It's particularly notable, therefore, that freshman Rep Christine Johnson (D-Salt Lake City) should be able to pass two progressive environmental bills in a single session. Her HB 303 will help to clean up tainted rivers and lakes by phasing out dishwashing detergents with more than .5% phosphorus by 2010. Phosphorus promotes unhealthy growth of algae and bacteria that can eliminate the dissolved oxygen needed for fish and other organisms.

The second bill, Second Substitute HB 146, requires school districts to implement a program to reduce school bus idling around schools and provides a one-time



Rep Christine Johnson (D-Salt Lake City)



Rep Roz McGee (D-Salt Lake City)

appropriation of \$100,000 as matching money to begin a program to retrofit or replace dirty diesel school busses.

BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE

Rep Kory Holdaway (R-Taylorsville) introduced a bill, HB 104, that would have provided a continuing appropriation to support urban trails. Urban trails are not simply a recreational amenity; when they're developed into a network, they provide a significant incentive for commuting via bicycle or on foot.

Unfortunately, Holdaway's bill was panned down so the final version, Third Substitute HB 104, provides only a one-time appropriation of \$250,000 for extending the Bonneville Shoreline Trail and another \$250,000 for further planning of urban trails. This funding, although limited, is still welcome.

Until this session, Utah provided only very limited means to protect instream flows. The Utah Parks Department and the Division of Wildlife Resources are both allowed to accept donations of water rights to protect instream flows. Although this provision has been in place for nearly twenty years, for political reasons the two departments have only accepted an insignificant number of water rights.

HB 117, sponsored by Rep Stephen Sandstrom (R-Orem) will allow non-profit organizations whose mission is to promote fishing in Utah to protect instream flow for native trout by acquiring *temporary* water rights. These water rights revert to their original owners and use after ten years, and the circumstances in which they can be granted in the first place are limited by several bureaucratic hurdles.

These restrictions will limit the popularity and scope of protected instream flows. However, several attempts have been made, and defeated, to pass more sweeping provisions. If this bill provides some benefit and proves that protected instream flow will not bring about the downfall of Western agriculture, it might lead to a more relaxed approach in future years.

Net metering sounds like a hopelessly wonkish topic. Maybe it is, but a bill sponsored by Sen Kevin VanTassell (R-Vernal), Substitute SB 84, might do as much to promote renewable energy as Sen Bramble's much-ballyhooed Energy Resource and Carbon Emission Reduction bill. Substitute SB 84, Net Metering Programs, expands the amount of energy produced by commercial, industrial and government-owned renewable energy installations that electricity sellers such as Rocky Mountain Power must buy back at the market rate.

The previous ceiling was 25 kilowatts, a relatively low amount equivalent to what solar panels on a private house might generate. The new ceiling is 2 megawatts which should allow much larger installations, such as the solar panel array proposed for the Salt Palace, to operate profitably.

TEACHER'S PET

It's hard not to like Rep Fred Hunsaker (R-Logan). Each session he sponsors at least one bill focusing on energy or efficiency. This year he sponsored three including two that passed. One of these, Substitute HB 198, creates a revolving fund to lend money to state agencies to invest in energy efficiency projects and allows them to retain savings from energy efficiency projects as long as it's re-invested in other such projects.

UNSAFE AT ANY SPEED

More confusion emanated from First Substitute SB 181 than from any other bill during this session. The bill, sponsored by Sen Scott Jenkins (R-Plain City), appears to allow free rein for ATVs to drive on any two-lane public highway on which the posted speed is 50 mph or less outside of Salt Lake County and any city with a population of 5,000 or greater. However, depending on how one interprets other provisions of the legislation, even cities smaller than 5,000 might have authority to regulate ATV use on public highways.

Even as votes were being cast on the senate floor, supporters were making contradictory public statements about whether this legislation applies to ATVs on unpaved roads. An amendment to the substitute bill appears to limit its application to paved, striped roads.

This legislation deserved to be defeated if for no other reason than for the ambiguity of its language. However, in its final concurrence reading in the senate, only eight senators, Gene Davis, Brent Goodfellow, Jon Greiner, Lyle Hilliard, Pat Jones, Scott McCoy, Ross Romero and John Valentine continued to oppose it.

Perhaps the soundest judgment uttered on this bill belonged to Ogden Police Chief and Sen Jon Greiner (R-Ogden) who was cited in a Salt Lake *Tribune* article dated 14 February, "... dirt-trail vehicles are not safe in city or highway traffic. An OHV and its tires are not rated by the U.S. Department of Transportation for street travel. 'It was never the intent of this vehicle to be an on-road vehicle,' he said."

A BIG GIFT TO DELTA

As originally introduced by Sen Curtis Bramble (R-Provo), SB 245 would have torpedoed the funding not only for the light rail line to Salt Lake Airport but also for the entire light-rail and commuter rail package funded by approximately \$500 million in federal matching funds. The bill forbids the use of airport funds to build a fixed guideway, and Salt Lake City, like many cities with airports, had counted on using airport funds for the portion of the light rail line on airport property.

Ideology and the senator's allegiance to the Delta Airlines corporate line required something as trivial as the long-term transportation needs of Salt Lake and Utah County residents to stand aside.

Let's consider the logic and consistency of his argument. Airport funds may be used to pave parking lots and build parking structures. Neither of these uses has anything to do with terminals, gates or runways. Why should the automotive infrastructure be financed with airport funds but not the rail infrastructure?

Eventually a compromise that takes state revenue from other programs was agreed that will allow one of the state's largest-ever mass transit projects to go forward. Fifth Substitute SB 245 is still bad policy and will prevent the airport from investing in any fixed guideways. These include, of course, the kinds of monorails and subways that many airports use to move passengers among terminals.



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For more information, Email: trainings@ssc.org

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Washington, DC 20002 www.ssc.org/sprog

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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!*



*brings a tear
But with time, the
world was perfect no
more
The world gave us
signs that the people
did ignore
All the factories and
jobs produced a toxic
glow
While the people were
on chore the earth
was giving up*

Poetry
Corner

TOXIC DENIAL

by Drew Folgmann

In the beginning, the world was clean
and clear
The world was innocent until it almost
brings a tear
But with time, the world was perfect no more
The world gave us signs that the people
did ignore
All the factories and jobs produced a toxic
glow
While the people were on chore the earth
was giving up
Still the people did ignore until one-day
nature was no more
In the end, people found out it was just a test
To show all the people what the world really is
It is not just a toy to be played with
It has a greater meaning, which we need
to protect
And not deny the future that is calling to
change
Still there are many who completely deny
Mother Earth's presence
And many who are trying to help open our
eyes
They are scattered and their ideas are lost in
a sea of hope
But together, united, under one commitment
They could change the future
Together as one

Drew Folgmann, a North Salt Lake 8th grader, first became interested in the environment, according to his mother, when he was told in the first grade he couldn't play outside on an air quality red-alert day. More recently he's worked to educate his peers about environmental issues with a science report titled, "Oil Refineries and Global Warming."

ChapterNews

Utahns Rallied for the Real McCoy of Renewable Energy

by Mark Clemens



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Sen Scott McCoy pushed clean energy with SB 173 at this January 30th rally in the capitol.

While the Bush Administration continues not only to drag its feet on global climate change, but actually to hinder other countries from taking steps to reduce emissions of climate destabilizing gasses, the only progress in the US comes from state and local governments. Sen Scott McCoy sought to bring Utah into that growing group of states with SB 173.

The bill was introduced to the public with all the fanfare we could muster on January 30, 2008, at a press conference under the newly-renovated dome of the Utah Capitol. Roughly a hundred members and friends of the Utah Chapter, HEALUtah, Utah Moms for Clean Air and Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment turned out to demonstrate their support for strong action in favor of renewable energy. Earlier that day, many of the same volunteers lobbied their senators and representatives in favor of the bill.

It was a snowy day, and we salute everyone who organized and attended the event. Special thanks to Jim Westwater who took the photos accompanying this article.

Sen McCoy's bill would have established a guaranteed standard of 25% of electricity consumed in Utah by 2025 to come from renewable energy sources such as wind, solar and geothermal. It would also have established interim standards to boost Utah's production and consumption of renewable energy in the meantime. It included a cap on cost increases allowed from new renewable energy projects to protect ratepayers. This type of legislation is usually referred to as a renewable portfolio standard (RPS) or a renewable electricity standard (RES).

The bill's language was based on successful RPSs implemented in other states.

Although Rocky Mountain Power's parent company, PacifiCorp, operates profitably in Oregon, another state with a 25% RPS, the company lobbied hard and ultimately successfully against SB 173.

This outcome comes as a disappointment not just to Sierra Club members and clean energy advocates, but also to the population as a whole. When polled, 92% of Utahns responded that the government should provide increased incentives and investment in renewable energy.

Energy Initiatives Sub-committee.

The council produced its final report on October 3, 2007. It can be found on-line at http://www.deq.utah.gov/BRAC_Climate/final_report.htm. More than two hundred policy options were considered by the council and its subcommittees, but these were whittled down to the most effective options. The report describes these as 44 high-priority recommendations and 13 medium-priority recommendations.

Rocky Mountain Power participated throughout this process, but because they couldn't dominate it sufficiently to dictate the outcome to their liking, they produced their own plan. That plan became SB 202, sponsored by Sen Curtis Bramble (R-Provo).

The Rocky Mountain Power bill sets out a goal of 20% of Utah's electricity to come from renewable sources by 2025, but it then grants a blizzard of loopholes and exceptions that casts serious doubt on whether the goal will be met. It also allows Rocky Mountain Power to reduce the total renewable energy requirement by the amount of its production of other low-carbon sources such as nuclear or coal-fired power using carbon sequestration.

Rocky Mountain Power used specious arguments about potential increases in rates to torpedo SB 173. The irony is that by slowing Utah's diversification away from coal, SB 202 might in the long run cost Utah's ratepayers more. Furthermore, this weak standard leaves Utah at a disadvantage in attracting renewable energy-related industries which are already setting up shop in neighboring states that do have renewable portfolio standards.



Roughly a hundred members and friends of the Utah Chapter, HEALUtah, Utah Moms for Clean Air and Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment turned out to demonstrate their support.

In August 2006, Governor Huntsman established a Blue Ribbon Advisory Council on Climate Change to provide recommendations on how Utah should mitigate the effects of greenhouse gasses. The council and its sub-committees met fifty-two times. The Utah Chapter's Smart Energy Director Tim Wagner participated in plenary meetings of the council as well as serving as co-chair of the Renewable

OurAppreciation

2007 FUNDRAISING DRIVE

Thanks to the members listed below for their contributions to the chapter's 2007 fundraising drive. Thanks also to other members who contributed anonymously. These contributions make possible our conservation programs to protect air and water quality in Utah, our crusade to protect Utah wild lands, the Smart Energy Campaign and our ability to reach out to you and other Utahns.

Fred Adler & Anne Collopy

Michael & Jean Binyon

Mark & Janet Bloch

Ken & Karen Buchi & Family

Frank R Chase

Joan Coles

Brandon Derfler

Dorothy & Dwight Finkel

Claire Gardner

Richard Jirik

Ross Loevy

Jill & Perrin Love

Nicola Nelson

Kathy Olsen

Mark & Janet Riding

Catherine W Smith

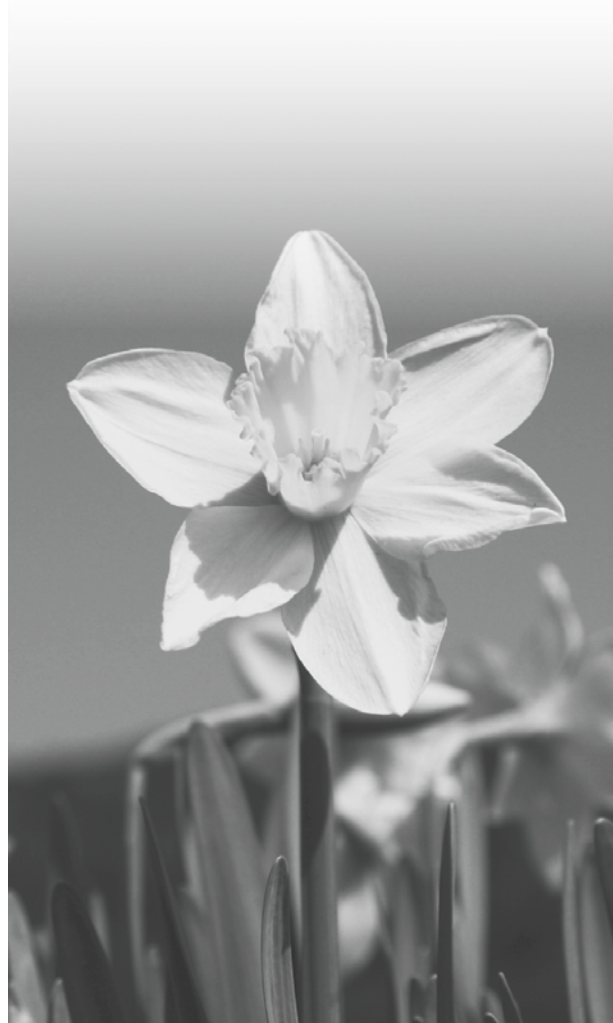
Valerie A Smith in honor of Bob & Carol Lakin

Marc & Judy Tieger

Diana I Toth

HO Whiteside

To protect our members' privacy, if no publishing preference is specified, we do not publish contributors' names. If you don't see your name listed and would like for it to be published in the next issue, please call Mark at (801) 467-9297. We try hard to spell people's names correctly; please accept our apologies if we misspelled your name!



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.

SPECIAL THANKS

The Utah Chapter would like to acknowledge contributions to the Smart Energy Campaign from Washakie Renewable Energy of Plymouth, Utah, for a financial gift and an in-kind donation of bio-fuels produced by the company. The NO COAL EXPRESS bus trip ran on this donated fuel. You can learn more about Washakie Renewable Energy at http://www.wrebiofuels.com/about_us.html.

The Smart Energy Campaign also received a financial contribution from the Innovision Property Group of Salt Lake City and their sister company, Green Earth Development. These companies develop high performance, sustainable building projects. More information can be found at <http://www.innovision-green.com/>.

Our sincere thanks to both companies. For more information about making a tax-exempt contribution to the Smart Energy Campaign, contact utah.chapter@sierraclub.org.



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

GEORGE B. AND OMA E. WILCOX
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for its continuing generous support of the Chapter's programs.

The Foundation challenges *you* to increase your support for the Utah Chapter in 2008.

On Conservation

Appalachian Atrocities

by Ann Wechsler, Salt Lake Group Chair

REPORT FROM A PARADOX
continued from page 1

As it turned out, Steven would be one of the trip's highlights. A tall, retired Marine with lean physique and an expressively warm smile, he calmly stood outside in an at ease posture while riders placed their bags in the under compartment. I introduced myself. With a firm handshake, he asked what it was specifically in Ely we were attending. I tried to explain in a quick 20-second answer before tending to other pressing matters. Steven smiled in a non-judgmental way and replied "Great!"

The two-hour drive to Wendover provided the perfect opportunity to bring everyone up to speed. The darkened morning skies were breaking with clearing air and a bright midday sun, allowing the vast expanses of Utah's Great Salt Lake and west desert to provide a pleasant backdrop to a dynamic discussion.

For those of us who work in these issues day after day, it's easy to think that everyone else knows the background, the language, and nuances of energy production. But that's something we shouldn't take for granted. The questions came at me fast as I tried to answer to the best of my ability. In the end, I assured the group that one does not need to be an energy or air quality expert to make a difference. Rather, all you need is the passion to care about an issue and the courage to stand up and voice your concerns.

That wasn't the position of NDEP, however. One week before the hearing, the agency had issued a public statement saying they would not consider comments that were not related to the technical analysis of the air quality permit. In other words, if you weren't specific to such things as how emissions of NO_x and SO₂ were modeled or how the BACT analysis was completed, well, don't bother. Yeah, right.

All we knew was that this plant was being authorized to emit hundreds of thousands of pounds of pollution into the prevalent air streams, sending much of it directly into the airshed of over 2 million Utahns. And we're supposed to be air quality scientists in order to have anything to say about it?

The miles of Highway 93 from Wendover to Ely stretch out into a long, gently winding path, providing some of the most scenic, open vistas one will ever witness. The low-hanging late afternoon sun provided the perfect light, allowing everyone an opportunity to slow down their thoughts and reflect. I quietly made my way around the bus and talked to most everyone individually, asking them what they wanted to say before the Nevada regulators. By the time we pulled into Ely, Nevada, everyone had prepared a brief statement and was feeling good about the mission.

It was early evening when we arrived in front of the Bristlecone Convention Center in downtown Ely, about an hour before the hearing. As we stepped off the bus, we were greeted with huge spotlights and news cameras. The only thing missing was the cheering crowds. Not that I expected

continued on page 9



Kayford Mountain in West Virginia. Arch Coal Inc., Horizon Natural Resources and Massey Energy have flattened the mountains into a 12,000 acre "pancake." The mine comes to within 200 feet of a 200 year-old family cemetery (seen in the bottom photo as the dark, I-shaped island of trees.) Photos courtesy Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition.

Some mountains no longer have their glad tidings to give. Their tops have been butchered by a hideously devastating coal-mining practice called mountaintop removal. Such surface mining has laid waste to 3.4 percent of the land area of southern West Virginia, eastern Kentucky, western Virginia, and eastern Tennessee. According to Michael Shnayerson, author of *Coal River*, by the time all the mountaintop coal in Appalachia is mined, an area almost the size of Delaware will have been forever flattened.

Entire hollows, headwaters, and miles of streams have been obliterated, in spite of the Clean Water Act of 1972, which should have protected waters throughout the United States for drinking water and recreation. Nor should we believe that such an assault on the land and water can only occur in a place as poor and isolated as Appalachia. But how did such a horrific practice happen even there?

In 2002, the Bush Administration changed Clean Water Act (CWA) rules by allowing the United States Army Corps of Engineers to issue permits to allow waste to be dumped into the nation's waters. Previously, in fact since the CWA was adopted, fill material did not include waste—construction waste, demolition debris, hardrock mining waste, and any industrial waste!

The story of environmental activism, the courthouse dramas, and the Army

Corps' permitting permissiveness, is vividly chronicled in Shnayerson's recently published book on the Coal River valley (2008 by Farrar, Straus and Giroux). The Sierra Club has also campaigned to bring this Armageddon-like story to the nation's attention.

The club has aggressively lobbied for H.R. 2169, the **Clean Water Protection Act** (commonly referred to as the mountaintop removal bill), introduced in 2007 by Frank Pallone (D-NJ) and Christopher Shays (R-CT), which currently has 125 co-sponsors. The legislation will again make it illegal under the Clean Water Act to bury water bodies in waste. It will restore the definition of fill that was in effect before the Bush Administration's rule change. No member of Utah's congressional delegation has co-sponsored this bill.

Although Utah's ten operating coal mines are not surface or mountaintop mines, the Alton Coal Development LLC is in the process of obtaining a permit to strip mine Coal Hollow in Kane County, not far from Bryce Canyon National Park. Wyoming already has vast open pits. Many of the same concerns in Appalachia are looming here. Shnayerson's fascinating, well-researched, thoroughly documented, and maddening account of Appalachia's beheading calls attention to watershed and unprecedented land destruction that no one should be allowed to ignore—especially our lawmakers.



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- John Muir

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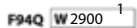


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Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

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PHOTO BY UVSF CHAIR JIM WESTWATER ©JWESTWATER

Utah clean energy activists unfurl the No Coal Express banner in Ely, NV, on January 9th.

it. This was, after all, a small western community where resentment can run high against what is often perceived as outsiders trying to affect local issues. Still, most everyone (but clearly not all) agreed that it would be difficult to peg this as a local-only issue.

As it turned out, we weren't the only busload of folks who planned to voice our opposition to a new coal plant. The Goshute Tribe from Utah and Nevada also attended en masse with numerous members testifying against the proposal and how it would spoil their environment. A local group known as the Bristlecone Alliance handed out "Clean Air" and "Clean Power" stickers while two or three individuals working for the pro-coal lobby group, Americans for Better Energy Choices, funded by a multi-million dollar PR campaign, distributed propaganda proclaiming coal as the blessed rock which will guarantee us eternal salvation, or something similar.

By the start of the hearing, nearly every seat of the approximately 300 in the hall was occupied. Over the course of the next three hours, adults, students, and even young children stood up to passionately speak about the need to protect our air and our lungs, the urgency in addressing global warming, concerns over elevated mercury, or to simply ask Nevada regulators to exercise diligence and caution before they rubberstamped a project that would be in our midst for 40 years or more.

Of the 40+ people who spoke, approximately one-third spoke in favor of the project, including one White Pine County official who unleashed a tirade of insults against "those outsiders from Utah who should clean up their own air first before worrying about Nevada's." This was the same individual who, in his convoluted rant, somehow managed to blame all the world's problems on "environmentalists and illegal aliens."

As the hearing was winding to a close and I made my way out to the vestibule, a friendly looking man in his 40's approached and asked if we could talk. He

introduced himself as an employee of White Pine County, told me he appreciated the efforts of us traveling from Utah, but then explained that it was difficult for him to swallow the opposition now coming from Utah after he and other locals had been "working for over 15 years" to bring the coal plant to their community.

"You gotta understand," he said, "how badly we need these jobs."

"I completely understand," I assured him. "I'm very sympathetic to the economic needs of rural areas, considering that I came from rural America myself and have seen firsthand the impacts when local economies run up short. But, and this is a big 'but', nobody's job or economy is worth the health of my child or your child. And that's who will suffer the most from these kinds of plants."

I then tried to explain how the county should court renewable energy projects and related industries, things that are not tied to typical boom and bust industries.

In spite of a cold night, Steven had only run the bus sporadically while he stayed on ship. Sensitive, he was, to the need to conserve fuel and protect even local air quality. Yet, as we all trickled out of the Convention Center, he had warmed up the bus for our weary heads. A quick drive back and a short night's stay in Wendover, and we were back in Salt Lake City less than 24 hours from when we left.

Was the whirlwind worth it? Absolutely. It was a wonderful opportunity to give concerned citizens a voice on a critical issue. The value of that is huge yet impossible to calculate. Did we make a difference? That's more difficult to assess. Certainly, Nevada officials now know that Utahns are deeply concerned about three huge coal plants proposed for our airshed are not going to sit idly by and accept Downwinders Chapter Two.

Tim Wagner is the director of the Utah Smart Energy Campaign.

SEND YOUR OWN NO COAL EXPRESS LETTER OR PHONE CALL

One of three coal-fired power plants currently going through the permitting process in Nevada, the Ely Energy Center is being planned in two phases, the first phase of 1,500 megawatts could be built in approximately five years, with a second phase of 1,000 megawatts coming on line later. The project is being proposed by Nevada Power, the state's largest regulated utility owned by Sierra Pacific Resources, in order to supply Las Vegas's insatiable appetite for power.

Less than a stone's throw away also outside of Ely, L.S. Power is proposing to build the 1,600 MW coal-burning White Pine Energy Station. Both of these facilities would be located approximately 175 miles directly upwind from Salt Lake City and the Wasatch Front. To throw salt in our wounds, a third proposed coal plant, the 750-MW Toquop Energy Project, would be built just outside the small town of Mesquite, inflicting its yearly dose of pollutants upon St. George and the residents of Washington County while sending its juice west to Las Vegas, or wherever they can sell it.

The emission levels of these plants, while less than your grandfather's coal plant, will raise your hackles and burn your lungs. The Ely Energy Center's Phase I for example will send our way in one year: 4,578 tons of nitrogen oxide, 4,578 tons of sulfur dioxide, 1,526 tons of particulate pollution, 7,630 tons carbon monoxide, 267 tons of volatile organic compounds (ozone), 300 lbs of mercury, 305 tons of sulfuric acid mist, and over 12 million tons of carbon dioxide, all coming out of stack 36 feet in diameter and 727 feet tall.

The White Pine Energy Station has similar emission levels, and the Toquop approximately half of the EEC. Now consider both of these plants will operate a minimum of 50 years, multiply that times the above emission levels and one can see why you should get involved. Please write a letter to Nevada Governor Jim Gibbons and send a copy of your letter to Governor Jon Huntsman Jr. Things you can discuss (respectfully):

- That we expect him to be a better neighbor to Utah.
- The Interstate Pollution Spillover Statutes of the Clean Air Act require upwind states to protect air quality of downwind states. Nevada is accountable for any changes to Utah's air quality from projects that they permit.
- According to the National Park Service, all of these plants pose threats to the air quality and vistas to Great Basin National Park and Zion National Park.
- These three plants will, combined, emit over 30 million tons of carbon dioxide annually, which is about 40% of Utah's total carbon footprint. The science-based connection between human-caused greenhouse gases and global warming is non-debatable. Therefore, these plants are simply unacceptable.
- Utah already has a serious mercury problem in many of our lakes and streams. These three plants are expected to emit 800 lbs of mercury per year, adding to our problem.
- Nevada has vast geothermal, solar, and wind resources available NOW. The state should put its resources into those cleaner technologies, not century old coal-based technology.

The Honorable Jon Huntsman

Utah State Capitol Complex
PO Box 142220
SLC, UT 84114
Phone: 800-705-2464

The Honorable Jim Gibbons

State Capitol
101 N. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701
Phone: 775-684-5670



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.

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. Leader: Bonnie Crysdale (435)259-0246. [E]

SLG, Fri-Sun, 4/18-20, Capitol Reef Weekend. Margaret will host an extended weekend of hiking and recreating in the classic red rock of the land of the Sleeping Rainbow. Margaret is offering her house in the beautiful hamlet of Torrey, Utah, as base camp for the weekend, and participants will drive to trailheads for day hikes to explore the many wonders of this very picturesque part of Utah. Bring enough food and supplies for the weekend as well as standard car camping gear. Please RSVP to 435/425-2240 as soon as possible to ensure reservations because the host may limit the number of participants.

OG, Sat, 4/19, 2nd Annual Ogden River Clean-Up. Celebrate Earth Day by joining in an Urban River Clean Up from 9 am until noon. In conjunction with other concerned volunteers, we will clean up the Ogden River. Lunch will be provided. Plans are ongoing and the extent of the project will be determined later in the spring as run off levels are determined. Meet at Big D Sports Park on the Ogden River Parkway. For more information call Rane, 985-0158. [S]

GCG, Fri-Sun, 4/25-27: 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.

Leave Moab Friday morning and drive 30-35 miles to planned camping area. Day hikes from camp each day. All hikes will be exploratory into the area north of Devils Garden, Eagle Park, or the canyons on BLM lands. Could involve scrambling, climbing slick rock slopes, and possibly belays in the canyons and between fins. Be prepared for anything. Leader-Geoff Freethey, 259-0253. Call for meeting time and place.

OG, Sat, 4/26, Day Hike on the Sentinel Trail. Hike one of the newest trails at Antelope Island State Park. It will take 3-4 hrs, is approximately 6 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.

SLG, Sun, 4/27, X-Country Ski/Snowshoe to Cecret Lake. After the ski season but before the snow melts. Ski or snowshoe to beautiful Cecret Lake in the Alta Ski Area at the top of Little Cottonwood Canyon. Moderate slope but not far in distance. Call leader Ron Younger 801/292-4040 on or before April 24th for details about the outing. The date may change to a week later (May 4th) if weather conditions preclude driving into the canyon.

May

OG, Sat, 5/3, Birding, Tour & Social. A joint Salt Lake and Ogden Sierra Club Group outing is planned for at the Great Salt Lake Nature Center at Farmington Bay from 2 to 5 pm. Enjoy a pot luck social and hear from Justina Parsons-Bernstein about the wildlife and wetlands there. Opportunity to view nesting areas of the migratory birds from an observation deck and experience the wild nature of Utah's Wetlands. Call 985-0158.

SLG, Sun, 5/4, Day Hike to Notch Peak. In the fall an adventurous group attempted Notch Peak from the north but ran out of time before they could summit. This time the attempt will be to ascend from the more accessible east side, and hikers should make it to the top with time to spare. Trekkers will be rewarded with panoramic views of the vast valley floor and will be witnesses to the majestic limestone masterpiece of the West Desert. The trail winds through towering multicolored cliffs and past ancient bristlecone pines before approaching the 4,000 vertical foot ceiling of the House Range. Be prepared for an all day trip, leaving early in the morning and returning late at night. Bring plenty of water for there are no water sources along the trail. Call Ken (484-3112) for meeting time, place, and other details.

OG, Sun, 5/11, Doing In Dyer's Wood. Come take out your aggression on northern Utah's most visible noxious weed! We're making great progress on the area we informally adopted three years ago; this follow-up visit will be the next step toward eradicating dyer's woad from this area and helping out the native plants. We'll start at 9 am and finish by noon. Call leader Dan Schroeder (393-4603) for information. [S]

SLG, Tues, 5/13, TUESDAY NIGHT HIKE in Parleys Canyon. An easy trek on the old (historical) railroad grade in upper Parleys

Canyon. This time of year wild flowers make their appearance, and this hike will provide an opportunity to view the many varieties of plants in their spring flowering stage. Meet in the east part of the K-Mart parking lot on Parleys Way and Foothill Drive at 6:30 pm. Call Ron Younger (292-4040). [E]

GCG, Sat, 5/17, White's. Some mild slick-rock scrambling over a knob before entering a side canyon to Spring Canyon on an old cattle trail. We'll follow the side canyon to Spring then descend Spring a mile or two to a dry fall. Climb a couple of hundred feet to start then descend about 800 feet (400 feet to top of cattle trail, 400 feet in canyons) to dry fall. About nine miles round trip, a pretty full day. Meet at MIC, Center and Main, at 8 am. Leader: Tom Messenger, 259-1756.

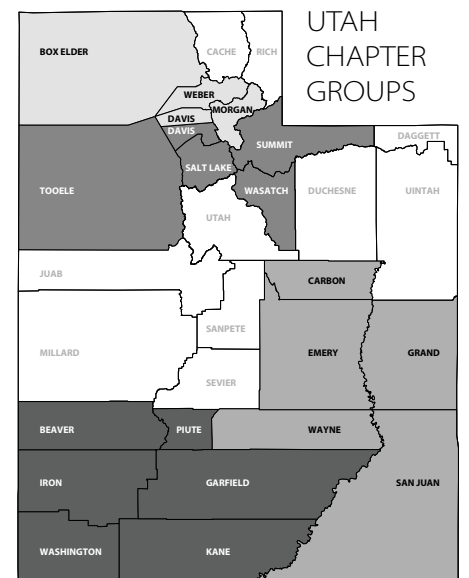
OG, Sat, 5/17, Auto tour of the Bear River Refuge. This refuge is an "auto loop" refuge with a set of dike roads, forming a loop about ten miles long, open for auto traffic. Except for this road, and a very short boardwalk nature trail, the refuge is closed to the public. The Refuge, with its fresh water ponds and canals, is one of the most important resting and staging areas for migrating waterfowl in North America. In spring and summer, it is an extremely productive nesting area for birds like Clark's and western grebes, American avocet, Wilson's phalarope, black-necked stilt, snowy egret, and white-faced ibis. The refuge lies 15 miles west of Brigham City, about an hour north of Salt Lake City on Interstate 15. Bring a camera, and a bird book. Call Joanie @ 801/399-0034. [E]

SLG, Sun, 5/18, Yellow Fork County Park Trek. This canyon is the heart of a newly-expanded swathe of Salt Lake County-owned or managed open space. Come check it out. Weather conditions permitting, this spring hike—think wild flowers—is in the foothills south of Herriman. Meet at 10 am at Rose Canyon/Yellow Fork parking lot. Or call Ron (292-4040) for directions and car pooling information.

SLG, Tues, 5/20, TUESDAY NIGHT HIKE on the Bonneville Shoreline Trail. This is a moderately easy hike along a section of the Shoreline Trail near City Creek Canyon. The trail is near the parking lot so there should be plenty of time to hike to an overlook of Salt Lake and Davis Counties. Meet at the gates of City Creek Canyon at 6:30 pm. Call Ann at 801/583-2090 for more information.

SLG, Tues, 5/27, TUESDAY NIGHT HIKE to The Living Room. The hike to the living room is a favorite of the hiking leader and for good reason. It doesn't take long to get there, not too steep, and the destination is a good place to relax, indulge in refreshments, and watch the flaming sunset before heading back to the cars. Meet at the parking lot across the street from the east part of the Hogle Zoo parking lot at 6:30 PM. Call Dee (718-1970) for more info about the hike.

GCG, Thur, 5/29, Day Canyon. An approximately 5 mile hike the length of Day Canyon with shuttle and key exchange. Elevation change ~1800'. Day Canyon is on highway 279, Potash highway, 10+ miles from the highway 191 junction. The plan is to have



- NO GROUP AFFILIATION
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- SALT LAKE GROUP
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half of the group shuttle to the top of Day Canyon and hike down canyon. The other half of the group start at the bottom of Day Canyon and hike up. Somewhere half way we will exchange car keys. The canyon has a very old unused road extending about 4 miles from the bottom. From there an old cattle trail that the cowboys built leads to the top of the canyon. Scrambling required on cattle trail. Some route finding. Gradual but substantial elevation change from the cattle trail to the mouth of the canyon. The shuttle vehicles at the top of the canyon can get there either from the top of Long Canyon or from the Dead Horse Point road extension to Long Canyon. Meet at MIC 8 AM. For details call Mike Stringham, 259-8579.

OG, Fri, 5/30, Friday Night Lights. We'll hike up Beus Canyon and follow the Bonneville Shoreline trail past Strong, Waterfall, and Taylor Canyons. End the evening trek at the Twenty-first Street trailhead. The night lights are stunning. 2.5 hrs. and 4.5 miles. Call Larry at 801/731-3701 for more info.

June

SLG, Tues, 6/3, TUESDAY NIGHT HIKE on the Mormon Trail. Hike through some Utah history on this moderate hike on a pleasant Tuesday evening in Emigration Canyon. The group will hike as long as light allows with the opportunity to spend more time on the trail due to the close proximity to the meeting place. Meet at the park parking lot across the street from the eastern part of Hogle Zoo parking lot. Meeting time is 6:30 pm. Call Ken (484-3112) for more info.

SLG, Fri-Sun, 6/6-6/9, Car Camp at City of Rocks National Reserve, Idaho. This is a well-known climbing area, but it also offers a variety of trails at all levels. Both birds and wildflowers should be on full display so bring your binoculars. We'll meet in SLC on Friday morning before the departure. It's approximately a 3.5 hour drive. Some folks may chose to car pool from here. Latecomers can meet with us at the campground. Call Aaron (467-3532) for more details. Go to the City Of Rocks National Reserve website to learn more and reserve a campsite. [E]

GCG, Sat, 6/7, Porcupine Rim Exploratory. Ramble along the Porcupine Rim in the national forest SE of the bike trail. Length of hike will be adjusted for the weather: the hotter, the shorter. May involve a shuttle on the Sand Flats and La Sal Loop roads. Meet at the MIC 9 AM. For details contact Ed Brandstetter, 259-9427.

OG, Sat, 6/7, Day Hike to Lewis Peak. A strenuous hike covering ten miles round-trip and a 2,300 feet elevation gain. It will

take about six hours. We'll start at the North Ogden Divide trailhead and hike to tremendous views of Pineview, Mt. Ogden, Ben Lomond, and the Great Salt Lake. Lewis Peak is the highest point between Willard Peak and Mt. Ogden. Call Larry at 801/731-370.

SLG, Tues, 6/10, TUESDAY NIGHT HIKE to Mt Aire. The Mount Aire hike is one of the favorites in Millcreek Canyon. Although the trail ascends through relatively steep terrain, the benefits are well worth the effort. The trail passes through lush vegetation, plenty of shade, and the destination offers gorgeous views of surrounding peaks. Meeting place is the Skyline High School parking lot at 6:30 PM. Call Rebecca at 487-4160.

SLG, Tues, 6/17, TUESDAY NIGHT Leader's Choice Hike in BCC. The destination was not determined at press time, but the trail will be one of the many great trails in Big Cottonwood Canyon. Some options include Mill B, Circle All, and Doughnut Falls. Meeting place is the Big Cottonwood Park and Ride at the mouth of the canyon at 6:30 pm. Call Jan at 801-712-8956 for more information.

GCG, Sat, 6/21, TBD Weather Dependent. If it's hot and the snow is gone, we'll aim for the high country. If it's cool, we aim for something lower down. E-mail reminder and posting on the Glen Canyon Group web site <http://utah.sierraclub.org/glencanyon/outings.htm> about 6/18.

SLG, Sun, 6/22, Day Hike to Butterfield Peak. Located in the Oquirrh Mountains, Butterfield Peak offers a great opportunity to explore the mountains on the west side of the valley. Be prepared for an all day outing, bring plenty of water, snacks, and gear for sudden changes in weather conditions. Call Ron 801-292-4040 preferably before May 20th for meeting time, place, car pooling, and other information.

SLG, Tues, 6/24, TUESDAY NIGHT HIKE on the GWT from Big Mountain Pass. A favorite venue for Tuesday night hikes. The path is rolling rather than the typical straight up and down trails along the Wasatch. We'll pass aspen groves, old pine stands, and broad meadows full of wild flowers. Hikers may also encounter wildlife along way. Meet in the eastern part of the K-Mart parking lot on Parleys Way and Foothill Drive at 6:30 pm. Call Ken 801-484-3112 for more information.

SLG, Sat-Sun, 6/ 28-29, Overnight Backpack to Deseret Peak. It's not often the group ventures to the Stansburys so this is a great opportunity to explore this part of the world. Deseret Peak has been called an alpine mountain in a desert oasis. At just over 11,000 feet, Deseret Peak is the highest peak in the Stansbury Range. The trail to the peak passes aspen groves, lush mountain meadows, and the wild flowers should be in full bloom. The summits offers spectacular views of many prominent landmarks in northern Utah including the Great Salt Lake Desert to the west and Salt Lake valley and impressive peaks of the Wasatch Front to the east. The plan is to leave early Saturday morning, drive to the trailhead, hike part of the way to the peak Saturday and camp Saturday night. Sunday will be summit day, descending, then driving back to Salt Lake. Call Rebecca at 801/487-4160 for important details.

July

SLG, Tues, 7/1, TUESDAY NIGHT HIKE to Broad Fork in BCC. Take a break from the sweltering summer heat with a refreshing hike on a cool trail in Big Cottonwood Canyon. Meeting place is the Big Cottonwood Canyon Park and Ride at the mouth of the canyon at 6:30 pm. Call Ken 801-484-3112.

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

GCG, Thur, 7/10, Gold Knob from Miners Basin. Beat the heat in the La Sals. Explore ruined dwellings at old mining claims at the head of a high wooded valley and/or climb the ridge to Gold Knob. Gold Knob offers fine views from north through west to south. The road in from the La Sal Loop Road is steep and rough enough to require four-wheel drive. Another possibility would be to climb over the ridge from Warner Lake, a much more strenuous hike. Or perhaps change destination to Gold Knob (still a stiffer climb from Warner Lake than Miners Basin). Meet at Moab Information Center, Center and Main, at 8:00 AM. Leader: Tom Messenger, 259-1756.


OG, Sat, 7/12, Cutler Basin Trail. The Cutler Trail is the steepest of the three routes to Ben Lomond that originate in Ogden Valley—but, it's the shortest, too (the other two are Ben Lomond Trail and North Skyline Trail). After about two miles there is a fork in the trail. Go right, just after which you'll come to Cutler Spring with a small pond. This area, Cutler Basin, is some of the most spectacular country in the Wasatch. Besides being steep, the trail is rocky, so it's no good for biking. We may see Moose and lots of them. So, please, be careful and give them a wide berth. Also, mountain lions and mountain goats (they're white, and can stand/sit so still that you might think they're a rock). Plus, deer, fox, raccoons, and lots of different birds. Call Joanie @ 801/399-0034 for more info.

OG, Sat, 7/19, Brighton to Sunset Peak via Catherine Pass. This hike is moderate to strenuous, 4.5 hours, and 6.5 miles round-trip. We'll start at Brighton Ski Resort and go past Mary, Martha, and Catherine Lakes working our way to Sunset Peak at 10,648 feet, about a 2,000 feet elevation gain. This is a great Alpine area that includes beautiful views. Perhaps, we'll see a moose. Call Larry at 801/731-3701 for meeting place and time.

SLG, Sat, 7/19, Outing Leaders Training Workshop. For aspiring and current outing leaders. This will be an all-day workshop covering wilderness first aid, organizing outings, trail etiquette, and other skills essential for leading hikes. More detailed information will be given in the next newsletter, but mark your calendar early to attend this workshop. Call Rebecca 801/487-4160 or Ken 801/484-3112 for more information about the workshop.

Summer Backpacking Outings

See page 12.



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

AUGUST 14, 2007: Tuesday evening trekkers starting out for a circle-all-peak from Butler Fork trailhead. Be the first (before April 14, 2008) to correctly list the first name of six of these trekkers and receive a Guide Book for the High Uintas. Send your list to Ron Younger at 920 East 1500 South, Bountiful, UT 84010-2138.

Utah Chapter Directory

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- Larry Woolsey, Ogden Group landcrun@hotmail.com, (801) 731-3701

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

Out&About

Summer Backpacking Outings



COYOTE GULCH, Fri-Mon, April 18 through 21st. Meet in Spanish Fork at the Chevron Station by I-15 exit #258 onto Route 6 at 7 AM on Friday. Some members of the group may choose to car-pool. That will put us at the trailhead by noon. We will day hike to some excellent slot canyons without packs and camp at Red Well trailhead. Day two will be hiking an easy 7 miles following the wash bottom which is dry at first, but soon will have to get feet wet. The canyon deepens as we go and soon will be hiking below high sandstone walls with giant alcoves. We should arrive by mid afternoon at camp near Jacob Hamblin Arch and a spring. Day three will be the hike without packs to the Escalante River (Lake Powell) and back, about 12 miles round trip. Several large arches and a natural bridge and Indian writings will be part of our beautiful scenery. Not much for swimming but several waterfalls will be encountered. Day four will be hiking back to the vehicles (by early afternoon) and the drive home. This hike is considered moderate to easy, but it being 30 miles will seem hard for beginners. Backcountry regulations designed to protect the land and the experience of others limit our party to just 12 people including the leader. No fires allowed. [E]

HIGH UINTAS, Fri-Sun, August 22 through 24th. Meet by 10 AM at the Highline trailhead above Mirror Lake. Day one will be hiking to Pinto Lake which has a nice camping place. Day two will be hiking without packs to several excellent swimming (but cold) lakes. Day three hike out and home. The hike is not strenuous but is at about 10,000' elevation. Beautiful high elevation evergreen trees and wildlife. Wilderness regulations designed to protect the land and the experience of others limit our party to just 14 people including the leader. [E]

FENCE CANYON, Fri-Mon, September 12th through 15th. Meet at the trailhead by noon Thursday. Day one we will hike down the slickrock to the river and a nice spring (but still need to filter water). The middle days will be hiking without packs. The Golden Throne is a photographers paradise. We will have to wade the Escalante River several times. Day four will be moderately strenuous hiking back up the slickrock, but it's only about 4 miles. Then on into Escalante to the fast food joint! [E]

Bob Owen would like someone/s to volunteer to handle the local (Utah Valley) organizing of the backpack trips, such as finding out who is going. Any volunteers? Please email Bob at beowen@sisna.com if you can lend a hand,

or have a question. Many thanks. Let's have some fun Exploring and Enjoying--as well as protecting the planet--right here in gorgeous Utah!

BACKPACKING LIST

Our goal is to enjoy the beautiful backcountry as we practice "leave no trace camping skills." We will talk of geology and learn to identify native plants and animals. Please no smoking or pets.

Basic Gear:

- Backpack (weight on HIPS)
- Tent (Wenzel \$30 waterproof)
- Sleeping bag keep down DRY (Add 20° to temp rating)
- Pad
- Pillow
- Mess kit
- Canteen (with cloth cover)
- Stove and fuel (magic glow)
- Water filter

Clothing:

- Well broken in hiking boots
- Lace tight going downhill
- Long and short pants
- Long and short sleeve shirt
- Hat
- Socks
- Change of underwear
- Poncho?
- Stocking cap
- Sun hat
- Gloves
- Jacket/Parka Shell
- Fleece jacket if cool

Personal:

- Sun screen & sunglasses
- Insect repellent
- T.P.
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste and floss
- Lip balm
- Lotion
- Deodorant
- Mini first aid kit
- Medical needs
- Soap
- Towel/washcloth

Misc:

- Map
- G.P.S./Compass
- Binoculars?
- Pocket knife
- Camera
- Flashlight / Headlamp
- Waterproof Matches
- "Fire starters"
- Personal Locator Beacon
- Whistle (Fox 40 for REI)

Food:

- Breakfast: Whole grain cereal and powdered milk with additives. Also hot drink mix.
- Lunch: Whole grain bread or bagels with spread. An apple a day.
- Dinner: Freeze dried meals.
- Snacks: Trail mix, etc.

TYPES OF TRIPS

- 1) Loop or one way where packs are carried the whole distance.
- 2) In and out from the same trail head. Pack in first day. Day hike in between day/s without packs. Hike out last day.

BACKPACKING DESTINATIONS & THEIR SEASONS

Grand Canyon
September—October

Escalante Canyons, San Raphael Swell and other sandstone areas
April & September—October

High Uintas
August

Pine Valley Mts. and similar
June—September

For more information about special wilderness backpacks to more distant locations such as the Greater Yellowstone Backcountry, call Bob Owen at 435-527-1099.

Join Us

SPRING SOCIAL AND WETLANDS TOUR

The Sierra Club's Salt Lake and Ogden Groups invite you to welcome Spring with a guided outing at the Great Salt Lake Nature Center at Farmington Bay, on May 3rd from 2 to 5 p.m. The Center's director will help us appreciate the surrounding wetlands, teeming with nesting areas and wildlife for which the bay is famous.

You will have an opportunity to mingle and meet with Group members from Salt Lake and to learn what our northern neighbors are doing for their environment. Bring friends or family and a potluck dish—we will have refreshments and a good time on this early Spring Saturday. Directions below. See you there!

Coming from Ogden or from North of Farmington

Travel south on I-15 to Farmington Exit, number 325-Lagoon/Park Lane. The exit ramp will deliver you to Park Lane. Turn right (west) on Park Lane. Park Lane will bear south, and will run into Clark Lane. Turn right (west) onto Clark Lane and continue to the first 4-Way stop which is 1525 W. Turn Left (south) onto 1525 W. and continue for about a mile until the street ends at Glover Lane. Turn Right (west) onto Glover Lane and continue for about 2 blocks until you come to 1700 W. Turn left (south) into the Great Salt Lake Nature Center paved road. Come on down and park in the parking lot.

Coming from Salt Lake or from South of Farmington

Travel north on I-15 to the Centerville Exit, Number 319. The exit ramp will put you on Parrish Lane eastbound. Turn left (north) at the first light, which is Marketplace Drive. Marketplace Drive will merge with the frontage road. Continue north on the frontage road. After approximately three miles, you will reach a stop sign at Glovers Lane. Turn left (west) on Glovers Lane, which will cross over I-15. Continue west on Glovers Lane to 1700 West. Turn left (south) into the Great Salt Lake Nature Center paved road. Come on down and park in the parking lot.

Directions from <http://greatsaltlakenaturecenter.org>.



SATURDAY IN THE PARK WITH EVERYBODY

Want to help us get out the word about the Sierra Club's conservation programs and outings? We'll be at the Downtown Salt Lake Farmers' Market four times between June and October, and we need at least two volunteers each Saturday. The market, in Pioneer Park at 300 W 300 S in Salt Lake City, is a fun, busy venue to present our message. The market runs from 8 am to 1 pm. To volunteer, send an e-mail message to Ann McBroom at annpurton@hotmail.com, or to Mark Clemens a mark.clemens@sierraclub.org.

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.