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Utah Sierran

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Drilling deeper into high energy prices

page 7

Like Oil and Water, Air Quality and Politics Don't Mix

by Tim Wagner

What happens when you dump some oil into a glass of water? Aside from the chemically obvious, both are ruined. You can't drink the water, and you can't use the oil. It appears such is also the case with air quality regulations and politics under the current administration. You get a regulation that isn't what it was intended, and you also get some pretty smelly politics.

THE BACKGROUND

The case really reverts all the way back to the late '90s when the Minnkota Power Cooperative in North Dakota applied for a permit to expand its Milton R Young coal-fired power plant. Such permits are evaluated and issued by the EPA or the applicable state air quality regulating agency (in this case the North Dakota Division of Air Quality). These permits are called Prevention of Serious Deterioration or PSD permits and must include computer modeling of existing stationary sources of emissions and how they would, in combination with the new proposed source, affect air quality within the region.

According to EPA guidelines, such PSD modeling is supposed to include input data that shows 3-hour and 24-hour averages of emission levels from such existing sources. In the case of Minnkota's existing coal plants, these averages were showing numerous spikes of sulfur dioxide emissions, resulting in many violations of the air quality standard for Class I airsheds within the state.

Class I is the designation given to national parks and wilderness areas and is, according to the Clean Air Act regulations, the most restrictive designation for the protection of air quality within those regions, for good reason. Who wants to visit a national park when you're looking through brownish-green haze?

In order for Minnkota to obtain the PSD permit needed to proceed with construction of the Milton R. Young coal plant addition, they needed to show that such violations did not occur. According to documents obtained by the Dakota Resources Council in 2004, the state's Division of Air Quality allowed the modelers to adjust the inputs and rerun the model on 14 separate occasions, to where the results they desired were finally achieved. This was accomplished basically by using yearly averages for SO₂ emissions from the existing plant, thereby smoothing out the bumps or spikes in the graph. In other words, garbage in - garbage out.

Such a process is tantamount to telling an officer, after being stopped for driving 125 mph, that your yearly speed average is only 55 mph so there really isn't an infraction.

BUSH TO EPA: "I LOVE COAL, AND I MAKE THE RULES"

Upon discovery of North Dakota's regulatory fudging, the Dakota Resources Council filed suit against the EPA for allowing the state to authorize a PSD permit without using proper protocol. But in typical Bush/EPA fashion, a Memorandum of Understanding was issued by the EPA to North Dakota in February 2004 that in effect gave the state permission to use its own version of the rule, without requiring a national rule change process, essentially nullifying the DRC complaint.

One shouldn't forget that it was Vice President Dick Cheney who, in early 2001, stated that the U.S. would have to build up to 1,300 new generating plants over the next 20 years, many of them coal, in order to keep up with growing demand in electricity. It may be too easy to assume that such a statement came by and for the love of cash.

In response to the agency's political cover for North Dakota, air modelers within nine of the agency's ten regions sent a stern letter to two top EPA officials expressing their strong concerns that 1) such a process was actually a re-

Vice President Dick Cheney, in early 2001, stated that the U.S. would have to build up to 1,300 new generating plants over the next 20 years, many of them coal, in order to keep up with growing demand in electricity.

write of EPA rules without going through the normal rule-change vetting process including public involvement and comment and, 2) it would set precedent throughout the agency when most felt it was wrong approach in protecting public health and sensitive airsheds.

Significant media coverage of the letter soon appeared in major news outlets, including the LA Times and National Public Radio.

In response, the EPA decided that they should at least



Utah's energy choices embodied in one photo: climate-destroying coal or clean wind energy.

attempt to show that they were going through the normal rule-making protocol according to law. So in 2007 they announced a public comment period over the proposed change, which would set in stone the practice of using yearly averages for inputs when modeling for air quality impacts on proposed PSD applications.

AND WHAT ABOUT UTAH?

In the meantime, the state of Utah's Division of Air Quality, which also serves under the jurisdiction of EPA's Region 8, was processing two PSD applications for the Intermountain Power Unit #3 and the Sevier Power Company proposed coal plants. Much to the chagrin of Region 8 modelers, UDAQ chose to follow a modeling method similar to the new "standard" used by North Dakota several years prior. It should be pointed out that the Sierra Club has appealed both of these permits since they were issued in late 2004. Neither case has been resolved. In fact, the Sevier Power Company case is now scheduled to be heard by the Utah Supreme Court.

As part of the comments submitted to the EPA last year regarding the proposed rule change, fourteen groups, including the Sierra Club, Environmental Defense, National

continued on page 2

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ChapterNews

Call for Executive Committee Candidates

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

Members of the ExCom are expected to attend approximately six meetings each year held in Salt Lake City and around the state, must be able to handle e-mail correspondence of as many as 5 to 10 messages per week, and usually help either with

Members of the ExCom attend meetings, handle e-mail correspondence, and help with chapter administrative functions or conservation activities such as organizing, writing and researching to protect public lands or environmental health.

chapter administrative functions—such as recording secretary or treasurer—or with conservation activities such as organizing, writing and researching to protect public lands or environmental health.

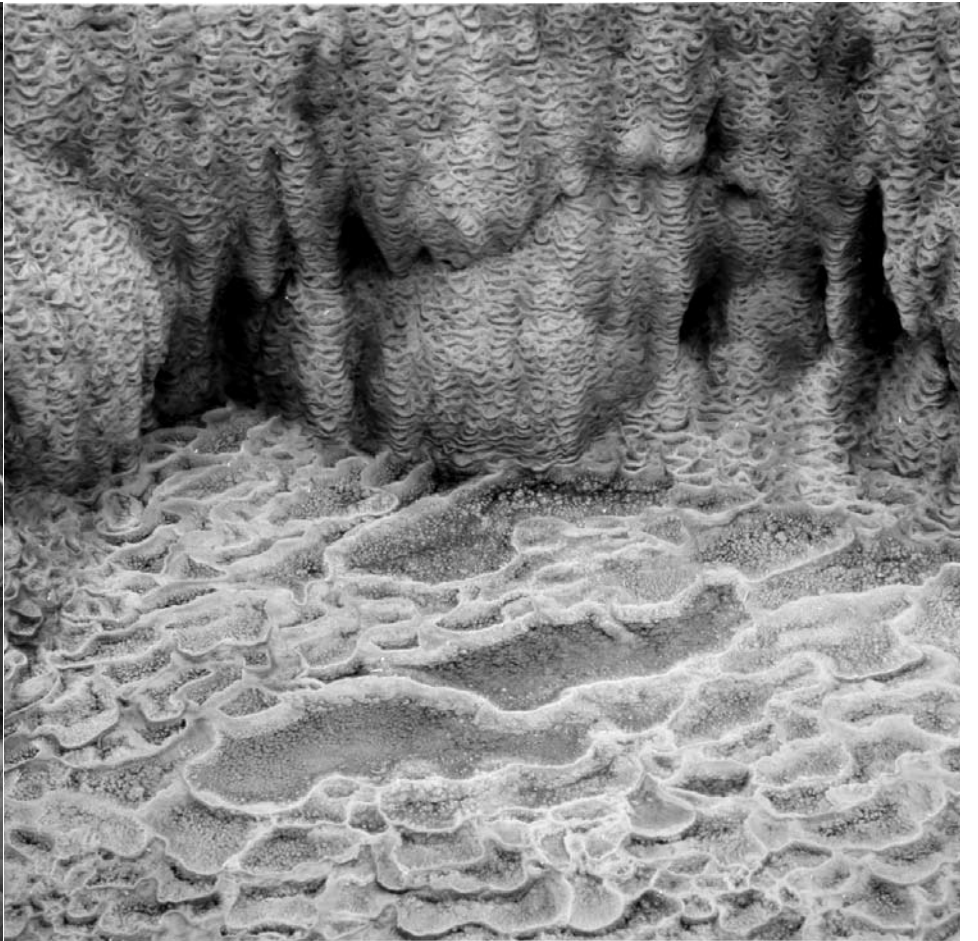
If you should be interested in running for a two-year term on the ExCom from

January 2009 through December 2010, please send a 200-word bio or CV and a photo in digital format to the nominating committee secretary at mark.clemens@sierraclub.org. If the committee decides not to nominate you after reviewing these materials, you have the right to run as a

petition candidate provided you supply the nominating committee with a petition for your addition to the ballot signed by 15 current Utah Chapter members.

All submissions must be received by the nominating committee before Monday, 20 August 2008, at 12:00 noon, MST. You will be informed within 48 hours about the status of your submission. The ballots will be distributed in the Fall 2008 issue of the Utah Sierran newsletter during the first week of October 2008. Ballots will be counted in December 2008, and the results published in the Winter 2009 newsletter.

- Desert textures as captured by Utah photographer Stephen Peterson. Below, left: mud formations in Buckskin Gulch. Below, right: Travertine Crystal Geyser.



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Submit all articles, artwork, photographs, letters and comments to chapter@sierraclub.org. Phone: 801-467-9297. The Utah Sierran reaches
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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.

OIL AND WATER, from page 1

Parks Conservation Association, Natural Resources Defense Council, and the Dakota Resources Council raised serious objections to the rule change, including the suspected impacts to health and Class I airsheds. Those comments also pointed out those Utah regulators were using such protocol to authorize two permits before the rule had even been finalized.

In response, a letter was submitted to the EPA by UDAQ's director, Cheryl Heying, expressing her complete support for the new rule while chiding the fourteen environmental groups for our position. She even accused the organizations of "deliberately misrepresent(ing) the facts concerning two permits that were issued by the Utah Division of Air Quality in 2004." She also strongly suggested that a report and testimony submitted by Dr. Jana Milford, a well-respected top air quality scientist for Environmental Defense, "should not be given any weight as part of this rulemaking."

A GIFT WITH A GREEN BOW

The concerns over this proposed EPA rule change are obvious. When it comes to permitting and building huge coal fired power plants, such as IPP, Sevier Power Company, or the three large plants in Nevada that would be located im-

Most within the air quality arena will quietly tell you that this rule change is the one final gift to that same industry that is directly responsible for a president who is about to ride off into the sunset. On his toy horse. The sunset may or may not be pretty hazy.

mediately upwind from a plethora of national parks here in Utah, the protection of Class I airsheds can be a nasty annoyance, or even a project stopper. This doesn't please an industry that has had its way for many decades. And most within the air quality arena will quietly tell you that this rule change, one the EPA is determined to finalize before November, is the one final gift to that same industry that is directly responsible for a president who is about to ride off into the sunset.

On his toy horse.

The sunset may or may not be pretty hazy.

OurLands

Water, Deserts, Fish and People

by Mark Clemens

Water is, of course, Utah's most valuable resource. Large-scale settlement in such an arid region is possible only because of water storage in our mountain snowpack. As global warming resulting from human greenhouse gas emissions accelerates, the scarcity of water becomes more important in a state with a rapidly growing population. Some modeling shows the northern part of Utah becoming wetter over the next few decades while southern Utah becomes much dryer and hotter.

At this stage, the predictive power of modeling by region is limited, but what we know with confidence is that even if parts of Utah become slightly wetter, the water bank represented by snowpack will decline as temperatures rise.

This message carries an implicit prescription: we need to treat the entire water cycle with respect and a conservative outlook. The Utah Chapter of Sierra Club has been hard at work on this task for many years, but some elements of our campaign are not well known.

For years, Marc Heileson and our Building Environmental Communities Campaign have focused on smart transportation alternatives to unplanned growth and sprawl, but this project has also helped protect substantial areas of wetlands. The final settlement agreement for the Legacy Parkway protected over 125 acres of Great Salt Lake wetlands that state leaders had previously intended to leave open for development.

And a strong outcry from landowners, the City of Lehi and the Utah Valley Sierra Forum helped persuade the Utah Department of Transportation from dropping consideration of an alignment of the proposed Mountain View Corridor that would have destroyed over thirty acres of valuable wetlands along the north shore of Utah Lake. The remaining wetlands of the Great Salt Lake and Utah Lake are some of the most valuable resources we have to improve water quality and quantity.

Chapter members Gordon Lind, Lois Mansfield and Jim Wechsler volunteer on the Southwest Waters Committee to use the club's expertise and legal and political muscle to lobby water agencies and the administration in favor of water conservation and river restoration in the Colorado River Basin. The details are arcane, and the work is slow and relatively unglamorous, but important nonetheless.

Even more threatened than the Colorado River is the long-term survival of Utah's West Desert oases such as Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge and the Snake Valley wetlands. West Desert wetlands were already under threat from invasive species and uncontrolled agricultural impacts. Now the very water source, the ur-naïad, for all these wetlands and many others across Nevada, the Car-

bonate Aquifer, is threatened with a gigantic groundwater pumping project.

The Carbonate Aquifer runs underground from Utah's West Desert west of Delta across central and southern Nevada to the California border. It's the source for a number of desert springs in the West's driest region as well as drinking and agricultural water for isolated communities. Farmers in remote Utah towns such as Eskdale and Callao are already concerned about water tables dropping from existing local uses.

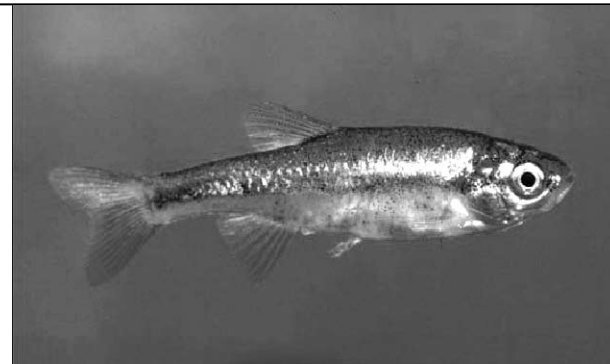
Now the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) is seeking to pump up to 180,000 acre feet of water—enough to support as many as an additional 540,000 people—from the Carbonate Aquifer via a pipeline running through eastern Nevada to Clark County and growing Las Vegas. SNWA argues that natural recharge of the aquifer exceeds use and would allow that volume of water to be pumped.

The consequences for Utah could be ruinous. If the water table drops low enough, even deep-rooted, alkali-loving species like greasewood will die off leaving vast alkali playas open to the wind. When denuded, these playas can add tons of particulate matter to the air upwind of us every time a stiff wind blows. The positive pressure of the aquifer against the Great Salt Lake prevents brackish water from invading wells southwest of the lake. If the volume of the aquifer declines sufficiently, that could change too.

And the little desert miracles like Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge? They could dry up too. So this vast pyramid of an issue—pipelines, budgets, timetables and endless, speculative, Las Vegas sprawl—rests on its apex atop the back of a very small fish, the least chub.

The least chub is an unassuming fish that now survives mostly in these West Desert wetlands. Like the wetlands themselves, the fish faced daunting odds from invasive species and other threats even before SNWA launched its charge to get control of groundwater in the West Desert. In 2007, the Utah Chapter joined with the Center for Biological Diversity to file a petition with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) asking for the least chub to be listed as threatened or endangered. We just received notice that USFWS will publish its so-called 90-day finding on this fish on 31 July 2008.

On that date, we'll learn whether USFWS, prodded by our petition, will undertake its own study to determine if listing is warranted, or if they will turn us down. We strongly believe listing is warranted and will continue to advocate not only for the least chub, but also for wise water use in our arid home.



The Least Chub, trying to survive in dwindling habitat, passes a landmark on July 31st of this year.

SEND A WATERGRAM!

Please tell Governor Jon Huntsman that exporting Utah's groundwater to Las Vegas is a bad idea. Here are some points to make:

- We don't yet have sufficient long-term data to know what the aquifer recharge rate is and how much can be safely pumped.
- Once Las Vegas becomes dependent on water pumped from the Carbonate Aquifer, it would be very difficult to shut off the supply if it proved to be harmful.
- Utah could be harmed by falling water tables, brackish water invasion, and increased particulate pollution. A more complete environmental study is needed on the potential impacts of the proposed groundwater pumping.

Please remember to make your arguments forceful and polite. You can contact him via his website at governor.utah.gov/goca/form_comment.html, or by phone at 801/538-1000, 800/705-2464, or by writing to

Governor Jon Huntsman
Utah State Capitol Complex
PO Box 142220
Salt Lake City UT 84114-2220.

For more information about the SNWA water grab, check out the Toiyabe Chapter's website, www.toiyabe.sierraclub.org/conservation, or the Great Basin Water Network, <http://great-basinwaternet.org>. Or plan on attending the field trip to the Snake Valley when you can ask the experts yourself.

Snake Valley Field Trip

COME SEE FOR YOURSELF! RESERVE THE WEEKEND OF AUGUST 22 TO 24

We'll meet up with folks from the Toiyabe Chapter (all Sierra Club members in Nevada plus a small slice of eastern California) of the Sierra Club and experts on desert hydrology and biology to find out about the proposed water grab by the Southern Nevada Water Authority.

The Snake Valley is a land of amazing contrasts with harsh alkali playas alternating with wetlands and agricultural land on the valley floor, and wildflowers and pines on the slopes of twelve- and thirteen-thousand foot peaks along the valley's western border.

This should be a fun weekend, Friday, August 22 through Sunday, August 24, in the magnificent scenery on the border

Great Basin National Park is home to high mountain lakes and millennial bristlecone pines.

between Utah and Nevada. Many of the folks attending will choose to camp at one of the campgrounds on the cool upper slopes of Great Basin National Park. Plenty of time for play and exploration in the park, home to high mountain lakes and millennial bristlecone pines. For more information about the field trip or to make a reservation, contact Ryan Barker via e-mail at ryankumbu@yahoo.com.



Snake Valley near US Highway 50 at the Utah-Nevada border looking toward Great Basin National Park in Nevada.

DENNIS GHIGLIERI

Legislative Update

A Time for Reckoning

by Mark Clemens

The Utah Chapter's Legislative Committee has produced scorecards rating the votes on environmental issues during the general session of all Utah legislators for many years. The scorecards for 2008, as well as the scorecards stretching back to 2002, are available to the public and posted to <http://utah.sierraclub.org/legislative.asp>. The 2008 scorecard for the Utah Senate is published with this article.

Several bills promoting clean air and provisions on net metering programs

passed this session. "We're grateful to Rep Roz McGee and Sen Scott McCoy for taking the lead on some of these important measures," said Scott Daniels, chair of the Utah Chapter's Legislative Committee, "These bills and incentives will help Utah conserve energy and direct energy policy for the future."

Rep Roz McGee sponsored a bill that will provide a \$750 tax credit for clean and efficient vehicles. She sponsored a similar bill last year that didn't make it past the

senate floor. Rep Stephen Sandstrom was able to pass legislation to preserve water rights to protect native trout habitats and allow non-profit fishing groups to join the process for the first time. "There were a few disappointments, but overall this session was a win for all of Utah," said Mark Clemens, Utah Chapter manager, "this is the first session I remember when so many pro-environmental bills have passed."

Members of the Utah House of Representatives were graded on their votes on eight bills. Ten representatives received 100% scores. Find out who those heroes are on-line. At the other end of the spectrum, four representatives tied for last with

25% averages. They are Rep John Mathis (R-Vernal), Rep Mike Morley (R-Spanish Fork), Rep Patrick Painter (R-Nephi) and Rep Carl Wimmer (R-Herriman).

Senators were graded based on their votes on seven bills. Four senators scored 100% including Sen Lyle Hillyard (R-Logan), Sen Pat Jones (D-Holladay), Sen Scott McCoy (D-Salt Lake City), and Sen Ross Romero (D-Salt Lake City). Sen Margaret Dayton (R-Orem) turned in the worst performance of any legislator, scoring a meager 14%. Thanks to our intern Ian Goodsell for his help in producing the 2008 scorecards.

Utah Senate Scorecard: 2008 General Session

SENATORS	BILLS							CORRECT VOTE TOTAL	ABSENCE COUNT	AVERAGE
	SB 84	SB 181	HB 104	HB 106	HB 117	HB 303	HJR 10			
CORRECT VOTE =	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	0=ABSENT; 1=YEA; 2=NAY		
BELL	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	4	2	80%
BRAMBLE	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	4	2	80%
CHRISTENSEN	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	5	1	83%
BUTTARS	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	2	3	50%
DAVIS	1	2	1	1	0	1	1	5	1	83%
DAYTON	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	0	14%
DMITRICH	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	5	1	83%
EASTMAN	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	0	71%
FIFE	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	0	71%
GOODFELLOW	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	6	0	86%
GREINER	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	6	0	86%
HICKMAN	1	1	0	0	1	2	0	2	3	50%
HILLYARD	1	2	1	0	1	1	0	5	2	100%
JENKINS	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	4	0	57%
JONES	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	7	0	100%
KILLPACK	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	4	1	67%
KNUDSON	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	0	71%
MADSEN	0	1	2	0	1	2	1	1	2	20%
MAYNE	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	4	0	57%
MCCOY	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	7	0	100%
NIEDERHAUSER	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	3	2	60%
PETERSON	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	3	0	43%
ROMERO	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	7	0	100%
STEPHENSON	0	1	1	1	1	2	1	3	1	50%
STOWELL	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	4	0	57%
VALENTINE	1	2	0	1	1	2	1	4	1	67%
VANTASSELL	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	5	1	83%
WADDOUPS	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	0	71%
WALKER	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	4	1	67%
CORRECT VOTE =	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	0=ABSENT; 1=YEA; 2=NAY		

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@sierra-club.org.

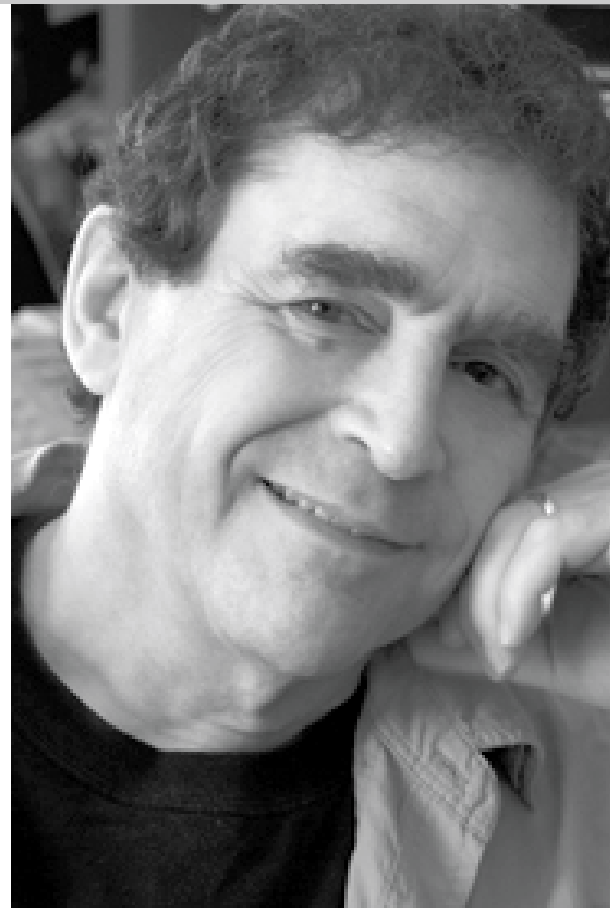


CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS!

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*!



AN EVENING WITH ALAN WEISMAN

The Wallace Stegner Center presents an evening with Alan Weisman on Tuesday, September 30, at 7:00 pm at Libby Gardner Concert Hall.

In one of the most audacious thought experiments of our time, Alan Weisman imagines what might happen to the Earth if humans vanished. *The World Without Us*, Weisman's phenomenal New York Times bestseller, shows us humanity's true impact on the environment in a wholly original way, and challenges each of us to re-imagine our planet—and our place within it.

In one of the most audacious thought experiments of our time, Alan Weisman imagines what might happen to the Earth if humans vanished.

"How would the rest of nature respond if it were suddenly relieved of the relentless pressures we heap on it?" Alan Weisman asks. "How soon would, or could, the climate return to where it was before we fired up all our engines? Could nature ever obliterate all our traces?" These questions are explored and brilliantly answered in *The World Without Us*, his refreshing—and ultimately hopeful—look at how humans can lead fully engaging lives without destroying the natural world in the process.

Weisman is an award-winning journalist whose reports have appeared in *Harper's*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Discover*, and on NPR, among others. He is a senior radio producer for Homelands Productions and teaches international journalism at the University of Arizona. His essay for *Discover*, "Earth Without People" on which *The World Without Us* expands, was selected for Best American Science Writing 2000-2007.

Tickets are \$10 and are on sale through the Kingsbury Hall ticket office, www.kingsburyhall.org. For more information, check out the Stegner Center website at www.law.utah.edu/stegner or call 801/585-3440.

GreatOutdoors

City of Rocks, and Treasures

by Ann Wechsler, Salt Lake Group Chair

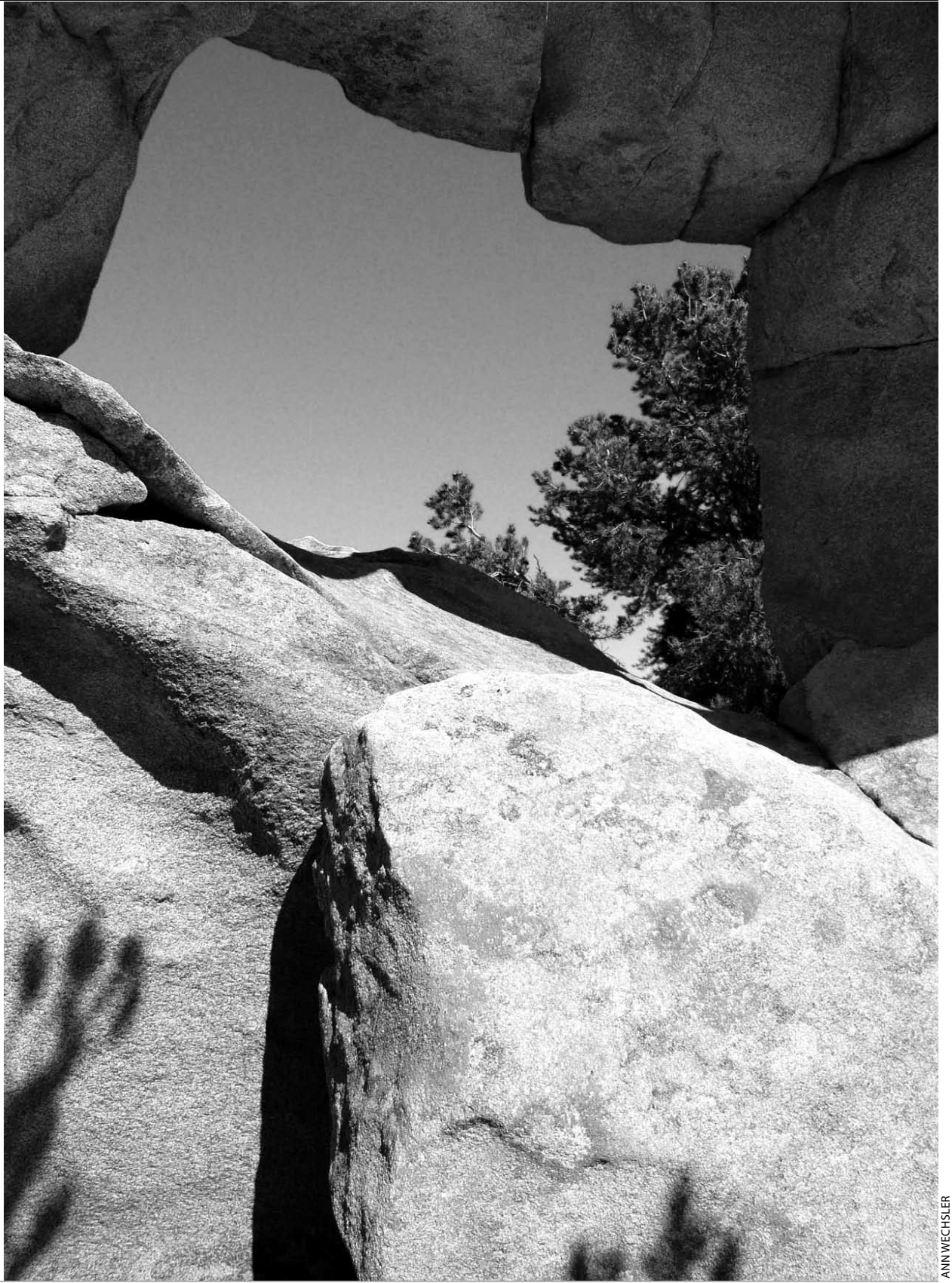
A popular climbing destination in southern Idaho was the place Aaron Jones chose to lead a camping and hiking outing in early June. It was exploratory – Jones hadn't been there before – and he had few inquiries for this venture. But my curiosity was piqued, and I can't recall ever seeing the reserve listed as a Sierra Club outing.

The Silent City of Rocks is a U.S. National Reserve, jointly managed by the National Park Service and the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation. Access is easy, about three hours from Salt Lake City, in rural, agricultural Idaho. Although the reserve designation dates to 1988, it was well known to the California-bound wagon trains of the 1840s and 1850s as they left the Raft River valley and traveled over Granite Pass into Nevada. One can still find names or initials of emigrants written in axle grease on Register Rock.

What visitors see today are quite a few fences because City of Rocks is managed as a reserve, a designation that includes private ranches within its boundaries. However, it is a magical place with towering rocks and trails that draw you down into the solitude of the inner granite city. The campsites are primitive, offering considerable privacy whether behind, above, or surrounded by rock formations. The summer could become blistering hot, but I can imagine being nestled into a shady spot and choosing one's hiking trails carefully. The campgrounds were full with families and dogs, in spite of cold windy weather, and a weekend of birding was scheduled, but we saw few hikers. There were plenty of climbers to watch on high, however, doing what they do so daringly.

The small town of Oakley is outside the reserve and worth a trip for its museum and quaint Victorian homes. Other small towns offer a glimpse into the past, but one welcoming restaurant advertises steaks in a cowboy cowgirl atmosphere (a sign in the restroom reads "giddyup gal") but decidedly modern prices for the ample serving. There are also some ruins both in and around the reserve.

This U.S. National Reserve provides wonderful respite for a late spring or early autumn outing for Sierra members looking for individual, group or family outings. Our visit was beautifully decorated with fields of wildflowers and snow covered peaks, so I can only imagine what fall has to offer in color and texture.



ANN WECHSLER

The Washington County Bill is Back and Still Needs Improvement

by Lawson LeGate, Senior Southwest Representative

Utah Sen Bob Bennett has once again introduced a Washington County lands bill. While the bill has added acreage to be designated as wilderness, there are still major problems related to the sale of public lands. The Utah Chapter passed a resolution opposing the Washington County Growth and Conservation Act of 2008, S.2384, as it is now written.

Here are the key problems with the Washington County Growth and Conservation Act of 2008, S.2834:

- The bill requires the sale of as much as 9,300 acres of public land in Washington County and directs some of the revenue to the county. Ten percent of the revenue would go to Washington County for, among other things, water delivery systems, such as the controversial Lake Powell Pipeline. One estimate puts the revenue for the county as high

as \$120 million. This is a bad precedent. Local governments should not be encouraged to look to the sale of public lands to augment their budgets. Public lands throughout the West could find themselves on the auction block.

- S.2834 also gives nearly 1,000 acres in rights-of-way to Washington County for two reservoir sites.
- S.2834 excludes too many important wildlands from wilderness designation. Through years of painstaking survey and research, the Utah Wilderness Coalition, including the Sierra Club as a senior partner, has identified 300,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management land in Washington County that should be protected as wilderness. These include beautiful Colorado Plateau wildlands near Zion National Park as well as part of the wild Mojave

Desert. But S.2834 would protect only 140,000 acres of these deserving lands.

- The bill would designate the High Desert ORV Trail, some of which could run through proposed wilderness areas.
- S.2834 not only releases 5,000 acres of wilderness study area from protection, but also could prohibit future wilderness study of deserving wildlands not protected by the bill.
- The bill expressly denies a water right for wilderness and permits other non-conforming activities.

Utah Wilderness Coalition representatives recently met with Sen. Bennett to ask him to improve his bill. On the key issue of giving millions in public land sale revenues to Washington County, the Senator refused to budge. The Sierra Club cannot support a bill that would encourage other

counties across the West to press for public land sales to augment their county budgets. Furthermore, the Sierra Club opposes the wasteful Lake Powell Pipeline project which land sale revenues could support.

REP. JIM MATHESON: (202) 225-3011

Please ask Rep. Matheson to commit to improving the provisions cited above, and to hold listening sessions in Washington County prior to the introduction of a House version of S.2834.

SEN. BENNETT: (202) 224-5444

Please ask Sen. Bennett to work with the Sierra Club to improve his bill per the points cited above. Express your opposition to giving land sale revenues to Washington County and urge him to protect the areas proposed for wilderness protection by the Utah Wilderness Coalition.

OnEnergy

What the Heck is Cap and Auction?

by Kathleen Ridihalgh, Senior Northwest Regional Representative, and Mark Clemens

Our economy is suffering; energy prices are out of control; and we hear more every day about the negative effects of global warming that are already happening. It's time for us to act and take control of our energy future. Acting to combat global warming and tackle our energy crisis will help bring energy costs back under control, put our economy back on the path to prosperity, and help build a clean energy economy that benefits all of us instead of just a few big energy companies. Science shows that urgent action is required; we have the affordable technology we need to act today; and now all we need is the political will to do so. Acting now will help solve the energy and economic problems of today and preserve our planet for the generations of tomorrow.

Utah is part of the Western Climate Initiative (WCI), a group of states working together to develop a cap and auction system for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. A strong global warming plan will protect workers, create new jobs, help consumers bring energy costs back under control, and boost the economy by spurring investments in 21st Century clean energy technologies, using funds from companies that caused the problem. Sierra Club volunteers and staff agree that a properly-designed and implemented cap-and-auction system could do just that.

In order for the Sierra Club to endorse a global warming plan at the state, regional or national level, it must adhere to four core principles. A plan that fails to adhere to these principles is designed to fail from the outset.

First, it must do what scientists tell us is necessary. The emissions reduction tar-

A strong global warming plan will protect workers, create new jobs, help consumers bring energy costs back under control, and boost the economy by spurring investments in 21st Century clean energy technologies,

gets and timetables of any economy-wide global warming plan must meet scientific demands for effectively curbing global warming to prevent its most dangerous impacts, such as rising sea levels and the spread of disease. For the U.S., this will require reducing total greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20% by 2020 from 2005 levels and at least 80% by 2050 from 1990 levels. The U.S. should establish a firm and enforceable declining cap consistent with meeting these targets. The system should take car and truck emissions into consideration as well as electric power generation pollution.

Second, all emissions permits should be auctioned or used for the public benefit—not private windfalls. By contrast, in a cap-and-trade system, the emissions permits are typically distributed free to the major existing polluters. Auction proceeds are a public resource and should be spent to achieve the highest public good, not generate windfall profits or other benefits for politically powerful energy companies and other polluters. The term cap and auction emphasizes the importance of auctioning emission permits for public purposes. Both the cap-and-trade and cap-and-auction models then ratchet down year by year the total amount of emissions authorized.

The third imperative is that the Western Climate Initiative plan should pursue

the cleanest, safest, fastest, and cheapest emissions reductions first. Revenue raised by auctioning emissions permits should be invested in the highest-value solutions for emissions reductions first. Increasing energy efficiency in homes, commercial buildings and vehicles is the fastest, cleanest, cheapest and safest way to reduce our energy use, our energy bills, and America's greenhouse gas emissions.

Clean, renewable energy sources such as solar, wind or geothermal should be deployed to meet our remaining energy needs. Energy efficiency and renewable energy projects also have the potential of generating hundreds of thousands of jobs, particularly in regions suffering from recent losses in the manufacturing sector.

Finally, the Western Climate Initiative plan must establish mechanisms to support workers, protect vulnerable groups, habitats, and induce world action. Auction revenue should be distributed to create new clean energy jobs, revitalize and retain jobs in existing industries, and ensure fair treatment for affected workers and their communities. Auction revenue should also go to assist low- and moderate-income households with rising energy costs and other economic impacts, and to provide adaptation assistance to communities and ecosystems in the U.S. and vulnerable nations around the world.

This principle—often called a just

transition—is not only morally the right thing to do, but it also helps to diminish political opposition from groups that have an economic stake in the status quo. Given current high budget deficits, it's unlikely the existing federal budget would be able to provide retraining and interim family support to groups like coal miners whose jobs will disappear as we move away from fossil fuels. That's why it's crucial that emission permits should be auctioned rather than simply handed out for free.

The U.S. should enact policies and provide incentives that encourage other countries to limit greenhouse gas emissions. Also, to prevent driving the U.S.'s energy intensive industry out of the country, climate border adjustment mechanisms should ensure that imported products reflect the same environmental costs as products produced under domestic climate policy. This would reduce the economic incentive for companies to move and increase the incentive for companies to start reducing emissions wherever they are in the world.

The United States must begin to curb its global warming emissions to avoid the most dangerous impacts of global warming and contain the high costs of inaction. The scientific community warns that allowing global temperatures to rise more than 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels could lead to irreversible changes to the planet. To prevent this, we need to act fast, but we also need to ensure that the policy we set is effective, sustainable, and will actually accomplish the goals it sets out.

Governor Huntsman needs to hear from us that we support a strong, responsible program to reduce greenhouse gas pollution and boost our green economy. To find out how you can help here in Utah, please contact Tim Wagner at 801/467-9294 or tim.wagner@sierraclub.org.

Gas Prices, Big Oil, No Drilling

TALKING POINTS

AMERICANS ARE FED UP WITH HIGH GAS PRICES AND NO LEADERSHIP

While regular American families are breaking the bank to fill up their gas tanks, the oil industry has been celebrating billions of dollars in profit.

Two years ago President Bush said America was addicted to oil but this spring he complained that we just need a bigger fix. When American families are struggling with record prices at the pump, how can we justify continuing to subsidize Big Oil as it rack up tens of billions in record profits?

The Bush Administration continually calls for more of the same when it comes to gas prices, and its disastrous policies help Big Oil and keep us tied to foreign energy supplies – all while consumers and the economy buckle under weight of crippling energy prices.

Our disastrous energy policies have allowed our oil addiction to grow and energy prices to skyrocket. As hardworking Americans suffer and spiraling energy costs

wreck the economy, the President merely trots out more of the same policies that do nothing to help consumers, do nothing to end our dangerous dependence on oil and do nothing to bring rising energy costs back under control.

It's no coincidence that as gas prices have surged to record highs with no end in sight that three of the world's biggest oil companies just reported record-breaking quarterly profits in excess of \$27 billion. Yet, the president refuses to end the billions in taxpayer-funded subsidies that are helping to fuel Big Oil's record profits.

DRILLING IN THE ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Big Oil and the Bush administration are pushing to open our last, best wild places and wildlife habitat to drilling. If they have it their way, we'll be paying for oil with our natural treasures—places like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the Polar Bear Seas.

Drilling these places won't do anything to ease pain at the pump or create energy

independence. Once it begins producing, which could take 20 years, the Arctic Refuge would produce roughly a year's supply of oil.

Data from the most recent U.S. Energy Information Administration reveals that alternative technologies and reduced consumption have ten times the power to reduce oil imports than potential Arctic National Wildlife Refuge production.

Permanently destroying one of our last remaining special places is hardly worth the costs. America simply doesn't have enough oil to impact prices on the world market since we sit on less than three percent of the world's reserves.

TIME FOR A CHANGE

The honest answer to our oil problem is to use less of it, and that means better fuel efficiency and renewable energy.

Instead of the failed policies of the past, it's time to break our addiction to fossil fuels by shifting our priorities—and our policies—toward creating a clean energy economy. It's time to take back the give-

Instead of the failed policies of the past, it's time to break our addiction to fossil fuels by shifting our priorities—and our policies—toward creating a clean energy economy.

aways to Big Oil and invest that money in clean, renewable energy and efficiency that will secure our energy independence.

A serious national commitment to renewable energy will put our economy back on the path to prosperity by bringing energy costs under control, creating over 820,000 new jobs, and making us more energy independent.

These talking points were published by Sierra Club's Field Media Desk.

Our Appreciation

'08 Fundraising Drive

Thanks to the members listed below for their contributions to the chapter's 2008 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.

- Steven Aderholt
- Robert M Anderson
- Eli Angus
- Jean Arnold
- Katherine Astin
- James M Banner
- Bob Bennett
- Michael & Jean Binyon
- Jane C Bowman
- Frank R Chase
- Lawrence Culver
- Carol Day
- Nina Dougherty
- Bob Faux
- Naomi Franklin
- Glenda Gehri
- Cristina Goodwin
- Kristin Wann Gorang
- Erich Graf
- Arthur Griffin
- Wesley A Groesbeck
- Charles & Emily Hall
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- Jim Struve & Jeff Bell
- Margaret C Swenson
- Kirk Thomas
- Dr & Mrs J Westwater
- Margaret Wilburn
- Brian Wilkinson
- Janet C Winniford
- Treasure Mountain Inn

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!

IN MEMORIAM

The Utah Chapter gratefully acknowledges gifts made in memory of chapter member Norma Seppi Ivers by the following contributors.

- Nancy & Ryan Anderson
- Judy L Colbert
- Edward P Lump
- Veloy & Carol Varner
- EEI Geotechnical & Environmental Solutions



ONE PERCENT FOR THE PLANET

Treasure Mountain Inn, located in Park City, is one of eleven Utah companies to have committed to the One Percent for the Planet philosophy. Check out One Percent for the Planet at www.onepercentfortheplanet.org.

Along with other members, Treasure Mountain Inn donates 1% of sales to organizations that protect the earth's ecosystems and promote education and understanding of the environment. In 2008, the Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club continues as one of several environmental groups supported by Treasure Mountain Inn's 1% donations.

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 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.



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

GEORGE B. AND OMA E. WILCOX
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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.

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.

July

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 at 801.393.4603 for details.

SLG, Sun, 7/6, North Fork Trail Uintas. The North Fork trail begins about 11 miles east of Kamas near the beautiful Mirror Lake Highway. The path is relatively flat, is mostly in close proximity to the creek, and passes through picturesque forested acreage approximately 4 miles (one way) to the destination. Depending on the condition and will of participants, an option will be to ascend a couple miles, bushwhacking and scrambling required, to the aptly named Hidden Lake, a tranquil sanctuary inside the pristine Uinta National Forest. The North Fork trail is appropriate for novice and experienced hikers, but the hike to Hidden Lake is difficult should the decision be made to hike there. Plan on an all day adventure and bring plenty of water/snacks for the trek. Call Ken (484-3112) for meeting place, time, and other information.

SLG, Tues, 7/8, Tuesday Night Hike to Salt Lake Overlook. The trailhead for the Salt Lake Overlook is just a short drive up Millcreek Canyon. A spectacular view of the Salt Lake Valley will reward participants after a hike up a moderately sloped trail to the overlook. The elevation and shade of the afternoon will offer a refreshing break from the heat of the valley. Meeting place is the Skyline High parking lot at 6:30 PM. Call Dee (781-1970) for information about the hike.

GCG, Thurs, 7/10, Gold Knob from Miners Basin. Beat the heat in the La Sals. Explore

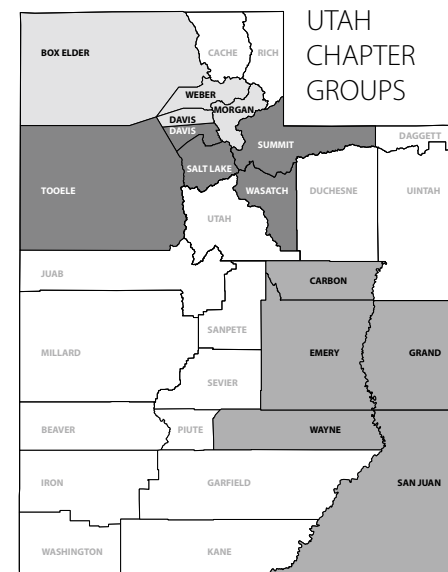
ruined dwellings at old mining claims at the head of a high wooded valley and/or climb the ridge to Gold Knob (5 miles round trip, 1400' elevation gain). Gold Knob offers fine views from north through west to south. The road in from the La Sal Loop Road is steep and rough enough to require four-wheel drive. Gold Knob can also be reached from Warner Lake with a somewhat stiffer climb. Meet at Moab Information Center, Center and Main, at 8:00 AM. Leader: Tom Messenger, 259-1756.

OG, Sat, 7/12, Cutler Basin Trail. This trail is the steepest of the three routes to Ben Lomond that originate in Ogden Valley – but it's also the shortest (the other two are Ben Lomond Trail and the North Skyline Trail). The Cutler Basin is some of the most spectacular country in the Wasatch. The trail is as rocky as it is steep and wildlife flourishes throughout the area. We may well see moose, mountain lions and mountain goats, deer, fox, raccoons, and a multitude of bird species. Contact Joanie Aponte at 801.399.0034 for more information.

SLG, Sat, 7/12, Thoreau Birthday Hike and Reading. Join us for a modest hike to a lovely setting and enrich yourself with the poetic wisdom of Henry David Thoreau. Bring a snippet from his voluminous writings or merely sit back and enjoy the experience. The leader will have some materials to share. Meeting place is the Big Cottonwood Canyon Park and Ride at the mouth of the canyon at 9:30 AM. Afterwards we can toast the memory of this great naturalist and visionary. Contact Aaron at 801-467-3532 or ajonesmvp@msn.com. [E]

SLG, Tues, 7/15, Tuesday Night Hike Elbow Fork. We will start at the Elbow Fork trailhead, across the road from Mt Aire and the Pipeline Trail heads. Then hike to the ridge and descend along down the Terraces trail. Arrangements will be made to shuttle hikers from the Terraces back to Elbow Fork. A not too difficult slope to begin, gentle slope back to the cars, and glorious views of the canyon and surrounding peaks along the way. Meeting place is Skyline High School parking lot at 6:30 PM. Call Ken (484-3112) for more information.

SATURDAY, JULY 7, 2007: Soapstone Trailhead on the Provo River in the Uintas.



NO GROUP AFFILIATION
GLEN CANYON GROUP
OGDEN GROUP
SALT LAKE GROUP

OG, 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 at Salt Lake City's Main Library, 210 East 400 South, covering pre-trip preparation, trail etiquette, soft skills for handling large groups, and other skills essential for leading hikes. The workshop will also offer basic wilderness first aid training including how to deal with common minor and major emergencies which may occur on a typical Sierra Club outing. The workshop will run from 9:30 am to 4 pm with a break for lunch. Please RSVP to Rebecca 801/487-4160 or Ken 801/484-3112 before the workshop. [E]

SLG, Tues, 7/22, Tuesday Night Hike in Porters Fork. Most of the Porters Fork hike will be on paved trail which begins not far above the Log Haven restaurant in Millcreek Canyon. After passing by summer cabins the road ends but a trail continues and participants will continue into the forest as long as light allows. The slope is moderately steep but the scenic and tranquil environs will make the trip worthwhile. Meeting place is the Skyline High parking lot at 6:30 PM. Call Robert (949-3597) for information.

SLG, Fri-Sun, 7/25-27, Lone Peak Backpack. Lone Peak is one of the wildest yet most accessible of our local wilderness areas. Come experience the magnificence of this challenging mountain. We plan to hike up from the town of Alpine to the Second Hamongog meadow (about a 3 hour hike) and camp Friday night. Then, the next day, Saturday, we will climb on a route to Lone Peak summit and cirque, returning to the Second Hamongog for the night. We plan to return Sunday morning. Participants need to be in good physical condition; there will be about 5,000 feet elevation gain. Route finding and mountaineering skills are helpful for this adventure. This mountain is rated at "Most Difficult" by the Wasatch Mountain Club. Please email Rebecca at rebeccawalace38@msn.com, or call at 801/487-4160 with questions.

continued on page 10



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

All Creatures Great and Small



“Every good thing, great and small, needs defense”

- John Muir

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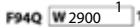


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Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

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



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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



OUTINGS, from page 9

SLG, Tues, 7/29, Tuesday Night Hike in Big Cottonwood Canyon. Although the venue was not chosen at press time, Mineral Fork, Mill B, and Broads Fork are few excellent possibilities for this hike. Wherever the group goes, the alpine ambiance of Big Cottonwood Canyon will be a rejuvenating reward after a hot and stressful day in the city. Meeting place is the Big Cottonwood Canyon Park & Ride at 6:30 pm. Call Jan (712-8956) for information.

August

GCG, Sat, 8/2, Beaver Basin. Beaver basin is located just north of Mann Peak at about 10,500 ft. The hike will begin about 2 or 3 miles from the basin and hike in the pines and aspen along an old road. This should be a nice cool easy 4 to 6 mile stroll in the mountains during the heat of summer. Last summer the road was impassable because of fallen trees. We will park at a convenient place and hike up the road. Meet at the Moab Information Center, Center and Main, at 8:00 AM. Mike Stringham, (435) 259-8579.

SLG, Tues, 8/5 Tuesday Night Hike to Brighton Lakes. The summer would not be complete without a drive up Big Cottonwood Canyon and hike around the Brighton Lakes near the ski area. The mountain is high but the path is relatively easy, and the views of surrounding peaks are stunning. Meeting place is the Big Cottonwood Park & Ride at 6:30 pm. Call Rebecca (487-4160) for information.

OG, Sat, 8/9, Ogden Canyon Overlook. Starting from the lower parking lot at Snow-Basin, we will hike through the old Maples campground then wind through maple and aspen to the saddle west of Sardine Peak. The trail ends at a dramatic overlook into Ogden Canyon. Approximately 5 miles round trip with an 800 foot elevation gain. Call John at 801-985-6854 for meeting place and time.

SLG, Tues, 8/12, Tuesday Night Hike in Little Cottonwood Canyon. This is the only Tuesday hike in Little Cottonwood Canyon this season, and will probably take place in the Albion basin area of the canyon. Expect moderate level steepness and pace. Take advantage of the opportunity to enjoy the abundant wild flowers, view magnificence of the surrounding peaks, and perhaps even be surprised by a wildlife sighting. A cool way to spend a Tuesday evening. Meeting place is the Little Cottonwood Park & Ride at 6:30 pm. Call Tad (487-3570) for information.

OG, 8/16, 2008: Notch Peak Trail in the Uintah Mountains. This is a six-mile round-trip hike that will take 3-4 hours. Most of this moderate hike is on trail that is above 10,000 feet. The hike is very scenic with outstanding views of numerous small lakes and exquisite Bald Mountain to the east and Trial Peak to the west. We should see an abundance of wild flowers. Call Larry at 801-731-3701 for meeting place and time.

SLG, Tues, 8/19, Tuesday Night Hike in Neffs Canyon. The Neffs Canyon trail is a moderate hike with occasional stretches of steep gravel; the trailhead is just south of Millcreek Canyon. Depending on the desire of participants, the turnaround point could be either the meadow, or to the ridge between Mt Olympus and Mt Raymond. Either way this is a great hike for the novice or more seasoned hiker. Call Robert (949-3597) for more information.

SLG, Fri-Sun, 8/22-24, Snake Valley Field Trip. We'll meet up with folks from the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club and experts on desert hydrology and biology to find out about the proposed water grab by the Southern Nevada Water Authority. The Snake Valley is a land of amazing contrasts with harsh alkali playas alternating with wetlands and agricultural land on the val-



RON YOUNGER

win a backcountry guide

AUGUST 21, 2007: Tuesday Evening Trekkers at trailhead for Big Mountain segment of the Great Western Trail. Be the first to correctly list the first name of eight of these trekkers and receive a guide book for the Uintas. Send your list before July 15, 2008 to Ron Younger, 920 East 1500 South, Bountiful, UT 84010-2138.

ley floor, and wildflowers and pines on the slopes of twelve- and thirteen-thousand foot peaks along the valley's western border. Many of the folks attending will choose to camp at one of the campgrounds on the cool upper slopes of Great Basin National Park. Plenty of time for play and exploration in the park, home to high mountain lakes and millennial bristlecone pines. For more information about the field trip or to make a reservation, contact Ryan Barker via e-mail at ryankumbu@yahoo.com.

GCG, Sat, 8/23, Manns Peak from Geyser Pass. Manns Peak the kind(er) gentle(r) way. About four miles round trip with 1800' of elevation gain as opposed to ~8/2800 from Warner Lake. Escape the heat and get fine views of the northern La Sals and the canyon country to the west. Good footing all the way. Last 1000+' from Burro Pass to the peak is steep and unrelenting -- pretend you're admiring the view while you stop and wheeze. 4WD or muscular high clearance needed to reach the trailhead. Meet at the Moab Information Center, Center and Main at 8 AM. For details, contact Tom Messenger (435) 259-1756.

SLG, Tues, 8/26, Tuesday Night Hike in Mineral Fork. Mineral Fork is a favorite of the hiking leader. Beginning a short distance above the S curve in Big Cottonwood Canyon, the trail is an old logging road that switchbacks through scenic oak and pine stands. There are two stream crossings, the second leading to aspen groves and beds of wildflowers. Meeting place is the Big Cottonwood Park & Ride at the mouth of the

canyon at 6:30 pm. Call Ken (484-3112) for information.

September

SLG, Tues, 9/2, Tuesday Night Hike in City Creek. There are several trail choices in and around the City Creek Canyon area. Difficulty level will depend on the chosen trail, but none will be too difficult for an experienced hiker. Since daylight is a concern this time of year, we will start the hike directly from the gates of City Creek near the parking area. It is advised to pack flashlights and insect repellent. Meeting place is the mouth of City Creek, at the entry gate at 6:30 pm. Call Ken (484-3112) for information and directions to the trailhead if necessary.

OG, 9/6, Red Pine Lake. This will be a seven-mile round-trip, strenuous, four-hour hike with a 2,000 feet elevation gain. It is located in the Lone Peak Wilderness Area. It is a very scenic hike with aspen and pine trees along the trail. While we have lunch at Red Pine Lake, we can enjoy views of Dromedary Peak, Superior Peak, and White Baldy Peak which are all above 11,000 feet. Call Larry at 801-731-3701 for meeting place and time.

SLG, Tues, 9/9, Tuesday Night Hike to the Living Room. The last Tuesday hike of the season. Great views, not too difficult slope, mild temperatures, and good company highlight this popular hike. Meeting place is Tabby Lane and Colorow in research park near the U of U at 6:30 PM. Take a right on Wakara Way, go straight to the end, turn Right on Colorow. Park along the road at Tabby or pass and park closer to the trailhead which is on the left side of the road if you come from that direction. Call Dee (718-1970) for information and directions. Hope to see you there!

SLG, Sat-Sun, 9/13-9/14, Car Camp at Notch Peak/West Desert. Known as the El Capitan of the West Desert, Notch Peak is one of the classic landmark peaks in the state of Utah. At the base is a granite fortress, and the multicolored limestone rock face soars to more than 4,000 feet above the Tule Valley floor. An adventurous Sierra Club member will attempt (this is the third time

Summer Backpacking Outings

See page 12.



continued on page 11

OUTINGS, from page 10

within a year) to summit the majestic peak and invites other experienced hikers to join him for the trip. The trail to the peak is a soft wash bottom, passes under shear limestone walls, through ancient bristlecone pine stands, before climbing to the peak and a hauntingly panoramic view of the vast West Desert. Although moderate in difficulty, it is advised that participants be in good physical condition for the trek. The plan is to make the 3-hour drive on Saturday morning, hike to the summit, camp Saturday night, then explore some before driving home on Sunday. There is flexibility to alter the plans based on interest in the outing. Bring all the car camp necessities and plenty of water, as there are no water sources in the area. RSVP as close to September 13th as possible to Ken (484-3112) for meeting time, place, and other details.

OG, 09/20, Wolf Canyon Trail. A pleasant, steady uphill climb on the southwestern side of the canyon that leads to James Peak and Powder Mountain Ski Area. Wolf Canyon Trail is a moderate, but steady uphill climb through groves of oak, maple, aspen, and fir. The southern exposure makes this a good pathway for spring or fall. joanie @ 801-399-0034.

GCG, Sat, 9/27, Balanced Rock Mesa. The hike begins about 11 miles east of the Sand Flats entry kiosk and 3 miles east of the Porcupine Rim mountain bike trail head.

This fairly easy hike should last about 4 to 5 hours and is freestyle meaning there is no established trail to follow. We will be able to see several balanced rocks, some arches and lots of hodos. The hike is described in Fran Barnes' Day Hike book Forty one day hikes in the Moab Vicinity. Meet at the Moab Information Center, Center and Main, at 8:00 AM. Mike Stringham, (435) 259-8579.

October

GCG, Sat, 10/4, Dragonfly Canyon and Gold Bar Arch. Not more than 4 miles with about 800' of elevation gain. A short, relatively easy hike as a return to the canyons after the heat of the summer. Enjoy the pretty pour-offs of Dragonfly (or Culvert) Canyon before climbing out the left wall to visit spectacular Gold Bar Arch. Minor scrambling. Meet at the Moab Information Center, Center and Main, at 9:00 AM. Mike Binyon, (435) 259-1633.

OG, Sat, 10/25, Front Runner/ Legacy Bike Path Tour. "Inspect the wetland section of the new Legacy Parkway Trail system by bicycle. We will first catch the FrontRunner at the Ogden rail station [2350 Wall Ave] and disembark at Woods Cross station. Thence bike west intersecting the Parkway trail. After viewing the wetlands we will ride north to the Farmington rail station [450 N, 850 W] and catch the train home. Flat riding, easy and safe. Meet at Ogden rail transit center at 9:45. Bring Lunch and train fare money." Jock Glidden, 394-0457.

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.



SEPTEMBER 11, 2007: Tuesday Evening trekkers start out for the "Living Room" from Red Butte Garden parking.

Little Sahara footprint.



STEPHEN PETERSON

Utah Chapter Directory

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Out&About

Summer & Fall Backpacking Outings



BACKYARD WILD, Fri-Sun, July 25 through 27. Lone Peak is one of the wildest yet most accessible of our local wilderness areas. Come experience the magnificence of this challenging mountain. We plan to hike up from the town of Alpine to the Second Hamongog meadow (about a 3 hour hike) and camp Friday night. Then, the next day, Saturday, we will climb on a route to Lone Peak summit and cirque, returning to the Second Hamongog for the night. We plan to return Sunday morning. Participants need to be in good physical condition; there will be about 5,000 feet elevation gain. Route finding and mountaineering skills are helpful for this adventure. This mountain is rated at "Most Difficult" by the Wasatch Mountain Club. Please email Rebecca at rebeccawallace38@msn.com, or call at 801/487-4160 with questions. This trip is also listed with the Salt Lake Group outings.

HIGH Uintas, Fri-Sun, August 22 through 24th. We will meet at the Highline trailhead above Mirror Lake and follow the Highline Trail into the designated wilderness. Day one will take us to Pinto Lake to set up camp. Day two will be fun hiking without packs along different trails to other lakes. Fishing and swimming would be an option as we enjoy the beautiful environment. Day three would be packing up and hiking out. The hike is not strenuous but is at about 10,000 feet elevation. For more information, contact the trip leader, Bob Owen beowen@sisna.com or 435/527-1099.

FENCE CANYON/ EGYPT, Fri-Sun, September 12 through 14. If participants wish, we could spend an extra day at the river and come home Monday. Day one we will meet at Devils Garden and then hike a few miles down the slickrock to the Escalante River to set up camp near a spring (but still need to filter water). Day two will be hiking without packs a few miles down river which requires wading. We will have plenty of time to spend at the Golden Throne, a photographer's paradise. The final day will be moderately strenuous hiking back up the slickrock. For more information, contact the trip leader, Bob Owen beowen@sisna.com or 435/527-1099. [E]

LITTLE DEATH HOLLOW, Fri-Sun, Sept. 26 through 28. Day one we will meet in Boulder and follow the scenic Burr Trail with a stop or two to hike a little without packs in some of the best sandstone hiking in Utah. We will have a 13-mile dirt road to reach the trailhead where we will camp. Day two will be hiking down Little Death Hollow which has several miles of narrows and slots with a dozen or so choke stones to negotiate over, around or under. Perhaps a little mud and a pool or two to wade. We will camp on the sand under some beautiful Fremont Cottonwood trees. Day three we will pass by a mother lode of black petrified wood as we hike out Wolverine Canyon which has some more narrows. Perhaps a 5-hour hike out. This is not a strenuous hike (total 14 miles). For more information, contact the trip leader, Bob Owen beowen@sisna.com or 435/527-1099. [E]

About these hikes: There is no charge to participate. All we request is a love for nature and a respect for the environment and willingness to abide principles of leave no trace, which we will discuss the first day of each trip. There is usually a 12-person limit to our party to protect the land and the wilderness experience of others. Fires are usually restricted so you will need a little propane stove and water filter. Get in shape ahead of time for these trips.

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!

COME SEE US AT THE FARMERS' MARKET

Want to help us get out the word about the Sierra Club's conservation programs and outings? The Sierra Club's Salt Lake Group will have a booth at the Downtown Salt Lake Farmers' Market four times this season, July 19th, August 16th, Sept 13th and Sept 20th, and we need at least two volunteers each Saturday.

The market, in Salt Lake City's Pioneer Park at 300 W 300 S, is a fun, busy venue to present our message. The Planetarium TRAX stop on the Salt Lake/Sandy Line is only a block north of Pioneer Park for those who prefer to take transit (download a map at

www.rideuta.com/ridinguta/routeMapImage.aspx?abbreviation=701&signup=73). The market runs from 8 am to 1 pm.

To volunteer, send an e-mail message to Ann Wechsler at annwechsler@gmail.com, or to Mark Clemens at mark.clemens@sierraclub.org.

The Ogden Group has also staffed a booth at the Ogden Farmers' Market for several years. They intend to continue this successful program in 2008. Check out the details at www.ogdencity.com/ace.farmers.html. The Ogden Farmers' Market also runs on Saturdays from 8 am to 1 pm.

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.



Salt Lake City's Farmer's Market in Pioneer Park is a fun, busy venue in which to present our message.

ADVERTISE IN THE UTAH SIERRAN AND REACH 4,000 HOUSEHOLDS IN UTAH! CALL (801)467-9297 FOR OUR RATE CARD, OR EMAIL UTAH.CHAPTER@SIERRACLUB.ORG.