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# Utah Sierran

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Winning by a landslide

page 6

## Washington Warming to Wilderness?

by Jean Binyon



Lobby Team #19 Jean Binyon and Denise Marie Sobieski.

“Fifty years ago, Utah had 18 million acres of wilderness land. Two-thirds of that is gone today and what remains is seriously at risk.”

- Rep. Wayne Owens, 1990

**Q**uestion: What do a high school biology teacher at Terra Haute, Indiana, and a ranger at Great Basin National Park, Nevada, have in common?

**A**nswer: They both teamed up with Mike and Jean Binyon to storm the Congressional barricades on behalf of America's Red Rock Wilderness Act in Washington, DC, in February.

More than twenty 2-3-person teams of citizen lobbyists visited members of the US House of Representatives and the US Senate who had co-sponsored the Act in past years, plus members of the Congressional Committee on Natural Resources and Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. There were a total of fifty activists from Washington State to New Hampshire to Florida, including twenty-three Utahns. Each team included one or more Utahns, and each team visited with staff of legislators for their respective states. The entire effort was well coordinated by the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance with the assistance of the Sierra Club.

### ABOUT AMERICA'S RED ROCK WILDERNESS ACT

This is the 20<sup>th</sup> year that the bill has been introduced. And it has grown over the years. When Rep. Wayne Owens introduced H.R. 1500 in 1989, it aimed to protect 5.7 million acres of wilderness in western and southern Utah. The 2009 bill, as yet unnumbered, to be introduced this spring by Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) and Sen. Richard Durbin (D-IL) will call for designation of 9.4 million acres. If the Omnibus Public Lands Act passes, some wilderness and conservation areas will be removed from our Red Rock Act, which will then total 9.2 million acres. The difference is accounted for by Bureau of Land Management wilderness-quality lands in Washington County that would be designated in the omnibus bill.

Our lobbying aim was to increase the number of original co-sponsors of the bill. In 2008 161 representatives and 20 senators signed on. The goal this year is 180 and 30. With that many co-sponsors, it is likely that the bill will be heard in committee, and maybe, just maybe, it can pick up enough votes to pass both houses and be finally enacted.

### UTAH'S WILDERNESS

About 2/3 of Utah is public lands, and 2/3 of that is managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on behalf of the people of the United States. In his 1990 Forward to *Wilderness at the Edge*, the initial citizens' wilderness proposal by the Utah Wilderness Coalition, Utah Rep. Wayne Owens wrote, "Fifty years ago, Utah had 18 million acres of wilderness land. Two-thirds of that is gone today and what remains is seriously at risk." What he didn't note was that Utah has the largest contiguous wilderness quality lands in the lower 48 states.

It is incumbent upon us to save these pristine and valuable lands by encouraging Congress to officially designate these remaining 9+ million acres as wilderness and to require BLM to manage them as such for this and future generations of Americans. It is truly *America's Red Rock Wilderness*.

*Jean Binyon has served in many volunteer capacities with the Utah Chapter, including as chapter chair. She is currently chapter membership chair.*

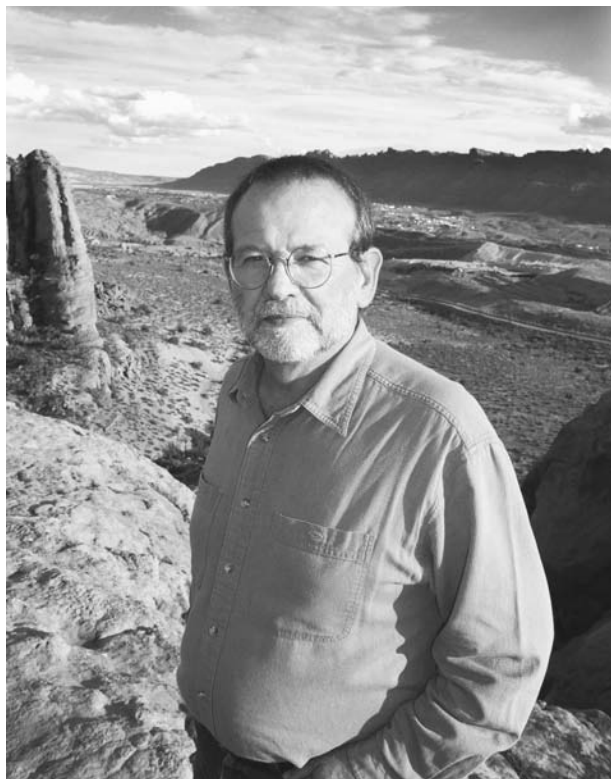
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# Wayne's World



## Fools Rush In

by Wayne Hoskisson, Utah Chapter Chair

**D**avid Brower spoke about the creation of the world and the place of mankind on it. He compared the existence of the earth to the six days of creation in Genesis. On this scale life began Tuesday at noon, at 4 p.m. on Saturday the large reptiles showed up, at 9 p.m. the redwoods began to grow and the really big reptiles disappeared. "At three minutes before midnight, man appeared. At one-fourth of a second before midnight, Christ arrived. At one fortieth of a second before midnight, the Industrial Revolution began.

We are surrounded with people who think that what we have been doing for that one-fortieth of a second can go on indefinitely. They are considered normal, but they are stark, raving mad." John McPhee attributed this to David Brower in 1971 when he wrote *Encounters with the Archdruid*.

Almost forty years later mad men have brought us to the brink of climate changes we may never recover from. In that one-fortieth of a second we may have accomplished something neither Deity nor evolution could accomplish.

The Sierra Club and our Climate Recovery Campaign hopes to relieve us from this madness.

We will all need to do our part.



## On the Ground

by Wayne Hoskisson, Chapter Chair

### WASHINGTON COUNTY WILDERNESS

**T**he U.S. Senate passed S 22, the Public Lands Omnibus Bill. Included in this legislation is a section designating wilderness in Washington County. Rumors about the prospects for passage in the House vary. Recently Mark Rey, former Under Secretary of Agriculture for National Forests (under President Bush) told the Western Environmental Law Conference that he did not believe the bill would pass the House before the end of 2009. The House of Representatives attempted to pass this omnibus bill on March 11, 2009, under a rule that would have prevented amendments. This suspension of the ordinary rules of the house required a two-thirds vote of members present; the bill failed by two votes. It's anticipated that house leadership will bring the bill back later under ordinary rules that require only a majority vote.

The Utah Chapter, along with our Utah Wilderness Coalition partners, worked to improve this legislation. We managed to secure some improvements to the bill as originally proposed by Senator Robert Bennett. The legislation falls short of designating all the lands in Washington County that qualify as wilderness. Most importantly all funds that could have been used to aid the construction of a pipeline from Lake Powell to St. George were stripped from the bill. We continue to support America's Red Rock Wilderness Act that would designate all lands qualifying for wilderness.

### FOREST SERVICE CATTLE GRAZING PERMITS

In 2007 the Utah Chapter and some of our partners appealed a Forest Service decision to renew term grazing permits for cattle grazing allotments in the Tushar Mountains. We believe that decision was not well founded. As a resolution of our appeal the US Forest Service agreed

to engage in a collaborative process on two of eight allotments. We have been working on this collaborative effort for almost two years now. You can see the some of the results of this collaboration on a web site set up for this particular effort, <http://tushar.ecr.gov/>

### OIL AND GAS LEASING IN UTAH

The Utah Chapter filed a notice of intent to appeal a tar sands project in the Uintah Basin. This project included development of a small area of tar sands located in the midst of an existing black wax crude oil development. It would have involved injecting hot water into deep soil layers to extract oil. Western Resource Advocates is representing the Utah Chapter Sierra Club and the Indigenous Environmental Network in this appeal.

The Utah Chapter joined the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, Natural Resources Defense Council, and the Wilderness Society in appeals on oil and gas leases in mostly southern and eastern Utah. These leases were in proposed wilderness, near or adjacent to National Parks, and in other sensitive areas. These are the parcels eventually withdrawn from leasing by Ken Salazar, the new Secretary of Interior or President Obama.

We amended our complaint in the appeal to include major portions of the Resource Management Plans (RMPs) for the Moab, Price and Vernal Resource Areas. The 78 leases withdrawn and additional future leases would be based on decisions made in those RMPs. Those RMPs failed to make adequate analysis of many land uses and thus should not be used as the basis for making decisions now or in the future. During March we hope to see a schedule for moving this appeal forward.

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# Looking Ahead

## The Sierra Club's Climate Recovery Agenda

by Carl Pope

### OUR NEXT STEPS

In 2008, Americans chose change. "New Energy for America" trumped "Drill, Baby, drill," marking a major change across the country.

Now that the celebrations are done, we must roll up our sleeves and get to work. Barack Obama's top priority is investment in clean energy and energy efficiency in order to jumpstart our economy, create green jobs and make us more secure – and the Sierra Club's Climate Recovery Agenda closely follows that priority. Energy is now a national priority, and it's clear that the steps we need to take to help our economy recovery will also help our climate recover.

### THE SIERRA CLUB'S CLIMATE RECOVERY AGENDA

Fixing our economy, transforming our energy future, slowing and ultimately reversing climate change and its consequences will require a clear agenda and aggressive timetable that will allow us to repower, refuel and rebuild America.

The Sierra Club's Climate Recovery Agenda will help our economy recover, reduce our dependence on foreign oil, cut carbon emissions 80% by 2050, and protect our natural heritage, communities and country from the consequences of global warming.

Putting our planet on the path to economic and climate recovery will require Congress, working with the Obama Administration, to:

- Invest \$150 - 500 billion in clean energy to create millions of new, high quality jobs.
- Reduce our dependence on oil by increasing vehicle fuel efficiency, increasing the use of alternative fuels, and deploying innovative transportation technology like plug in hybrids.
- Move America to 100% renewable energy for electricity and dramatically increase the efficiency of our buildings and homes.
- Tackle global climate change by establishing an economy-wide cap on carbon emissions. Ensure that carbon permits are auctioned.
- Take action that acknowledges the consequences global warming is already having and the need to protect vulnerable communities, wildlife and their habitat from drought, intense flooding, wildfires and the other changes we are already experiencing.

Congress' first step working with Obama Administration should be serious investments in high performance technologies and energy productivity improvements that will create millions of immediate jobs. Public and private building energy upgrades, mass transportation improvements and grid modernization should also be part of any economic recovery package.

America can lead by example. By taking actions at home, we can provide leadership on the international stage to both work with and be competitive with other nations. This agenda will be hard work, but the good news is that these are proven ways to face our economic and environmental challenges – and the solutions help everyone.

### JOIN THE FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Are you interested in being involved with the most important committee of the Sierra Club? If you want to help protect the environment, one of the biggest impacts you can have is by helping the Sierra Club raise funds for our programs. Without funding we would have neither programs, outings nor conservation campaigns.

This is an opportunity to work with great volunteers and staff, get a peek behind the non-profit curtain, and have fun volunteering your time. We work on projects involving sponsorships, direct mail appeals, host committees, event planning, grant writing, and more.

We will be meeting regularly (approx every two months) in Sugarhouse during 2009. Please contact Chapter Fundraising Chair Marion Klaus at marionklaus@comcast.net, or Chapter Manager Mark Clemens at mark.clemens@sierraclub.org or 801/467-9297 if you have an interest or would like to observe a meeting.

### SKILLS

- A passion for the environment
- Creative mind for support of current issues
- A passion to lead or take part in organizing events
- Follows through on commitments
- 4 hours per month to contribute as volunteer work

## Conservation Committee Update

by Dan Mayhew

Critical to the on-going work of the Sierra Club Utah Chapter is the yearly process of identifying Conservation Priorities judged to be of greatest concern to the environmental health of Utah in order to establish direction for the upcoming year. The starting point for this process occurred during our Executive Committee's first meeting of 2009, conducted January 10. Following a review of past conservation priorities, their current status and identification of new developments of interest, a list of possibilities was narrowed down to three following a vote of Ex Com members. These are:

- *Public Lands/Wilderness/Wildlife*
- *Open Space/Sprawl/Smart Growth/Transportation*
- *Global Warming and Energy*

With these broad categories in mind, the task of the Conversation Committee is to identify specific areas of interest that establish the work and focus of the committee for the year ahead. Potential projects identified thus far include:

- *Nine Mile Canyon preservation and protection*
- *Air quality and climate change as they affect wildlife*
- *Snake Valley and Colorado water issues*
- *Educating the public and elected officials to the dangers and impacts of nuclear power development*
- *Increasing wilderness protection, protecting priceless natural resources and restoring areas damaged by careless abuse.*

The goal of the Conservation Committee is to connect Chapter members in this process and subsequent efforts to the greatest degree possible. We welcome your feedback and suggestions as well as your active participation and encourage you to get involved by emailing Mark Clemens at mark.clemens@sierraclub.org or Dan Mayhew at drmayhew@comcast.net.

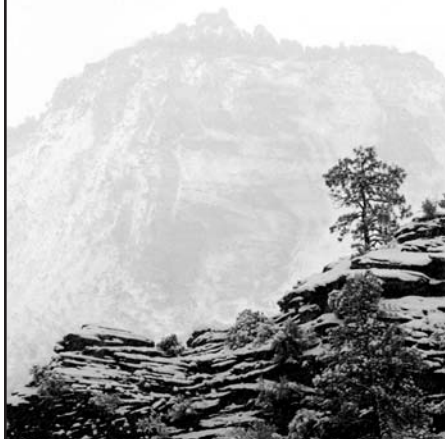


# Legislative Update

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 photos along with a description of each photo and your name as you would like to be credited, to: [peridotdesign@me.com](mailto:peridotdesign@me.com)

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



Although HB430 was amended to define nuclear energy as a renewable source of power, in the current economic climate nuclear power plants are an improbable and imprudent investment.

## Legislature Battles Over Energy

by Mark Clemens

The 2009 General Session of the Utah Legislature saw lots of pushing and shoving over energy. Ultimately, a few good bills passed, and some of the worst bills represented pyrrhic victories.

Governor Huntsman and advocacy groups have been working for several years to prepare the ground to make renewable energy a larger share of Utah's electricity production. Rep Kevin Garn's (R-Layton) HB 430 provides for the identification of renewable energy development zones, and gives tax credits to renewable energy development or manufacture of equipment used in the production of renewable energy. Although the bill was amended to define nuclear energy as a renewable source of power, in the current economic climate nuclear power plants are an improbable and imprudent investment.

Third Substitute SB 76 creates a Utah Generated Renewable Energy Electricity Network Authority that would expedite construction of power lines to renewable energy power projects. SJR 1 would have established a model bill that municipalities could use in wind power zoning and siting. It was mauled on a couple of occasions and in its second substitute wound up instructing the State Energy Program to study the usefulness of model legislation.

As if the Utah Legislature itself weren't sufficient impediment to reducing emissions of climate destabilizing gasses, Rep Roger Barrus (R-Centerville) introduced HB 412 that would have required a study of costs to Utah's economy and ability to attract new industry of any climate change regulations. Why not also look at the benefits of a stable and agreeable climate at the same time? In any case, the bill appears to have died as a result of an error in the wording of the enrolled bill.

### EMERGING REPUBLICAN MODERATES

On a range of good government and environmental issues ranging from undermining the state's open records act (GRAMA), to requiring an environmental litigation bond, to the so-called private attorney general doctrine a group—a small group for the time being—of Republican legislators appears to be willing to break rank with hard-line party orthodoxy and vote for the public interest. These Republican mavericks include Rep Sheryl Allen from Bountiful, Rep Becky Edwards from North Salt Lake, Rep Kraig Powell from Heber, and Rep Kay McIlff from Richfield. Other Republicans joined the trend on individual bills.

## Is it too soon to celebrate the beginning of the trend?

Is it too soon to celebrate the beginning of the trend? The new Speaker of the Utah House David Clark (R-Santa Clara) was a leadership neophyte in the 2009 session. Perhaps he'll begin to exercise the heavy hand we've seen from leadership in past sessions. But let's keep hoping.

### GETTING THE LAW ON YOUR SIDE

Representative Mike Noel (R-Kanab) loves frivolous lawsuits—like his endless lawsuits against the federal government fighting environmental protection for

southern Utah's spectacular Redrock lands. Noel and his buddies on the Kane County Commission have filed unsuccessful suits to try to overturn the establishment of the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument (GSENM), to try to prevent the implementation of the GSENM's management plan, and to try to gain control of a network of thousands of miles of imaginary rural highways to prevent protection of wilderness.

But now Kane County is tapped out so Noel is desperately grasping at other taxpayer funds for his lawsuits. Noel's HB 278 would allow counties to divert road maintenance funds from grading roads and filling potholes to paying lawyers for his frivolous lawsuits. Another Noel bill, HB 169, would divert up to 16% of the revenue of a state fund to—did you guess—frivolous lawsuits against the federal government. Are these wise expenditures during a recession?

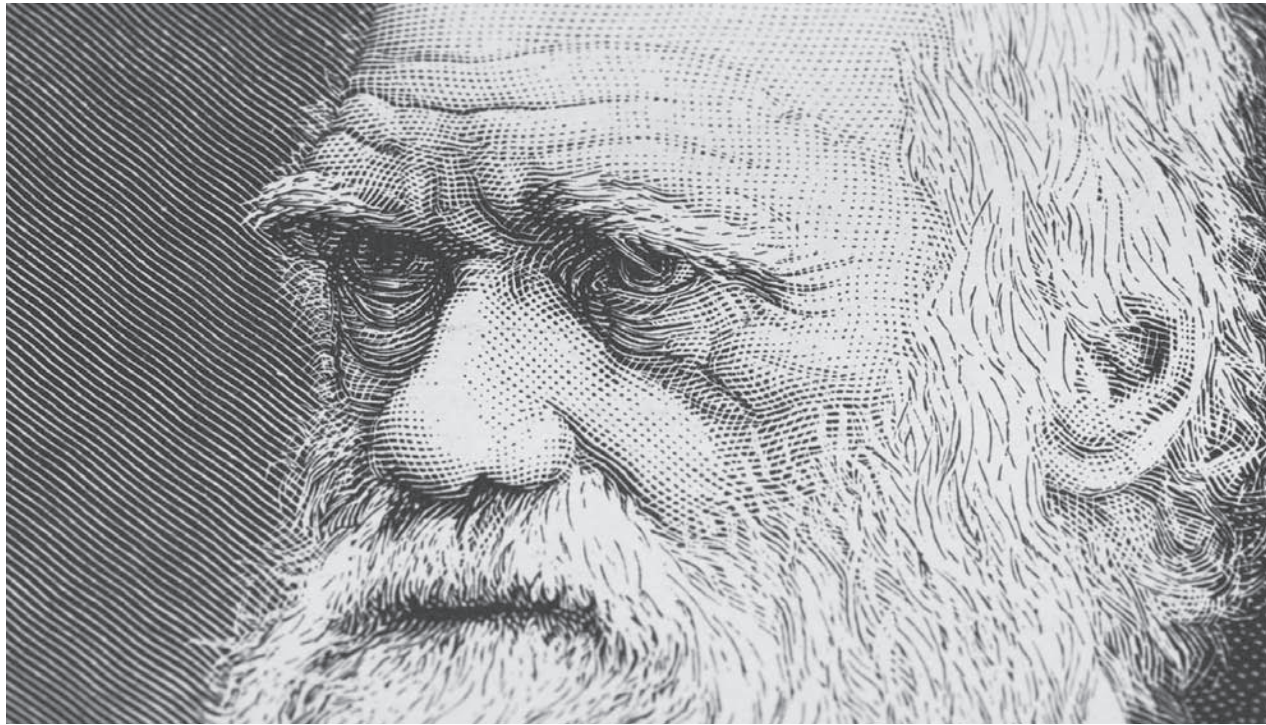
But Noel is known for complaining about frivolous law suits, you say. Which ones doesn't he like? Any lawsuits that would protect your health or safety. Noel's bill, HB 379, would require private parties seeking a stay in state court against a permit issued by certain agencies to post a bond equal to whatever financial damages the permittee could conceivably suffer. This was the Noel triple play: take away ordinary citizens' right to sue while plundering state funds to continue his own.

Unfortunately both First Substitute HB 169 and HB 278 passed. HB 379 died in the general session's last hours by not being released from the Senate Rules Committee. For more details and links on these bills and other environmentally significant bills, check out the chapter's Bill Tracker, <http://www.utah.sierraclub.org/tracker/index.html>.

# ClimateChange

## Don't Look for an Epiphany

by Mark Clemens



There will be no epiphany in the traditional sense. No deity will come from the sky to tell us human-induced global warming has begun or to announce that the time has arrived to do something about it.

Recent climatic events such as a killer tornado in Oklahoma in February and summertime highs of 117 degrees Fahrenheit in Melbourne, Australia, do lie within the normal range of weather events even if one were to discount human-induced global warming. Some argue these events are just normal variations in climate.

On the other hand, these events conform to the changes predicted by much of the modeling done of the likely effects of global warming, such as increased intensity of cyclonic storms, higher average and peak temperatures, and increased drought.

At the same time we were witnessing increasingly extreme weather events this winter, we also marked the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin on 12 February 1809. Darwin's theory of evolution posits that random mutations can give individual organisms genetic advantages that cause them to be selected for survival in greater numbers than their peers—sometimes in circumstances of environmental change. This process of selection causes evolution of species over time.

This theory, a little younger than Darwin himself, is one of the most extensively supported of scientific theories. It is virtually universally accepted and underpins many aspects of modern technology in biology.

Despite its importance to modern science, this bedrock theory continues to be resisted by the creationist movement. In Petersburg, Kentucky, a few miles from Cincinnati, Ohio, one can visit the 70,000 square foot Creation Museum. One can, according to its website, "Walk through the Garden of Eden. The Tree of Life, central to the garden, stretches out its branches, laden with ripened fruits. Come face-to-face with a sauropod, a dinosaur of incredible dimensions."

One hundred fifty years after the publication of Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*, the Creation Museum has 10,000 members (as reported on its own website). Humans have a peculiar attachment to outmoded ideas, and given the fact that evidence of human-induced climate change has only been assembled convincingly over the past twenty years, resistance to acceptance of human-induced climate change is understandable.

But very perilous. Some of the best-informed climate scientists such as James Hansen, director of NASA's Goddard Institute of Space Studies, believes that the current level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, approximately 387 parts per million, might already exceed a level compatible with long-term climate stability. Hansen has called for a complete phase-out of electricity from coal-fired power plants by 2030.

Relatively few members of the Utah Legislature have been listening. In fact, Rep Mike Noel (R-Kanab) introduced a resolution attempting to torpedo Utah's participation in the Western Climate Initiative (WCI). The WCI, established by California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, brings together seven western states and several Canadian provinces to work together to diminish emissions of climate-destabilizing gasses. From February 2007, when it was founded, until the present, it has been one of the few government initiatives in the United States even addressing the problem.

Noel, one of the legislature's leading climate change skeptics, persuaded fifty-one of his colleagues in the house to vote for First Substitute House Resolution 3. Two Republicans joined seventeen Democrats voting against the resolution. Their names are listed below. Please take a moment to call, write, or e-mail a thank-you message.

*Sheryl Allen  
Trisha Beck  
Jackie Biskupski  
Laura Black  
Rebecca Chavez-Houck  
Tim Cosgrove  
Becky Edwards  
Janice Fisher  
Neil Hansen  
Lynn Hemingway*

*Christine Johnson  
Brian King  
David Litvack  
Carol Moss  
Marie Poulson  
Phil Riesen  
Jay Seegmiller  
Jen Seelig  
Larry Wiley*

Clearly we have work to do and not much time. In this case, it's not simply a question of promoting a scientific theory that best explains certain data, it's a matter of survival. For more information, contacts and links relating to First Substitute House Resolution 3, check out the bill tracker, <http://www.utah.sierraclub.org/tracker/HR3.html>.



Help us build  
a better future

In March we sent out an appeal to each of our members, asking for contributions directly to our Chapter. These contributions really do make a difference to us, and are an important part of our Chapter's budget. When you make a donation to the Chapter, you support the Sierra Club's work in your own backyard. You allow us to continue to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities, and to promote the enjoyment of nature.

Please be as generous as you are able.

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax-deductable.

Please mail contributions to:

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**Thank you.**

# Our Water

## How Lillian Hayes Saved Provo Canyon Springs

by Kathryn Johnson



The summer of 1969 proved to be a summer of consternation for Lillian Hayes. An article titled “New Road up Provo Canyon” featured in Provo’s *Daily Herald* sparked both her interest and alarm. She walked across the street to visit her 90-year old neighbor, Clark Newell, and ask his opinion regarding the newspaper story which included a diagram of the proposed highway’s route. Concerned about the canyon she asked Newell, who served as Provo City’s Water Master for 40 years, how a canyon freeway would impact Provo River. Newell replied, “Do you know where they will put the road?” Hayes answered that according to the picture in the newspaper article, it will be built along the north canyon wall. “That will be suicide for Provo!” Newell exclaimed, “A road constructed along the north canyon wall will be right on top of hundreds of springs that provide culinary drinking water for the city. Those springs are critical because they flow highest during mid-summer when we need the water most. Go get me a map of the canyon springs!”

### SECURING THE MAP

Easier said than done it took several weeks for Hayes to get a map. Provo City Water Department personnel were not helpful. Public records of the springs’ location did not seem to exist. At last an elderly employee, who worked at the city for several years and realized the springs were in jeopardy, was helpful. He opened a cabinet drawer, pulled out a huge document, handed it to Hayes and said “Here, you can have this.” In her hands was a 36” long blueprint of the springs

Top left: Provo Canyon Springs seen from the south side of Provo Canyon  
Above: Lillian Hayes on Wicks Landslide.

surveyed in 1918 by John R. Stewart showing the entire layout of springs from the mouth of Provo Canyon to the Sundance turn-off. This was the key. By carefully superimposing the DOT road plan and drafting it onto the old blueprint, the road was determined to be right on top of the springs.

“After determining the position of the road” Hayes explains, “I went to several City Council meetings and asked if Council members were concerned about the position of the road in relation to the canyon springs. They did not respond. They trusted in the Highway Department to make the right decisions.” However, she adds, “Mr. Newell later told me the mayor came over and talked to him about it.”

Meanwhile state road crews were surveying and cutting brush along the road’s path. “As you travel up the canyon there is a big rock formation we call Gun Site Rock,” Lillian recalls, “We observed a big stake planted at the top of it.” That stake was to be the center line of the new road. The Department of Highway people would say “We are going to protect the springs... we are going to place 30 feet of fill on top of them for the roadbed, but we

are going to protect them.” Nothing made sense. She knew it was time to raise public awareness of the impending fate of Provo’s drinking water supply.

### FIELD TRIP

To raise awareness of the springs, Hayes organized a summer field trip to Provo Canyon inviting Utah State Road Commissioners from Uintah Basin, Wasatch and Utah Counties. Also invited were members from the League of Women’s Voters and the Sierra Club. Hayes understood the canyon’s geology having studied its unique features from local geologists.

An ancient landslide mass occupies the north side canyon wall near the mouth of the Provo Canyon. This slope was formed from rock and debris slides out of the steep canyons above Wicks Rock. The slope forming materials are underlain by Manning Canyon Shale which is thousands of feet thick and act as a sponge for collecting and holding water, thereby forming the springs. This Manning Canyon Shale Formation dips adversely into the Provo River and also the course of the proposed roadway. Hayes explained these unique canyon features to people

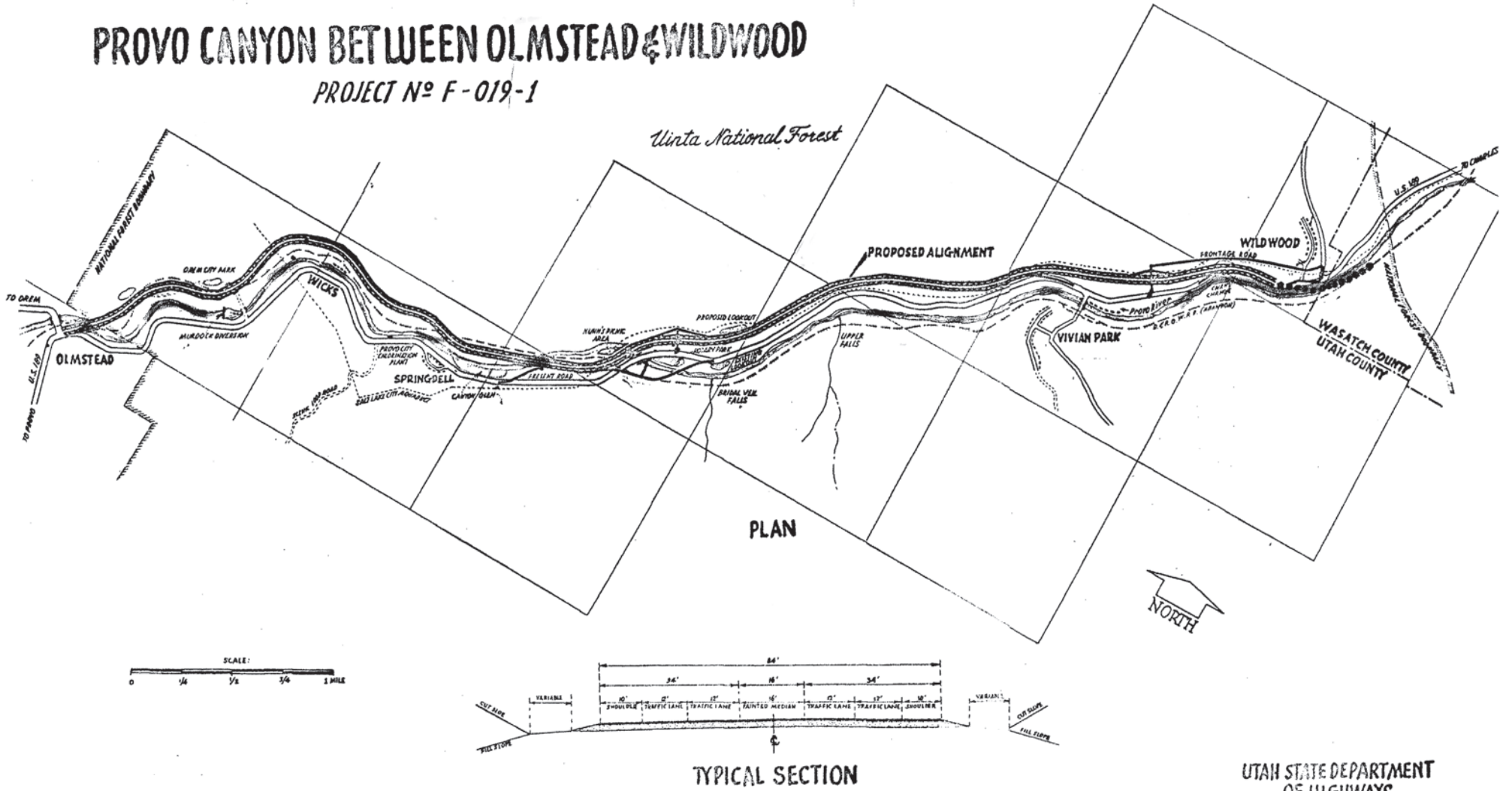
gathered at the field trip site emphasizing that the location of the road would destroy canyon springs, a source of culinary drinking water for Provo City.

### GIVING AWAY PARKLAND

While studying Provo City records, Hayes found that in 1966 Provo City gave the State Road Commission five individual parcels in Provo Canyon for a total of 43.51 acres including some springs. Of this entire ordeal she laments, “The land trade was the biggest travesty because it done without a public hearing. Public parks are supposed to belong to the people. Public property was given away without public knowledge.” In return for the five canyon parcels, the city took a piece of property supposedly of equal value on 800 North in Provo. Provo City also agreed to relocate any facilities and the Utah Road Commission agreed to pay the full relocation costs of such things as springs, water lines, collection boxes, and buildings (See recorded Agreement #5558 3/23/1966).

### HELP FROM AN UNEXPECTED SOURCE

In late 1970, President Richard Nixon and the US Congress formed the Environmental Protection Agency. In order to receive federal money for public projects, local governments were required to assess the full impact of a project, involve public participation, and file a report known as the Environmental Impact Statement. The EPA and this newly required public report became Lillian’s ticket.



UTAH STATE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS  
AUGUST, 1969

The Utah Highway Department's original plan (shown above) for the widened alignment of the Provo Canyon road ran across Provo Canyon Springs and the Wicks Landslide at the point on the map above marked Wicks.

A local geologist advised Hayes to study the quadrangle of the spring section. Federal regulations forbid federally funded projects to be built through landslide areas. Highway Administration rules state that a project could not get funded if the route traversed an officially mapped landslide. A recently published quadrangle showed the proposed Provo Canyon road bed to cross Wicks Landslide. If the road were built as proposed, it would be cutting into the toe of a slope estimated to be one square mile in surface area and thousands of feet thick. Armed with a quadrangle, growing public interest, and the EPA's requirement of an EIS before construction could begin, Hayes was building a powerful case.

On February 11, 1971, the State Highway Department held a meeting in Heber City to discuss the Provo Canyon Road. Wayne Winters, State Road Commissioner, was quoted as saying "We are ready to put it out for bid except one landslide section" (referring to the Wicks landslide). The State Road Commission now had two glaring problems: the planned road was not only on top of Provo Canyon springs, but also on top of loose shale rock which would require constant repair if a road base were ever built.

**STATE CAPITOL MEETING WITH THE GOVERNOR**

In January of 1973, the EPA announced that the Provo Canyon Road Environmental Impact Statement was complete. After going to Salt Lake City to pick up the 300-page document, Hayes stopped by a major EPA meeting at the State Capitol Building. Governor Calvin

Rampton was speaking. When finished, he asked if anyone had any questions. A man in the back stood up and asked, "How is it that we need a massive 4-lane freeway up Provo Canyon?" The governor said, "There's no truth in that. Besides, we are looking at alternatives. Any more questions?" Hayes stood up and asked, "It's good you are studying the alternatives, but I'm wondering which alternative you would choose if you had your choice?" The Governor opened the EIS, saw a political cartoon titled "Alternatives" which were represented by scantily dressed women, and slammed the book shut. The room exploded in laughter. From pages of the EIS, it was clearly evident that there were no feasible alternatives.

**The Governor opened the EIS, saw a political cartoon titled "Alternatives" which were represented by scantily dressed women, and slammed the book shut.**

**CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS**

The following week Hayes addressed Provo City Commissioners as a representative of the Uinta Chapter of the Sierra Club and friends asking "Who is looking out for the interest of the people who enjoy the canyon for something besides transportation? We do not need or want another Parley's Canyon Freeway." And, "How did you arrive at the decision

to build a new 4-lane highway over any other type of road?" Raising questions charged up public and political interest pressuring the governor to ask for a review of the project. After months of review, the deciding factor proved to be the problem of traversing a landslide. This actuality would eventually force UDOT off the springs because the highway project would not be eligible for federal funds if the roadbed were built on Wicks Landslide.

Lillian Hayes' environmental passion provided the catalyst to change the road's course not only saving the springs but also avoiding a cut into the toe of a major landslide. "We won by a landslide", she quips. Indeed one person can make a difference in our communities, governments, and resources. Hayes' advice: "Anyone running for city offices should be educated about the resources of the city. They should have a basic understanding of the city's geology, where the water comes from, and where the sewer goes. Every citizen needs to attend at least one governmental meeting in their lifetime. There is too little public participation in our city and county meetings." Though starting out as a lone watchdog that one politician argued cost the taxpayers millions of dollars in expense by delaying Provo Canyon road construction, Lillian credits protecting a city asset worth millions - in the form of an undisturbed culinary water supply - as the ultimate taxpayer savings.

*Lillian Hayes served for many years as a volunteer leader in Utah County for both the Audubon Society and Sierra Club.*

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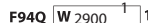


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# OurLand

## Glad We Got on This Omnibus

by Mark Clemens



Upper Water Canyon in the new Canaan Mountain Wilderness.

Utah, and a number of other states, will acquire about 2 million acres of new wilderness under an omnibus public lands bill that passed the last congressional hurdle on Wednesday, 25 March 2009. As this article went to press, it was expected that President Obama would sign the bill shortly.

Both California and Idaho added several hundred thousand acres of new wilderness on US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands, and much of the backcountry in Colorado's Rocky Mountain National Park received wilderness protection too.

### UTAH'S GOODIES

The most significant protected acreage in Utah is in Washington County where approximately 256,000 acres of wilderness will be designated. Of this total, 124,000 acres will be lands within Zion National Park that will receive the additional protection the Wilderness Act of 1964 provides. This acreage represents most of the park away from roads.

Most of the remaining 132,000 acres is BLM land and includes part or all of the land recommended by the Utah Wilderness Coalition—of which the Sierra Club is a founding member—in the following units:

- Beartrap Canyon*
- Black Ridge*
- Canaan Mountain*
- Cottonwood Canyon*
- Cougar Canyon*
- Deep Creek*
- Doc's Pass*
- Goose Creek*
- LaVerkin Creek*
- Red Butte*
- Red Mountain*
- Slaughter Creek*
- Taylor Creek*

The largest single unit among these new wildernesses is Canaan Mountain at just over 44,000 acres. Several of the units are contiguous with Zion National Park, including Beartrap Canyon, Black Ridge, Canaan Mountain, Deep Creek, Goose Creek, LaVerkin Creek, Red Butte and Taylor Creek.

From the new Deep Creek Wilderness, on the southern flank of the Markagunt Plateau, through Zion National Park and the new Canaan Mountain Wilderness that connects on its southeastern side with the existing Cottonwood Point Wilderness in Arizona, a ribbon or corridor of protected land now connects the mixed conifer ecosystem on the Dixie National Forest with the grassland of the Arizona Strip.

Such biological corridors have always been necessary for wildlife so young can disperse to new habitat and animals can find mates. In a world with rising temperatures, they will grow increasingly important for species—plant and animal—looking to migrate uphill where new climatic conditions resemble those they formerly found below.

## This is the biggest wilderness protection bill in decades.

-Carl Pope

In addition to the new wilderness, Utah gets a number of other conservation benefits including a little over a hundred acres of open space forever protected for Park City and Utah's first stretch of Wild and Scenic River Designation: 166 miles of the Virgin River. The bill also provides for the sale of up to 5,000 acres of BLM land around St George; however, all the proceeds must be used to acquire other lands, including sensitive watersheds.

### NEW NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREAS

The bill creates two new national conservation areas in Washington County. The Red Cliffs National Conservation Area does not substantially change the management of the lands within its boundaries. The management plan for the Red Cliffs Habitat Preserve, established to protect the endangered Desert tortoise, will essentially be codified as law. The Red Cliffs NCA occupies much of the land between St George and Leeds, north of I-15.

In Beaver Dam Wash, the lowest point in the state, this bill establishes the Beaver Dam National Conservation Area. The Utah Wilderness Coalition originally sought wilderness protection for these lands too. The protection provided by the national conservation area designation is a valuable first step until we can get these lands added to wilderness. ORV use and mining will be strictly limited or prohibited outright.

The Beaver Dam NCA will protect much of the relatively small chunk of Mojave Desert ecosystem in Utah. This area provides habitat for barrel cacti, birds and lizards not usually found elsewhere in Utah. It's also important Desert tortoise habitat.

### WHAT CARL POPE SAYS

Below is a portion of Carl Pope's quote from the 3/25/09 Sierra Club press release on the bill's passage.

"This is the biggest wilderness protection bill in decades," said Sierra Club executive director Carl Pope. "Today, Congress has helped ensure that we will have a wild legacy to pass on to our children and grandchildren. This bill helps guarantee that future generations will be able to hike in pristine forests from California to West Virginia. The bill ensures that Americans will have a chance to fish untouched rivers, watch antelope migrate in the wild, and take their families camping in the stunning Rocky Mountains."

The bill protects more than two million acres of wilderness in nine states, including the Sierra Nevada mountains of California, Oregon's Mt. Hood, and Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado.

"As global warming begins to impact wildlife, it's urgent that we protect the corridors where animals migrate and the habitat where they live and raise their young," Pope said. "This bill will help do that."

It also shelters over a million acres of key hunting and fishing grounds on the Wyoming Range from oil and gas drilling.

## SpecialThanks

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

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to increase your support for the  
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LAWSON LEGATE



# ChapterNews



## Glen Canyon Group Environmental Update

by Laura Cameron

Uranium Watch now has an office in Moab and grant money from Ben & Jerry's to fund Sarah Field's ongoing work of being our watchdog on nuclear issues for the GCG area.

**FEBRUARY 6, 2009** activist, Tim DeChristopher, who made national headlines when he disrupted the BLM Lease Sale in December, came to Moab to speak at Star Hall. Tim told an audience of enthusiastic listeners, including members of the Sierra Club, that his real passion is fighting human-caused climate change. A local alternative energy expert, Lance Christie, who presented information on the rapidly escalating and dire effects of climate change, joined Tim. He stressed the critical need for our country to begin developing green energy sources ... *now, not later!*

**FEBRUARY 17, 2009** Grand County Council held a public hearing on a conditional use permit request for the expansion of the Danish Flats Water Evaporation Pond System. This is a facility that is located off I-70 in Grand County near Grand Junction Colorado. Wastewater from oil and gas drilling being done in Colorado is being trucked to this facility that is located on private property. A company by the name of San Arroyo Livestock, LLC, is in charge of this project.

Major work was done by the Planning and Land Use Committee of Grand County to craft an ordinance to regulate this facility. After many hours of hard work on the part of the committee, an ordinance was passed. Additional good news is that we have three local members of the Sierra Club serving on this committee. Their varied backgrounds in government service and engineering provide important perspectives and expertise.

There are many environmental concerns related to the Danish Flats project including: air quality and possible negative impacts on wildlife, especially migratory birds that might be attracted to the ponds. My feelings are that since this facility has only been open for about a year we should study the results of the required monitoring before an expansion for the facility is approved.

**FEBRUARY 18, 2009** Mike and Jean Binyon left Moab to go to Washington, DC, to lobby again for Red Rock Wilderness. They each have been assigned a partner from other states. They will be contacting representatives from five states to convince them of the importance of preserving wilderness in Southern Utah.

**FEBRUARY 19, 2009** A request was sent out to the GCG Sierra Clubs Locals list in the Moab area to write letters of concern to the State BLM about the upcoming lease auction sale scheduled for March 24, 2009. Yes, in spite of the fact that our new secretary of interior recently pulled the 77 parcels that Tim DeChristopher bid on off the auction block, other land of critical wild-life habitat will be up for auction.

**FEBRUARY 27, 2009** HEAL Utah held a meeting at the Moab Library. Emery County sold 1,500 acres to Aaron Tilton of Transition Power. They have plans to build at least two nuclear reactors. HEAL discussed what this means for southern Utah in regards to water, the environment and public safety.

## Sierra Club Recap

by Billy Corbett



Utah was, well, utterly unfamiliar to me on January 12, 2009. My only experience with the state, or with the West for that matter, had been one week-long ski trip a year ago. But riding up and down Little Cottonwood Canyon on my way up to Snowbird and Alta showed this New Englander that he needed to explore more of this part of the country.

As it was the sheer peaks and the endless climbing that first attracted me to Utah, it was only fitting that I spend my time out here working for the betterment of the Utah natural environment. That led me to email Mark Clemens, the manager of the Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club and see if there was any help that I could provide. And after a few emails back and forth, I was ready to travel to Utah.

The timing of my trip to Utah coincided conveniently with the general session of the State Legislature, and I was taken on as the Legislative Intern. My daily tasks were to research activity in the House and Senate, and to keep an online database up to date with current information about the bills that most had an effect on the environment. Mark and I also kept an off-line file that tracked bills that did not make it onto the website, but were pertinent enough that we wanted to keep an eye on them.

One of the other main tasks I worked on was updating the Chapter's extranet site with Executive Committee meeting minutes and official Sierra Club comments dating back to 2003. I hope that this project will help the Utah Chapter in the future by making past actions more readily accessible.

My work with the Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club was very interesting and enlightening. It was fascinating to see how much resistance there can be to protecting the environment, and how much work there is still to be done to ensure the health of our natural surroundings.



*Editor's Note:*  
Billy Corbett worked as an intern in the Sierra Club office during the Winter of 2009. Sheila Grindstaff preceded him during the Fall of 2008. Sheila drafted excellent comments on behalf of the Utah Chapter on proposed oil and gas leasing on the Dixie National Forest. You leave with our best wishes and gratitude.

# UtahChapterOutings

EXPLORE WITH US! APRIL - SEPTEMBER 2009

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](http://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.

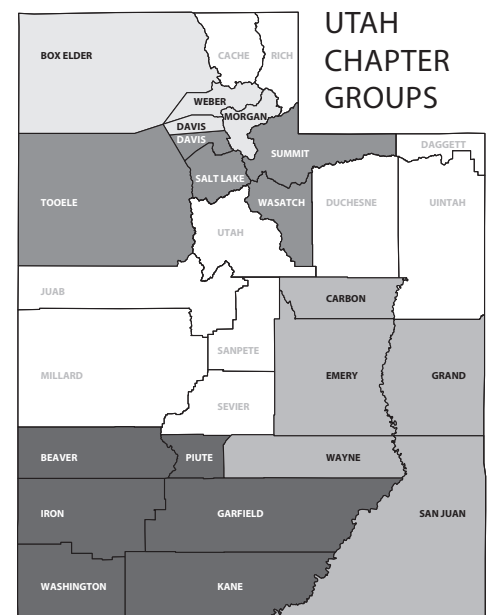
## Ogden Group (OG)

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

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

## Salt Lake Group (SLG)

Call the trip leaders for meeting times, places, & other details regarding the outings.



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

## April

### GCG, Sat 4/4, Herdina Park Exploration.

This is a 4.5-5.0 mile easy hike depending upon the choice of two possible routes. It is a beautiful route-finding challenge much like Fiery Furnace. We will visit several arches, a cave, and follow several slickrock drainages. This is a seldom visited part of the park consisting of cliffs, crags, cracks, side canyons, and sculpted boulders. Elevation gain: 400'. Meet at the Moab Information Center, Center and Main, 9 AM. Leader: Dave Stolfa, (435) 259-1721

### SLG, Sat-Sun, 4/4-4/5, Summit Notch Peak.

One of the premier landmark hikes in the state of Utah. The hike to Notch Peak promises to be an unforgettable adventure in the desert. The path to the summit is actually an ancient creek bed, passing through bristlecone pine stands and sheer rocky cliffs before reaching the breathtaking summit some 4000 feet above the desert floor. The plan is to leave Saturday, camp near the trailhead in the evening, and then hike to the peak Sunday. Or summit Saturday and hang out a few hours Sunday before the drive back to Salt Lake. Depending on circumstances and preferences of participants. Plan on bringing car camping gear and food, and plenty of water because there is no nearby water source. Call Ken (484-3112) for meeting time and place and all the other details.

### OG, Sun, 4/5, Frary Peak on Antelope Island.

This is one of the easier Salt Lake area summits to bag. The hike to the summit can be completed in 4 to 5 hours round trip. The trail gains 2050 feet of elevation in 3 1/2 miles. Bring lunch and water. Call Joanie 801/399-0034 for more info.

### OG, Sat, 4/11, Hike to the Rock Corral on Antelope Island.

It's 10 miles round-trip, approximately 600 feet elevation gain, 4-5

hours, and moderate. We will stop at the coral for a break while viewing one of the most beautiful spots in northern Utah. Call Larry Woolsey at 801-731-3701.

### GCG, Wed 4/15, Monitor and Merrimac.

An easy hike of about eight miles with little elevation change, no climbing involved. Starts at Halfway Stage Station, off Blue Hills Road, follows existing jeep and bicycle route part of the way, but mostly slickrock. Goes to the base of the Monitor and Merrimac. Open country, great views. Meet at 9 AM at the MIC. Mike Binyon, 259-1633.

### GCG, Sat 4/18, Hike in proposed Hunter Canyon Wilderness.

A 7-mile loop hike beginning at Cable Arch and visiting Halls Bridge and Pritchett Arch up close with beautiful views of the La Sals and Behind the Rocks with return via Hunter Canyon Rim. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet at the Moab Information Center, Center and Main, 9 AM. For details contact Tome Messenger, 435/259-1756.

### OG, Sat, 4/25, Ogden River Clean-up.

Please join us for our 3rd annual Ogden River Clean Up from 9:00 am until 12:00. In conjunction with the Ogden Canyon Club, Utah Rivers, and others, we will clean up the Ogden River. Lunch will be provided at the Oaks. We will meet at 9:00 at Big "D" Sports Park, on the Ogden River Parkway and break into groups with area assignments. Bring gloves and wear clothes that can get dirty. To participate, or to volunteer as a clean up area leader, call Rane Johnson, 801/985-0158. [S]

### GCG, Mon 4/27, Bartlett Wash-Tusher Tunnel.

Bartlett Wash runs 4-6 miles up and down unmarked Entrada sandstone that features spectacular views and fun undulating waves of slickrock. This playground is located 18 miles north of Moab off of Blue Hills Rd. There's no marked

trail -- you pick your way over sandstone ledges, up and down crevices, and around free-standing monoliths among one of the largest open slickrock areas you'll ever encounter. Time permitting, we'll drive to nearby Tusher Tunnel. The tunnel lets you walk about 200 yards straight through the center of a massive sandstone buttress before opening out onto a valley filled with more islands of slickrock to play on. 4WD vehicles are necessary to access both Bartlett Wash and Tusher Tunnel. Meet at 9 AM at the MIC. Leader, Marc Thomas, 259-2208.

## May

### SLG, Sun, 5/3, Dayhike in Yellow Fork.

Weather conditions permitting, this spring trek is in the foothills southwest of Herriman. Meet at 10 AM at Rose Canyon/Yellow Fork parking area. Discover spring wildflowers with an expert. Call Ron (801-292-4040) for directions, or alternate date should inclement weather cause cancellation. [E]

### SLG, TUESDAY NIGHT HIKE, 5/5, Parleys Canyon.

Join us for the first Tuesday Night Hike of the season. An easy trek on the old historical railroad grade in upper Parley's Canyon. An opportunity to view many varieties of plants in their spring flowering stage. Meet at the east side of the K-Mart parking lot on Parley's Way and Foothill Drive at 6:30 PM. Call Ron (801/292-4040) for more info.

**GCG, Sat 5/9, Sheep Rock circuit.** From the upper parking area at Park Avenue in Arches National Park walk east about 1/4 mile to a crack in the wall. Make a steep, difficult 300' ascent. Walk north east across the top to a steep, difficult descent on broken rock and soft soil. Follow the wash at the bottom to the intersection of the Park Avenue Wash back to the parking area passing Sheep Rock and Three Gossips on

the right. About 4-5 miles with perhaps 400' of elevation change. Meet at the Moab Information Center, Center and Main, at 9:00 AM. Leader: Jock Hovey, 259-6691.

### OG, Sat, 5/9, Hike the Indian Trail.

We will car shuttle to the trailhead in Ogden Canyon. The first part of the hike is a very steep elevation gain of 1450 feet. Then it is mostly downhill to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Street trailhead in Ogden. About 4.5 miles total. Call Dan Harrison (801/479-1108) for meeting place and time.

### SLG, TUESDAY NIGHT HIKE, 5/12, Living Room Hike.

The most popular hike of the Tuesday hike series. The hike to the living room is not too hard, and offers the reward of a panoramic view of the Salt Lake valley along with the sun setting into the dusky horizon. Also share snacks and beverages hikers have brought along while longing in rock couches and chairs. Meeting place is Tabby Lane in Research Park, near the Red Butte Garden Visitor Center at 6:30 PM. Call Dee (801-718-1970) for info and directions.

**GCG, Wed 5/13, Pocket Bridge.** An easy three mile hike to a small bridge that overlooks North Fork of Mill Creek above the swimming hole. The hike starts just past the Sand Flats entry station and heads southeast. Most of the hiking will be on slickrock fins. Great views of the Moab Rim cliffs and the fin country east of Moab. Meet at MIC at 9 am. Should be back around noon. Mike Stringham. 259-8579

**SLG, Fri-Sun, 5/15-5/17, Torrey/Capital Reef Car Camp Weekend.** A terrific Mothers' Day weekend getaway to one of Utah's most precious red rock monuments. The leader has offered her house for participants to pitch a tent as base camp for the weekend. Potential excursions include hiking the Torrey area, Boulder Mountain, and a trek into the red rock wonderland of the Sleeping Rainbow. No better way to spend

the weekend. Call Margaret (435/405-2240) ASAP due to the host limiting the number of participants to 12.

**SLG, TUESDAY NIGHT HIKE, 5/19, City Creek Canyon.** City Creek is a prime choice for a Tuesday night hike. There is a choice of walking up the road or hiking the trail a few yards away from the road. Either way, easy hike, pretty scenery, and a good chance of spotting wildlife. All this and only minutes away from the bustling downtown area. Meeting place is the gates leading to City Creek Nature Preserve at 6:30 PM. Call Ken (484-3112) for info and meeting place.

**SLG, TUESDAY NIGHT HIKE, 5/26, Rattle Snake Gulch.** Rattlesnake Gulch in Millcreek Canyon is a great venue for a hike, easy to get there and easy to hike. A good way to wind down after a hard day at work. Meeting at Skyline High School parking lot at 6:30 PM. Call Paul at 801-450-1128.

**OG, Fri, 5/29, Beus Canyon Night hike.** We'll hike up Beus Canyon and follow the Bonneville Shoreline Trail past Strong, Waterfall, and Taylor Canyons. We will end at the Twenty-First Street trail head. The night view is stunning. It's about 4.5 miles and will take about 2.5 hours. Call Larry Woolsey at 801/731-3701 and please call early because the number of hikers is limited.

## June

**SLG, TUESDAY NIGHT HIKE, 6/2, Little Cottonwood Canyon Hike.** The trail head for this hike is right across the street from the Park and Ride parking lot. An easy hike along the creek, an invigorating way to spend a Tuesday evening. Optional stop at a local pub after the hike. Call Ken (801-484-3112) for more info.

**OG, Sat, 6/6, Hike up Adams Canyon in Davis County.** It's 4 miles round-trip with 1,300 feet of elevation gain and will take about 3 hours. There is a beautiful 30-foot waterfall at the turn-around point. Call Larry Woolsey at 801-731-3701.

**GCG, Sun 6/7, Upper Winter Camp Slot.** Stay cool in the depths of this slot cut into the Slick Rock Member of the Entrada Sandstone. The hike is about 3 miles round trip and we may get our feet wet if it has rained recently. The canyon is spectacular, but part of the adventure is getting to the trail head. We will need high clearance 4x4 vehicles on a short portion of the road in. Meet at MIC at 9 am. Please call the leader, Geoff Freethey 259-0253, so that he can arrange enough vehicles for the group.

**SLG, TUESDAY NIGHT HIKE, 6/9, Broads Fork.** The trail should be clear of snow by now, and the ski season a distant memory. Big Cottonwood is a prime location for a hike. The trail passes through lush alpine forest, and the destination is a meadow where there may even be a few flowers. Meeting place is the Big Cottonwood Canyon Park & Ride at 6:30 PM. Call Robert (801-949-3597) for more information.

**SLG, TUESDAY NIGHT HIKE, 6/16, Salt Lake Overlook.** One of the most popular summer hiking trails in along the Wasatch Front. We may even pass the Wasatch Mtn Club folks on the way up. Plenty of daylight to meander up the trail and spend a few moments enjoying the view of the city

below. Meeting place is the Skyline High School Parking Lot at 6:30 PM. Call Ken (801-484-3112) for info.

**GCG, Sat 6/20, UPS-LPS.** Upper Porcupine & Lower Porcupine Single Tracks: About a 5.5 mile hike along the rim overlooking Castle Valley and the mesas to the east. We start at about 7,800 feet and descend gradually to about 6800 ft before we head back along Porcupine Rim Rd to awaiting vehicles. Spectacular views of the La Sals and the Castle Creek drainage. We will need to be wary of mountain bikers who also use this trail. Meet at MIC at 9 am. Leader-Geoff Freethey, 259-0253.

**SLG, TUESDAY NIGHT HIKE, 6/23, Circle All Hike.** Celebrate the passing of the Summer Solstice with an invigorating hike up the Circle All trail in Big Cottonwood Canyon. Wild flowers, possible wildlife sightings, and great people to share an excursion into the Wasatch. Meeting place is the Big Cottonwood Park & Ride at 6:30 PM. Call Rebecca (801-487-4160) for info.

**OG, Sun, 6/28, South Skyline Trail.** Start at the North Ogden Divide Trailhead: approx 9 miles. This trail has steep switchbacks, both on its north and south ends. But these are worth your trouble because the trail's main length follows the relatively easy ridgeline or "skyline" running from North Ogden Divide to Ogden Canyon. This trail is popular with hikers, bikers, and equestrians. Bring lunch and water. Call Joanie 801/399-0034.

## July

**OG, Sat, 7/18, Hike to White Pine Lake (Little Cottonwood Canyon).** It's 9 miles round-trip, 2,400 feet elevation gain, about 6 hours, and strenuous. The trail passes several attractive meadows and ends at White Pine Lake at an elevation of 10,000 feet. The scenery includes beautiful mountain peaks in the background. Call Larry Woolsey at 801/731-3701.

**OG, Sat, 8/1, Naomi Peak.** This trek is about six miles round trip and a 280-foot climb to 9980 feet, the highest point of the Bear River Range. No mechanized vehicles are allowed on this trail, including mountain bikes. The trail goes through bright, open meadows of wildflowers which are at their peak in late summer. The summit offers a breathtaking view of the surrounding peaks and of Cache Valley. Bring lunch and water. Call Joanie 801/399-0034 for more info.

**OG, Sat, 8/15, Lake District of the Uintas Dayhike.** We'll pass about 16 lakes. It's 6 miles, has an average elevation of 10,000 feet, and moderate. The scenic mountain views and roadless forested areas make this one of the most beautiful hikes in the Uintas. Call Larry Woolsey at 801/731-3701.

**OG, Sat, 9/19, Bear Hollow Dayhike.** This is located near Causey Dam and Camp Kiesel. It's about 7-8 miles round-trip, approximately 800 feet of elevation gain, moderate, and will take about 4 hours. This trail is in a wooded area with beautiful rock formations, and moose, elk, and deer in the area. Call Larry Woolsey at 801-731-3701.



# win a backcountry guide

AUGUST 26, 2008: Tuesday evening trekking group at Mineral Fork Trailhead. Be the first (before April 15, 2009) to correctly list the first name of eight 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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# Out&About

## Footprints of the SNWA Pipeline Project

by Rose Strickland



Above left, SNWA has targeted an aquifer shared by Nevada and Utah. Above right, groundwater pumping could kill vegetation throughout Snake Valley needed to prevent dust storms.

What will stretch over 300 miles from rural Nevada and Utah to Las Vegas in a 60-70 foot wide and 15-16 foot deep trench? You guessed it - the pipeline which the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) proposes to take 200,000 acre feet of groundwater which it will pump each year from the valleys of White Pine and Lincoln Counties to support growth and development in southern Nevada. Or to diversify its water portfolio. Or for a drought reserve. The pipeline proposal's purpose seems to depend on the audience.

Sierra Club conservationists were astonished at the footprint of the latest development plan released by SNWA in December, 2008. You can see the details of this massive interbasin water transfer project by following this link to the SNWA website (<http://www.snwa.com/assets/pdf/gdp.concept.plan.pdf>).

The numbers in the latest plan are staggering, giving more of a picture of this proposed project:

- 306 miles of pipe, up to 84 inches in diameter
- 110 to 130 groundwater production wells
- an additional 110 to 260 miles of collector pipelines, 10-30 inches in diameter, and overhead power lines
- a permanent right-of-way of 100 feet, plus another temporary ROW of 100 feet during construction, free of charge
- temporary construction camps for hundreds of workers
- excavation from the trenches of 46,000,000 cubic yards of soils
- 200 miles of improved new road

The numbers missing from the development plan are the costs of drilling the wells, the costs of the steel needed for the pipelines, transmission poles and storage tanks, and the costs of all the other facilities. Also missing is any information on who will pay these costs—southern Nevada ratepayers, the state, or the federal government. Or its environmental impacts.

Conservationists also wonder what the carbon footprint of this massive project will be?

For more information on the Sierra Club water campaign, go to: <http://toiya.be.sierraclub.org/>

*Rose Strickland is a veteran of many conservation campaigns and serves currently as public lands, wetlands and refuges chair of the Toiyabe Chapter.*

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## Green Math

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Percentage by which emissions of global warming gasses increased between 2000 and 2006 from the 40 largest industrial countries. Some of the worst offenders over the period from 1990 to 2006 include Australia, 28.8%, Spain 50.6%, and the United States, 14.4%. The data are from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, ( available at [http://unfccc.int/files/press/news\\_room/press\\_releases\\_and\\_advisories/application/pdf/081117\\_ghg\\_press\\_release.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/press/news_room/press_releases_and_advisories/application/pdf/081117_ghg_press_release.pdf)).

Number of hazardous metals the US National Academy of Sciences has identified in coal combustion wastes.

Percentage by which Americans had reduced the number of miles driven between August 2007 and August 2008. In absolute numbers, that yields about 15 billion fewer miles driven. Public transit ridership jumped 6.2% during the same period. These numbers are reported by the US Department of Transportation (see <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot15708.htm>).

Number of coal ash disposal sites in Utah. At present, none of the Utah sites is included in EPA's list of 63 sites with proven or potential degradation of water quality from coal combustion waste disposal (<http://projects.publicintegrity.org/coalash/>).

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