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The Results Are In! Excom Elections

page 8

Healthy Habitat Fights Climate Change Impacts

by Jim Catlin

Many are now engaged in responding to our climate crisis. Lessening harmful emissions that drive climate change is an essential task, and rightly so, the Sierra Club is deeply engaged in this. This story is about how the predicted impacts of climate change may be lessened by improving our wild habitat.

Buried in the thick reports produced by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, thousands of climatologists convened by the UN, are long-term weather forecasts for the western United States. Temperatures for North America are predicted to rise more than the overall world increases, and, in the southwest, droughts are predicted to be more intense and longer in duration.

The U.S. Drought Monitor scores the severity of droughts and displays them on maps on the web. A severity score of D0 applied to abnormally dry conditions, D1 for moderate droughts and so on through D4 (exceptional droughts). As you might guess, habitat impacts increase with severity. A moderate drought (D1) will cause some damage to plants, a high fire risk, and some water shortage that can be addressed with voluntary restrictions. An extreme drought (D3) leads to major plant loss, extreme fire danger, and widespread water restrictions. These predicted impacts from drought are based on our experience with the conditions that are found on our lands today.

I grew up in Utah and, for the most part, the condition of Utah's wild places is not much different from what I remember as a child. Since then, I have had my eyes opened by scientists who are experts in desert ecosystems. They have helped me understand the condition of plant communities and quantify the gap between what we see today and what the ecological potential should be. They took me to the



ABOVE LEFT | Nazer Draw, photo by David Smuin, Grand Canyon Trust RIGHT | The Gulch, photo by the Bureau of Land Management

Habitat that is at its ecological potential shows few impacts from even serious droughts.

rare places in good condition and provided descriptions of what habitat should be when healthy. I have also participated in their studies and what I learned has surprised me.

Today, most of our desert habitat is significantly degraded, especially streams and springs. When you compare today's conditions to what should be there, typically one third to half of the expected species of plants are missing, native grass productivity is one fourth or less of its potential,

and erosion is much more than it should be. These impaired lands are the basis for climate change impact forecasts. The assumption that these forecasts make is that this impairment will continue in the future. I argue that need not be so.

How do healthy wild lands fare in drought? Two examples of similar habitat, one impaired and the other in good shape, help answer this question. We begin in The Gulch, a perennial stream that crosses the Burr Trail inside the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument (See photo 1). This stream has almost no shading, mostly bare banks, and water temperatures are so hot that fish and amphibians die.

Just five miles away is another perennial stream, Nazer Draw, Photo 2. The cross section of this stream channel resembles the bottom of an hour glass, narrow at the top and wide at the bottom. Mostly shaded, this stream is a year round home to fish and frogs. The streams are similar in many ways. The geology, soils, elevation, and climate are all similar. Other factors

set aside, they should look identical, but they don't. Both these photos were taken during a D1 severity drought, one that has been continuing now for much of the past seven years in these canyons. One stream is near its ecological potential, and has resilience. Habitat that is at its ecological potential shows few impacts from even serious droughts.

Unfortunately, good places like Nazer Draw are rare, and most of Utah's desert streams resemble conditions found in The Gulch. The good news is that we know how to restore streams in trouble. We have the opportunity to restore resilience to our wild places. This means that the forecasts for the impacts of climate change can be rewritten if we restore resilience to our wild lands.

Jim Catlin is a veteran defender of Utah's wild places and a former member of Sierra Club's national Board of Directors.

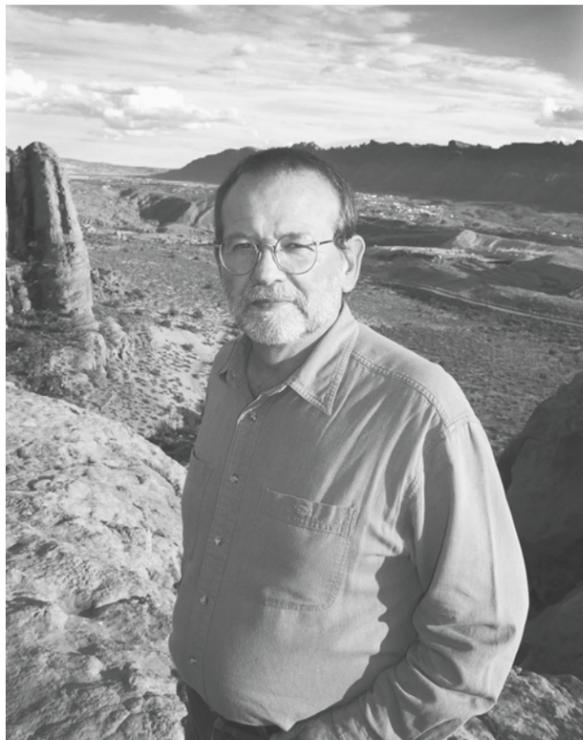
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Wayne's World



Another Bush Mess Lands in Court

by Wayne Hoskisson, Utah Chapter Chair

Soon we will have a new president. We all hope for better times under President Obama.

Unfortunately we will have a lot of cleaning up to remedy the last eight years under President Bush. Here in Utah we face many threats to our public lands. Six Bureau of Land Management resource management plans were signed by Secretary of Interior Kempthorne at the end of 2008. This was an amazingly astute move by the

The Utah Chapter submitted comments on the BLM resource management plans, and our comments were ignored.

Bush Administration because it eliminated all possibility of administrative appeal. The plans create vast networks of off-road vehicle routes, continuing livestock grazing at unsustainable levels, a turning over much of the land to the oil and gas industry. The BLM ignored their own findings that hundreds of thousands of acres qualified for designation as wilderness.

The Utah Chapter submitted comments on the BLM resource management plans, and our comments were ignored. The Sierra Club has no recourse other than the courts to remedy these problems. We will be joining our partners in filing lawsuits to overturn the resource management plans. We will be seeking protection for wild places adjacent to Arches National Park and Dinosaur National Monument, in Nine Mile Canyon and along the Green River, in the Deep Creek Mountains, and across the top of the Book Cliffs.

Perhaps the most important opportunity the country lost in the last eight years was the making the changes we need in the face of global climate change. This affects all of us in too many ways to list here. Climate change will make our deserts more fragile; our forests will change in ways we do not fully understand, and disrupt our water supplies. The federal land management agencies like the BLM are in complete denial of their responsibility to create a landscape more resilient to climate change.

Western Turf Wars: The Politics of Public Lands Ranching

Book Review by Gary Macfarlane

There have been some very fine and important books written from a scientific perspective about the ecological impacts from livestock grazing on public lands and the failure of federal agencies to live up to their stewardship responsibilities. Hudak's *Western Turf Wars* takes a refreshingly different approach. It is even more compelling as it tells stories—the personal histories—of twenty-five people intimately involved in issues surrounding public land livestock grazing policy.

Western Turf Wars honors people whose stories and experiences have been ignored by the media. Hudak's compilation is the first of which I am aware that tells several stories of former and current public agency employees and ordinary citizens who have struggled to reduce the impacts of grazing on land owned by all Americans. While no single book could encompass the vast range of experiences of citizen conservationists who watchdog livestock grazing and livestock grazing policy on public lands, *Western Turf Wars* covers a good deal of them. There are mountains of books, articles, movies, and documentaries from the perspective of cowboys and public land ranchers. We don't need another hagiography of this American icon, but we do need to hear the stories of citizens and public servants.

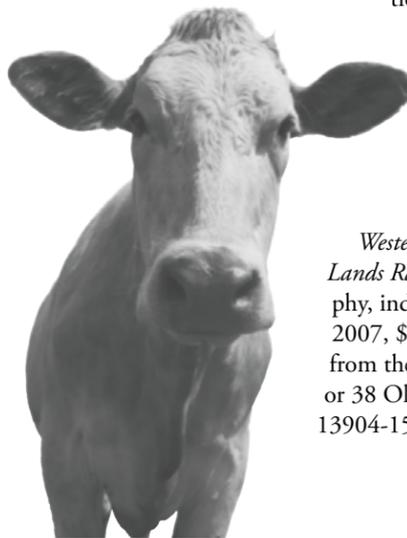
The book shines precisely because it is written down as an oral history. Much like the great American author Studs Terkel, an influence Hudak credits in the preface, he lets the people tell their stories in their own words. And getting those stories took Hudak two summers of travel throughout the West—from Montana to New Mexico, and from California to South Dakota.

There are some very powerful stories, to be sure. The decisions by agency people to quit in the face of illegal intimidation, corruption or both, knowing that nothing can be done, are telling. So are the stories of political pressure, harassment, or death threats against those exercising their constitutional rights.

Even if you don't know any of the people whose stories are told, you become caught up in their lives. You feel how they feel (and felt) and experience the contradictions of American life. I enjoyed getting into the heads of the story tellers, comparing their experiences, beliefs, and solutions with those of my own. It made me think not only about new ways to look at environmental issues surrounding livestock grazing on public land, but bigger questions of public trust, citizen responsibility, and the role of government in the face of the realities of human nature.

Of the many contributions of *Western Turf Wars*, perhaps the most important is its personal, emotional wallop. This book effectively counters the media demonization of environmentalists, conservationists, and agency people and shows them to be real people and citizens concerned about the fate of our public lands and our country. For that alone, it is worth reading.

Western Turf Wars: The Politics of Public Lands Ranching, 396 pp., includes bibliography, index, by Mike Hudak, Biome Books 2007, \$26.95 + \$4.25 shipping. Available from the publisher at www.biomebooks.com or 38 Oliver St., Binghamton, NY 13904-1516.



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OnPolitics

Did Obama Have Coattails in Utah?

by Mark Clemens



The chapter political committee's strategy of focusing on races in the increasingly progressive southeastern part of Salt Lake County where the chapter has a fairly substantial number of members paid off. Three challengers we endorsed in Utah House races picked up seats from anti-environmental Republicans: Laura Black in HD 45, Trisha Beck in HD 48 and Jay Seegmiller in HD 49. Seegmiller ousted Utah House Speaker Greg Curtis (R-Sandy).

In a senate district (SD 8) that contains parts or all of HD 45, 48 & 49, our endorsed candidate Karen Morgan knocked off anti-environmental Republican incumbent Carlene Walker. The Democrats had no net gains in the Utah Senate because outgoing House Minority Leader Brad King failed to retain the seat of retiring Senator Mike Dmitrich (D-Price). King, whom we did not endorse but who is a kind and friendly person, won in rural Carbon, Emery, Grand and San Juan Counties, but lost in Utah County's right-leaning southern end by a margin sufficient to lose the seat.

Democrats picked up three seats (from Sandy & Midvale) in the Utah House but lost one in Weber County so the Democrats now have 22 of 75 house seats. The Utah Senate ratio remains the same: 8 out of 29.

The Sierra Club Political Committee endorsed 39 candidates in this election of whom 23 won. We had a respectable success rate of 59%. One interesting historical note is that although the Utah House remains an overwhelmingly male institution, the Democrat caucus will be half male, half female in the 2009 General Session.

COUNTY RACES

In Salt Lake County, home to nearly half of Utah's population, county government is now in the hands of pro-environmental Democrats. Salt Lake County Mayor and 2007 Pfeifferhorn Award Winner Peter Corroon cruised to re-election. Democrats retained their one open seat and picked up a Republican seat on the council so Democrats now have an advantage of 5-4. The seat picked up was a chapter endorsement, Jani Iwamoto, in CD 4. Jani's district includes most of Karen Morgan's senate seat as well as much of the house districts we picked up in Sandy.

Summit County (where the fast-growing ski resorts of The Canyons, Park City Mountain Resort and Deer Valley are located) switched from a three-member commission

to a five-member council in this election. Our endorsed candidate, a major environmental champion, in Council Seat A Sally Elliott was elected. Democrats picked up four of five seats.

REFERENDA

The outcomes of referenda included one victory and one setback for the environment. Residents of Sevier County voted by nearly 59% in favor of a requirement that citizens have the right to vote on a final land use permit to build a coal-fired power plant before the project can proceed. This landslide vote came despite or perhaps because of a last-minute campaign against Proposition 1 by the local chamber of commerce.

The implementation of Proposition 1 now requires the proposed Sevier Power Company coal burner to be put up for a vote sometime in the coming year. Unfortunately, the Sevier County Commissioners continue on a course intended to thwart the will of their citizens. The county has played a shell game with the language it has used to describe the land use change for the power plant proposal: at times calling it a conditional use permit and at other times calling it a planned unit development. It appears commissioners might attempt a law suit on these slender and disingenuous grounds to prevent the implementation of Proposition 1.

In Cache County voters rejected a first step to protect open space through a \$10 million bond. The bond was intended to protect scenic vistas, wildlife habitat and working farms. Although the bond repayment schedule would have increased property taxes on a \$170,000 house by \$16.50 per annum, the vote was rejected by nearly 59%. With land prices stable or dropping currently, the \$10 million would have stretched further than in the real estate market from which we've recently emerged. An opportunity has been squandered.

THANK YOU

Thanks to the volunteers who helped us phone bank house districts 45 and 49. Those victories are in no small part your work. Thanks also to the Sierra Club's national Political Committee, Cathy Duvall, Steve Thomas and Marc Heilesen for helping to secure the funding for postcards targeting Jay Seegmiller's and Jani Iwamoto's districts. Thanks to Monique Heilesen for designing the postcards paid for by the national and chapter political committees.

SpecialThanks

Thanks to the members listed below for their contributions to the Utah Chapter's 2008 fundraising drive. Thanks also to other members who contributed anonymously. The preponderance of the contributors to the 2008 fund drive was listed in the Summer 2008 issue of the Utah Sierran.

In 2009, the chapter will continue its effective advocacy on behalf of clean, renewable energy. That also means that we have to put the brake on coal and other fossil fuel development that does not use adequate environmental safeguards. We'll be ramping up our work to protect Utah's public lands in an environment at the federal level that is far more friendly than for several years past.

But if you value our work, we'll need your help. Please contribute as generously as you can when you receive our 2009 fundraising letter in March.

Fred Adler
Mike & Jean Binyon
Frank R Chase
Dorothy & Dwight Finkel
Harold Stark
Treasure Mountain Inn

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 <http://www.onepercentfortheplanet.org/en/members/>. 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.

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!



Our Water

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How Not to Treat a Fresh-water Resource

by Marsha McLean

Utah Lake is among waterways most neglected in our state. Center Street in Provo ends on the shore of this valuable natural resource, which has given so much to the subsistence of Utah Valley and its peoples. It has offered up millions of fish to the populace. In 1889 David S. Jordan labeled it “the greatest sucker pond in the universe.” Utah Lake, along with the Great Salt Lake, provides irreplaceable staging, breeding, and nesting habitat for migratory birds. It is a link in the migratory passage across the Great Basin Desert known as the Central American Flyway. Utah Lake and its tributaries are the only home to the native June Sucker.

In return for its contribution to human subsistence, we have thoughtlessly decimated the population of the June Sucker. We have interfered with the stream spawn and migration cycles of the lake’s trout population by construction of dams and diversion of water for irrigation and other uses. We have dumped raw sewage into its waters. We have removed most of the wetlands critical to the native wildlife and vegetation. We have introduced non-native fish species to replace the native fish that we eradicated. These species have rooted out natural aquatic vegetation. We have introduced steel mill effluent, nitrates and phosphates, chemicals for the fleeting benefit of man to the destruction of the life of the lake. Our water treatment plants continue to deposit toxic materials. We litter its shores with garbage and waste. We show no respect to this bounty allotted us.

Now we have in consideration the construction of a causeway or bridge in two locations across this indispensable natural resource. Already Utah County is in non-attainment status for air pollution standards set by the EPA. We will receive no new federal monies for roads or transpor-

tation projects unless we reduce our fine particulate matter, called PM 2.5, emitted by industry and vehicles. New roadways induce additional traffic that spews many additional emissions. The bridges will inevitably add not only to our pollution excesses, but to the decimation of natural vegetation and wildlife habitat.

The 2008 General Session of the Utah Legislature appropriated \$3M for an environmental impact study of the placement of a causeway from east to west across the lake. Due to waning revenues, this funding was removed from the budget. However, now comes Utah Crossings, Inc. with developers Terry Harward and David Gardner motivated by tolls that could be charged on such a bridge, willing to pay for this very study. This proposed bridge would span the lake from the east in Provo/Orem to the west shore Mosida Orchards Planned Development.

Let’s place before greed the value of the lake’s beauty and resource.

According to BYU’s Dr. LaVere Merritt, the idea of bridge or causeway spanning our lake is replete with engineering problems. He states that lake sediments have been unstable and any solution will be expensive. The best solution may be a low bridge-type roadway built on pilings. He feels the pilings may not be able to support the required load of such a structure.

These bridges and the real estate development they would promote along the shores of our lake will further its demise. They will encroach on farmlands vital to

our future local food supplies. Only 16% of the lake’s original wetlands survive. Our air quality is among the worst in the nation. We no longer enjoy much wildlife. Already, we cannot eat many of the fish we catch due to mercury and other pollutants found in these waters.

There is established the Utah Lake Commission made up of all mayors of local cities, politicians, and wildlife management personnel to promote the welfare of our lake. It is our opportunity to inform them of our wishes for the rehabilitation of our lake. You can go to www.utahlakecommission.com for schedules of meetings and open houses and to submit your comments.

Millions of dollars have been spent to re-establish the June Sucker. Carp removal is currently being conducted. Phosphates in residential dishwasher soaps are being eliminated. Geneva Steel is being dismantled. Water treatment is being improved and must be retrofitted on older water treatment facilities.

Population growth is inevitable, but let’s plan ahead for the health of our environment. Let’s place before greed the value of the lake’s beauty and resource. Let’s put health before profit. Let’s put family before business. Let’s put healthy and local food before real estate development. Let’s plan real estate development to include sanctuaries for wildlife and human enjoyment. Let’s retain the wetlands that buffer our lake shores to allow natural elimination of pollutants.

Marsha McLean is a member of the Utah Chapter Executive Committee and the Utah Lake Commission.

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THINGS WE CAN DO:

1. Write letters to local, state, and national politicians informing them of our environmental concerns
2. Address our concerns about transportation issues at www.provotonebo.com and www.provowestsideconnector.com
3. Eliminate from consideration any bridges or causeways across the lake or along its shores
4. Allow public and private land to act as buffers to filter contaminants
5. Recycle waste to the extent possible to reduce the land area required for dumps and to eliminate hazardous chemicals
6. Remove the common carp, an alien species
7. Remove the invasive plant phragmites that chokes out native wetland vegetation
8. Expand the use of mass transit and other non-automotive transportation options
9. Promote the development of small business to reduce the need for travel and improve the local tax base
10. Eliminate use of high nitrous fertilizers and use more eco-friendly substances
11. Eliminate use of cleaners containing phosphates in our homes and institutions
12. Develop wildlife sanctuaries for human enjoyment and ecosystem protection
13. Protect all natural springs at location of original flow
14. Promote construction of buildings in eco-friendly manner and materials

THANK YOU!

OnEnergy

State Energy Efficiency Rankings Released

Earlier this month the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE) revealed its state rankings on energy efficiency. The 2008 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard rates and ranks state-level action on model energy efficiency policies, programs, and practices.

Below are the top ten US states "employing energy efficiency to grow their economies while meeting electricity demand, combating global warming, and contributing to U.S. energy security:"

1. California
2. Oregon
3. Connecticut
4. Vermont
5. New York
6. Washington
7. Massachusetts
8. Minnesota
9. Wisconsin
10. New Jersey



Utah

Utah tied with New Mexico for 25th place. Both states received fifteen points; by comparison California received fifty points. Each state is given points in eight categories including building codes, combined heat and power, and appliance standards. Utah got 6.5 points in the utility and public benefits efficiency programs and policies category but 0 in the appliance standards category. The executive summary of the report is on line at http://www.aceee.org/pubs/e086_es.pdf.

Unfortunately this issue puts some people to sleep; it shouldn't. The cheapest and most reliable source of energy is energy efficiency and conservation, but because traditional pricing and regulation models punish utilities, such as Rocky Mountain Power, when their customers conserve energy, there have been few large institutions promoting it.

Energy efficiency and conservation is both more and less than turning down one's thermostat in winter. It includes everything from passive solar in school construction to more efficient motors in industry to more efficient refrigerators in houses.

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

What Does the Bonanza Decision Mean?

by David Bookbinder, Chief Climate Counsel for Sierra Club.



Rule #1 when you're in a hole is to stop digging. And in the climate hole we've dug for ourselves, that means not building any more coal-fired power plants, the leading source of carbon dioxide emissions both in the U.S. and worldwide. We know that carbon dioxide is the largest component among human-source emissions contributing to destabilizing the earth's climate. Thanks to the Bonanza decision on Thursday, November 13, 2008, from the Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Appeals Board (EAB), we appear to have put down the shovel. (And maybe a little bit more.)

Hallelujah.

Technically, all EAB did was vacate the PSD permit for a relatively small (110 megawatt) proposed power plant and send it back to the permit writers for further consideration. But that would be kind of like saying that Marbury v. Madison was all about whether William Marbury got to be a District of Columbia justice of the peace. That is because the exact same rationale EPA used in refusing to impose carbon dioxide emission limits on the Bonanza plant has been used by EPA and state permitting authorities in virtually every one of the dozens of other coal-rush PSD permits we're challenging across the country. And by rejecting (eviscerating is more like it) this rationale, every one of those other permits faces the same fate: remand for the agencies to try and come up with a more plausible excuse for not imposing carbon dioxide limits, or, better still, take a different position.

Agency action will take months. Many months. Perhaps up to a year or two. For all of them. Which

means we have a de facto moratorium on building new coal-fired generation. And the timing could not be better, because it gives the Obama Administration both a blank slate to write on and plenty of breathing room as they will not have to be rushing around from Day 1 reacting to individual permit decisions. (To preserve this hiatus, the Lords of Transition would be advised to make it very, very clear that any new state-issued PSD permit coming out either before or after January 20 will be vacated by EPA using its authority under Section 167 of the Clean Air Act.)

So what next? Logically, I think the answer is New Source Performance Standards for fossil-fuel fired power plants. Just such a rulemaking is sitting in limbo at EPA, and it is the appropriate vehicle for limiting new power plant emissions to 800 lb. CO₂/MWh.

This would permit new gas-fired plants but would effectively stop any new coal-fired ones that did not employ carbon capture and sequestration (CCS). Perhaps this rulemaking could also contain a second phase, effective 2016 or so, tightening the standard to approximately 250 lb. CO₂/MWh. This would be achievable via either combined gas/solar or gas/wind generation or 90% CCS. And then they could start thinking about how to deal with existing power plants under Section 111(d) of the Act. But one thing at a time.

Right now we have a de facto moratorium on new coal-fired power plants, a blank slate on which the Obama Administration can begin writing its global warming policy and some breathing room in which to write it.

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

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Regional Issues

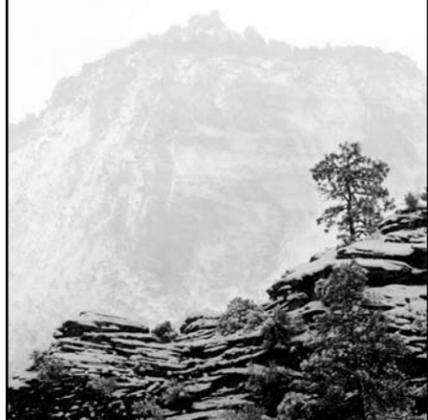
High Time to Get the Lead Out



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@me.com

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



The Sierra Club's Grand Canyon Chapter has been leading a campaign to ban lead ammunition that poisons endangered California condors reintroduced to the state through the Endangered Species Act. Joined by the Arizona Zoological Society and Grand Canyon Wildlands Council, on October 11, 2008, the chapter presented the Arizona Game and Fish Commission with more than one thousand postcards collected in Arizona demanding the commission take action to prevent further lead poisonings of California condors by amending state hunting regulations to require the use of non-lead ammunition.

"The public has demonstrated that they want the commission to act now to protect Arizona's condors from further lead poisonings and to safeguard public health," said Stacey Hamburg, conservation coordinator for the Sierra Club's Grand Canyon campaign. "The public is awed by the presence of the condor at the Grand Canyon and wants condors in Arizona skies for generations to come."

Arizona Game and Fish currently operates a voluntary lead reduction program and education program and while the Sierra Club is supportive of these educational efforts, more is needed to protect the condors. Even with the voluntary program, eight condors died in Arizona in 2005 and 2006 from lead poisoning. Also in 2006, 95 percent of all Arizona condors had lead exposure and 70 percent of the Arizona population needed emergency treatment to remove lead from their blood - and that is with 60 percent hunter compliance with the Game and Fish voluntary lead reduction program. Spring 2008 trapping and lead testing of the condor population found nine lead exposures and two birds requiring chelation treatment. Twenty-one condors have been treated for lead poisoning at the Phoenix Zoo.

"The Phoenix Zoo has been caring for ill and/or injured condors for years," said

Jeff Williamson, President of the Arizona Zoological Society. "We are pleased to be able to contribute these services but encourage all authorities to act to remove hazards and toxins such as lead, particularly when there are alternatives that do less harm."

"While we applaud the limited success of the Arizona Game and Fish Department's voluntary program, we

Lead poisoning is the leading killer of condors as they scavenge carrion left by hunters, which often contains small fragments of lead.

remain very skeptical that this effort will reduce lead levels sufficient for condor recovery," said Kim Crumbo, Conservation Director for Grand Canyon Wildlands Council. "Our skepticism, based on disappointing, pervasive lead levels still present in the wild condor population, was reinforced by the recent release of the American Ornithologist Union's independent review of the California Condor recovery program. The panel concluded that removing this toxin from ammunition is the only way to save the highly endangered California Condor."

Lead poisoning is the leading killer of condors as they scavenge carrion left by hunters, which often contains small fragments of lead. Moreover, lead is an extremely toxic element both to wildlife AND humans. Hunter killed meat bound for food banks was found to have lead fragments in recent studies.

"Lead is an extremely toxic substance

that we have sensibly removed from most of our environment, including water pipes, gasoline, paint, and cooking utensils," said Sandy Bahr, Chapter Director of the Sierra Club's Grand Canyon Chapter. "It only makes sense to remove it from ammunition too."

Although southwestern condors were reintroduced as an experimental population, the Commission has the authority to implement hunting regulations and is required under the federal Endangered Species Act to prevent death, injury, or harm to condors from lead poisoning. Killing or injuring condors in the experimental population is prohibited except where it is unavoidable and unintentional. Lead poisoning of condors from ammunition is avoidable, since safe, reliable non-lead bullets and shot that are not toxic to condors are available for big-game hunting, and perform as well or better than lead ammunition. The use of non-lead ammunition would not restrict hunting in Arizona, and conservation groups agree that ammunition regulations should be tailored to minimize adverse consequences for the state's hunters.

A coalition of conservation, American Indian and health organizations, as well as individual hunters, petitioned and filed litigation to change hunting regulations in California to protect condors. Exactly one year ago, California passed a bill requiring hunters to use non-lead ammunition for hunting big game and coyotes within the condor range in central and southern California. The new law began implementation in July 1, 2008.

This article is derived primarily from a press release issued by the Grand Canyon Chapter of Sierra Club.

ChapterNews

Pfeifferhorn Award Goes to Dan Schroeder

by Mark Clemens

The Pfeifferhorn is a mountain exceeding 11,000 feet. It promotes thoughts of stirring deeds and grandiose projects. Dan Schroeder, who was presented with the Pfeifferhorn Award on Thursday, 13 November, measures up to the scale established by the name of this award, but he understands that many prosaic and humble details go into powering the environmental movement. Schroeder has never been too grand or too proud to ignore those details. Many of his environmental accomplishments have been made as a volunteer and officer of the Sierra Club.

There are few volunteer positions he has not held in Sierra Club, and some of these involve ministering to humdrum things that need to be done to keep an organization functioning. Among positions he's held in either the Utah Chapter or Ogden Group one must count secretary, chair, treasurer, conservation chair, and webmaster. He's been taking minutes, writing reports and balancing checkbooks in the service of the environment going back into the 1990s.

But his accomplishments also attain heights worthy of the Pfeifferhorn. Schroeder is one of the most zealous defenders and promoters of US Forest Service wilderness in northern Utah. He implemented the Ogden Group's Adopt-a-Roadless-Area program to keep tabs on threats to roadless areas primarily in the Ogden District of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. Under this program, vol-

unteers keep tabs on roads, trails, timber sales, ATV usage and other threats to roadless areas.

Collaborating with volunteers and staff from a number of environmental groups and forest service, he has monitored ATV and ORV use across the Ogden Ranger District. With Schroeder's help, the Ogden Group issued an important report documenting the extent of off-road vehicle abuse and how much forest service has yet to do even to provide accurate information about where motorized vehicles may be used.

His determined defense of the Mount Ogden area in particular has led him into a number of fights, many of which he won. Schroeder has been a consistent opponent of the proposal to run a cable car through Ogden and up to a proposed resort on the west flank of Mount Ogden.

Over the past two years he worked with an assortment of politicians and environmental activists to defeat a proposal that would have sold off public lands and parks at the foot of Mount Ogden to make possible a luxury enclave of gated houses and resort amenities stretching from the foothills up the west side of the mountain.

His most recent exploit is to have compelled the City of Ogden to comply with Utah's open records law so that members of the public can know exactly how far private businessmen and elected officials went to promote a cable car that would have



Carl Fisher (at right) presents award to Dan Schroeder (left).

provided significant economic benefits to developers.

The Pfeifferhorn Award is presented each year to the citizen, official or volunteer who has done the most to protect the environment in Utah, and particularly along the Wasatch Front. It's named for a prominent peak on the south side of Little Cottonwood Canyon that dominates the head of Maybird Gulch. Past recipients include Peter Corroon, Gale Dick, George Hansen, LeRoy Hooten and Dianna Le-

hmann Smith. The award is presented by several groups in Utah's environmental community including The Nature Conservancy, Save Our Canyons, the Utah Chapter of Sierra Club and the Wasatch Mountain Club.

For the past several years, the presentation of the award has been organized by Save Our Canyons. Thanks to Carl Fisher and Havilah Mills for their work on this year's award ceremony.

Ogden Group Scores Victory for Open Government

by Dan Schroeder, Ogden Group Conservation Chair

For over a year now, the Sierra Club's Ogden Group has been locked in a legal battle with Ogden City over access to government records concerning the proposed gondola project. This speculative project—backed in the past by Ogden's current mayor—would include a new mountain resort on the currently pristine west side of Mt. Ogden; sale of publicly owned foothill open space for development of luxury homes; and an urban gondola that would preclude more effective forms of mass transit.

Trying to learn more about these proposals, the Sierra Club has filed several requests for Ogden City records, including communications between the city, UTA, and the prospective developer. While the city has released numerous records in response to these requests, it has also withheld dozens of records.

Utah has a reasonably strong open records law that classifies all government records as public unless a specific exception applies. When the government withholds a requested record, it must describe the record and specify which exception is being claimed. The Sierra Club therefore asked

Ogden to describe the records it was withholding, but we received only the most cursory descriptions: "correspondence," "draft correspondence," and "draft agreements." The city even refused to disclose the number of withheld records. When we appealed to the city's Records Review Board (whose members are appointed by the mayor), the board ruled in the city's favor.

Having exhausted all other remedies, the Sierra Club filed suit in Utah's Second District Court in October, 2007. Our complaint states that the burden of proving that a record can be withheld lies on the government, and that Ogden's superficial descriptions of the withheld records fail to meet this burden. The Sierra Club is fortunate to be represented by Salt Lake City attorneys Joel Ban and Pat Shea, both of whom have a special interest in open records cases.

After months of motions, counter-motions, and oral arguments, the Sierra Club won a huge, though incomplete, victory in this dispute. On October 2, 2008, Judge W. Brent West signed an order instructing Ogden City to provide the Sierra Club

with a complete index of the withheld records, describing each record in sufficient detail to "enable other parties to assess the applicability of the privilege or protection." Three weeks later, Ogden finally provided an index listing 41 withheld records, each identified by author, recipients, and date.

This case is far from over. While Ogden's index is a step in the right direction, it still doesn't describe most of the records in enough detail to indicate whether they can be legally withheld from the public. The index also inexplicably omits some important records that we know of from other sources. We must now work to resolve these issues, and then make our case for public disclosure of the records themselves. Although the gondola proposal hasn't been in the news lately, we expect it to come back in one form or another eventually.

Meanwhile, Judge West's October decision sets an important precedent that will help us and others obtain access to Utah government records in the future. Open government is a necessity in a free, democratic society. The Sierra Club is honored to have had this opportunity to further the cause of democracy in Utah.



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ChapterNews

ExCom Election Results



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



It's time for America to get smart about energy and be less dependent on dwindling oil reserves. We need to increase our use of clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power. Let your voice be heard.

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Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
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Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

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

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club,
 P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968
or visit our website www.sierraclub.org **F94Q W 2900**

Forty ballots were delivered to the Utah Chapter office for the Ogden and Salt Lake Group and Utah Chapter Executive Committee elections. No ballots were wholly disqualified. Three had part or all of the group votes disqualified as a result of double voting or ZIP code ineligibility. The ballots will be available for inspection in the chapter office, 2159 South 700 East, Suite 210 in Salt Lake City, during business hours for two years. The results are reported below.

GLEN CANYON GROUP

The Glen Canyon Group sends out a ballot mailing separate from the chapter's ballots in the Utah Sierran. Twenty-five ballots were returned and counted by committee members Jean Binyon and Laura Cameron, assisted by Mike Binyon (in the absence of committee member Mary Suarez). All candidates were invited to watch the count; only Mike Stringham did so. The 25 votes is a return rate of 16%.

The results were: Mike Stringham 19 votes, Tom Messenger 17 votes, and Rita Rumrill 15 votes. Mike and Tom were thus re-elected and Rita will be asked to attend ExCom meetings and consider being appointed. The ExCom will elect and appoint officers and chairs at their first meeting in 2009, date and place TBA.

OGDEN GROUP

Ranee Johnson received twenty-one votes. Kathryn Mackay received nineteen votes. Dan Schroeder received twenty-one votes. Ranee Johnson, Kathryn Mackay and Dan Schroeder are elected to two-year terms expiring on 31 December 2010.

SALT LAKE GROUP

Carol Curtis received eleven votes. Ken Evans received sixteen votes. Preston Motes received fourteen votes. Carol Curtis, Ken Evans and Preston Motes are elected to two-year terms expiring on 31 December 2010.

UTAH CHAPTER

Matt Bybee received twenty-eight votes. Marion Klaus received thirty-three votes. Pete Kuennemann received thirty-two votes. Ann Wechsler received thirty-five votes. Matt Bybee, Marion Klaus, Pete Kuennemann and Ann Wechsler are elected to two-year terms expiring on 31 December 2010.

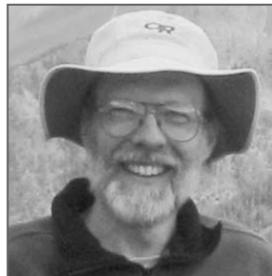
Thanks to all our excellent volunteers who are willing to run for the executive committees and improve the environment. Special thanks to Chapter Chair Wayne Hoskisson for counting ballots and Glen Canyon Group Treasurer Jean Binyon for the GCG report.



Ranee Johnson,
Ogden Group



Kathryn Mackay,
Ogden Group



Dan Schroeder,
Ogden Group



Ken Evans,
Salt Lake Group



Preston Motes,
Salt Lake Group



Matt Bybee,
Utah Chapter



Marion Klaus,
Utah Chapter



Pete Kuennemann,
Utah Chapter



Ann Wechsler,
Utah Chapter

NOT PICTURED

Mike Stringham,
Glen Canyon Group

Tom Messenger,
Glen Canyon Group

Rita Rumrill,
Glen Canyon Group

Carol Curtis
Salt Lake Group

DAN MAYHEW



NoteOfThanks

Tim Wagner: AN APPRECIATION BY AL HERRING

Tim Wagner, Director of the Utah Smart Energy Campaign, resigned in September to accept a position with Resource Media, a media-consulting non-profit organization based in San Francisco. As Tim put it, they have “additional offices in Sacramento, Boulder, Seattle, Bozeman, Kalispell, and now Salt Lake City. Yes, I’m staying put and am happy to say that I’ll be working the same issues, and more, related to energy and climate.”

A bit of history: In mid-2004, the Western Clean Energy Campaign (WCEC) invited us to apply for a grant to work towards a cleaner energy future for Utah. Under considerable time pressure, chapter personnel (with the deep involvement of Nina Dougherty) submitted an application, received approval, made the necessary arrangements with National, and advertised for a person to coordinate the effort. Although it looked like the position might only be temporary, we received several worthy applications, and Tim was picked as the best fit. He quickly proved his worth.

A comprehensive list of Tim’s accomplishments during the four years he led the Utah Smart Energy Campaign would be impressive, and—I fear—tedious reading because of its length. However, I will mention a few highlights:

- Leading efforts (successful thus far) to fight construction of new coal-fired power plants in Utah and upwind locations in Nevada. Particularly effective was his creative effort to block expansion of a plant near Delta by persuading cities and counties across several states not to sign long-term contract renewals with its developer, Intermountain Power.
- Promoting development of clean, sustainable power generation in the state.
- Representing the Sierra Club on Gov. Huntsman’s Blue Ribbon Advisory Council on Climate Change, and the State’s Mercury Work Group and a Wind Energy Work Group.
- Organizing a Global Warming Action Rally in Salt Lake City, and an event where people could have the mercury content of their hair tested for free.
- Organizing Sierra Club and other volunteers to oppose more coal-fired plants and to support smarter options.

A measure of the esteem in which Tim was held is reflected in the effort made by WCEC and the Chapter Executive Committee to fund the Utah Smart Energy Campaign. What started as a six-month effort continued four years.

Furthermore, and critically important in my opinion, were Tim’s heroic efforts to educate Club members, the public, and governmental officials on the dangers of coal-burning plants. He wrote innumerable articles for the print media, spoke at public events, gave interviews, staged press conferences, and manned tables at festivals, farmer’s markets, and other public gatherings.

He quickly became the go-to person for media contacts seeking the Utah Chapter’s opinion on all topics dealing with energy. Typical of his writing was his last article for the Utah Sierran, “Clean Coal? I Don’t Think So...” Tim had a real gift for creating quotable, spot-on statements for the media, statements which always made me proud to be a Sierra Club member.

In closing, I think I speak for many people in Utah and beyond when I say, “Great job, Tim. Thanks! We wish you every success in your new position.”



A collection of Utahns travel via Tim Wagner’s NO COAL EXPRESS to Ely, Nevada in January 2007.

Al Herring was Utah Chapter Chair from 2004 to 2007. He now presides with his wife Mary over a small organic farm in southwestern Idaho.

Welcome to Joey Caputo

by Mark Clemens



Joey will be working on much the same portfolio as Tim Wagner, but he will be employed by the club’s National Coal Campaign rather than the Utah Chapter.

Why would we need to welcome Joey Caputo, volunteer extraordinaire and chair of the chapter’s Building Environmental Communities (BEC) Steering Committee? Because he joined Sierra Club as an employee on December 1, 2008.

Joey has been one of the chapter’s most valued volunteers since he started as an intern working with me during the Winter of 2003. He helped with a whole range of tasks ranging from revising the chapter website to contacting members to encourage them to send messages to their legislators.

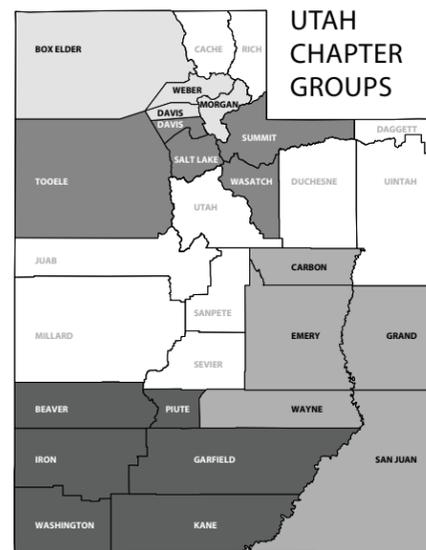
Joey served for several years as chair of the chapter’s BEC Steering Committee that co-ordinated chapter efforts to support the club’s campaign to prevent or mitigate damage from the proposed Legacy Highway. In September of this year, he helped former Utah Smart Energy Campaign Organizer Tim Wagner put together a successful presentation of the film *Fighting Goliath* at the Tower Theater.

Joey will be working on much the same portfolio as Tim Wagner, but he will be employed by the club’s National Coal Campaign rather than the Utah Chapter. Despite Tim’s substantial accomplishments, there remains much to do to prevent the construction of polluting, unsustainable coal-fired power plants as well as to promote solutions to the nation’s energy and climate recovery problems.

Joey has two cats named Rocky and Bojangles. He is an avid gardner and, as an apartment dweller myself, I’m looking forward to fresh tomatoes from his backyard garden next summer. Before coming to the Sierra Club as an employee, he worked for a retailer well known in Utah.

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.



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

Glen Canyon Group (GCG)

Participants are requested to call leaders in advance for outing details & to give the leader an idea of group size.

Ogden Group (OG)

P.O. Box 1821, Ogden, UT, 84402
utah.sierraclub.org/ogden

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

Salt Lake Group (SLG)

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

January

GCG Sat 1/3 Abyss Branch, Negro Bill Canyon. Easy hike to a side canyon to Negro Bill one before the one Morning Glory Arch. Has a waterfall which may well be picturesquely frozen. Can continue to canyon head(s) above the fall to other pour-offs. About four miles roundtrip with perhaps 200' elevation gain. Meet at the Moab Information Center, Center and Main, at 9:00 AM. Leader: Tom Messinger, 259-1756.

SLG, Sun, 1/4/09, North Fork Provo River Winter Outing. A great way to start the New Year after the Christmas and New Year celebrations. Join us on the North Fork Provo River, or the Outback trail at Snow Basin depending on snow conditions. You'll have a good time whatever the location. Call Ron (292-4040) for meeting time, place and other details.

GCG Sat 1/17 Upper Negro Bill Canyon Rim hike. From the Sand Flats Road, follow parts of the Fins & Things 4x4 Trail among slickrock fins to the rim. Drop to a lower bench a couple of hundred feet lower and go up the canyon, with views into the depths of Negro Bill. Scramble up a steep hillside to rejoin the Fins & Things Trail and head back to the Sand Flats Road. About 5 miles with perhaps 400' of elevation change. Hike can be done (has been done) with snow cover. Meet at the Moab Information Center, Center and Main, at 9:00 AM. Leader: Ed Brandstetter, 259-9427.

SLG, Sun, 1/18, Leaders Choice Hike in Big Cottonwood Canyon. Join the hiking leader for a cool winter hike somewhere in Big Cottonwood Canyon. The exact location will depend on snow conditions at the time. Some choices include Donut Falls and the Spruces area further up the canyon. If enough snow, expect snowshoe, if not, a hike. Can't go wrong either way. Call Ken (484-3112) for meeting time and location.

OG, Sat, 1/24, Snowshoe in Wheatgrass Canyon. Depending on snow conditions, about 5 miles round trip, 3 to 4 hrs, moderate difficulty. One of the most beautiful canyons in Northern Utah with very interesting cliffs and canyon walls. Call Larry at 801/731-3701 for meeting time and location.

GCG Sat 1/31 La Sal Snowshoeing. Winter hike on snowshoes in the La Sal mountains. Snowshoeing starts at the cross country skiing parking lot on the road to Geyser Pass and snowshoe toward Gold Basin area for a round trip of about 4 or 5 miles. Hiking in snowshoes is easy and lots of fun. Call Mike Stringham at 259-8579 for information on snowshoe rentals in Moab. Meet at Moab Information Center, Center and Main, 9 am.

OG, Sat, 1/31, 2008, Snow Basin Snowshoe. Wheeler Creek loop starting at Art Nord Trailhead in the Snow Basin area. About 5 miles. Call John for meeting time and place. 801/985-6854.

February

SLG, Fri, 2/6, Full Moon Hike to Elbow Fork of Millcreek Canyon. Meet Robert for another enchanting night time full moon hike in Millcreek Canyon. Weather and snow conditions permitting, but the evening should be perfect for a midwinter excursion in the mountains. Meet at the Skyline High School parking lot at 6:30 PM. Call Robert (949-3597) for questions about the hike.

OG, Sat, 2/7, Snowshoe on the Pioneer Trail. To start in North Ogden and walk east. Go north on Mountain Road to 2750 N and park at the gate. Much of this trail follows the utility service road below the power lines and parallel to the North Ogden Pass Road. It climbs eastward from North Ogden and peaks at the North Ogden Divide. Hike elevation ranges from 4,760' to 6,180'. Call joanie @ 801-399-0034 for more info.

SLG, Sun, 2/10, Rose Canyon—Yellow Fork X-country ski. Weather and snow conditions permitting. This outing is in the foothills south of Herriman and is suitable for beginners. Check out Salt Lake County's new open space preserve before Kennecott has a chance to dig big holes. Call Ron (292-4040) for details and or alternative event. [C]

GCG Sat 2/14 Minesweeper. Hike up the very old mining road that is on the north wall of Kane Springs valley about 8 miles from Moab. This wall is called Scorched Earth Wall on the maps. The mining road is impassable to vehicles and eventually ends at an old uranium mine that overlooks Jackson's hole and the Potash mine on the Colorado river. Easy to moderate out and back hike with a length of about 5 miles round trip. Leader Mike Stringham, 259-8579. Meet at Moab Information Center, Center and Main, at 9 am.

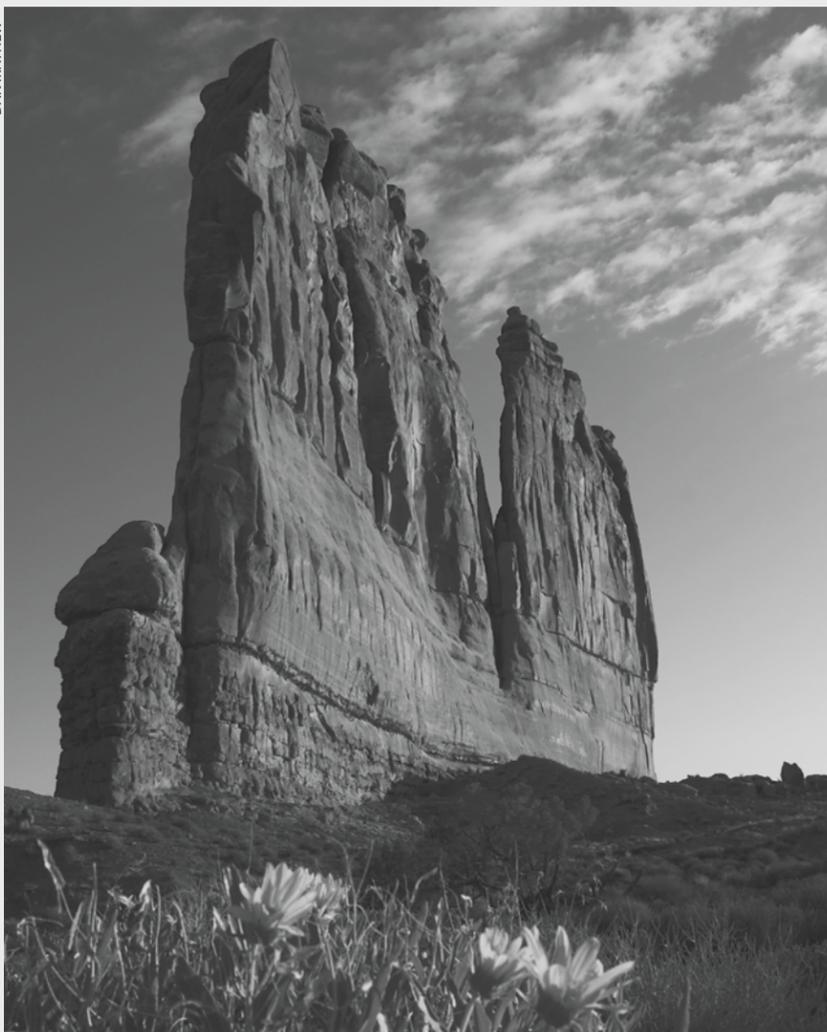
OG, Sat, 2/21, Snowshoe from Fernwood Park. Join us for a moderately strenuous snowshoe (depending on snow conditions) in Davis County--about 4 to 5 miles and

Don't Miss it!

Saturday, February 28. The Ogden Group is keeping the fun of Mardi Gras alive with a Costume Party on X-country or Snowshoes. See page 11 for more information.



Out&About



Cathedral flowers

about 3 hrs. We will start at the Fernwood picnic area, and go north and east towards the Great Western Trail. This area has wonderful views of Davis County and the mountain peaks to the east. Call Larry at 801/731-3701 for meeting time and location.

SLG, Sun, 2/22, Leaders Choice Hike in Millcreek Canyon. At the time this list was put together, the snow level was above 8000 feet. Hopefully there will be enough snow for a bona fide snowshoe in Millcreek Canyon. The plan is to snowshoe up Porters Fork through the cabin area and possibly beyond. Other choices are up for consideration depending on snow and weather conditions. Call Ken (484-3112) for meeting time and place and more information about the hike.

GCG Sat 2/28 East Rim of Salt Wash, Arches NP. This is more or less a long out-and-back 7.7 mile walk. It is a 600' elevation gain, though gradual, with two scrambles up ledges that are reasonable. This is a moderate hike because of the length. The route runs north from Wolfe Ranch along the east rim of Salt Wash with beautiful views of the slickrock. There should be little or no snow because of the sunny exposure of this route. The end of this route is a spectacular "Walking the Plank" peninsula with beautiful slickrock on both sides. The actual exposure is minimal unless one insists on standing on the edge! Meet at the Moab Information Center, Center and Main, 9 AM. Leader: Dave Stolfa, (435) 259-1721

OG, Sat, 2/28, Costume Party on X-country or Snowshoes. Still celebrating Mardi Gras! Cross Country Ski - Snow Shoe (weather permitting) costume party @ North Fork Park. Prizes for the best two costumes. Some refreshments will be served. For more details, call joanie @ 801/399-0034.

March

SLG, Sun, 3/1, USA Bowl Snowshoe. Weather and snow conditions permitting, this outing is near Solitude in Big Cottonwood Canyon. Call Ron (292-4040) for details and/or alternative event.

SLG, Sat, 3/7, Ski-Snowshoe in Willow Canyon. Willow Canyon is a great venue for a winter hike. The trailhead is located near Solitude in Big Cottonwood Canyon, and leads to a pretty lake, a scenic winter time reward for the effort. Meet at 9:30 AM at the Big Cottonwood parking lot. Call Robert (949-3597) for information regarding snow conditions and gear recommendations.

OG, Sun, 3/8, Moonlight Ski & Snow Tour. Let the moon light our way as we celebrate it with snacks and refreshments. Conditions permitting, start at Art Nord trailhead where we meet at 5 PM or at Ogden High School at 4:15. Dress warmly and bring a poem. Better call in advance. Call Jock Glidden at 801/394-0457 to RSVP & for more info.

GCG Sat 3/14 Moki-Calico. Loop hike the traverses Calico and Moki canyons. These two canyons are just south of the Corona Arch trail head parking lot on the Colorado River Potash road. Calico canyon has springs

that may be beautifully frozen this time of year. When we traverse between canyons we will have a long range view of Corona Arch. Lots of slick rock hiking. Easy to moderate hike with a length of 4 to 5 miles. Leader Mike Stringham, 259-8579. Meet at Moab Information Center, Center and Main, at 9 am.

GCG Sat 3/21 Upper Spring Canyon. Some mild slickrock scrambling over a knob before entering a side canyon to Spring Canyon on an old cattle trail. We follow the side canyon to Spring then descend Spring half a mile or so to a dry fall. Climb a couple of hundred feet to start then descend about 800 feet (400 feet to top of cattle trail, 400 feet in canyons) to dry fall. With excursion to top of knob, round trip to dry fall about 9 miles. Cross country and wash bottom travel. Some scrambling on cattle trail. A full day. Meet at Moab Information Center, Center and Main, at 9 AM. Leader: Tom Messenger, 259-1756.

OG, Sat-Sun, 3/21-22, Greet the Spring in Moab. Hike in the beautiful Red Rock areas around Moab. Hikes will be Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. Call early for information, especially if you're going to reserve a motel room. Call Larry Woolsey at 801/731-3701.

SLG, Sun, 3/22, Snowshoe/Hike in Millcreek Canyon. Join us for a morning outing and post trip conviviality. The meeting place will be the Skyline High School parking lot at 9:00 AM. Please contact Aaron at 801-467-3532 or ajonesmvp@msn.com for more details.

April

GCG Sat 4/4 Herdina Park, Arches NP. 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

OG, Sat, 4/11, Hike to the Rock Coral 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 lunch/snack break while viewing one of the most beautiful spots in northern Utah. Call Larry Woolsey at 801-731-3701.

SLG, Sun, 4/26, Ski-snowshoe to Crechet Lake. After the shutting down of the ski lifts but before the snow melts, x-country ski or snowshoe to the serene beauty of the Crechet Lake area near the Alta Ski Resort. Can Ron (292-4040) for details and or alternative date.

Note for GCG hikers | More information (maps, photos) about the Little Canyon-Day Canyon Rim, East Rim of Salt Wash, and Herdina Park hikes is available on the GCG outings page: <http://utah.sierraclub.org/glencanyon/outings.htm>



RON YOUNGER

win a backcountry guide

AUGUST 19, 2008: Tuesday evening trekkers at trailhead for Neff's Canyon Trail. Be the first (before January 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

Chapter Executive Committee

- Ryan Barker.....ryankumbu@yahoo.com, (801) 885-2625
- Matt Bybee.....jmbybee@yahoo.com, (801) 451-4564
- Wayne Hoskisson, chair.....wyh@xmission.com, (435) 260-9045
- Leslie Hugo, secretary.....autumnok@yahoo.com
- Ranee Johnson.....raneejohnson_27@msn.com
- Marion Klaus.....marionklaus@comcast.net
- Pete Kuenneman.....petek@xmission.com
- Marsha McLean.....marsha@mmm.utah.com
- Ann Wechsler.....annwechsler@gmail.com
- Jim Westwater.....uvsf@sfcn.org

Group Delegates

- Mike Stringham, Glen Canyon Group.....mikechrista@earthlink.net, (435) 259-8579
- Ann Wechsler, Salt Lake Group.....awech@jawex.aros.net, (801) 583-2090
- Larry Woolsey, Ogden Group.....landcun@hotmail.com, (801) 731-3701

Issue & Committee Chairs

- Ryan Barker, conservation chair.....ryankumbu@yahoo.com, (801) 885-2625
- Jean Binyon, membership chair.....binyon@binyon.us, (435) 259-1633
- Dan Mayhew, legislative chair.....drmayhew@comcast.net, (801) 359-8238
- Ken Evans, outings chair.....kcestardust@qwest.net, (801) 484-3112
- Sarah Fields, nuclear waste.....sarahmfields@earthlink.net
- Claire Gardner, training.....ClaireGar@msn.com
- Wayne Hoskisson, forest issues/grazing.....wyh@xmission.com, (435) 260-9045
- Ranee Johnson, CCL delegate.....raneejohnson_27@msn.com
- Ann Wechsler, CCL alternate.....annwechsler@gmail.com, (801) 571-4185
- Tom Messenger, web master.....messengertj@citlink.net, (435) 259-1756
- Barbara Polich, legal chair.....PolichB@ballardspahr.com
- Dan Schroeder, ORV impacts.....dschroeder@weber.edu, (801) 393-4603
- Kevin Walker, public lands.....kwalker@xmission.com, (435) 259-7540

Group Chairs

- Mike Stringham, Glen Canyon Group.....mikechrista@earthlink.net, (435) 259-8579
- Ranee Johnson, Ogden Group.....raneejohnson_27@msn.com
- Ann Wechsler, Salt Lake Group.....awechsler@sa.utah.edu, (801) 583-2090

Utah Chapter Staff

- Mark Clemens, chapter manager.....mark.Clemens@sierraclub.org, (801) 467-9297

Southwest Field Office Staff

- Joey Caputo, Clean Energy, Coal Campaign.....joey.caputo@sierraclub.org, (801) 467-9294
- Marc Heilesen, Wetlands, Wildlife.....marc.heilesen@sierraclub.org, (801) 467-9294
- Lawson LeGate, Hunter/Angler, Public Lands.....Lawson.legate@sierraclub.org, (801) 467-9294

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.

Out&About

Legacy Pathway Bike Outing

by Jock Glidden



Members of the Ogden Group take the new Legacy Parkway Bike Path for a test drive.

Thanks to the insistence of the Sierra Club and others, Wasatch Front residents have a new pedestrian/bikeway roughly following the fourteen mile long Legacy Parkway. There has been much talk about it, but how many of us have actually walked or biked some of it?

On behalf of the Ogden Group, six of us met at the Frontrunner station on a sunny Saturday morning, October 25. We caught the 10:08 and rode this train of luxury on seamless tracks to the Woods Cross station. The forty minute journey was a perfect occasion to sign in and get to know each other.

The only bad part was riding along disgusting 500 S, west of Woods Cross, where we had to battle SUV's and trucks

along a commercial, shoulder-less road for a mile. It was a relief to get that over.

Once on the pathway we rode a mile south to the graceful, curving footbridge spanning the parkway. It's not obvious why it was built because it goes nowhere, but as public bridge-art, it deserves recognition in its own right. There are other aesthetic touches along the pathway as well. The metal benches have wavy, reed-like cut outs representing the ubiquitous phragmites that overwhelm the wetlands of Great Salt Lake. If it's not too hot or cold, you can sit on them and view the Wasatch. The overpasses are of an attractive stone with subtle Art Deco themes. Finally, the car parking accesses have kiosks where they explain the importance of wetlands, the migratory birds that visit and the history of

the natives who lived there. Unfortunately, there are no rest rooms; so for those in need, you must burrow into the thick growths of the phragmites for cover.

After the Bridge-To-Nowhere we retraced our tracks northward. As the day wore on, the pathway filled with a variety of traffic: families with infants in trailers, a few power-walkers, zippy bike pelotons sporting flashy jerseys and then the simple mountain bikers like us.

We took a side trip west to the Bountiful Pond where we commandeered a picnic table from the geese and there had lunch. The pond existed long before Legacy Parkway. Many dads were taking their kids there to fish. Just to the north is a firing range which is noisy and upsetting.

Back on the pathway, it jogs to the east and then continues north on long straight stretches flanked by impregnable phragmites growth until the Bountiful/Lagoon station comes into sight. You must cross the tracks by going over the two story pedestrian overpass. At first I was overcome with the thought of hauling my bike up and down two flights of stairs. I was relieved to discover two elevators but only one worked. Only two bikes fit per elevator.

Fortunately we all got over in time to catch the 2:50. The conductors gave us polite suggestions about where to put bikes, and the smooth ride meant they didn't fall over on passengers' knees and shins.

Help Make 2009 the Year of the Environment

by Dan Mayhew, Legislative Committee Chair

The Utah Chapter's Legislative Committee works to pass pro-environmental legislation through the state legislature and to identify and defeat the most destructive anti-environmental bills. We leverage the presence of Sierra Club's members in many districts throughout the state to influence Republican and Democrat legislators.

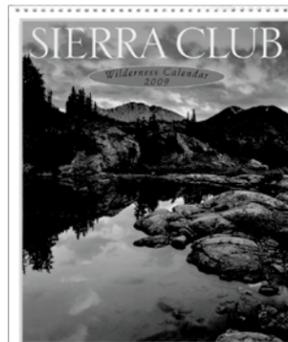
Volunteer support is crucial to make this effort successful. The legislative committee needs volunteers who can help us with organizing and motivating volunteers for rallies, and phone and e-mail trees. Volunteers also help to identify both good and bad bills and work out a strategy to support the former and oppose the latter.

Last year Sierra Club volunteers collaborated with allied environmental groups to support Sen Scott McCoy's bill to guarantee Utah produced 25% of its electricity from renewable sources such as wind, solar and geothermal by 2025. We turned out a crowd of over 100 people under the Utah Capitol dome to send a message in support of clean energy. In 2009, we'll need to be ready to work on a range of issues, from energy and climate change to protection of public lands.

If you'd like to help the legislative committee or volunteer to act as an e-mail/phone tree contact for your house or senate district, please send an e-mail to me at drmayhew@comcast.net, or send an e-mail to Mark Clemens at mark.clemens@sierraclub.org, or call him at 801/467-9297.



Sierra Club Calendars



Wilderness Wall Calendar



Engagement Calendar

Item	Cost	Qty	Total
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Calendars are available at the chapter office:

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