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UtahSierran

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Winter 2011 Vol. 44 No. 1

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO



Want a coal strip mine near Bryce Canyon?

Neither do we. Learn more about the chapter's appeal of this stinker before the Utah Supreme Court.

>> [check it out on page 6](#)



The Ogden Group wins another round

in its fight for open government, sensible public transportation and foothills preservation.

>> [get the scoop on page 8](#)



We have a record number of outings

for the 2011 winter quarter. Everyone's welcome. Join us on the trail.

>> [see page 10](#)

Trespass in a Utah National Monument

by James Catlin



Earlier this year some friends and I began a short hike on the Mail Trail across the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. Celebrating what might have been the last horseback mail-delivery route for any town in the west, we hiked into the uplifted sandstone cliffs. The intensity of the cloudless blue sky over snow covered sandstone cliffs reminded me why this remarkable scene deserves its special protective designation.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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Bear in mind the consequences.

The Yellowstone grizzly bear is an irreplaceable part of America's natural heritage, a symbol of the independence that defines the American character and an icon of all that is wild and free. The Bush administration set forth a proposal that would remove federal protection for the Yellowstone grizzly bear. Since it was first listed as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act in 1975, the grizzly bear has made a strong recovery, but there is still more work to be done. Help Sierra Club protect our forest friends; they prefer the woods than being on display.


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Wayne's World

Scraping the Bottom of the Barrel

DO WE NEED TAR SANDS OR OIL SHALE?

by Wayne Hoskinson



For years the Utah Chapter Sierra Club has opposed the development of oil and gas on sensitive lands that could be irreparably harmed by extensive development. As one of the originators and supporters of America's Red Rock Wilderness Act, <http://www.thomas.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/D?d111:1:./temp/-bd1FqZ:./bss/d111query.html>, we along with our Utah Wilderness Coalition partners have fought the development of oil and gas development in places where wilderness values surpass the pittance of oil or gas available for processing. In very few places have we lost that battle. Perhaps the most significant was along the White River in Uintah County where federal and state lands were both leased or drilled for oil and gas.

In other places we have succeeded, and in others we still have a long and arduous fight to keep our wild places wild, our water and air clean, and habitats for wildlife secure.

In 2009 we opposed converting an oil field to something similar to a tar sands project in Antelope Creek in the Uinta Basin. Hydrocarbons that can be used as "oil" exist in a variety of forms from "sweet crude" (the most valuable form of oil sought) to oil shale (in which the hydrocarbon is actually kerogen that can be converted to oil). In Antelope Creek the oil was a thick, high sulfur, wax-like oil called bitumen. This form of crude oil can be nearly solid at normal ambient temperatures; therefore, it cannot be piped to refineries. Instead, it must be hauled in heated tanker trucks. When it is refined, it produces waste products that can be more than 50% of the original volume. This waste must be disposed of, and there are not many good options currently. We were able to stop this project because of National Environmental Policy Act violations. Someday it could come back as another project.

We also opposed the PR Springs tar sands development in the Book Cliffs. This project would strip mine tar sands near the Grand and Uintah County line. This is a particularly difficult project to oppose because it involves leases of lands owned by the state of Utah. A single 62-acre strip mine pit had been approved by the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (UDOGM) for Earth Energy Resources. The entire area leased for tar sands was about 1,200 acres. UDOGM planned to permit a second pit of thirty-one acres.

The Sierra Club and the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance opposed the mine and the expansion beyond the

single, permitted mine pit. We argued that there would likely be run-off problems from contaminated water entering adjacent water drainages, that the mining process and pre-processing of the bitumen was a proprietary process and thus should not be accepted as having minimal negative impact without further substantiation. This information should be made available to UDOGM and the public. Supposedly it is not a water intensive process but rather uses a citrus-based solvent to leech the tar from the sands and clays that hold it. There does not appear to be a single commercially viable tar sands project using the proposed process.

Eventually we settled with UDOGM during the time we were preparing an administrative appeal to the Board of UDOGM. If we lost before the board, our next appeal would have been a lawsuit to the Utah Supreme Court.

We did not feel we had a strong enough argument in law to be successful. In the settlement UDOGM agreed they would not expand the original 62-acre strip mine and that they would pursue a public notification of any proposed expansions of the project. UDOGM policy allows them to expand any project if it does not exceed 50% of the original project. And they guaranteed we would be notified of any future proposed expansions in the lease area.

Hopefully we will develop clean, renewable, and non-destructive energy sources before oil and gas companies come back to look at oil shale.

At the time we did not have strong evidence that water or air quality would be impacted. Since then other organizations have filed an additional appeal. They have hired a hydrologist that may make their case stronger. They will have to go through the same legal process we followed including an appeal to the Board of UDOGM and then likely an appeal to Utah Supreme Court. We hope they are successful.

Tar sands can be found in other parts of Utah including the San Rafael Swell, the Dirty Devil River, and the Circle Cliffs. Beyond tar sands we also face the eventual attempts to develop oil shale. So far there is no commercially viable process for developing oil shale. Exxon shut down its attempt to develop oil shale near Parachute, Colorado, in 1982. Shell shut down its project along the Yampa River in Colorado in 2010.

Hopefully we will develop clean, renewable, and non-destructive energy sources before oil and gas companies come back to look at oil shale.

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The Utah Chapter's new Facebook page is the place for the Sierra Club community to come together in Utah. Catch up with your friends and find out about future events. You can check us out at <http://www.facebook.com/utahsierran>, or navigate there from the chapter homepage. Become a fan today.



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THE RESILIENT HABITAT CAMPAIGN

is quickly developing into a significant conservation effort in Utah's Red Rock Country.

Watch for ways you can help build the resiliency to climate change and connectivity our plants and animals need to survive.

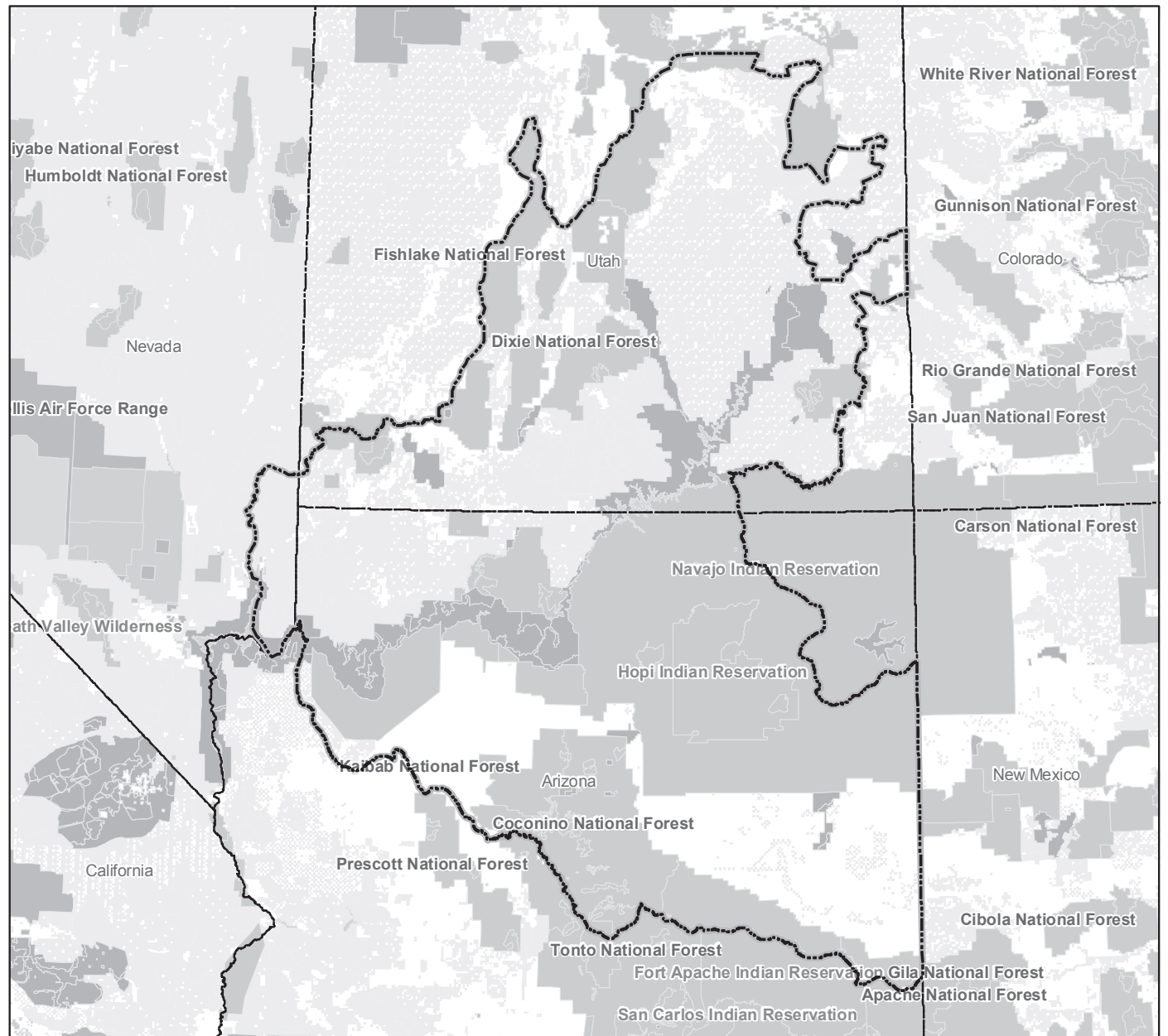
GREATER GRAND CANYON-COLORADO PLATEAU ECOREGION

SIERRA CLUB WORKING MAP
Draft August 2010



Legend	
	Grand Canyon Ecoregion (draft)
	US States
Federal Lands (Areas)	
Federal Managing Group	
	Forest Service
	Department of Defense
	Bureau of Land Management
	Fish and Wildlife Service
	National Park Service
	Bureau of Indian Affairs
	Bureau of Reclamation
	Other Agencies (NASA, DOE, DOT, DOP, TVA...)

The Plan to Save an Ecosystem by Dr Marion Klaus



0 62.5 125 250 375 500 Miles

The Grand Canyon and Colorado Plateau are iconic ecosystems in the desert Southwest that are predicted to be severely impacted by global climate change. They are critical to watersheds, wildlife survival, local economies, and human communities. With increased heat, fires, and drought projected to occur due to climate change, the Greater Grand Canyon-Colorado Plateau (GGC-CP) ecosystem is one of the most vulnerable in North America.

There are many non-climate stressors that could make the situation much worse. In Utah, the largest blocks of federal land in the lower 48 states not designated as park or wilderness area, the East and West Tavaputs plateaus, are under extreme assault from proposed energy developments such as tar sands, oil and gas, and oil shale that would significantly reduce their resistance to the harmful effects of climate change. In the Greater Grand Canyon-Colorado Plateau region, destructive energy developments, off-road vehicle use, and excessive livestock grazing damage the high plateaus and red rock canyon river systems that provide crucial water to wildlife and human communities alike. In managing these lands, the federal government has over-emphasized longstanding, damaging land management uses and been slow to respond to climate change. The Resilient Habitat campaign is working to solve these critical and interconnected issues.

The first step in the Resilient Habitat campaign will be to create an independent science-based blueprint detailing the impacts of climate change on the GGC-CP, with which we will develop policy recommendations and keep the public informed. It is essential for federal land

managers to apply climate-smart management to their land use decisions and this document will be critical for that purpose.

Wildlife and other ecosystem components need adequate protected space to adjust to climate change, which is why we will work for a new national monument that will include inter-connected protected landscapes and buffer zones.

The Resilient Habitat campaign is among the most important conservation work in our history, and it is the Sierra Club's number-one priority in the Greater Grand Canyon-Colorado Plateau ecoregion. Over the next few years, we plan to

- Promote science-based permanent protection of wildlife corridors and watersheds and where needed, restore resilient habitats, such as by reintroduction of beaver.
- Promote federal protection for key habitats
- Seek and advocate for opportunities to add needed ecological buffers and functional connectivity to existing public lands.
- Advocate for National Monuments and urge the BLM and Forest Service to protect lands with wilderness characteristics by taking advantage of such opportunities as BLM Resource Management Plan and Travel Management Plan revisions.
- Reform management of the riparian areas in Utah's Dixie, Fishlake, and Manti La Sal National Forests

- Promote renewable energy and guide placement of transmission lines to best protect the ecosystem
- Oppose inappropriate energy development such as tar sands development in the Book Cliffs and oil and gas leases near Arches National Park and the Tavaputs Plateau.
- Protect old growth forests and their carbon reserves in National Forests such as the Pinyon Juniper forest removal in parts of The Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument.

This work includes strategies to protect watersheds, forests, plateaus, and red rock country and to protect and restore critical watersheds and wildlife corridors that link these regions within the desert Southwest. This land is not only under extreme threat from many different energy developments, but also from inappropriate livestock grazing, logging, the introduction and spread of invasive plant and aquatic species, and irresponsible off-road vehicle (ORV) use and excessive road density including user-created ORV routes.

Keeping these critical lands and habitats intact and preventing energy development there are key to maintaining and rebuilding corridors between core wildlands, which will preserve the integrity of the whole ecosystem. Upcoming plans of county, state, and federal agencies provide key opportunities to address the effects of climate change and increase resiliency in the Greater Grand Canyon-Colorado Plateau.

OurLands



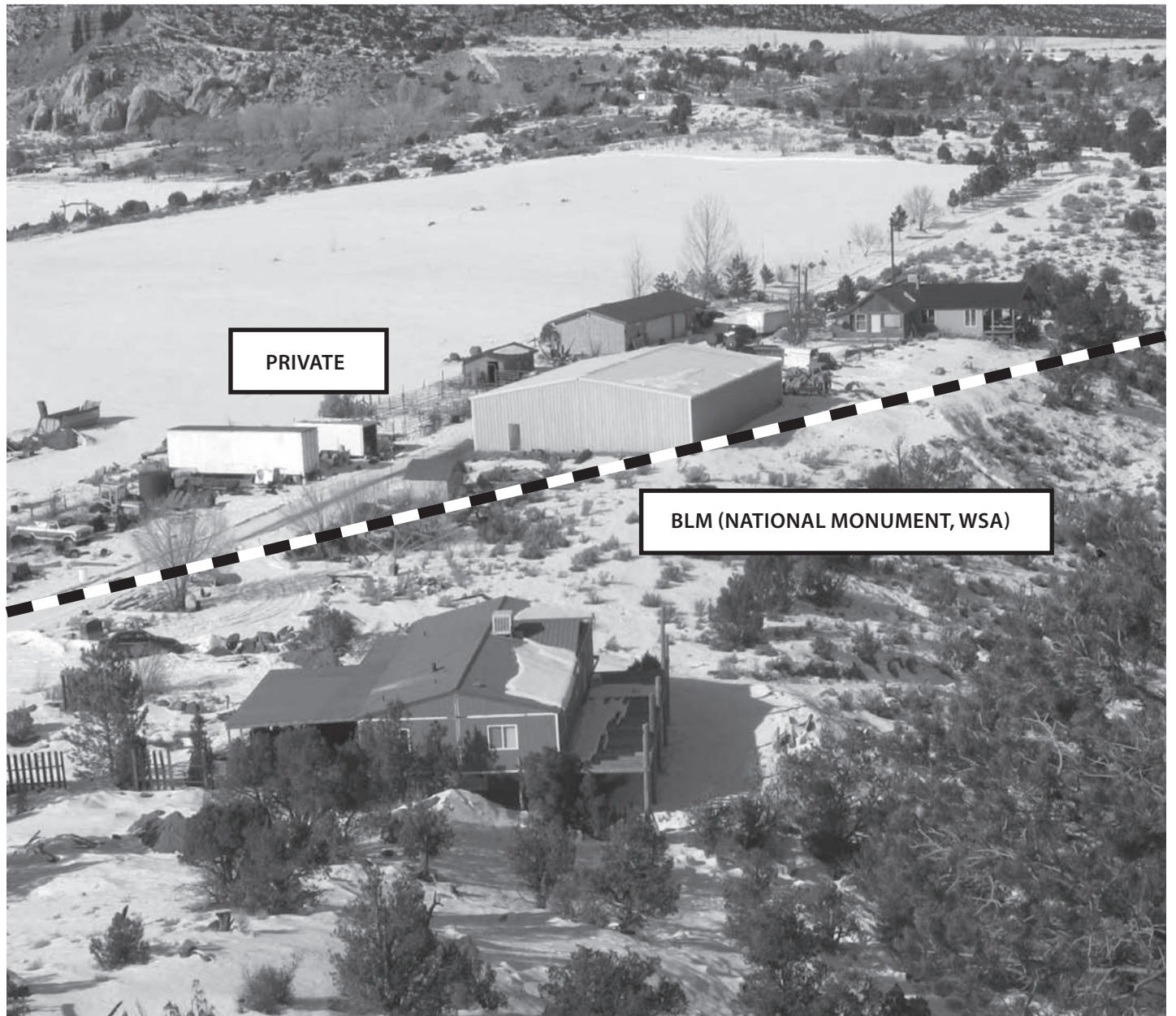
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PRIVATE

BLM (NATIONAL MONUMENT, WSA)

Pine Creek trespass, Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument boundary shown as dashed line, photo January 2010.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Something new caught my eye that day. To the west of Pine Creek and inside the monument boundary was a new house built in 2009. Walking closer to investigate, my pocket GPS verified that this large house was about 300 feet inside the national monument and inside a candidate Bureau of Land Management (BLM) wilderness study area.

This was not the first time that I had noted and reported to BLM unauthorized use by this same landowner on our public lands. Four years earlier after hiking the same trail, I contacted BLM about a buried irrigation pipe and all-terrain vehicle routes inside the monument. Boundary monuments erected by BLM have also been removed. Based on information from BLM, I learned that BLM had long history with this landowner and had communicated concerns with him about a possible trespass. However, the BLM had not taken action because they claimed they first needed to survey the property line.

Trespass is a prohibited act. Twenty-five years ago, BLM's response to a building in trespass of a candidate wilderness area was quite a bit different. BLM surveyed property owned by Clive Kincaid in the Deer Creek drainage, a tributary of the Escalante River, and found his stone house to be eighteen inches over the property line. BLM's survey, the first use of modern survey instruments at this site, corrected a history of property boundaries based on piles of rocks placed by homesteaders.

Shortly after the BLM survey of Kincaid's property boundary was completed, BLM contacted the press. Roland Robinson, then the Utah State Director for BLM, wrote "I was both surprised and offended by the placement, indeed intrusion, of man-made structures and developments as well as a stack of building material rubble and refuse in the area." (Salt Lake Tribune, 5 Sept 1987, p. B1). Shortly after BLM completed its survey, Kincaid received a BLM letter demanding he remove the building from BLM property. About a year later, the stone building was removed.

This was not the first time that I had noted and reported to BLM unauthorized use by this same landowner on our public lands.

What might explain the difference between BLM's tepid and tardy reaction to this current monument trespass versus its commendable zeal in the 1980s?

In the 80s, Kincaid was the executive director of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance and a strong advocate for wilderness protection.

Based on agency records, this current monument trespass case provides only the

most egregious chapter in a long history going back six years, and no action has been demanded of the trespasser.

This BLM National Monument, while protected in many ways, is different from other National Monuments and Parks. Until the Clinton Administration, national monuments were all administered by the US National Park Service. President Clinton created sixteen national monuments, of which Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument was the first, and entrusted them to the management of the Bureau of Land Management. At the time, critics questioned if BLM had the expertise and, frankly, the ethos or integrity to manage lands of such ecological importance.

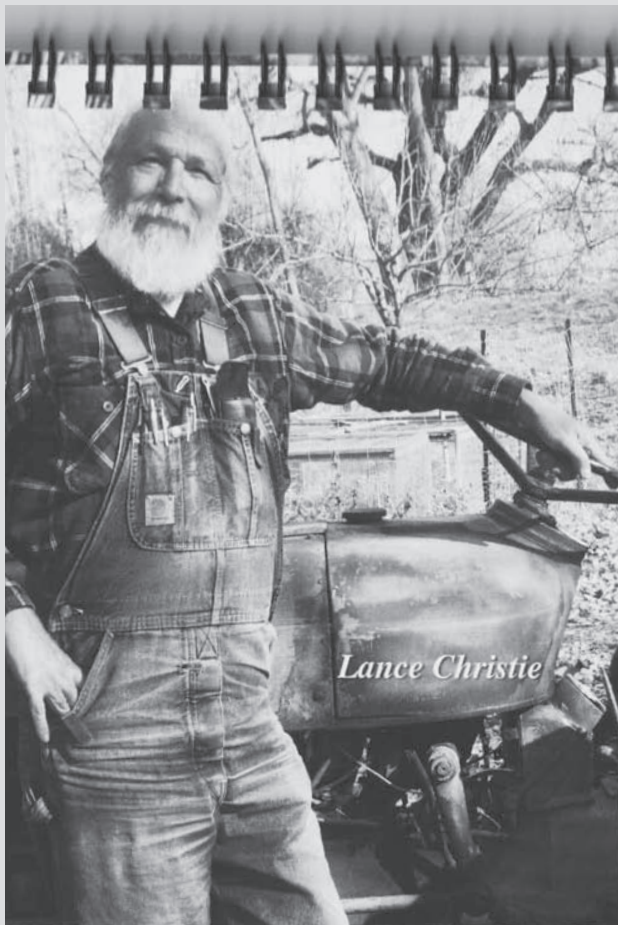
Just a few weeks ago, BLM began but did not complete the required property boundary survey.

Will BLM demand the removal of this building as they did for Kincaid? We don't have an answer to this question. BLM has taken great pride in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument as part of its National Landscape Conservation System. An unauthorized private house inside a BLM National Monument is an excellent test of BLM's commitment to this vision. This trespass requires BLM to take firm and timely action.

Jim Catlin is executive director of the Wild Utah Project, a former board member of the Sierra Club and a veteran wilderness advocate.

In Memoriam

FAREWELL TO LANCE CHRISTIE by Jean Binyon



NOVEMBER 2010

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

I was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in September and had the tumor removed with the head of my pancreas on October 16, 2008. Pancreatic cancer has a 96 percent chance of coming back within five years if you do nothing. Fortunately there are several clinically-proven natural, unpatentable anti-cancer agents I can take, dietary and other lifestyle choices I can make, which give me good odds for preventing recurrence so I can live in robust health with cancer until I die of something else at a ripe old age.

CALENDAR PAGE OF LANCE CHRISTIE USED BY PERMISSION OF PAT WUCHERER, CALENDAR PRODUCER.

December 1—As I turned the page on the 2010 Moab Cancer Survivor Calendar to December, I said goodbye to Richard Lance Christie for the last time. Lance was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in September of 2008, a diagnosis which usually dooms its victim in one to four months. But Lance was a tough old bird and a smart one at that. After having the tumor removed, he researched the disease and developed his own treatment regime. It gave him time to continue an active role with environmental and community boards and organizations.

More importantly, he devoted his last years to publishing online *The Renewable Deal for the United States* which was completed on Earth Day, 2010. It is available for reference or download at <http://www.earthrestoration.net>.

According to Lance, it is a “comprehensive master plan for conservation of the nation’s infrastructure and economy to achieve full sustainability for food, water, and carbon-free, nuclear-free energy, within one human lifetime, using existing proven technology and established best practice.”

A long time member of the Sierra Club, Lance was also involved with the Natural Resources Defense Council, Earth First! Foundation, SUWA, and the Utah Wilderness Coalition. In April, Lance was honored at the Glen Canyon Group’s 10th Anniversary Party as the 1989-1990 founder and chair of the Canyonlands Group, which preceded the Glen Canyon Group.

Lance wrote the Behind the Rocks section of *Wilderness at the Edge*, a descriptive inventory of the lands proposed for wilderness by the Utah Wilderness Coalition. *Wilderness at the Edge* broke new ground in its beauty and professionalism in the service of wilderness advocacy.

He died October 28, 2010, at the age of 66. A memorial service was held November 12 at Old City Park, Moab, attended by relatives, and friends and acquaintances, including many Sierra Club members.

Legislative Preview

The legislature’s interim committee meetings during 2010 provided insight into likely topics for the 2011 General Session of the Utah Legislature. For Sierra Club members in Utah, bills affecting public lands, environmental health and energy will be among the most important

Certain interim discussions, such as Rep Jack Draxler’s (R-North Logan) Mineral and Petroleum Literacy proposal that would mandate a pro-mining curriculum for elementary school, have already gained notoriety. Funds from the state’s Oil and Gas Conservation Account would be used to create this ad-hoc curriculum.

But it’s often not the message bills or the already notorious topics that impact the lives of Utahns most profoundly. We’ll be keeping an eye on a range of bills so we can let you know about the most significant ones.

The environmental community rallied during the summer and fall to provide input to Governor Herbert’s 10-Year Energy Plan, and as a result, the draft report, <http://www.energy.utah.gov/governorsenergyplan/docs/strategicenergyplan110310draft.pdf>, includes many good ideas related to energy efficiency and renewable energy. The plan, issued on November 3rd, was intended to raise issues that could spawn legislation in the 2011 General Session.

Keep current with the most important environmental bills during the 2011 session by making the Utah Chapter’s Bill Tracker, <http://www.utah.sierraclub.org/tracker/>, a favorite on your web browser. Our legislative intern, Vy Nguyen, will be helping us maintain the information on this site daily or more frequently if necessary.

Special Thanks

Thanks to the members listed below for their contributions to the Utah Chapter’s 2010 fundraising drive. These members contributed after the deadline for the Summer issue of the newsletter. Thanks also to the many members who contributed anonymously.

In 2011, 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 and wilderness and in focusing in particular on protecting the resilient habitat needed for biodiversity to survive.

But if you value our work, we’ll need your help. Please contribute as generously as you can.

Mike & Jean Binyon

William Browning

Mark Clemens

Joan L Coles

MS Evans

G Nelson Reese

An anonymous contribution in honor of Catherine Sharpsteen

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!



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SIERRA CLUB

Your financial contribution means a lot to us. By supporting our Chapter, you support Sierra Club’s work in your own backyard. This makes you an essential part of our work to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities, and to promote the enjoyment of nature. **Thank you.**



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OurLands

Sierra Club Appeals Strip Mine Proposed for Bryce Canyon's Doorstep



RAY BLOXHAM



CLAIR JONES



RAY BLOXHAM

Top left: Heavy equipment at work on 2 December 2010 clearing the ground at the mine site.
Near left: the mine site before surface disturbance.
Above: Outcropping of the famous pink cliffs visible on the horizon behind the mine site.

The Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club, the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, the Natural Resources Defense Council and the National Parks Conservation Association yesterday asked the Utah Supreme Court to stand up for air and water quality and essential tourism revenue after the Utah Board of Oil, Gas and Mining (Board) jeopardized quality of life in Utah by approving an approximately 600-acre coal strip mine. The Board issued its final ruling to approve Alton Coal Development's Coal Hollow strip mine at the end of November 2010, ignoring the damage the proposed mine will have on local economies, cultural resources and the environment. The company has already begun preparing the strip mine site located near Bryce Canyon National Park.

"It is disappointingly clear that the Board refused to consider how this mine will irreparably damage Southern Utah," said Sierra Club organizer Clair Jones. "There is no way the Board should have allowed this mine to go forward if they considered the ways it would devastate small business owners and the air and water quality in Southern Utah. Unless the Utah Supreme Court does what is best for Southern Utah, we are going to see untold damage done so a company can strip mine a dirty, dangerous and outdated fossil fuel."

In addition to the devastating effects Alton Coal's mine would have on local economies, the mine threatens Bryce Canyon National Park.

"The Board's ruling needlessly puts one of Utah's treasured landscapes, Bryce Canyon National Park, at risk," said Karen Hevel-Mingo, Program Coordinator for the National Parks Conservation Association. "Thousands of visitors come to Bryce each year to marvel at the pristine night skies and beautiful vistas."

The damage the strip mine would do to local economies is of particular concern to area residents such as Bobbi Bryant, who owns a small business in Panguitch.

"This is much bigger than one mine; it is a decision for Utah to allow coal strip mining to take place near our beautiful national parks and monuments, and we would like the Utah Supreme Court to consider and agree that there are better choices for our environment and

economy," said Bryant. "Our hope is that the Utah Supreme Court will realize the negative impacts of this coal strip mine on the fragile lands and air around Bryce Canyon National Park and the surrounding communities and see what Utah Division of Oil Gas and Mining did not."

"It is disappointingly clear that the Board refused to consider how this mine will irreparably damage Southern Utah."

On October 19, 2009, the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining approved a surface mining permit for the Alton strip mine. The permit allows for mining of 2 million tons of coal per year for approximately three years. Mining operations would require up to 300 coal truck trips per day traveling 110 miles one-way from Alton to Cedar City, which would result in one truck leaving the site every seven minutes.

The Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club, the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, the Natural Resources Defense Council and the National Parks Conservation Association all appealed the Division's decision, arguing that plans for the strip mine fail to adequately account for potential harmful impacts on the area's water, air, wildlife and cultural resources. The Board affirmed the mining permit after ruling against the groups on every issue and uniformly rejecting—without explanation or analysis—the detailed testimony of scientists who identified serious defects in the plans for the Alton mine.

"A strip mine is not the sort of canyon tourists are flocking to see," said Natural Resources Defense Council Lands Program Director Sharon Buccino. "This project threatens the area's tourism economy. And when our nation is moving towards a clean energy economy to deliver jobs and prosperity, a new coal mine is about the last thing we need."

The area approved for mining by the Board lies mainly on private land near Alton in Kane County. The site is nearly equidistant between Bryce Canyon National Park and the proposed Upper Kanab Creek Wilderness, as well as being close to the east entrance of Zion National Park. The state of Utah has vigorously promoted tourism in this area by designating the section of US 89 from Kanab to Mount Carmel as a scenic byway. This scenic byway will be the alternate coal-haul route during weather that makes the northern route via Utah Highway 20 impassable for the haul trucks.

The coal reserves targeted by this proposal are part of a larger reserve that extends onto nearby federal land. The Alton Coal Field extends several miles to the east, but the eastern portion of the field—parts of which are visible from overlooks in Bryce Canyon National Park—was put off limits for coal mining by Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus in 1980. Although site preparation has already begun, no excavation or mining can begin while the permit is under appeal.

This article was developed from a Sierra Club press release, and additional materials written by Mark Clemens.

Coal's Cycle of Destruction

by Mark Clemens

Coal marks many communities. Some towns wind up buried under toxic coal sludge as improperly constructed and maintained coal waste ponds or lagoons fail and wash downstream. That was the case in Harriman, Tennessee, when over a billion gallons of coal ash sludge was washed down the Emory River on 22 December 2008, from the Tennessee Valley Authority's Kingston Plant.

Others experience higher rates of asthma from particulate or other pollution from coal-fired power plants (some of the off-the-charts level of mercury in the Great Salt Lake comes from coal plants); still others experience blast damage and disruption of the water table from coal mining that sometimes destroys entire mountains to get at a coal seam buried within it.

These consequences sift down across the country like fine black coal dust, but for many years the complete impacts of the coal cycle were not visible. One area might suffer from coal mining, another from the harmful coal emissions in the air, and a third from mercury contamination of its water sources.

Coal even reaches out its tentacles to destroy life in the ocean. Coal is the most carbon intensive of fossil fuels and is, therefore, the source of carbon dioxide most responsible for ocean acidification. The coral reefs represent a disproportionate share of the ocean's biodiversity which is being wiped out as repeated high ocean temperatures bleach or kill the coral-building species found in reefs. These episodes recur more frequently with coal-driven global warming.

Because it has been difficult to get a comprehensive view of the coal cycle, it's also been hard to hold coal responsible for the life cycle of its pollution.

The disadvantages of coal affected millions of people spread across the country, but the financial benefits are strongly concentrated. The power of coal-mining companies, electric utilities and railroads, for many of which the single largest freight component is coal, prevented action from being taken.

The Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign has made formidable strides across the United States and particularly in Utah and the Intermountain West. We've been instrumental in ending plans for new coal-fired power plants in Sigurd, Utah, and three locations just upwind in Nevada as well as additional coal-fired boilers at existing coal power plants such as the Intermountain Power Project near Delta and the Hunter Power Plant south of Castle Dale.

As you can see in the article "Sierra Club Appeals Strip Mine Proposed for Bryce Canyon's Doorstep" in this issue, the chapter has also taken the lead in fighting the first coal strip mine proposed in Utah (The others have been underground.).

But information is also an important part of this war, and you can find information about much of coal's cycle of destruction on the national Sierra Club website's Beyond Coal page. From this page you can navigate to Compass, a clean energy blog with commentary on topics ranging from mountain top removal mining to dirty liquid coal fuels, <http://sierraclub.typepad.com/compass/>.

Or check out the coal ash map showing 2,000 locations where coal combustion waste or coal ash is stored across the US, http://action.sierraclub.org/site/PageNavigator/adv_bigpicture_coalash_map. Look at a map, <http://www.sierraclub.org/environmentallaw/coal/map/default.aspx>, showing more than 200 proposed coal-fired power plants in the US and their current status. Indigo is the color assigned to proposals that have been defeated, and a satisfyingly large number of the icons are indigo. If you want to send a message to the titans of industry who are still pushing coal projects—such as Snowbird owner Dick Bass—mouse over to the coal corporate accountability page, <http://www.sierraclub.org/coal/corporate/default.aspx>.

Gallery

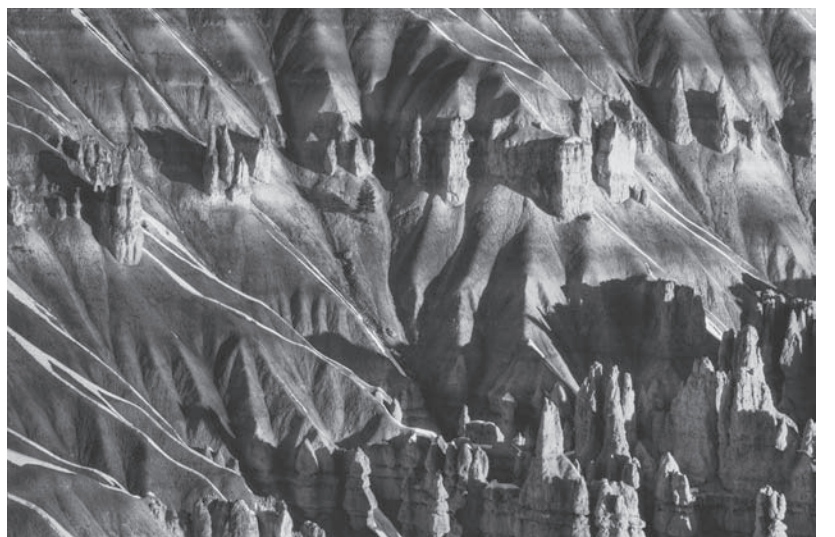
UTAH'S SPECTACULAR WILD PLACES,
THROUGH THE EYES OF OUR READERS



DAN SCHROEDER | Touring East Fork Wheeler Creek.



DAN SCHROEDER | Antelope Island.



JEFF CLAY, CLAYHAUS.NET PHOTOGRAPHY | Bryce amphitheater from Inspiration Point.



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

GEORGE B. AND OMA E. WILCOX
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ChapterNews

Judge Orders Ogden to Answer Sierra Club Questions

by Dan Schroeder

A judge ordered Ogden City on October 18, 2010, to respond to a list of questions from the Sierra Club regarding documents that the city has been withholding from the public for over three years.

The Sierra Club filed suit in Utah's 2nd District Court in 2007, seeking access to city records concerning the now-dormant gondola project. Since then, Ogden and the Sierra Club have wrangled over procedural disputes, asking the court to resolve these disputes on three occasions. The Sierra Club has now prevailed on all three of its motions.

In 2008, 2nd District Judge W. Brent West ordered Ogden to provide an itemized index of the records it was withholding. The index listed 41 separate records, totaling 167 pages. The Sierra Club then documented that several records were missing from this index, and Judge West ordered Ogden to explain the status of the missing records in 2009.

After losing on each of these procedural motions, Ogden voluntarily released some of the records it was withholding. The latest version of Ogden's index lists 26 records that are still being withheld.

Most recently, the Sierra Club asked Ogden to answer a list of specific questions about the basis for withholding

the remaining 26 records, and about a few records that still appear to be missing from its list. When the city refused to answer, the Sierra Club went back to the court and prevailed for the third time. Judge West ruled that the Sierra Club's questions "are carefully drafted and restricted to appropriate issues ... within the realm of permissible discovery." Last week he signed an order directing Ogden to answer the Sierra Club's questions within 30 days.

Summarizing the status of the lawsuit, Sierra Club volunteer Dan Schroeder said, "So far, Ogden City has lost on every motion that has come before the Court in this case. The city's obstructionist tactics have succeeded, however, in delaying the release of dozens of records for three years, running up tens of thousands of dollars in legal fees for both sides, and wasting everyone's time. I guess that's what happens when public officials can finance lawsuits with taxpayer dollars."

Schroeder stated that the Sierra Club expects to eventually win the release of nearly all of the withheld records, and that under Utah law, if the Sierra Club prevails, Ogden may have to reimburse the Club for its legal fees.

"The Sierra Club is extremely grateful to our attorneys, Joel Ban and Patrick Shea, for their expertise and

persistence throughout this lengthy dispute and for deferring most of their billing until after the case is resolved," Schroeder added.

The Sierra Club received notice on October 22 that Judge West signed this order on October 18.

The Ogden Group sought this information in connection with its commitment to protect the foothills and slopes of Mount Ogden, to promote efficient public transportation and to protect citizens' rights to information about their government. Ogden City has attempted to forge backroom deals that would subordinate Ogden's public transportation needs to speculative ski resort developments. They have subsequently attempted to prevent the public from finding out the details.

Additional background material on this matter can be found at <http://utah.sierraclub.org/ogden/OgdenFront/GRAMA-lawsuit/index.html>.

Dan Schroeder is the conservation chair of the Ogden Group.

STEGNER CENTER SIXTEENTH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

Wildlife Conservation in the 21st Century

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Florian Schulz

Visions of the Wild: Florian Schulz Photography

REGISTRATION FEES

by 2/15/11	2/16/11 or later
\$125	\$150
\$100	\$125 University & College Faculty & Staff / Seniors
\$ 75	\$100 Students

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TO REGISTER

call 801-585-3440

www.law.utah.edu/stegner

GetInvolved

Volunteer Corner

If you value the Chapter's work, why not get involved and be a part of the action? Our success would not be possible without a strong core of volunteers who are passionate about our great state and its wild places. There are currently several ways to become more active in the Chapter, including:

POLITICAL COMMITTEE



Volunteers on the chapter's political committee work to preserve the environment through bipartisan political action, to elect environmentally supportive candidates, and to advance the Sierra Club's legislative program. Frequently we have a lot of fun along the way.

The chapter's political committee is responsible for identifying and supporting candidates for public office who best represent the goals of the Sierra Club on environmental issues and legislation. The chair is responsible for ensuring compliance with Sierra Club electoral policy and compliance with state and federal election laws.

The committee assembles information on candidates through review of legislative records, questionnaires, interviews, past Sierra Club contact, assessment of the campaign, and information of members. The committee makes recommendations and may serve as one of the official voting bodies of the chapter required to review and vote on proposed endorsements or other political action short of endorsement.

The chair and committee are responsible for preparing materials on state level endorsements, and presenting them to the chapter executive committee for approval. The chair is responsible for ensuring that group political committee chairs and volunteer members receive information on compliance with election laws.

The committee sets priorities for chapter effort on endorsed campaigns and assists in training volunteers to participate effectively and coordinate with campaigns, and in all aspects of political action such as fund raising, door-to-door, press releases, and so forth. Chapter Manager Mark Clemens (pictured above) is happy to be a mentor and also serves as liaison with the club's national political committee. Contact him at utah.chapter@sierraclub.org or 801/467-9297.

ATTORNEYS WANTED

There are three different roles a legal chair can fill:

Legal COORDINATION

The most important role is chapter litigation coordinator. The litigation coordinator would learn and understand the "new matter procedures," and be able to steer issues activists through the process in a timely manner. This person would also keep track of all the different litigation the chapter is involved in, making sure that the individual case liaisons (issues activists responsible for an individual case) report, as needed, to the chapter ExCom and to the national litigation coordinator. Finally, this person would use legal contacts to help find pro bono attorneys for club litigation.

Legal ADVICE & JUDGMENT

This role involves helping provide legal experience and advice when the chapter finds itself in delicate or sticky legal situations. For example, the chapter may have a suit that is not going well and wonder if the attorney is not doing the job well. An experienced legal adviser can provide invaluable reassurance to the chapter that the lawyer is doing an excellent job or, occasionally, that the chapter's suspicions may be well-founded. Often, our attorneys may suggest a particular legal course that doesn't sound appropriate to lay people activists. An experienced legal adviser can help evaluate the proposed course.

Legal REPRESENTATION

This role is of lesser importance. The purpose of a legal chair is NOT to be the chief litigator for the chapter, but many active legal chairs do at times represent the Club.

The three roles may be filled by one legal chair, or by a legal chair working in conjunction with other legal committee members. Only the second and third roles require experience with environmental law. This position focuses on conservation legal advice, though some chapter legal chairs or legal committees also provide business advice.

For more information, contact utah.chapter@sierraclub.org.

EXCOM ELECTION RESULTS

Thirty-seven 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. One 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 one year. The results are reported below.

OGDEN GROUP

Ranee Johnson received eleven votes. Dan Schroeder received twelve votes. Catherine Sharpsteen received eleven votes. Ranee Johnson, Dan Schroeder and Catherine Sharpsteen are elected to two-year terms expiring on 31 December 2012.

SALT LAKE GROUP

Govert Bassett received eighteen votes. Preston Motes received nineteen votes. Marion Klaus, Rebecca Wallace and Ron Younger received one write-in vote each. Govert Bassett and Preston Motes are elected to two-year terms expiring on 31 December 2012.

UTAH CHAPTER

Bob Becker received twenty-nine votes. Dan Mayhew received thirty-one votes. Steve Thiese received thirty votes. Marion Klaus received fourteen write-in votes. Bob Becker, Marion Klaus, Dan Mayhew and Steve Thiese are elected to two-year terms expiring on 31 December 2012.

Thanks to all our excellent volunteers who are willing to run for the executive committees and improve the environment. Special thanks to Salt Lake Group Chair Ann Wechsler for counting ballots and compiling results. The Glen Canyon Group's ballot was distributed via their group newsletter; results were not available at press time.



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 (at least 300 dpi at 5x7") 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*!

MAKE A DIFFERENCE,
VOLUNTEER TODAY!



Utah Chapter Outings

EXPLORE WITH US! JANUARY–APRIL 2011

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.

FIND OUT about changes in hike schedules, last-minute outings and socials by subscribing to the new UT-OUTINGS-FORUM listserv.

More information is available at www.utah.sierraclub.org/email_list.asp

NEW

January 2011

GCG Sat 1/1/2011 Pocket Bridge, Sand Flats. From near the entrance station follow the fins southeast to a natural bridge near the rim of the North Fork, Mill Creek. Views into the creek with the La Sals beyond. Less than three miles roundtrip. Views along the fins and over to Arches on the return. About 350' of elevation change. The slickrock must be bare. Meet at the Moab Information Center, Center and Main at 10 AM. Leader: Tom Messenger, 435-259-1756.

SLG, Sun, 1/2/2011, Little Hatch Canyon X-C Ski/Snowshoe. Weather & snow conditions permitting. Meet 9:30 am at Parley's Way former K-Mart parking lot. Call Ron at 801-292-4040 for final details.

SLG, Sun, 1/9, Dutch Hollow Snowshoe, Wasatch Mountain State Park. Dutch Hollow in is the Heber Valley, and comprises the NW section of Wasatch Mountain State Park. Numerous snowshoe and XC ski trails run through these delightful rolling hills. Wildlife tracks and sightings are frequent. We will meet at the (former) K-mart Parking Lot off Parley's Way, near the Bombay House Restaurant at 11 am. Riders should expect to share gas expenses. Call Jim Paull at 801-580-9079 for more info.

GCG Sat 1/15 Snowshoeing/Cross Country Skiing in the La Sals. Snowshoeing/skiing (your choice) starts at the cross country skiing parking lot on the road to Geyser Pass and heads toward the Gold Basin area for a round trip of about 3 or 4 miles. Hiking in snowshoes is easy and lots of fun. Meet at Moab Information Center, Center and Main, at 9 AM. Leader: Jock Hovey, 435-259-6691.

OG, Sat, 1/15/2011, Wheetgrass Canyon Snowshoe. About 6 miles round trip and 4 hours, moderate. One of the most beautiful canyons in Northern Utah with very interesting cliff and canyon walls. Also, a good chance to see wildlife. Call Larry at 801-731-3701 for more.

OG, Sun, 1/17, Full Wolf Moon Snowshoe/ski at the Mt Ogden Golf Course. This is a Sunday night and my birthday so there may be cake involved, but no ice cream. Weather permitting. Call joanie for meeting time 801-399-0034. (Let it snow, let it snow!)

SLG, Sat, 1/22 XC Ski on Beaver Creek trail, 9:30 am. The Beaver Creek Trail is groomed for XC skiing and is a popular winter destination for good reason, five miles of scenic trail skiing through the Uinta Mountains off the Mirror Lake Highway. Call Richard Passoth at 801-364-3387 or email at repassoth@gmail.com for meeting place and details.

SLG, Sun, 1/30, Terraces to Elbow Fork snowshoe, 10 a.m. This trek takes us through snowy pine covered slopes to the southern ridge of Millcreek Canyon, then descends to Elbow Fork in Millcreek Canyon. This trip takes about 4 hours at our relaxed pace. Call Rebecca Wallace at 801-557-5261 or email at rebeccawallace38@msn.com for details and meeting place.

February

OG, Sun, 2/6, Wheeler Creek Loop Ski / Snowshoe. This five-mile loop in the Snow Basin area is always a favorite. Skis are more fun, but beginners will be more comfortable on snowshoes. Along the way, we'll see some of the areas now proposed for resort development. Call Dan Schroeder, 801-393-4603, for meeting time and place. [C]

SLG, Sun, 2/6, Alexander Creek snowshoe, 10:30 am. Spring-fed Alexander Creek borders Mountain Dell golf course and runs east up Parley's Canyon. Beaver ponds and dens are one of the special rewards of this snowshoe. Alexander Creek is one of the best areas in the region for wildlife and their winter tracks in the snow. Call Debi Barker at 435-830-9021 for meeting place and more details.

SLG, Sat, 2/12, Little Mtn snowshoe/XC ski. Meet at mouth of Emigration Canyon in the TH parking lot across the road (north) from the zoo at the canyon mouth, off Sunnyside Ave (850 East) at 10 a.m. We'll follow the ridge from Little Mtn Pass (at the top of Emigration Canyon) several miles over rolling terrain to a nice meadow. Snowshoe (with Jim) or ski (with Fred) about a mile and a half east of Little Mountain summit to some open meadows, then proceed onward as conditions and interest warrant. Contact Fred Swanson fbswan32@msn.com, 801-588-0361 or Jim Paull, 801-580-9079.

SLG, Sun, 2/13, Twin Hollow X-C Ski/ Snowshoe. Weather & snow conditions permitting. Meet 9:30 am on the east side of Woods Cross K-Mart parking lot just off the 2600 South I-15 exit (Exit 315). Call Ron at 801-292-4040 for final details.

SLG, Fri-Mon, 2/18 to 2/21, Bryce Canyon Winter Festival. Over the President's Day 3-day weekend. We plan to snowshoe and cross country ski in and around spectacular Bryce Canyon, as well as optional participation in some of the many clinics/ events of the Winter Festival (e.g., archery, photography, snow-shoe and XC skin races/ clinics, entertainment). We will stay at the Best Western Bryce Canyon Grand Hotel (across from Ruby's Inn.) Please make your own reservations at the hotel at 435/834-5700. For info on the Winter Festival, go to the following link: <http://www.rubysinn.com/winter.html>. Call Dana Morgan at 435-640-6740, or email at dana_morgan321@yahoo.com if you are interested in sharing a room, organizing car pools, or other information.

GCG, Sat, 2/19, River Walk Under Dead Horse Point. Scramble down a wash under Dead Horse Point on the Potash Road. Walk upstream along a rarely visited part of the river bank for a couple of miles before going up another wash back to the road. Some ledge walking along the river. Three or four miles with 500' descent and climb. Short car shuttle on the road. Meet at the Moab Information Center, Center and Main, at 9:00 AM. Leader: Tom Messenger, 435-259-1756.

OG, Sat, 2/19, North Ogden Divide to Ogden Valley Overlook Snowshoe. It's about 5 miles round trip or roughly 3-4 hours, strenuous. This trail is steep, but we'll take it easy going up the trail to a beautiful view of the Ogden Valley. Call Larry at 801-731-3701 for meeting time and location.

SLG, Sun, 2/20, Beaver Creek (Uintas) X-C Ski Trek. Weather & snow conditions permitting. Meet at 9 am at Parley's Way former K-Mart parking lot. Call Ron at 801-292-4040 for final details.

GCG, Sat, 2/26, Above the Gossips. Go up a crack near the top of Park Avenue to the cliff top. Visit various overlooks into Park Avenue and Courthouse Wash

including views of The Gossips and Sheep Rock. Various possibilities for the return-- decision on the day, likely involving a car shuttle. Meet at the Moab Information Center, Center and Main at 9 AM. Leader: Mike Stringham, 435-259-8579.

SLG, Sat, 2/27, Snowshoe/XC ski in Scotts Pass, 10 a.m. Wonderful views of the Brighton Bowl and upper Big Cottonwood Canyon are yours from this trail up to Scotts Pass, which was the pioneer route from Park City to Brighton. Call Rebecca Wallace at 801/557-5261 or rebeccawallace38@msn.com or Sandy MacLeod at 801-574-4150 or sandyml@q.com for meeting place and details.

March

OG, Sat, 3/5, Mardi Gras Party at the Yurt. Ski or snowshoe from Art Noord trailhead to the yurt, have a snack and return on the groomed road. Prizes for the best costume. Get creative and enjoy the day. Call joanie for meeting time 801-399-0034.

SLG, Sun, 3/6, Willows snowshoe in Big Cottonwood Canyon. Aspen and pine mingle with open meadows in this relatively low angle terrain. Excellent trail options to Willow Lake and to the ridgeline, with great views of the canyon. Meet at 10 am at the Big Cottonwood Canyon Park & Ride at the mouth of the canyon. Call Robert Jennings at 801-949-3597 or email at [Jennings. robert@comcast.net](mailto:robert@comcast.net) for more information.

GCG, Sat, 3/12 Secret Staircase. An easy, little used route goes over a little slickrock and then into Winter Camp Wash. There are beautiful views of Delicate Arch. Continue up the wash and climb out the head. Intersect the Delicate Arch trail near the top so that people can visit the arch. Return route in the drainage to the NW of Delicate Arch. Spotting cars at the DA trailhead or walking the road back to the DA viewpoint parking lot. 4 miles point to point with another mile on the road if cars aren't spotted. An extra half mile to go to Delicate Arch. Bring lunch. Meet at Moab Information Center, Center and Main, at 9 AM. Leader: Bonnie Crysdale, 435-259-0246.

SLG, Sun, 3/13, Jacks Mountain, 10 a.m.

Jacks Mountain is a SLC valley foothill hike, located east of 2100 South. We hike up the ridgeline, for tremendous views of the Salt Lake Valley and the Wasatch Front. Wear snowshoes or boot traction devices depending on the snow level. Hiking poles also help ensure secure footing. Call Paul Stratton at 801-450-1128 or email at strttt@gmail.com for meeting place and other details.

OG, Sat-Sun, 3/19-3/20, Welcome Spring Moab Hike.

On Saturday and Sunday, we'll find trails in Canyonlands and other locations for this kick-off of the 2011 hiking season. Call early for information on rooms or camping. Call Larry at 801-731 3701.

SLG, Sun, 3/20, Neffs Canyon, 10 a.m.

Neffs Canyon is on the north side of Mount Olympus, and is a reliably great hike, winter or summer. We will proceed up as far as the group wishes, possibly to the ridgeline. Snowshoes and/or boot traction devices and hiking poles are needed for secure footing on this hike. Call Rebecca Wallace at 801-557-5261 or email at rebeccawallace38@msn.com for meeting place and details.

GCG Sat 3/26 Bartlett-Tusher Rims.

The hike follows the east rim of Bartlett Canyon until we reach a saddle that separates Bartlett and Tusher canyons. We will return on the Tusher canyon side. There are great views and the hike is fairly level. Distance is about 4½ to 5 miles, and high-clearance vehicles are needed to reach the trailhead. Meet at the Moab Information Center, Center and Main at 9 AM. Leader: Tom Messenger, 435-259-1756.

SLG, Sat, 3/26, Mountain bike Antelope Island.

White Rock Trail to Elephant Rock Point. This 9-mile trail (one-way) takes one to spectacular overlooks 900 feet above the Great Salt Lake and offers views of the island's west side. This is planned as a mountain bike ride, but weather conditions may dictate a snowshoe or XC ski. Call Dana Morgan at 435-640-6740, or email at dana_morgan321@yahoo.com or Robert Jennings 801-949-3597 or email at Jennings.robert@comcast.net for meeting time and place.

SLG, Sun, 3/27, Snow Basin Snowshoe or X-C Ski Trek.

Weather & snow conditions permitting. Contact Ron at 801-292-4040 for meeting place, time and other details.

April

SLG, Fri-Sun, 4/1 to 4/3, Ridge Yurt, Uinta Mountains.

Of all the Lilly Lake yurts, the Ridge Yurt provides the best views. It is a 5-mile trip one way, carrying a backpack with your food and supplies, so a fairly strenuous XC ski or snowshoe. Camping in a yurt (with wood burning stove, pots and pans, tables and bunk beds) is a classic winter experience not to be missed. Still very much the wilderness experience, adequate gear and preparation are a must. The maximum number sleeping over is 8, but we could organize daytrips to the yurt for others if interested. Call or email Rebecca Wallace at 801-557-5261 or email at rebeccawallace38@msn.com for more info.

SLG, Fri-Sun, 4/8 to 4/10, Arches car camp trip.

Arches National Park is a southern Utah red rock desert paradise. There are multiple trails through amazing red-rock formations and slot canyons in this area, making this sure to be a memorable trip. Call organizer Chris Plummer at 919-720-8125 or email at chrisp347@gmail.com for trip details.

GCG, Sat, 4/9, Fisher Towers Overlook.

From Dewey Bridge follow the Kokopelli Trail west for a short distance. Where the road gets rough, we'll walk. Visit a viewpoint down the Colorado River towards Fisher Towers and the La Sals. Visit an arch. About 6½ miles and 700'. Another viewpoint possible with another 2 miles of walking. High clearance vehicles for the Kokopelli Trail. Meet at the Moab Information Center, Center and Main at 9 AM. Leader: Tom Messenger, 435/259-1756; Information: Ed Brandstetter, 435-259-9427.

SLG, Sun, 4/17, Stansbury Island Trail.

Join us on a three to four hour hike experiencing the area's fascinating geology at the perfect time of the year. We may also seek out the petroglyphs left by those who came before us. Meet at 8:30 am at the Utah Travel Council, 120 East 300 North to arrange carpools. Call Aaron Jones at 801-467-3532, or email at ajonesmvp@msn.com for more.



win a backcountry guide

JULY 20, 2010: Tuesday evening Sierra Club hike to Salt Lake Overlook. Be the first (before January 15, 2011) to correctly list the first name of six of these trekkers and receive a Guide Book for the High Uintas. Send your list to Ron Younger at 920 East 1500 South, Bountiful, UT 84010-2138.

Utah Chapter Directory

Chapter Executive Committee

- Steve Thiese..... sthiese@yahoo.com, (801) 466-2893
- Bob Becker flatlander@gmail.com, (801) 392-7476
- Wayne Hoskisson, chair..... wyh@xmission.com, (435) 260-9045
- Marion Klaus, vice-chair..... marionklaus@comcast.net
- Dan Mayhew drmayhew@comcast.net, (801) 712-5353
- Jim Westwater chair@uvef.us, (801) 798-2888

Group Delegates

- Mike Stringham, Glen Canyon Group mikechrista@earthlink.net, (435) 259-8579
- Larry Woolsey, Ogden Group landcrun@hotmail.com, (801) 731-3701

Issue & Committee Chairs

- Dan Mayhew, conservation chair drmayhew@comcast.net, (801) 712-5353
- Jean Binyon, membership chair..... binyon@binyon.us, (435) 259-1633
- Marion Klaus, fundraising chair..... marionklaus@comcast.net
- Dan Mayhew, legislative chair drmayhew@comcast.net, (801) 359-8238
- Chris Plummer, outings chair ChrisP347@gmail.com, (919) 720-8125
- Sarah Fields, nuclear waste..... sarahmfields@earthlink.net
- Wayne Hoskisson, UWC delegate/grazing wyh@xmission.com, (435) 260-9045
- Pete Kuenneman, CCL delegate..... petek@xmission.com
- Jim Westwater, CCL alternate..... chair@uvef.us, (801) 798-2888
- Tom Messenger, web master..... messengertj@citilink.net, (435) 259-1756
- Dan Schroeder, ORV impacts dvs@relia.net, (801) 393-4603

Group Chairs

- Tom Messenger, Glen Canyon Group..... messengertj@citilink.net, (435) 259-1756
- Ranee Johnson, Ogden Group raneejohnson_27@msn.com
- Ann Wechsler, Salt Lake Group..... annwechsler@gmail.com, (801) 583-2090

Utah Chapter Staff

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

National Organizing Staff

- Marc Heilesen, wetlands/wildlife..... marc.heilesen@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/signinwaiver.PDF>. CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

Mark Your Calendar

FIRST ANNUAL

BUSINESS SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE

March 9, 2011 | 8 a.m.–2 p.m.

Utah Valley University

Join the Utah Professional Chapter of Net Impact as it hosts its first statewide business sustainability conference.

If you are not yet familiar with Net Impact, we are a global network of leaders who are changing the world through business. Our conference session topics will include:

- Developing a Sustainability Team at Work
- Community Engagement on Ecology and the Environment
- Innovations in Social Impact
- Corporate Accountability to the Community

A networking lunch will be provided with time for further discussion on the topics you are most interested in.

For more information and to suggest your priority discussion topics, please check out our website at: <http://www.netimpactslc.org/>

(Thanks to former Executive Committee Member Leslie Hugo for this announcement.)

PARENTS, TELL YOUR KIDS:

Unplug and Get Out!

When doctors begin writing “outdoor activity” prescriptions, you know we have a problem connecting with nature. In the United States, children 8 to 18 years old spend an average of seven and a half hours a day indoors using electronic media, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation. So when the only exposure kids have to the great outdoors is what they see on TV and computer screens, some severe cases of “nature deficit disorder” can result.

With the launch of his website RecreatingWithKids.com, longtime outdoor industry veteran Eugene Buchanan hopes to help kids avoid trips to the nature doctor. The site includes news updates on outdoor programs, events and initiatives, reports on family-friendly destinations, and how-to guides for activities like biking, camping, paddling, and climbing. And it's full of inspiring tales of 12-year-olds climbing 50 peaks in 50 days and 7-year-olds becoming Junior Rangers at National Parks.

“Hopefully it will help encourage families to participate in outdoor activities,” Buchanan said. “That’s the future of the entire outdoor industry.”

And the future of healthy generations. A growing disconnect with nature has been linked to physical and mental health problems including obesity, diabetes, asthma, high blood pressure, and depression (to name a few). “Sadly, fewer youth are heading outdoors each year,” said Christine Fanning of the Outdoor Foundation, which found that youth participation in outdoor recreation has dropped nearly 17 percent in the last three years. “Reconnecting youth with the outdoors is critical to the health of future generations and our natural landscapes.”

RecreatingWithKids.com comes in the tide of Buchanan’s recent award-winning book, *Outdoor Parents, Outdoor Kids*, and coincides with other initiatives to encourage families to reconnect with nature, including the launch of President Obama’s Childhood Obesity Task Force and America’s Great Outdoor Initiative.

--Molly Oleson

Reprinted from *The Green Life*, Dec. 10, 2010, <http://sierraclub.typepad.com/greenlife/2010/12/parents-tell-your-kids-unplug-and-get-out.html#more>

Kennecott Closes 3 of 4 Coal Boilers in Salt Lake Valley

Kennecott Utah Copper CEO Kelly Sanders announced plans on December 16, 2010, to increase electricity production for mining and refining operations by closing three coal-fired boilers and replacing them with a single new natural gas-fired boiler by 2014.

This decision is certainly a step in the right direction for the largest stationary, industrial source of air pollution in the Salt Lake Valley. It also demonstrates positive leadership on greenhouse gas emissions to the rest of the business community and is a model that should be followed by others throughout Utah.

Although the change would close three coal-fired boilers dating from the 1940s, it will leave in place a fourth coal-fired boiler commissioned in 1959 that principally burns coal but is switched to natural gas on red air quality days.

Continuing high prices for copper, silver and other minerals found in ores from the Oquirrh Mountains have made it profitable for Kennecott to mine deeper and propose an expansion that would continue mining through 2034.

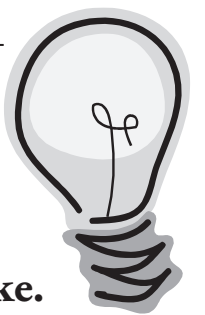
The Utah Chapter and other environmental groups are disappointed that Kennecott will not commit to a schedule to phase out coal use completely. In light of the urgent need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible and to diminish the overall air quality impacts from mine expansion, we believe it is imperative that Kennecott makes a commitment to eliminate all coal use. We will continue to work with them directly to make this complete transition to cleaner energy.

Safe and environmentally-benign disposal of the waste rock from the roughly 700 million tons of additional ore that is targeted by the mine expansion represents a challenge for both Kennecott and Utah regulators.

This article derives from a press release issued by seven Utah environmental organizations including the Sierra Club and additional written materials.

GREEN ENERGY TIP

*Drafts can waste 5% to 30% of your energy use. Start simple: Plug up a drafty door with a rolled-up towel, or get creative and **make a googly-eyed draft snake**. For a few bucks, you can insulate windows with shrink film and seal gaps with caulking. To further reduce airflow, install storm windows and doors, which save up to 45% of energy.*



START A COMMUNITY SHARES/UTAH CAMPAIGN AT YOUR WORKPLACE

by Mark Clemens

On the front page of each issue of the Utah Sierran, you’ll find the logo of Community Shares/Utah (CS/U), and you might have wondered what it is. CS/U is a workplace-giving federation that allows employees to donate any specified amount through payroll deduction to a range of agencies and charities that work to benefit the environment, deliver critical human services, improve the community, protect human rights and promote animal welfare.

The Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club helped to found CS/U in 1989. Check out the full roster of agencies at www.communitysharesutah.org. CS/U helps

raise money for the chapter and the other member agencies in most public-sector and several private sector workplaces too.

Fall is usually the season to harvest pledges for workplace giving, and thank you to all of those who already give. If you don’t have the chance to contribute to Community Shares at work and would like to, call me at 801-467-9297 or send me an e-mail at mark.clemens@sierraclub.org or Lynne Brandley, the executive director of Community Shares at 801-486-9224 or lbrandley@xmission.com.

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