



UtahSierran

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Bears Ears Heals at the Inter-Tribal Gathering 2018

by Lena Moffitt

This summer, I had the pleasure and honor to again join the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Gathering in southern Utah. The Gathering is an annual assembly of the five tribes who came together in an unprecedented and historic way to ask President Obama to protect and designate these beautiful and sacred lands as Bears Ears National Monument -- lands now under threat due to Trump and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's de-designation of the monument. This year the gathering was held in the majestic meadow that expands out at 9,000 feet between the two buttes that make up the Bear's Ears.

This year, the theme of the Gathering was "Bears Ears Heals," which was truly fitting. The Gathering, where hundreds of Native leaders and their allies come together in this sacred



Doug James, artist from the Lummi Nation, and Lena Moffitt.

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Our Mission

The Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club is a grassroots volunteer organization dedicated to:

Protect and promote Utah's outdoors and natural landscapes;

Educate and advocate for the responsible preservation of clean air, water and habitats; &

Support the development of sustainable renewable energy;

For the benefit of present and future generations.

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Marion Klaus | Our Wild America co-lead
Dan Mayhew | National Utah Wilderness Team, and Wild Lands and Wilderness BLM Sub Team
Sarah Fields | Nuclear Committee

Bears Ears Heals

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JIMMY WILLIAMS



HEATHER WILSON

Top | Lena learns traditional hand games from leaders at the Gathering.

Bottom | The Bears Ears Totem Pole Watches the Sunset.

place to camp for three days, engage in cultural activities, honor the land, and just have fun together, was deeply restorative and inspiring. These past few months have been particularly rough -- watching our government put children and families in cages, sell off our most precious places to the fossil fuel industry, and nominate an extreme conservative for the highest court in the land. So I was thrilled when our partners as Utah Diné Bikéyah, the nonprofit, Native organization with which we work to protect Bears Ears, again invited us to join them for this wonderful weekend.

The Sierra Club has had the privilege of working with and supporting Utah Diné Bikéyah and the five tribes (the Navajo, Hopi, Zuni, Ute Mountain Ute, and Uintah Ouray Ute) who came together in an historic, unprecedented way to advocate for the protection of Bears Ears, since the organization's founding. This year, we also supported the Lummi Nation of the Pacific Northwest -- with whom we've worked to stop coal and oil export terminals -- in bringing a totem pole to the Gathering, all the way from Washington state. This gorgeous display of solidarity, artistry, and perseverance (it's no small feat to get a 700-pound totem pole 1,200 miles across country!) was one of the most inspiring things I've ever witnessed.

Lummi artists, leaders, and brothers Doug and Jewel James carved the pole and delivered it to the Gathering, where they spoke about what drove them to make this happen. Jewel brought the crowd to tears, telling hundreds of Native leaders in the audience that the Lummi see their fight, and they are with

them, and they are not alone in their quest for respect, sovereignty, and the protection of their sacred homelands. I was lucky enough to be in the right place at the right time; thanks to Sierra Club organizers Alex Craven and Carly Ferro, we were able to join the totem pole on the last leg of its journey. We caravanned behind the totem pole as Doug and Jewel drove it into the Gathering, welcomed by cheering crowds. Finally, we were able to actually help lift it out of the truck and push it upwards to stand in the field. Physically working side by side with so many dedicated people to lift this beautiful, massive piece of art and physical demonstration of solidarity and hope -- I felt so proud, and so lucky, to be there, to feel hope and connection and inspiration.

Angelo Baca, cultural coordinator for Utah Diné Bikéyah, also gave a particularly moving speech on the first night of the gathering, in which he encouraged us all to stay strong in the face of tough times. He urged us to have faith, and not give up -- that tough times are when we need to fight harder than ever. He also highlighted the power of the land that we were on -- the gorgeous field of green grasses surrounded by red hills and blue skies - and said that this land is an amplifier. What we say and do here, the world will hear. He also highlighted the power of the land upon which we were standing--the gorgeous field of green grasses surrounded by red hills and blue skies--and said that this land is an amplifier. What we say and do here, the world will hear. His words gave me hope that those of us fighting for justice will persevere; that we have reserves of energy and faith that will keep us

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OurLand

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Join the Campaign to Keep Public Lands in Public Hands



Lawson LeGate and Steve Knox atop Notch Peak in the House Range: Enjoying our public lands!

A few years ago Utah's legislature passed a law demanding that the United States turn over most publicly owned lands in Utah to the state. The federal government, as the representative and land manager for the American people, has so far declined to do so.

Federal law and the U.S. and Utah state Constitutions all come down on the side of supporting the ownership of public lands by the American people. However, while this might seem like a case closed, unfortunately the anti-public lands sentiment persists among many Utah politicians. Utah Senator Mike Lee has made it clear that he supports a state takeover of public lands.

There have been numerous attempts in proposed law and administrative processes to give the state land use authority of federal lands, to facilitate the transfer of federal land to the state of Utah, or to even offer public lands for private sale. Recently, Sec. of the Interior Ryan Zinke was forced to countermand a provision in a proposed alternative for managing the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument that would have sold some land within the GSENM. In the proposed Emery County lands bill now before Congress a portion of the beloved San Rafael Swell would be given to Utah to manage.

With these examples in mind, the movement to Keep Public Lands in Public Hands is as important as it has ever been. Through this campaign public land owners across Utah work with local elected officials to put their cities and counties on the record in support of keeping our public lands public. Thanks to the efforts of campaign volunteers, last year first Summit County and then Park City adopted resolutions in support of continued public land ownership. By working with governments closest to the people we want to send a message to state officials that Utahns oppose the state's proposed seizure of America's public lands.

We are currently organizing in other Utah communities. What about yours? You can play a role in pushing back against the anti-public lands politicians. The Keep Public Lands in Public Hands campaign can help by providing fact sheets, yard and shop signs, bumper stickers and more. In addition, we can help by sharing organizing ideas that have worked elsewhere. If you are interested in starting an effort in your community, or you would simply like to know about the campaign, write to Lawson LeGate at lawson.legate@gmail.com or Becky Yih at bnbyih@gmail.com. And be sure to check out the website at <https://keeppubliclands.com/> and our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/keeppubliclands/>.



VolunteerSpotlight

by Patty Becnel

Mishka Banuri

Dressed in a simple, off-the-shoulder sundress, Mishka and I met recently where she explained her passion for environmental justice. Housed in her tiny frame is an intelligent, articulate, beautiful Pakistani Muslim young lady who is breaking all stereotypes and is a powerful voice for equity. Raised in Texas, Chicago, and then Utah, she attended Rowland Hall when she arrived here about six years ago. She is now a senior at West High, a move she made in order to pursue the IB program. (The International Baccalaureate is a prestigious program that teaches students to think critically and independently.) She thinks it will help as she applies to out of state universities in her pursuit of a career in law, or politics, and/or as an activist. Currently she is an intern, a volunteer position with Sierra Club, and was recently awarded the Brower Youth Award, an award given to only six individuals each year who are making strides in the environmental movement. She lives in SLC with her parents, twin brother and younger brother.

WHEN DID YOUR ACTIVISM BEGIN?

Both of my parents instilled in my two brothers and me a sense of service. As a Muslim, helping our community is a pillar of Islam and I worked with my mother, an activist, as she set up technologically available schools in Pakistan. Since I was a young person, I always felt I connected with the earth and was fascinated by the environment. I started being an activist in seventh grade when I went on a camping trip with an interfaith group and I realized the earth is something we all have in common.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF YOUR ACTIVISM CAREER?

A friend of mine, Piper Christiansen, and I worked with Lindsay Beebe on the Utah People's Climate March in 2016 because "Utah needed something like the People's Climate March." That and the Youth Environmental Summit are two of the biggest projects. We have also begun The Utah Youth and Environmental Solutions group which now has about 60 -70 members. We meet through Google Hangout, social media and in-person meetings. I'd like to draw a more diverse group, but when kids see our success, they want to get involved and we have conversations on the changing narrative.

WHAT IS THE NARRATIVE?

The health of a community is directly connected to the health of the land. We don't realize the impact of racism and the way the



poor and marginalized are more affected by the environment. As an example, the pipeline near Standing Rock was originally routed through Bismarck, an almost all white community, but when they protested, it was rerouted through the Native American reservation. There are many examples, in our country and globally, where environmental issues are related to racism. The conversation of environmental justice is missing.

WHAT DIFFICULTIES HAVE YOU FACED?

I could go on forever about that. Being a youth activist is really frustrating. There is a lot of tokenism. People let us organize, and wave us in front of others, but then they don't give us a voice. They think we're misinformed or they don't think our ideas are our own.

Utah's legislators are not friendly to climate change. One example is laws passed to limit access to SITLA information. We have begun a SITLA campaign. [SITLA stands for School and Institutional Trust Lands, the organization that manages about 6% of Utah's federal lands generating revenue through oil, gas, and mineral leases, rent, royalties, real estate development and sales, leases and easements. This money is invested, and the dividends are distributed to beneficiaries: public schools and higher education]. We are still in the preliminary process of researching SITLA. We would like to work toward transforming the way SITLA evaluates their work. We have three goals; we would like SITLA to be: (1) more transparent, (2) transition away from selling lands for fossil fuel development and (3) to allow for more public input in their decision-making process. After some agitation at a meeting, not caused by my group, we are no longer able to attend meetings. When asked if her teachers are on board, Mishka explains that many educators are afraid to question SITLA's practices because they don't want to risk losing the funding it provides. But "we should not be able to compromise a healthy education for a healthy lifestyle."

HOW DO YOU KEEP GOING?

Success in the big picture is difficult so we have to celebrate every small success. We also have adult allies. I take time off. Things like SPROG help. [SPROG is a Sierra Club youth program, run and organized by teens, focusing mostly on the history of major environmental and justice issues as well as teaching ways to become an activist and get others involved.] And I think of my dad's words as I was growing up. "Life isn't always fair, but that's the way it's going to be."

OurLand

Protect the Wasatch

By Will McCarvill

Besides the Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Act bill (addressed in a separate article) here is a brief summary of the issues we are working on to preserve and protect the Wasatch. There is much in play as development forces increase, recreation impacts multiply and ongoing climate change affects our important watershed.



SALT LAKE CITY WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

Salt Lake City is updating its 1999 plan which protects drinking water sources for over 350,000 residents. Public workshops are supposed to start in September. You can see the old plan at <http://www.slccwatershedplan.com/project-description>. No new web site is available yet.

WASATCH CANYONS GENERAL PLAN

The draft plan has appeared in front of the Mountainous Planning District Planning Commission several times but nothing new is available to the public. The web site is <https://slco.org/planning-transportation/wasatch-canyons-general-plan-update/>.

ALTA MASTER DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Forest Service approved both the proposal to build a tram from the top of Collins lift to the top of Mount Baldy and disturbing an alpine riparian area to build a lift from the basin below the Sugarloaf lift terminus to the top of Collins. We participated in an objection meeting with the Forest Service in August, now we wait for their decision. You can get information at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=48903>.

LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

We are expecting the draft purpose and need statement to come out this fall. Here is the web site <https://www.udot.utah.gov/littlecottonwoodeis/>.



THE WHYS AND WHAT FORS OF WILDERNESS STUDY AREA MONITORING

By Will McCarvill

The fundamental premise for Wilderness Study Area Monitoring is that preventing motorized access into Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's) will thereby prevent degradation of wilderness values. Our program has grown out of an incredibly tedious and slow process involving paper maps and wandering around really pretty areas in the San Rafael Swell to a highly efficient process based on satellite imaging using Google Earth. The old process took so much time that remediation was based on the capacity of the Price Field Office of the BLM to get the work done. Since the field monitoring became easier and more efficient we conducted surveys of all five of the WSA's in the San Rafael Swell in just a couple of years. For the last two years we focused on helping remediate vehicle ingress and conducted field work on the Sids Mountain, Reef, Crack and Mexican Mountain WSA's. Thanks to dedicated volunteers we repaired barricades, built new ones, installed carsonite signs, knocked down fire rings and cleaned up fire pits. Not to mention raking out seemingly endless vehicle tracks. We have built a reputation with the BLM of being reliable and productive.

So what is next? There are over 20 WSA's in Utah that need this kind of attention. We need people who love wilderness and have a special WSA or WSA's they want to help protect. Over the winter we will be conducting training classes on how to work with the BLM to conduct the field surveys and figure out how to fix problems. In the meantime, just give our Chapter Chair, Will McCarvill, a call. 801-694-6958

Southern Utah is ground zero for environmental assault

By Lisa Rutherford

Are you frustrated with the current environmental situation in our country? So am I! Living in Southern Utah near St. George for eighteen years has taught me a lot about the community, the environment and our leaders – local, state and national. First, a little background. I'm seventy years old and am a retired twenty-year oil company employee. I worked in Alaska for thirty years before moving to Southern Utah with my husband, also an oil company employee. Since 2006 when I conferred over coffee with a group of citizens who shared concerns about the transfer of public lands from the federal government to our county, I've been involved with public land and water issues.

From that first meeting, Citizens for Dixie's Future, now Conserve Southwest Utah, was created. Our group, given the politics of Utah generally and our area specifically, has been fighting conservation battles at ground zero. With the new administration that has not improved, only worsened.

Most of our work has focused on opposing a proposed 140-mile water pipeline from Lake Powell to our county and on opposing a highway through our Red Cliffs Desert Reserve (Mojave desert tortoise habitat), now 45,000 acres of which is the Red Cliffs National Conservation Area. It's

been a tough grind. Even under that last administration, we had challenges, but now local and state leaders have the administration backing them, so challenges are huge. Local and state leaders are running to D.C. crying about the need for water in an area that uses the most water in the Southwest and whining about the need for the highway through our Reserve/NCA because of growth and transportation issues – issues that leaders who signed the Habitat Conservation Plan knew were coming but agreed to no new roads anyway. Outside Magazine did a fine article, published in their August 2018 issue, about the pipeline project that's worth reading.

The pipeline and road are not the only concerns I have. My time spent working in the oil and gas industry has afforded me a great appreciation for the need to conserve these resources not just seek more. The first quarter of 2018 data revealed that Utah is number two behind Washington in gross domestic product by state, with mining holding us back. The U.S. Energy Information Administration ranked Utah 11th and 13th in crude oil and natural gas production, respectively. Utah has approximately 11,700 producing oil and gas wells. But all of Utah's economic successes are

apparently not enough. How much more do we need to achieve before leaders quit putting pressure on our public lands and resources? Last year, BLM planned to offer leases outside of Zion National Park. Fortunately, after substantial feedback from citizens and, amazingly, even government officials, including Utah's Governor Herbert, the BLM deferred offering the parcels. However, even as I write, BLM is seeking public comments under NEPA for over 500,000 acres of federal lands for oil and gas leasing.

We were fortunate last year to stop the Zion Park leases but what if, as is being desired by many in Congress, NEPA is not available to us in the future? What if citizens like you and I are cut out of the process? All the issues that I and others in Conserve Southwest Utah and other conservation organizations deal with hinge on NEPA, the Endangered Species Act and other environmental laws that have protected this nation's environment and her people for over forty years. Environmental laws were enacted under a Republican president with strong Republican congressional support, but that was then. This is now and we have many challenges ahead.

OurLand

Bears Ears Heals

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going; that we can bolster each other through solidarity and our belief in one another.

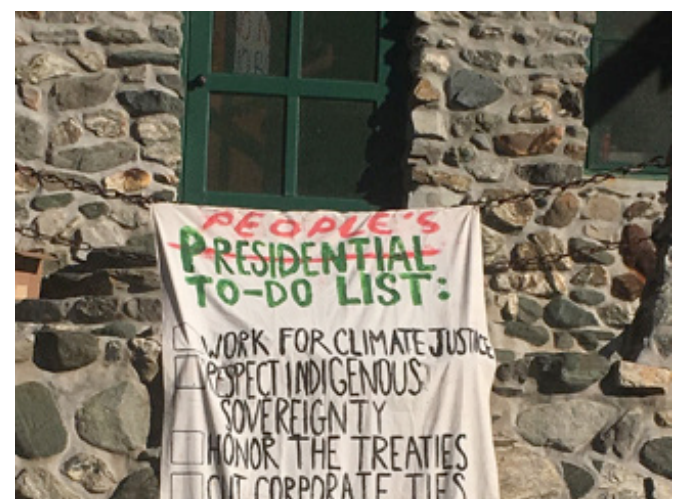
Over the weekend, we were also lucky enough to learn from and be fed by Chef Karlos Baca, owner/founder of Taste of Native Cuisine and cofounder of the I-Collective, and Cynthia Wilson, traditional foods program director for Utah Diné Bikéyah, who cooked many of the meals for the Gathering in the Indigenous Healing Kitchen at the camp (note, big thanks to Josh Nez, who also cooked for the entire camp the first night of the Gathering). Not only was the food amazing, but on Saturday afternoon, Karlos and Cynthia led us on a foraging walk (pictured below), telling us about the history of the plants around us, what we should and shouldn't eat, and how we can expand our relationship with food to be much more holistic, recognizing where it comes from and the land that it grows on. Karlos shared that all the food he cooks in his kitchen is either foraged, cultivated through Indigenous farming techniques, or hunted. He talked about the ways in which food can control dialogue, and how we can rethink the way we approach what we consume -- ways that we could contribute to a healthier planet, healthier lives, and healthier society.

I am proud that we were again able to lend support and help recruit volunteers for the Gathering -- but our partnerships go beyond that. Through time spent together at countless rallies, hearings, and events like the Gathering, where people really get to know each other, many of us have become friends. While at the Gathering, some of my Sierra Club colleagues and I were discussing how we can build strong, trust-based partnerships with our Native allies, and one of my wisest colleagues noted that it starts with kindness. Especially in these hard times, we have a chance to rebuild our faith in one another, growing our movement one connection at a time -- and it starts with respect and kindness. Thank you to my Sierra Club family for giving us the support to do this critically important work and showing how healing it truly can be. I have faith that if we stick together, ultimately, we will prevail.

Lena Moffitt is the Senior Director of the Sierra Club's Our Wild America Campaign, which is dedicated to protecting our lands, water and wildlife, to increasing equitable access to the outdoors, and to keeping fossil fuels in the ground. Lena most recently served as the Director of the Sierra Club's Dirty Fuels campaign, a key initiative of the Our Wild America Campaign, where she focused on protecting our climate, communities and special places from fossil fuel development. As Senior Director, Lena is excited to engage people from all walks of life to get outside and protect special places near and far. Lena hopes to lead the Campaign in bringing forth the groundswell of activism and engagement needed to ensure our communities, wildlife and outdoor spaces can thrive in the face of climate disruption and other threats. She is excited to help broaden the tent of advocates engaged in protecting our natural world and inspire a new generation of environmentalists. She is originally from New Mexico where she developed a love of the outdoors that she maintains in Washington, D.C. through regular visits to Rock Creek Park and the wild places beyond.

ADVENTURES AT SPROG

By Mishka Banuri



SPROG is a program through the Student Sierra Coalition to train young activists to give them the tools needed to create tangible change. One core principle of the program is that is run by youth for youth. This is an integral part of the program; young activists are the only ones who really know what we need to grow.

The organizers of West SPROG had experience in many different areas of organizing: animal liberation, grassroots political campaigns, BDS, queer liberation, decolonization and climate justice. The trainers had a huge interest in making us as independent as possible as organizers. One way that they did this was by teaching us more about American history than we were taught in school. They taught us the realities of the Civil Rights Movement and the Black Panthers, and the governmental involvement that eroded those movements.

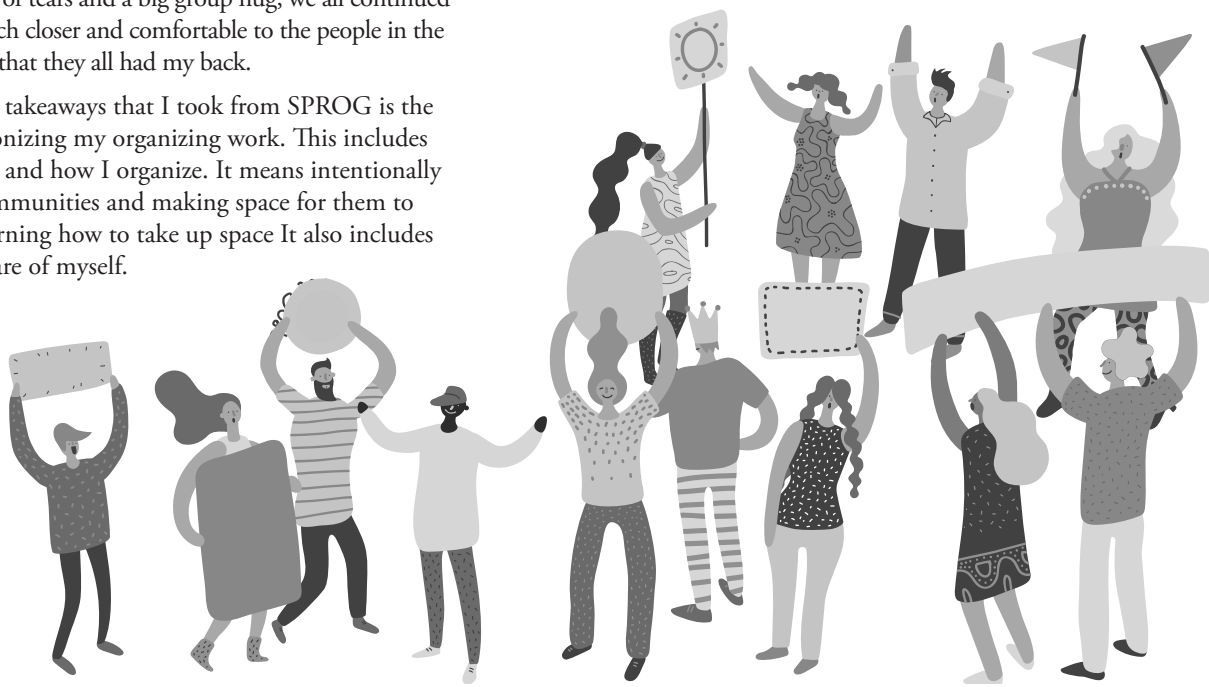
One of my favorite sessions at SPROG was on colonization and breaking down borders. The session got into historical examples of colonization and how the painful and violent effects of it are still seen today all over the world. After the lecture, many other attendees shared their stories of colonization. There were stories from the border, and of indigenous resistance. Because the content was so heavy for so many people in the room, we had optional healing circles for people of color, biracial/multiracial people, and white people. It was a very cleansing experience; there was something beautiful about everyone carrying each other through our experiences. After lots of tears and a big group hug, we all continued to learn, but I felt much closer and comfortable to the people in the room because I knew that they all had my back.

One of the biggest takeaways that I took from SPROG is the importance of decolonizing my organizing work. This includes how I think, act, eat, and how I organize. It means intentionally including certain communities and making space for them to take up. It means learning how to take up space. It also includes healing and taking care of myself.

Another takeaway from SPROG is the basics of campaigning. Going back to the basics when you're stuck has been the most helpful thing that I got from SPROG in terms of campaign work. I also learned that no tactic is off the table and that campaigning is an opportunity to get as creative as possible. I heard stories of different tactics that others used in their campaigns that broadened my mind on the number of possibilities there were to resist and carry out a campaign.

On the second-to-last day of SPROG, we all got into a bus and cars and drove to an Arrowhead water bottling facility in San Bernardino to hold a direct action. Arrowhead is owned by Nestle, a huge corporation that pumps millions of gallons of water from California, an area that is already experiencing a drought. Nestle's permit to pump water in California expired decades ago, and yet they've continued to take away water from residents in California, only to sell it back to them in plastic water bottles.

After the action, we all left messages at the facility and told our networks to boycott Nestle and all the companies that they owned. The action left us inspired and invigorated to leave and work in our communities.



OurLand

Nordic Valley Proposes Massive Expansion into Roadless Area

by Dan Schroeder

Nordic Valley is currently Utah's smallest ski resort, located on 140 acres of private land near the town of Eden in Weber County. But in June, its owners proposed a massive 2,700-acre expansion, up and around the mountain into roadless National Forest lands. The Utah Sierra Club now stands poised with our allies to defend these pristine roadless areas from the profit-seeking Mountain Capital Partners.

WHAT EXACTLY IS BEING PROPOSED?

The proposal published at nordicvalleyproject.com calls for an expansion of about 2,700 acres, encompassing a huge swath of the Lewis Peak Inventoried Roadless Area, in the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest. A drawing shows dozens of new ski runs and 14 new ski lifts, including a pair of gondolas connecting the current ski area base to North Ogden, on the other side of the mountain.

WHAT WOULD THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS BE?

The mountain between Nordic Valley and North Ogden would be completely transformed, with many miles of maintenance roads, clearcuts for ski runs, and excavation for snow-making equipment. Watersheds would be polluted, wildlife habitat would be fragmented, air quality would be further degraded and opportunities for solitude would be lost.

WOULD THIS EXPANSION BE LEGAL?

In short, no. Under the Roadless Rule, a federal regulation enacted in 2001, road construction is prohibited in National Forest inventoried roadless areas. However, Utah's elected officials have proposed



Sierra Club hikers enjoy solitude along the Skyline Trail, at what is now the proposed summit of an expanded Nordic Valley Ski Area. In the distance are Mt. Ogden and Snowbasin Ski Area, much higher in elevation.

weakening the Roadless Rule throughout the state, and the process of changing the regulation is already underway. If the Roadless Rule is weakened, approximately 4 million acres of currently protected lands in Utah would be at risk.

IS THIS PROJECT EVEN FEASIBLE?

We very much doubt it. The cost of the ski area expansion would be well into the nine-figure range, while the setting isn't favorable enough to justify such an investment. Even with the proposed expansion, the maximum

elevation of the ski area would be only 8,100 feet. Ski conditions are often marginal, and summers are nearly as hot as in the nearby cities. Annual snowfall at Nordic Valley has averaged only about 100 inches in recent years, and the resort often struggles to open by Christmas and to stay open into March. In future decades, we can expect global climate change to shorten the ski seasons even further.

DO LOCAL RESIDENTS SUPPORT THIS PROJECT?

Most do not. At recent public meetings held

in Nordic Valley, Ogden, and North Ogden, opponents have greatly outnumbered supporters of the boondoggle. Besides the impacts to the mountain itself, residents are concerned about impacts to water sources, increased traffic, and the commercialization of what are currently quiet residential neighborhoods.

WHO IS PROPOSING THIS PROJECT?

Since 2014, Nordic Valley has been owned by Skyline Mountain Base LLC. Recently, however, the owners brought in Mountain Capital Partners, a company based in Durango, Colorado that manages Purgatory Ski Area and several smaller ski areas in the Southwest. The current CEO and spokesperson for Mountain Capital Partners and its Nordic Valley endeavor is James Coleman.

DO THESE PEOPLE KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING?

Although Mountain Capital Partners has received favorable press coverage for recent improvements at its other ski areas, Coleman admits that they have never attempted a project even close in scale to this one.

WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT THIS PROPOSAL?

The best way to make a difference is to contact your elected officials. If you live near Nordic Valley or North Ogden, contact your city and county officials regarding the Nordic Valley proposal. If you live elsewhere in Utah, contact the Governor's office or members of Congress to express your views on the National Forest Roadless Rule and tell them you oppose the adoption of a Statewide Roadless Rule.

10.18.18
UTAH SIERRA CLUB'S
Fall Harvest Party
 Garden Place at Heritage Park
 7-9 pm

Join us for a festive evening of outdoor activism, live music, a silent auction, and a monumental presentation from our special guests -- the owners of Hell's Backbone Grill, activists, and authors, Blake Spalding and Jen Castle.

Vegetarian fare and spooky spirits will be served.



Get your tickets today!



UTAH.SIERRACLUB.ORG/FALLHARVEST

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

George B. and Oma E. Wilcox and Gibbs M. & Catherine W. Smith Charitable Foundation

for its continuing generous support of the Chapter's programs.

The Foundation challenges you to increase your support for the Utah Chapter in 2018.



OurLand

LITIGATION CONTINUES OVER TRUMP'S NATIONAL MONUMENT REDUCTIONS

Jeff Kramer

The wheels of justice often turn slowly, and so it is with the lawsuits filed by the Sierra Club and other environmental organizations, together with a coalition of Native American tribes, challenging Trump's effort to revoke national monument status from two million acres of public land in the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments. Although the lawsuits were filed in December 2017, they are still in the very early stages of litigation. In part, the progress of these cases has been slowed by the Trump administration's motion to transfer the cases from the federal court in Washington D.C. to the federal court in Utah, in the hope that political pressure in Utah will provide a forum more receptive to Trump's unprecedented gutting of these national monuments. On September 24, 2018, nine months after the lawsuits were filed, the court rejected the Trump administration's arguments and ruled that the lawsuits should be heard in the Washington D.C. court where they were filed.

In other good news for the plaintiffs in these lawsuits and all those who care about these special areas, the court

ordered the Trump administration to notify the plaintiffs of any proposals for hard-rock mining or other surface-disturbing activities planned within the original monument boundaries. This is especially important because the Trump administration has been moving ahead with plans to auction mining rights in areas Trump purported to carve out of the monuments, and a Canadian firm has announced its intention to mine copper and cobalt on some of these scenic public lands east of Boulder, Utah. The Sierra Club and other plaintiffs are closely monitoring these areas for any significant ground disturbance or other mining-related activity. If any such activity occurs, our attorneys are prepared to seek an injunction to stop it so that no irreparable harm will be caused to the monuments pending the outcome of the litigation.

The Sierra Club and the other plaintiffs contend that Trump's proclamations are without legal authority. The Antiquities Act authorizes presidents to designate national monuments to protect important historic, cultural and scientific national resources. The Act does not authorize presidents to revoke these protections,



JEFF CLAY | CLAYHAUSPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

Silver Falls Canyon. Mining to resume a few miles from here?

which would be contrary to the Act's purpose. We and the other plaintiffs contend reductions may only be done through an act of Congress.

Sharing Smoke and Story on America's Public Lands

by Kirsten Johanna Allen



KRISTEN ALLEN

High Country Sunset.

A year ago, I watched the total eclipse of the sun with my spouse, Mark Bailey, on a narrow ridge in a strip of BLM land in central Wyoming. Keen to avoid crowds, we set up our tent on a perch of our choosing in an oasis of beauty in the heart of oil and gas country. For the first day or so, pronghorns and the occasional hawk were our neighbors, but eventually several other human parties found the ridge, too, coming from all over the West in all kinds of vehicles to stake their claim to wonder on land we all own. Mining scars marred some of the viewshed, but our days camped out on Cyclone Ridge were near sublime, and it seemed so perfect to experience this splendid natural phenomenon on public lands. There was smoke from distant fires on the north horizon, but if the eclipse had been this year, smoke would have obscured the sun-and-moon spectacular. The extreme wildfire season the West has suffered this year may be, alas, part of our new normal, thanks to climate change caused by fossil fuel emissions and other human activities.

We know wildland fires are a normal part of functioning ecosystems, but global warming lengthens the fire season by drying and heating the forests, setting the stage for larger and more numerous fires that emit huge volumes of greenhouse gases as they consume precious natural carbon

sinks, spew unhealthy particulate matter, and obscure vistas around the West. But instead of reducing the risk of fire and other dangers presented by climate change, today we see expanded fossil fuel development threatening public lands that once enjoyed robust protection, like the areas cut from Bears Ears and Grand Staircase National Monuments or those that would lose Wilderness designations in the Emery County Public Land Management Act, a terrible bill recently introduced in Congress by Sen. Orrin Hatch and Rep. John Curtis.

These protection rollbacks on America's public lands matter for climate, a lot, since federally managed land accounts for 40 percent of the nation's coal production and a quarter of oil and gas production. Keeping that stuff in the ground would go a long way towards helping to curb America's outsized fossil fuel emissions. But we know that and, really, so does the fossil fuel industry and even the current administration.

So how do we get through what seems like an impenetrable wall of truth obstruction to reach some real action on climate? Fact sheets don't do the job, nor do reams of peer-reviewed scientific research. But story and connection



KRISTEN ALLEN

High Country Camping.

can, and perhaps these apocalyptic fires have offered us an opening to reach across divides in communities and even state houses and county governments. No matter one's political leanings, no one likes their skies clouded with eye-stinging, throat-scratching smoke. No one wants the horror of losing a home or the fear of its possibility. Everyone agrees that the scale of these fires is scary, and the words we use to describe smoke and fire aren't loaded with political triggers, so there's a common ground for talking about a collective experience with communal language—and possibly finding some policy areas where we can move forward with shared values. We got a glimpse of that earlier this year in the Utah State Legislature, which adopted the students' climate resolution acknowledging climate change. The students had unsuccessfully petitioned the legislature the year before, but they found willing champions on both sides of the aisle by omitting any reference to human causation. Definite progress. Though the worst wildfire season in memory is no match for a total eclipse of the sun as a groundbreaking common experience, it seems the time is ripe to look for opportunities for conversation around what we all love and value. What's your smoke story?

OurAir

Air Quality Overhaul

UTAH'S INLAND PORT AUTHORITY BOARD CONTROVERSY

By Ashley Soltysiak

Two major issues impacting air quality along the Wasatch Front have come to a head in the last quarter and have sent politicians, community leaders, environmentalists, and business juggernauts reeling.

UTAH SIERRA CLUB GETS SERIOUS ABOUT AIR QUALITY

The first is the rollout of the Serious Area State Implementation Plan for Particulate Matter Pollution (PM2.5) which is every bit as critical as the name suggests. The plan will direct a path forward for how the state will improve air quality in Salt Lake and Provo counties, which have failed to meet federal health standards for the last decade and were deemed areas of "Serious" non-attainment by the EPA in December of 2016.

On September 5th, 2018, the package of new rules was presented to the Air Quality Board and made recommendations to target pollution sources in two key areas - area sources like buildings and woodsmoke and point sources like small businesses. This kicks off a public comment period to see whether the state's analysis of the Best Available Control Measures (BACM) are adequate.

On Oct 1st the public will have a 30-day opportunity

to comment on the state's proposal, which leaves out some critical pieces in its analysis. The Utah Sierra Club will be submitting technical comments targeting the following four areas among others.

The state must improve its analysis for the following:

1. Create stronger enforcement and better education programs to reduce wood burning
2. Utah should adopt cleaner standards for off road and non-road vehicles
3. State regulators should require Low-Emission Vehicle standards and Zero Emission Vehicle standards (LEVIII and ZEV) for passenger cars and trucks
4. Utah must more stringently regulate fugitive dust emissions

The part of the SIP that regulates major industry was already revealed in a section called Subpart H earlier this summer. The Sierra Club and our allies at Western Resources Associates and HEAL Utah submitted joint technical comments urging the state to apply the most strict standards when it came to air quality regulation of these major sources. You can view our comments on our website at https://utah.sierraclub.org/sites/utah.sierraclub.org/files/SubpartH_Comments_HEAL_WRA_SC.pdf

UTAH'S INLAND PORT AUTHORITY BOARD CONTROVERSY

The newly anointed Inland Port Authority Board met on August 29th amid more controversy. According to state lawyers, the Utah Open and Public Meetings Act did not apply to the subcommittees created by the Board, but pressure from community groups and even Governor Herbert brought the transparency issue to a head at the meeting. The board voted, 9-2, to keep the three committees it had created private, despite public outcry.

Prior to the meeting the Utah Sierra Club and 26 other allied groups, along with Salt Lake City Mayor Jackie Biskupski, signed onto a letter urging the board to reconsider and encourage transparency in this decision-making process. The letter stated, "We've learned through experience that transparency and accountability are critical elements in ensuring the public's understanding and long-term support which are essential for the future success of this monumental undertaking."

As the Inland Port Authority Board, continues its process the Utah Sierra Club will continue to work with our community and environmental partners to encourage the use of the best technology to reduce air quality emissions, to protect critical habitat and watersheds, and to demand transparency in this already dubious process.

The God in Dunes

By Jeff Clay



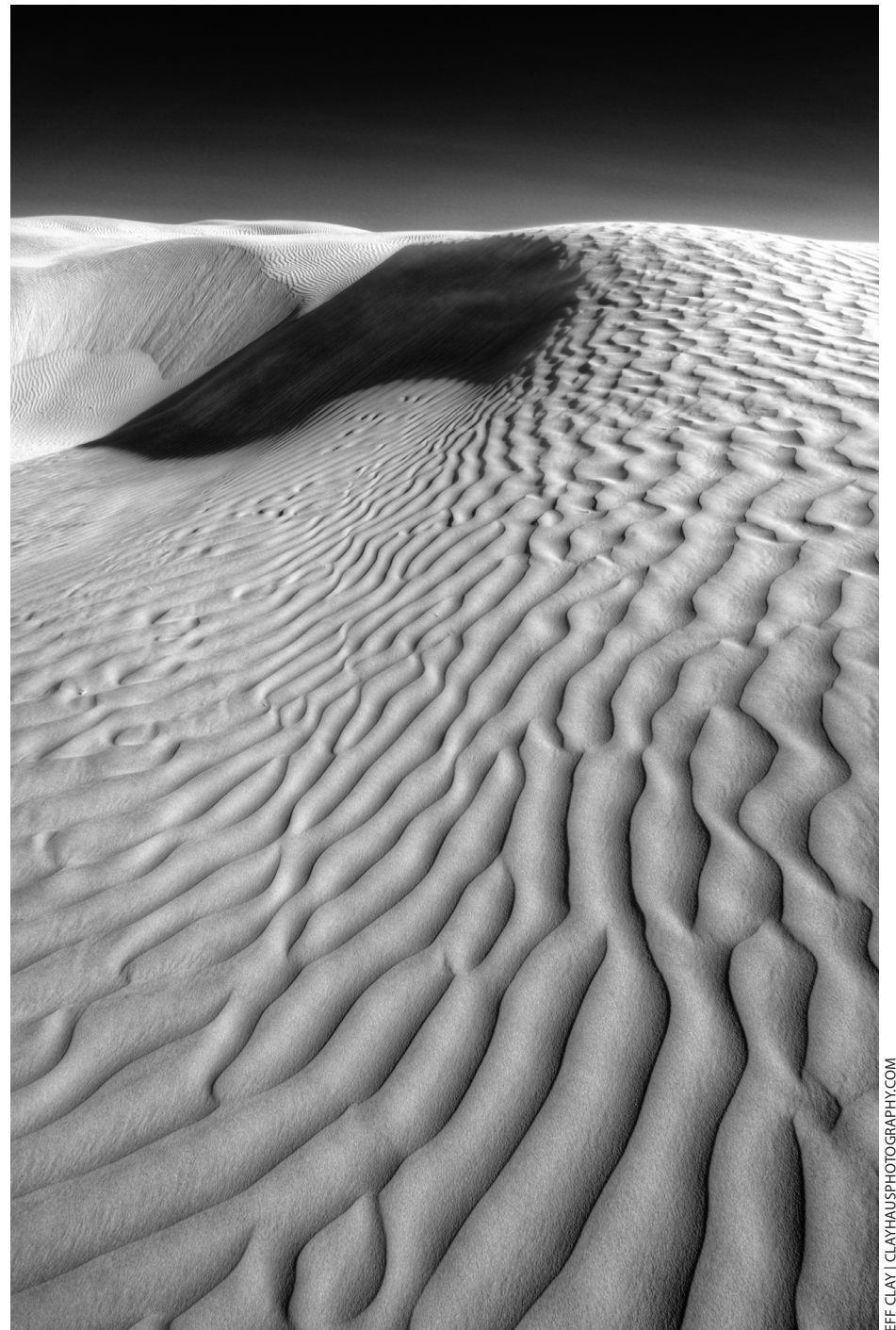
"There is in all things a pattern that is part of our universe. It has symmetry, elegance, and grace - those qualities you find always in that which the true artist captures. You can find it in the turning of the seasons, in the way sand trails along a ridge, in the branch clusters of the creosote bush or the pattern of its leaves." — Frank Herbert, Dune

No matter how chaotic, complicated, and even calamitous things may seem, a walk among natural patterns reaffirms the beauty and simplicity that surround us. For me, little expresses this better than sand dunes.

The pure art and natural law of forms and shapes, lines and curves, filled with light or the absence of it; with patterns — sand ripples or waves — everywhere you look...these are the dunes. Especially when the sun is low and its rays angular, it is a glorious place to wander with much to photograph and more to see.

Someone (in-)famously quipped that if you have seen one sequoia tree you've seen them all. I suppose someone could say the same about a dune. But did that person ever look at the bark and branches, trunk and root of any sequoia? Or high on a dune, at the sand ripples stretching beneath his feet, beetle tracks leading to an inky pool of shadow below, while bright lines of light play above, across the wind-swept high ridge crests? These are unique things and moments, if not to the insensitive mind, to those experientially open.

For surely if the devil is in the details, the god is as well.



Public Lands of Little Sahara

OurLand

Current State of the Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area Act

by Will McCarvill

The Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area Act was originally introduced into the House in 2016 by then Utah Representative Jason Chaffetz. At that time the Sierra Club endorsed the legislation. Now, Representative Mia Love will reintroduce it after the Central Wasatch Commission (CWC) has reviewed it and made changes it deems necessary. Over the last several months there have been a number of contentious comment periods at CWC meetings and here is the current state of these issues.

Over the last several months there have been a number of contentious comment periods at CWC meetings and here is the current state of these issues.

A new wilderness area was proposed in the original bill. The Grandeur Peak Mount Aire Wilderness would be an important 6158 acre addition to the three existing wilderness areas in the Central Wasatch. The CWC is considering a new boundary to allow for staging fire control operations and establishing a buffer from adjacent private property.

Because bikes are not permitted in wilderness the Bonneville Shoreline Trail would not be bike-able unless the

current boundary of the Mount Olympus Wilderness was pushed up hill. The Forest Service has preliminary GIS data on a bike-able alignment but it has not been finalized. So the final number of acres to be removed from wilderness is not known at this time. The Forest Service recently acquired about 400 acres of land from the Boy Scouts. It is on the south side of Mill Creek Canyon and is surrounded on three sides by current wilderness. Its eligibility for wilderness is unknown and is being explored.

Language has been incorporated to authorize funds for the Forest service to implement the legislation.

Originally, Alta had agreed to participate in a land exchange along with Brighton, Snowbird and Solitude. This exchange would trade ski area private land outside the ski area boundaries for Forest Service land at the base of the ski areas as well as providing culinary water and water for snowmaking. This was part of the Accord signed by all the ski areas in 2015. Alta has now backed out of this agreement and instead, plans to expand its ski area into the lands it owns in Grizzly Gulch.

Although we supported this bill in 2016, we will have to see if the changes being proposed by the CWC are acceptable. The final CWC language will be ready for the next CWC meeting September 17. In addition, the bill may be further modified by Representative Love. It remains unclear whether the Sierra Club will endorse the legislation at this time.



Grizzly Gulch in Fall.

JEFF CLAY | CLAYHAUSPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

The Sierra Club is excited to continue our Solar Homes Program in Utah!

Through this program, we are empowering our members and supporters to be part of Utah's clean energy future. If you are interested in saving on your energy bills, doing something positive for the climate, and supporting the Utah Sierra Club, **Request a Free Estimate Today at**

sierraclubsolar.org

Congrats to Creative Energies for earning their spot in the Top 10% of B Corps around the world in Environmental Sustainability!

Certified **B** Best For The World 2018 Environment Corporation



NEW STAFF SPOTLIGHT

James Stolhand



2018 continues to be an exciting year for Sierra Club Utah. While we continue to face environmental obstacles and roadblocks thrown up by anti-public lands legislators, an anti-science administration, and drill-baby-drill business interests, our Chapter continues to fight back by expanding our team to protect Utah's life outside. Our newest asset is James Stolhand, Utah Chapter's Development Coordinator. We could ramble about James and how excited we are to have him, but we would like to let you hear from James himself:

"Hello, Utah Sierra Club members and supporters. My name is James Stolhand, and I'm pleased to have joined the Sierra Club team. I started working for non-profits four years ago when I joined the team at Peace House. During my employment at that amazing organization, I discovered my passion for advocacy and using my skills and resources to help defend and raise up the most vulnerable among us in the community.

I'm thrilled to be the Sierra Club's newest employee, since environmental advocacy is near and dear to my heart. I am a Utah native and have lived in the Ogden area almost my entire life, which has given me a front row seat to some of Utah's foremost environmental battles. I'm excited to work for an organization striving to defend our beautiful landscapes, public health, and environment. I'm looking forward to working with you to help protect and promote Utah's outdoors and natural landscapes."

We hope you will join us at an upcoming event or volunteer with us to find an opportunity to meet James and the rest of Team Utah. We have a host of opportunities for you to help steward the values of a healthy environment for healthy communities!

Utah Chapter Outings

SEPTEMBER–DECEMBER 2018

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.

September

SLG 9/25 Jack's Mtn. Our final Tuesday evening hike of the season will be Jack's Mountain, which rises above Salt Lake's East Bench and offers great city views. We'll climb a fairly steep ridgeline trail above the "H" Rock to one or more high points on the ridge. Sturdy footwear and a headlamp are recommended. Meet at the new Parley's Way Walmart parking lot, 2705 Parleys Way, west of the Bombay House Restaurant in SLC at 6:00 pm. Leader: Kandace Steadman, (801) 831-6933.

SLG 9/28-9/29 Zion NP Service Project. On both Friday and Saturday we will be working with park staff in the field. Our priority project is going to be planting grasses, shrubs, and trees near heavily trafficked social trails. One day will most likely be at Big Bend, the other near Court of the Patriarchs. For both Service days, for your safety, wear long pants and close-toed boots or shoes. We highly recommend sunscreen, a hat, and sunglasses. We'll be doing some light hiking so please bring a small backpack or daypack filled with your lunch, lots of water and salty snacks. The Park Staff will be providing work gloves, but feel free to bring your own if you have a favorite pair. Watchman Campground's group campsite E6 has been reserved for us from Thursday afternoon, Sept 27th thru 11 am on Sunday Sept. 30th. As VIPs at Zion (Volunteers In Park) the normal park entrance fee and campground usage fee will be waived for those four days. Please watch this video for additional information: <https://youtu.be/QlYwwyRfuBc> To register contact Par Rasmussen (parasmusson@gmail.com).

October

GCG Sat 10/6 South Mountain Trail from Medicine Lakes. Follow the east side La Sal Pass road to Medicine Lakes. Take the new Forest Service trail along the east side of South Mountain to join up with the Trans La Sal Trail. Follow that trail to the a saddle between the summit and a southeast spur at about 10800 feet, 800 feet above trailhead. From there it's a thousand feet to the top, partly on talus. Going for the summit will depend on conditions and inclinations on the day. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 8:00 AM. Leader: Tammy Berrie (435) 260-0462 southeasternutahtammy@yahoo.com.

SLG 10/6 Lake Blanche. Lakes Blanche, Lillian and Florence are first of a trio of beautiful small lakes nestled in a cirque under the rugged majesty of Sundial Peak. Outcroppings of colorful smooth rock and abundant wild flowers soften the jagged alpine landscape and offer pleasant reward after the steep hike to the lakes. Round trip distance is 5-1/2 miles with 2700 feet of elevation gain. Pack at least a liter of water (or water filtering gear) and ample snacks for lunch, along with footwear appropriate for a hike over rocky terrain. Meeting place is the

6200 South Park and Ride lot, 6450 South Wasatch Blvd. (1 mi north of the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon) at 8:00 am. Leaders are Sven Solvik (360-390-8486) and Sally Aerts (360-774-1534).

UC Fri 10/12-10/14 Escalante River Watershed Partnership Service Project. The Escalante River Watershed Partnership (ERWP) is heading into its 9th year working to remove Russian olive --a non-native woody invasive- from the banks of the Escalante River. The Russian olive was planted during the Dust Bowl era in the West to provide bank stabilization and soil erosion. The earliest trees were planted in the town of Escalante in the 1950s. The Russian olive continues to thrive in dense thickets and is dominating and choking out native vegetation. The removal of the Russian olive is essential in maintaining the natural biodiversity of the river's vegetation and securing habitat requirements for fish species. Sierra Club Utah and ERWP are partnering up to help ERWP meet the goals of their 10-year action plan (see <http://escalanteriverwatershedpartnership.org/>). That is where you come in. We need volunteers to help us with Russian olive removal the weekend of October 12th. We will camp in Escalante either at Escalante Outfitters or Lower Calf Creek Campground. We will only ask that folks cover their campsite costs, which we will firm up by mid-August and estimate it to be no more than \$30/person. For more information and to register, contact Carly Ferro at the Utah Chapter office, carly.ferro@sierraclub.org or register online at <https://utah.sierraclub.org/content/calendar>.

GCG Sat 10/20 Delicate Arch of the San Rafael Swell. Drive to the campground at the river bridge in the San Rafael Swell. Follow the dirt road downstream along the left bank of the river towards Spring Canyon. When the road gets rough, hike to the mouth of Spring Canyon and then a mile up Spring to see the arch. Perhaps eight mostly flat miles. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 7:30 AM. Leader: Thomas Messenger (435) 259-1756 messengert35@gmail.com.

SLG 10/20-10/21 Mexican Mtn WSA Service. The Mexican Mountain Wilderness Study Area contains some old vehicle routes deep in the San Rafael Swell near Mexican Mountain. These old routes accessed the upstream and downstream parts of the Lower Black Box of the San Rafael River. The old barricades have aged and new vehicle intrusions are bypassing them. So we will rehab the old barricades and build some new ones. There are a few miles of good dirt roads after leaving pavement to the camp site, but we'll need high clearance 4X4s to reach the work sites. Expect a dry camp; bring plenty of water as well as work clothes,

All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the Liability Waiver before you choose to participate on an outing, please go to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/>, or contact the Outings Department at (415) 977-5528 for a printed version.



ONLINE OUTINGS TOOL!

All the outings, and socials for the chapter are now found in one place, <https://utah.sierraclub.org/content/calendar.asp>. You can sort by event type or use a built-in mapping function.

gloves and a sun hat. Saturday will be a work day and Sunday will be a play day. Limit 7 people. These two barricades are among the most isolated in the Swell. For more info and to register, contact Will McCarvill (will@commercialchemistries.com, 801-694-6958). Sierra Club sponsorship of this outing is limited to the day activities, not time in camp or while driving to and from the activity.

November

SLG Sat 11/3 Leader Training. Details to be announced. Contact Rebecca Wallace (rebeccawallace38@msn.com) for information.

GCG Sat 11/3 Lone Mesa from Bartlett Wash. Take the sandy jeep road (4WD imperative) in Bartlett Canyon its end just underneath a direct route to the mesa top. Climb a steep talus slope and then steep slickrock in the biscuits and boulders to the mesa top. Explore along the rim for great views of the surrounding country. Four or five miles. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 9:00 AM. Leader: Michael Stringham (831) 375-8854 mikechrista@earthlink.net.

SLG Sun 11/4 Church Fork to Grandeur Peak. From Millcreek Canyon we'll climb 2650 feet in 3.2 miles to reach Grandeur Peak at 8300 feet. We'll eat lunch at the top and enjoy the views across the city to the Great Salt Lake, and several Wasatch peaks including Mt. Olympus, Mt. Aire and Mt. Raymond. Bring lunch/snacks, at least 2 liters of water, hiking boots, sunscreen, hat, layers of clothing and optional trekking poles. There are a couple of rocky areas near the top which require footwear with good traction. This is intended as an "autumn hike" - if conditions are overly wintery we'll turn back at the saddle or make other adjustments. Please check calendar for latest info. Leashed dogs are welcome; please follow all applicable Millcreek Canyon rules regarding dogs. Meet at 8:30 am at the Skyline High School parking lot (northwest end), 3251 E. Upland Drive (3760 S). Leader: Scott Svatos (scott@svatos.com, 310-873-7316).

SLG 11/10 Frary Peak - Antelope Island. Frary Peak is the highest mountain on Antelope Island and offers the island's most spectacular views. We'll hike 6.6 miles roundtrip with 2,100 feet elevation gain. Microspikes recommended in case snow is on the upper part of the trail. Near the top, there is a short section of trail with a bit of exposure. Bring lunch, layers of clothing, 2 liters of water minimum. Admission to Island: \$10.00/vehicle, \$5.00/vehicle 62+ years, or State Park pass. Meet at 9:00 AM in Salt Lake City at RC Wiley Parking lot, 2300 South at 300 West (NW corner of lot). Leader: Jim Paull (paull.james.f@gmail.com, 801-580-9079). If weather or cold threatens, leaders will decide to lead easier Sentry Loop, half the elevation gain and about 2 miles shorter. If you plan to go on this hike, please RSVP to Jim so you can be notified of any weather related changes.

GCG Sat 11/17 Holeman Spring Basin.

Down the Wilhite Trail to the Holeman Spring Basin below False Kiva. Continue on a very faint road around to the west and up between the main cliff and "The Jug". Continue over the pass to Holeman Spring. Return the way we came or scramble up to the False Kiva trail. Six or eight miles. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 9:00 AM. Leader: Michael Stringham (831) 375-8854 mikechrista@earthlink.net.

SLG Sat 11/17 Big/Little Mountain. If the East Canyon road is open and weather permits, we'll drive up to Big Mountain Pass and follow the Great Western Trail to 8470' high Big Mountain and its encompassing views. This hike switchbacks up to a scenic ridgeline and continues through aspen groves to the summit. This is a five-mile round trip with 1,000 feet of elevation gain. Bring microspikes, cold weather gear, snacks, and water. If the road is not open, we will hike to Little Mtn. along the Emigration/Little Dell divide. Contact leader, Fred Swanson (fbswan32@msn.com, 801-588-0361) for 10:00 AM meeting place and for updates on our destination.

December

GCG Sat 12/1 Hurrah Pass -- Minesweeper.

Take a safe scouted route along the ridge from Hurrah Pass to the uranium mine on the top of Minesweeper. Maybe explore the southwest part of Amasa Back. 4 or 5 miles. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 9:00 AM. Leader: Michael Stringham (831) 375-8854 mikechrista@earthlink.net.

GCG Sat 12/8 Oil Well Bottom. Hike down Pyramid Canyon (our usual exit from the fossil tree hike) and then head upriver to Tunnel Bottom. We tried this once before, but everyone chickened out for no good reason. Easy walking because the river is really low. Explore the bottom and then try to get into the canyon just downriver from Pyramid Butte. 6+ miles, easy hiking. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 9:00 AM. Leader: Michael Stringham (831) 375-8854 mikechrista@earthlink.net.

SLG 12/16 Snowshoe or hike in the Uintas.

Details to be arranged. Contact leader, Jim Paull (paull.james.f@gmail.com, 801-580-9079) for meeting place, time, and outing destination.

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.

UtahChapter ExComElections 2018

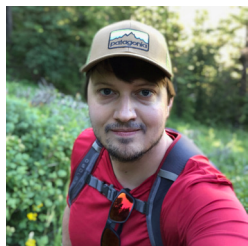
It is that time again! The Utah Chapter is hosting elections for their leadership committee known as the Executive Committee (ExCom). This year, we have four spots available. The Chapter ExCom assures that the Chapter activities and services provided are for the benefit of our members and supporters. You may vote via the below ballot or use our new e-balloting system at <https://utah.sierraclub.org/2018-excom-elections>.



SUE CORTH

My name is Susan Cortth. I migrated from New Jersey to Utah in the late 1970's. Like so many others who came to Utah for college, I fell in love with the water canyons, desert landscapes and the glorious mountains of Utah. Working for the Forest Service as one of the first female firefighters, I got to explore more of the state.

I recently retired from working as an Audiologist. I loved my job helping families identify and deal with hearing impairment in their babies and school children. I previously served on the boards of Art Access and HEAL Utah for many years. I have enjoyed my role with these wonderful organizations. Over the years I have savored living and playing in Utah with my husband, Dennis, and our two grown kids, Gabe and Sasha.

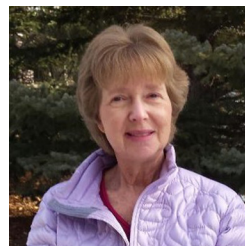


NATHAN GILBERT

I have been a member of the Sierra Club since 2012 and have served on the Executive Committee since January 2018. I started out as a volunteer on the Political Committee and now serve as that committee's chair.

I am a strong proponent of the "big tent" organization of the Sierra Club and the grassroots power that it can wield on the local political scene. As the current chair of the Political Committee it is my goal to increase our local political impact. I want the Utah Sierra Club to be a place where volunteers are a part of shaping local politics and engaging our elected leaders in supporting our State's environment. As an ExCom member, I want the Utah Sierra Club to be a leader in the State on conservation issues, to expand and promote our Outings programs and for us to become a more equitable, inclusive and just organization. These things won't happen overnight, but by continuing as a member of the Executive Committee I can more effectively work towards these goals.

I live in the Ballpark area of Salt Lake City with my wife, Sonya. I am a software engineer and have a Masters degree from the University of Utah in Computer Science. I love camping and backpacking in Utah, and getting more Sierra Club allies elected to local offices across the State.



AMY MILLS

I'm pleased to be running for re-election to the Excom. In these difficult times for the Utah environment, I think I bring the experience, ideas, commitment, and continuity that the chapter needs. I currently serve as vice-chair of the Excom. and chapter delegate to Sierra Club's Council of Club Leaders. I also serve as co-lead of the chapter's Wasatch Back Network. I served as conservation committee co-chair for the chapter from January 2016 to August 2017. I've been involved in various public outreach activities in addition to supporting the internal functioning of the chapter.

My main focus has been on environmental conservation. Over the past 5 years I've been involved in advocacy around protection of public lands, wilderness, and impacts of fossil fuel development. Locally in Park City where I live, I've hosted public meetings and educational speakers on conservation issues and provided input to local decision-makers.

As background, I hold an MS in Geology. I worked for the US Environmental Protection Agency for 28 years as a staff scientist, regulatory analyst, and national program manager. Aside from volunteering for several non-profits, I enjoy xeriscape gardening, skiing, and hiking.



LAUREN WOOD

Hey folks! I am a community organizer and have spent my life working with Holiday River Expeditions as a 3rd generation raft guide trying to honor my family's commitment to healthy ecosystems.

I hold a BS in Environmental Studies and have co-founded multiple Climate Justice organizations: Peaceful Uprising and more recently Wasatch Rising Tide.

As a queer person, I am caught in between the often siloed worlds of "Environmentalism" and "Social Justice" as if these things are not fundamentally connected. I have always approached this work systemically hoping to build broader movement power.

As the Green Riverkeeper, I work with dozens of groups across the region, including this chapter of the Sierra Club. If elected I hope to support the broad based coalition work being done by the chapter. Let's focus on bringing more people on board to for an abundant and climate-adapted future.

This chapter has immense potential to affect meaningful change and I want to be part of that. To continue to strengthen this chapter we need an active and passionate board with varied backgrounds and perspectives to lead with a holistic and justice informed strategy. I hope to be a part of that team.



Election Ballot

DETACH AND MAIL TO: **Utah Chapter, Sierra Club**
423 West 800 South, Suite A103 Salt Lake City UT 84101

Your ballot must received by **Friday, November 23, 2017**. Mail your completed ballot in the enclosed envelope. The second set of boxes below are for the second member of a joint membership only. Blank lines are for write-in candidates. Please vote for no more than 4 candidates, including write-ins.

ExComCandidates

SUE CORTH	S	J
NATHAN GILBERT	S	J
AMY MILLS	S	J
LAUREN WOOD	S	J

	S	J
	S	J

YOUR ZIP CODE:

THANKS FOR YOUR VOTE!

LocalNews

October 1-7 is Utah Climate Week

Stan Holmes



The fall season of environmental justice events sparked by Sierra Club's "Rise" (on September 8) and climate action (on September 13) programs continues into October with the second annual Utah Climate Week (UCW), October 1-7. The week will include climate change documentary films at Clark Planetarium (SLC), Park City, and Weber State University. There will be tours of sustainable buildings, and workshops by members of the Utah Climate Action Network (UCAN), which is sponsoring the events schedule. The Sierra Club is partnering with HEAL Utah for a climate justice workshop [Oct. 3] on the art of storytelling. Impact Hub will end the week with a climate action celebration party on Oct. 6. According to UCAN organizer Josh Craft, the goal of Utah Climate Week is to connect climate change experts and advocates with the general public. Craft says that the week's events "will give the public a picture of how our state is changing as result of climate change. And it will spotlight the broad range of people and organizations working to address this challenge." Each event will feature education and civic action components. Highlights of the week are listed at right but the full list of events will be posted on UCAN's Utah Climate Week 2018 website. For Sierra Club specific info, contact Carly Ferro at carly.ferro@sierraclub.org.

The Utah Climate Action Network includes Utah Clean Energy, Salt Lake City and Park City municipal governments, Salt Lake County Public Health, the Utah Sierra Club, HEAL Utah, the University of Utah, Brendle Group, Alta and Brighton ski areas, POWDR, Garbett Homes, and more. For more info about UCAN, contact: Josh Craft, at joshuavcraft@gmail.com.

A few Utah Climate Week highlights include:

- OCTOBER 1
Climate change legal issues, *Brendle Group*
- OCTOBER 2
Martin O'Malley at Impact Hub, *Utah Clean Energy*
- OCTOBER 3
"Cowspiracy" film at SLC library, *Plant Based Utah*
- OCTOBER 4
'Green' Campus tour, *Weber State University*
- OCTOBER 5
"Extreme Weather, Climate Change, and You" film, *Clark Planetarium*
- OCTOBER 6
Solar homes tour, *American Solar Energy Society*



Voter Outreach and Registration Efforts for the Mid-Terms

by Stan Holmes

The outcome of Election Day 2018 could tip the current environmental policy imbalance either back toward sanity or closer to the climate abyss. Final tallies portend much --for good or ill-- from city and state to federal elected offices. A big question in this context: Can pro-environment forces activate the demographic groups that tend to share our vision, but have yet to engage politically: the young, low-income, and minorities?

Utah Sierra Club has assisted the Latinx empowerment group, Comunidades Unidas, with its "Vote For 2" [Raise your voice; Defend your rights] voter registration drive. CU welcomes our help. Toward this end, we've launched the "Rise" effort, which runs from September 8 to Election Day: November 6. New voters are being educated and recruited at community events and door-to-door. This is what democracy looks like.

The Sierra Club prides itself on the strength of its volunteers: over 5,600 in Utah. Our Chapter needs your help, now, to boost our electoral base of minority, low-income, and young voters. Can you spare a few hours to help make the difference on Election Day? Check with Political Committee chairman Nathan Gilbert to volunteer, at nathan.gilbert@gmail.com.

Community Stewardship with a Canoe of Fun!

by Carly Ferro

The Jordan River is about 51-miles of meandering waters supporting recreationists, conservationists, wildlife, and the general public alike. Communities that live along the river relish in the opportunities that the water and its bank offer. Albeit the current appreciation of the Jordan River, historical mistreatment has left stretches of the river impaired, but local efforts like the "Environmental Stewardship and Outdoor Adventure," programs led by Hartland Community 4 Youth and Families (HC4YF) are a lifeline for the river and a tool for developing community stewards.

This past July, Sierra Club Utah, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, the USFWS, The Jordan River Commission and Splore supported the efforts of HC4YF to clean up a 2-mile stretch of the Jordan River that exists within their community. With over 50 people, folks received canoes, garbage bags, gloves, saws, and additional tools to remove trash from the river. Over 850 lbs of waste and over 20 bags later, the community removed heaps of obstructive branches, clothing, cinder blocks, water bottles, and toys from the river.

As the Executive Director of HC4YF said, "We are a part of the river, and the river is a part of us." HC4YF holds river clean-ups and environmental activities to build community, offer children an exciting way to learn and collectively spotlight folks' pride in their neighborhood.

Hartland Community 4 Youth & Families works to promote education with responsibility, respect, and self-discipline through afterschool and summer programming. These programs include sports, environmental and river stewardship, outdoor education and adventure and place-based activities. You can learn more about them and donate to their work here - <https://www.hc4yf.org/donate.html>

