



SIERRA CLUB
UTAH CHAPTER

UtahSierran

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Spring 2018 Vol. 51 No. 2

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Legislative Session Wrap-up: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

by Ashley Soltysiak

While some truly troubling bills and appropriations passed, Sierra Club Utah and our allies laid waste to some of the worst!

Defense was at the heart of the 2018 Utah Legislative Session —with bad bills gaining new life seemingly at every turn. While some truly troubling bills and appropriations passed, Sierra Club Utah and our allies laid waste to some of the worst! We are proud that our dedicated staff and members fought until the end, challenging the foes of conservation at every turn.

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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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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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Dan Mayhew | National Utah Wilderness Team, and Wild Lands and Wilderness BLM Sub Team
Sarah Fields | Nuclear Committee

Legislative Session

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We begin with the bad bills that we successfully worked with our allies to defeat:

HB135 - Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Amendments from Rep. Noel (R-Kanab) aimed to undermine over a century of successful watershed management along the Wasatch Front by limiting the ability of any city of the first class to protect its watersheds and water quality for its citizenry. Utah Sierra Clubbers and our allies at Save Our Canyons and Utah Rivers Council created tremendous pressure on this issue, flooding the inboxes of elected officials with hundreds of messages. Ultimately, this bad bill was voted down in the Senate in a landmark victory for watershed management.

HB136 - Federal Designations by Rep. Noel (R- Kanab) was defeated in the Senate, after failing to be prioritized. This bad bill would have made it harder for political subdivisions to advocate in favor of something like a National Monument or Research Natural Area. We kept the pressure on this one at every turn to ensure its defeat!

HB255 - Extra-jurisdictional Municipal Property sponsored by Rep. Coleman (R-West Jordan) was also stopped in its tracks. This poorly vetted bill was cut from the same cloth as Rep. Noel's HB135, and would force cities to pay additional taxes on land outside of their bounds. It would have impacted nearly every city in the state and placed a huge burden on cities purchasing land for conservation or watershed management purposes. In short, it would have made saving a place like Bonanza Flats impossible.

SB 218 - Container Regulation Act by Sen. Buxton (R-Roy) was eventually shot down by the House. This bill would have stripped the ability of local municipalities to ever regulate plastic waste. Rep. Quinn (R-Park City) did an outstanding job of defending his city's right to ban plastic bags.

HB481 - Donald J. Trump Utah National Parks Highway Designation from Rep. Noel (R-Kanab) failed. This ill-advised attempt to rename our iconic National Parks Highway after the sitting president was met with an outpouring of public opposition, effectively stopping the bill in its tracks.

Here are the good bills we helped bring to a reality:

HB101 - Air Quality Emissions Testing Amendments from Rep. Arent (D-SLC) passed this year creating a new diesel emissions testing pilot program in Utah County. Helping us all breathe a little easier!

HCR 7 - Concurrent Resolution on Environmental and Economic Stewardship by Rep. Edwards (R- North Salt Lake) was an inspiring success story. Some truly incredible students from Logan

High School brought forward this climate change resolution one year ago and succeeded, this year, in passing the state's first climate resolution! The bill was negatively altered in the Senate, causing some rightful Democratic dissent, but ultimately the passed resolution represents a serious step forward.

A final highlight was the successful funding of ALL air quality requests for the Division of Air Quality! That means more money allocated for research, monitoring, and DAQ staffing.

Here are the good bills that didn't quite make it this time, but have strong potential for next year:

HB 479 - Zero Emission Vehicle Program from Rep. Elison (R-Sandy) requires a new credit system to get auto dealers to ship Zero Emission Vehicles into the state. This innovative bill could be a huge boon for air quality in the future.

HB171 - Motor Vehicle Emissions Amendments by Rep. Romero's (D-SLC) was a great clean air bill, but unfortunately didn't get prioritized in time to pass this year. We are hopeful to see this legislation, which would increase penalties for those who cheat their emissions systems, back again at interim.

There was one major bill that we fought session-long to improve, and succeeded in part.

SB136 - Transportation Governance Amendments sponsored by Sen. Harper (R-Taylorsville) certainly gave us a lot of heartburn. We

fought to keep transit funding and eliminate fees for electric and hybrid vehicles. Sierra Club Utah was the only clean air organization that firmly opposed the fees. In the end, we succeeded in getting a local option sales tax of 0.2% that municipalities could levy to pay for transit -- a game changer for clean air. While we were not able to remove the EV and hybrid fees, the grassroots pressure we applied helped make sure that an EV infrastructure funding mechanism was also created.

Finally, here's a look at the worst of the worst, that the legislature passed.

First up, is Rep. Noel's (R-Kanab) lawsuit against the state of California's Cap and Trade program. It was awarded \$1.65 million dollars from the general fund, which could have gone toward things like roads, schools, or improving air quality, but instead will go straight to the pocket of a private law firm.

SB234 - Utah Inland Port Authority from Sen. Stevenson (R-Layton) has far-reaching implications for air quality, watershed management, fossil fuel extraction, and local control. It undermines social justice and equity values and the Sierra Club has pressed Governor Herbert for a veto on this bad bill.

SB169 - Commercial Waste Fee Amendments from Rep. Knotwell (R-Herriman) is another giveaway -- but

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A final highlight was the successful funding of ALL air quality requests for the Division of Air Quality!

OurLand

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Keep Public Lands in Public Hands

by Lawson LeGate



JEFF CLAY | CLAYHAUSPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

“We have fallen heirs to the most glorious heritage a people ever received, and each one must do his part if we wish to show that the nation is worthy of its good fortune.” Theodore Roosevelt

A few years ago Utah’s Legislature passed a law demanding that the U.S. government turn over America’s public lands in Utah to the state. These are lands held in trust for their owners, the American people. Though the original bill, H.B. 148, exempted national parks and designated wilderness areas, the legislation demanded control by the state of national wildlife refuges, national recreation areas, national monuments, Bureau of Land Management wilderness study areas, U.S. Forest Service roadless areas, other wilderness quality lands and other valued places where people hunt, fish and recreate.

Thus far, Utah politicians have been unsuccessful in seizing control of our “glorious heritage.” But they keep trying. In February, Utah Attorney-General Sean Reyes announced his intention to challenge one of the fundamental tenets of the U.S. law governing the ownership and management of America’s public lands. The opening lines of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) state:

The Congress declares that it is the policy of the United States that...the public lands be retained in Federal ownership, unless as a result of the land use planning procedure provided for in this Act, it is determined that disposal of a particular parcel will serve the national interest...

Mr. Reyes wants the courts to rule that this provision is invalid, but like so many of the legal arguments put forth by land grab advocates, this one stands on shaky legal ground. (A Louisiana law firm hired by the State of Utah has proposed this particular gambit.) In short, Congress has the power to make such a declaration, and it would take an act of Congress to reverse it.

In somewhat related news, Utah Rep. Mike Noel (R-Kanab) has introduced H.B. 136 which would require any Utah governmental entity supporting protection for public lands (such as the designation of a national monument) to bring the proposal before a legislative committee “for feedback.” When Summit County and Park City both passed resolutions opposing the proposed takeover of America’s public lands by the State of Utah, both councils included provisions supporting the protection of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments. Under the proposed bill any county or city passing a similar resolution would have to notify the Legislature’s Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Committee.

While H.B. 136 had been watered down before passing the Utah House in February (as of this writing it had not passed the full Legislature), it appears to be in part a response to our Keep Public Lands in Public Hands campaign. Rep. Noel, a strong proponent of the prerogatives local governments, seems intent on chilling the free-speech rights of those in local government who support the protection of public lands.

It’s important to push back. Contact your local city and county representatives and urge them to take a stand in support of maintaining “our glorious national heritage” and its stewardship by the American people. You can volunteer for this campaign by contacting Lawson LeGate at lawson.legat@gmail.com. For more information go to <https://utah.sierraclub.org/keep-public-lands-public-hands-campaign>.

VolunteerSpotlight by Patty Becnel



Bill Cutting

Every person who volunteers with Sierra Club Utah is a vital part of the organization, but Bill Cutting’s expertise in marketing found a special niche when he joined the Fundraising and Communications Committees over a year ago. An expert in branding, and as the founder/director of Brand Strategy for TWIO, Bill was immediately instrumental in designing and donating a “container” as he calls it, for printed materials used to inform the public and potential donors of the important work of Sierra Club Utah. He and his team also provided input and graphic files to Jeff Clay and Nathan Gilbert as they revamped the chapter website, and recently joined National Sierra Club as they unveiled their new brand, moving from a strictly environmental organization to one that encompasses a wider range of ethical issues. “That’s all I’ve done,” he says modestly.

Bill goes on to describe the container/folder he created. Ian Wade, fundraising chairman, asked him to develop a brochure that could be used to solicit donations, and would highlight the specific work of the Utah Chapter. After defining the purpose and the goals, Bill went to work creating a folder of sorts that should last up to five years and contained space for short and long-term fact sheets. Since the information was specific to Utah, he used a painting of desert rock done by a friend for the cover. “Then my marketing experience kicked in,” Bill explained, and his friend agreed to create a second painting for a future cover. Bill’s company also donated all the design and work involved.

Bill, a compact, energetic man, has a long list of other ways he has donated his time and expertise in the area (The Green Bike program is one of them), but Donald Trump’s presidency and Bill’s semi-retirement convinced him to move from sympathizer to activist with an environmental organization. Sierra Club seemed the most organized and volunteer based, though he has seen great changes in the past year as the Utah chapter moved from “a sleepy little group to a well-structured and immediately effective organization.”

Growing up in Michigan, Bill was impressed

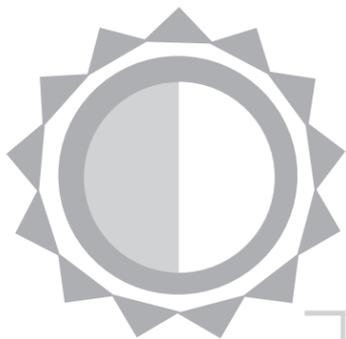
when he saw his first snow-covered mountains in a family vacation to a dude ranch during his teen years, but he attributes a trip to California between his sophomore and junior years of college as “formative” in his love of the outdoors. For three weeks he worked with a film crew in the Sierra Nevada mountains, Yosemite, and King’s Canyon during the 1980s, “creating a beautiful cinematography with no other purpose than to highlight the beauty of our surrounding,” taking only pictures and leaving no footprints. Even though the film was never published, after this Bill knew he wanted to move West, which he did as a graduate from University of Michigan forty-two years ago. He met and married his wife here, and they have two adult children and a big golden retriever. Now that he is retired, he wants to be even more active, pursuing his many hobbies to travel, mountain and road bike, play blue grass guitar and fly fish.

Bill stresses the need for all of us, no matter what our situation, to look at the whole picture and the long term when making decisions. He believes that if our president would “shut his mouth, and put on some hiking boots, a pair of baggy shorts and a t-shirt – hike through the wilderness, sleep in a tent and do something that is actually greater than himself, he too, would see the importance of our beautiful lands” and the reason we need to fight to protect them. But with a smile, Bill also remembers the words of a couple he overheard in California as they looked over a mountain range, “If you’ve seen one mountain, you’ve seen them all.”

Obviously, he can’t understand this as he points to the pictures of the Utah National Parks lining the walls in the SC office: Canyonlands, Arches, Zion, Capitol Reef and the beauty they hold. “How can you look at that and not be moved?” he asks. “The precious nature of these lands that we’re surrounded by demand protection. Every individual needs to decide for him or herself how he can protect them.”

Lucky for us, Bill Cutting has decided to work with Sierra Club Utah to protect our lands.

OnEnergy



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.

Utah Sierra Club members and supporters receive best-in-region pricing and a quality install from our select partner, Creative Energies. It's good for the planet, good for the Sierra Club and great for you. Go solar today!

sierraclub solar.org



The Latest Scoop on Rooftop Solar

By Stan Holmes

What's up with rooftop solar power in Utah? Does it still make sense to put panels on your roof or business, given recent developments at the state and national levels? Who's in charge of solar energy's future in one of America's sunniest states? And, what is the Sierra Club's stake in all of this?

This article should answer those questions, plus a few more that Utah Sierrans might have in mind.

First of all, solar power is alive and well in Utah. The Solar Foundation's (TSF) recently released 2017 Solar Jobs Census reports that the number of solar industry jobs rose 40% from 2016 through 2017, for a total of 6,170. This compares with roughly 2,000 coal industry jobs, according to the Utah Office of Energy Development. TSF ranks Utah at #4 nationally for solar jobs per capita.

Things didn't always look so bright for solar power in Utah. 2014 saw the first attempt by the state's lead utility, Rocky Mountain Power (RMP), to impose a monthly surcharge on its rooftop solar "net-metering" customers. Those customers receive a monthly credit when their exported solar electricity exceeds what they've imported from the grid. The skirmish that ensued at the Public Service Commission (PSC), community forums, and the press pitted the Sierra Club and other pro-solar groups against the Berkshire Hathaway-owned RMP.

Here's a summary of what happened next: The PSC ruled that RMP's surcharge

was unjustified and ordered a solar cost-benefit study to determine whether any net-metering rate change would be "just and reasonable." The utility conducted a study that was found to be flawed, but in 2016 sought to impose an even more punitive set of solar surcharges anyway. Solar industry advocates cried "foul," the governor's office got involved, and a series of multi-party negotiations continued well into 2017.

By September 2017, an agreement had been reached and approved by the PSC. As the Fall 2017 Utah Sierran noted, the new net-metering scheme lets RMP customers with rooftop solar installed before November 15, 2017 keep the current compensation rate until 2035. Systems installed from Nov. 15 on get a slightly lower, fixed credit rate (9.2 cents per kWh) until 2032 and are charged new application and meter fees. Entry to this "transition" group ends when an aggregate 170 MW is reached or the PSC sets a new compensation rate. Post-transition rooftop solar will then be credited at the new rate. Additional information is available online at rooftopsolar.utah.gov.

Some challenges remain. With the state legislature's recent approval, Utah's solar tax credit will decline until its elimination at the end of 2023. 2018 sees the first drop to a \$1,600 credit. In addition, solar panels will become more expensive thanks to the Trump Administration's decision to impose a 30% tariff. However, Utah solar installer Creative Energies (a Utah Chapter

partner) maintains that the import fee will only result in a cost increase of around 5% since the panels account for a small fraction of total system costs.

Meanwhile, back at the PSC, the fat lady has yet to sing. Last year's agreement with RMP calls on the utility to redo its cost-benefit study. That study will be part of the new export credit proceeding (Docket #17-035-61) the PSC has opened to oversee the long-term valuation of "customer generated" (esp. rooftop solar) electricity. This proceeding will end with the PSC establishing a new rate structure that will apply first to post-transition rooftop solar customers, then to all residential customers generating clean energy after 2035. It could have a rippling effect on other rate classes.

Anyone contemplating a solar investment has an interest in the outcome of this PSC docket. And anyone NOT contemplating a solar investment has an interest in this docket's outcome. Say what??

As suggested earlier, the PSC's decision could influence future utility rates for several RMP customer classes: solar and non-solar. So, we all have an economic stake in this. More importantly, the docket's final valuation of renewable (esp. solar) energy will certainly influence the pace of clean energy growth in Utah. Renewable energy means a cleaner environment, healthier Utahns, and a stronger economy. But today, two-thirds of RMP's electricity is generated by burning

OnEnergy

Rooftop Solar

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coal. Solar provides less than 2%; and the carbon-invested RMP powers-that-be prefer to keep solar's growth limited to corporate run facilities.

A too-low valuation of solar energy by the PSC would arbitrarily inflate the value of RMP's fossil fuel assets while stunting the expansion of clean energy. To their credit, though, the Commissioners have given the Sierra Club and our clean energy allies an opportunity to ensure that the true value of solar is reflected in a new energy export compensation rate that is "just and reasonable."

While the PSC in 2015 accepted RMP's request to ignore rooftop solar's "global health, social and environmental benefits" in utility ratemaking, its 2017 order establishing the export credit docket agreed that nothing from the earlier docket would be precedential in the new proceeding. "Parties may present evidence addressing reasonably quantifiable costs or benefits or other considerations they deem relevant," including "environmental compliance and other considerations."

An informal workgroup session on May 14 will provide a forum for advocating the inclusion of "externalities": those societal and environmental costs that have until now been shifted from the utility to the general public.

Utah's ongoing debate over rooftop solar has another element that could facilitate Sierra Club partnerships with communities traditionally marginalized from energy and environmental policymaking. The agreement with RMP includes consideration of a new low income solar program this year. Chapter staff and volunteers are aware of programs in other states that have brought solar power to minority and low income communities. Civic organizations like the NAACP have embraced "just energy transition" policies that resonate with the Sierra Club's commitment to environmental justice.

The takeaway: Now is a good time to purchase a rooftop solar system. Check with our business partner, Creative Energies, for details. It's a good time to volunteer with one of the Chapter activities tracking renewable energy policymaking at the PSC, the legislature, and other venues. And, it's a good time to get involved with our community education outreach efforts through the Utah Needs Clean Energy team. Contact Lindsay Beebe, Carly Ferro, or Utah Needs Clean Energy Team Leader, Stan Holmes (stholmes3@xmission.com) if you'd like more information.



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UTAH YOUTH CALL FOR CLIMATE ACTION ON CAPITOL HILL

By Lindsay Beebe



LINDSAY BEEBE



▲ Rep. Steve Handy (R - Layton) and Students discuss climate change.



If someone told you that the Utah State Legislature would open their 2018 session with panel discussion focused explicitly on addressing climate change, and that the event was well attended by republican lawmakers, would you believe it? According to the Yale Climate Opinion Survey, only 43% of Utahns believe climate change is real and caused by humans. The Sierra Club is committed to building capacity for climate communication and providing the mentorship and momentum for climate activists to continue to change the perspectives of the climate-denying majority. Our work to educate and advocate for issues related to climate change is having an impact.

On Thursday, January 20th, the Sierra Club worked with high school and college students from across the state to organize the "Climate Solutions for a Healthy Future" panel discussion. This panel, the first of its kind in the state, aimed to bridge the gap between conservative and progressive views on climate change by emphasizing our shared values of stewardship and responsibility to future generations. Over the past year our organizing staff has continuously worked with a dedicated group of student organizers from Logan High School, West High School, Utah State University, The University of Utah, and a number of other partner groups, to build relationships and trust with Utah decision-makers, movers, and shakers. The success of this collaboration is evidenced by the unprecedented gathering of legislators and

▲ At the Utah State Capitol, Students and Legislators engage in lively discussion about the reality of climate change, and our responsibility to address the root causes of the issue.



▲ Organizing Coalition, from top left: Rep. Ray Ward, Tom Moyer of CCL, Lindsay Beebe of Sierra Club, Mike Squires of Mia Love's Office, Lauren Barros of CCL, Rep. Joel Briscoe, Rep. Becky Edwards, Piper Christian Student Organizer, Mishka Banuri Student Organizer, Libby Hansen Student Organizer.

◀ Panelists from left to right: Moderator Mike Squires of Congresswoman Mia Love's Office, Mark Burdge Former CEO of Evergreen Clean Energy, Anna Wilder President of BYU Climate Change Club, Dr. Rob Davies Professor of Physics at Utah State University Climate Center, Jeff Silivstrini Mayor of Millcreek, Dr. Laura Nelson Director of the Governor's Office of Energy Development.

students on January 20th, and the subsequent success of Rep. Becky Edward's "Concurrent Resolution on Environmental and Economic Stewardship."

The keynote welcome address was provided by Congresswoman Mia Love via video, and the panel included representatives from state and local government, academia, and technology sectors. Over 100 people packed the room, including 20 state legislators and over 40 high-school and college students. The format of the event allowed students to directly engage Utah decision-makers in productive one-on-one discussions about the reality of climate change and how local Utah policy can address the issue.

This pioneering event came at the beginning of Utah's 45-day whirlwind legislative session, just in time to provide important context for the republican-sponsored resolution on climate change. The resolution, introduced by Rep. Becky Edward (R- N. Salt Lake) was directly inspired by a similar resolution drafted by the students and introduced during the 2017 legislative session. The "Concurrent Resolution on Environmental and Economic Stewardship" officially recognizes the role of greenhouse gas emissions on climate change and the responsibility of the state government to address the issue. It represents a sea change of opinion and provides a counter-narrative to the current official stance of the State Legislature, which is currently stated in a 2009 resolution that questions the validity of confirmed climate science.

OurVote

Help End Gerrymandering in Utah

by Nathan Gilbert

According to Colorado University's "Conservation in the West" 2018 survey, 76% of Utahns self-identify as conservationists and outdoor recreation enthusiasts[1]. Why is this preference for conservation and the outdoor recreation economy not reflected in our State House and our Congressional delegation? A whopping 88% of Utahns think protecting water supplies is a serious problem. Several bills introduced in the 2018 legislative session attempted to eat away at the water conservation and preservation powers various municipalities have across the state.

We believe this disconnect between the stated priorities of Utah's electorate and their elected officials stems from hubris and freedom from accountability. Over 20% of elections since the latest redistricting in 2011 have gone uncontested. This means that only a single candidate was on the ballot for over a fifth of the legislative races since the last census. A study by the Associated Press said the 2011 redistricting gave Republicans a distinct advantage in 2016. Republicans controlled 83% of the seats in the State Legislature after the election, but only received around 64% of the vote in those races.[2] Regardless of your political affiliation, that's a sizable gap between the number of votes received, and seats won.

The **Better Boundaries Initiative**[3] is a proposed ballot measure for the 2018 election to institute an independent commission to prescribe redistricting standards. The Utah Chapter has endorsed this ballot measure and is working with the organizers in *Utahns for Responsible Government* to get it on the ballot and then ensure its passage. Ex-SLC Mayor Ralph Becker, and Republican Jeff Wright are the

bipartisan co-chairs of *Utahns for Responsible Government* and have been directing the efforts to promote the initiative.

To get on the 2018 ballot, the initiative needs 113,143 verified signatures from 26 of the 29 State Senate districts. *Utahns for Responsible Government* is working with another group to this end, *Grassroots Utah*, which is a professional canvassing organization enlisted to help with signature gathering in addition to a cadre of volunteers.

What would the initiative do?

The borders of the 4 Congressional Districts, the State House and Senate and state school board are created and voted upon by the State Legislature subject to the Governor's veto. The Better Boundaries Initiative creates a commission made of up of Republicans, Democrats, and Independents that would propose fair redistricting guidelines, an alternative proposal for districts. The ultimate goal is to separate the process of creating districts from the same people who will be running to represent them. The will stop elected officials from picking their voters and put it the other way around as it should be.

Attempts to create an independent redistricting commission in Utah have been made in the past. Representative Rebecca Chavez-Houck (HD-24) sponsored HB411 in 2016, but it was defeated in the House.

Why does the Sierra Club care?

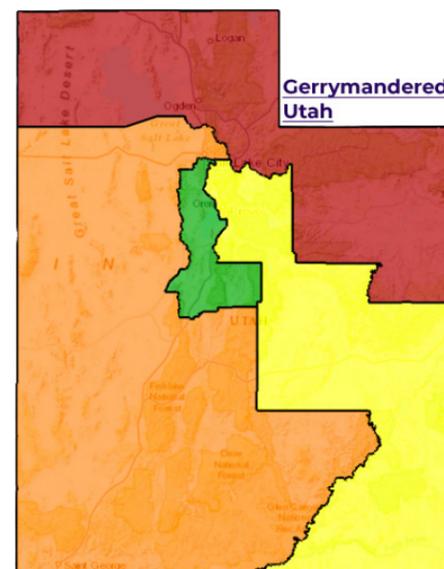
There are several times more registered Republicans than Democrats in Utah, but that doesn't mean it's fair or ethical to deny or strip away representation. Democratic voters are "stacked" into overwhelmingly Democratic districts in the parts of Salt

Lake City or "cracked" in the way that the 4 Congressional districts split Salt Lake County. Utah ranks near the bottom of the states in voter participation[4]. Evidence shows that more competitive elections motivate more people to show up at the polls.[5] Increasing race competitiveness is likely to benefit both parties by producing candidates that must more accurately reflect their constituency and they are not guaranteed victory simply because of party affiliation. Since the redistricting after the 2010 census, very few State House races have been decided by 5% or less, and almost no State Senate races have been that close.

The National Sierra Club through their Democracy Program[6] project is promoting fair elections and better representation that aligns with the Utah Chapter's support of the Better Boundaries effort. The purpose of the Democracy Program is to build an equitable, inclusive and participatory democracy where everyone has a voice. To achieve climate justice, protect our air, our water and to make the just transition to 100% clean energy we need to ensure that every community has access to the levers of power. This means equal representation, making sure everyone can vote and lastly encouraging people to vote. Through our efforts to support initiatives like Better Boundaries, the Utah Chapter is fighting the power of polluter money in state and local politics.

What can you do?

The signatures in support of Better Boundaries being on the 2018 ballot must be turned in by April 15th. We need support in gathering signatures in various locations across the state, specifically Park City, Riverton, Draper, Magna, West Valley, Taylorsville, Logan and St. George. If



A majority party-led process has allowed Utah to become a classic gerrymandered state.

you are interested in helping the Chapter and *Grassroots Utah* collect signatures or help in any other way, please contact us at sierraclubutah.political@gmail.com.

[1] https://www.coloradocollege.edu/other/stateoftherockies/conservationinthewest/2018/reports/ConservationintheWest_2018_StateFactSheet_Utah.pdf

[2] <http://archive.slttrib.com/article.php?id=5441875&ctype=CMSID>

[3] <http://betterboundaries.org/>

[4] <https://www.deseretnews.com/article/900003621/voting-off-to-slow-start-tuesday-in-salt-lake-utah-counties.html>

[5] <https://www.brookings.edu/book/get-out-the-vote-how-to-increase-voter-turnout/>

[6] <https://www.sierraclub.org/democracy>

Legislative Session

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

this time to EnergySolutions. The bill gives them a break in fees to the tune of \$1.7 million dollars and interestingly comes just before their bid to bring Depleted Uranium, an extremely long-lived nuclear waste byproduct, to the state of Utah.

HB373 - Waste Management Amendments by Rep. Lee Perry (R- Brigham City) allows for all solid waste landfills in the state to now self inspect, including the new Class V solid waste cells that EnergySolutions and Promontory Point LLC are pursuing. This may have serious impacts on the availability of government records and diminishes DEQ oversight.

HB272 - Utah Lake Amendments by Rep. McKell (R-Spanish Fork) narrowly passed by one vote, but not before the Utah Sierra Club, Utah Rivers Council, and Audubon Society gave it a run for its money. We fought this bad bill which aims to create an island development in the middle of Utah Lake, which will somehow magically improve water quality. Invest in your lakefront lot today!

SB191 - State Regulation of Oil and Gas by Sen. VanTassell (R- Vernal) now restricts any local municipality from being able to create any more protective regulations on oil

and gas drilling in their community.

HJR1 - Joint Resolution Urging Exemption from the Antiquities Act from Rep. Albrecht (R - Moab) passed and now sends the wrong signal to congress about Utah's love for our public lands. We proudly stood with our allies at Utah Dine Bikeyah to fight this terrible resolution.

SCR8 - Concurrent Resolution in Support of the Creation of a New National Park from Sen. Okerlund (R-Monroe) which supports Rep. Stewart's codification of President Trump's new boundaries for Grand Staircase Escalante. The resolution was moved to the Governor's desk, but not before Rep. Noel kindly decided to give a shout out to the Utah Sierra Club's opposition on the House floor. He closed remarks stating "The Sierra Club opposes this bill for many reasons" -- Well Rep. Noel, you're darn right we do!

So there you have it, the full conservation rundown for the 2018 Legislative Session, from those of us fighting every day to protect and preserve Utah!



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

LEGAL STATUS OF THREATS TO BEARS EARS AND GRAND STAIRCASE ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENTS

Jeff Kramer

In December 2017, the Sierra Club, in partnership with many other conservation organizations, filed two lawsuits in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia challenging President Trump's proclamations revoking monument status from two million acres of public land in the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase Escalante National Monuments. These extraordinary Trumpian orders strip critical legal protections from lands of extraordinary archaeological, cultural, scientific and scenic value, exposing them to

destruction from mining, drilling, looting, off-roading, and vandalism. The lawsuits parallel similar lawsuits filed by a coalition of Native American tribes who were instrumental in the creation of the Bears Ears National Monument. The lawsuits argue primarily that Trump's proclamations are without any legal authority, because although the Antiquities Act authorizes presidents to designate national monuments to protect important historic, cultural and scientific national resources, it contains no authorization for presidents to

revoke such protections, which may only be done through Congressional legislation. The Trump administration's first response to these lawsuits has been a motion to transfer them 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 proclamations than the court in the nation's capital. The Sierra Club and its partners contend these lawsuits raise issues that are not parochial to Utah, but rather of national importance, and are opposing this transfer.

So Much to Save

by Kirsten Johanna Allen



Public lands – preserving their wonders, anyway – is my passion, but with all the political difficulties and human tragedies that crowd the headlines, is public lands a reasonable place to focus life energy and precious time? The Parkland, Florida, shooting victims were just laid to rest. New immigration enforcement separates families, and the threat of nuclear war is higher than any time since the Cold War. Arctic sea ice reached record lows this January, and species extinction now occurs at record highs. The Utah Legislature can't pass laws to prevent early deaths and health problems caused by polluted air. The world's oceans are drowning in plastics. The problems loom large, the challenges easily overwhelm, and it's hard to see how to make a difference. Nationwide, Giving USA reports that only 3% of a record-breaking \$390 billion total in charitable giving went to Animals/Environment, so there's not exactly a tidal wave of resources devoted to conservation work, let alone the subset of public lands preservation. Nonetheless, from my work at Torrey House Press where we promote conservation through literature to my board service at Sierra Club Utah and Wild Utah Project, fighting to protect public lands from privatization and development is where most of my time and energy goes. Will it help?

I'm fortunate to divide my time between Holladay and Torrey, Utah, and from either one, I can get to a hiking trail within minutes. Whether I'm in the hip-high wildflowers of the Wasatch Mountains in July or taking in the soul-searing beauty of redrock against a blue October sky, the public lands in Utah are a blessing I'm grateful for every day. But the more time I'm out, the more I understand the threats first hand. Last month, my spouse, Mark Bailey, and I visited the San Rafael Swell, hoping to camp at the campground near the river. But somebody's cows were having their way with the place, so we moved on, annoyed at both the pollution of a public campground and the decimation of the native bunchgrasses that should have painted the landscape in muted grays and browns of winter in the desert.

Months earlier, while exploring the canyons and mesas of the original Bears Ears National Monument, I peered out over the now-unprotected landscape scattered, we now know thanks to a New York Times lawsuit and investigation, with parcels considered for oil and gas exploration.

The extraction interests, who control Utah's governments at every level and who now have the Department of the Interior at their service, threaten the wildlife dependent on upland aspen stands, wide sage steppe lands, wetlands of all kinds, not to

mention the invaluable cultural wonders left by the areas earlier residents over several thousand years and preserved thanks to the West's sparkling aridity. Folks have been fighting the threats for decades before I joined their ranks, and though contributions to animal/environment groups increased by 7% in 2016, conservation groups share a tiny slice of the country's charitable giving even while the environment is taking an enormous hit with the White House announcing new roll-backs in protections almost weekly and Utah's politicians find ever new ways to try to turn over control of public lands to the states and private interests.

But there's this. While states east of the hundredth meridian are almost completely privately held, with many ecosystems and species either wiped out or inaccessible, two-thirds of lands in Utah are still federally managed, owned by all Americans and held in trust for the entire planet. As Sierra Club Utah Organizer Carly Ferro put it recently, "There's still so much we *can* still protect in Utah." We have mountains, redrock canyons, and the wide-open spaces of the Great Basin right here available to everyone to explore, understand, love, and, yes, protect.

There's a lot to care about, an awful lot to do, and it's hard to see bright spots, especially in conservation, especially in Utah. But there's still an awful lot to save.



WHERE



HAVE



YOU



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OurClimate

ARTivism: Mobilizing the Climate Justice Movement

By Lindsay Beebe

The Sierra Club and our partners at the Utah University Humanities Department, Wasatch and Canyon Country Rising Tide, the Beehive Design Collective, and SUWA organized an all-day art and storytelling symposium at the University of Utah on January 20th, entitled “ARTivism: Mobilizing the Climate Justice Movement.” The event was attended by over 120 people throughout the day, and included workshops on many different forms of expression and climate messaging including; storytelling, dance, song, screen printing, and banner making.

The art build resulted in over 200 flags, banners, flags, and patches that will be utilized in upcoming climate justice actions. Participants came to learn new skills about how to message and visualize climate justice themes, and left energized with a renewed sense of community. Here at the Utah Sierra Club we have been working hard to help build volunteer capacity to be able to creatively and effectively message climate change issues in Utah. Stay connected with the Utah Chapter and don't miss your next opportunity to join the movement!



ARTWORK BY: EASTON SMITH



1) Activists joined from across the Colorado Plateau and Utah, bringing energy and experience in numerous climate campaigns and non-violent direct actions around water use, fracking, coal and coal ash, oil shale, pipelines, and human migration.

2) Student organizer Mishka Banuri paints a “Defend our Future” flag, specifically designed for this workshop and created by local artist and organizer Sarah Stock.

3) The messages explored during the workshop included themes of Just Transition, fossil fuel extraction, and forced climate migration, as displayed by these two flags.

4) The Symposium featured an interactive screen-printing workshop as evidenced by the patches at left, as well as a storytelling workshop, live music, and live dance and art demonstrations, and a panel discussion with local change-makers and national climate movement artist David Solnit.

OurLand

Utah is Ground Zero

by Carly Ferro

While the legislative session kept our Chapter Director/Wonder Woman lobbyist busy, our volunteers and citizen activists have been setting the pace for 2018 -- and it is at full throttle.

The Utah Chapter's powerhouse roster of volunteers and activists are making waves with, already, thousands of online actions taken and hundreds engaging at public meetings, press conferences, and lobbying to protect Utah's land, water, airshed, and wildlife.

We have said it before: Utah is ground zero for many environmental issues, and the legislative session proves that our Utah legislature is in lockstep with our federal administration, but we experience bright spots that demonstrate the power of the grassroots movement in Utah. We continue to be met with obstacles, but with our foundation rooted in science, and driven by values of stewardship, community, and equity the movement to protect Utah's life outside builds strength and adds depth to its bench. And it starts with you.

MONUMENTAL ACTIVISM

Over the past few months, our public lands continue to take center stage. We have seen movement of dangerous bills that would codify the reduced boundaries for our beloved monuments; the continued roll-back of public engagement in the public process for oil and gas leasing; and the forward momentum of the Bureau of Land Management to begin planning for land use of Bears Ears and the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments as defined by Trump's unlawful proclamations. However, you continue to speak up and out in opposition.

On December 12, 2017, over 250 Utahns braved the unhealthy air quality and cold temperatures to protest Rep. Chris Stewart's H.R. 4558. The press conference, organized by Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, Sierra Club Utah, National Parks Conservation Association, and Grand Staircase-Escalante Partners spotlighted "how the Utah delegation continues to ignore the will of those of whom they were elected to represent," summed up by Ashley Soltysiak, Sierra Club Utah Director. The press conference was a testament that it is Utahns and Southern Utah locals that do not want this bill or any legislation passed that would shrink the 1.86 million acre monument and undermine its unique composition of archaeological, biological, and cultural resources. As Scotty Berry, Co-owner of Boulder Mountain Lodge in Boulder, UT mentioned, "if you believe the political establishment in Utah, all the locals oppose the monument. As a local, that is not true; it is a falsehood." He said that the real problem they experience near the monument, is that they cannot find enough people to work in the towns because the tourist season continues to grow!

You can watch the livestream here: <http://bit.ly/2tOW9hE> We also picked up some media via Deseret News (<http://bit.ly/2p99Xyx>), SF Gate (<http://bit.ly/2FP096h>) and CT Post (<http://bit.ly/2GqztaA>).

Then again, on January 9, 2018, hundreds of Utahns flooded the Utah State Capitol Rotunda to support national monuments, again, and oppose H.R. 4532 (Rep. John Curtis). The conference followed the bill's hearing (<http://bit.ly/2FEyDVO>) in the House Committee on Natural Resources where Congressman Bishop touted that he wanted Congress and Tribal nations to work together on a management plan for Bears Ears. In response to the hearing, tribal leaders and community groups outlined the negative impacts the bill would have on Bears Ears protection.

In 2018, the work to protect our public lands including our cherished national monuments has only just begun. March marks an oil and gas lease sale with parcels available adjacent to three of the State's national monuments, and will likely present an opportunity to attend public meetings to speak out against the reckless land use planning. Be sure to join us on March 20th at 12 pm with Utah Dine Bikeyah and Sierra Club Executive Director, Michael Brune outside the BLM State Office 440 W 200 S 84101 to discuss the injustices and absurdities of the oil and gas leases and hard rock mining opportunities made available on our public lands. Show up early and bring your signs!

You can also take action at utah.sierraclub.org/gsenm-addup and <http://utah.sierraclub.org/benm-addup>.

Recently, we also caught wind about four additional opportunities to show your support for national monuments. The BLM is hosting four public scoping meetings for "new" monument plans. If you can, join the conversations!

BLM PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

Two for Bears Ears National Monument:

Monday, March 26 4:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
San Juan High School, 311 North 100
East Blanding, UT 84511

-or-

Tuesday, March 27 4:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Bluff Community Center 3rd East and Mulberry Bluff Rd.
Bluff, UT 84512

Bears Ears RSVP: <http://utah.sierraclub.org/benm-blm-scoping>

Two for Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument:

Wednesday, March 28 4:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Kanab Middle School 690 South Cowboy Way,
Kanab, UT 84741

-or-

Thursday, March 29 4:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Canyon Country Lodge, 760 East Highway 12,
Escalante, UT 84726

RSVP: <http://utah.sierraclub.org/gsenm-blm-scoping>

A BRIGHT POINT FOR ACTIVISM

Utah's Great Salt Lake is a significant natural resource, economic driver, and a recreation mecca. The lake's future continues to face threats and on the shores of the Great Salt Lake, in Box Elder County, sits a potential threat to the state's iconic resource. Promontory Point Resources, LLC, applied for a Class V waste permit for their landfill — a permit specifically designed to accept waste from out of state. In short, if this type of permit were acquired, the landfill would be able to accept coal ash and other dangerous wastes including small quantities of hazardous generator waste. However, through an incredible collaborative demonstration, citizens and local business owners with the Sierra Club Utah, Friends of Great Salt Lake, HEAL Utah, and Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment banded together and were able to influence the project to press pause!

The Sierra Club Utah's efforts began with one of our fantastic interns digging into the details and reaching out to groups and individuals that have been engaging with the project for over a year. Her efforts transformed into a team of organizations meeting to help broaden the conversation and public awareness about the impending threat to the Lake. From letters to the editor, op-eds, to public meetings -- with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) engagement-- the opposition culminated and influenced Promontory officials to deliver a letter to the DEQ to halt the review process "until further notice." Three public meetings took place at Westminster University, Weber State University, and Utah State University. The sessions filled with people echoing concern for public and ecological health while questioning the review process. The energies were high, and the message was received. While this pause is a successful chapter, it is not the end of the story.

The pull of the permit review was not a final withdrawal; we do anticipate this permit will resurface. All hands on deck! You can join the conversation and help defend the health of the public and the Great Salt Lake by signing the petition <https://www.addup.org/campaigns/no-landfill-on-the-great-salt-lake>.

By signing, you will also be kept apprised of "what's happening" with the project and informed about engagement opportunities.

For more background about Promontory Point, LLC and the class V permit, please visit, <http://www.standard.net/Environment/2018/02/04/How-would-the-Promontory-Landfill-benefit-most-Utahns-Not-much>.

CLIMATE OF HOPE

By Michael Bloomberg and Carl Pope

Book Review by Amy Mills

Feeling uneasy about Washington's inaction on climate change? The real game-changers might be you and your mayor.

I'm skeptical about any book about the problem of climate change with the word "hope" in the title. After all, hope isn't a strategy, and if anything can be done about climate change it will take strategy and

a lot of action. So with that reservation, I read Michael Bloomberg and Carl Pope's "Climate of Hope" and was relieved to find much more than hope behind the title. Bloomberg, entrepreneur and former New York City mayor, and coauthor Carl Pope, environmental advocate and former head of the Sierra Club, make a convincing case for how cities, businesses, and citizens can lead the way on combatting climate change. It's an empowering message, when the country seems to be faced with inaction and even recalcitrance at the national level. This book puts forward a spectrum of practical solutions, many of which are already in progress with or without political leadership.

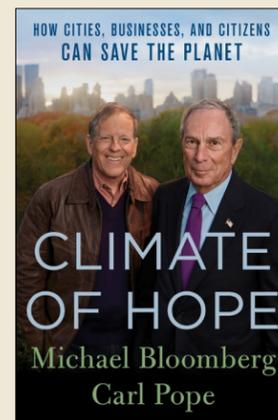
Bloomberg, a vocal opponent of coal-fired power plants, emphasizes that they are not only a major source of damaging greenhouse gas emissions, they are no longer an economical source of power and must be retired. He has generously supported Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign, which aims to do just that. He contends that renewable energy has begun to out-compete coal. Similarly, he points out, gasoline-burning vehicles are responsible for a large percentage of global fossil fuel emissions, but the increasing economy of zero emission vehicles will soon make the internal combustion engine obsolete. Further, he points out that energy companies profit from the extraction and burning of fossil fuels, while the public bears the cost of subsequent health, environmental, and infrastructure impacts.

The book highlights the role of cities. It contends that cities are on the front lines of climate change, both in terms of producing greenhouse gas emissions and bearing the consequences. Many cities are located along the coasts where they're vulnerable to rising seas and stronger storms. Mayors are therefore key players in developing local incentives and regulations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Urban measures can be taken to reduce traffic congestion through public transit, and constructing or retrofitting buildings to be more energy-efficient.

Carl Pope asserts that the natural environment provides some of our best hedges against climate change. For example, trees and other vegetation sequester carbon, while dunes and mangroves protect shorelines. He points out that we as citizens can support local initiatives to protect aspects of the natural environment that provide these environmental services.

It seemed to me that the book's emphasis on local solutions didn't quite square with some national problems. Despite less emphasis by the authors on federal regulation it's hard to see how local initiatives can address the national issues the book mentions such as the need for energy transparency in the economy or fossil fuel companies receiving federal subsidies and influencing government decision-makers.

Overall, the authors urge everyday citizens, businesses, and civic leaders to change the tenor of the climate discussion from hand-wringing and doomsday predictions toward practical problem-solving. Many examples are provided of successful and beneficial projects and programs underway. I would have liked to see more references to peer-reviewed publications to back up some of their statements, but in general this book is a valuable resource for anyone interested in being part of the climate solution.



UtahChapterOutings

MARCH–JUNE 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.

March

GCG Sat 3/31 Above Corona Arch. Hike the Culvert Canyon trail that curves eastward and connects with Poison Spider trails. Loop to an overlook directly above Corona Arch. From there the hike connects with the Portal Trail to highway 279. Length around 9 miles. Thousand foot climb to start. Three hundred foot descent to the Bootlegger rim, then back up on the way out. Auto shuttle will be required. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 9:00 AM. Leader: Michael Stringham 435-259-8579 mikechrista@earthlink.net.

April

SLG Tues 4/10 Alexander Creek in Parleys Canyon. Join us for the year's first Tuesday evening hike! Spring-fed Alexander Creek borders the Mountain Dell golf course and runs east into a hidden canyon designated as a county preserve as part of the 2002 Olympics. Beaver ponds, dens and animal tracks are some of the special rewards of this hike. This hike would be rated easy for people who hike regularly. Meet promptly at 6:00 p.m. at the Parley's Way Walmart parking lot, 2705 Parleys Way in Salt Lake. Look for us just west of the Bombay House Restaurant. Contact organizer Rebecca Wallace at rebeccawallace38@msn.com or call 801 557-5261 for questions.

SLG 4/12-15 Capitol Reef Campout. At capacity with waiting list, for details see online listing or contact leader, Fred Swanson (fbswan32@msn.com).

SLG Sat-Sun 4/14-15 Service Project in San Rafael Swell. We will be working on rehabbing a barrier in Wild Horse Creek in the Crack Canyon WSA. Actually it is not a creek at this point but the drainage does cut through the San Rafael Reef. This is sort of an industrial recreation area, very popular with the mechanized crowd. Hence the need for some TLC. The BLM will reserve the pavilion at a developed camp site just inside the Reef near the road that goes to Goblin valley. We will work on the barricade Saturday and enjoy Sunday someplace fun along the Reef. Due to the nature of the work the trip is limited to 8 people. Contact Will McCarvill at will@commercialchemistries.com or 801-694-6958 to register. Typically mid-April will have pleasant days and cool nights. Expect a dry camp so bring your food and water. It is best to drive down Friday afternoon or evening as it will take about 3 ½ hours to get there. Bring work gloves and shoes, tools and construction materials will be provided by the BLM. Cosponsored by the Wasatch Mountain Club.

SLG Tues 4/17 The Living Room. The Living Room is an outcropping of rocks carved partly by nature, mostly by human hands into comfortable living room furniture overlooking the Salt Lake Valley and the Great Salt Lake. From trailhead to destination is about 1-1/2 miles of moderately steep hiking but well worth the effort. Meet at 6:00 pm on Colorow Rd. in the University of Utah Research Park, south of Tabby Lane where Colorow goes uphill. This is about ¼ mile south of the

entrance to Red Butte Gardens and north of the entrance to Huntsman Chemical. Leader: Cory Fischer, coryf5555@gmail.com.

GCG Sat 4/21 South Portal Domes. Go up the Moab Rim jeep track from the Kane Springs Road to the rim. Visit petroglyphs on the south side of the Navajo Dome on the way to upper Moonflower. Get up on the Navajo slickrock and work over and among the domes to the east end to overlook the valley. Sweeping views all around. Nine hundred feet up the jeep track and couple of hundred more feet on the domes. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 9:00 AM. Leader: Michael Stringham (435) 259-8579 mikechrista@earthlink.net.

SLG Sat 4/21 Hike and Sketch, Little Mtn. Trail. Spend the morning practicing your sketching skills in the beautiful setting of upper Emigration Canyon. All abilities are welcome, it's for fun! We'll hike a half hour or so to a good viewpoint along the trail to Little Mtn., where we'll settle in for an hour opportunity to capture the canyon's beauty. Bring a sketchbook, pen, sit-pad & warm clothes, including gloves. (For experienced sketchers, bring whatever you normally use, colored pencil, pastel, etc.) Although this is not a class, friendly advice is available. Meet promptly at 9:30 a.m. at the parking lot on the south side of Sunnyside Ave at the intersection of Crestview Drive, east of the Hogle Zoo lot. A stone monument with an eagle on top marks the spot. Please RSVP to the trip organizer for further details and to confirm that the trip is going in case of inclement weather (Bessann Swanson, bessannswansonart@hotmail.com or call (801) 588-0361). Non-artists are welcome to come along with Fred and continue up Little Mountain.

SLG Tues 4/24 Rattlesnake Gulch (Mill Creek). This popular trail climbs up to the Pipeline Trail not far from the entry gate to Mill Creek Canyon. The hike begins with a moderate initial ascent, then levels out to follow the route of an old water pipeline, offering great views of the canyon and the Salt Lake Valley. The hike is relatively easy, a great way to unwind and enjoy nature after a hard day's work. Meeting place is the Skyline High School parking lot, 3251 E. Upland Drive (3760 S.) at 6:00 pm. Leader: Scott Svatos, scott@svatos.com or (310) 873-7316.

GCG Sat 4/28 Moonshine Wash. An adventure in the desert south of Green River on the Green River road. On the way we can visit Fossil Point if there is interest. Moonshine wash is a slot canyon that the hiking books say is accessible to all hikers. This is about 2 miles of narrow canyon with a couple of down climbs. We will ascend a side wash and see some water holes that were used for making Moonshine years ago. The whole hike will moderate and about 4 miles. Depending on the time we can visit other nice hiking destination in the area and will depend on group interest. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 8:00 AM. Leader: Michael Stringham (435) 259-8579 mikechrista@earthlink.net.

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, book club meetings and socials for the chapter and all three groups are now found in one place, www.utah.sierraclub.org/activities.asp. You can sort by event type or use a built-in mapping function.

UTAH.SIERRACLUB.ORG/CONTENT/CALENDAR

May

SLG Tues 5/1 Brigham Fork Mine Trail from Pinecrest. We will hike a little less than 2 miles up this pleasant trail on the Old Mine Road, which is a historic railroad grade on a spur of the former Emigration Canyon Electric Railway. The mine is our destination. The trailhead is in the Pinecrest area of Emigration Canyon. This hike would be rated easy for people who hike regularly. Meet promptly at 6:30 pm (note later starting time) in the parking lot near the eagle statue in Rotary Glen Park, which is at the intersection of Crestview and Sunnyside Ave. (Emigration Canyon Road) in Salt Lake, just east of Hogle Zoo. Contact organizer Rebecca Wallace at rebeccawallace38@msn.com or call 801 557-5261 for questions.

GCG Sat 5/5 Day Canyon Key Exchange. From UT-279 hike up Day Canyon (actually lower Bull Canyon to start) about five miles to a stock trail at the head. Take the trail up to the rim. Elevation gain is about 1800'. Slickrock creek bed in lower part. Views. Petrified wood. Perhaps wildflowers. Big pouroff and pool in Bull is a possible side trip. If it's necessary to park on the Long Canyon Road, that would add about a mile with little elevation gain. Key exchange with loafers coming down from the top. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 9:00 AM. Leader: Thomas Messenger (435) 259-1756 messengert35@gmail.com.

SLG Tues 5/8 Mormon Trail. The Mormon Trail (also part of the Pony Express Trail) takes us through the lovely woods and meadows of Little Dell Canyon. It is not unusual to see moose in this area. Meet at 6:30 pm at the Parleys Way Wal-Mart parking lot at 2705 Parleys Way, southeast corner, near the Bombay House Restaurant. Leader: Scott Svatos, scott@svatos.com or (310) 873-7316.

Thurs 5/10 Hughes Canyon to the Bonneville Shoreline Trail (4 p.m. start). Join us as we explore the newly completed section of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail (BST) that extends now to Hughes Canyon. We will hike up Hughes Canyon for about 30 minutes until we reach the adjoining BST at about 600 feet above the trailhead. There is some cliff exposure on this hike, and the hike could be rated low-to moderate exertion for people who hike regularly. The plan is to place a shuttle car at the Mt. Olympus trailhead to complete our loop. Expect about 3 to 4 hours round trip. Meet at Skyline High School east parking lot, 3231 E. Upland Drive (3760 S.) in Salt Lake at 4:00 pm (note starting time). Contact organizer Rebecca Wallace at rebeccawallace38@msn.com or call 801 557-5261 for questions.

SLG Tues 5/15 Salt Lake Overlook. This two-mile long hike takes us to a much-loved vantage point where we can view the sunset. The trail climbs 1250 feet up a switchback trail to a rocky outpost on the ridge. Bring headlamps for the descent. Meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Skyline High School parking lot (north end), 3251 E. Upland Drive (3760 S.). Leaders: Sally Aerts, 360-774-1534 and Sven Solvik, 360-390-8486 or svensally@gmail.com.

GCG Fri 5/18-Sun 5/20 Cedar Mesa Campout.

While waiting for the courts decide the fate of Bears Ears National Monument, Cedar Mesa's ancient structures and rock art remain limitless to explore and monitor. We will camp for two nights at the head of Kane Gulch near the ranger station, centrally-located to the many side canyons where you can "walk in beauty" and view cultural artifacts. If needed, the ranger station is open mornings to buy maps, ask questions, and obtain day permits. Attendance is limited, so to learn more and reserve your spot, call Jock Hovey (435-260-0239) or Marc Thomas (435-210-0807).

SLG Sat-Sun 5/19-20 Service Project II in San Rafael Swell. This will be another barrier repair escapade only this will be in Iron Wash in the Reef WSA. We will have to drive over a short rough segment of road so high clearance and 4X4 is needed. Another option is to park just off of SR 24 and get gear ferried in. Expect a dry camp so bring plenty of water. Mid-May in the southern Swell will have warm days and cool nights. It is best to drive down Friday afternoon or evening as it will take about 3 ½ hours to get there. Bring work gloves and shoes, tools and construction materials will be provided by the BLM. Contact Will McCarvill at will@commercialchemistries.com or 801-694-6958 to register. This trip will have a limit of 12 people. This is one of my favorite spots along the Reef, we will work Saturday and then look for a fun hike for Sunday. Cosponsored by the Wasatch Mountain Club.

SLG Tues 5/22 Avenues Twin Peaks. Little Twin Peaks (aka Avenues Twin Peaks) offer great views of the Salt Lake Valley to the south and the City Creek drainage to the north. The trailhead is located at the upper end of Terrace Hills Drive (890 East), which is accessed from 11th Avenue. The hike is about four miles round trip with 1100' elevation gain. Meet at 6:30 pm at the cul-de-sac at the upper end of Terrace Hills Drive. Please contact Colleen at (801) 484-4105 or (801) 554-7153, or email colleen.mahaffey@gmail.com for details.

June

GCG Sat 6/2 Upper Mineral Canyon South Fork. This trail drops over the edge of Upper Mineral Canyon (near highway 313) into Upper Mineral Canyon. The hike dead-ends at a high pouroff over the Wingate into the lower canyon. We use an old cow trail in good shape. The cow trail has some switchbacks and does not have sheer cliff exposure. There are several arches in the canyon. We can hike up to 6.5 miles round trip. There is an immediate 200 elevation loss into the canyon with another 100 loss as we hike gradually down the canyon. Getting the last few hundred yards to the big pouroff requires some scrambling. Some may wish to have an extended lunch instead. First there's a 15' pouroff we'll have a handline to get up and down. Then there are several obstacles needing a short handline and several potholes that may well require wading. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 9:00 AM. Leader: Thomas Messenger (435) 259-1756 messengert35@gmail.com.

SLG Tues 6/5 Beartrap Fork. This scenic wooded trail in Big Cottonwood Canyon winds through mountain meadows, wildflowers, aspen groves and glades of old conifers. The plan is to hike up to a scenic view for about an hour and then return. This hike would be rated low to moderate exertion for those who hike regularly. Expect a 2 to 2.5 hour hike. Meet at 6:30 p.m. at the 6200 South Park and Ride lot (enter off Wasatch Blvd) in Salt Lake City for carpooling. Contact organizer Rebecca Wallace at rebeccawallace38@msn.com or call 801 557-5261 for questions.

SLG Tues 6/12 Destination TBD--see outings calendar for details.

GCG Sat 6/16 Rattlesnake Canyon near Colorado NM. Visit a neat area near Colorado NM that contains 9 arches that are within a very short walk of each other. Beautiful scenery all around. The hike as an out and back is about 5.4 miles. We can make a loop that is 3.7 miles but will need to use a rope for people to hang on to as they hike up a short slick rock section under the last arch. Full day to experience this place. It is 101 Miles to Fruita from Moab. Then about 11 miles through Colorado National Monument and then 15 miles on a high clearance road to the trailhead. Bring water and food. Chance to do the Colorado NM loop when done. Hike classification, easy for out and back, moderate for loop. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 8:00 AM. Leader: James Hovey (435) 260-0239 jockhovey@gmail.com.

SLG Tues 6/19 Terraces to Elbow Fork Loop. A favorite early summer evening hike, our trail begins at the Terraces picnic area near the winter gate in Mill Creek Canyon, climbs to a ridgeline above Bowman Fork, then descends steeply to the canyon road opposite Elbow Fork. We finish with a saunter down the main Millcreek canyon road, which is closed to car traffic. The trail section covers about 3 miles through a quiet forest which shelters hikers from the heat of the sun. Meet at 6:30 pm at the Skyline High School east parking lot, 3251 E. Upland Drive (3760 S.). Leader: Please Colleen Mahaffey, 801-484-4105 or 801-554-7153 or email at colleen.mahaffey@gmail.

SLG Tues 6/26 Mt. Aire Saddle. The hike follows a steep but nicely shaded trail that climbs to a saddle with views down Parley's Canyon. If there is time we'll continue on to 8620' Mt. Aire, which affords a panorama of the Wasatch peaks. Expect about 1200 feet of climbing to the saddle, another 800 to the summit. Bring headlamps to aid the descent. Meet at 6:30 pm at the Skyline High School parking lot (toward the north end), 3251 E. Upland Drive (3760 S.). Leaders: Sally Aerts, 360-774-1534 and Sven Solvik, 360-390-8486 or svenally@gmail.com.

GCG Sat 6/30 Lone Mesa from Tusher Canyon. Hike a sandstone rib to a pass between Tusher canyon and Bartlett Wash drainage. From there contour around Lone Mesa below the Biscuits to the spot where we can ascend to the top of Lone Mesa. From there we will carefully explore the top of this very seldom visited area. 7+ mile moderate hike. Sweeping views in all directions. At least high clearance vehicle required to reach the trailhead. Some scrambling up through some boulders near the top of Lone Mesa. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 8:00 AM. Leader: Michael Stringham (435) 259-8579 mikechrista@earthlink.net.

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.

ServiceOuting

SPRING 2018 WILDERNESS STUDY AREA REMEDIATION OUTINGS

by Will McCarvill

We have two trips planned for this spring to the San Rafael Swell to preserve and protect several Wilderness Study Areas (WSA).

April 14th-15th we will be working on rehabbing a barrier in Wild Horse Creek in the Crack Canyon WSA, a popular drainage though the San Rafael Reef. This is an industrial recreation area, very popular with the mechanized crowd, hence the need for some TLC. The BLM will reserve the pavilion at a developed camp site just inside the Reef near the road that goes to Goblin valley. We will work on the barricade Saturday and enjoy Sunday someplace fun along the Reef. Due to the nature of the work the trip is limited to 8 people. Contact Will McCarvill at will@commercialchemistries.com or 801-694-6958 to register. Typically mid-April will have pleasant days and cool nights. Expect a dry camp so bring your food and water. It is best to drive down Friday afternoon or evening as it will take about 3 ½ hours to get there. Bring work gloves and shoes, tools and construction materials will be provided by the BLM.

May 19th-20th will be another barrier repair in Iron Wash in the Reef WSA. We will have to drive over a short rough segment of road so high clearance and 4X4 is needed. Another option is to park just off of SR 24 and get gear ferried in.

Expect a dry camp so bring plenty of water. Mid-May in the southern Swell will have warm days and cool nights. It is best to drive down Friday afternoon or evening as it will take about 3 ½ hours to get there. Bring work gloves and shoes, tools and construction materials will be provided by the BLM.

Contact Will McCarvill at will@commercialchemistries.com or 801-694-6958 to register. This trip will have a limit of 12 people. This is one of my favorite spots along the Reef. We will work Saturday and then look for a fun hike for Sunday.



SIERRA CLUB UTAH CHAPTER

Spring Breakfast

ROOTS FOR RESISTANCE

We would like to thank our Spring Breakfast table sponsors -- and most especially our Silver Lupine sponsor Peter Metcalf -- for making our first spring breakfast a success.

Thank you
Peter Metcalf, Kirsten Johanna Allen, Mark Bailey, Antczak Polich Law, Creative Energies Solar, Nathan Gilbert, Stan Holmes / UCARE, Jeff Kramer, Jeff Clay, Will McCarvill, Amy Mills, Donald Thomas, Marc Thomas, and Ian Wade!

SIERRA CLUB

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HOW IT WORKS:

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Utah Sierra Club members and supporters:

- Special Discounted Pricing
- 30% Federal tax credit
- \$1600 Utah state tax credit
- Donations to local Sierra Club Chapter

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To explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth; To practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; To educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.

More Info & Free Estimate:
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801.631.9336

LocalNews

Protect the Wasatch

Will McCarvill

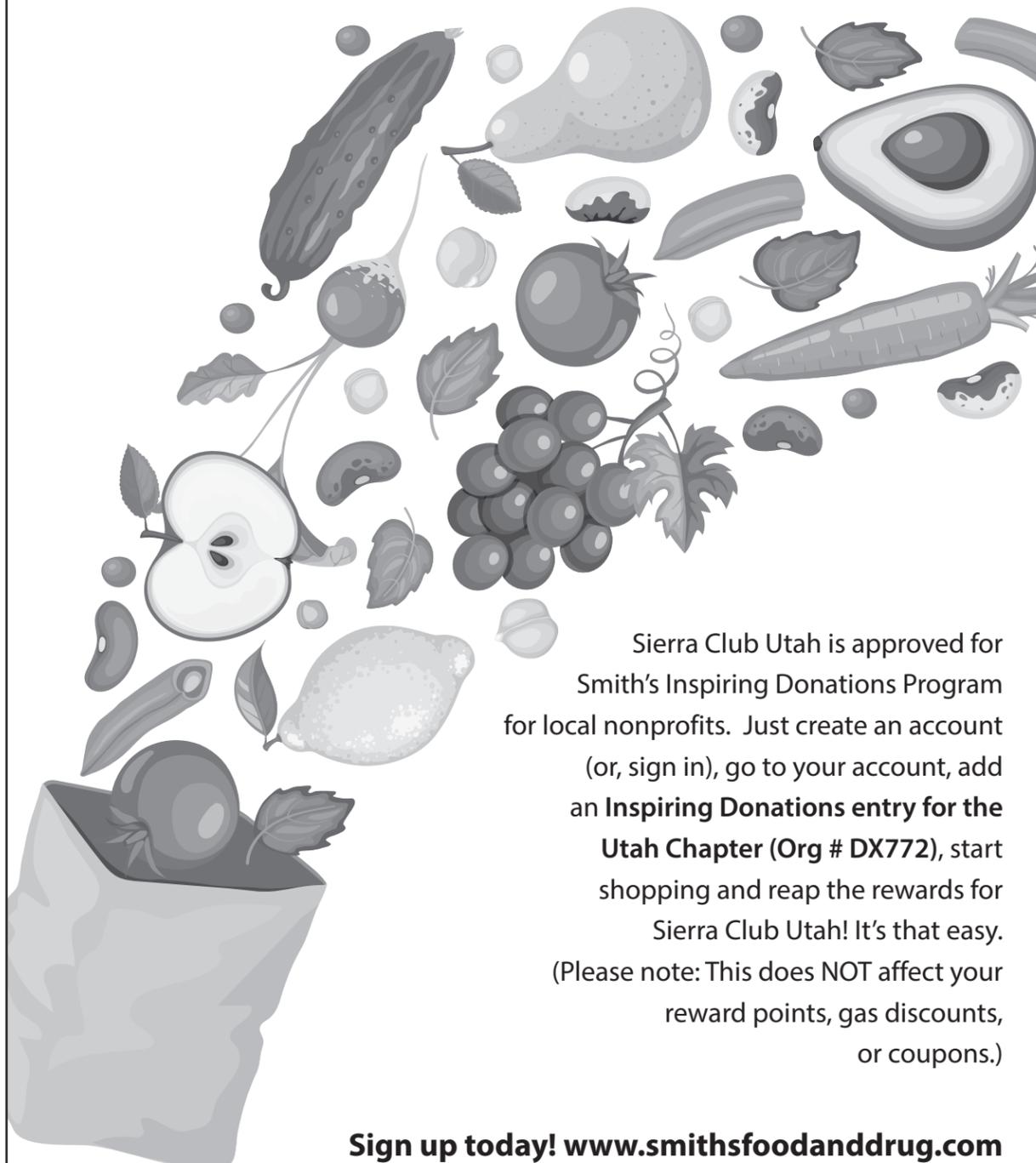
Mountainous Planning District is a geographic area of the Central Wasatch designated by county ordinance. Land use planning and regulation is vested in the Mountainous Planning District Planning Commission. The purpose is to manage the Central Wasatch as a regional resource with broad representation from people throughout the valley. It manages all private lands in the district, but not forest service lands. Development proposals pass through this body for approval so it can be important to provide public input when these proposals are part of an agenda. There is an appeal process whereby a rejected proposal can go in front of the County Council for adjudication. You can get agendas for upcoming meetings at <http://slco.org/development-services/publicmeetings/mountainous-planning>.

Salt Lake County is currently updating the Wasatch Canyons General Plan (last adopted in 1989). The purpose of this plan is to guide future development and preservation in the canyons. This process is expected to take two years to complete (2017 – 2019). The public is encouraged to get involved by providing feedback and suggestions along the

way. To date, public open houses and workshops have been completed and a draft vision statement is in the works. When completed, it will be available for public comments. For details go to <http://slco.org/planning-transportation/wasatch-canyons-general-plan-update/>.

The UDOT Little Cottonwood Canyon Transportation Project has about \$65 million dollars to be spent on transportation improvements to the canyon. Currently informal meetings are being held which will lead to the kickoff of a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) study which will present a range of alternatives to the public. The Sierra Club has participated in 2 meetings so far with UDOT personnel and contractors and will join another soon. The UDOT team has taken input in the previous meetings and has developed sketches of various concepts for further review. These include parking, transit, on-demand vans, roadway capacity, intersection improvements, bike lanes, snow sheds, casual carpooling and tolling. The concept is to work up useful alternatives based on early input from stakeholders and the public.

Attention Smith's Shoppers EARN MONEY FOR SIERRA CLUB UTAH!



Sierra Club Utah is approved for Smith's Inspiring Donations Program for local nonprofits. Just create an account (or, sign in), go to your account, add an **Inspiring Donations** entry for the **Utah Chapter (Org # DX772)**, start shopping and reap the rewards for Sierra Club Utah! It's that easy. (Please note: This does NOT affect your reward points, gas discounts, or coupons.)

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ManyThanks

BEST YEAR FOR FUNDRAISING

Ian Wade

2017 was the best year ever for Utah Chapter fundraising. The "Axis of Weevils" in Washington DC can take some of the credit for increased support of the chapter, at every level. However, members and supporters such as yourself provided a higher level of financial support. Our number of donors rose by 60% and the frequency of giving increased 21%. Many thanks to those of you who make monthly donations or respond to our twice a year appeals for this increase.

We would not have reached our fundraising goal without several generous major donors, including one person who anonymously gave a stock gift of over \$15,000 for a second year. Giving appreciated stock is a smart way to eliminate tax liability for the donor, as Sierra Club Utah is tax exempt and gets the full value of the stock sale.

Differentiating the Utah Chapter from national fundraising efforts was an area of focus in 2017. While we have a good partnership with the national organization, only \$2 of membership fees come back to the chapter. The Utah Chapter had to raise most of the funds to sustain our increased operations.

The Utah Chapter website was upgraded to make giving directly to the chapter easier. We added ways to give, including donation of a motor vehicle and workplace giving.

Staff and related expenses more than doubled in 2017, in response to the increased threats from the new administration. The Utah Chapter raises both c4 funds and c3 funds to support our work. With increased fundraising results we were able to maintain a constant level of reserves ending 2017 at \$153,240. This is approximately 1-years' worth of expenses; a conservative posture the ExCom has established for an organization that intends to continue serving for a long time.

The fundraising effort in 2017 was intensified, with the support of staff, ExCom members and the strategic assistance of Blueprint Public Affairs. The Utah Chapter ended the year with a moderate surplus in our c4 account of \$14,023 and a decrease in c3 funds of \$18,011. Given the scope of the challenge a net loss of \$3,988 (2% of expense) was a satisfactory result.

A complete financial report is available by contacting treasurer@utah.sierraclub.org.



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.**