



UtahSierran



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utahsierran

Southern Utah Named Sierra Club Priority Area

by Marc Thomas



JEFF CLAY | CLAYHAUSPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

Vast sweeps of beautiful landscape are no longer part of Bears Ears National Monument.

In early 2018, the Utah Chapter and its Glen Canyon Group jointly submitted an application to the Sierra Club's Wildlands and Wilderness Grassroots Network and its WILD Campaign Team asking that Grand and San Juan Counties be chosen as a priority area to protect America's public lands and battle inappropriate dirty fuels extraction. We believed our case to be a strong one as these counties hold unparalleled redrock canyons, cultural and archeological treasures, wildlife corridors and three major rivers systems, all imperiled by threats of dirty energy expansion.

Oil, gas, and uranium drilling exploration and production already occur adjacent to National Parks, National Monuments, wilderness study areas and many environmentally and culturally sensitive areas. Oil and gas drilling has been proposed for state lands nestled within the Bears Ears National Monument designated by President Obama and later eviscerated by President Trump. Leasing has been proposed for parcels within or adjacent to lands delineated by "America's Red Rock Wilderness Act" and near Hovenweep and Canyons of the Ancients

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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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Bylined articles represent the research and opinions of the author and not necessarily those of the Sierra Club or the Utah Chapter.

Sierra Club's sexual harassment policy can be found online at mitchell.sierraclub.org/leaders/policies/sexual-harassment.asp or by contacting the Salt Lake City office.

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Kim Crumbo | Wildlands Connectivity Committee
Wayne Hoskisson | Grazing, National Utah Wilderness, Wildlands and Wilderness, Wildlands and Wilderness BLM sub-Team
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

OurLand

Protecting the Wasatch

by Will McCarvill



Summertime at Albion Basin.

The Wasatch Mountains are a treasured landscape for a majority of Utahns who reside, work, and play within eyeshot of their splendour. Our snow capped mountains provide clean drinking water, limitless recreational opportunities, and a vast wild home for a diverse array of unique flora and fauna. But this wilderness faces a variety of obstacles and threats; from rapidly increasing tourist traffic, to profit-seeking developers, expanding ski areas and everything in between. Here's a quick rundown of what we're working on and how you can be involved.

SALT LAKE CITY WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Salt Lake City is updating its 1999 Watershed Management Plan to protect the drinking water sources for over 350,000 residents. Since the inception of this plan, Salt Lake Valley has changed significantly, experiencing explosive growth and increased use of protected watershed canyons. The Utah Chapter has actively participated in the current stakeholder interviews and public workshops which took place from January to March. Additional public workshops will proceed through July to present preliminary policy ideas, conduct opportunity analyses and

refine key choices. Content of the plan will include: water quality trends, emerging water quality contaminants, climate change impacts, growing recreation demand, and fire risks to water resources and infrastructure. Check out their website for important upcoming dates and opportunities for engagement. **Website:** <http://www.slcwatershedplan.com/project-description>

WASATCH CANYONS GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

Salt Lake County is working on updating the Wasatch Canyons General Plan, which was initially adopted in 1989. This two-year process is aimed to guide future development and conservation efforts in the canyons. The Utah Chapter will be actively participating in this process and needs your help! Sign up for alerts, provide comments, or attend upcoming meetings to stay involved. **Website:** <https://slco.org/planning-transportation/wasatch-canyons-general-plan-update/>

ALTA MASTER DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE

Alta Ski area has recently asked the Forest Service for a number of troubling area upgrades. Most concerning is their proposal to build a tram from the top of the Collins lift to the top of Mount Baldy. Similarly, they also aim to disturb critical alpine riparian areas to build a lift from the basin below the Sugarloaf lift terminus to the top of Collins. Unfortunately, the Forest Service approved both proposals. But, not before we submitted comments objecting to the approval of the two projects. We will continue to watchdog this important issue and apply pressure at key opportunities.

Learn more by visiting the Forest Service website. **Website:** <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=48903>

LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT UPDATE

The scoping period for the Utah Department of Transportation Environmental Impact Statement for transportation improvements in Little Cottonwood has recently closed. The Utah Sierra Club joined our allies in a coalition letter addressing our concerns as this project moves to the next phase. That phase will establish the Purpose and Need Statements which will allow the development of various alternatives.

Read our comments by visiting: https://utah.sierraclub.org/sites/utah.sierraclub.org/files/2018-5-4%20EnviroStakeholder_LCC%20EIS%20Scoping%20Comments.pdf

View the UDOT website: <https://www.udot.utah.gov/littlecottonwoodeis/>

CENTRAL WASATCH NATIONAL CONSERVATION AND RECREATION AREA ACT UPDATE

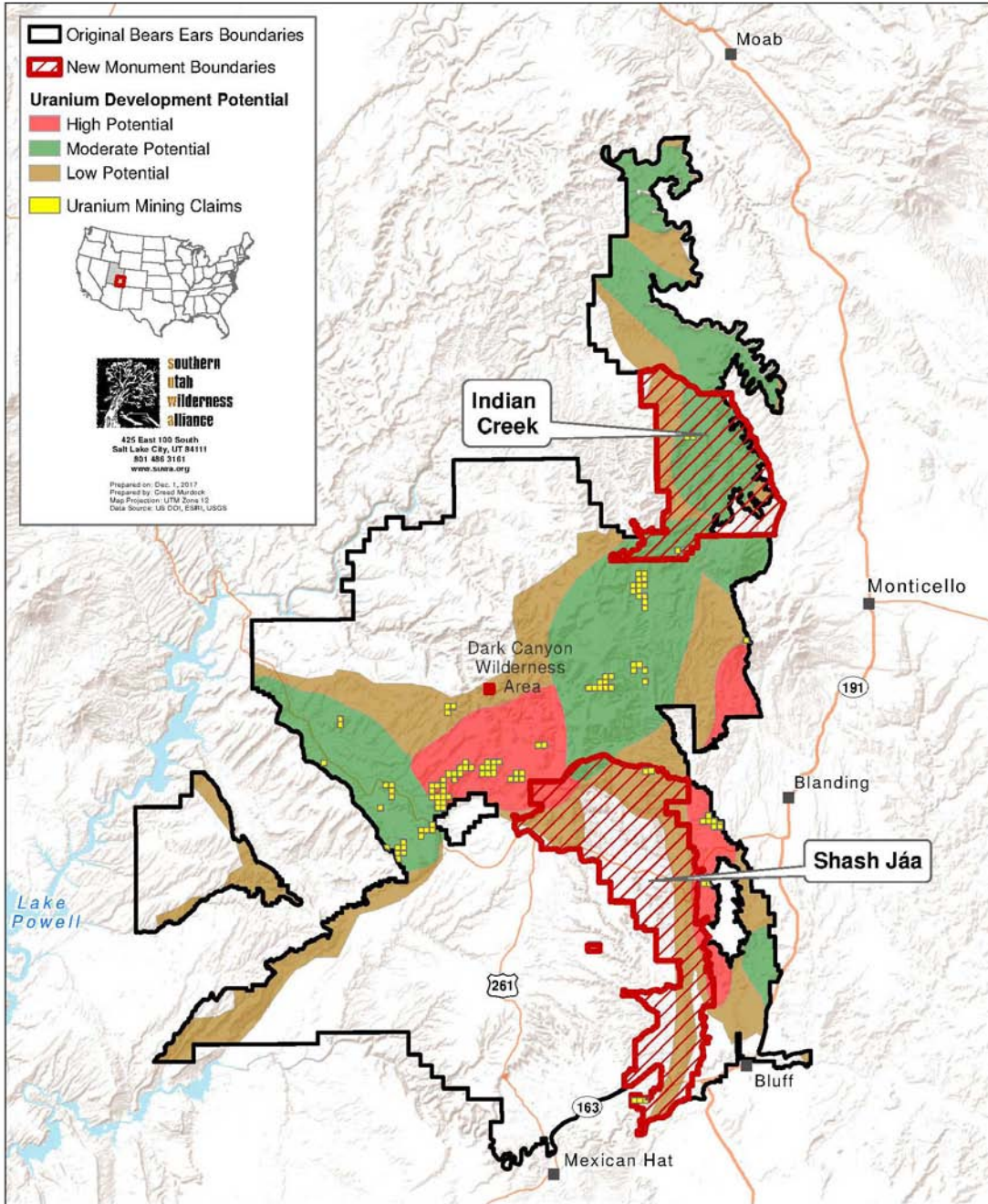
A bill originally introduced by Rep Jason Chaffetz in 2016 has been revived by Rep. Mia Love. The bill will likely be re-introduced in early July. Right now, the best way to influence this process is by attending meetings held by the Central Wasatch Commission. Though the Utah Sierra Club supported the original legislation, we have some concerns about some of the new language and the shape it will take after the House Natural Resources Committee finishes its mark-up. **You can review the original language by visiting:** <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/114/hr5718>

You can also find more info about other Utah wilderness plans, important dates, and meetings, including the Central Wasatch Commission, by visiting the Utah Public Notice Website: <https://www.utah.gov/pmnl/index.html>

Remember, these plans last for decades so your input is invaluable!

OurLand

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Uranium Development Potential in Bears Ears National Monument.

National Monuments. Because of the Trump Administration’s “Energy Dominance” agenda, public lands in the two counties with wilderness designation potential are also targeted for

oil and gas leasing and uranium mining.

Heeding our request, in April 2018, the Wildlands and Wilderness Team joined with the WILD Campaign to select

Grand and San Juan Counties as a Category A priority location for the next five years of the Sierra Club’s national land protection work. This means the Club will highlight the destructive impacts

of “Energy Dominance” to southern Utah’s special places, elevating stories about our iconic locations that are under threat and marshalling increased support for our efforts to defend these special places and the communities like Moab that depend on them. The Sierra Club will be at its very best when all of its components are working together in southern Utah - our volunteers, our Utah Chapter, and the National Club focused on providing us with the resources to build our campaigns and programs.

Looking at the criteria established by the Grassroots Network and WILD to separate the wheat from the chaff when it came time to pick priority areas, it’s evident why southern Utah made the grade:

Criteria for selection of Category A priority locations:

1. Nationally-recognizable, iconic public landscape or ecosystem; ✓check
2. Location facing direct threat from dirty fuel extraction; ✓check
3. Potential for growing the breadth and depth of the Club’s work on Lands/Fuels nexus and building its grassroots capacity; ✓check
4. Opportunity to further Club’s efforts to advance justice through our Lands work, and for deepening partnerships with diverse allies (e.g., tribal nations); ✓check
5. Location has some level of existing staff or chapter capacity working on the issue (such as an organizer and the Glen Canyon Group). ✓check

Significantly, the National WILD Campaign is taking an expansive stance toward the

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OurLand

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JEFF CLAY | CLAYHAUSPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

Countless Native American sites are no longer protected by monument status.

geography covered by selection as a priority area. This means that it will likely collaborate with the Utah Chapter on issues near, but just outside Grand and San Juan Counties. These include opposing dirty oil shale production in the Book Cliffs, defeating in Congress an Emery County Public Lands bill that decimates wilderness in the San Rafael Swell, and going to court to overturn President Trump's reduction of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

Achieving priority status means that southern Utah has been recognized by the Sierra Club as one of the places with the greatest potential for protecting wild lands and wild life, with, at the same time, the greatest threat to wild lands and wild life. Greatest priority means the Club will alert its digital, communications,

lobbying, and legal teams to collaborate with us on making the greatest efforts to protect wildlands, water, and wildlife. It also means that the head of WILD's Land, Water and Wildlife Team will likely travel here to meet with us, as may members of the Club's Board of Directors. Significantly, the Sierra Club's Executive Director Michael Brune has already come to Utah three times so far this year.

The Utah Chapter and the Glen Canyon Group want to emphasize that the future of protecting public lands from dirty energy extraction is being played out in much of southern Utah, including Grand and San Juan Counties. Threats to existing and possible future national parks, monuments, conservation areas, and wilderness-quality lands from oil, gas, and

uranium drilling, mining, and supporting infrastructure continue unabated, aided by a president, congressional delegation, and state legislature that prioritizes dirty energy domination over land stewardship.

Southern Utah is ground zero for some very important conservation issues, be they the future of the Antiquities Act, the fight to re-establish Bears Ears and Grand Staircase Escalante National Monuments, the need to protect some of America's most iconic landscapes, waterways, and archeological sites from inappropriate energy development, and how to mitigate the hazardous impacts from the nation's only conventional operating uranium mill in White Mesa. Both the Chapter and Group are honored that southern Utah has been

selected by the Wildlands and Wilderness Team and the WILD Campaign as a priority location to defend. We look forward to building our engagement in these counties, helped along by Club resources gained by this selection. We anticipate that our collaboration with the Wildlands and Wilderness Team and the WILD Campaign will be a very successful one.

The author personally wants to thank Glen Canyon Group members Sarah Fields, Bill Rau, and Wayne Hoskisson for their contributions that made our priority application all that much better. The knowledge that each brings to the issues we will be collaborating on with the National Club and our other partners for the next few years will prove invaluable.

ChapterNews

Annual Call for Executive Committee Candidates

by Ian Wade

Want to make a difference in the priorities and direction of your Sierra Club chapter?

The Utah Chapter is governed by a group of volunteers called the executive committee, or ExCom. Chapter membership will vote this fall for four vacancies for 2-year terms which begin January 2019.

The ExCom gets together monthly in Salt Lake City, and once a year in Moab—usually on Saturdays—for lively discussions about the chapter’s conservation activities and clean energy programs. The committee is also engaged in chapter fundraising, communications, supporting political candidates, growing membership and grassroots activism. ExCom members normally serve on a committee that involves activities between meetings.

We’re looking for candidates who want to

be leaders in protecting Utah’s environment, are ready to work together with a motivated group of Sierra Club colleagues, and bring relevant knowledge, skills and enthusiasm to the ExCom. If you’re interested, please send a short resume (100-200 words) to the Nominating Committee:

- Lawson LeGate
lawson.legate@gmail.com
- Dan Mayhew
drmayhew@comcast.net
- Ian Wade
ianwade@adventuresafety.org

The Nominating Committee will contact you to provide further information on ExCom responsibilities and describe the nomination and selection process.

Resumes are due no later than Friday, July 20, 2018. We hope you will consider applying! The timetable for the election

process is below.

All resumes must be received by the Nominating Committee by Friday, 20 July 2018. You will be informed within 2 weeks about the status of your submission.

If the committee decides not to nominate you, you have the right to run as a petition candidate provided you supply the Nominating Committee with a petition for your addition to the ballot signed by 15 current Utah Chapter members by Saturday September 8th.

The ballots will be distributed in the Fall 2018 issue of the Utah Sierran newsletter in mid-September 2018. Ballots must be submitted by November 3rd 2018. Candidates will be notified of the results within 72 hours of the count, and the results will be published shortly thereafter in the Winter 2019 issue of the chapter newsletter.

GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT

Thursday, September 13, 7:00 PM
Salt Lake City Main Library, SLC, UT

Official Affiliate Event Sposored By:

ChapterNews

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

Marion Klaus

by Patty Becnel

Armed with a list of questions, I caught up with Marion Klaus by phone as she and her dog, Skya, were traveling from Blanding to Bluff on vacation. When I asked her to talk about herself and some of the work she had done with Sierra Club, I realized why Jeff Clay had nominated her for the Spotlight, and what he meant when he said I'd know why when I talked to her. It seems Marion, a former professor and researcher with a Ph.D. in Biology, found a second career as a volunteer with the Sierra Club. Over the past eleven years, she has been involved in almost every aspect of the Utah Chapter as well as in many positions with national. Her credentials and work cover a broad spectrum of committees, responsibilities, and roles.

If you look at Marion's Facebook page, her profile shows her standing atop a pole draped with Buddhist prayer flags, her blonde hair covered with a baseball cap, and a smile as wide as the mountains and valley stretching behind her. Her arms are outstretched, and she looks like she is on top of the world. She has reason to be. She led the Utah Sierra Club for six years on the executive committee, was elected the Chapter Chair, a position she held for 2 years. She worked with the National Sierra Club to elevate Utah issues as Volunteer Co-Lead of the Our Wild America campaign for 5 years and is now Volunteer Co-Lead of the Land, Water, and Wildlife Initiative. Her national work included Mission Strategies, a standing Board of Directors committee, the Resilient Habitat Leadership Team and Re-design team, the Chapter-National Planning Taskforce, and many hiring teams for national and chapter staff. She has lobbied in DC many times for America's Red Rock Wilderness Act as a member of both the national Utah Wilderness Grassroots Network Team member and Chapter volunteer and for Bears Ears National Monument.

Marion admits working on environmental issues in Utah can be frustrating. "These are challenging times at all levels," she concedes,



Marion with her dog at House on Fire.

noting Donald Trump's agenda to decimate the national monuments, prioritize oil, gas and uranium mining rather than sustainable uses like recreation. But she is optimistic that the Chapter and environmental community, working in conjunction with our friends in the Intertribal Coalition and new volunteers joining the effort, will create a strong voice to protect our American heritage.

Marion warns that the impact of a short-term view, "where the biggest concern is to make a quick buck, rather than a long-term view of sustainable practices will destroy our precious natural resources that will never again be the same." We need these natural places for "mental and physical health," and to "members of the Intertribal Coalition, this land is sacred, where they collect medicinal plants and find spiritual solace." She also notes the millions of tourist dollars Utah's unique landscape generates. "No one wants to come and spend their time in an industrial complex."

"When all aspects of Sierra Club (Networks, Groups, Chapters, and National capacities) are working together to achieve mutual goals, we are a powerful force for achieving our goals and as force for change." Utah is a difficult place to pass legislation," Marion tells us, but thanks to her and volunteers like her, the Sierra Club is in a better position to succeed.

OurLand

A Democrat in a Sea of Red Fighting for Public Lands

by Lisa Rutherford & Paul Van Dam

Being a Democrat in a sea of red is not what most Democrats would want to do, but that's exactly what former Democratic Utah Attorney General Paul Van Dam agreed to do to help protect special areas in Southwest Utah. He agreed to travel to D.C. to testify in a May 22 Federal Lands Subcommittee hearing against Utah's 2nd District Congressman Stewart's H.R. 5597 that would force a highway through protected areas, the Red Cliffs NCA and Red Cliffs Desert Reserve, an area established in 1996 to protect the threatened Mojave desert tortoise.

With the 115th Congress House being 55% Republican and the House Federal Lands Subcommittee tilted to the right and under the House Natural Resources Committee chaired by Utah's Congressman Rob Bishop – committed to undermining our public lands – it did not seem a pleasant endeavor for Van Dam who was asked by Conserve Southwest Utah, Washington County's only grassroots conservation organization and on which he currently serves as a board member and advisor, to carry their message to D.C.

This was not Van Dam's first experience with this highway. He served as executive director from 2008 to 2010 when the nascent organization was known as Citizens for Dixie's Future. During that time Paul dealt with a bill that was trying to force the highway, but the sponsors, Senator Robert Bennett and Congressman Jim Matheson, withdrew the highway language before the bill was included in the 2009 Omnibus Public Land Management Act bill. The omnibus bill gave the BLM direction to identify several routes but not necessarily "approve" the highway. Local leaders say the highway has been in the plans for years, but the current route doesn't even match what



Buckhorn Hollow, Red Cliffs Conservation Area.

was first proposed in the 2006 bill, so it's difficult to determine what route they feel has been in the long-term plans. Nor do minutes from early Red Cliffs Desert Reserve meeting minutes and a statement by first reserve administrator Dr. William Mader support leaders' assertion that the highway has been planned for many years. The Reserve/NCA's Habitat Conservation Plan clearly states no new roads.

Republicans were loaded for bear at the May 22 hearing to support a bill that would effectively cut environment laws – ESA and

NEPA – out of the process. Democratic subcommittee members failed to show up with the exception of ranking member Congresswoman Hanabusa and Congressman Lowenthal. Fewer Democratic members present meant fewer opportunities for Van Dam to answer questions to help him bolster his and his organization's position. Congressman Stewart's subcommittee supporters peppered county commissioner Dean Cox with plenty of softball questions giving him the opportunity to push the

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OurLand

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county's agenda and Stewart's bill with Van Dam having little opportunity to challenge Cox's "facts."

Van Dam pointed out that undermining the Reserve and NCA sets a very bad precedent nationally, but apparently, other subcommittee members, some of whom have NCAs in their states, care little about those important lands or, due to their minority position on the subcommittee, decided their time would be better spent on other activities. It certainly was a slap in the face of an organization that spent much time in preparation, along with others who support our nation's NCAs, to get their message communicated in a high-level setting.

Meeting challenges aside, the preparation by CSU and other partnering organizations did result in a well-written testimony and two sign-on letters – one for organizations and one for citizens – that were submitted to the subcommittee in addition to Van Dam's oral testimony. Forty-eight conservation and environmental organizations signed on to the organization letter and over two hundred residents of the area signed on to the citizen sign-on letter. Sierra Club also put together an AddUP campaign to spread the word among Sierra's members. All this good work supports Washington County residents who oppose a highway through their NCA and Reserve. Local informal polls reveal that 75% of participants oppose the highway, and that is in keeping with the 75% who voiced opposition in written comments at the county's 2018 Transportation Expo.

In the end CSU through their champion Paul Van Dam – a lone Democrat in a vast sea of red – communicated the thoughts that many have. A highway planned through a protected area while using another protected area to serve as mitigation is not only a bad idea, it's a terrible idea and deserves to be stopped. The May 22 hearing is not the only opportunity CSU, Sierra and others will have to fight this. It was but one of many battles ahead.



JEFF CLAY | CLAYHAUSPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

Yellow Knolls, Red Cliffs Conservation Area.



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OurLand

The Governor's Energy Summit Doesn't Represent the People

by Gabriel Hunt

During a spring downpour on Saturday, May 12, over one hundred people gathered at Salt Lake City's Library Square for the inaugural People's Energy Summit. Donning raincoats, clasp umbrellas, and seeking shelter under pop-up canopy tents, a diverse community united to envision a socially just transition to a renewable and regenerative future.

For the past seven years, Governor Herbert has hosted the Governor's Energy Summit, and this year's summit followed the established pattern of promoting Utah's "all of the above" energy strategy -- a loose euphemism for

*We envisioned
a future worth
fighting for.*

fossil fuel exploitation without consideration to the true cost of carbon. Over 90% of Utah electrical energy comes from fossil fuels. Despite increased efforts to greenwash Utah's dirty energy mix, The Governor's Energy Summit has consistently failed to include the voices of the most impacted populations in Utah. Without representation, a coalition of community groups joined forces to create a summit for Utahns concerned about climate change, environmental stewardship,

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On May 12th, 2018, over one hundred people and thirty-seven different sponsoring organizations assembled at Library Square in Salt Lake City to envision a just and equitable energy future for all Utahns. The Summit was planned in direct response to the annual Governor's Energy Summit and resulted in a series of community commitments that contrasted the Governor's focus on corporate profit and "all-of-the-above" energy strategy.

We Commit to...

Educate and mobilize community members to speak-up and hold corporations and industries accountable for their actions.

Listen to front-line communities and work alongside them to form holistic solutions for health, environmental quality, and economic prosperity.

Nurture new leaders, front-line communities, and native communities.

Embody regenerative economic values to provide opportunity for more equitable decision-making processes which are inclusive of a diverse set of stakeholders.

Participate in a culture of respect, regeneration, and restoration of the commons by being intentionally inclusive and continuing to show up.

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social justice, and future generations. We brought together protectors, youth, frontline communities, laborers, gardeners, innovators in clean energy, public lands users and managers, and creative change makers.

As a 12-year veteran of various coal mines in Carbon County, I understand the current state of Utah's energy system, and I've seen its ups and downs. After witnessing the destruction caused by an irresponsible energy industry to the natural environment, the health of myself, my family, my friends, and former co-workers I decided to quit. Now, I'm working to bring justice to my community by shedding a light on the environmental hazards in Utahns' backyards so we can demand corporations and elected officials provide resources to transition rural towns to a clean energy economy. Unfortunately, it appears Governor Herbert far from understands the needs of rural communities.

The Governor's Energy Summit webpage

claims the conference would "chart new paths for the responsible growth of the energy and minerals sector at home and abroad." However, without meaningful consideration of projected climate crises and environmental injustices occurring throughout our state, the paths being charted are far from responsible.

In contrast, the visions and commitments made at the People's Energy Summit focused on equity, health, and respect. After a series of workshops on topics such as resiliency, community solar, and fossil fuel development on public lands, attendees crafted the energy future they believe is possible. The future envisioned included collectively-owned clean energy systems, safe jobs, justice for those on the frontlines of polluting extraction, and the protection of indigenous sovereignty. We envisioned a future worth fighting for.

From conversations on climate justice, the commons, and regenerative economies, it became clear that responsible leaders will invest in energy democracy not corporate profits.

Responsible leaders will fight for social justice rather than systems of oppression. Responsible leaders will acquire resources from institutions causing the problem to create jobs in renewable and regenerative energy for neglected rural communities. Responsible leaders will respect traditional knowledge and honor the rights of indigenous people.

From Moab to Logan, East Carbon to Ogden, and places in between, Utahns gathered together driven by a love of the land and a commitment to creating healthy, just communities. At the end of the People's Energy Summit participants each wrote a personal action they will take to fulfill our collective commitments. In contrast to the Governor's Energy Summit's commitment to corporate profit and the preservation of business-as-usual, The People's Energy Summit commitments centered on accounting for the true cost of fossil fuel extraction and combustion, and investing in our most precious resource—the health and well-being of our people.

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

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Sign up today! smithsfoodanddrug.com

OurLand

The Utah Contradiction

by Jeff Kramer

When I moved here, I didn't understand there was a battle being fought. Now I do, and I cannot ignore it.

I moved to Utah seven years ago, of my own free will. Not for religious reasons. Not for a job. Not running from the law, or from anything else. Yes, there is a woman to blame, but that's only part of the story. Really. I wouldn't be here without the extraordinary natural world that is this state's great gift.

So, perhaps you can imagine my consternation when I learned, as the years went by, and from one misguided legislative act after another, that the elected officials of this state do not realize what truly makes this such a special place. The sad truth is that the best of this state exists despite its political leadership.

The recent campaigns to dismantle the Grand Staircase Escalante and Bears Ears National Monuments are only the latest and saddest examples. For years the state has backed county efforts to destroy irreplaceable wilderness by declaring old trails and cow paths dedicated public roadways. The paramount interests of Utah's political leadership are mineral extraction and the preservation of an outmoded cowboy lifestyle for a small but politically influential minority of ranchers in southern rural counties. Never mind clean energy, clean air, endangered



JEFF KRAMER

Wide Open Spaces of now-threatened Bears Ears National Monument.

species, extraordinary unspoiled landscapes, the economic benefits these things bring, and the interests and political rights of Native American peoples.

If you are reading this newsletter, you probably have some sense of the importance of preserving the natural environment. What you may not know, or fully understand, is that it will only be possible to preserve what we have if people like you get involved. You have undoubtedly heard this before, but I'm here to tell you it really is true.

My Sierra Club experience has shown me both the challenges we face -- and at times they seem overwhelming -- and the power of a national organization with dedicated and passionate local people to make a difference. Donate your time, your talents, your money. Stay informed and spread the word. The threats are greater than you may think, but so is your power to make a difference.

When I moved here, I didn't understand there was a battle being fought. Now I do, and I cannot ignore it.

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.



ChapterNews

Bad Emery County Bill

by Will McCarvill



Mexican Mountain WSA.

The Emery County Public Land Management Act of 2018 fails to protect 2/3 of the wilderness quality lands in Emery County.

Senator Hatch and Representative Curtis have introduced the Emery County Public Land Management Act of 2018 into Congress as S. 2809 and H.R. 5727. The bill's purpose is "To Establish the San Rafael Swell Western Heritage and Historic Mining Conservation Area, to designate wilderness, to provide for certain land conveyances, and for other purposes." In short this bill would establish a National Conservation Area. At first glance, this bill boasts wilderness acreage and National Conservation Area (NCA) protections that may seem impressive. However, a closer analysis of the bill reveals designations that woefully under protect remarkable and critical intact wilderness landscapes. So, what's missing?

Only the last 150 years of land exploitation seem to deserve attention and conservation. The prior 10,000 years of human history documented by faint paintings and chipped

art matter much less than old uranium mine tunnels and dumps. The millions of years of the Swell's natural western heritage count less than old-line cabins and cowboy relics. The NCA will allow a network of vehicle routes including opening up old routes that were closed decades ago like the one that goes through the Gorge of the San Rafael Swell River where it cuts its way out of the Swell. It will provide little or no protection for wilderness quality lands identified in the American Red Rock Wilderness Act (ARRWA). To cap it all, the management plan will be primarily developed by local county residents with no outside concerns represented.

The bill fails to protect 2/3's of the wilderness quality lands in Emery County. The lands to be designated as wilderness are more or less the original Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Wilderness Study Areas identified in rushed

and inadequate inventories conducted in the late 80's and early 90's. It leaves out any lands identified in ARRWA. Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) would be released in the Sids Mountain region to ensure that off-road vehicle use in the Coal Washes would be perpetuated. Routes will also be reopened to vehicle use in the Mexican Mountain and Horseshoe Canyon WSA's. None of the western badlands would be protected. The extension of the Greater Muddy Creek Wilderness into Wayne County is left out, as is the San Rafael Desert, Labyrinth Canyon, land along the Price River and proposed extensions of the Desolation WSA as well as many others. It conveys to the state of Utah lands around Goblin Valley, Crack Canyon and Chute Canyon in order to expand Goblin Valley State Park. This area is grossly overused now; expanding the state park will only encourage more visitations and impact. Instead of providing the BLM with

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the necessary resources to manage the area, our representatives will simply give the land to Utah.

Emery County also contains 114,286 acres of Inventoried Roadless Areas on Forest Service-managed public land. The Forest Service Citizens' Unified Proposal is 156,334 acres. The Emery County Bill designates as wilderness a grand total of 19,785 acres of Forest Service land.

All in all, the Emery County Land Bill is a bad deal for public lands in Emery County. Let Senators Hatch and Lee and your state representatives know that you think the current legislation is a non-starter. You can also write op-eds and letters to the editor for your favorite newspaper to keep this issue alive in the press.

AT RIGHT | Outside Goblin Valley.



JEFF CLAY | CLAYHAUSPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

BLM Issues Final EIS Enabling Major Oil Shale Project in Eastern UT

by Amy Mills

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has issued a final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) concluding that rights-of-way (ROWs) across BLM-administered federal land should be granted for utilities for a major commercial oil shale project. The May 16, 2018 FEIS documents, maps, and press release are available at <http://go.usa.gov/csa9j>.

Oil shale is sedimentary rock that contains bituminous materials that can produce petroleum-like liquid fuels when the rock is mined, processed, and heated. Eastern Utah's Uinta Basin contains significant oil shale deposits in the Green River Formation, which also occurs in WY and CO. Market conditions and technical hurdles have delayed commercial development up to now, however these conditions may change.

Enefit American Oil, an Estonian company, initially plans to strip mine up to 9,000 acres in the "South Project" and produce about 50,000 barrels of oil per day for 30 years in

what would be the first commercial-scale oil shale mine in the US. Enefit applied to BLM for ROWs across federal land for water and natural gas supplies, transportation of oil product, power lines, and a road upgrade.

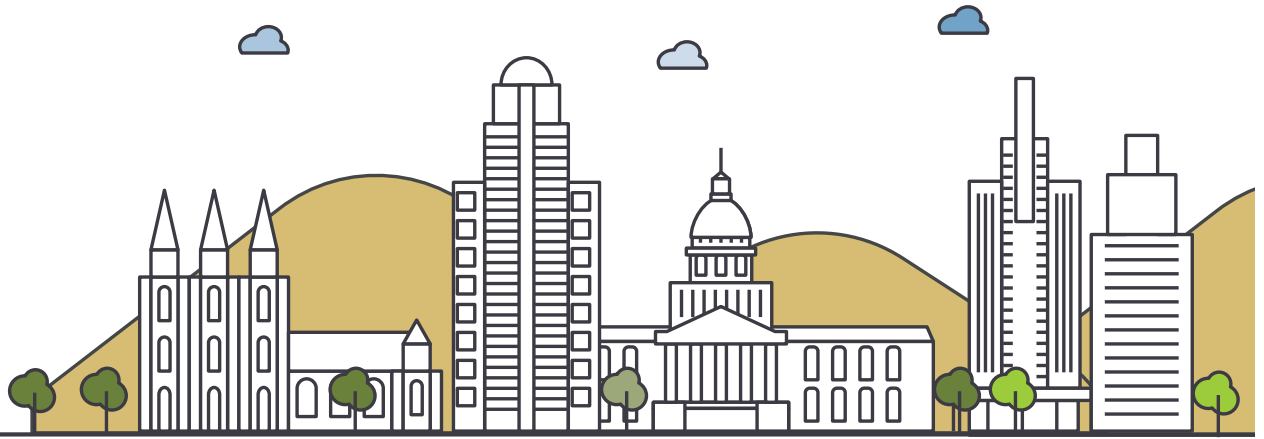
The Utah Chapter and national Sierra Club coordinated with partner conservation organizations to provide extensive comments on the draft EIS in 2016 (see Appendix I of the FEIS). Our comments asserted that the ROWs would enable the South Project development and thereby enable impacts to air quality, climate change, water, wildlife, and other conditions and resources. We pointed out that extraction and refinement of oil shale entails higher energy and water than conventional fuel development, thus exacerbating climate change and diminishing water supplies in the region. We put forth that it is in the public interest to move quickly to cleaner, not dirtier, fuels. By facilitating Enefit's oil shale development, BLM would essentially subsidize

this environmentally destructive project.

In their response to these and other public comments on the draft EIS, BLM claimed in the FEIS that it has no jurisdiction over the South Project, and that the project will move forward regardless of their decision on the ROWs. Discussion of the South Project is considered only in the context of "cumulative impacts" in the FEIS, and "do not count" toward the impact of the ROW decision. BLM further states that environmental analysis of the South Project will be subject to future permitting by other agencies. (See full FEIS at link above for further detail.)

BLM is accepting public comments on the FEIS until July 2, 2018. Sierra Club members and supporters are encouraged to express their views to BLM in accordance with the "Dear Reader" letter via the link given above. A Record of Decision (ROD) on granting the ROWs is expected shortly thereafter. Utah Sierra Club is currently considering further response to BLM.

LocalNews



SIERRA CLUB UTAH CHAPTER

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

423 West 800 South, Ste A103
Salt Lake City, UT 84101-2238

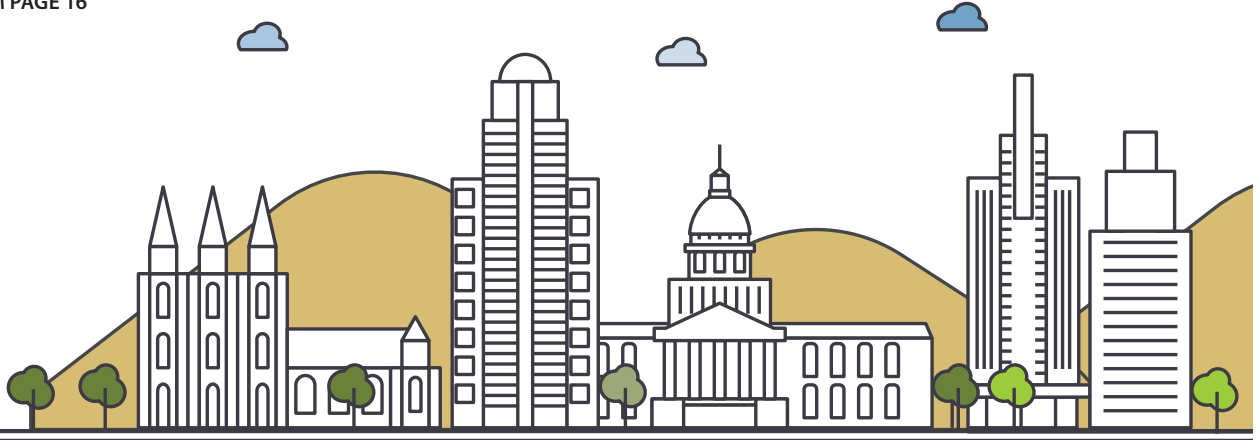
2018 LEGISLATIVE REPORT CARD

During the 2018 Legislative Session, the Utah Sierra Club closely tracked, actively lobbied on, and helped to draft some of this year's most important environmental legislation. Four key campaigns drive our work; Improvement of air quality, creating a just transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy, the protection and stewardship of Utah's public lands, and the conservation of our watersheds. These grades highlight the 20 bills that had the biggest potential impact on Utah's quality of life and the future preservation of our wild places.

REPRESENTATIVE	PERCENT GRADE	LETTER GRADE	REPRESENTATIVE	PERCENT GRADE	LETTER GRADE	SENATOR	PERCENT GRADE	LETTER GRADE
Hollins, Sandra (D)	100.00%	A	Handy, Stephen G. (R)	38.46%	F	Iwamoto, Jani (D)	92.86%	A-
King, Brian S. (D)	100.00%	A	Westwood, John R. (R)	37.50%	F	Escamilla, Luz (D)	88.89%	B+
Moss, Carol Spackman (D)	100.00%	A	Wilson, Brad R. (R)	37.50%	F	Dabakis, Jim (D)	77.78%	C+
Poulson, Marie H. (D)	100.00%	A	Stratton, Keven J. (R)	37.04%	F	Zehnder, Brian (R)	68.75%	D+
Romero, Angela (D)	100.00%	A	Fawson, Justin L. (R)	35.71%	F	Mayne, Karen (D)	62.50%	D-
Weight, Elizabeth (D)	100.00%	A	Lisonbee, Karianne (R)	35.71%	F	Davis, Gene (D)	60.00%	D-
Arent, Patrice M. (D)	94.12%	A	Peterson, Jeremy A. (R)	35.71%	F	Weiler, Todd (R)	58.33%	F
Kwan, Karen (D)	93.75%	A	Coleman, Kim F. (R)	33.33%	F	Harper, Wayne A. (R)	45.45%	F
Briscoe, Joel K. (D)	92.00%	A-	Ivory, Ken (R)	33.33%	F	Hillyard, Lyle W. (R)	37.50%	F
Chavez-Houck, Rebecca (D)	86.67%	B	Miles, Kelly B. (R)	33.33%	F	Van Tassell, Kevin T. (R)	37.50%	F
Wheatley, Mark A. (D)	85.71%	B	Peterson, Val L. (R)	33.33%	F	Bramble, Curtis S. (R)	35.71%	F
Duckworth, Susan (D)	65.38%	D	Quinn, Tim (R)	33.33%	F	Okerlund, Ralph (R)	33.33%	F
Spendlove, Robert M. (R)	58.33%	F	Ray, Paul (R)	33.33%	F	Hemmert, Daniel (R)	30.77%	F
Redd, Edward H. (R)	57.14%	F	Sandall, Scott D. (R)	33.33%	F	Millner, Ann (R)	27.27%	F
Hall, Craig (R)	53.85%	F	Christofferson, Kay J. (R)	33.33%	F	Buxton, David G. (R)	25.00%	F
Cutler, Bruce R. (R)	46.67%	F	Sagers, Douglas V. (R)	31.58%	F	Henderson, Deidre M. (R)	25.00%	F
Froerer, Gage (R)	46.67%	F	Kennedy, Michael S. (R)	31.25%	F	Vickers, Evan J. (R)	25.00%	F
Gibson, Francis D. (R)	46.67%	F	Seegmiller, Travis M. (R)	30.77%	F	Ipson, Don L. (R)	23.08%	F
Pitcher, Dixon M. (R)	46.67%	F	Owens, Derrin R. (R)	28.00%	F	Adams, J. Stuart (R)	22.22%	F
Ward, Raymond P. (R)	46.67%	F	Watkins, Christine F. (R)	28.00%	F	Fillmore, Lincoln (R)	22.22%	F
Winder, Mike (R)	46.67%	F	Daw, Brad M. (R)	26.67%	F	Thatcher, Daniel W. (R)	22.22%	F
Edwards, Rebecca P. (R)	46.15%	F	Webb, R. Curt (R)	26.67%	F	Stevenson, Jerry W. (R)	20.00%	F
Dunnigan, James A. (R)	43.75%	F	Last, Bradley G. (R)	25.00%	F	Christensen, Allen M. (R)	18.75%	F
Moss, Jefferson (R)	43.75%	F	Robertson, Adam (R)	25.00%	F	Anderegg, Jacob L. (R)	18.18%	F
Potter, Val K. (R)	43.75%	F	Thurston, Norman K. (R)	25.00%	F	Knudson, Peter C. (R)	15.38%	F
Wilde, Logan (R)	43.75%	F	Albrecht, Carl R. (R)	24.00%	F	Hinkins, David P. (R)	14.29%	F
Christensen, LaVar (R)	42.86%	F	Noel, Michael E. (R)	23.81%	F	Niederhauser, Wayne L. (R)	14.29%	F
Eliason, Steve (R)	41.67%	F	Maloy, A. Cory (R)	23.53%	F	Dayton, Margaret (R)	12.50%	F
Nelson, Merrill F. (R)	41.18%	F	Schultz, Mike (R)	23.08%	F	Stephenson, Howard A. (R)	10.00%	F
Barlow, Stewart E. (R)	40.91%	F	Greene, Brian M. (R)	21.43%	F			
Acton, Cheryl K. (R)	40.00%	F	Grover, Keith (R)	21.43%	F			
Hawkes, Timothy D. (R)	40.00%	F	Chew, Scott H. (R)	20.83%	F			
Hutchings, Eric K. (R)	40.00%	F	Roberts, Marc K. (R)	20.00%	F			
Perry, Lee B. (R)	40.00%	F	Brooks, Walt (R)	18.75%	F			
Pulsipher, Susan (R)	40.00%	F	McCay, Daniel (R)	6.67%	F			
Snow, V. Lowry (R)	40.00%	F	McKell, Michael K. (R)	6.67%	F			
Hughes, Gregory H. (R)	38.46%	F	Hemingway, Lynn N. (D)	Excused	Excused			
Knotwell, John (R)	38.46%	F						

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METHODOLOGY: Each vote that aligned with the Utah Sierra Club's conservation position counted as 1 point. Legislators total voting opportunities, both committee and floor votes, were considered. Each legislator's point total was then divided by the sum of those voting opportunities. Bill sponsorship and absences were not factored into the scoring.

The following standard rubric was applied:
 A 93.33-100, A- 90-93.33, B+ 86.67-90,
 B 83.33-86.67, B- 80-83.33, C+ 76.67-80,
 C 73.33-76.67, C- 70-73.33, D+ 66.67-70,
 D 63.33-66.67, D- 60-63.33, F O-60.

LEGISLATION OPPOSED:

HB135 - EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION AMENDMENTS from Rep. Noel (R-Kanab) aimed to restrict the abilities of all Cities of the First Class to protect watersheds and water quality.

HB136 - FEDERAL DESIGNATIONS by Rep. Noel (R-Kanab) would have created obstacles for political subdivisions to advocate in favor of federal designations like a National Monument.

HB255 - EXTRA-JURISDICTIONAL MUNICIPAL PROPERTY sponsored by Rep. Coleman (R-West Jordan) would've forced cities to pay additional taxes on land outside of their bounds, placing a huge burden on cities purchasing land for conservation or watershed management purposes.

SB218 - CONTAINER REGULATION ACT by Sen. Buxton (R-Roy) aimed to stop local municipalities from regulating plastic waste.

HB481- DONALD J. TRUMP UTAH NATIONAL PARKS HIGHWAY DESIGNATION Rep. Noel (R-Kanab) sought to rename Utah's iconic National Parks Highway after President Trump.

SB234 - UTAH INLAND PORT AUTHORITY from Sen. Stevenson (R-Layton) had far-

reaching negative implications for air quality, watershed management, fossil fuel extraction, and local control in the creation of the new port authority.

HB169 - COMMERCIAL WASTE FEE AMENDMENTS from Rep. Knotwell (R-Herriman) gave a \$1.7 million dollar fee break to the nuclear waste giant, EnergySolutions.

HB373 - WASTE MANAGEMENT AMENDMENTS by Rep. Lee Perry (R- Brigham City) allows all solid waste landfills in the state to self inspect, including the new Class V solid waste cells from EnergySolutions and Promontory Point LLC.

HB272 - UTAH LAKE AMENDMENTS by Rep. McKell (R-Spanish Fork) paved the way for the sale of sovereign state lands in Utah Lake to real estate developers.

SB191 - STATE REGULATION OF OIL AND GAS by Sen. Van Tassel (R- Vernal) 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-Richfield) signaled to Congress that Utah ought to be exempt from future use of the Antiquities Act.

SCR8 - CONCURRENT RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE CREATION OF A NEW NATIONAL PARK by Sen. Okerlund (R-Monroe) supported Rep. Stewart's codification of President Trump's new boundaries for Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

LEGISLATION SUPPORTED:

HB101 - AIR QUALITY EMISSIONS TESTING AMENDMENTS from Rep. Arent (D-SLC) created a new diesel emissions testing pilot program in Utah County.

HCR7 - CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC STEWARDSHIP by Rep. Edwards (R- North Salt Lake) required that lawmakers consider the impacts of a changing climate on Utah's environment and economy. The bill language was negatively amended in the Senate, thus only votes cast in the House have been considered for the purposes of these grades.

HB479 - ZERO EMISSION VEHICLE PROGRAM from Rep. Eliason (R-Sandy) required a new credit system to encourage auto dealers to ship Zero Emission Vehicles to Utah.

HB171 - MOTOR VEHICLE EMISSIONS AMENDMENTS by Rep. Romero (D-SLC) aimed to increase penalties for those who remove or tamper with their emissions control systems.

SB204 - SECONDARY WATER METERING REQUIREMENTS, sponsored by Sen. Anderegg would have implemented a secondary water metering requirement, bolstering water conservation and improving state data collection.

HB211 - FREIGHT SWITCHER EMISSIONS MITIGATION by Rep. Handy (R-Layton) would have provided state funds to repower or replace old and heavily polluting freight equipment.

HB38 - FIREWORKS RESTRICTIONS by Rep. Dunnigan (R-Taylorsville) restricts, by half, the number of days that fireworks are permissible and increases criminal fines.

EXCLUDED:

SB136 - TRANSPORTATION GOVERNANCE AMENDMENTS sponsored by Sen. Harper (R-Taylorsville) had both positive and negative implications for air quality. While the bill provided much needed transit funding through a local option sales tax of 0.2%, it dramatically increased fees for electric and hybrid vehicles. An EV infrastructure funding mechanism was also created.

Visit utah.sierraclub.org to view the full 2018 legislative report!

ChapterNews

No Cedars in the Cedar Mountains Wilderness...

by Jeff Clay

...but there are plenty of junipers, eagles, mule deer, pronghorn, bobcats, cougars, and one large herd of wild horses.



TOP | Burnt Juniper and Crescent Moon.

RIGHT | Skull Valley and Stansbury Mountains from atop Cedar Mountains.



In 2009 Congress designated 100,000 acres of the wild and seldom visited Cedar Mountains a Wilderness Area. Located only 50 miles from Salt Lake City, the Cedars are the third Great Basin mountain range west of the Wasatch. Typical of these types of mountains, the Cedars run north-to-south and are bordered on the east by Skull Valley and stretching to the west as far as the Nevada border is the Bonneville depression.

The ubiquitous explorer John C. Fremont passed through the range in the 1840s while later self-styled pioneer route-finder Lansford W. Hastings designated part of his infamous Hastings Cut-Off Trail to cut through a northern canyon of the mountains. The doomed Donner Party filled their canteens in this canyon for the 80 mile crossing of the Bonneville Salt

Flats, unaware of the historic and grim fate that awaited them higher and further away in the Sierra Nevada Mountains of California.

Early settlers often mistook juniper for cedars. There are no cedar trees in the Cedar Mountains. Not much in the way of trees at all, actually. There are plenty of junipers though, and after the occasional lightning strike-induced fire, the skeletal limbs of these trees stretch skyward in plaintive and poignant fashion. Or, so it seems to me.

Being not so tall and wide as the Stansbury Mountains, nor so physically abused and run-over as the Oquirrh Mountains, nor so distant as the hyper-dramatic Silver Island Range, nor so remote as the Newfoundland Mountains, I have explored and wandered through the

Cedars many times when I needed a close-by, West Desert 'fix' in winter, spring or fall. Though the views can be quite grand, this is not dramatic terrain. Subtlety is the watchword for the Cedars.

I have walked the ridges in winter, punching through snow, with unblemished views to the Deep Creek Range on the Nevada border while behind me Salt Lake drowns in its own inversion. I've explored side canyons in spring whilst trying to avoid trampling the occasional new flower struggling to raise its young head to the sun. I've seen the shy pronghorn, warily watching me, while ravens caw and circle overhead.

There may be no cedars, but I am glad there is a wilderness in the Cedar Mountains Wilderness.

Outings

Reflections on Five Years of Local Outings

by Fred Swanson



REBECCA WALLACE



FRED SWANSON

1. Club participants gather for a Tuesday evening hike to Alexander Creek in Mountain Dell.
2. Placing carsonite signs in the Mexican Mountain Wilderness Study Area, San Rafael Swell, May 2017.
3. Winter in Mill Creek Canyon
4. "Fall colors" in Mill Creek Canyon, November 2017.
5. Sally Aerts demonstrates ankle taping at our last Outings Leader Training workshop.



DON MAHAFFEY



BESSANN SWANSON

As I get ready to step down from this post at the end of the summer, I can say that the folks I've met and worked with on our outings have been the greatest reward of all.

You know the kind of article that appears from time to time in adventure magazines, wherein a group of exhausted trekkers finally reach their fabled destination (in Ladakh, Patagonia or wherever) after spending weeks on a trail fraught with hardship and peril? Or they descend a raging river beset with rocks and whirlpools? Well, this is not going to be one of those articles. Local outings with the Sierra Club tend to be safe, predictable affairs, and I take some satisfaction in knowing that for the past five years in which I've served as Salt Lake Group outings chair, we've had nothing worse happen than a sore knee or a sunburn. And if it were up to me, I'd try to prevent those as well!

While emphasizing safety, we still have plenty of fun on our outings. The Sierra Club got its start as an outings organization and

local outings are a free and easy way to discover some of the wonderful natural places we enjoy here in Utah, in the company of some really nice people. As I get ready to step down from this post at the end of the summer, I can say that the folks I've met and worked with on our outings have been the greatest reward of all.

In order to collect some vignettes from this past year of outings, I looked through my folder of old sign-up sheets, which stirred some nice memories:

Stopping to admire the flowers in Albion Basin as we head up the trail toward Catherine Pass and the summit of Sunset Peak;

Picking out the faint trail under the ridge leading to the top of Frary Peak on Antelope Island, after enjoying a good look at a bison bull (we kept our distance from it);

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

Utah Chapter Outings

EXPLORE WITH US! JULY–OCTOBER 2018

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. Abbreviations in capital letters signify the group planning the outing. [E] = educational content, [C] = conservation focus, [S] = service activities.



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.

Glen Canyon Group Outings

GCG Sat 7/14 Mary Jane and Professor Canyon Creek. Follow the stream four miles up a deepening and narrowing red rock canyon to a spectacular waterfall over a big chockstone. Easy walking with little elevation gain, simpler with waders, though it is possible with effort to stay dry to just below the waterfall. Those equipped and qualified will have an opportunity to rappel over the waterfall. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 8:00 AM. Leader: Tammy Berrie (435) 260-0462 southeasternutahtammyb@yahoo.com.

GCG Sat 7/28 Manns Peak/Mount Tomasaki. From Geyser Pass hope to climb Mount Tomasaki. The route is still in development. Might change to the established trail up Manns Peak. Either peak is 12,200' plus and 1700-1800' above our starting point, five miles or so round trip. Both offer sweeping views. More information later. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 8:00 AM. Leader: Thomas Messenger (435) 259-1756 messengert35@gmail.com.

GCG Sat 8/11 Muleshoe and Kane Springs Canyons. Beginning 15 miles south of Moab, we hike to the confluence of Muleshoe and Upper Kane Creek canyons, via a new route descending Triple Bypass Canyon. Then we hike downstream on a rough jeep road high above Kane Creek, and back

upstream in and along Kane Creek. Bring river sandals, and swim or other clothes for recommended full immersion. Approx 5-6 miles, 4-5 hours. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 8:00 AM. Leader: Albey Reiner (435) 260-8708.

GCG Sat 8/25 Onion Creek Branches. Explore three branches of Onion Creek amid the towering red spires. Return to the road (six miles 1000') or scramble up to the Fisher Towers trail at the base of the Titan and hike back to the trailhead (seven miles 1500') with a car shuttle. More details later. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 8:00 AM. Leader: David Alexander alexdavi@isu.edu.

GCG Sat 9/8 Petroglyph and Double Arch Canyons. Approximately 16 miles west of Green River on I-70. A 2WD accessible dirt road leaves the highway on the right. Our hike will involve visiting 3 short canyons. A short, but lush box canyon ending at a dry-fall. The next stop is Double Arch Canyon, a short but beautiful canyon that ends at a dry-fall with two large arches high above and a small bridge directly in the watercourse. The final canyon has a small but interesting panel in it. 1-2-hour hike. Easy and accessible. For those wanting more bang for the buck theres plenty more to do in the area. I will share ideas as the hike draws closer as accessibility in the area dependent upon recent weather conditions. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red

Rock Elementary School, at 8:00 AM. Leader: Tammy Berrie (435) 260-0462 southeasternutahtammyb@yahoo.com.

GCG Sat 9/22 Hurst Bridge and Exclamation Bridge. Travel to the San Rafael Swell to visit three spectacular natural bridges. The trailhead is 19 miles south of I-70 and 3 miles west of Utah 24 on an easy high clearance road. The trailhead is about an hour and a half from Moab. There is primitive camping available at the trailhead. Well hike a mile up Ernie Canyon to Ernie Arch, a 40 by 12 arch. We leave the canyon here to start climbing up the Swell. After another mile and a half we reach Hurst Bridge, a 55 span over the wash weve been hiking in. From here it is a half mile scramble over slickrock to spectacular Exclamation Bridge, with its triple opening. If time permits, we can ramble another half mile to the crest of the Swell with great views to the west. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 8:00 AM. Leader: David Alexander alexdavi@isu.edu.

Salt Lake Group Outings

If you'd like to be on the Salt Lake Group's email list for weekly notification of outings, drop a line to Fred Swanson at fbswan32@msn.com. Be sure to visit <https://utah.sierraclub.org/content/calendar> for updates.

Continued on page 21

Outings

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

Hiking an old 4WD road in Wasatch Mountain State Park to the summit of Wilson Peak for spectacular views over the Heber Valley;

Escaping the July heat for the high meadows of the Uinta Mountains' Lofty Lakes loop;

Spending a few hours with Salt Lake County's watershed ranger at Willow Lake in Big Cottonwood Canyon to learn about the challenges of maintaining our pure sources of drinking water;

Sitting around a warm campfire in Capitol Reef on a chilly April evening while everyone shares their favorite nature writing;

Wrestling fence rails into position to reconstruct a vehicle barrier in the Deep Creek Mountains, then retiring to camp and a million-star sky.

These instances give a sense of what we do on our outings program, so if you haven't joined us yet, please do! Our trips happen because of a dedicated core of volunteer outings leaders, who receive no pay get but a lot of satisfaction for their efforts. Leading an outing requires only that you study our outings manual and complete an online Q&A session, or attend one of our leader training

workshops. Basic first aid training is required and is included in the workshop. Then, after serving as assistant leader on one of our hikes, you're ready to go! (Backpacking trips require an additional level of certification, which thus far we have not pursued here in Salt Lake.)

The core of our local outings has been our Tuesday evening hikes, which run from mid-April through September and offer a variety of short hikes, from easy rambles on foothills trails to somewhat more vigorous routes such as to Circle All Peak in Big Cottonwood Canyon. We do fewer weekend hikes, although I'd like to schedule more of them. Winter tends to be our slow season, but we've enjoyed some wonderful excursions on snowshoes and cross-country skis in local canyons and in the Uintas.

I'd like to see our program expand into some new areas, too. Nature-oriented outings are one possibility, where we bring along bird and flower guidebooks and get to know some of our local flora and avifauna. We've taken part in some great service projects, and if this kind of trip interests you, check our upcoming work trips to Bryce Canyon National Park (August 19-25) and the Escalante River drainage (to be

scheduled in October). All of our outings are listed on our online calendar at <https://utah.sierraclub.org/content/calendar>, or just search "Utah Sierra Club Outings."

We've also been discussing how to incorporate more of our conservation interests into outings. Ideas include car campouts in Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments, as well as visits to local hot spots such as proposed wilderness areas in the Wasatch Range. The possibilities are limited only by your imagination. As an outings leader, you can arrange a trip to wherever you like, although we encourage new leaders to start off with day hikes to local destinations.

As for me, I've been involved with local Sierra Club outings since 1972, both here and in other states, and I can attest that they're a great way to enjoy our magnificent natural spaces while spending time with interesting and enjoyable folks. There's an active outings program in the Moab area as well, and it's time to think about restarting one in Ogden, too. So if you're interested in learning more--especially about getting certified as a leader--drop me a line at fbswan32@msn.com. I'd be glad to point you on the trail.

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Outings

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SLG Tues 7/3 Upper Mill Creek. We'll hike the Little Water-Desolation loop or another suitable trail in upper Mill Creek Canyon. Meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Skyline High School parking lot, 3251 E. Upland Drive (3760 S.). Leader: Jim Paull, 801-580-9079 or jimpaull@sisna.com.

SLG, Tues 7/10 Catherine Pass via Albion. The beautiful, 1.5-mile-long trail to Catherine Pass leads through the flower-filled meadows of lower Albion Basin to a fine view of Lake Catherine and its surrounding peaks. Please be prepared to share the \$6 per vehicle use fee for Albion Basin. Meet promptly at 6:30 pm at the Little Cottonwood Canyon Park and Ride lot at the base of the canyon (4323 E. Little Cottonwood Canyon Rd., north side of road). Leader: Jim Paull, 801-580-9079 or jimpaull@sisna.com.

SLG Tues 7/17 Circle All Peak. Cool streams, tall stands of fir and aspen, and a well-maintained trail beckon the hiker to sample the ambiance of Big Cottonwood Canyon. The trail climbs 1600 feet up the Butler Fork drainage, where it is not unusual to meet moose browsing the streamside vegetation. Meeting place is the 6200 South Park and Ride lot, 6450 S. Wasatch Blvd. (1 mi north of the canyon mouth) at 6:30 pm. Please contact Colleen at (801) 484-4105 or (801) 554-7153, or email colleen.mahaffey@gmail.com for details.

SLG Thurs 7/19 Sunset Peak. Our Thursday afternoon hike takes in the 360° view from Sunset Peak above Brighton at the head of Big Cottonwood Canyon. We'll climb to Catherine Pass and continue on past tree line to the peak, which offers views of the Uinta Mountains to the east as well as the alpine lakes below. Bring footwear with good traction soles. Meet at 4:30 pm at the 6200 South Park and Ride lot, 6450 S. Wasatch Blvd. (1 mi north of the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon). We plan to return to the trailhead about 9:30 p.m. Leader: Jim Paull, 801-580-9079 or jimpaull@sisna.com.

SLG Tues 7/24 Little Mountain. We'll follow the ridgeline trail above Emigration and Little Dell canyons to the 7000' crest of

Little Mountain, where we'll watch the sunset and return via the light of the gibbous moon. Great views, pleasant maple groves and open meadows highlight this easy trail, with only a short, steep climb to the summit. Bring a snack, jacket, and headlamp in case of clouds. Meet promptly at 6:30 p.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. Leader: Fred Swanson, fbswan32@msn.com, (801) 588-0361.

SLG Tues 7/31 Church Fork to the Ridge. From Millcreek Canyon we'll climb nearly 2000 feet through a varied forest of maple, fir and Gambel oak to the ridge beneath Grandeur Peak, with views across the city to the Great Salt Lake. Bring headlamps to aid in the descent. Meet at 6:30 pm at the Skyline High School parking lot (northwest end), 3251 E. Upland Drive (3760 S). Leader: Jim Paull, 801-580-9079 or jimpaull@sisna.com.

SLG Tues 8/7 Willow Lake. This delightful hike in Big Cottonwood Canyon starts out steeply, climbing through an aspen forest then leveling out and passing through several meadows. It ends at a serene lake in a peaceful setting below the Wasatch crest. Bring headlamp. If parking on the road is not available, we will go to the Brighton Lakes instead. Meet at 6:30 pm at the 6200 South Park and Ride lot, 6450 S. Wasatch Blvd. (1 mi north of the canyon mouth) Leader: Scott Svatos, scott@svatos.com or (310) 873-7316.

SLG Fri 8/10-Mon 8/13 Antelope Island State Park Car Camp and Meteor Shower Viewing. This trip offers a rare treat. These dates are the best for viewing the Perseids meteor shower, one of the year's best providing up to 60 meteors per hour. There is no moonlight to interfere and Antelope Island is a designated International Dark Sky Park. We will be camping at the Bridger Bay Campground, arriving Friday evening and hiking during the days. You are responsible for your own campground reservations which should be made in advance. You may join in for all or part of the weekend. Please contact the leader if you are interested.

Aaron Jones 801-467-3532 or ajonesmvp@msn.com.

SLG Tues 8/14 Mt. Aire Saddle from Elbow Fork. This steep but shady trail provides a wonderful panorama with views down Parley's Canyon. Expect about 1150 feet of climbing. Meet at 6:00 pm (note earlier starting time) at the Skyline High School parking lot (north end), 3251 E. Upland Drive (3760 S.). Bring headlamps. Leader: Jim Paull, 801-580-9079 or jimpaull@sisna.com.

SLG Thurs 8/16 Lake Blanche in the afternoon. Lake Blanche is the first of a trio of beautiful small lakes nestled in a cirque under rugged Sundial Peak. Outcroppings of colorful smooth rock soften the jagged alpine landscape. At least one liter of water and ample snacks are recommended along with footwear appropriate for a hike over rocky terrain. The trail is good, but be prepared for a stiff climb of 2700 feet. Meet at 4:30 pm at the 6200 South Park and Ride lot, 6450 S. Wasatch Blvd. (1 mi north of the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon). Leader: Jim Paull, 801-580-9079 or jimpaull@sisna.com

Sun 8/19-Sat 8/25 Bryce Canyon Service Project. Join our friends in the Southern Nevada Group of the Sierra Club for a week of service in Bryce Canyon National Park! This fuel removal project will involve stacking dead trees in burn piles, but less strenuous options are available. Participants will stay in the group campground at Sunset Point, 1/2 mile from the rim. No fee to take part, but there is a \$20 refundable deposit. For further information and to register, visit the Southern Nevada Group's website at <https://www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/southern-nevada> and scroll down to "upcoming events."

SLG Tues 8/21 White Fir Pass. This pleasant wooded trail begins at the Terraces picnic ground in Mill Creek Canyon and takes us along a shady stream and mountainside to the pass, where we are greeted with a vista of Gobblers Knob underneath giant white firs. Meet at 6:30 pm (note starting time) at the Skyline High School east parking lot, 3251 E. Upland Drive (3760 S.). Please contact Colleen at (801) 484-4105 or (801) 554-

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7153, or email colleen.mahaffey@gmail.com for details.

SLG Tues 8/28 Greens Basin. The Greens Basin trail leads up through lush aspen and conifer stands, ending in a shady meadow away from the bustle of Big Cottonwood Canyon. Headlamps recommended. Meet promptly at 6:00 pm at the 6200 South Park and Ride lot, 6450 South Wasatch Blvd. (1 mi north of the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon). Leader: Jim Paull, 801-580-9079 or jimpaull@sisna.com.

SLG Tues 9/4 Neffs Canyon. Neffs Canyon is the site of an old mill dating to 1847 but now is a prime hiking location just south of Millcreek Canyon and is easily accessible from the valley. Numerous springs and meadows of wildflowers adorn the trail and groves of conifers create a quiet buffer from the nearby Olympus Cove residential neighborhood. The plan is to hike to the second meadow so bring water and snacks for refreshment along the way. Also bring headlamps and trekking poles (if desired). Meet at 6:00 pm at the Skyline High School east parking lot, 3251 E. Upland Drive (3760 S.). Leader: Jim Paull, 801-580-9079 or jimpaull@sisna.com.

SLG Tues 9/11 City Creek to Davis Co. Overlook. The Bonneville Shoreline Trail climbs out of lower City Creek Canyon to a fine overlook of the Great Salt Lake. The maples may be turning color along the way. Meet by the entry gate to the City Creek Nature Preserve at 6:30 pm. (Note later starting time.) Take Bonneville Blvd at the intersection of 11th Avenue and B Street, drive downhill about a half mile, then turn right at the sign. If the parking lot by the gate is full, there are overflow spaces along the entry road. Please contact Colleen at (801) 484-4105 or (801) 554-7153, or email colleen.mahaffey@gmail.com for questions or more details.

SLG Thurs 9/13 Grandeur Peak from Church Fork. A 2600-foot ascent from the Church Fork picnic area in Mill Creek Canyon takes us to this 8300-foot high peak with commanding views over the Salt Lake Valley. The 5-1/2-mile-long round trip hike is a steady climb and takes about 4 hours.

Bring snacks, at least 2 liters of water, hiking boots, hat, layers of clothing and optional trekking poles. Meet at 4:30 pm at the Skyline High School east parking lot, 3251 E. Upland Drive (3760 S). Leader: Jim Paull, 801-580-9079 or jimpaull@sisna.com.

SLG Tues 9/18 Bells Canyon. The Bells Canyon trail leads from the edge of the city over glacial moraines and underneath soaring granite cliffs to a series of spectacular waterfalls coming from the Lone Peak Wilderness. Meet promptly at 6:00 pm at the Little Cottonwood Canyon Park and Ride lot, 4323 E. Little Cottonwood Canyon Rd. (mouth of the canyon on the north side). We will carpool to the actual trailhead on Little Cottonwood Rd. where parking is more limited. Headlamps recommended. Leader: Jim Paull, 801-580-9079 or jimpaull@sisna.com.

SLG Tues 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: Jim Paull, 801-580-9079 or jimpaull@sisna.com.

UC Fri 10/12-Mon 10/15 Russian Olive Removal on the Escalante River. Take part in the ongoing effort to eradicate invasive Russian olive from the Escalante River canyons. The Escalante River Watershed Partnership (<http://escalanteriverwatershedpartnership.org/>) will provide leadership and tools. We will be staying at the Escalante Petrified Forest State Park near Escalante, Utah, and will hike in to and out of the worksite each day, about an hour's hike each way, on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Then, those who wish may go on an ERWP-lead hike on Monday. To register, contact Carly Ferro at carly.ferro@sierraclub.org.

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.



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