



SIERRA CLUB
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Utah Sierran

utah.sierraclub.org

Summer 2011 Vol. 44 No. 3

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO



Killer tomatoes and homicidal beansprouts.

Which foods can you trust?

More details on page 2.



Learn the latest

about nature, science and the environment in the new Sierra Club Book Club.

Check it out in this issue's Inside the Chapter column on page 7.



After a four-year battle, the Sierra Club's Ogden Group won a stunning victory for open government and environmental protection.

See the full story on p 8.

A Sierran Explores Unconventional Fuels

by Sandy Bassett



Battleship Butte, Book Cliffs

The Institute for Clean and Secure Energy based at the University of Utah asked if Sierra Club might be able to furnish a speaker to address their May 17, 2011, Unconventional Fuels Conference. "An Energy-Environment Compromise?" was the suggested topic. A lengthy search located a well-qualified

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

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Bear in mind the consequences.

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

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OurWorld

Tracking Down the Vegetable Terrorists

by Mark Clemens

As we went to press with this issue of the *Utah Sierran*, the international media was providing hourly updates about the vegetable guilty of sickening thousands of Germans and lapping out in wider waves of food-borne illness through the European Union. Is the photosynthesizing terrorist a Spanish cucumber, tomato or German soybean sprouts?

Is the photosynthesizing terrorist a Spanish cucumber, tomato or German soybean sprouts?

We will perhaps not have the full details for months, but as usual, the media are providing rapid, unuseful information. E coli, the bug at the center of the storm, does not originate in vegetables, a point seldom if ever made in news coverage. Vegetables can only act as a conduit for dangerous strains of e coli when they've been contaminated with cow feces.

The first wave of deadly e coli was in the 1980s when the 0157:H7 strain was isolated. We've had several waves of food poisoning from e coli since then. The public reaction, fed by media misinformation, has usually been to avoid for a few months the hapless vegetable that became the ride e coli took into our kitchens. Where does the problem really lie if not with vegetables?

CONSEQUENCES OF GRAIN FEEDING

Cattle possess a large, unusual stomach called a rumen that allows them to transform the relatively low-grade nutrition of grass into protein and fat. Michael Pollen calls them solar-powered ruminants because of this transformative power.

Since the 1960s, the agro-alimentary industry has taken virtually all US cattle, and many around the world as well, out of pastures and herded them into overcrowded barns and feedlots where they seldom eat grass and instead eat corn and other grains as well as a range of less wholesome things.

The richer grain diet makes most cows sick and many of them desperately sick. Two of the most common problems from this richer diet are bloat and acidosis. Rather than acknowledge one of the fundamental flaws of industrial agriculture, the industry doubled down by adding antibiotics extensively to animal feed. The antibiotics are used both therapeutically to try to keep cows suffering

from a bad diet alive long enough to fatten them and get them to the slaughterhouse and non-therapeutically because it appears they thin the intestinal walls and allow cattle to put on weight more quickly.

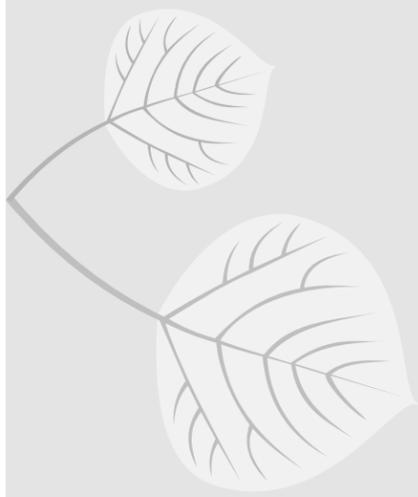
By trying to make technology outsmart a well-evolved natural system, the industrial cattle market has created an unstable incubator of changing bacterial DNA. Some of these changes are dangerous for the ultimate consumer of beef: human beings. The corn-centered diet, mentioned earlier, makes cows' naturally neutral stomach chemistry acidic, and continual exposure to antibiotics selects for antibiotic-resistant bacteria strains. The result is the selection of e coli strains that resist gastric acid, the first-line human defense against any food-borne pathogen, and that also resist antibiotics, the back-up human defense.

BACK TO THE FUTURE

Industrial, that is corn-fed, cattle raising is inhumane and incredibly destructive of the environment, but sufficient proof of its danger to human health exists for any reasonable person to know it's time to make the switch to grass-fed beef exclusively.

We should carefully follow the directions of public health authorities about vegetable consumption, but the notion that dangerous mutations of e coli fostered by industrial cattle raising can be contained by after-the-fact controls on vegetables is like imagining one can avert a flash flood by trying to catch the raindrops in a bucket.

Readers of this article who eat beef should realize that they have the power to restore a safer and more humane style of stock raising by eating only grass-fed beef.



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OurMission

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.



FIND US ON FACEBOOK

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

OurAir

Why We Can Breathe Easier

by Mark Clemens



In 2013, the Clean Air Act (CAA) will celebrate its golden anniversary. Its provisions were strengthened with major amendments in 1970 and 1990. The act has benefited all Americans, even those who don't live in areas with air pollution problems, by improving health and productivity in areas that do.

And for the millions of Americans who live in areas with air pollution, the act has truly been a life saver. Based on peer-reviewed data the Environmental Protection Agency reported recently that in 2010 alone, the improvement in air quality from the 1990 amendments lowering fine particulate and ozone pollution standards prevented 160,000 premature deaths and 130,000 heart attacks as well as avoiding 13 million lost work days.

At several stages in the development of the Clean Air Act, congress has realized that air quality should be improved by the means that minimize costs and impacts on jobs. This emphasis would be important and beneficial even if industry didn't frequently create misleading controversies

over the costs the CAA. Under section 812 of the 1990 CAA Amendments, EPA is required to provide periodic, peer-reviewed reports on the costs versus benefits of the law's enforcement.

The most recent section 812 report, <http://www.epa.gov/air/sect812/aug10/fullreport.pdf>, released in August 2010 shows that enforcement of CAA provisions dating from 1970 to 1990 yielded \$10 in health benefits for every \$1 in costs, and the post-1990 CAA provisions yielded \$4 in health benefits for every \$1 in costs.

For many years EPA has submitted proposed new rules to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) for review before the rules can be implemented. OIRA is a part of the Office of Management & Budget and vets new rules to make sure they produce the smallest possible impact on jobs and the economy while enforcing the law. Private enterprise is able to provide comments during this process.

President Obama issued an executive order on 18 January 2011, to extend

and strengthen this process of evaluation of regulatory efficiency across the government. The president's objective is to fine tune regulations, pare back obsolete regulation, eliminate paperwork and prevent redundant or contradictory regulation. The order, available online at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/01/18/improving-regulation-and-regulatory-review-executive-order>, directs every agency to submit a plan within 120 days to OIRA establishing a program for retrospective regulatory review.

Subjecting regulation to this kind of thoughtful periodic review is a good idea. It should be done in a neutral atmosphere by people who understand the process and know the law and the public to be served.

Unfortunately while the Obama Administration has been working to make regulation work better, congressional opponents of the environment have launched several attacks on the landmarks of environmental progress, including the Clean Air Act.

Two of these bills are sponsored by members of the Utah congressional delegation. HR 1705, sponsored by Rep John Sullivan (R-OK) and co-sponsored by our own Rep Jim Matheson, creates an elaborate and unnecessary committee to examine the cumulative cost of EPA regulation on energy and manufacturing. The bill targets a list of specific recent regulations that are crucial to clean up ozone, fine particulates and other pollutants such as mercury that are causing serious health impacts in Matheson's own district.

It's likely Matheson knows the benefits of CAA regulation and regrettable for him to be putting a weapon in the hands of its opponents.

Rep Rob Bishop introduced HR 1287 which would largely exempt oil and gas exploration and production from environmental disclosure or regulation.

Wildflower Protection Restored

EACH VICTORY FOR THE NATURAL WORLD COUNTS

US District Court Judge Walker D. Miller sided with conservation groups on Thursday, June 9, and ordered the US Interior Department to reconsider a decision denying Endangered Species Act (ESA) protection to a wildflower found only in parts of Utah and Colorado. The wildflower, Graham's penstemon, is threatened by oil and gas drilling, oil shale mining, off-road vehicles, and grazing. Conservationists had earlier sought ESA protection but were turned down by the Bush administration.

The court ruled that the Bush administration decision not to list Graham's penstemon as threatened was "arbitrary and capricious."

The court reinstated the 2006 proposed rule to add Graham's penstemon to the endangered species list and ordered the agency to make a new, final decision on the flower's protection. "The court's

decision makes it clear that FWS cannot set aside science and avoid full consideration of the multiple threats that incrementally push a species closer to extinction," said Meg Parish, attorney for the conservation groups.

Graham's penstemon is a strikingly beautiful wildflower in the snapdragon family that only occurs on oil shale outcrops in the Uintah Basin of northeastern Utah and northwestern Colorado. The penstemon was first considered for Endangered Species Act protection in 1975, when the Smithsonian Institution drafted the first list of plants to be protected under the Act. After nearly thirty years without action, and with drilling threats mounting, conservation groups formally petitioned the service to protect the penstemon in 2002. "This is great news for Graham's penstemon. There's widespread habitat destruction

going on throughout Utah and Colorado's Uintah Basin, the only area on earth this beautiful wildflower can be found. The Fish and Wildlife Service will now have the chance to do what they should have done in December 2006 - give Graham's penstemon the protection it needs under the Endangered Species Act," said Megan Mueller, conservation biologist with Center for Native Ecosystems.

In its ruling, the court also found the Fish and Wildlife Service failed to consider the best available science showing the threat posed by oil and gas development, livestock grazing, and off-road vehicles.

"Proper multiple use management of public lands requires a balanced approach. In Utah's Uinta Basin, that balance has been tremendously skewed. The American people must demand that its government officials act with honesty and integrity, and that they solely use the best available

science in making natural resource decisions without undue influence by other policies, agendas or interests. Yesterday's decision is a step in that direction," said Tony Frates, Conservation Co-chair of the Utah Native Plant Society.

This article was adapted from a press release issued on June 10th by the plaintiffs.

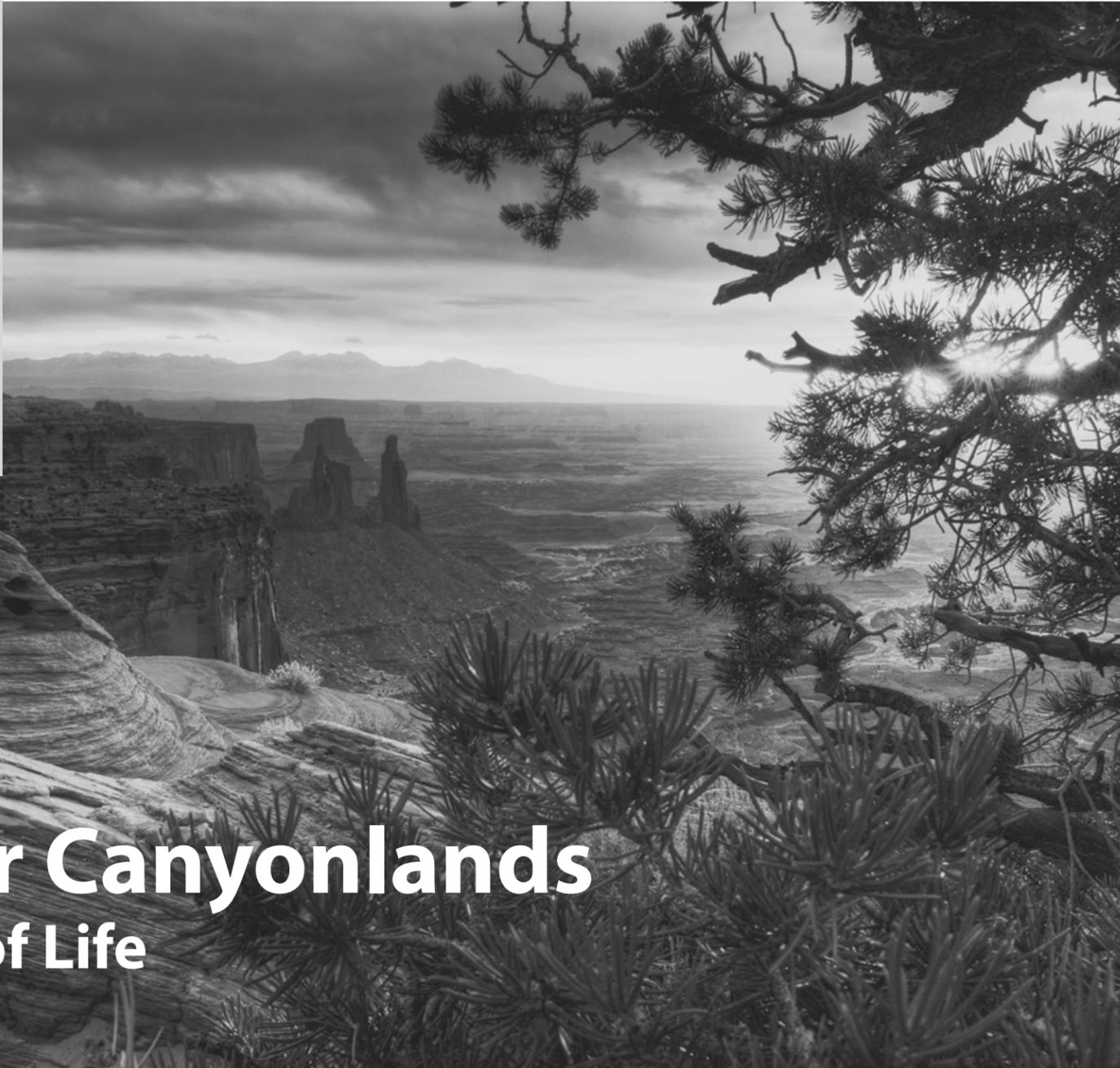


CondorCorner

THE RESILIENT HABITAT CAMPAIGN

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

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



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Greater Canyonlands A Wealth of Life

by Dr Marion Klaus

Climate change is the largest threat our natural heritage has ever faced. The effects of climate disruption are already being felt on even our most pristine landscapes. Setting aside areas where development is restricted is no longer enough—we must now actively work to create resilient habitats where plants, animals, and people are able to survive and thrive on a warmer planet. The Resilient Habitat Campaign works to insure that ecosystems retain their basic function and structure while absorbing the stresses associated with climate change. This includes protecting very large areas of habitat known as core areas, connecting them with corridors through which living things can move from one habitat patch to another, and reducing non-climate stressors that work in synergy with climate change to threaten species with extinction.

Greater Canyonlands consists of 2.4 million acres of stunning red rock canyons and cliffs through which the Colorado, Green, San Rafael, and Dirty Devil Rivers meander. Canyonlands National Park forms an island of about 338,000 acres of protected habitat at the heart of Greater Canyonlands; much of the remaining acreage is open to a variety of exploitive uses. Greater Canyonlands is a large core area of critical habitat for plants and animals that warrants maximum protection as part of the Sierra Club's Resilient Habitat campaign.

The unique geological formations of Greater Canyonlands result in highly variable geography, geology and soil types.

Large core habitats like Greater Canyonlands will help species survive the predicted effects of climate change. They provide protected space in which plants and animals have the flexibility to find the set of characteristics that meets their needs for survival.

The 280 miles of river systems within Greater Canyonlands function as important migration corridors for large species like deer, mountain lions, desert bighorns, and bears. The ability to move freely from one habitat patch to another is important for maintaining genetic diversity within populations and to minimize the risk of extinction. As such, corridors are important

considerations in the Resilient Habitat campaign. For example, corridors permit young bears or mountain lions to find a place to live. Deer have seasonal migrations that require corridors for them to access their summer or winter ranges. As the climate changes, species may need to move northward or to higher elevations in order to survive, and corridors facilitate these movements as well.

The rivers within Greater Canyonlands provide either temporary or permanent connections to pockets of wetlands. These provide alternative nurseries for a variety

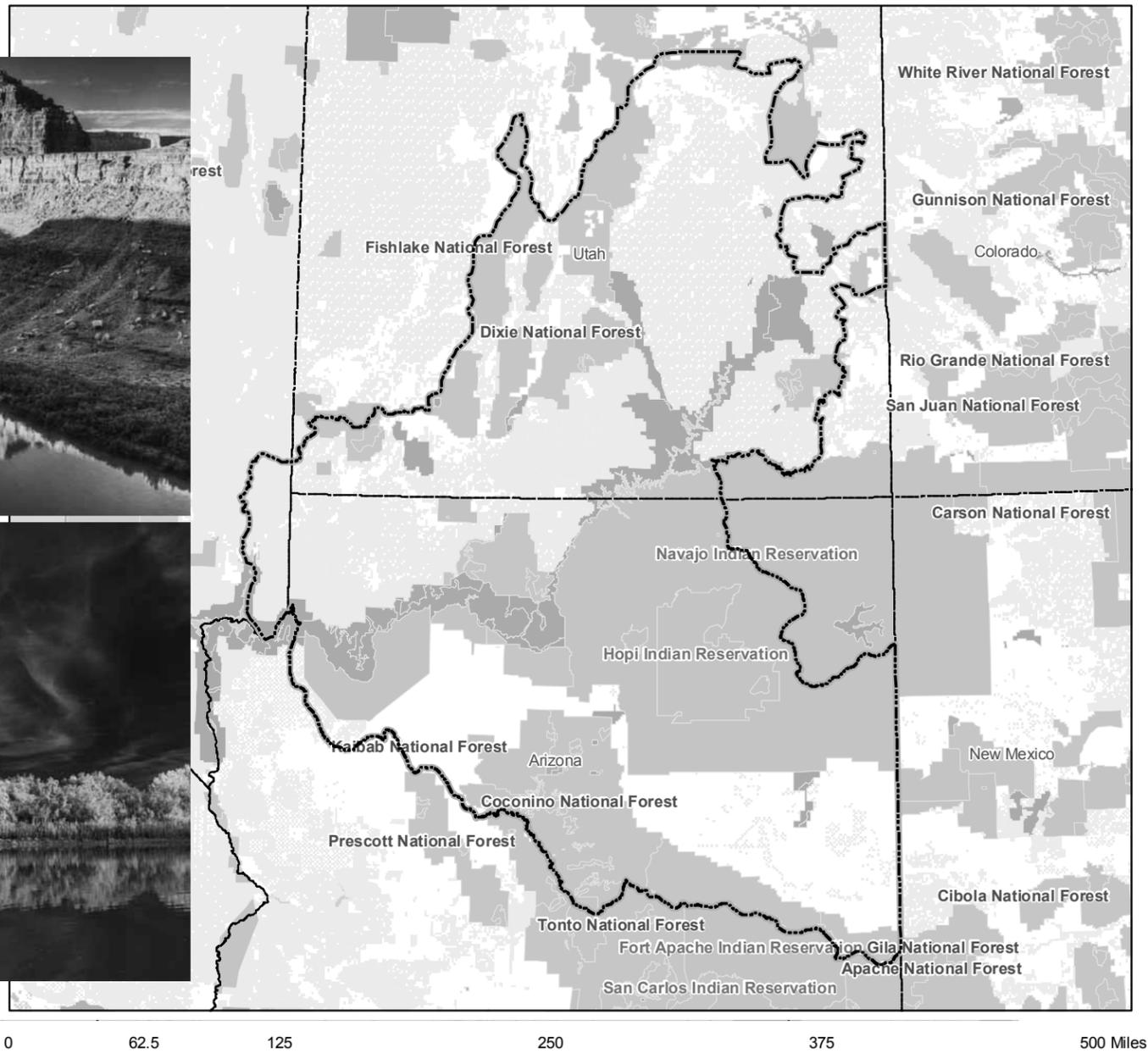
of invertebrates, amphibians, and larval and immature life stages of native fish. Riparian systems like these function as refuges and stopover points for migrating birds, too.

In Greater Canyonlands, there are nearly 300 perennial springs where some of the rarest species in Utah are found. The springs and seeps that dot the region include hanging gardens that provide crucial habitat for a wide variety of wildlife, especially amphibians, who use these areas to forage for food and in which to breed and raise their young. Because these communities are often one-of-a-kind and difficult or impossible to replace, they merit the strongest possible protection.



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The unique geological formations of Greater Canyonlands result in highly variable geography, geology and soil types. Elevations in Greater Canyonlands range widely from 3,790 ft. to 10,360 ft. When the physical environment is as diverse as this, the living things found there are diverse, too. For this reason, there is a high diversity of ecosystem types found in this region.

Greater Canyonlands has ecosystems that range from salt desert shrub, to lush grasslands, to alpine conifer forests. The Canyonlands Floristic Province, which refers to the high degree of unique species that characterize the area, has more plant diversity than almost any other floristic region in Utah. Amazingly, 960 different species of plants are found in Greater Canyonlands. This represents more than half of all the plants known to exist on the Colorado Plateau!

The high number of unique plant species, known as endemics, as well as the diverse types of plant communities present in Greater Canyonlands, provide habitat for the many hundreds of species of birds, mammals, fish and reptiles found there including twenty-seven species of animals on the Utah State Sensitivity List and seven species on the Federal Threatened, Endangered, or Candidate species list. Many of these species, such as the Uinta Basin Hookless cactus or the Wright Fishhook cactus, are so rare they could easily be destroyed by human activities such as ORV use or the introduction of non-native species, which often follows in the tracks of ORVs.

Utah's Wildlife Action Plan for sensitive species recognizes the outstanding wildlife habitat found in Greater Canyonlands. Ten separate Wildlife Focal Areas

were designated within this region. For example, the Abajo Mountains Focus Area has 100% of the Yavapai mountain snail known to exist in Utah as well as healthy populations of northern goshawk. The Elk Ridge Focus Area has critical habitat for spotted owls, three-toed woodpeckers, and four species of state-listed bats. The Hanksville Desert Focus area has a substantial amount of intact grasslands and significant habitat for Flannelmouth Suckers, a Conservation Agreement species; this species is the subject of a formal agreement between the US Fish and Wildlife Service and other parties to prevent it from becoming listed as threatened or endangered.

While we often think of protecting the spectacular scenery and view-sheds of Greater Canyonlands, there is considerable biological wealth within the region that needs protection too. There are many threats that affect the plants and animals of Greater Canyonlands such as excessive ORV use or habitat destruction by extractive industries like oil and gas development, oil shale and tar sands that further stress species already suffering from the effects of climate change. Reducing those stressors will help the species survive here. This, too, is part of the Resilient Habitat campaign. Thanks to Allison Jones at Wild Utah Project for data about habitat and species.

GREATER GRAND CANYON-COLORADO PLATEAU ECOREGION

SIERRA CLUB WORKING MAP
Draft August 2010



Legend

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

ChapterNews

What You Say Does Matter

by Tim Wagner

Hyperboles mixed with an equal part of hot air have always had their place in politics. But it wouldn't be a stretch to say that Utah Representative Rob Bishop routinely pushes the truth meter into the red zone. In fact, he has a long history with slips of the tongue, specifically pertaining to issues that many of us care about related to public lands, wetlands and wildlife protections, and energy development.

Fortunately it appears as though more and more people are watching him and responding to some of his outlandish remarks.

Take for instance Bishop's recent statements where he defended the outrageously huge federal tax breaks enjoyed by the oil and gas industry by claiming of all things that the industry receives no special tax breaks. This comes at a time when oil companies are enjoying record profits, but the U.S. Treasury is in dire need of revenue to stay afloat under the weight of record deficits, or when consumers - who are already laboring under a very tough economy - are paying nearly record gas prices. See for yourself at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/BishopsBlunders#p/a/u/0/oh-VxdBfrRI>

Want another example of Bishop's less-than-professional behavior? Witness this finger pointing, fact-less rant towards federal land managers over one of his favorite soapboxes, the issue of border control and protection of public lands. He clearly demonstrates how scoring political points with the extreme element of his party is far more important to him than actually having a reasonable discussion based on facts. Watch it at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SZxqYgePBP4&NR=1>

Or consider Rep. Bishop's statements after he was loudly criticized by Utah duck hunting groups, wetlands advocates, and other constituents for proposing to cut \$47 million from wetlands conservation programs, resulting in the program becoming nearly non-existent.

"The federal government does not have to preserve everything. The state and private sectors do a wonderful job," said Bishop.

He's partially correct but more wrong than right. Contrary to the way the Bishop is trying to spin it, no one expects or is saying that the federal government should "preserve everything."

Secondly, yes there are some very commendable efforts by numerous entities, including both state and private, to protect wetlands. However, most of such efforts are funded first by federal grants that require matching grants from other sources before the federal dollars are even released. In other words, it's often the leveraging of federal dollars that precipitates significant conservation measures around the state of Utah, resulting in the protection of many special places that are enjoyed by thousands of residents. To characterize such efforts as something that cash-strapped states or private interests can simply take over is a gross inaccuracy.

The bottom line is that Representative Rob Bishop simply refuses to get it when it comes to the real economic and tangible values that Utahns have for the state's remarkable wild places. Bishop also makes it quite clear that he places a higher priority on the financial health of the fossil fuels and extractive industries than he does for financially struggling, mainstream, middle class Utahns. Why else would he

defend giving billions of dollars in tax breaks to an industry that needs it the least?

The Sierra Club strongly believes that all public officials should be held accountable for what they say and do. Representative Bishop is no different. We highly encourage those who live in his district to attend his town hall meetings and watch media stories where Representative Bishop is quoted or interviewed. Be sure to call his office or write him letters when you witness inappropriate statements. Be sure to let us know as well.

You can send an email to me at tim.wagner@sierraclub.org, or call our office at 801/467-9294.

Hopefully, some folks may remember me from when I directed the Chapter's Smart Energy Campaign, a position I left in late 2008. Well, I'm back working for the Chapter where I've taken over as organizing director for the Utah Leadership Accountability Campaign. I'm thrilled to be working for the Utah Chapter again and welcome you to stop by or call anytime. I want to thank Steve Thiese who helped launch this effort and has been doing a remarkable job. Steve recently left to take a full time position with the Veterans Administration but I know that he plans on being continually involved.

Remember, as a member of the Sierra Club you are part of the most effective environmental organization in the U.S. But we're only as effective as you are willing to be engaged. Don't hesitate to get involved. You won't regret it!

Let's Celebrate!

Happy fiftieth birthday to the CFC! No, we're not celebrating chlorinated fluoro-carbons but the Combined Federal Campaign.

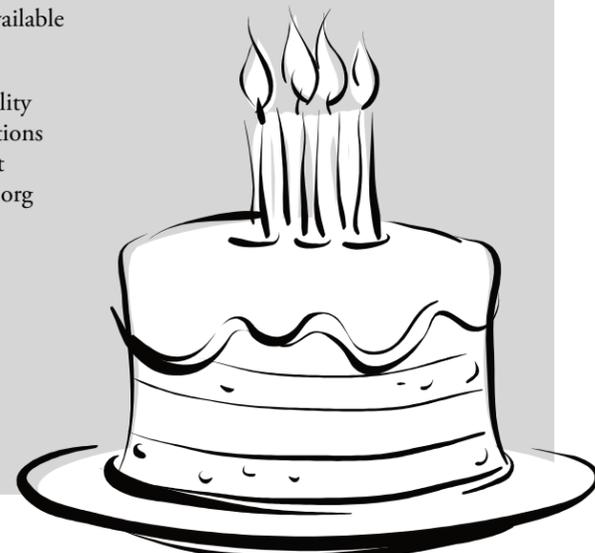
For fifty years the Combined Federal Campaign has harnessed the goodwill of millions of federal employees to help a range of non-profits including The Sierra Club Foundation. The Combined Federal Campaign allows federal workers to make regular contributions through payroll deduction to charitable organizations that qualify under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service code.

Employees at federal institutions such as Hill Air Force Base, the United States Forest Service Regional Headquarters and the Veterans' Administration Hospital all are able to participate in the CFC.

We salute all the federal employees who contribute, and we're especially grateful to those who donate to The Sierra Club Foundation. Many happy returns, CFC!

More information about the Combined Federal Campaign is available online, www.opm.gov/cfc.

If you work at a non-federal facility and are not able to make contributions through payroll deduction, contact Mark at mark.clemens@sierraclub.org or Lynne Brandley at lbrandley@xmission.com to help you get a Community Shares/Utah giving campaign started where you work.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

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Inside the Chapter

by Marion Klaus



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MISSION STATEMENT

The Utah Chapter Executive Committee developed a mission statement at the May 7 meeting that we would like to share with all of you.

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.

POTLUCK SOCIAL

Join the ExCom for a Social Hour and potluck dinner July 9 at Wasatch Mountain Club Lodge in Big Cottonwood Canyon.

July 8-10 the ExCom will be having a planning retreat to work on membership and conservation campaigns. It will be at the Wasatch Mountain Club lodge in Big Cottonwood Canyon. On Saturday, July 9, Salt Lake Group Outings Chair, Rebecca Wallace, is planning a hike that leaves from the lodge. Please look for it in the Outings Section and attend if you can! We will be having a BYOB social hour when the hikers return at 3:30pm at the WMC lodge. There will be a potluck dinner at 5:30pm followed by another short hike and stargazing at 9:30pm. Please join us if you can and meet your elected ExCom members from around the state!

CHAPTER VOLUNTEERS TEST WATER QUALITY

Work has begun at the Alton coal mine. Noisy trucks are now rumbling frequently through Panguitch and since the trucks are uncovered, coal dust is beginning to coat the town. Alton is exploring an expanded permit on BLM land that would extend its operation up to Bryce National Park. The BLM lands east of the current operation cut across the Kaibab-Paunsaugunt wildlife corridor at the base of the Paunsaugunt Plateau, a major mule deer migration route.

The Alton mining operations could significantly impact water quality in the area. Sierra Club's Water Sentinels bought water testing equipment for the Utah Chapter, and Tim Guilfoile will be coming from Kentucky to train us on the use of this equipment July 16 and 17 at the Alton site. The data collected will serve a wide variety of uses in

the chapter's conservation plans. If you are interested in learning how to use this equipment, which will belong to the UT Chapter and can be used for other projects when the Alton project is completed, please contact Marion Klaus at marionklaus@comcast.net

JOIN THE NEW SALT LAKE GROUP BOOK CLUB

Many thanks to Akiko Kamimura and others involved in organizing the new Salt Lake Group Book Club that will start this fall. The purpose of the book club is to discuss books about environmental issues or nature. It will be bi-monthly first and may become monthly later. The first meeting will be at 6:30 pm on Thursday, September 22. The location will be the Barnes & Noble in Sugarhouse (1104 East 2100 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84106, 801/463-2610). Our books for this fall are:

September 22 (Thursday) 6:30 p.m.

Barnes & Noble Sugarhouse

Yellow Dirt: An American Story of a Poisoned Land and a People Betrayed, by Judy Pasternak

November (date TBA) 6:30 p.m.

Barnes & Noble Sugarhouse

The Natural Navigator: A Watchful Explorer's Guide to a Nearly Forgotten Skill, by Tristan Gooley

Please contact Akiko at kamimura@umich.edu if you have any questions.

UTAH WILDERNESS COALITION PROTECTS GREATER CANYONLANDS

The Utah Wilderness Coalition, of which the chapter is a founding member, met June 13-16 at the Canyonlands Field Institute in Professor Valley outside of Moab to plan for the protection of Greater Canyonlands. You can help. Write a letter to President Obama asking him and members of his administration to protect the wild lands in this area. Tell him why these lands are important to you, and if you've visited them, describe your experience. Send your letter to:

Ms. Nancy Sutley, Chair
White House Council on Environmental Quality
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20050
Email: chair@ceq.eop.gov



CALLING ALL
PHOTOGRAPHERS!

The *Utah Sierran* needs your help. We're on the prowl for great shots of Utah wilderness to enhance our stock photo library. Send your high-resolution (at least 300 dpi at 5x7") photos, along with a description of each photo and your name as you would like to be credited, to:
peridotdesign@me.com

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

Sierra Club and Ogden Settle Gondola Records Lawsuit

by Dan Schroeder

On June 3, 2011, the Sierra Club and Ogden City settled a legal dispute over access to government records dating from 2007.

The disputed records pertain to the gondola and resort development that was proposed in 2005 by Mayor Matthew Godfrey and Chris Peterson, owner of the Malan's Basin property in the mountains above Ogden.

The Sierra Club requested access to a variety of records in mid-2007, and the city released many of the requested records at that time. However, the city also withheld a few dozen records--mostly emails--citing several statutory exemptions under Utah's Government Records Access Management Act (GRAMA). After the city's Records Review Board upheld the decision to withhold these records, the Sierra Club filed suit in Utah's Second District Court.

Under the terms of the recent settlement, Ogden has now released 43 of the 46 withheld records, even while continuing to maintain that these records were legally withheld. The Sierra Club disagrees with Ogden's opinion on these 43 records but has agreed that the remaining three records were legally withheld under GRAMA. To complete the settlement, Ogden has reimbursed the Sierra Club for \$10,000 in attorneys' fees.

The Sierra Club considers this settlement a full victory while taking into account the substantial investment of volunteer time and the long delay before the vast majority of the records were publicly released. The Sierra Club's attorneys, Joel Ban and Patrick Shea, were allowed to examine the three remaining records under a confidentiality agreement and determined that those three records were legitimate attorney-client communications that could be withheld under GRAMA.

As the lawsuit progressed over the last three years, the Sierra Club and Ogden became engaged in several procedural disputes. Chief among these was whether

Ogden was required to provide a detailed list of the records being withheld.

Initially, the city refused to list the withheld records or even to disclose the number of records being withheld. When this question came before the court, however, Second District Judge W. Brent West ruled that the city had to provide an index of the withheld records that was sufficiently detailed to allow the opposing party to assess the applicability of each GRAMA exemption that was

The Sierra Club hopes this ruling will help set a state-wide precedent.

being claimed. The Sierra Club hopes this ruling will help set a state-wide precedent, encouraging other government agencies to adequately describe the records they are withholding.

Although the gondola and resort proposal has been dormant for the last three years, the content of the released records is still interesting for two reasons.

First, the records document the depth of involvement of Ogden City officials and others in promoting the gondola-resort proposal. For example:

- The city administration assembled a detailed \$600,000 budget for gondola-related studies and attempted to fund nearly half of this amount through an exchange of federal grant funds with the Utah Transit Authority, bypassing the Ogden City Council.
- Peterson and Godfrey managed the public relations campaign through a "steering team" consisting of Michael Joseph, Edgar Allen, Dave Hardman, Dan

Musgrave, Larry Hansen, Bob Geiger, Kent Petersen, and Jennifer Jones.

- The Ogden-Weber Chamber of Commerce paid at least \$15,000 to Pinnacle Marketing for the public relations effort, and was reimbursed for at least \$10,000 by Peterson.

Second, the newly released records document the city's overly broad interpretations of several GRAMA exemptions. For example:

- A contract and invoice for an already-completed consultants' study were withheld under the GRAMA exemption for "drafts."
- A price quote from an engineering firm was withheld under the GRAMA exemption for records whose disclosure would impair government procurement, even though no competitive bids were ever sought.
- An email suggesting that Peterson close off the hiking trails on his property was withheld under the GRAMA exemption for records of negotiations over business incentives.
- An email consisting solely of the sentence "Thanks for following up on this" was withheld under the GRAMA exemption for attorney-client communications.

These classifications highlight the city administration's troubling preoccupation with secrecy, even in instances when the withheld records contained no information worth protecting. Equally troubling is the fact that the city's Records Review Board, a supposedly independent body, upheld every one of these classifications during its administrative appeal hearings.

Copies of all of the released records are posted on the Sierra Club's web site, <http://utah.sierraclub.org/ogden/>.

Dan Schroeder is the conservation chair of the Ogden Group.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

candidate who was not from the Utah Chapter. The conference organizers deemed him unacceptable because of his having previously called into question the practicality of unconventional fuel development.

Thus began my quest for more information regarding these unconventional fuels or tar sands and oil shale. According to the Utah Natural Resources Department's analysis, there are substantial reserves of oil locked up within the oil shale and tar sands located in eastern Utah. Their survey suggests there may be 77 billion barrels of oil in shale that is covered by less than 3,000 feet of overburden, is more than five feet thick, is not in conflict with oil and gas development and is not on restricted lands. Utah's tar or oil sands add another 12 billion barrels of oil for a potential of 89 billion barrels locked up in these fuel sources. At present U.S. annual consumption, this equates to 12.2 years of supply. Colorado has a larger and richer oil shale reserve.

Both oil shale and oil sands contain bitumen -- a black, oily viscous byproduct of decomposed organic materials. One might think of it as unfinished oil not unlike lignite being unfinished coal. Given hundreds or thousands more years of pressure and aging these low-grade hydrocarbons might become crude oil. As might be expected, both are found in areas of conventional oil and gas production. Production of oil from these minerals involves a process to extract the bitumen from the shale or sand and synthesize it to produce synthetic crude oil that is then further refined in much the same manner as natural crude oil.

Since interest in the subject was triggered by the institute's speaker request what better way to be come better educated than attending the conference? It provided an excellent overview of the forces moving development of these resources forward and to some extent the opposition. It opened with remarks from Utah state officials involved with matters affecting development of these and other state mineral resources.

It should come as no surprise that economic factors are the driving force behind resource development. John Baza, Director of the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, pointed out that so-called first sale revenues of Utah's extracted minerals contributed \$8.3 billion to the gross state product in 2010. Obviously first sale revenue potential of oil produced from oil shale and sands would further augment Utah's gross state product as production from these sources finally comes on stream.

Spencer Eccles, executive director, Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development spoke on "Balancing Economic Development in the Energy Sector and Quality of Life." Of interest was the emphasis placed on the need for streamlining the regulatory and permitting process so development can move forward more rapidly. Speeding that process was suggested as best accomplished by shifting its control from the federal to the state level. Our long experience with the state's executive and legislative branches suggests that returning regulatory authority to the state really means reducing or eliminating it.

Bryce Bird, branch manager, Utah Division of Air Quality discussed an anomaly in the wintertime Uintah Basin air quality. Despite bright blue skies, low temperatures and snow cover very high levels of ozone are being experienced. Since high ozone levels are generally associated with warm weather and photosynthesis of combustion products these ozone levels in the basin are worrisome since the chemistry is not yet understood. Development of oil shale and sands, largely located in the Uintah Basin, may be hampered by these atmospheric conditions despite the region's low population density.

The conference then moved on to presentations by companies planning to develop oil shale and oil sands. The processes described ranged from straightforward mining and heating of crushed shale in a retort to in-situ processes including deep subsurface drilling and heating of the shale. Only one active tar sands program was described and a solvent extraction technology is planned since Utah tar sands, unlike those in Canada, are not amenable to water extraction. Utah oil sands are more consolidated, i.e., more rock like, and the bitumen is wetted with oil rendering its extraction with hot water impractical. Each company stressed the low environmental impact of the production process they planned to use. The next article will describe these processes, their potential environmental impact and the wisdom (or lack thereof) of their being permitted to develop these resources.

Sandy is chair of the Salt Lake Group.

OnCoal

Alton Coal Mine Update

by Tom Carter



The mine site has already been extensively altered since mining began in the first quarter of 2011.

Time is of the essence, permitting processes through BLM can slip past the unattentive public.

On April 27, 2011, three of us activists from Kanab drove to the Alton mine site. Soon the gravel road detoured off the original route onto a new well-engineered road with huge cuts that crossed the headwaters area of Kanab Creek and various drainages that were running due to the wet weather this winter. Our road detoured around to the south-south east where in less than a mile we stopped and climbed up a slope that afforded a view of the mine operation, in the process we spooked a herd of about seven elk and observed a large group of various trucks, earth movers, earth shovels and other heavy equipment

working, scraping and excavating the area known as Sink Valley just southeast of Alton. The sound emanating was very loud even from our half-mile distance.

The mine appears as a large area scraped clean. From a pit at the site trucks were carrying coal to a sorting area while huge earth moving trucks carried overburden to a location hard against slopes topped by the characteristic pink cliffs of Bryce Canyon. We drove to a better viewing location where not only did we flush a herd of eight deer but also two sage grouse. Walking toward the mine fence we noticed we were in an archeological site evidenced by scattered pottery shards and lithics. There was loud noise emanating from the site, and the wildlife we observed seemed to be trying to access habitat that was

now torn apart and may have been part of their seasonal migration pattern at this time of year.

We also noted that large areas on the south side of the road near Alton were scraped or denuded as if in preparation for enlarging the mine to BLM land where the mining company wants to expand its operation. It's clear the expansion would impact Kanab Creek, the source of much of our culinary water in Kanab. The wildlife and evidence of archeological sites as well as early pioneer habitation in this otherwise pristine valley pointed to other negative impacts. The mine has only just started to exploit this area, but coal reserves underlie much of this region. Why would the mining interests stop short of the present site if

BLM allows their application to expand beyond this privately owned acreage?

Readers can help by driving US 89, a Heritage Highway, and patronizing the businesses that support the tourist economy there. Visit the mine site as well. It's just off the main route and be eyes and ears to the impacts. Time is of the essence, permitting processes through BLM can slip past the unattentive public.

After speaking with Bobbi Bryant in Panguitch about her effort to organize against the coal strip mine so close to Bryce Canyon National Park and having enjoyed the drive north of Kanab on Highway 89 afterward due to its legacy quality, I was appalled at the vision of huge coal trucks impacting and endangering motorists on this superb driving experience.

The impacts of the Alton Coal Mine could echo throughout Kane County. On my mind also was the fact that there is a scheme to burn some of that strip-mined coal in Kanab, if permitted by the Kanab City Planning Board, which has authorized a zone change to allow a coal gasification project within our city limits. Check out KanabCares Facebook page in our fight to stop a coal gasification plant in Kanab, our Little Hollywood.

Tom Carter lives in Kanab, Utah.



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

GEORGE B. AND OMA E. WILCOX
AND GIBBS M. AND 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 2011.



UtahChapterOutings

EXPLORE WITH US! JULY–OCTOBER 2011

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

All members and nonmembers are welcome on any of the chapter or group activities listed. Radios, firearms and dogs are not welcome on Sierra Club outings. Interested participants are strongly encouraged to contact the outing leader in advance and inquire as to updates, degree of difficulty, and other outing details. Participants should be prepared for various seasonal weather conditions, temperature changes that occur due to rapid increases/decreases in altitude, and bring enough food, water, and appropriate clothing for the given outing. Outing leaders reserve the right to turn away anyone who appears unprepared for scheduled outings. For the most current and updated outings listings, please visit the website utah.sierraclub.org and look at the outings under the Salt Lake, Ogden and Glen Canyon Groups.

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

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

NEW

July

OG, Mon, 7/4, Mollen's Hollow Overlook Hike. This fun family hike has become an Independence Day tradition: Six miles roundtrip, atop a rolling plateau in the cool and remote Monte Cristo Range. Scenic vistas and spectacular wildflowers are guaranteed. Bring a snack, water and insect repellent. Call Dan S at 801-393-4603 for meeting time and place.

SLG, Tues, 7/5 Silver Lake/Lake Solitude Loop. This pleasant loop hike takes us from Silver Lake at the top of Big Cottonwood Canyon to Lake Solitude and back a different way, through refreshing mountain aspens and pines with lovely lake views. Contact Robert Jennings at 801-949-3597 or Jennings.rob-ert@comcast.net for more details.

GCG, Sat, 7/9 South Mountain. Climb from the east, south about through La Sal, near Medicine Lake on the east side of La Sal Pass. Pretty good pull over toes of rock glaciers then up a steep wooded then bare ridge. Six miles, 1800'. Meet at the Moab Information Center, Main and Center, at 8 a.m. Leader Tom Messenger, 435-259-1756.

OG, Sat, 7/09 Jardine Juniper. Jardine Juniper, an old, gnarled juniper that has maintained its precarious hold on life for over 1,500 years. This juniper inspired the logo for the Logan Canyon Byway Portraits in Time project. The trail to see this fascinating tree is five miles each way. Bring water a snack and some chocolate for the hike leader. Call joanie at 801-399-0034 for meeting time and place

SLG, Sat, 7/9 Dayhike to Catherine's Pass. This classic alpine hike in Big Cottonwood Canyon takes us past Lakes, Mary, Martha and Catherine, then up to the pass. It is about 4.5 miles round-trip; duration of the hike is about 4 hours at a relaxed pace. Turquoise lakes in white granite glacial cirques ringed with willows, wildflowers and the occasional moose are your rewards. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Big Cottonwood Canyon Park and Ride lot at the mouth of the canyon. Optional socializing and potluck: after the hike, about 3:30 p.m., stay to socialize with fellow hikers and the activists of the Utah Sierra Club Executive Committee, who are on retreat at the Wasatch Mountain Club Lodge at Brighton. There will be a 5:30 p.m. Potluck for all. You are welcome to join in! Please bring a dish to share and a beverage of your choice. If you choose, you could also join the socializing and potluck without going on the hike, just come up to Brighton and the Wasatch Mountain Club Lodge at the above times. Call Sandy MacLeod at 801-574-4150 or email at sandyml@q.com or Rebecca Wallace at 801-557-5261 or rebec

cawallace38@msn.com for more information on the hike and/or the potluck.

SLG, Sun, 7/10 Bell Canyon Hike. Hike scenic Bell Canyon along the creek all the way, passing the lower reservoir, the beautiful lower and upper falls, and up to the meadow. Along the way you enjoy majestic views of the Salt Lake Valley and the imposing cliffs and rock climbers. Meet at 10 a.m. at the trailhead on Little Cottonwood Rd just east of Wasatch Blvd. Trailhead is approximately 3430 E Little Cottonwood Road in Sandy. Contact organizer, Paul Stratton 801-450-1128, rtg.stratton@gmail.com.

SLG, Tues, 7/12 Church Fork to Grandeur Pass. This wooded Millcreek Canyon trail follows the creek through wildflowers and pines, and then climbs to the pass for a perfect Tuesday night hike. Meet at 6:30 at the Skyline High School parking lot (east of the school, 3251 E. Upland Drive (3760 S.) in SLC. Call or email Patricia at 801-824-1985 or patricia.carroll@hsc.utah.edu for more information.

OG, Sat, 7/16, Lewis Peak. The beauty of the Lewis Peak Trail is intensified by spectacular views of Willard and Ben Lomond Peaks. As you travel along the upper elevations, be aware of the vegetation and it's history. The subalpine fir was known locally as the Pumpkin Pine because of its soft and spongy wood. White fir was called Black Balsam because the wood is such a dark color. Approximately 10 miles round trip with 2300 ft. elevation gain. Call John at 801-985-6854 for hike information.

SLG, Sat, 7/16 Red Lake Hike. Red Lake is a fabulous hike to get away from the heat and clamor of the city. Located in Big Cottonwood canyon, the trail is an excellent way to experience the alpine ambiance of the Wasatch. The slope is moderately steep, so bring plenty of water along with snacks and appropriate footwear. Call Debbie 435-830-9021 for meeting time, place, and other info.

SLG, Tues, 7/19 Thaynes Canyon. This Millcreek Canyon hike from the South Box Elder Trailhead cuts through a densely wooded hillside to with beds of ferns and woodland undergrowth to the ridgeline, where we will meet the Desolation Trail. It reliably provides a refreshing retreat from the heat of the summer. Call or email Richard Passoth at 801-364-3387 and repassoth@gmail.com for more information.

OG, Sat, 7/23, White Pine Lake. 6.6 miles, 4.5 hours, moderate. This is a must do hike in the Logan Canyon area. Lots of wild flowers and scenic views, on the way to the lake where we will break for lunch. Call Larry at 801-731 3701 for the details.

SLG, Sun, 7/24 Wasatch Crest Mountain Bike Ride. The crest trail follows the spectacular ridge along the Big Cottonwood/Millcreek Canyon ridge from Scotts Pass down the Pipeline Trail in Millcreek Canyon. Mountain bikers with average technical skills can handle this mostly downhill ride (except for Scotts Hill, which is uphill). We will use a shuttle car to take drivers back to the trailhead. Expect about 4 to 5 hours for this ride; bring helmet, water, lunch, layers of clothing, and of course, your bike. Meet at the Millcreek Canyon Park and Ride lot, which is between 3800 S and 3900 S on Wasatch Blvd (3555 E.) Contact Dana Morgan at 435-640-6740 or dana_morgan321@yahoo.com for more information.

SLG, Tues, 7/26 Tuesday Night Hike to Catherine's Pass from Little Cottonwood Canyon. From the high elevation trailhead at Albion Basin, hikers will ascend to Catherine's Pass. If time allows, we will continue on past tree line to Sunset Peak which offers views of the Uinta Mountains to the east as well as alpine lakes below. Meet at 6 p.m. (note earlier meeting time) at the Little Cottonwood Canyon Park and Ride parking lot, north side of the road at the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon (4323 E. Little Cottonwood Canyon Rd) For details, call Jim Paull at 801-580-9079.

GCG, Sat, 7/30 Geyser Pass-Burro Pass-Warner Lake in the La Sals. All on forest service trails. One part of group to start from Geyser Pass at about 10,500' and climb to Burro Pass (~11,200') and continue down to Warner Lake (~9,400'). Other part to start from Warner Lake (1800' up, 700' down) and go to Geyser Pass exchanging keys to avoid a shuttle. Five miles. Meet at the Moab Information Center, Main and Center, at 8:00 AM. Information: Marc Thomas, 259-2208.

SLG, Sun, 7/31 Dayhike to Shingle Creek. This Uinta Mountain hike has long been a favorite of veteran hike leader Ron Younger. Expect a pleasant slow paced hike though the Shingle Creek area. Be sure to encourage Ron to share his vast wealth of knowledge about the plants, geology and human history of the area. Call Ron at 801-292-4040 for more meeting time and place.

August

SLG, Tues, 8/2 White Fir Pass. This pleasant wooded trail from Millcreek Canyon Terraces picnic ground along the stream takes us to the pass where we are greeted with mountain vistas and giant white firs. Meet at 6:30 pm at Skyline High School, 3251 E. Upland Drive (3760 S.) Call Aaron Jones at 801-467-3532 or email ajonesmvp@msn.com for more information.

SLG, Fri-Sun, 8/5 to 8/7, American Fork Canyon Car Camp and Hikes. We will camp Friday and Saturday night with an option for Sunday night as well. Saturday we will explore shorter hikes in the area, such as Silver Lake. We plan to join Richard (see 8/7) on his Sunday morning Aspen Grove/Mt. Timpanogos hike. Contact Rebecca Wallace at rebeccawallace38@msn.com or 801-557-5261 for trip details. Participation is limited to 16 persons, with a \$10.00 deposit to hold your place.

OG, Sat, 8/06 Naomi Peak, in Logan Canyon. Naomi Peak is the highest point in the Bear River Mountains of northern Utah and southern Idaho. While the limestone range is not very high it is extremely rugged, and the views from the top of Naomi are outstanding. Many of the most interesting peaks in the range can be seen from the summit. If you are hiking in late July or August you will also be able to enjoy another highlight of the Bear River Range: wildflowers. Nowhere else in Utah will you see them in such staggering abundance. A colorful profusion of geraniums, paintbrushes, columbines, lupines, daisies, and mountain sunflowers stretch for miles. Call joanie at 801-399-0034 for more information

SLG, Sun, 8/7 Dayhike to Emerald Lake. Join Richard as you hike up the slopes of Mount Timpanogos from the Aspen Grove trailhead. This is 9.6 mile round-trip to the lake with 3,491 feet elevation gain is considered difficult, but highly rewarding, especially when taken at a relaxed pace. The mountain scenery, glacial basins, flowered meadows, lakes and valley views are astonishingly beautiful. Contact Richard Passoth at 801-364-3387 or email repassoth@gmail.com for meeting time and place.

GCG, Tues, 8/9 Hazzard County and Upper Porcupine. Start at Wilcox Flat and take the Hazzard County bike trail down to the Loop Road. Cross the road and continue on the Upper Porcupine trail down to the Maloy Park campground. Wide views to the west on Hazzard County. Views into Castle Valley along the Porcupine Rim. There's a short climb at the start then all downhill from there. Start ~9400'; end ~7400'. Six or seven miles. Car shuttle. Meet at the Moab Information Center, Main and Center, at 8 a.m.

SLG, Tues, 8/9 Broads Fork. This trail takes us up the Broads Fork drainage from Big Cottonwood Canyon, past a rushing stream, aspen groves and pines into the canyon cliffs of the upper reaches. Meet at the Big Cottonwood Canyon Park and Ride lot at 6 p.m. (note earlier meeting time). Call Ken Evans at 801-414-6067 or kce57@q.com for more information.

OG, Sat, 8/13 Island Lake Loop. Moderate to strenuous, 8.5 miles, about 6 hours. 700 feet of elevation gain. Most of the hike is above 10,000 feet so flatlanders be warned. There are many lakes in the area and the scenic views are great. Call Larry at 801-731-3701 for the details.

 **SLG, Tues, 8/16 Smugglers Gap Trail from City Creek Canyon.** From the top of City Creek Canyon at Rotary Park, we will hike on the Meadows trail and then ascend by the Smuggler's Gap trail to the Black Mountain Ridge to wooded mountain areas infrequently seen. Meet at 6 p.m. (note earlier meeting time) at the upper City Creek Canyon gate off of Bonneville Blvd. Contact Rebecca Wallace at rebecca.wallace38@msn.com or call 801/557-5261 for more information.

SLG, Sun, 8/21, Dayhike to Deseret Peak. Enjoy flower-filled alpine meadows and fantastic West Desert views from 11,031' Deseret Peak in the Stansbury Mountains. The hike is 8 miles round trip with a 3,600-ft elevation gain. If group (and leader!) strength allows, we may do a slightly longer loop trail. Come fully prepared for mountain weather. The outdoor "ten essentials" are required. This will be a full day's hike at a moderate, but enjoyable, pace. Call Fred Swanson at 801-588-0361 or email at fbswan32@msn.com for our 8 a.m. meeting place.

 **SLG, Tues, 8/23 Rattlesnake Gulch to northern Salt Lake Overlook.** This is another fantastic sunset viewing spot for a wonderful Tuesday night hike off the Millcreek Canyon Pipeline trail. Meet at the east side of the Skyline High School parking lot, 3251 E. Upland Drive. (3760 S) at 6:30 p.m. Call Aaron Jones at 801-467-3532 or email ajonesmvp@msn.com for more information.

SLG, Fri-Sun, 8/26 to 8/28 Uintas Backpack. We plan to backpack to wild and beautiful destinations in the Uinta Wilderness area. We will drive up on Friday night, and spend two nights. This is a great opportunity for first time backpackers to learn the how-tos and the basics of wilderness navigation. Contact Rebecca Wallace at rebecca.wallace38@msn.com or call 801-557-5261 or Chris Plummer at chrisp347@gmail.com or 919-720-8125 for more info. Participation is subject to leader approval due to the strenuous nature of backpacking. The trip will be limited to 12 participants with a \$10.00 deposit to hold your place.

GCG, Sat, 8/27 Upper Kane Springs Canyon. We hike the upper end of Kane Creek Canyon, which begins at Kane Springs approx. 15 miles south of Moab near Rte. 191. We drop in from a slickrock point between Muleshoe and Kane Creek Canyons, and hike both on a jeep road above Kane Creek, and near/in Kane Creek. Lunch or snack by the water, and back by early afternoon. River sandals and bathing suit (for a surprise) recommended. Meet at the Moab Information Center, Main and Center, at 8 a.m.

 **SLG, Tues, 8/30 Lambs Canyon Trail from Parleys Canyon.** Hike close to SLC through old growth forests of spruce, fir and quaking aspens which may have begun to turn colors. This steep verdant trail leads to the pass between Parleys and Millcreek Canyon. Meet at 6 p.m. at the east side of the former K-Mart parking lot off Parleys Way (2705 Parleys Way), west of the Bombay House Restaurant. Call Jim Paull at 801-580-9079 for more details.

September

OG, Sat, 9/03, Bakers Pass in Mill Creek Canyon. 8 miles, 5 hours 3100 feet of elevation gain. This hike is strenuous. We will hike the Bowman Trail past Baker Spring, old mining sites and on to the pass where we can view Mt. Raymond and Gobblers Knob. Call Larry at 801-731-3701 for details.

SLG, Sat 9/3 to 9/5, Labor Day Weekend Vernal area/Steinaker State Park/Jones Hole car camp. Jones Hole is on the Green River flowing through Dinosaur National Monument. The scenery is magnificent. The trail passes a couple of archeological sites with pictographs. The Jones Hole hike is about 8 miles roundtrip and 540 feet elevation loss/gain. We will camp near Vernal at Steinaker State Park on Saturday and Sunday evening. There are multiple other hikes and excursions that can be made in this area, making it a wonderful place to enjoy a 3-day weekend. Contact Richard Passoth at 801-364-3387 or email repassoth@gmail.com for more information.

 **SLG, Tues, 9/6 Tuesday Night Hike to the Living Room.** This hike in the Red Butte foothills is a perennial favorite for great sunset views of the Salt Lake Valley from your own rocky recliner in the Living Room. Meet at 6 p.m. above Research Park at the intersection of Taku Road and Chipeta Way, above the Fort Douglas Cemetery. Call Ken Evans at 801-414-6067 or kce57@q.com for more information.

OG, Sat, 9/10 Mystery Hike. This should be an exciting adventure for all. Plan on a four to five mile hike near the Ogden area. Bring water, snack and a camera. Contact joanie for more information 801-399-0034.

GCG, Sun, 9/11 Jeep Arch Loop. Park at the mouth of Dragonfly/Culvert and start up canyon eventually climbing out on right (ldc) rim ledges to reach Jeep Arch. Pass through the arch and go down a branch of Gold Bar Canyon to the main canyon and then down the Kayenta bench on the left. At the mouth go over the shoulder of a ridge back to Culvert. 4.4 miles, 850'. Or go the other way. Meet at the Moab Information Center, Main and Center, at 8 a.m.

SLG, Sun, 9/11 Uinta Mountains. Crystal Lake trailhead (off the Mirror Lake Highway) is the main take-off point for hikes to many lakes, only 1 to 5 miles away. Join Ken Evans for a delightful exploration of this high forested terrain, expect about 6 to 7 hours round-trip time from SLC. Contact Ken Evans at 801/414-6067 or kce57@q.com for morning meeting time and place.

 **SLG, Tues, 9/13 Hike in Millcreek Canyon, southern Salt Lake Overlook.** Join us on this much-loved vantage point to view the sunset, after a spectacular wooded hike up to a rocky outpost near the ridgeline. Meet at 6 p.m. at the east side of the former K-Mart parking lot off Parleys Way (2705 Parleys Way), west of the Bombay House Restaurant. Contact Sandy MacLeod at 801-574-4150 or email at sandym@q.com for more information.

GCG, Sat, 9/17 The Windows to Petrified Dunes. Start in The Windows and pick up the headwaters of the second left bank tributary to Courthouse Wash below the bridge on the park road. Negotiate an escarpment and a couple of pouroffs to get down to the bottom of the canyon and follow it towards Courthouse Wash. A mile or so before it reaches Courthouse climb out the right wall on the slickrock and go more or less W to the park road near the Petrified Dunes overlook. About 8 miles. 1000' down

(with a few minor ups) before about 300' up climbing out at the end. Car shuttle. Meet at the Moab Information Center, Main and Center, at 8 a.m. Leader: Mike Stringham, 435-259-8579.

 **SLG, Tues, 9/20 6 p.m.** Hike in City Creek Canyon. This pleasant respite from the city follows the trail up City Creek Canyon, descending on the road as darkness approaches. City Creek Canyon is a great place for bird watching as well as great hiking. Meet at the upper City Creek Canyon gate at 6 p.m., off Bonneville Blvd. Contact Chris Plummer at chrisp347@gmail.com or 919-720-8125 for more information.

SLG, Sat, 9/24 Bonneville Shoreline Trail Bike Ride. This is another classic Salt Lake mountain bike ride. Riders will need low intermediate technical skills. Expect about 3 to 4 hours round-trip time. We will start from Dry Fork Canyon near the University of Utah and go west along the Bonneville Shoreline Trail, descending into the Morris Meadows area. We will then loop back through the high Avenues/Federal Heights area to our cars. Bring helmet, water, lunch and bike. Meet at 9:30 a.m. Contact Robert Jennings at 801-949-3597 or Jennings.robert@comcast.net for meeting place and details.

SLG, Sun, 9/25 Stansbury Island Dayhike. This island of the Great Salt Lake has special surprises for those who venture on its shores, and not just the sweeping vistas of land and sea. The Fremont Indians used this island as a hunting ground and left evidence of their passing in pictographs. Meet up at the Travel Council building parking lot (about 120 E. 300 N) at 8:30 a.m. Call Aaron Jones at 801-467-3532 or email ajonesmvp@msn.com for more information.

 **SLG, Tues, 9/27 6 pm Hike to Lamb's Canyon Overlook from Elbow Fork.** This hike begins at the Mt. Aire Trailhead at Elbow Fork in Millcreek

Canyon. It follows the creek for awhile, eventually climbing through an aspen grove with views of Millcreek Canyon, Mount Raymond and Gobblers Knob. An excellent place to see the fall foliage and maybe a moose! Meeting place is the Olympus Hills Shopping Center parking lot by Einstein Bagels (3923 Wasatch Blvd in SLC) at 6 p.m. Call or email Patricia at 801-824-1985 or patricia.carroll@hsc.utah.edu for more information.

October

OG, Sat, 10/01 Wellsville Mountains. The Deep Canyon Trail ascends rapidly and steadily for about three miles to the divide of the Wellsville Mountains at approximately 8,100 feet. The total elevation gain nears 3,000 feet. Some past hikers have dubbed the Wellsville's the steepest range on earth, and new hikers will soon become believers. This range reportedly has more raptors winging by during migratory season than any other in America. Call Dan H at 801-479-1108 for details.

OG, Sat, 10/08 Frary Peak Antelope Island. 6.6 miles. 3 to 4 hours, 2,000 feet of elevation gain. This is the highest point on the Island and the views of the Lake, the Island and mountains to the west are spectacular. It is moderately strenuous. Call Larry at 801-731-3701 for details.

GCG Mon 10/10 to Fri 10/14 Camping and Day Hiking in and around Colorado National Monument. Campground has 80 sites, first come with flush toilets and water at restrooms. \$20 per night (assumed subject to Golden Eagle discount). Maximum 2 cars, 3 tents, 7 people. Come for the week or a day or two. Plenty of hikes in the monument and vicinity. More information later. Leader: Mike Binyon, 435-259-1633.



TUESDAY NIGHT HIKES

Utah Chapter Directory

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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.

Out&About

Becky Peak Service Outing

by Vicky Hoover



Who has visited the Becky Peaks Wilderness (pictured above) in northeast Nevada, a little north of Great Basin National Park? Not me! Yet. In July of this year—yes. You are invited to join us. The outing, sponsored by the Sierra Club CA/NV Wilderness Committee, will run Friday, 15 July through Monday, 18 July.

This new and relatively little-known wilderness (designated by the White Pine County Public Lands bill in 2006) is managed by the BLM from the Ely District office. We have worked for two summers in a row on wilderness service projects at Mt. Grafton with Ely BLM's John Miller, and this year Ranger John's proposal for us is farther north, at Becky Peak. The project "involves digging a bunch of post holes and installing post and rail fence at about three locations and permanent boundary markers at about three locations." John estimates two full days of work.

Becky Peak is an hour (about 50 miles) north of Ely at the north end of the Schell Creek Range. Elevations within the wilderness range from 6,500 to about 9,800. Cool enough for July days. More information is available on the BLM website, http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/nv/gis/maps.Par.26514.File.dat/Becky_peak_combined.pdf.

Central commissary will offer three dinners and three breakfasts—for one Andrew Jackson, or equivalent. That's twenty dollars for those of you who only use credit cards. Friday and Monday are likely to be mostly travel days; the trip will start officially with Friday's dinner. Saturday and Sunday will be work days. If time permits, a Monday morning hike will be considered. There will be a nice flowing stream nearby. And John says, a drive on the boundary road will get us pretty close to the high point of the wilderness, and we should have time for a hike to get even closer.

Nevada's wild places constitute the best kept secret in the American West. Get in on the secret. Enjoy wilderness. Help wilderness. Be there.

For questions or to sign up, contact Vicky Hoover, Vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org or 415/977-5527.

USE AN IPHONE TO BURN LESS GAS

High gas prices are a strong incentive to use less gas -- and iPhones and other smartphones can help you save money by doing exactly that. For starters, if you're looking to replace car trips, your phone can help you figure out the best way to get from point A to point B by using transit, ride-sharing, or a bicycle.

But even if you have to drive, your phone can help you drive smarter. A free iPhone app called The Green Gas Saver, for instance, not only helps you monitor your fuel efficiency but also uses your iPhone's accelerometer to warn you if you are prone to jackrabbit starts, turning too hard, and other gas-guzzling behaviors. In other words, it increases the fuel-efficiency of the driver as well as the car.

-The Sierra Club insider, May 24, 2011

Gallery

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



MICHAEL STUY (michaelstuyphotography.com) | American Fork River

Volunteer Corner

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

INNER CITY OUTINGS VOLUNTEERS

The Inner City Outings (ICO) program helps disadvantaged and at-risk kids experience the wonder of the outdoors—some of them for the first time. Through these outings, ICO promotes interpersonal skills and self-esteem by involving participants in teamwork, teaching them self-reliance outside an urban setting, and encouraging them to take an active role in protecting the environment. As its participants discover the beauty of wild lands, ICO also helps the club build support for environmental protection in urban communities across the country.

Some of the challenges include organizing safe transportation, finding gear for children, raising funds, etc.

We need self-starting volunteers, preferably with some experience leading outings or working with youth, to help us get the program started in Utah. More information about the Inner City Outings program can be found at <http://www.sierraclub.org/ico/>. If you're interested in volunteering contact Marion at marionklaus@comcast.net.

LEGISLATIVE CHAIR

The Utah Legislature makes a wide range of important environmental decisions every year by that affects everything from state parks to air quality to wildlife. Too often these decisions are badly informed and badly made.

The Utah Chapter takes positions on legislation and supports an active lobbying program. Join our legislative committee to help make this project work for better air quality, protected landscapes, more public transportation and a greener energy future.

We need help organizing our Volunteer Lobbyist Day in February, tracking and making blog posts on bills, and reaching out to chapter members to encourage them to call and e-mail their legislators.

If you're interested in joining the team, e-mail mark.clemens@sierraclub.org or call Mark at 801/467-9297.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE,
VOLUNTEER TODAY!



ADVERTISE IN THE UTAH SIERRAN AND REACH 4,500 HOUSEHOLDS IN UTAH! CALL (801)467-9297 FOR OUR RATE CARD, OR EMAIL UTAH.CHAPTER@SIERRACLUB.ORG.