



# Utah Sierran

## This Issue

**When did you fall in love** with Utah's public lands? Do you have a story to tell? How to dish on **page 7**.

**The 2016 Utah Chapter Jamboree** was the best ever. It was also our only jamboree so far, but hey, it was still great. Read our arguments why on **page 10**.

**Chapter volunteers rallied** around wilderness defense on service outings to Sid's Mountain in September and October 2016. Get the full story on **page 12**.

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## Utah Division of Wildlife Resources Widens the Cougar Hunt

by Kim Crumbo

**E**arly this month, and in spite of an outpouring of opposition to a proposal many decried as scientifically unsupported, if not outright cruel, the Utah Wildlife Board decided to hike the numbers of permits to kill cougars (Maffly 2016). The decision allows the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) to increase the number of permits from 495 to 532 for the 2016-17 season and opened a new area for unlimited hunting.

DWR staff earlier recommended increased the number of cougar killed in units where the agency decided deer, elk or big-horn sheep populations struggle or where livestock depredation by cougars "is a problem."

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, wild carnivores caused 0.23% of the total "unintended" annual cattle mortality, with mountain lions, bobcats, and lynx totaling approximately 0.3%. The term "unintended" is useful in the context that most cattle are headed to the slaughterhouse anyway. The total number of cattle deaths unrelated to predation (or processing plants/slaughterhouses) was 4%, with respiratory problems, unknown health issues, and weather among the leading causes of mortality (NASS 2012). Obviously, conscientious animal husbandry practices, not indiscriminate killing of carnivores, offer the best option to prolong live-



State wildlife officials continue the unscientific management of Utah's cougars.

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

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UtahSierran  
Fall 2016 Vol. 49 No. 4

EDITOR: Mark Clemens  
DESIGN: Cecily Sakrison, Peridot Design

## 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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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Utah Sierran*, Sierra Club, 423 West 800 South, Suite A103, Salt Lake City UT 84101.

Annual dues for the Sierra Club are \$39, of which \$1 is for a subscription to *Utah Sierran*. Non-member subscriptions are available for \$10 per year from the Utah Chapter office.

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# Thank You

## OUR GRATITUDE TO THOSE WHO MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE

Thanks to the members listed below for their contributions to the final months of the Utah Chapter's 2015 fundraising drive or the 2016 fundraising drive. Contributors who respond during the rest of 2016 will be acknowledged in the Winter 2017 newsletter. Thanks also to the many members who contributed anonymously.

In 2017, the chapter will continue its effective advocacy for clean water and clean air. We continue to fight to put the brake on coal and other dirty fossil fuel development while promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency. We'll pursue our work to protect Utah's public lands and wilderness.

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

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# OurLand

## Cougar Hunt

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

stock lives. Conservation groups have a long history of advocating practical animal care solutions to this issue (Stone et al. 2016).

It's also worth noting that in 2005, thirteen nationally and internationally recognized mountain lion authorities came together with updated science-based guidelines that included a chapter devoted to hunting cougars (Beck et al. 2003). Although written in thoughtful, academic tones, the Guidelines clearly state that "sport hunting to benefit wild [game] populations is not supported by the scientific literature." Subsequent credible science continues to support that finding.

### WHO'S IN CHARGE?

In an interview with the Ogden Standard-Examiner, Leslie McFarlane, game mammals coordinator for Utah Division Wildlife Resources (UDWR), provided an interesting response to criticism that her division panders to hunters above other interests (Larsen 2016).

"They're very vocal and very good in coming to meetings and participating in the process. So yes, they do get a voice," McFarlane said. "They provide a lot of the funding the agency uses. So of course, we have to listen to one of our main constituents."

The mission of the Utah Division of Wildlife (UDWR) is to "serve the people of Utah as trustee and guardian of the state's wildlife" and not just promote the so-called sportsmen's agenda. In Utah, the Outdoor Industry Foundation (OIF) found that forty-three percent of the state's population engage in hiking, backpacking, rock climbing and trail running. Thirty-two percent enjoy bird and other wildlife watching. Only ten percent of Utahns hunt. These findings indicate the great interest of Utahns in wildlife-related and non-hunting recreation on western lands, and the importance of developing wildlife management programs that reflect and respect the diversity of the state's wildlife interests.

In any event, a plethora of research shows that hunting older cougars skews the populations towards younger animals who are more likely to get in trouble. The reason is that in un hunted populations, dominant male cougar kill young males. Young males are less skillful hunters and compensate, like young male humans, by acting more brazen and bold. It is inevitable that the fewer older lions due to trophy hunting, the more young males present in a population, and the more likelihood you will have depredations on livestock or a rare attack on humans. One does not get to be an old male cougar by being an ineffective hunter and oblivious to the hazards of a gun-totting human population. Old, bold cougars are scarce. It follows that cougar hunting is more likely to create social chaos by killing the dominant males that control cougar social structure, permitting a greater number of young males to survive (Cooley et al. 2009).

Still, hunting interests dominate the majority of Utah's Wildlife Board. A reasonable citizen's request to the state's elected representatives is to insure the Wildlife Board reflects the state's diversity of wildlife interests.

While sportsmen provide funding for UDWR's game management programs, Utah is blessed with expansive public lands that provide habitat and a diversity of wildlife already owned by the American people, Utahns included. We pay taxes for management and enjoy recreational opportunities unavail-

able on private or state lands. The question arises, what does UDWR offer that is not already provided for and ours to begin?

There is no scientific justification for hunting cougars since it is well established through a preponderance of credible scientific research that cougar populations are self-regulating and are essential in sustaining long-term ecosystem health and resilience. They are sentient, remarkable, and inedible creatures who deserve more than to end up with their head on a wall or serving as a rug. As important, and as ample state and national polling reveal, most Americans would agree.

The UDWR and its advisory wildlife board should acknowledge and respect that fact, or get out of the cougar management business.

Kim currently serves as Western Conservation Director for Wildlands Network and works on the Sierra Club's Utah Chapter Executive Committee. He served 20 years with the National Park Service in Grand Canyon as the river ranger. Kim worked as professional river guide for 10 years and two years as the Utah Wilderness Coordinator for the Sierra Club. Before his experience on rivers and in wilderness activism, he spent four years with the Navy's SEAL Team One completing two combat deployments to Vietnam.

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*In any event, a plethora of research shows that hunting older cougars skews the populations towards younger animals who are more likely to get in trouble.*

## Make a Difference

### Have Email—Can Lobby

The 2017 General Session of the Utah Legislature will run from Monday, January 23, to Thursday, March 9, 2017. Our legislative committee will co-ordinate our effort to influence legislation with other environmental groups, determine our legislative priorities, and work with other volunteers to call and e-mail their legislators. Readers can find out who their state representative and senator are by logging on to the legislature's web site, <http://le.utah.gov/GIS/findDistrict.jsp>. We will also keep a current list of high priority bills, the chapter's position on them and sample e-mail messages to send your legislators on the chapter's web site throughout the legislative session.

Why does this even matter? A surprisingly wide range of issues in your life is controlled by the state legislature. These include regulation of state lands—and sometimes interference on public lands owned by all Americans—wildlife, water developments, energy policy, and tax policy and credits. The Sierra Club will once again put its thumb in the dike on some of these issues; however, we have the chance to make real progress on a few fronts. You can help us influence your legislator as part of our citizen-lobbyist team. If you're interested in working for positive environmental change through the Utah Legislature, call Mark at (801) 467-9294 x102, or register your volunteer interests on our web site, <http://utah.sierraclub.org/questionnaire.asp>.



## Thank You, Volunteers

Volunteers power everything Sierra Club does—that's especially true in the Utah Chapter.

During the Summer of 2016, volunteers staffed our booths at the Salt Lake City Farmers' Market, Park Silly Market and Harvest Fest: Sherrie Bolton, Emily Bryner, Jan Ellen Burton, Doris Chatterton, Yana Galitsyna, Nathan Gilbert, Lawson LeGate, Rob McKinnie, Marty Mankins, Amy Mills, Nicola Nelson, Marge Cole Rasmussen, Dan Syroid

Becky Yih, Benny Yih, Paul Zuckerman

Volunteers worked for nine months to help organize and implement our 2016 Utah Jamboree:

Joanie Aponte, Colin Bennett, Tammy Berrie, Turner Bitton, Tom Messenger, Par Rasmusson

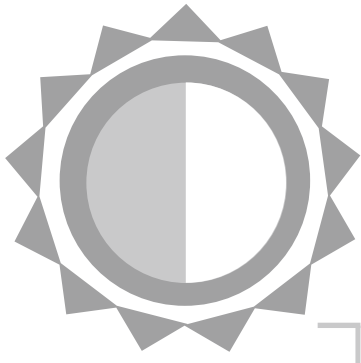
Volunteers organized and assembled our Bears Ears National Monument postcard party:

Wayne Hoskisson, Anne McKibben, Jerry Urlacher





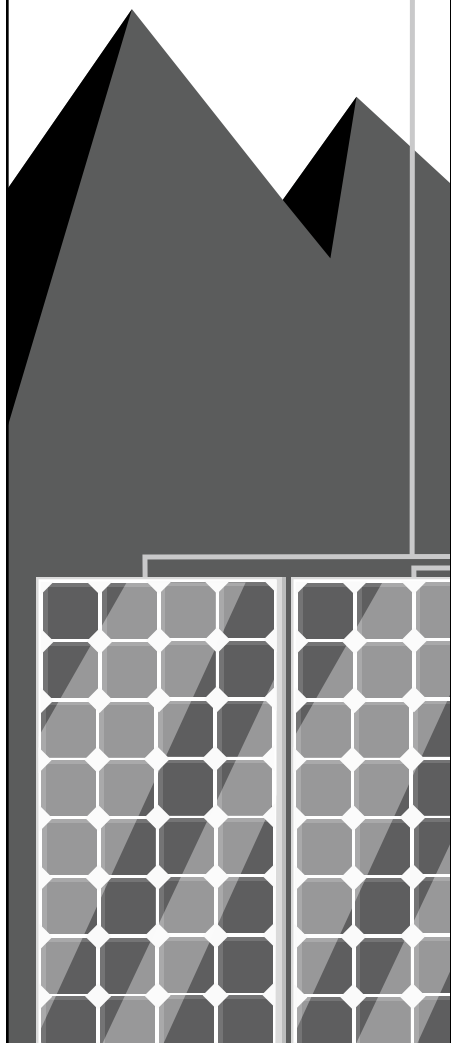
# OurLand



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[sierraclubsolar.org](http://sierraclubsolar.org)



MATTHEW ELLIS

Mountain Accord legislation holds out hope for protection of the Central Wasatch.

## Mountain Accord Maintains Momentum

by Will McCarvill and Amy Mills

**M**ountain Accord is a regional planning effort established to, “preserve the Central Wasatch and ensure its long-term vitality.” Various levels of local government, business leaders, environmental organizations, and others participated in the three-year development of the Accord, which addresses environmental conservation, transportation, recreation, and economic development planning for an area of Utah which includes the Wasatch Front in Salt Lake City, Park City, Mill Creek, and Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons. The Mountain Accord agreement was signed in the summer of 2015. (See [www.mountainaccord.com](http://www.mountainaccord.com))

Mountain Accord leaders have moved ahead on the following key activities in Phase II:

- Working with the Utah Congressional delegation on a proposal to designate 79,000 acres of current US Forest Service (USFS) lands for greater protection and preservation.

The Mountain Accord proposal includes expanding existing wilderness areas and creating a National Conservation and Recreation Area, or similar federal designation.

- Implementing negotiated land transfers to convert certain private land parcels to public USFS ownership. The goal is to enhance watershed protection and backcountry recreation, while transferring USFS parcels at the bases of the four Cottonwood ski areas to private ownership. The land transfers would resolve some long-standing land-holding disputes.
- Organizing work on environmental impact statements (EISs) to fulfill federal NEPA requirements on the above proposed changes to federal lands.
- Conducting further study of transportation options to serve the Wasatch Front and Back, with the goals of

improving transit and reducing traffic congestion. Options under consideration include better public transportation, park-and-ride lots, shuttles, and other incentives to reduce single-rider vehicles.

- Organizing and improving trails, trail access, and road cycling routes.
- Preparing an “environmental dashboard” to provide a baseline of environmental conditions in the central Wasatch and enable documentation of future changes.

The Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club provided comments on the initial Mountain Accord Blueprint, and continues to be involved in supporting legislative development, transportation planning, and trail network improvements.

*Will and Amy are the Utah Chapter's Mountain Accord Issue co-Spokespeople.*

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

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

The Foundation challenges you to increase your support for the Utah Chapter in 2016.





# OurLand

## Protect the Integrity of Recapture Canyon—

ACT BEFORE OCTOBER 24, 2016

by Mark Clemens and Marc Thomas



MARCTHOMAS

The natural and archaeological resources of Recapture Canyon need to be protected from ATV damage. Archaeological remains in Recapture Canyon include structures, potsherds and middens among other things

Recapture Canyon has made headlines in Utah and around the country in the past several years because of a conflict over protection of archaeological and natural values and the demands of some all-terrain vehicle (ATV) owners to ride on trails in the canyon. But the canyon itself and its remarkable qualities have gotten lost in the controversy.

Recapture Creek is a tributary of the San Juan River, and it created an oasis near Blanding, Utah, that has been sought out by humans for millennia. Evidence of human occupation is found throughout the canyon and ranges from shards of pots and kitchen middens to the Recapture Great House, a multi-story structure of the Pueblo II Period of the Ancestral Puebloans.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) which manages these lands for all Americans is currently studying access and use options for Recapture Canyon including whether to allow a nearly twelve-mile network of trails open to ATVs. The BLM has created a website summarizing the options it's considering, <http://on.doi.gov/2d4ZPRk>.

To protect the extraordinary natural values of the stream and the canyon's archaeological treasures, ask for all motorized vehicles to be excluded from the canyon bottom. One can submit comments directly through the BLM's website, <http://bit.ly/2d7n0Oq>, until Monday, October 24.

### POINTS TO EMPHASIZE

There are many reasons for the BLM to reject a Recapture Canyon ATV trail system:

- 1. Not Compatible With Existing Land Use Plan.** The approved 2008 Resource Management Plan (RMP) for this area does not include the proposed new routes in it. The field office's own Monticello Travel Map, designating roads based on the 2008 RMP, does not show any road in Recapture Canyon. In fact, the map states that "all routes not on this map are not designated for motorized travel."
- 2. Cultural Resource Impacts.** The environmental damage caused by ATVs is well documented, including the impacts of a now-closed 2005 illegal trail in Recapture Canyon. After the illegal trail was

constructed, the BLM conducted a cultural resource survey along the unauthorized trail. At least nine archaeological sites were damaged, with damage estimates ranging as high \$309,540 and subsequent repairs costing \$90,734.

- 3. Emissions/Air Quality Impacts.** ATVs also create high levels of air pollution, including carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, and carcinogens such as benzene. They expel 20-30% of their gas and oil unburned into the air and water and produce 4,000 times more carbon monoxide emissions, and 118 times as much smog-producing pollutants as modern automobiles on a per mile basis. Exposure to emissions such as these, along with the dust that ATVs create, can cause breathing difficulties for people with asthma and other lung sensitivities. This air pollution also severely degrades air quality for viewing or photographing the attractions found in special places like Recapture Canyon.
- 4. Noise Impacts.** ATVs often create a two-mile "auditory footprint". This means that they can be heard up to one mile coming, one mile going, and one mile to the left and right for the entire time the vehicle is running. Stress to humans from involuntary exposure to noise is well-documented and noise also displaces wildlife, resulting in fewer birds and beavers in Recapture Canyon. A prime draw of the canyon right now is how quiet it is despite its proximity to the town of Blanding.
- 5. Displacement.** ATVs displace non-mechanized recreational participants.

Hikers, hunters, and horseback riders value solitude, peace and quiet, the ability to observe undisturbed wildlife, and to escape the noisy mechanized intrusions of civilization. The potential for injury resulting from contact with ATV users discourages other types of users and presents liability risks.

- 6. Group ATV Behavior.** Group ATV activity tends to encourage competitive and aggressive driving, especially among younger drivers. Competition leads to such activities as speeding, creating "rooster tails" (spraying mud from rear tires), and attempting daredevil driving feats. These activities cause environmental damage, in addition to accidents, injuries, and deaths.
- 7. Enforcement.** As the Utah BLM has frequently stated in speeches and newspaper articles, there is insufficient funding for federal enforcement of ATV regulations or ordinances. By the time any enforcement agent arrives at the scene of a violation report, the ATVs are long gone and the damage is done.

### DOES IT SERVE THE PUBLIC GOOD?

Illegal ATV activity in Recapture Canyon has already created vehement conflict throughout Grand and San Juan Counties. People who are against expanding ATV use to riparian places with perennial streams have been bullied while demonstrating peacefully and threatened with "wanted

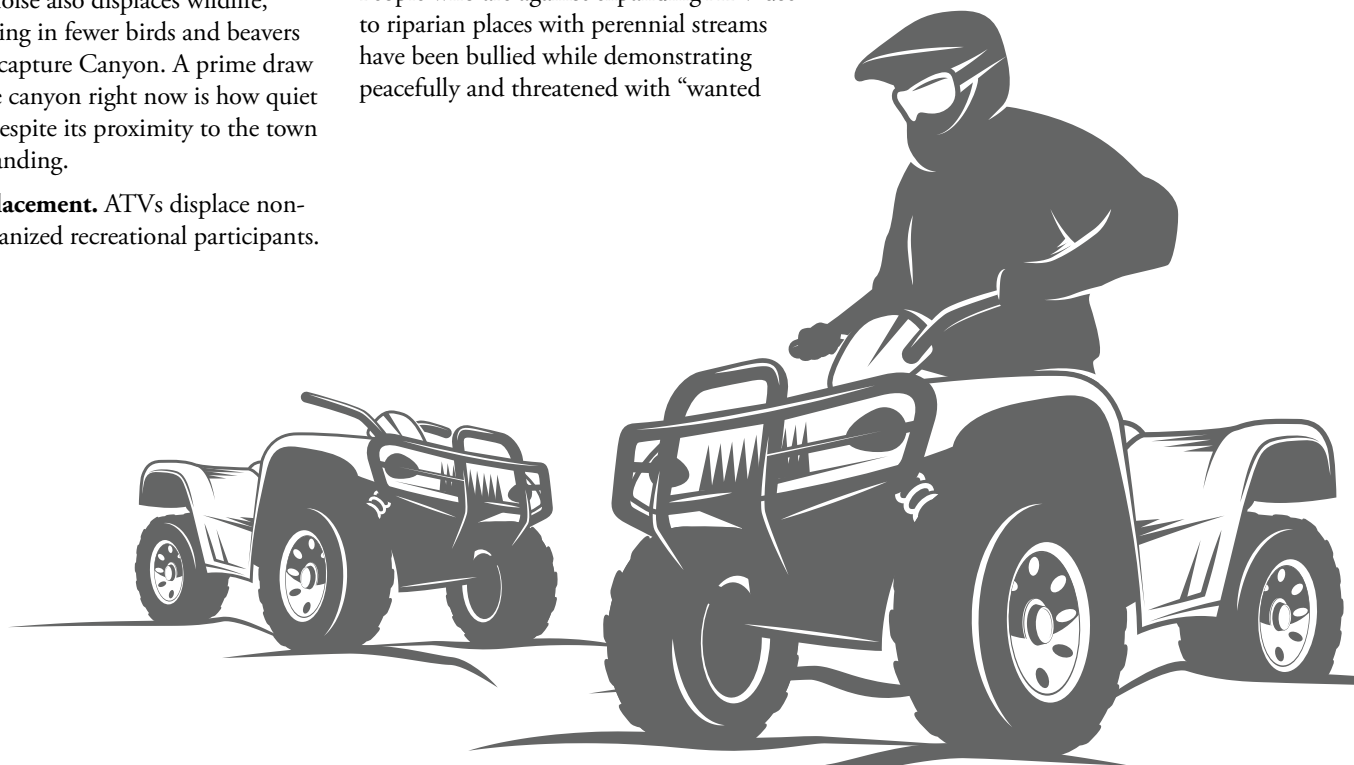
dead or alive" posters. Their campsites have been vandalized, and they've been told to leave and never come back. Local ATV proponents claim that this type of activity will cease if they are given a legal trail in the bottom of Recapture Canyon. This is on a par with extortion. Should the demands of a special interest group be allowed to override what's best to protect for future generations the special cultural, ecological, and contemplative nature of Recapture Canyon?

### BACKGROUND

When San Juan County Commissioner Phil Lyman organized a group of protesters on an illegal ATV ride in Recapture Canyon on May 10, 2014, the canyon had already been under assault for more than a decade. In 2005 people still unidentified widened the trail to accommodate ATVs using excavating equipment and built a bridge without authorization from BLM. At least nine archaeological sites were damaged by this illegal work.

In 2007 the Recapture Great House was brutally looted for archaeological remains; ATV tracks were visible across the site and pits were dug to recover pottery. In response BLM imposed an emergency closure on vehicle access to the canyon. This incident of looting or pot hunting was far from the first.

In your comments, however brief or extensive, please emphasize that noise and air pollution from ATVs is not compatible with the solitude, wildlife, and the beautiful riparian landscape found in the canyon today, nor with quiet contemplation of the man-made remains of ancient civilizations. As in Canyonlands's nearby Salt Creek, the damage created by ATVs to the perennially-flowing streambed in the canyon bottom will be mitigated over time by keeping them out. It is our belief that the BLM, as a steward of our public lands, can best protect and preserve Recapture Canyon in pristine shape for future generations to enjoy in peace and quiet by not allowing motorized travel.



# OurLand

## Public Lands Initiative Update

by Wayne Hoskisson

After almost three and a half years after announcing the Public Lands Initiative (PLI), Rep. Bishop finally released the legislation on July 14, 2016. This was just two days prior to the listening session scheduled by Interior Secretary Jewell concerning the proposed Bears Ears National Monument. The PLI and the Bears Ears NM proposal remain closely linked. Rep. Bishop and Rep. Chaffetz began the PLI process specifically to undermine the possibility of a new national monument in Utah.

Approximately 1,400 people attended the July 16, 2016, listening session conducted by Sec. Jewell and the Under Secretary of Agriculture. About two thirds of those attending supported the designation of a Bears Ears NM.

On July 27, Sen. Mike Lee held a hearing in Blanding. The senate hearing blended the issues of the Bears Ears NM and the PLI. The hearing was held at the Blanding, Utah High School. About 1,000 people attended with overwhelming if not nearly unanimous opposition to the Bears Ears NM. The panel of witness included Gov. Herbert and Rep. Bishop. Gov. Herbert said the current PLI bill was not the final bill. Six minutes later Rep. Bishop the PLI was finished and he did not want to see much change. At the end Sen. Lee asked the audience, "In what universe is it fair for the government to

own so much land?" He asked the wrong question. He should have asked, "In what universe is it fair for the public to own so much land?" The real answer is any universe worth living in.

Unfortunately the Public Lands Initiative, H.R. 5780, failed in reaching any kind of consensus despite the claims by Rep. Bishop and Rep. Chaffetz that they engaged in thousands of meetings in a multi-year collaborative process. Apparently our representatives do not know that a collaborative process ends in widespread agreement across the spectrum of those involved.

On Sept. 14, 2016, the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands held a hearing on the PLI. There were six witnesses called, two from the administration, one opponent, and three proponents of the legislation. The companion legislation, H.R. 5781 that would prohibit any new national monuments in the seven counties in the PLI, was

*Sen. Lee asked the audience, "In what universe is it fair for the government to own so much land?" He asked the wrong question. He should have asked, "In what universe is it fair for the public to own so much land?" The real answer is any universe worth living in.*

not included in the hearing. Democratic Reps. Tsongas, Lowenthal, Polis, and Grijalva performed remarkably undermining the validity of the PLI language. Rep. Tsongas also defended witness Ute Mountain Ute Councilwoman Regina Whiteskunk from a mean spirited attack by Rep. Bishop. You can view the entire two-hour hearing here: <https://democrats-naturalresources.house.gov/hearings/subcommittee-hearing-on-hr-5780>

On Sept. 22, the House Natural Resources Committee held a markup session for the PLI (H.R. 5780). During the markup session amendments can be proposed to accompany legislation to be voted upon by the house. HNRC Democrats proposed five amendments. All five were voted down by a party line vote. A single amendment proposed by Rep. Bishop was attached to the PLI bill. The amendment consisted of a few technical changes in wording and correcting typos and grammar. This will be important and in our favor if the PLI legislation ever gets introduced in the senate. Rep. Bishop has tried to portray H.R. 5780 as a collaborative and bipartisan effort. Yet he showed no willingness to compromise even

with his colleagues.

Presumably Rep. Bishop will get floor time in the house during the lame duck session after the election. If he does, there is little doubt that it will pass in the house. So far no version of the PLI has been introduced in the senate. With the lack of compromise and a large number of provisions that run counter to the Wilderness Act and other longstanding legislation, the PLI has very little chance of passing in the senate this year. It is likely it will not even get introduced in the senate before the end of the year.

President Obama promised to let the PLI play out in congress. With the failure of Rep. Bishop and Rep. Chaffetz to propose reasonable legislation with broad support the PLI is likely dead this year, and President Obama will be free to make a decision about the proposed Bears Ears National Monument.

The Bears Ears Inter Tribal Coalition performed a remarkable feat following its formation last year. For the first time in U.S. history Native Americans have proposed a monument to protect a culturally and historically important landscape. Their proposal would assure future access and use for cultural and religious purposes. The Bears Ears National Monument will be an occasion and place for healing.

## Take a Stand for Our Public Lands

by Lawson LeGate



Cut out the sign above and spread the message by posting it to your cubicle, car, and social media accounts.

Utah's legislature has threatened to spend up to \$14 million of taxpayer money to seize our public lands. This, after the study commissioned by the state found that a state take-over of America's lands would impact the state's budget by well over \$100 million annually. The Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, and proposed wilderness – all are part of our national heritage, and the State of Utah wants it.

You can help by contacting your local elected city and county representatives and ask them to oppose Utah's attempted land grab. We've made it pretty painless. Go to this site to make your voice heard: <http://bit.ly/2c6vD6o>.

You can also help by getting involved in the campaign to Keep Public Land in Public Hands. The campaign's website can be found at <http://keeppubliclands.com>. Readers can also find the campaign Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/keeppubliclands/>. To learn how you can be a part of the campaign, call 801/583-1650.

Bumper stickers are available at the Utah Chapter office at 423 W 800 S, Suite A105, in Salt Lake City. Please call 801/467-9294 x102 to make sure someone will be there when you arrive.

<sup>1</sup> Stambro, Jan, John Downen, Michael Hoge, Levi Pace. 2014. *An Analysis of the Transfer of Federal Lands to the State of Utah*, prepared for the Public Lands Policy Coordination Office, Office of the Governor, State of Utah.



# OurLand



PETER WOODRUFF



REBECCA WALLACE



REBECCA WALLACE

Clockwise from top, view from the top of Sid's Mountain of the interior of the San Rafael Swell, Sierra Club hikers dwarfed by Mt Nebo, lupine on Mt Nebo.

## Love the Land, Share your Stories

by Jeff Clay

Most people I know have a story about their first time understanding and appreciating the grandeur and beauty of our public lands. For you it might have happened on Angel's Landing or Y Mountain, in Albion Basin or the San Rafael Swell. Sometimes the story is entirely interior--a flash of transcendence--but sometimes it can be outwardly dramatic. Perhaps you were alone or maybe with a loved one or family and friends. However you first experienced it, we want you to share your public lands love story--we're calling it the Love the Land, Share your Stories project.

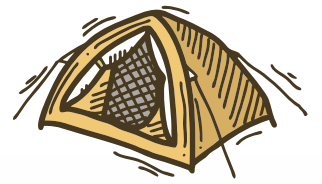
Many families and individuals, hikers and bikers, climbers and campers, veterans and students, bird-watchers and photographers, hunters and anglers - people from all walks of life - have found Utah's public lands to be a source of awe and wonder, a place of beauty, a soothing tonic for the crazy din of modern life. We want to hear how these lands have affected you. Whether you are a native, a recent transplant, or merely an occasional visitor, if you enjoy the exhilarating freedom and spirit-restoring wildness of our parks and public lands we want to hear your stories.

We'll be collecting these stories and using them to create a bi-weekly podcast centered on the LovePublicLands.com website--currently being built. But we'd also love to feature your public-lands-inspired art in other formats including anime, photography and video, for example. Our site allows you to upload files in a variety of formats, and upload is the main function already operational on the site.

As you savor memories of the summer holidays, please consider whether you have a story to share, and stay tuned for the first stories at LovePublicLands.com.



**WHERE**



**HAVE**



**YOU**



**BEEN?**

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# UtahChapter ExComElections

2016

This year's ballot includes candidates for the chapter executive committee and the Ogden Group. All members—even those who don't live in one of these areas with groups—are welcome to vote for candidates for the chapter executive committee—the volunteers who decide Sierra Club policy at the state level. Please read the candidate statements, vote, and return your anonymous ballot in the envelope provided. All ballots must be postmarked no later than **Friday, November 25, 2016**.

## ExComCandidates



### JEFF CLAY

As my current term on the Executive Committee of the Utah Chapter Sierra Club approaches its end, I can reflect on a number of things. First, despite the love of the land that most people espouse, the challenges and threats to the environment continue. For this reason, the role the Sierra Club plays remains critical. Fortunately the breadth and depth of conservation and political knowledge that the Executive Committee possesses is phenomenal. This expertise has helped my work on the committee, as I bring to the ExCom primarily organizational and marketing skills coupled with a willingness and conviction to get things done in the pursuit of positive change.

The bulk of my time on the ExCom has been in the Communications Chair position. This continues to be a good fit for me. During my tenure we have continued to build upon our communications foundation. Our social media presence has increased on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Our Chapter website continues to grow with frequent updates by both staff and volunteers. Recently we have helped roll out two new websites that address the public lands threats promulgated by our legislature: [keeppubliclands.com](http://keeppubliclands.com) and [lovepubliclands.com](http://lovepubliclands.com).

The challenges continue as does the work. I welcome both and would be happy to remain on the Executive Committee as the Communications Chair.



### NANCY CLEVELAND

I've volunteered for the Utah Chapter for over two years. During that time I've written new member welcome postcards, phonebanked to build turnout for hearings and socials, and served on the Keeping Public Lands in Public Hands Committee. My environmental passion is for wild lands and wildlife. If elected, I would work to build the chapter's influence in those areas.



### AMY MILLS

I'm running for re-election to the Utah Chapter's Executive Committee. I've been a member of Sierra Club since 1987, and became involved in the Utah Chapter about 3 years ago. Currently I serve as Conservation Co-Chair, where I've been involved in environmental advocacy around protection of public lands, wilderness, National Monument designation, and impacts of fossil fuel development. Specifically, I've assisted in holding public meetings on topics of local environmental interest in the Park City area, provided comments and positions to decision-makers on the environmental impacts of linking Wasatch ski areas, Mountain Accord, the Uinta Express Pipeline, and extraction of dirty fuels and climate change impacts. I served as a volunteer on Summit County's Public Lands Initiative (PLI) advisory committee. I participated in the Utah Wilderness Coalition's lobby in Washington DC for America's Red Rock Wilderness Act. I have also provided public outreach with others in the Chapter and partner organizations with the goal of informing members and residents about conservation issues that affect their lives and communities.

As background, I hold an MS in Geology with a research emphasis in geochemistry. I worked for the US Environmental Protection Agency for 28 years, first in remote sensing and environmental impact statements of coal mining impacts in Appalachia, then in the RCRA hazardous waste regulatory program, then in ground water research planning, and eventually managed the IRIS program which evaluates the toxicity of industrial and household chemicals. Since retiring in 2006, I've enjoyed travelling, the great outdoors, xeriscape gardening, and doing a variety of volunteer work for non-profits. My volunteering has included the Rachel Carson Council, Summit Land Conservancy, Red Butte Garden, Friends of the Park City Library, Friends of Animals Utah, Paws for Life Utah, and the Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club.

The magnificence of Utah's scenery, wildlife, and outdoor recreation in contrast to imminent and long-term threats from careless development and short-sighted government policies gives me motivation to continue my work on the Executive Committee and to contribute to the broad-spectrum environmental advocacy work of the Sierra Club.



### IAN WADE

I've served on the ExCom for two years now since retiring from a career in non-profit organizations. My ExCom activities have centered around climate change as well as taking on some of the administrative necessities of the club. I initiated our first Love Utah Give Utah campaign this year raising around \$6,000 and just took on the role of treasurer.

Previously I was Executive Director of Outward Bound International. I got to oversee safety and quality of 56 schools in 33 countries and help with business development for a dozen new licensees. Additionally I did fundraising, conference planning, board recruitment, strategic planning, etc. Previously I worked in an educational software start-up and as an aerospace structural engineer.

I've had a passion for mountaineering. In earlier years I rock climbed extensively in big wall routes in Yosemite, climbed many alpine routes culminating the Eiger North face, was climbing leader of the Peace Climb Expedition to the top of Mt. Everest from the Tibet side amongst other adventures. I was president of the American Mountain Guides Association for 5-years and have led many climbs and treks in Europe, Bhutan and Kilimanjaro (18 times so far!).

My current interests center around climate change and being part of any significant efforts to leave our planet habitable for my grand-daughter! This is what attracts me to engagement with the Sierra Club.

Another ongoing interest is risk management of outdoor activities. I have consulted with many organizations on good practices, given expert witness testimony and continue to work occasionally in Asia on ropes course design and operations. Some time ago I worked for the Sierra Club on a couple of fatality investigations in their mountaineering program.

Long ago I received a graduate Certificate in NotForProfit Management from Columbia University, Graduate School of Business and a Civil Engineering degree from Leeds University in England where I grew up. Having roamed many parts of the world there is nowhere I like more than Utah. My wife Ginger and I live in Daybreak, whereas our children, who are more hip, live in Salt Lake City or Park City!

## OgdenCandidates

Including all members in the following zips: 84015, 84037, 84040, 84041, 84050, 84056, 84067, 84075, 84089, 84302, 84307, 84309, 84310, 84312, 84315, 84317, 84324, 84334, 84337, 84340, all 844\_\_



### RANEE JOHNSON

I am running for a position on the Ogden Group's executive committee again. I have served as a member for over ten years: have been group chair, representative to the chapter's executive committee and as the chapter's representative to the club's advisory committee. I am currently serving as treasurer and would be happy to continue working on behalf of the Ogden Group.



### DAN SCHROEDER

The Ogden Group plays a critical role in our rapidly growing community, as an advocate for natural places, quiet recreation, and sustainable living. I have been honored to serve as a volunteer in the Ogden Group, promoting these all-important values, for the last 20 years. I currently serve as the group's conservation chair and webmaster. Among our current projects are limiting the growth of off-road vehicle use in our National Forests and pushing for more pedestrian-friendly neighborhoods within Ogden City.



# OnEnergy

## Utah Utility Group Announces New Nuclear Reactor Project in Idaho

by Sarah Fields

The Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems (UAMPS), a group of municipal utilities, has proposed a 12-unit Small Modular Reactor (SMR) project, to be located at the Department of Energy (DOE) Idaho National Lab. The project would use the NuScale reactor design, which must be approved separately by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The design places both the individual reactors and the spent fuel in the same pool of water in a large containment building. If completed according to plan, the new reactor would be rated at 600 megawatts or approximately twenty percent larger than Utah's coal-fired Bonanza Power Plant.

*The new reactor would be rated at 600 megawatts or approximately twenty percent larger than Utah's coal-fired Bonanza Power Plant.*

erroneously claim that these SMRs are carbon free. These promoters of SMRs as clean energy ignore the energy (most often generated by fossil fuels) and fuel required to mine and mill uranium, convert and enrich the uranium, fabricate the nuclear fuel, manufacture and transport the reactor units, SMR construction and operation, transportation and disposal of the irradiated reactor fuel. At several steps in the process, the SMR project will not be carbon free. These smaller SMR reactors are still dangerous and expensive.

### PLAINTIFFS DROP GREEN RIVER NUCLEAR REACTOR WATER RIGHTS CHALLENGE

In August Uranium Watch, Living Rivers, and HEAL Utah announced their decision not to appeal the July 21, 2016, Utah Court of Appeals decision upholding the State Engineer decision granting water for the proposed Blue Castle Project (BCP) nuclear reactor. In 2009 the Utah Chapter, the lead plaintiffs, Green River farmers and river tour companies, and a number of other organizations, entities, and individuals protested the appropriation of water from the Green River for the reactor a few miles west of the town of Green River. The reactor proponent leased 53,600

acre feet (~87 million gallons of water per day) from the Kane County and San Juan County Water Conservancy Districts.

The BCP has attracted very little outside investment and no funding or commitment from any electrical utility. Blue Castle Holdings Inc. (BCH) needs from \$50 to \$100 million to develop an Early Site Permit application to submit to the NRC. As of 2015, BCH had raised \$20 million. BCH has not contacted the NRC since 2011, does not own the property proposed for the reactor, and no longer owns the Willow Creek pipeline company that was a source of funding.

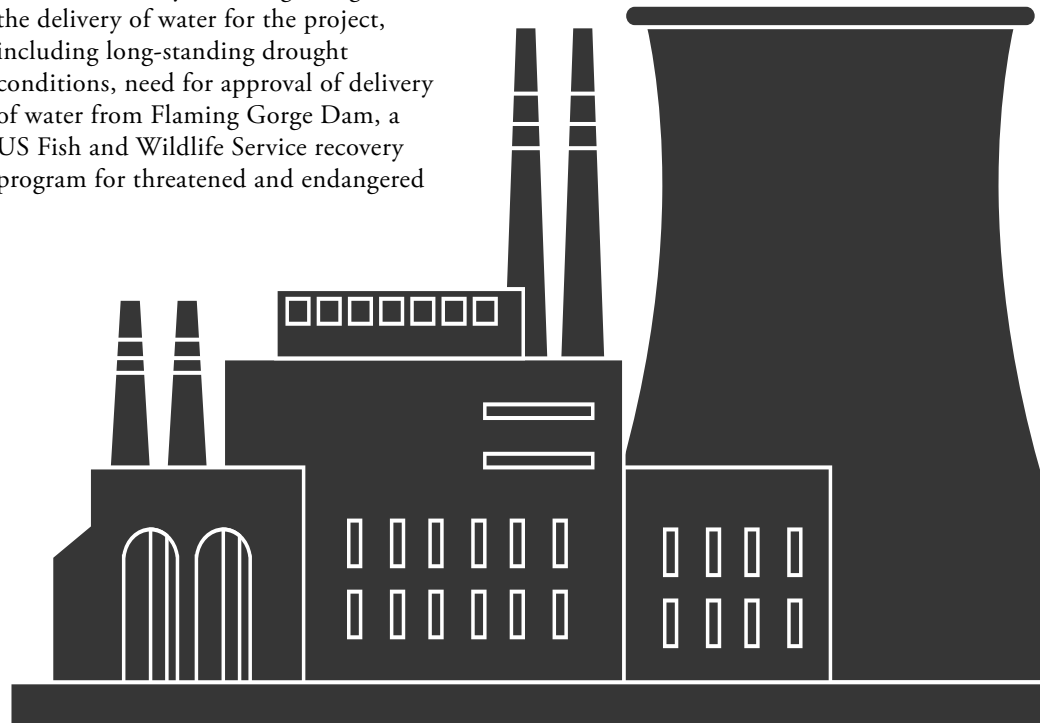
There are many issues regarding the delivery of water for the project, including long-standing drought conditions, need for approval of delivery of water from Flaming Gorge Dam, a US Fish and Wildlife Service recovery program for threatened and endangered

fish in the Colorado River Basin, and the lack of seniority of the San Juan County water right.

The Sierra Club, Uranium Watch, Living Rivers, HEAL Utah and others will continue to oppose the Blue Castle Project and keep the public informed.

Anyone interested in the UAMPS SMR proposal, please contact sarah@uraniumwatch.org.

*Sarah Fields is a member of the Glen Canyon Group and serves on the Sierra Club Nuclear Free Campaign Core Team.*



# Election Ballot

## UTAH CHAPTER EXCOM ELECTIONS 2016

Your ballot must be received by **Friday, November 25, 2016**. Mail your completed ballot in the enclosed envelope. The second set of boxes below are for the second member of a joint membership only. Blank lines are for write-in candidates.

### ExComCandidates

JEFF CLAY	S	J
NANCY CLEVELAND	S	J
AMY MILLS	S	J
IAN WADE	S	J
	S	J

VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN 4 INCLUDING WRITE-INS

### OgdenCandidates

RANEE JOHNSON	S	J
DAN SCHROEDER	S	J
	S	J
	S	J

VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN 3 INCLUDING WRITE-INS

YOUR ZIP CODE:

THANKS FOR YOUR VOTE!



✂️ + 📧  
DETACH AND MAIL TO:

**Utah Chapter, Sierra Club**  
423 West 800 South, Suite A103  
Salt Lake City UT 84101



# ChapterNews

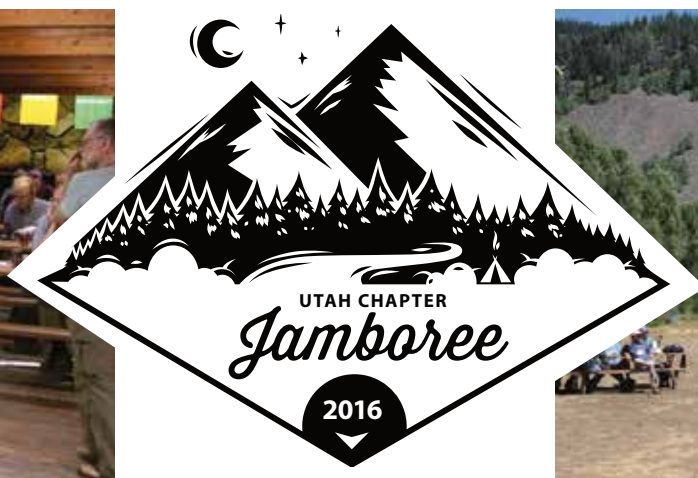
## Utah Sierra Club Jamboree

AUGUST 19-21, 2016

by Lindsay Beebe



JEFF CLAY / CLAYHAUS.NET



On August 19-21, the Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club hosted the first ever Utah Sierra Club Jamboree where 60 volunteers learned about important campaign initiatives, celebrated the Chapter's many achievements, and explored the bounty of Utah's wilderness. The Jamboree was hosted at YMCA's Camp Roger in the Soapstone Basin of the Uinta Wilderness. Participants included a mix of volunteers, old and new, from across the state. People came from Ogden to Moab, from Salt Lake County to Summit County and many places in between to learn how they could be better stewards of Utah's environment. Programing encompassed a wide range of workshops and activities, pictured below. On Friday night, participants were welcomed to Camp Roger with a special musical performance by singer-songwriter Gigi Love, who had just completed a tour of the country's National Parks in celebration of the NPS Centennial. Other highlights included a thoughtful discussion and training on how to make the Utah Chapter a more diverse and inclusive organization, a theme that was carried throughout the weekend. Don't be bummed if you missed out this year, help us plan for next year's Jamboree! Email [Lindsay.Beebe@sierraclub.org](mailto:Lindsay.Beebe@sierraclub.org)

to learn how you can get involved!

Clockwise from top left:

1) Salt Lake City Group Chair Will McCarvill prepares to lead a Wilderness Monitor training and teach Jamboree participants how to be good stewards of public lands. Will spoke about the Sierra Club's two upcoming service outings in the San Rafael Swell near Sid's Mountain.

2) Service Outing Volunteers pause for a photo while working to prepare U.S. Forrest Service ponderosa pine habitat for a controlled burn to help combat wildfires in the high Uinta Wilderness. Jamboree Attendees had the option to participate in one of three activities offered on Saturday afternoon; the U.S. Forrest Service outing, a birding hike in the Uinta Mountains, or a poster-making art project used for a Beyond Coal Campaign press conference later that week.

3) Service Outing Leader and photographer extraordinaire Par Rasmusson poses for a photo after organizing a successful partnership with the U.S. Forrest Service for the 2016 Jamboree Service Outing.

4) Jamboree attendees participate in the Utah Beyond Coal Workshop led by Utah organizer Lindsay Beebe in the Main Lodge at Camp Roger. Other sessions included a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion workshop with special guest trainers Vrinda Manglik and Colin Bennett, a "Keep Public Lands in Public Hands" campaign workshop led by chapter volunteer leader Lawson Legate. On Saturday, the Utah Chapter honored two outstanding volunteers, Dan Mayhew and Rebecca Wallace in a special address.

5) Jamboree participants enjoy a sack lunch in the fresh Uinta air, while listening to a talk from Sierra Club National Outings Director Stacy Bare. Stacy, a U.S. Army veteran and outdoor enthusiast, talks about the research the Sierra Club is spearheading with U.C. Berkley on the healing power and mental health benefits of wilderness and awe.

**The Utah Chapter gratefully acknowledges the support of Backcountry.com, Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign and the Mike Weinholtz for Governor Campaign in helping our inaugural jamboree's launch with generous donations.**

### COMMUNITY SUPPORT AT ITS FINEST!

The Utah Chapter Sierra Club thanks the following matching grant donors who helped make our Love Utah Give Utah 2016 campaign an impressive success.

**Creative Energies  
Marion Klaus  
Peter Metcalf  
Treasure Mountain Inn**

Please join our matching gift donors or contributors in 2017 to help us exceed our impressive first year. In 2017, Love Utah Give Utah will be on Thursday, March 30.



SAVE THE DATE!

Thanks again to our 2016 donors:

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Jaclyn K Ntow  
Martha S Paige

Barbara K Polich  
Jenny Rasmusson  
Par Rasmusson  
Susan Sanders  
Janne Sawada  
Geoffrey D Silcox  
Judith A Simon  
Susan Sims  
Sharon Spaulding  
Susan Stewart  
Fred Swanson  
Edwin R Taft  
Marc D Thomas  
Richard Thomas  
Trisha Townsend  
Ian Wade  
Judy Wall  
William J Wariner



# Utah Chapter Outings

## OCTOBER–DECEMBER 2016

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.

### ONLINE OUTINGS TOOL!

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

[UTAH.SIERRACLUB.ORG/CONTENT/CALENDAR](http://UTAH.SIERRACLUB.ORG/CONTENT/CALENDAR)

### October

**GCG, Sat, 10/8, Natural Bridges Exploration.** Sipapu to Kachina with a return by the foot trail over the mesa top. Some exploring around. If you don't leave from the usual meeting place at 8 AM, meet at 10 AM at the Sipapu parking area. Michael Stringham 435-259-8579 [mikechrista@earthlink.net](mailto:mikechrista@earthlink.net). Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School

**SLG, Sun 10/9: Wolverine Cirque High Traverse.** Starting at Silver Lake near Brighton in Big Cottonwood Canyon, we'll hike up the Twin Lakes trail to the pass. A spectacular, exposed scramble along the ridgeline above Wolverine Cirque takes us over the tops of Mounts Wolverine and Tuscarora, then down to Catherine Pass and past Lakes Catherine, Martha and Mary, returning to Brighton for a complete loop. It is an amazing hike with views that will be long remembered, especially with the fall colors on display! This hike takes about five to six hours, involves about 2500 feet elevation gain and is limited to seasoned hikers who are used to high mountain traverses. Be sure to bring 2 to 3 liters of water, lunch and snacks, extra layers and shell, hat/sunglasses, trekking poles and sturdy boots with good soles. Boot traction devices are advised in case we encounter icy spots. If the weather is threatening we will have a lower altitude alternative to be decided on that day. Meet at 9:30 AM at the 6200 South Park and Ride lot, 6450 S. Wasatch Blvd. in SLC (note that this is 1 mile north of the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon). For more info contact the leader, Jim Paull at 801-580-9079 or [jimpaull@sisna.com](mailto:jimpaull@sisna.com) for details.

**SLG Sat 10/15: Little Mountain Supermoon evening hike.** Expect a special treat this evening including a beautiful hike and a supermoon as the October or Full Hunter's Moon passes closest to the earth. Meet promptly at 6:00 PM at the parking lot east of Hogle Zoo at Crestview Dr. and Sunnyside Ave. The lot is marked by a large eagle statue. (Sunset is at 6:46 PM and the moon will rise at 6:53 PM.) Bring snacks to share as we witness the beauty of nature. Leader: Aaron Jones (801) 467-3532, [ajonesmvp@msn.com](mailto:ajonesmvp@msn.com)

**GCG, Sat, 10/22, Lathrop Trail Hike.** To go all the way to the White Rim 1700' below and return is about 13.6 miles. But to cross the meadow, get down through the Navajo and contour on the Kayenta to the top of the way down over the Wingate is about 3 miles one way. You go 120' up, 600' down and 400' back up. Stopping a little short of the top of the way down saves you 400' of climbing. Great views into the Colorado River Canyon. Thomas J Messenger

435-259-1756 [messengert35@gmail.com](mailto:messengert35@gmail.com), parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School.

### November

**GCG, Sat, 11/5, Needles Loop Day Hike.** Soda Spring-Elephant Canyon-Squaw Canyon-Big Spring Canyon-Squaw Flat loop. About 8.5 miles with ups and downs in an elevation band of about 400'. Glorious Needles slickrock in the canyons and climbing over the divides. Car shuttle between Soda Spring and Squaw Flat. Michael Stringham 435-259-8579 [mikechrista@earthlink.net](mailto:mikechrista@earthlink.net). Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School

**SLG, Sat 11/5: Outings Leader 101 Course.** This is the basic one-day session which will certify you as a leader for our local day trips. (The Outings 201 course is for backpacking outings.) It's open to all Sierra Club members who wish to lead outings in our area. Presented by our volunteer leaders, it will cover Club outings history and policy, how to conduct outings safely and enjoyably, and will include basic outdoor first aid. The course will run about five to six hours and will start at 9 AM at the Sierra Club chapter office, 423 W. 800 S., Suite A 105, in Salt Lake City. The course is free but registration is required; contact Fred Swanson at [fbswan32@msn.com](mailto:fbswan32@msn.com). Come be part of our dedicated cadre of volunteer outings leaders!

**SLG Sat 11/12: Millcreek Canyon Afternoon Hike.** We'll take the Burch Hollow trail uphill to the Pipeline trail, following this to Elbow Fork. The nearly full moon will light our return down the canyon road. Bring snowshoes or boot traction devices (depending on snow conditions), warm clothes, water, and a snack. Meet at 4:00 PM at the Skyline High School parking lot (E side of the school), 3251 E. Upland Dr. (3760 S). Leader: Fred Swanson, [fbswan32@msn.com](mailto:fbswan32@msn.com), 801-588-0361.

**SLG Tues 11/15: Film Lords of Nature.** Join us at the downtown Marmalade Branch Library at 6:30 PM for a showing of the film *Lords of Nature: Life in a Land of Great Predators*. This film tells how scientists are uncovering the role of top carnivores as revitalizing forces of nature. Follow biologists Bill Ripple and Bob Beschta of Oregon State University as they study ecosystems that are maintained by their apex predators, whether it's wolves in Yellowstone or cougars in Zion National Park. The program is sponsored by the Salt Lake Group outings committee, and will be followed by an informal discussion and social hour. The Marmalade Library is located at 280 W. 500 N. in SLC. Meeting room is upstairs; parking is available across the street at the LDS church lot. [C]

**GCG, Sat, 11/19, Upper Culvert Canyon Arches Day Hike.** Starting at the culvert, explore upper Culvert Canyon branches beyond Jeep Arch and visit several big arches and bridges like Spillway Bridge and One Block Arch. About 8 miles with at least 1000' of elevation gain. Jock Hovey 435-260-0239 [jockhovey@gmail.com](mailto:jockhovey@gmail.com) Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School

### December

**GCG, Sat, 12/3, Green River Overlook, Aztec Butte.** View the Green River Canyon from the rim and then visit the ruins on Aztec Butte in Island in the Sky, Canyonlands NP. A couple of hundred feet of elevation gain. Jock Hovey 435-260-0239.

**GCG, Sat, 12/17, Delta Pool and the Crack.** Visit the little mesa between Courthouse Wash and Mill Canyon. See if the crack suggesting the eastern side of the mesa is about to fall into Courthouse Wash has widened. Visit Delta Pool and enjoy walking on the Entrada slickrock with views of Monitor and Merrimac Buttes. Under 4 miles with ~500' of relief. Thomas J Messenger 435-259-1756 [messengert35@gmail.com](mailto:messengert35@gmail.com), parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School.

**SLG Sun 12/4: Mill D North Fork Snowshoe.** A classic Wasatch winter outing, this trail takes us through a forest of aspen and firs to sunny, ice-covered Dog Lake. Distance to Dog Lake is 2 miles, 1520 feet elevation gain, about 4 hours round-trip. Meet at 10:00 AM at the 6200 South Park and Ride lot, 6450 South Wasatch Blvd. (1 mi north of the canyon mouth). Please call or email organizers if winter conditions are threatening, as this may require us to modify or cancel the trip: Connie ([modrowsky@gmail.com](mailto:modrowsky@gmail.com), 801-571-0205) or Fred ([fbswan32@msn.com](mailto:fbswan32@msn.com), 801-588-0361).

**SLG, Tues 12/13: Avenues Twin Peaks –by Moonlight.** Avenues Twin Peaks (aka Little Twin Peaks) offers great views of the Salt Lake valley to the south and the City Creek drainage to the north. Our moonlit hike will climb 2 miles and 1,000 feet to the 6,300' summit. Bring a headlamp or flashlight, but with the full moon rising at about sunset, hopefully we will not need to use them very much. Meet at 6:30 PM at the cul-de-sac at the upper end of Terrace Hills Drive (890 East), which is accessed from 11th Avenue near the northwest corner of the Salt Lake cemetery. Leader: Bruce A. Hamilton, 801-819-9435 or [bhami@pobox.com](mailto:bhami@pobox.com). Dogs are allowed on leash.

**SLG Weds 12/21: Cottonwood Canyons Winter Solstice snowshoe.** This midweek hike will head up Big

Cottonwood Canyon to a suitable snowshoe destination, likely Greens Basin, Days Fork or Willow Lake. Pace will be steady but relaxed as we usher in winter among the firs and aspens. Meet at 10:30 AM at the 6200 South Park and Ride lot, 6450 South Wasatch Blvd. (1 mi north of the canyon mouth). Bring snowshoes, warm clothes, water, lunch, and sun protection. Please call leader if winter conditions are threatening, as this may require us to modify or cancel the trip. Leader: Fred Swanson [fbswan32@msn.com](mailto:fbswan32@msn.com), 801-588-0361.

**GCG, Sat, 12/31, Sand Flats, Negro Bill Rim Day Hike.** Start just past the one-way stretch and leave the mesa top to walk below the rim down canyon on an inner rim of Negro Bill. Fine views into Negro Bill and towards the Moab Rim. About 5 miles, up 300', down 600' and 300' back up. Thomas J Messenger 435-259-1756 [messengert35@gmail.com](mailto:messengert35@gmail.com), parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School

**SLG, Sun 1/22: Little Dell to Affleck Park.** We will park at the winter gate at Little Dell Reservoir and walk along the trail to Affleck Park, where we will take a break and eat lunch. The return will be along the road, which is closed to cars. The trail is mostly level and traverses a variety of winter habitats for animals including moose. Meet at 9:00 AM in front of the Bombay House on Parley's Way. Please bring water and lunch. Proper winter clothing and snowshoes are mandatory. Plan on being on the trail for 4+ hours. We will return to SLC in the early afternoon. Leader: Colleen Mahaffey [colleen.mahaffey@gmail.com](mailto:colleen.mahaffey@gmail.com), (801) 484-4105 or (801) 554-7153.

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.



# LocalNews



Rebecca Wallace, Will McCarvill and Mark Clemens monitor Saddle Horse Canyon Wash for impacts from off-road vehicles.

## Backcountry Fun Meets High Tech Wilderness Monitoring

Sierra Club and Wasatch Mountain Club volunteers assembled at a remote campsite near Pinnacle One on Friday, September 9, 2016. Will McCarvill had a plan. We would spend Saturday, September 10, doing monitoring work in Saddle Horse Canyon and Cane Wash to determine the extent, if any, of off-road vehicle intrusions in the Sid's Mountain Wilderness Study Area. Then on Sunday, we would have a free day to explore the wonders of the San Rafael Swell.

The San Rafael Swell, including spectacular land forms such as Mexican Mountain, the Grand Canyon of the San Rafael River, Little Wild Horse Canyon and Sid's Mountain, lacks protection from mining, logging, ORV abuse and oil & gas exploration. The Bureau of Land Management which manages these public lands inventoried the San Rafael Swell for its wilderness qualities and nominated a portion including Sid's Mountain as wilderness. But the US Congress must designate these lands as wilderness for formal protection to take effect.

Because the 1964 Wilderness Act defines wilderness as, "an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable," environmental-

ists have to work with land management agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to prevent uses that would disqualify lands from being made wilderness by congress.

*While we were in the middle of the monitoring work in Saddle Horse Canyon, a full-blown reconstruction project broke out.*

Over many years of work and with GPS technology continually improving, Will McCarvill developed a protocol for wilderness monitoring that multiplies the impact that a volunteer can have. On Saturday morning we got a quick briefing in how the process works before breaking up into separate monitoring parties. You can see the details for yourself on line, <http://utah.sierraclub.org/downloads>. The file is titled Will's Presentation Sierra Club Jamboree.

While we were in the middle of the monitoring work in Saddle Horse Canyon, a full-blown reconstruction project broke out. We found a buck and rail barrier had been swept aside by a flash flood so we muscled it back in place. Check out the video nar-

rated by Rebecca Wallace, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ckPNyJcx2g&feature=youtu.be>, with background noise supplied by Nuki the dog.

The next day volunteers fanned out for a day of recreation in swell locations such as Kofford Cabin, the Wedge Overlook and the trail to Virgin Springs Canyon.

*Big thanks to Will McCarvill who organized the event, BLM Ranger Matt Blocker for guidance, Peter Woodruff for technical expertise, and all the volunteers who showed up.*



Sierra Club and Wasatch Mountain Club volunteers during a break before descending into Saddle Horse Canyon.

### COMMUNITY SHARES/UTAH CAMPAIGN

by Mark Clemens

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

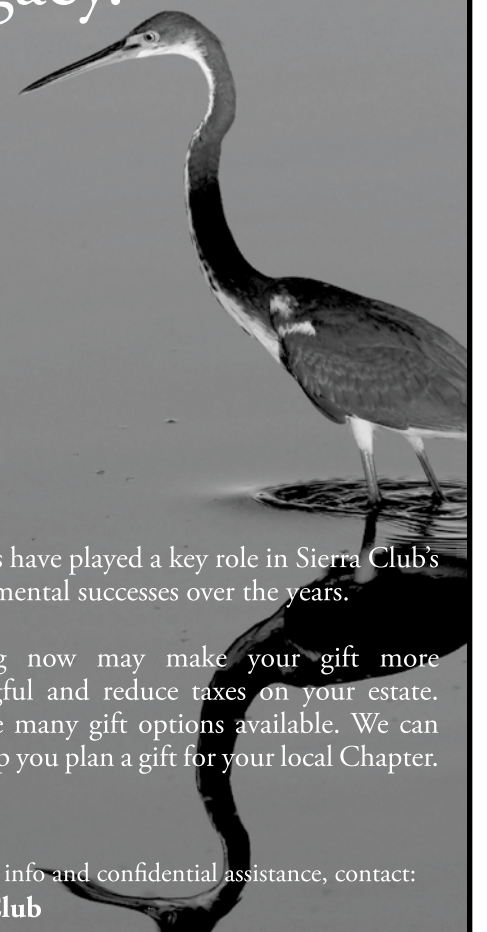
The Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club helped to found CS/U in 1989. Check out the full roster of agencies at [www.communitysharesutah.org](http://www.communitysharesutah.org). CS/U helps raise money for the chapter and the other member agencies in most public-sector and several private sector workplaces too.

If you don't have the chance to contribute to Community Shares at work and would like to, call me at 801-467-9297 or send me an e-mail at [mark.clemens@sierraclub.org](mailto:mark.clemens@sierraclub.org) or Lynne Brandley, the executive director of Community Shares at 801-486-9224 or [lbrandley@xmission.com](mailto:lbrandley@xmission.com).



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