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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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## This Issue

**Why does the current administration and our own state want to take our lands away from us?** Read about what we are doing to stop this on pages 4-5.

**It's election time!** Make a difference and help choose your next Executive Committee members via pages 8-9.

**It's been a hot summer and we helped turn up the heat with rallies, marches and our second annual Jamboree,** all profiled on page 10.

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# Utah Sierran

## Monumental Threats to Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante

by Wayne Hoskisson

The Utah Chapter experienced a harrowing ride since Pres. Obama designated Bears Ears National Monument on Dec. 28, 2016. Exhilaration faded as our congressional delegation, governor and some local politicians lobbied President Elect Trump to drastically reduce or rescind Bears Ears. On April 26, 2017 Pres. Trump issued Executive Order 13792 instructing the Secretary of the Interior to "conduct a review of all Presidential designations or expansions of designations under the Antiquities Act made since January 1, 1996." The EO was specifically designed to capture Grand Staircase-Escalante NM as well as 27 other landscape scale national monuments.

On May 11, 2017 the Federal Register published the notice for an opportunity for the public to comment on the establishment of 27 specific National Monuments

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



Bears Ears is rich in Native American history, culture, and artifacts that all need protecting.

JEFF CLAY | CLAYHAUSPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

UtahSierran  
Fall 2017 Vol. 50 No. 4

EDITOR: Jeff Clay  
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.

Submit all articles, artwork, photographs, letters and comments to [utah.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:utah.chapter@sierraclub.org). Phone: 801-467-9297. The *Utah Sierran* reaches more than 5,000 members and friends of the Sierra Club in Utah. Display advertising is accepted. For a current ad rate card, contact Mark Clemens, [utah.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:utah.chapter@sierraclub.org) or 801-467-9297. We reserve the right to refuse advertising that we feel conflicts with the goals and purposes of the Club.

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

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### Volunteers Serving on Sierra Club National Committees

Kim Crumbo | Wildlands Connectivity Committee  
Wayne Hoskisson | Grazing, National Utah Wilderness, Wildlands and Wilderness, Wildlands and Wilderness BLM sub-Team  
Marion Klaus | Our Wild America co-lead  
Dan Mayhew | National Utah Wilderness Team, and Wild Lands and Wilderness BLM Sub Team  
Sarah Fields | Nuclear Committee

## Volunteer Spotlight by Patty Becnel



## Par Rasmussen

To introduce Par Rasmussen, I could tell you about his 6 children, who live in six different states in four different time zones, or his career as an insurance adjuster for Hartford, or that he is a life long learner, was born in Idaho, grew up mostly in California, that he served a mission on the East coast, lived in Nevada and finally settled in Utah for his retirement, but Par's true passion becomes evident in our early morning phone conversation: service and his commitment to the environment. At Sierra Club, Par is known as the Outings Service Leader and in his ward, he is on the board of the LDS Earth Stewardship. At the end of every email Par signs with the statement, "Let's do service!", but it has a double meaning, he explained. Let's do service also carries the initials LDS, and as important to Par as service for the Sierra Club is his devotion to his faith and the desire to work with members to involve them in the service on the environment.

"Mormons, for the most part," Par explains, "are into volunteer work- if someone needs something, they'll be there in a hurry, so it is natural that this work extends to the environment. If you think about it from a religious standpoint, we have an obligation to take care of what Christ created," Par explains.

Leading service projects is his way to do this, with the first one on Kalaupapa Island in Hawaii. Since then, Par has organized service outings to various national parks, from the Great Smokey Mountains to Rocky Mountain NP, always returning to Glacier where visitorship has increased 40 % in the last two years. As well as week long trips, Par organizes one day or weekend service throughout the year. ( Check the Sierra Club website to join the next one.)

Par has also combined Sierra Club service with the LDS service projects. "People tend to think of the Sierra Club as the environmental arm of the Democratic party," Par explains, "and most Mormons are Republicans." However, we have so many similarities that override our differences. "When people see that I have 6 children and 22 grandchildren, they think I could not be part of the Sierra Club and most Sierra club events revolve around a glass of wine (or mug of beer), but those differences are small. Getting people to work together is a great opportunity to expose people to one another and to realize our differences are not so great. I try to appeal to the sense of responsibility of stewardship, and to follow guidelines of caring for the land set by Brigham Young," he explained.

Par believes in the responsibility of all of us protecting the environment and sees a role for religion to play. He lauds the Pope for his message to care for the environment and his emphasis on climate change's effect on the poor. LDS leaders also speak to the ideal of protecting the environment, though not as much as he'd hope. This protection, he believes, is founded in volunteers, and Par has made it his mission to involve as many as possible. "Volunteers are the best people on the planet," he explains. "They come to work with smiles on their faces, and just want to do something to help. Service projects are just terrific at helping people come together."

Par looks forward to many more years of service, and to expand his leadership qualities by volunteering with the Ex Com board.

Let's bring people of different faiths together to take the moral responsibility of protecting the environment, or in Par's words: "Let's do service!"

# OurLand

## Monumental Threats

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Grand Staircase-Escalante is an incredibly rich landscape with deep canyons, arches, year-round watercourses, and yes, hoodoos galore.

including Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante NMs. Comments on Bears Ears NM were due by May 25 giving the public a mere two weeks to weigh in on the designation. Chapter and National volunteers and staff worked with a coalition of organizations to generate public support. In two weeks we generated over 200,000 comments. At least 95% favored leaving the Bears Ears alone. The Utah Chapter and national Sierra Club both submitted substantive comments supporting Bears Ears NM and the Grand Staircase-Escalante NM.

On June 10, Secretary of the Interior Zinke issued an interim report about Bears Ears. The report displayed ignorance of public land laws and even a misguided and racist statement about San Juan County and the one Navajo county commissioner "elected by the majority-Native American voting district in that county." There is not supposed to be a Native American voting district in the county. The county is now over 50% Native American and there are three voting districts for the commission. There have been successful lawsuits opposing the gerrymandered voting districts.

The comment period for all of the 27 national monuments under review ended July 10. We set a record for comments to DOI by generating 2.8 million submitted comments. Nationally, 99% of the comments favored keeping the monuments intact.

Sec. Zinke submitted the report required by Pres. Trump's Executive Order on Aug. 24. The

Department of Interior issued a brief two page executive summary. So far the public has not seen the report. We do not know when or if the report will be made public. The Sierra Club submitted a Freedom of Information Act request for the report.

We have heard that no national monuments will be rescinded and that a handful will be reduced in size. The indication is that both the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante NMs will be reduced. One rumor indicated Bears Ears NM will be reduced to about 160,000 acres (a reduction of about 90%).

The Sierra Club is making plans to respond appropriately no matter what Pres. Trump decides. As of Aug. 31 we do not know the outcome of his decision.

If the courts uphold any change of boundaries by Pres. Trump then all monuments remain in jeopardy. If any monument is reduced then any and all monuments would have boundaries determined by the whim of the standing president. Bears Ears NM could be 160,000 acres this year and 2,000,000 acres

in four years. This is disrespectful to the Bears Ears Inter Tribal Coalition and the Native Americans who ask for their sacred lands to be protected.

Articles about the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante NMs appeared in the winter and summer editions of the Utah Sierra <http://utah.sierraclub.org/content/utah-sierran-newsletters>

*We set a record for comments to DOI by generating 2.8 million submitted comments. Nationally, 99% of the comments favored keeping the monuments intact.*

## ChapterUpdate



### Utah Chapter Vision

The Chapter Executive Committee spent a good part of the first half of this year in producing a vision for the Utah Chapter. This represents what we want to become and what we work towards achieving this vision. Currently it is a draft version as we, the Executive Committee, want to hear from the you, our members. Contact Will McCarvill ([will@commercialchemistries.com](mailto:will@commercialchemistries.com)) for questions and comments.

#### UTAH CHAPTER VISION JUNE 2017 REV 2

*Mission Statement*-Make significant, measureable progress towards our mission.

*Membership*-We have a growing membership for political heft, volunteer activism and financial power. Our membership demographics will more closely reflect that of Utah.

*Financial capability*- We have increasing funding success in raising money for c3, c4 and PAC and use professional fundraising strategies to achieve a balanced budget.

*Staffing*- We have a Chapter, Fundraiser, Outreach, Media, and Political directors as well as additional organizers in different parts of the state. Staff and volunteers work together in a respectful, productive relationship.

*Effective in accomplishing conservation goals*- A high degree of success in making major impacts through our key campaigns on a state and local level.

*Depth and breadth of conservation goals*- Conservation priorities are established for 2-3 selected major campaigns and secondary activities addressing critical issues and utilizing the chapter's strengths. For each campaign or activity a leader is chosen, goals and achievable objectives are clearly defined, and needed resources are available.

*Roles and responsibilities versus other organizations*- We seek a 'brand' with at least some campaigns or activities where we are unique or primary among conservation organizations. We also bring our name, weight, expertise, membership and volunteers to help partner organizations with similar goals and objectives. We determine strategically which partnerships to enter into and at what level of engagement.

*Equity, Inclusion, Justice*- We find common ground in solving quality of life issues with people from all walks of life.

*Volunteer capacity*- We have a culture of volunteer recruitment and commitment with a deep and diverse bench. The chapter is the venue for volunteer activism in Utah.

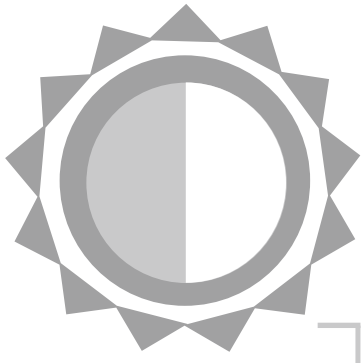
*Political power*-The chapter is respected as a player and is able to get environmentally supportive candidates elected and kept in office. We propose legislation or are asked to review pending legislation.

*Visibility in Utah*- We are visible to the majority of Utah residents. We are recognized as a major contributor to improving Utah's environment in our strength areas.

*Relationship with national*-We communicate often and in a mutually respectful and open manner with national. We take advantage of all funding opportunities from national with a high success rate in competitive grant opportunities.

*Organizational depth*- All executive positions are filled for the chapter and groups by holding competitive elections. All volunteer committees, including the committee chairs, are filled and are fully functional.

# OurLand



The Sierra Club is excited to continue our Solar Homes Program in Utah! Through this program, we are empowering our members and supporters to be part of Utah's clean energy future. If you are interested in saving on your energy bills, doing something positive for the climate, and supporting the Utah Sierra Club, request a free estimate today.

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

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



Volunteers working hard around the state to Keep Public Lands in Public Hands.

## Cities and Communities Fight to Keep Public Lands in Public Hands

by Lawson LeGate

The Utah Chapter's Keep Public Lands in Public Hands campaign was conceived as a means of demonstrating that people across Utah oppose the legislature's scheme to take over America's public lands. The following is an update on campaign activities so far this year.

### SUMMIT COUNTY AND PARK CITY RESOLUTIONS

The Keep Public Lands in Public Hands campaign scored its first two victories this June. Both Summit County and Park City passed resolutions supporting the continued ownership of our nation's public lands by all Americans. These resolutions stand in opposition to efforts by Utah's legislature to take control of America's public lands within the state's boundaries.

Summit County volunteers Becky Yih and Peter Gatch led the effort and paved the way by first asking the Snyderville Basin Special Recreation District to pass their own resolution. Support from the Mountain Trails Foundation was also important. These actions caught the attention of Summit County Council members.

Summit County and Park City councils both cited the importance of public lands to their respective economies as well as the importance of public lands to their citizens as places to enjoy outdoor recreation.

In addition, both councils stated that they support "continued federal ownership and management of invaluable public lands in Summit County, Utah, as well as in the United States generally."

Becky and Peter employed a variety of tactics to impress on council members that local citizens were strongly in favor of Keeping Public Lands in Public Hands. They encouraged people to send email messages and postcards to council members. For example, Summit County Council members received 100 postcards and 75 emails in favor of the resolution. They

also distributed bumper stickers and other materials throughout the community.

Becky and Peter have prepared a list of tactics to share with people in other communities. To obtain a copy, contact Lawson LeGate at [Lawson.legate@gmail.com](mailto:Lawson.legate@gmail.com).

*The Keep Public Lands in Public Hands campaign scored its first two victories this June.*

### ACTIVITY IN MOAB

Mike Coronella and Utah Chapter Chair Marc Thomas have spearheaded efforts in Moab. They have placed dozens of Keep Public Lands in Public Hands yard signs around Moab and distributed bumper stickers. This summer Mike attended the local farmer's market and got 54 postcards

sent to Moab and Grand County council members. Discussion about pro-public lands resolutions with city and county council members are ongoing. (For further information about the campaign in

# OurLand

## Public Lands

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Moab and Grand County, contact Mike Coronella at mcoronella63@gmail.com.

### MILLCREEK CITY

Steve Knox spent the summer sharing our campaign message with residents of the new city of Millcreek. During the summer, the city hosted weekly "Venture Out" community events and Steve set up a KPLPH table at multiple locations throughout the city. There was substantial interest in our message, and Steve urged residents and neighbors to contact their City Council representative and the Mayor to support our campaign. Steve is planning to canvass Millcreek neighborhoods this fall. (If you are interested in joining his effort, contact Steve at 801-414-0687 or knoxsltkcty@aol.com.)

### COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS

Nancy Cleveland has distributed a number of campaign yard signs in her community. She and Nancy Barrickman planned a neighborhood canvass earlier this year to reach out to local residents to educate them about the issue and the legislature's threatened takeover of our public lands. Volunteers knocked on doors and placed yard signs and other campaign materials with interested local residents. Lessons learned from the canvass will be applied to efforts in other Utah communities. Nancy Cleveland and Lawson LeGate have also presented the campaign to the Alta Town Council and mayor and met with the mayor of Cottonwood Heights.

### CONGRESSIONAL TOWN HALL MEETINGS

The campaign has been present at town hall meetings held by three of Utah's members of the U.S. House of Representatives. Nancy Cleveland, Steve Knox and Lawson LeGate handed out all their campaign stickers at the Jason Chaffetz meeting earlier this year. Thanks to Nathan Gilbert, Diana Gentillon, Mark Clemens and Nancy Barrickman, we did the same at Rep. Chris Stewart's town hall meeting this past spring and signed up over 100 potential volunteers. Steve joined with Tammy, Rick and Jeremy Creeger of Ogden at a citizens' town hall meeting planned for an absent Rep. Rob Bishop. They set up a table in the lobby sharing our campaign message, yard signs, fact sheets, and bumper stickers with many attendees. And Carly Ferro, the Utah Chapter's new organizer, along with our friends at the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, handed out our materials at Rep. Rob Bishop's two meetings this summer.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

The Keep Public Lands in Public Hands campaign is reaching out to Sierra Club members, supporters and allies to educate Utahns about the issue and to put pressure on elected officials to oppose the takeover of our public lands. To learn how you can make a difference, send an email message to Lawson LeGate at lawson.legate@gmail.com. And be sure to visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/keeppubliclands/> and our web page at <http://keeppubliclands.com>.

## SUMMIT COUNTY RESOLUTION ON PUBLIC LANDS

### RESOLUTION # 2017-10

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE VALUE OF FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS TO SUMMIT COUNTY, UTAH'S ECONOMY, RECREATION, HERITAGE,

#### AND QUALITY OF LIFE

WHEREAS, Summit County contains a unique wealth of scenic and wild, high-alpine natural landscapes, including mountains, rivers, forests, lakes, basins, plateaus and wilderness areas, many of which lie within public lands owned equally by all Americans; and

WHEREAS, nearly one-half of Summit County is mountainous and much of the High Uinta Wilderness Area is located within its boundaries; and

WHEREAS, Summit County's open spaces create a mosaic of extraordinary scenery, habitat, recreation and natural resources, managed for multiple-use, that are of immeasurable value to the health, welfare and enjoyment of Summit County's residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, public lands are essential to the quality of life in Summit County, providing extensive public recreational opportunities for wildlife watching, hiking, hunting, fishing, backpacking, horseback riding, skiing, snowboarding, bicycling, sightseeing, and numerous other outdoor recreational activities, thereby improving the health of our community and its visitors; and

WHEREAS, Summit County voters in the Snyderville Basin have passed Recreation and Open Space bonds totaling \$35 million, which have been used to purchase thousands of acres of land to preserve for open space and recreational activities, such as mountain biking trails, Nordic track, and an off-leash dog park; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, the Snyderville Basin Open Space Advisory

Committee ("BOSAC") was created for the purpose of advising and providing input to the county manager and the county council regarding the creation, preservation, and identification of open space within the Snyderville Basin in order to ensure high conservation values and promote the resort and scenic character of the area; and

WHEREAS, Summit County has established an Eastern Summit County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space Advisory Committee and related funding source to protect working landscapes and open spaces in eastern Summit County; and

WHEREAS, Summit County has a rich history of multiple use of public lands in support of an agricultural and natural resource-based economy and more recently, a significant recreation-focused economy. Since 1998, the travel and tourism sector has steadily held approximately half of the County's total private employment; and

WHEREAS, a significant portion of Summit County's economic livelihood rests on having an active and desirable natural resources, recreation and tourism industry. The rate of

employment in accommodation, recreation, food, arts, and entertainment in the County is over double the national rate at 19.4% (versus 9.5% nationally); and

WHEREAS, Summit County's attraction to businesses, employers, employees, and tourists who are a significant component of the local economy overwhelmingly flows from the high quality of life arising out of the expansive wild landscapes and outdoor recreational opportunities available in the County; and

WHEREAS, Summit County has engaged in climate action planning to reduce its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and impacts on climate change, as well as to plan for an economically vibrant, environmentally healthy, and socially responsible future. The preservation of public lands and open spaces is critical to this planning; and

WHEREAS, forests within these federally managed lands function as carbon storage critical to climate health; and

WHEREAS, federally administered public lands in Summit County contain three headwaters that provide clean water for municipal water supplies, fisheries and ranching integral to the County's economy, quality of life and public welfare and that provide the same benefits for over three quarters of a million people along the Northern Wasatch Front; and

WHEREAS, management of federally administered public lands by the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Bureau of Land Management in compliance with federal law for multiple uses best protects the national value and utility of the public lands for all Americans and the values on which the economy in Summit County are dependent; and

WHEREAS, management of federal public lands in compliance with federal law provides for collaboration with state and local agencies, and the community at large, that is more likely to produce effective landscape-wide management and economic viability and vitality than proposals to transfer federal lands out of federal ownership; and

WHEREAS, any loss of these public lands or of public access thereto would have damaging consequences for Summit County's economy and harm the health and welfare of Summit County residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, Summit County strongly believes the transfer of federal lands within Summit County out of federal ownership

would undermine the value of Summit County's ongoing investment in its open space programs; and

WHEREAS, Summit County's citizens, and Americans throughout the country use federal public lands across the United States, and value them as a distinctly prideful part of our national heritage and a legacy for future generations, no matter in which state we live; and

WHEREAS, Summit County supports the continued designation of our national monuments, particularly those located in the State of Utah, such as Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante. The lands within the Bears Ears National Monument are shared ancestral

lands of more than one dozen tribes and are sacred to Native Americans throughout the Southwest. Any change to the designation of this monument should be done in consultation with the Sovereign Nations of the Navajo, Hopi, Zuni and Ute Mountain Ute tribes; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Summit County, Utah, that:

1. The Summit County Council supports continued federal ownership and management of invaluable public lands in Summit County, Utah, as well as in the United States generally.

2. The Summit County Council recognizes the irreplaceable value these lands provide to our economy, recreation, quality of life and national heritage.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 14th day of June, 2017.

ATTEST: SUMMIT COUNTY COUNCIL SUMMIT COUNTY, UTAH

\_\_\_\_\_ Kent Jones Christopher F. Robinson County Clerk Council Chair

# OurLand

## GSENM--On the Front Lines

by Jeff Clay



Sunset Arch, deep in Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

*In silence  
we pondered  
how the threats  
to this incredible  
landscape,  
seemingly banished,  
have risen again,  
like some moldy,  
recalcitrant  
Lazarus.*

**D**eep in the heart of our 20-year old national monument, Grand Staircase-Escalante, sits a lone arch. Surrounded by sage, hidden from view, with no trail leading to it, and no sign pointing the way, Sunset Arch seems to hover above the ground, inviting exploration, awaiting discovery. Of course many people have been there and even more have seen a photo or two of the arch, usually taken at sunset with the rock lit by the dying sun and framing the distant sacred dark mass of Navajo Mountain. But to see it anew – or the first time – is to (re-)discover it for oneself.

To the west runs the long and aptly named Straight Cliffs of Fifty Mile Bench. Rising over 2000 feet above the Hole-in-the-Rock road, the banded cliffs appear to be the walls of some immense, long-ancient fortress.

Buried deep beneath them are beds of coal that hold a destructive promise for a dying industry. To the east, just a few miles away, is the gorgeous Coyote Gulch that twists and turns its way past arches and bridges to the lifeline that joins Boulder Mountain and the Colorado River: the Escalante River.

Standing once again before Sunset Arch, I re-discover it as storm-tossed clouds scud by dropping snow and producing an ever-changing, natural lightshow. My companions have never been here and are amazed that there are no signs of humans in this vastness. No sound but the wind and an occasional raven. For this moment we all relish the joys of expansive vistas, an improbable arch, and the sense of raw timelessness that existed before modernity and hopefully always will.

Later I mention how close we came to losing this wilderness. In the early 70's our Utah congressional delegation pushed for the Trans-Escalante highway that would have stretched from Bullfrog to Wahweap marina. The road would have bridged across the Escalante canyon just downstream from Stevens Arch and Coyote Gulch, only a few miles from our still-wild campsite. Sanity prevailed. In silence we pondered how the threats to this incredible landscape, seemingly banished, have risen again, like some moldy, recalcitrant Lazarus.

As we are finding with the current administration's war on much of what we hold dear in America, battles fought and won are reasons for celebration though never for complacency.

## What's happening in the Wasatch?

by Will McCarvill

**T**hings seem to be quiet after a hectic spring and summer. The revision of the Foothills and Canyon Overlay Zone (FCOZ) which adds layers of control over existing zoning ordinances in the canyons was passed by the Salt Lake County Council. It did not turn out as green as we would have wanted. A majority on the council placed a higher emphasis on private property values than on protecting our water and canyon environment.

The county council also approved a Resource Management Plan that was required by the state to show how Salt Lake County would manage the Wasatch if the state takes over public lands in Utah. Many environmental organizations weighed in and ensured that all the planning documents from years of studies were included to make sure all the watershed and forest protections were referenced.

At the last minute Salt Lake County agreed to contribute 1.5 million dollars towards the purchase of Bonanza Flats after voting 'no' earlier. This enabled Utah Open Lands to purchase this parcel just over Guardsman pass and put it under a conservation easement.

The much awaited Central Wasatch Commission (CWC) is slowly coming to life. Two years after the Accord was signed we are finally seeing some movement. The Central Wasatch Commission was originally comprised of five commissioners: Salt Lake County

Mayor Ben McAdams, Sandy Mayor Tom Dolan, Mayor Jackie Biskupski of Salt Lake City, Cottonwood Heights Mayor Kelvin Cullimore, and SL County Councilman Jim Bradley. In addition, two more commissioners have been added: Andy Beerman of the Park City Council and Carlos Braceros of UDOT.

Since Representative Chaffetz resigned from congress the Central Wasatch Recreation and Conservation bill was not introduced into congress this session. The original bill was the result of several years of negotiation with a number of stakeholders. Now that this is dragging, the cast of characters is likely to change with unknown consequences. The bill would have added 8,000 acres of wilderness in the Wasatch: the Mt Aire-Grandeur Peak area.

The Chapter signed on to a letter to the Forest Service detailing why helicopters should not be landing in our local wilderness areas to capture mountain goats to see why their numbers are not increasing. The first issue is helicopters in wilderness on a non-emergency basis, the second is mountain goats are not native to our mountains and were introduced to provide additional hunting experiences. No studies have been conducted to see what damage they have caused on our high altitude vegetation nor what their effects have been on native big horn sheep.



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

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

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

**The Foundation challenges you to increase your support for the Utah Chapter in 2017.**

# OnEnergy

## New Changes Coming to Net Metering in Utah

Kelly Carter

It looks like a settlement has been reached between Rocky Mountain Power (RMP) and solar customers in Utah. It is expected that the Public Service Commission will approve this settlement by mid September. The new plan was reached as a compromise between RMP's proposed reduction in the rate paid to solar net metered customers and solar advocacy groups arguing that the benefits brought by solar should be fully valued.

To sum up, existing solar users and customers who submit net metering applications before November 15, 2017 will be grandfathered into the current rate structure. Grandfathered systems will be compensated at full value for all energy exported to the grid through 2035. Current, past, and future customers up to November 16, 2017 (depending upon the actual date in the final agreement) will be grandfathered at the current rate until the end of 2035. After 2035, those customers will drop to existing rate is at that time. To meet this window, and be grandfathered in, customers need to have submitted a Net Meter application\* before November to be safely grandfathered.

Any application submitted after November 15, 2017 will be compensated at a slightly lower rate and will be grandfathered through 2032. In the three year transition time between 2017 and 2020, all the parties will wrestle to figure out the new rate going forward from 2020. The current thinking is that the structure will stay the same, but the value per kilowatt-hour may change.

As it stands right now, net metering functions on a monthly basis and allows the customer to receive the full retail value for all solar energy generated. All energy sent to the grid and taken from the grid is measured on a monthly basis. This is about to change. In the new structure, all solar energy that is used by the home or commercial building at the time it is produced still receives full retail energy value. When excess energy is produced, such as during a sunny weekday when the house is vacant, and that excess energy is exported back to the grid, the excess energy will now be credited at a lower rate. Instead of a monthly tally, Rocky Mountain Power will be reading the



NOW is the time to install solar!

energy meter every 15 minutes. At the end of every 15 minutes, the energy export will be credited at the new rate. For residential customers, this rate will be 9.2 cents. The credit, if it exceeds the energy charges, will still roll over to each subsequent month and will be zeroed in March as it is now.

Meanwhile, there has been consideration of a reduction or elimination of the Utah state income tax credit. In coordination with this new rate structure, it is expected that from 2018 to 2020 the credit will be capped at \$1600 as compared to the current \$2,000 limit. After that, the credit will start declining \$400 each year. During the three

year transition period from 2017 to 2020 studies will be conducted to determine out the final export rate moving forward.

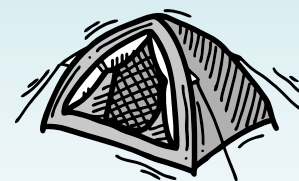
In a nutshell, if you want to install solar you have a relatively short window (now through November 15) to take advantage of the current attractive net metering structure. The Sierra Club has partnered with Creative Energies to offer a discounted rate for installations for Sierra Club Members! Don't miss the opportunity to get in on the current rate system. If you have any questions on the net metering system or any other solar related questions, contact Creative Energies.

\*A net metering application includes the technical specifics of the system, a layout plan for the system, and for projects over 10kW, an electrical one-line drawing. Most solar contractors will provide these documents in about a week.  
[SierraClubSolar.com](http://SierraClubSolar.com)  
[CESolar.com](http://CESolar.com)  
 801.487.6489

*In a nutshell, if you want to install solar you have a relatively short window (now through November 15) to take advantage of the current attractive net metering structure.*



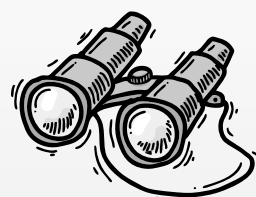
WHERE



HAVE



YOU



BEEN?

**INSPIRE US!**

Where have your boots taken you lately?

We love seeing how our members *explore, enjoy & protect the planet.*

Email photos to [utah.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:utah.chapter@sierraclub.org) or post to our Facebook page ([facebook.com/utahsierran](https://facebook.com/utahsierran)). Your image may be published in an upcoming issue of the UtahSierran!

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](mailto:UTAH.CHAPTER@SIERRACLUB.ORG).

# UtahChapter ExComElections

2017

This year's ballot includes candidates for the chapter executive committee. All members 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 24, 2017**. The Election Committee is working to implement online voting for this year's ExCom elections. In the event we are successful an email announcement will be sent to our membership list by mid-October. If you do not want to wait or do not want to use an online system, please use the paper ballot below.



## KIRSTEN JOHANNA ALLEN

Kirsten Johanna Allen is publisher at Torrey House Press where she manages editing, production, marketing, and fundraising for the mountain west's only nonprofit literary publisher. Along with creative director Kathleen Metcalf, Kirsten also oversees acquisitions for the press whose mission is to promote conservation through literature. Inspired by the power of writers like John Muir, Rachel Carson, Wallace Stegner, Terry Tempest Williams, Kirsten and Mark Bailey co-founded Torrey House Press in 2010 to bring to the page

new works that compel action to protect wild wonders. Kirsten's long-time, deep commitment to conservation and care of America's priceless public lands originated in childhood summers spent in eastern Nevada's Great Basin country and countless hours in Utah's canyon lands with her own children. In addition to her work at Torrey House Press, Kirsten's education and professional background includes a master's in public health from the University of Utah School of Medicine and a bachelor's in English from Westminster College; 25 years of private piano instruction, 25 years of freelance editing experience, and five

years teaching college English composition; board membership with nonprofits including Wild Utah Project, the Entrada Institute, The Mesa (a writers/artists retreat in Springdale); and conservation work at The Grand Canyon Trust and public health data analysis at the Utah Department of Health. Though Kirsten is a native New Yorker, she's also a sixth-generation Utahn and feels most at home hiking in Utah's red rock country. She has two grown children and lives with a pair of cats and her spouse, Mark, in Salt Lake City and Torrey, Utah.



## KATIE DAVIS

I've been an active Sierra Club member for many years, but want to have more direct influence over chapter priorities and projects in Utah, and that's why I'm running for election to the Utah Chapter ExCom.

My experience in environmental advocacy is broad. My day job is Western Director for Wildlands Network, a conservation non-profit that focuses on preserving connected habitat and pathways for wildlife on a continental scale in North America. In that position, I work closely with Sierra Club state and national staff on a variety of issues related to public lands. I also have great working relationships with staff

in nearly every national environmental organization and most on the state and regional level. Previously, I have worked on national monument campaigns, public lands agency planning processes, collaborative trail management initiatives, legislative campaigns and a variety of creative communications projects designed to educate and engage the public and elected officials on priorities for the conservation community.

My educational background also speaks to my commitment to environmental protection and my ability to be effective in an advocacy role. I have a bachelor's degree in ecology and a law degree, which was focused toward environmental law and policy. I am currently a member of the Utah State Bar.

Since graduating from law school, I have been active with the Utah Chapter. For the last three years, I have served as the political compliance officer for the Utah Chapter's political committee. In that role, I have regularly attended Sierra Club meetings, assisted in event planning and ensured state-level compliance with election laws. This role has been hugely rewarding, but I have many skills that are not yet being utilized on behalf of the Club and Chapter. Utah is my home and I want to play a more active role in leadership with the organization that I believe has the greatest opportunity to create meaningful, lasting change in Utah environmental policy.



## NATHAN GILBERT

I have been a member of the Sierra Club since 2012 and started out as a volunteer on the Political Committee. Since that time, I've also been active on the Communications Committee. I am a strong proponent of the "big tent" organization of the Sierra Club and the grassroots power that it can wield on the local political scene. I've been involved with the Political Committee for several years and have seen us vacillate between periods of

being active and not-so-active, but I do not believe we have come close to our potential for impact during this time. I am the current chair of the Committee and it is my goal to orient our Club towards that horizon of local political impact. I want the Utah Sierra Club to become the place where volunteers come to be a part of shaping local politics and engaging our elected leaders in upholding positions and principles that support our environment. I want the Club to be a leader in Utah on environmental issues and legislation. These things won't happen overnight, but by becoming a member of the Executive Committee I can

work more effectively to achieve these goals.

On a personal level, my wife, Sonya, and I live in Ballpark area of Salt Lake City. I am a software engineer and have a Masters degree from the University of Utah in Computer Science. I am originally from Kentucky where I grew up on a farm in the northeastern part of the state. I am also active in the Wasatch Mountain Club where I am currently the Evening Hikes director. My current interests include camping, backpacking, and getting more Sierra Club allies elected to local offices across Utah.

## Update: Wilderness Study Area trips to the San Rafael Swell

Will McCarvill

We now have a list of more than 50 volunteers who have contributed to this effort. If you want to be added to this list to receive updates and future outing plans let Carly Ferro, our organizer know by emailing [carly.ferro@sierraclub.org](mailto:carly.ferro@sierraclub.org). The boundaries of the Sids Mountain WSA were surveyed last year and this spring all violations were taken care of during the May and April field trips. Many new carsonite signs were installed, endless vehicle tracks were raked out, and old buck and rail barriers were refurbished. Since we are way ahead on the surveying front due to the very effective prescreening via

Google Earth we will focus on mitigation for the foreseeable future.

The new BLM staff in the Price Field Office responsible for WSA's is Dan Duff. Dan replaced Matt Blocker. Amber Koski is Dan's boss. Both have been great to work with and supportive of our efforts. Our future fall trips are as follows.

### SEPTEMBER 23/24

We will be eliminating extensive RV camping damage on the behind the Reef Road near Temple Mountain on the south eastern San Rafael Swell. Tracks need to be raked out, fire rings dispersed, access blocked and wilderness

study area/no vehicle signs installed. Work with BLM personnel will begin 9AM Saturday morning. Since it takes about 3 1/2 hours to get to the camp site from Salt Lake City it would be best to drive down Friday. We will be camping at a semi developed site with picnic tables and pit toilets. Take the Goblin Valley turnoff from U24 and go straight through the reef on paved roads. Type Temple Mountain Campground into your smartphone and it will show up. Bring gloves and work shoes. There is no water at this campground so bring plenty of your own. We will work Saturday

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

and play Sunday. We need lots of help on this at a variety of effort levels so the more volunteers the better.

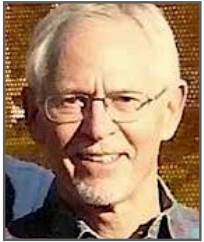
### OCT 14-15

We need to see how far we get in September before finalizing the details. Likely candidates include finishing the Behind the Reef Road work and Old Woman Wash. Give me a call for late breaking news.

Thanks for all your help. I look forward to seeing you this fall. Please email or call me with any questions [will@commercialchemistries.com](mailto:will@commercialchemistries.com), 801-694-6958.



# ExCom Elections



**STAN HOLMES**

I'm a retired educator, having taught 30+ years in Utah and overseas. My family lives in SLC.

From 1979 to 1982, I was coordinator for the northern Utah MX coalition that helped stop deployment of nuclear missiles in Utah and Nevada. That was the most personally empowering political win of my life: proof that an informed and engaged citizenry can prevail

against great odds. I was inspired to share that message as a high school teacher.

In 2014, I co-founded an all-volunteer group called Utah Citizens Advocating Renewable Energy (UCARE) and continue to serve as outreach coordinator. Our primary focus has been challenging utility efforts to block the growth of rooftop solar energy. In this ongoing effort, I've been pleased to team with fellow activists in the Sierra Club, HEAL Utah, and other

clean energy / clean air groups.

As an Executive Committee member, I would help strengthen the Club's community outreach efforts in currently underserved areas, especially low-income and minority neighborhoods. I would promote principles of environmental justice in activities of the Clean Energy and Political Action committees. I would like to see the Sierra Club become a more powerful force for change in Utah.



**JEFF KRAMER**

It has been my pleasure to serve as a member of the Utah Chapter Executive Committee, and the Utah Chapter's Legal Chair, since 2016. I have been a Sierra Club member since 1976, and I am now a life member. Since 2008, I have been leading National Outings backpacking trips in California's

Sierra Nevada, and after moving to Utah, I joined the Southwest subcommittee and assisted as a leader of a backpacking trip in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. The Utah Chapter has given me the opportunity to become involved in the ongoing efforts of the Sierra Club and other groups to preserve and protect many of Utah's extraordinary landscapes, which now more than ever are under serious threats by political and commercial interests.

I have been a practicing lawyer since 1976, specializing in litigation. I am licensed to practice law in California and Utah. My legal experience in general, and my litigation experience in particular, provide me with skill sets that are especially useful in the battles to protect Utah's natural environment. I look forward to future opportunities to contribute in a meaningful way to the ongoing work of the Sierra Club in Utah.



**PAR RASMUSSEN**

SERVICE has been my passion since joining the Sierra Club in 2005. Giving back through environmental Service projects is in my opinion the best way to help explore, enjoy and protect our planet. As the Service Outings leader first for the Southern Nevada Group and now the Utah Chapter, it has been my privilege to work with Sierra Club Volunteers in many national parks, monuments, and wilderness areas. One of my goals serving on the ExCom will be to continue involving our Volunteers in interacting with our public lands leaders and staff and improve our relationships with them

through standalone and on-going Service projects.

An active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, another goal would be to get more LDS members involved with the Sierra Club – after all, there are a lot of us here in Utah! With no paid clergy, Mormons have a heritage of Volunteer Service in helping where needs exist. We love Christ and His creations and know we must be good stewards of all He has given us. My goal on the Utah Chapter Sierra Club ExCom will be to highlight and promote our shared beliefs, to unite us in environmental Service, and to let everyone in Utah know that the Sierra Club's main role is NOT to serve as

the environmental arm of the Democratic Party!

Before retiring as an insurance adjuster, I worked hard for the designation of Bears Ears and Gold Butte National Monuments – they are near and dear to me. I will continue to work hard in their defense.

If elected, it will be an honor to work with our dedicated ExCom members and I look forward to joining with them. Together, and teaming up with other groups and organizations, the future is challenging but bright as we work together and celebrate living in one of the most beautiful areas on Earth!

## Election Ballot

UTAH CHAPTER EXCOM ELECTIONS 2017

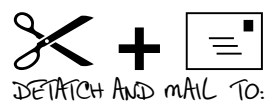
Your ballot must received by **Friday, November 24, 2017**. Mail your completed ballot in the enclosed envelope. The second set of boxes below are for the second member of a joint membership only. Blank lines are for write-in candidates.

**ExComCandidates**

KIRSTEN JOHANNA ALLEN	S	J
KATIE DAVIS	S	J
NATHAN GILBERT	S	J
STAN HOLMES	S	J
JEFF KRAMER	S	J
PAR RASMUSSEN	S	J

THANKS FOR YOUR VOTE!

YOUR ZIP CODE:



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

VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN 5 CANDIDATES, INCLUDING WRITE-INS

# ChapterNews

## A Hot Summer for Activism at the Sierra Club, Utah Chapter!



Top left, #public: It's all about Keeping the Public in Public Lands. Top right and bottom left: Sierra Club volunteers team up with the U.S. Forest Service for some trail maintenance during the service outing portion of the 2017 Jamboree. Center left: Thousands gathered on the Capitol Lawn to express their support for our Public Lands. Bottom right: Sierra Club Volunteer and rooftop solar homeowner, Craig Provost, speaks at the net-metering press conference outside the Public Hearing in August.

The summer has been hot and heavily filled with work to engage and empower Utahns while elevating the majority opinions on the hot button issues - public lands and renewable energies. With the help from our Utah Beyond Coal Organizer, Lindsay Beebe the Sierra Club has been able to drum up support to protect the solar industry and our Chapter has collectively worked to push the envelope for public lands protection. Here are a few of the highlights.

The Utah Chapter assisted in organizing individuals for the Outdoor Retailer's Public Lands March. We secured over a hundred local and national Sierra Club members and staff as part of the 3,000 that marched upon the Utah Capitol to rally. The rally echoed praises to Salt Lake's unbeatable alpine access and the high-quality work-life balance it affords. This March was the final curtain call for the OR show in Utah, but was just the beginning of the industry's support for our State's public lands.

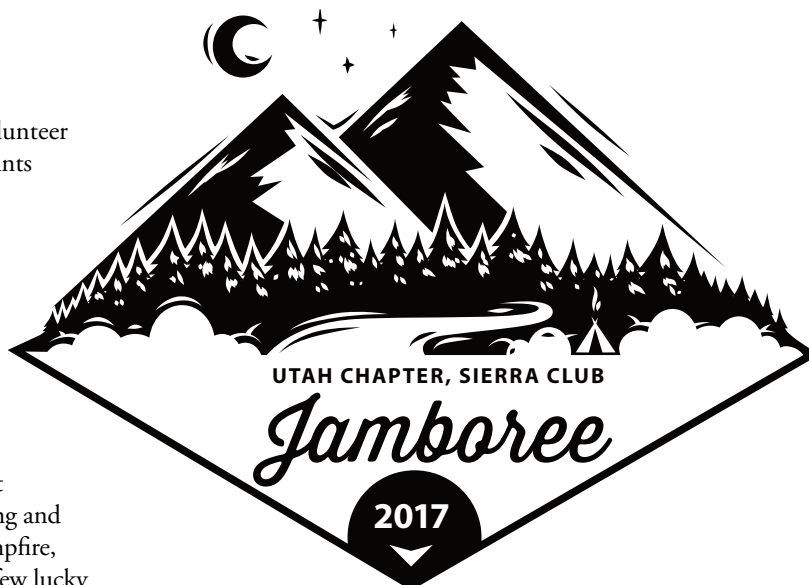
On August 9th, Sierra Club secured over a hundred individuals to testify in opposition to net metering that would implement solar rate hikes that would jeopardize the solar industry's future in Utah. (Please see Net Metering article in this issue.)

On August 18-20th, more than 50 Utah Sierra Club volunteers gathered for a weekend to celebrate and learn at Camp Roger, in the High Uinta Wilderness. Sierra Club

Staff, Executive Committee Members, Volunteer Leaders, and guest presenters led participants in a variety of educational workshops, social events, and a service outing with the United States Forest Service.

We celebrated "National Public Lands Day of Action" and volunteers were able to take part in our first aerial photo action to protect our National Monuments. On Saturday evening, guests were treated to the musical stylings of "Smoking Id", a Salt Lake City based band that had folks dancing and grooving. We enjoyed time around the campfire, making s'mores and telling stories. And, a few lucky silent auction winners were able to snag some gear at a deal, courtesy of our generous sponsors at Patagonia, Imlay Canyon Gear, Ascension Sales, Black Diamond, Torrey House Press, and Harmons. We would also like to extend a huge thank you to our sponsors at Creative Energies and Red Rock for helping to make the weekend a success!

If you are bummed you missed out on any of these amazing opportunity to expand your commitment to exploring, enjoying, and protecting our planet, all the while relaxing in the Uinta Mountains -- have no fear, there is



always next year! Email [carly.ferro@sierraclub.com](mailto:carly.ferro@sierraclub.com) if you would like to get involved and help us plan for 2018. In the meantime, enjoy the photos highlighting some our favorite moments!

The activities and work we do all year long can not be successful without you. If you would like to get involved, we have many opportunities for you. Contact [carly.ferro@sierraclub.com](mailto:carly.ferro@sierraclub.com) with inquiries about how to volunteer and help forge progress in our great state.

# UtahChapterOutings

## SEPTEMBER–DECEMBER 2017

**A**bbreviations 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)

### September

**SLG 9/26 City Creek to Davis Co.** Level: Moderate. The Bonneville Shoreline Trail climbs out of lower City Creek Canyon to a fine overlook of the Great Salt Lake. The maples may be turning color along the way. Meet by the entry gate to the City Creek Nature Preserve at 6:00 pm. Take Bonneville Blvd at the intersection of 11th Avenue and B Street, drive downhill about a half mile, then turn right at the sign. If the parking lot by the gate is full, there are overflow spaces along the entry road. Please contact Colleen at (801) 484-4105 or (801) 554-7153, or email [colleen.mahaffey@gmail.com](mailto:colleen.mahaffey@gmail.com) for questions or more details.

### October

**GCG Sat 10/14 Devils Kitchen, The Needles, Canyonlands NP.** From the Elephant Canyon trailhead, follow the trail among the needles to spectacular Devils Kitchen. Return down Devils Pocket and the north side of Chesler Park. About 10.6 miles. Ups and downs of a couple of hundred feet. With the drive and a long hike, this is an all day outing. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 8:00 AM. Leader: Thomas J Messenger 435-259-1756 [messengert35@gmail.com](mailto:messengert35@gmail.com).

**SLG 10/14-15 San Rafael Swell WSA Service.** This is the second of two service trips to the Reef and Crack Canyon wilderness study areas; see Sept. 14-15 description for details.

**GCG Sat 10/28 Mat Martin Point.** From Castle Valley ascend the Heavenly Stairway to the Porcupine Rim. Follow an old road out to the western tip of Mat Martin Point to slither down Satan's Gut and descend the talus to UT-128. Big views of Castle Valley and the Colorado River Canyon. Car shuttle. 1500' elevation gain and descent. Six or seven miles. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 9:00 AM. Leader: Michael Stringham 435-259-8579 [mikechrista@earthlink.net](mailto:mikechrista@earthlink.net).

**GCG Sat 10/28 Dellenbaugh Tunnel.** From UT-313 take the Dubinky Well road to the Spring Canyon Point road. At the Tombstone, turn south for less than a mile to a parking area and kiosk. The trail traverses entertaining slickrock domes on the way to the tunnel. High clearance needed. Three miles roundtrip, modest elevation change. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 9:00 AM. Leader: Jock Hovey 435-260-0239 [jockhovey@gmail.com](mailto:jockhovey@gmail.com).

### November

**GCG Sat 11/11 Murphy Trail, Island in the Sky, Canyonlands NP.** Descend an old cattle trail and a wash to the White Rim road. Climb up onto Murphy Hogback on the road and follow the trail back on the bench to reconnect with the cattle trail. About 9 miles. 1500' descent and climb. Big views into the Green River Canyon. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 9:00 AM. Leader: Tammy Berrie 435-260-0462 [southeasternutahtammy@yahoo.com](mailto:southeasternutahtammy@yahoo.com).

**SLG Sun., 11/12 Millcreek Canyon Leaders' Choice Hike/Snowshoe.** We'll head for a suitable trail in Millcreek Canyon such as the Pipeline trail. Plan on a 3-4 hour hike with a lunch stop in a sunny spot. Bring

snowshoes or boot traction devices, depending on early-season snow cover. Meet at 10:30 AM at the Skyline High School east parking lot, 3251 E. Upland Drive (3760 S.). Leaders: Fred and Bessann Swanson, [fbswan32@msn.com](mailto:fbswan32@msn.com), (801) 588-0361.

**GCG Sat 11/18 Hurst Bridge San Rafael Swell.** Travel to the San Rafael Swell to visit three spectacular natural bridges. The trailhead is 19 miles south of I-70 and 3 miles west of Utah 24 on an easy high clearance road. The trailhead is about an hour and a half from Moab. There is primitive camping available at the trailhead. We'll hike a mile up Ernie Canyon to Ernie Arch, a 40i by 12i arch. We leave the canyon here to start climbing up the Swell. After another mile and a half we reach Hurst Bridge, a 55i span over the wash we've been hiking in. From here it is a half mile scramble over slickrock to spectacular Exclamation Bridge, with its triple opening. If time permits, we can ramble another half mile to the crest of the Swell with great views to the west. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 8:00 AM. Leader: A M Reiner & A Landman-Reiner 435-260-8708.

### December

**GCG Sat 12/2 Pete's Route, Behind the Rocks.** We will ascend Upper Cut Canyon. It looks improbable but it's beautiful and contains a couple of interesting problems to solve. About a third of the way up the drainage, we will enter a deep and narrow crosscut section of canyon. It's exquisite ñ narrow, towering walls with an incredibly balanced chock stone. We will continue up canyon and encounter a ledge system on the north (left) wall which we will climb up and over past the top of a chimney. Upper class 3, lower class 4 scrambling ñ hand line will be made available. We will continue hiking up canyon where we will top out at a small saddle, then descend the backside and enter Sunseed Canyon. We will cross Sunseed Canyon and proceed in a general southeasterly direction and locate Concealed Arch. To exit, we will travel southwest and descend into a side canyon to the Colorado River via the standard Pool Arch approach. Mild bushwhacking near the mouth of the canyon. Strenuous due to elevation gain/loss and moderate scrambling. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 9:00 AM. Leader: Tammy Berrie 435-260-0462 [southeasternutahtammy@yahoo.com](mailto:southeasternutahtammy@yahoo.com).

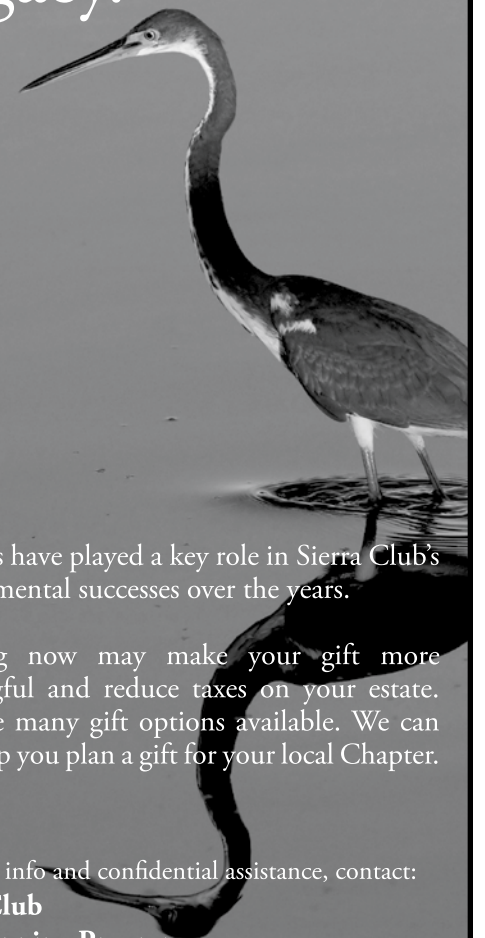
**GCG Sat 12/16 Fisher Towers Trail.** Take the established trail along a maze of soaring fins, pinnacles, minarets, gargoyles, spires, and strangely shaped rock formations. Fisher Mesa, Adobe Mesa and Castle Rock in view to the west. About five miles with moderate elevation change. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 9:00 AM. Leader: Jock Hovey 435-260-0239 [jockhovey@gmail.com](mailto:jockhovey@gmail.com).

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.



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# LocalNews

## Even in Utah, the Political Committee Can Make a Difference

Nathan Gilbert

The Political Committee is the grassroots lobbying and political action entity within Sierra Club Utah. Many of our members are unaware of this committee and the resources the Chapter has for impacting politics at the state level. I will attempt to give a brief introduction to the Political Committee and its role within Sierra Club Utah.

We are a Utah-based organization and therefore we focus on Utah issues and Utah elections. We are part of a national organization, of course, and that gives us strength, but the work of this chapter and committee is focused solely on Utah, its lands, and its people.

We are a volunteer-driven organization and are dependent on the actions and involvement of our members. Our work and campaigns are nearly all volunteer led or organized. If you are looking for a place to get more involved, to resist, to have a local impact, then look no further than Sierra Club Utah.

A lot of people don't know this – even many of our members – but the Sierra Club can directly endorse candidates and work with them in elections. We can take positions on pending legislation and message them to our constituents and the community at-large. We have a dedicated Political Action Committee (PAC) and a non-profit organization that can support candidates and issues that align with your values. We are the only environmental advocacy group in Utah that can do this. Other groups simply cannot have the same level of direct political action that Sierra Club Utah can within our state. Donations to our 501(c)(4) or PAC can pay dividends in our political goals. They pay for staff to speak to decision makers about issues important to Utah's environment. They can pay for direct help to our endorsed candidates for messaging and organizing to win. They can pay for publications, conferences or educational events regarding clean air, public lands or any other issue.

We've all heard time and time again about how our voice and vote matters. And they do. But it's hard not to feel like a small fish in a big pond when it comes to making a difference at the national level. That is why the Utah Chapter focuses on winning locally.

The number of people that read the Utah Sierran can change the outcome of local elections. In 2016, Suzanne Harrison lost her race by three votes. Others, like Christine Passey, Peter Tomala, lost by a hundred or so votes. Elizabeth Weight scored a close victory by less than 300 votes. The more local an election is, the more impact our Chapter and we individually can have.

We all know that elections have consequences. One can be that the wrong person ends up in office. Look back at the Bonanza Flats ordeal from earlier this year. The Salt Lake County Council has a majority of members that are not very friendly to public lands. We almost allowed a beautiful section of the Wasatch to become unprotected or potentially restricted from public access. It took substantial amounts of political capital, Park City money, and a lot of horse-trading to secure some funds from the County Council to protect this land. We need to change this ratio on the County council.

The potential phase-out of rooftop solar tax credits is

another result of having the wrong people in office. Those who do not see the job producing potential of green energy nor the benefits of transitioning our energy grid away from fossil fuels. We need to ensure that more representatives who do know these benefits are in our legislature.

You likely were surprised by the elections in November. You've seen and been dismayed by the relentless attacks on our public lands and how issues like clean air, clean water, and climate change are ignored at best. Worse still, you are witnessing real time how progress gained over generations is now being systematically reversed.

In response to this, we are actively building organization



Thousands gathered at the capitol to voice their support for our public lands.

and capacity. We've hosted training sessions, fundraisers, canvasses and phone banks for endorsed candidates. New volunteers for the Club did much of this work. We need to continue building the momentum necessary to reach our political goals in 2018 and beyond. Individually, each of us can do some, but together, united under one campaign, we can accomplish much more at the local level.

But we need your help. We must reach new communities in Utah while continuing to build strength and capacity within our base. We aim to grow a sustainable organization that can resist anti-environmental legislators and legislation for years across the entire state. When you join us – you will have the opportunity to learn new skills – organizing, lobbying, policy, and leadership. The Sierra Club offers in-house training for all of these activities and more.

We need more than money to achieve our goals: we need people who are willing to show up and do the work necessary to push our communities and our state to become the place we want them to be. We need everything from writing an email, making a phone call or becoming a volunteer leader. We need experts that can help educate candidates and decision makers on the issues. We need help planning events, help identifying and reaching voters. Together, we can build a strong grassroots volunteer team to ensure that we get votes we need and that environmental issues we all care about do not continue to be ignored.

## ManyThanks

### APPRECIATION NOTES FOR MARK CLEMENS' SERVICE

As a life member of the Sierra Club and a former Chapter Chair and longtime resident of Utah, I have appreciated the commitment and stick-to-itiveness of Mark Clemens. He has contributed mightily. As we all know, in Utah it is hard to sustain an effort as an environmentalist. Several of our members have done this as volunteers; Mark has done it both as staff and a volunteer. He has helped the Utah Chapter become known to the National Organization and has inspired new and younger members. I appreciate his efforts on behalf of Utah and our wonderful public lands.

**Gibbs M. Smith**  
 Founder & President  
 Gibbs Smith, Publisher

As I sort through the many Chapter materials and files I have amassed over the years, I am stunned—tho' not really surprised, by the volume of references to Mark Clemens. A major focus was tracking state legislation, lobbying on bills and teaching volunteers how to lobby, compiling ratings for legislators' voting records. Mark set up environmental sessions at state political conventions. He managed the administrative details of the Chapter, ensuring that the Utah Sierran got out, answered the phone, moved the office from location to location to comply with national directives, recruited staff for nationally-funded campaigns, and kept us in good stead with the national office in San Francisco. He helped the Treasurer and Finance Committee conduct the March window mailings and compiled annual financial reports. Mark has been a good friend over the years, and we have shared many a good bottle of wine with him. As Mark moves on to a new career, I join the environmental community in simply saying "Thanks, Mark. Best wishes. Stay in touch."

**Jean Binyon**  
 Moab

In the early 2000s the Sierra Club was granted funding to inaugurate a scholarship program for graduating high school seniors who lived in Utah's portion of the Colorado Plateau. Mark Clemens was hired to administer the project, helping to gather the applicant essays, reaching out to local educators who served as judges, and planning the award ceremonies and dinners in small plateau communities. Mark also took the lead in publicizing the scholarships in the local news outlets. As a result, some college-bound small town students received some financial help, and the Sierra Club sowed good will in places where we are sometimes viewed unfavorably.

**Lawson LeGate**

