



# UtahSierran

## This Issue

**The first assault on the new Bears Ears National Monument** materialized even before the proclamation was issued. Get the lowdown on the Indian Creek ATV Trail on **PAGE 3**.

**Another victory for green energy!** Guess which is the latest Utah city to make the move towards 100% renewable energy. Answer on **PAGE 6**.

**We talk about volunteers** at Sierra Club all the time. It's time to get to know some of them. Check out the new Volunteer Spotlight feature on **PAGE 5**.

 **LikeUs** on Facebook for the latest!

## Keeping Public Lands in Public Hands

by Lawson LeGate

*"Don't it always seem to go  
That you don't know what  
you've got  
'Till it's gone  
They paved paradise  
And put up a parking lot."*

-- Joni Mitchell

Imagine yourself somewhere in the redrock country of southern Utah. Maybe you're walking in America's newest national monument. Picture yourself stopping to scoop up a handful of iconic red sand and letting it sift through your fingers. Now say to yourself, "This is mine. I own it." Because you do. You are a co-owner of our nation's public lands, a status and a privilege you share with all Americans.

Public land ownership is our birthright. It is inextricably bound up with



JEFF CLAY | CLAYHAUSPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

Agate Butte is one of the wonders of Lockhart Basin on America's public lands.

our heritage as Americans. Many understand and deeply believe that to end such ties to our public lands would be to change the character of our citizenship, and to change it for the worse.

Yet that is exactly what Utah's legislature says it wants to do. In 2012, the

legislature passed H.B. 148, the "Transfer of Public Lands Act." The aim of the bill's sponsors is to take the nation's public lands away from the American people and give them to the State of Utah. (Since the passage of H.B. 148 the legislature has authorized up to \$14 million to pursue

a lawsuit against the U.S. government in order to take over public lands.) Utah state government has a history of supporting the commercial exploitation of wildlands, guided by the principle that such development is the highest and best use of the land. If the state were to take over our public lands, they would be far more likely to be drilled for oil and mined for coal and other minerals. Bogus right-of-way claims to faint vehicle tracks would be granted to counties hostile to wilderness protection.

Perhaps in an attempt to show some restraint, proponents of the land grab say that Utah would not demand control of the national parks and designated wilderness in Utah. But they very much want to take control of the Grand Staircase-Escalante

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

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PLEASE JOIN!



### Bear in mind the consequences.

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

Get grizzly and JOIN Sierra Club.

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### OurMission

The Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club is a grassroots volunteer organization dedicated to:

Protect and promote Utah's outdoors and natural landscapes;

Educate and advocate for the responsible preservation of clean air, water and habitats; &

Support the development of sustainable renewable energy;

For the benefit of present and future generations.

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

### PUBLIC LANDS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

National Monument. (Of course, the newly designated Bears Ears National Monument would also be a casualty.) Also on the list of acquisitions are Glen Canyon and Flaming Gorge National Recreation Areas, as well as all of the National Wildlife Refuges within Utah's borders.

There has been good reason to believe that the State of Utah would have a difficult time achieving its takeover scheme. But the results of the 2016 election are anything but reassuring. To be sure, Donald Trump is on record saying that he is dubious about the notion of a state takeover of public lands, and his Interior-Secretary designate, Congressman Ryan Zinke, is also hostile to the idea. On the other hand, the Republican Party platform calls for giving public land to the states, Utah's Congressional delegation is solidly behind the idea, and Republicans now control both houses of Congress as well as the Presidency.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

In recent months we have witnessed an upsurge in engagement by people concerned about the threats to our public lands. The Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club has mounted a campaign to oppose the legislature's land grab goal. Called Keeping Public Lands in Public Hands, the 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](mailto: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>.

## Out&About



Wasatch Back Network volunteer leaders Marion Klaus and Amy Mills at the Women's March in Park City.



Sierra Club Add-up Manager Ryan Dunfee, Chapter Chair Marc Thomas and Chapter Treasurer Ian Wade (l to r) at the 21 January 2017 Clean Air Rally.

## THE COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER FOR LOVE UTAH GIVE UTAH 2017

Make a donation of \$10 or more to The Sierra Club Foundation to support the work of the Utah Chapter. Prizes ranging from \$1,250 to \$5,000 will be awarded by the Community Foundation of Utah to the non-profit agencies with the greatest number of unique donors rather than to the agencies raising the most funds. Turnout is the Sierra Club's forte so make a donation, and get your friends and family to donate too. Almost everyone can afford \$10! Your donations will be doubled by our corporate matching gift sponsors, Assos USA, Creative Energies, Peter Metcalf and Treasure Mountain Inn.





# OurLand

## Destructive ATV Trail Proposal Near Canyonlands Resurfaces

by Wayne Hoskisson

On Dec. 14, 2016, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) again tried to bring back to life a proposed ATV trail and county right of way near Indian Creek and the entrance to the Needles District of Canyonlands National Park. In August of 2015 the BLM responded to an appeal by the Sierra Club, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, and Great Old Broads for Wilderness by withdrawing the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and Decision Record (DR). For the moment the ATV trail and right of way were dead. You can read about this victory in the Fall 2105 Utah Sierran. In that article we had the prescience to note, “We really need a new National Monument to preserve the beauty and quiet of this spectacular place. The proposed trail is inside both the Greater Canyonlands and Bears Ears National Monument proposals.”

We also noted the BLM has a tendency to resurrect bad ideas like an ATV trail through natural areas and lands with wilderness character. On December 14, 2016, the BLM resuscitated the Indian Creek ATV trail and granted San Juan County a right of way for the trail with a new FONSI and Decision Record. This was done without any continued public comment or opportunity to review their findings. The Sierra Club, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, Great Old Broads for Wilderness and Grand Canyon Trust filed a notice of intent to



Utah Chapter Chair Marc Thomas surveys the route of the proposed Indian Creek ATV Trail.

appeal and a petition to stay the decision with the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) on Jan. 13, 2017. The notice of intent and petition for a stay resulted in a 45-day stay halting the decision to grant a right of way and construct the ATV trail. Eventually the IBLA will decide whether or not to grant a hearing for an appeal. The stay will likely remain in place until the IBLA decides on the merits of our appeal. If the IBLA denies the appeal, we will appeal the decision in the U.S. District Court for Utah.

Our petition for a stay on the decision for the ATV trail includes various issues including violation of the National Environmental Policy Act, violation of the National Historic Preservation Act, failing to conform to the Monticello Resource Management

Plan, and violating the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act. This time we have a new violation to include in our appeal.

On Dec. 28, 2016 President Barack Obama signed the Proclamation designating the Bears Ears National Monument. The Proclamation came fourteen days after the BLM decided to permit Indian Creek ATV trail. This was also sixteen days before that decision became final. The Bears Ears National Monument Proclamation states, “All Federal



Glen Canyon Group volunteers hike the route of the proposed Indian Creek ATV Trail.

lands and interests in lands within the boundaries of the monument are hereby appropriated and

withdrawn from all forms of entry, location, selection, sale, or other disposition under the public land laws...” This indicates that the BLM could no longer grant rights of way in the Bears Ears National Monument. We argue that the decision could not become final until after a 30 day appeal period which could

not end before Jan. 14, 2017, seventeen days after the Bears

Ears Proclamation. The BLM decision to permit the Indian Creek ATV trail is subject to the Proclamation.

The Bears Ears Proclamation moves the authority to authorize a transportation system to the Monument. The Proclamation states, “For purposes of protecting and restoring the objects identified [in the Proclamation], the Secretaries shall prepare a transportation plan that designates the roads and trails where motorized and non-motorized mechanized vehicle use will be allowed... Any additional roads or trails designated for motorized vehicle use must be for the purposes of public safety or protection of such objects.”

Now all we need to do is make sure the Bears Ears National Monument remains protected.

*The Bears Ears Proclamation moves the authority to authorize a transportation system to the Monument.*

## Calling Wilderness Warriors:

COME TO THE WSA SURVEY WORKSHOP ON SATURDAY, APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup>

The Utah Chapter, Sierra Club is developing techniques to maintain the wilderness qualities of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). The current focus is to ensure that there are no vehicle intrusions into the WSAs which is a recurring problem that degrades the natural and habitat values. Using Google Earth, a WSA boundary is surveyed from home looking for vehicle tracks. Problem sites are visited to confirm the actual condition. Survey findings are reviewed with the appropriate BLM Field office to work up a remediation plan. So far this technique is being applied to the five WSAs in the San Rafael Swell.

A training session for chapter volunteers will be held on Saturday, April 1, in the chapter office at 423 West 800 South, Suite A105 in Salt Lake City, in preparation for spring in the desert. This session will teach volunteers how to do the surveys and work with the BLM to fix problems. There will also be two trips to the Swell in April and May to conduct remediation work. Contact Will McCarvill at will@commercialchemistries.com.

**Saturday, 1 April 2017**  
**1-2:30 p.m.**  
**ArtSpace Commons Complex**  
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PETER WOODRUFF

JOIN US!

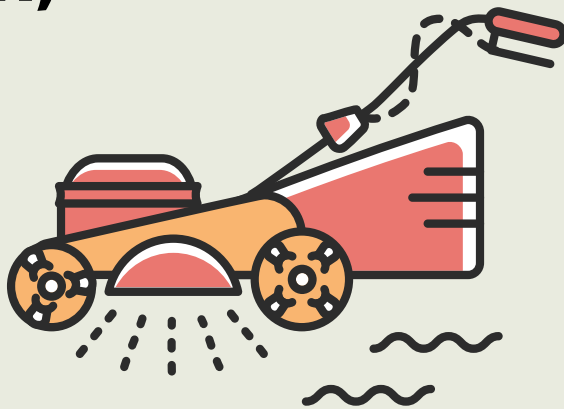


# OurLand

ASK MR. GREEN:

## Hey Mr. Green,

**HOW MUCH CARBON DIOXIDE IS EMITTED FROM POWER TOOLS, SUCH AS HEDGE CLIPPERS, LAWMOWERS, AND CHAINSAWS? CAN YOU GIVE AMOUNTS AS A WHOLE AND BY TOOL?**



—Karen in Gainesville, Florida

Gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment (GLGE) in the United States emits a total of 20.4 million tons of carbon dioxide per year, and that number is projected to reach almost 23 million tons in a few years, according to the EPA. This sounds like a lot, but it's only about four-tenths of a percent of the more than 6 billion tons of CO<sub>2</sub> we emit every year.

We burn a lot more gasoline going nowhere in cars than chasing lawnmowers or wielding those detestable, snarling leaf blowers. But GLGE devices cough out a lot of other pollution, like 5 percent of U.S. nitrous oxide, a powerful global-warming gas.

It's tough to determine how much CO<sub>2</sub> comes from specific tools. The EPA estimates that of the 120 million devices in use, approximately 40 percent are lawnmowers. About 20 percent are trimmers, while the rest are leaf blowers, chainsaws, and snowblowers, among others.

Here's my annual appeal: You don't need that mower anyway. Rip out your lawn and put that space to more productive use. During World War II, 40 percent of our produce was grown at home or in "victory gardens." Post war, the culture changed: The aesthetic of the lawn prevailed, and waging chemical warfare to annihilate dandelions—instead of eating them—became a lucrative industry.

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## Grassroots Network Team Takes Support for Bears Ears Nationwide

by Anne McKibbin



North Star Chapter intern Ryan Haight (r) and North Star Chapter Land Use and Transportation Program Manager Joshua Houdek (l).

When President Obama designated the Bears Ears National Monument, cheers went up nationwide! One of the many groups tickled Cedar-Mesa-Sandstone-pink by the designation was the Club's Utah Wilderness Grassroots Network Team, which spreads the word about protecting Utah's wilderness-quality lands in their home states across the country. In addition to members in the Midwest, both coasts and elsewhere in the Inter-Mountain West, the team has several active and committed members from Utah to ensure that its work stays relevant and connected to what's going on locally.

During the campaign to designate the Bears Ears National Monument, for example, our team sent mailings to 1,000 Sierra Club members in California, Colorado, Florida, and Pennsylvania, encouraging them to write a postcard to the Council on Environmental Quality supporting a Bears Ears National Monument designation. The postcards were enclosed with our letter and were already addressed and stamped, making it super easy for Club members to weigh in. We also helped the Utah Chapter put together a similar mailing to 600 Utahns.

Our Team also supports America's Red Rock Wilderness

Act (ARRWA), a bill that would protect almost 9 million acres of wilderness-quality lands in Utah, by working to get as many Congressional co-sponsors as possible. The commitment that co-sponsors make to ARRWA signals their intent to protect Utah's wildlands, and is very helpful in defending against bad bills in Congress. To convince

*Our Team also supports America's Red Rock Wilderness Act, a bill that would protect almost 9 million acres of wilderness-quality lands in Utah.*

legislators to cosponsor the bill, the team lobbies Congress during the Utah Wilderness Coalition's annual Wilderness Week in DC, and then the team lobbies them back home in their districts, reminding them that federal lands are the birthright of all Americans. We

also organize mailings from constituents, much like we did for the Bears Ears with CEQ. And, we give presentations to chapters and groups in our home states to encourage them to help.

Members of the Utah Wilderness Team love Utah's wildlands for all the reasons Utahns do, and we are so very thrilled with the Bears Ears designation. We will be working hard to defend it in 2017, and if there is ever anything we can do to help the Utah Chapter or your Group, please reach out. Questions? Contact Anne at [anne.d.mckibbin@gmail.com](mailto:anne.d.mckibbin@gmail.com)

### 22ND ANNUAL WALLACE STEGNER CENTER SYMPOSIUM



# Water in the West

## Exploring Untapped Solutions

March 23-24, 2017

#### Speakers include:

**Kevin Fedarko**, author, *The Emerald Mile*

**John Fleck**, author, *Water is for Fighting Over and Other Myths About Water in the West*

**Eric Freyfogle**, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (Stegner Lecture)

**Jonathan Overpeck**, University of Arizona

**Pat Mulroy**, UNLV (Keynote)

**Brad Udall**, Colorado State University

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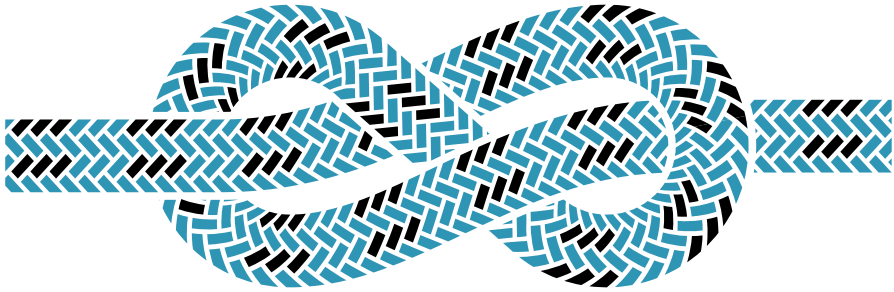
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# ChapterNews

## The outdoor industry loves Utah; does Utah love the outdoor industry?



Every year, millions of people visit public lands in Utah to climb, hike, ski, hunt and a heck of a lot more. I've skied, climbed and fished the wild streams of wild Utah for years. The American people own these lands – and Utah reaps the rewards. Every year, outdoor recreation in Utah drives \$12 million in consumer spending and supports 122,000 jobs across the state. Sure, we use these lands for energy and grazing and other things too. But access to the outdoors is the reason why so many of my friends consider Utah the ultimate place to live.

It's also why the outdoor industry loves Utah. Every January and August, Patagonia and hundreds of other companies spend gobs of money to show our latest products at the Outdoor Retailer show. The whole thing is a cash cow for Salt Lake City. You'd think politicians in Utah would bend over backwards to make us feel welcome. But instead Gov. Gary Herbert and his buddies have spent years denigrating our public lands, the backbone of our business, and trying to sell them off to the highest bidder. He's created a hostile environment that puts our industry at risk.

The outdoor industry creates three times the amount of jobs than the fossil fuels industry, yet the Governor has spent most of his time in office trying to rip taxpayer-owned lands out from under us

and hand them over to drilling and mining companies. And just a few days ago, the state announced plans to sue the federal government to reverse the recent protection of Bears Ears, a site containing thousands of years of Native American archeological treasures and craggy red rocks beloved by climbers from all over the world. Politicians in the state don't seem to get that the outdoor industry – and their own state economy – depend on access to public lands for recreation.

I say enough is enough. If Gov. Herbert doesn't need us, we can find a more welcoming home. Gov. Herbert should direct his Attorney General to halt their plans to sue and support the historic Bears Ears National Monument. He should stop his efforts to transfer public lands to the state, which would spell disaster for Utah's economy. He should show the outdoor industry he wants our business – and that he supports thousands of his constituents of all political persuasions who work in jobs supported by recreation on public lands.

We love Utah, but Patagonia's choice to return for future shows will depend on the Governor's actions. I'm sure other states will happily compete for the show by promoting public lands conservation.

– Yvon Chouinard

## VolunteerSpotlight by Patty Becnel



### Leslie Hugo

If you were to go to Leslie Hugo's home, you might notice orchids in almost every room. If you looked deep within the closets, you'd probably find dress up costumes for Renaissance fairs and Comic Con, and there is probably a picture of a canine somewhere as she describes herself a dog lover: wolves and coyotes top her list. But Leslie's love of the outdoors, sparked by her parents' family camping trips, and dedication to the Sierra Club may be harder to spot. Sure she recycles and she reduces waste whenever possible, but Leslie, a sales engineer, is also a dedicated Sierra Club volunteer.

Of all the places she could volunteer, Leslie explained why she chose the Sierra Club, an organization she has belonged to and supported for more than twenty years, "The thing I love about the Sierra Club," she said, "is that it does a lot. It's a great group of really dedicated people who live the Sierra Club motto: 'Protect, Enjoy, Explore.'" She has found this to be true of Sierra Club members in Utah, Nebraska, and Illinois where she grew up.

As a Sierra Club volunteer and lifetime member, Leslie has filled many different roles. It began in Nebraska, in the 1990s, when she lived there. Then she was transferred to Illinois, her birthplace, and volunteered as the secretary of the Illinois chapter. There she also met her husband, and together they moved to Utah in 2007 where she became secretary of the Utah chapter. "It seems that position is always open," she quipped. But Leslie's commitment to the Sierra Club included many other activities. She has lobbied legisla-

tors, cleaned up outdoor areas, worked for conservation, monitored sage grouse habitats, water use, and joined Sierra Club hikes. As part of the executive committee, she traveled to Moab and San Francisco to work with other Sierra Club groups.

Leslie sees many opportunities for others to volunteer and help pursue the goals of the Sierra Club. Become a member; go a little farther and become a life member as Leslie and her husband have. People can donate, join phone banks, write letters, just hang out in the office to do little things. "Call and ask how they can help," she added. "There is always something." Or fill out the on-line volunteer questionnaire.

Leslie, normally happy and vivacious, gets serious when she thinks of the current White House administration, and her favorite Utah places. "The Wasatch mountains are gorgeous. Snow Canyon State Park, Moab," she begins a long list, "but I guess if I had to pick a favorite, it would be between Zion and Bryce," she added. Then she offered a word of warning to others: "We have to make sure, even more now, that we don't lose any more of our protections" on these and other lands. "People need to speak up and make sure their voices are heard." If she could encourage people to do anything, Leslie would ask them to get more involved. "People need to get more involved now more than ever. We need to write letters, contact our legislators, and stand up for the things we believe in, make sure our voices are heard so we don't lose any of the protections we have."

**Patty Becnel is a volunteer from the top of Utah.** Do you know someone who should be profiled in this column? Shoot her a message at [jbecnel\\_patty@msn.com](mailto:jbecnel_patty@msn.com). And if you'd like to get more involved, the first step in volunteering is filling out the on-line volunteer questionnaire.

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

## Moab City Council Votes to Join the Ready for 100% Trend



Moab City Councilman Kalen Jones, Moab Mayor Dave Sakrison, Moab City Staffperson, Moab City Councilwoman Rani Derasary and Kim Stevens (l to r) cut the ribbon at the inauguration of new solar electric panels on Moab City Hall, Wednesday, February 15.

Moab became the twenty-third community in the United States to commit to 100 percent clean, renewable energy on Tuesday. The Moab City Council unanimously approved a resolution establishing a community-wide goal of 100 percent renewable energy by 2032. Moab is the third city in Utah to make this commitment following similar pledges from Salt Lake City and Park City, showing that mountain and outdoor sports communities are leading the way to a clean energy future.

“For Moab, one of the world’s great outdoor recreation destinations, the implications of climate change could not be more troubling. Rising temperatures, reduced water availability, economic instability, and other impacts threaten our residents and greatly limit activity that fuels our city’s economy. It is an imperative that Moab takes steps to protect our community while expanding the horizons for the local economy. Today, we are taking bold and meaningful action to confront these threats by doubling down on 100% clean and renewable energy and shifting away from fossil fuels,” said Moab City Council Member

Kalen Jones

Mountain and recreation-based communities feeling the impacts of a changing climate are recognizing the power of clean energy to solve it and taking the lead in a growing movement.

“Our mountain and outdoor recreation communities worldwide are recognizing that we are at the forefront of the fight against the climate crisis,” said Kim Stevens, senior field organizer with The Climate Reality Project’s I AM PRO SNOW program. “Today, Moab joins the growing movement of communities with the I AM PRO SNOW 100% Committed campaign, committing to clean electricity and sending a message to the rest of the world that we are in charge of our electricity future.”

Utah is celebrated for its iconic national parks stunning visual scenery, and world-class recreational areas. Arches, Canyonlands, Capitol Reef, Bryce, and Zion national parks are an economic engine for the state’s economy and local recreation businesses that rely on the protection of these wild places. In 2014, more than 10 million visitors from around the world vis-

ited Utah’s national parks and added \$730 million dollars to Utah’s economy. The tourism industry supports about 132,000 jobs, or about one out of every ten jobs in the state. Moab, as a gateway community to Canyonlands national park, relies heavily on tourism as part of the local economy.

Rocky Mountain Power’s Hunter and Huntington plants are responsible for nearly 40 percent of all nitrogen oxide emissions from Utah’s electric sector, according to EPA emissions data. Monitoring studies have shown visibility at Arches and Canyonlands national parks, just on the outskirts of Moab, is diminished by human-caused haze 83 percent of the time relative to the annual average level of natural haze.

“Our new president may be a denier of the science behind climate change, but we who live in Moab know better. We are grateful that by transitioning to 100% clean and renewable energy, our community is not only protecting the health and well-being of its residents, but also ensuring that a livable environment will be part of its future,” said Marc Thomas, Moab resident and Utah Sierra Club Chapter Chair.

### MARJORIE RASMUSSEN ON WHY SHE’S A MONTHLY DONOR TO THE UTAH CHAPTER



I grew up in Utah, and my parents taught me to enjoy and take care of our earth. Really, when I think of it, it has actually been the other way around. Nature always seems to take care of me. That is why I am so happy to have an opportunity to talk about why I set up an ongoing monthly payment to Sierra Club and why I hope you will join me.

Let’s see ...I ride my bike on the Legacy Parkway trails, I often go to the Bonneville Shoreline Trail for walks, I spend time in the Cottonwoods and recently went to Escalante and hiked in Box Canyon. It was magnificent.

Over the years with a family and a career it seemed I was often too busy to speak out on important environmental issues, but I noticed that the Utah Sierra Club was always there. They were there with great people that had done their research; they gave me a voice when I couldn’t be present. They were on the hill when the legislature convened and I needed a voice for clean air, clean water and protecting the land. I have been grateful for their efforts for many years. Honestly, my monthly contribution is really nothing when I think about how important to me the Utah Sierra Club has been. Join me and consider making a recurring donation to the Utah Chapter, Sierra Club. **It couldn’t be more easy; go to the chapter’s secure on-line donations page.** Especially now - we all need to have a voice in protecting our state.

### Big Thanks TO ALL OUR MONTHLY DONORS IN 2016

Jennifer Barnes  
Matthew Boyce  
Neil Burk  
Mary Closser  
David & Donna Dalton  
Arthur Haines  
Robert & Lisa Hartman  
Tani Hatch  
Dan Mayhew  
Frank Nederhand  
Marilyn Peterson  
Marjorie Rasmussen  
Eric Rickart  
Marc Thomas

### Make Solar Energy Work for You

Over the past five years, solar panel costs have declined about 40%, and panel efficiency has increased by about the same 40%. Now is a great time to consider your solar options. Join us at Creative Energies on Tuesday, March 28, from 5:30 to 7 pm to find out about the latest rooftop solar equipment, installation and pricing.

**Solar Rooftop Electricity 101 Workshop**  
**3/28/2017**  
**5:30 to 7 pm**  
**455 West 1700 South in Salt Lake City**  
**(Creative Energies Building)**

**Please RSVP online.**



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# UtahChapterOutings

## FEBRUARY–JULY 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.

### February

**OG Sun, 2/26 - X Ski or snowshoe Ice Box via Wheeler Creek.** This beautiful scenic trail traverses Wheeler creek then cut down into the Ice Box canyon. Round trip is about 5 miles. Bring water and a snack. Meet at Rainbow Gardens (1888 Valley Dr. Ogden Utah) for carpool. As this is a popular trail ice spikes might be used in the event snow has not fallen recently. Contact Joanie 801-399-0034.

### March

**SLG Sun 3/5, Fray Peak –Antelope Island.** Fray Peak is the highest mountain on Antelope Island and is also home to the island's most spectacular views. We'll hike 6.6 miles roundtrip with 2,100 feet elevation gain. Microspikes recommended in case snow is on the upper part of the trail. Meet at 9:30 AM in the east parking lot of the Utah Office of Tourism (i.e. Visitor's Center), corner of 300 N and State Street. Admission to Island: \$10.00/vehicle, \$5.00/vehicle 62+ years, or State Park pass. Leader: Sally Aerts 360-774-1534 and Sven Solvik 360-390-8486 or svenally@gmail.com

### OG Sat, 3/11 Gourmet X-ski/Snowshoe.

Join Jock Glidden and company for a fantastic experience of your choice of cross country skiing or snowshoe near Ogden. As this is a gourmet outing please bring delectable treats to share. Adult beverages, chocolate, specialty cheeses, delicious breads. What ever you like best! Contact leader Jock Glidden at 801-394-0457 for exact location. Location determined by weather, snow levels etc.

**SLG Sat 3/18, Terraces to Elbow Fork Loop snowshoe in Millcreek Canyon.** This snowshoe tour is another winter classic. We travel up the Bowman Fork drainage, cross over the ridges and through the spruces and firs of Millcreek Canyon to descend to Elbow Fork and follow the snow-packed Millcreek Road back to our cars. Expect about 4 miles, 800 feet elevation gain and about a 3 hour tour. Bring snowshoes, poles, winter clothing, daypack, water and lunch. Meet at the Skyline High School parking lot (3251 E 3760 S, Salt Lake City, UT 84109) for carpooling at 10:00. Call or email organizer Rebecca Wallace, rebeccawallace38@msn.com or 801 557-5261 for more details or if weather is threatening (in case the trip is cancelled.)

### April

**OG Sat, 4/11 Sentry Peak Hike Antelope Island.** Sentry Peak offers great views of the island and surrounding areas. It's about 5 mile round trip of about 800 ft of elevation gain. If we're lucky we may see baby bison! Bring water and lunch, there are tables at the top for lunch. Meet at the parking lot before the toll booth at 10:00. The fee to the park is \$10.00 so bring cash. Contact Joanie 801-399-0034.

**GCG Sat, 4/15 Yellow Machine and Petroglyphs.** 7 to 8 mile mostly moderate hike. Start at the Yellow Machine trail head and then follow a bench above Rill Creek for about three miles. Then loop back over a ridge to North Fork Mill creek drainage and return on a bench

above this creek to the Yellow Machine. This is a variation of a hike route we have taken to see the petroglyph panel southeast of the Yellow Machine. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 8:00 AM. Michael Stringham 435-259-8579 mikechrista@earthlink.net.

### SLG April 20-23, Capitol Reef National Park.

Experience Spring under the red rock cliffs at historic Fruita in Capitol Reef! We've reserved the group campsite for three nights beginning Thursday evening. The site is located a short distance south of the main campground, close by the Fremont River and away from other campers. We'll organize day hikes to interesting destinations within the park, share dinners in camp, and have a chance to view the stars at night. Limit is 16, with a deposit required to reserve your spot. Email organizer Fred Swanson for details, fbswan32@msn.com, or call (801) 588-0361. This is an ideal time to see Capitol Reef, so reserve your spot soon! Sierra Club sponsorship of this outing is limited to the day hikes, not time in camp or while driving to and from the activity.

### GCG Sun, 4/23 Entrajo Canyon-Mill Creek Loop.

Park off of Steel Bender, just past the fenced petroglyph area. Start by climbing up a side canyon for about 50' to connect with the trail the canyoneers use to approach Entrajo. We'll eventually get up onto a bench about 300 feet above the canyon which will eventually drop us back into Entrajo just south of the potholes that begin the canyoneering route. Cross the wash, continuing north and west down into Mill Creek via some old bike route (seems to me I've been told that it wasn't a "legal" bike trail... but I don't know if that's accurate, or not) past some pictured rock sandstone. There will be 2 creek crossings. Minor scrambling along the Entrajo Canyon canyoneering approach trail. However, this is a now well established trail. We'll return to the vehicles at the end of the loop. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 9:00 AM. Leader: Tammy Berrie 435-260-0462 southeasternutahtammyb@yahoo.com.

### SLG April 28-30, San Rafael Swell WSA Boundary Survey.

Join a dedicated bunch of Sierra Club volunteers to help protect the stunning wild lands of the San Rafael Swell (southeast of Price, Utah). Four Wilderness Study Areas in the Swell need signs erected or barriers refurbished to prevent motorized vehicles from entering and damaging fragile desert lands. The leader is working with the BLM Price field office as to which parts of the WSAs we will take on. We typically drive down Friday, do our work on Saturday and have Sunday for enjoying spring in the Swell. Expect dry camping with warm days and cool nights. Your work as a volunteer will help keep our WSAs in an unimpaired state. You should bring your camp gear and work gloves and clothes. Make sure you have a sun hat. Contact Will McCarvill 801-694-6958 or will@commercialchemistries.com. Sierra Club sponsorship of this outing is limited to the day activities, not time in camp or while driving to and from the activity.

## OUTINGS ONLINE!

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**



### Looking for a fun way to help wild lands?

We have several service outings coming up. Find the one that works for you and join us on the trail. We can't wait to see you out there!



### UC Fri, 4/28-Sun, 4/30 Deep Creek Mountains.

WSA Service Outing We will be working with the BLM to restore boundary fencing along the Deep Creek Mountains Wilderness Study Area approximately 55 miles south of Wendover. Help Protect, Explore and Enjoy this amazing landscape! For details, please view the Video Invite at <https://youtu.be/XxsbGYUlyU> or contact Par Rasmusson, 702/215-9119, [parasmusson@gmail.com](mailto:parasmusson@gmail.com)



**May**  
**GCG Sat, 5/6 Anniversary Arch and Southeast.** 6 to 7 miles. Starting near Anniversary Arch hike southeast along a series of fins and little canyons exploring as we wish. Eventually we will loop back toward Anniversary Arch on the west side of the fins and canyons we just viewed. This is a seldom visited area and will be interesting. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 9:00 AM. Leader: Michael Stringham 435-259-8579 mikechrista@earthlink.net.



### SLG May 19-21, San Rafael Swell WSA Boundary Survey.

This is the second of two survey trips to the Swell—see April 28-30 for details.

### GCG Sat, 5/20-Sun, 5/21 Lavender Canyon Campout.

Plenty of ruins and arches in Lavender Canyon! On Saturday May 20, we'll rendezvous at 8am and head down to the Needles! There is a 15 mile drive from 211 to the park boundary. "Road" follows a canyon bottom where deep sand, deep water and quicksand are common. Two major creek crossings with steep banks. There is no vehicle camping allowed inside the park, so somewhere along the way, we'll find suitable campsites for the group and set up camp. There should be time to day hike and explore from camp. On Sunday May 21, depending where we camped, we can either hike or drive to locked gate at the park boundary. Along the way, we will visit 6 Granaries Ruin which is just outside the park boundary. If we have driven, once we reach the park boundary, we'll park and start our hiking. There are 5 Arches on the west side beginning at the park boundary. We'll hike up to Cleft Arch near the head of the canyon and to some ruins beyond Cleft Arch. We should aim for an 8am start on Sunday to allow for strenuous hiking in deep sand, maneuvering up and down steep slickrock benches to get below Cleft Arch, and hand over hand climbing and bouldering to get to Cleft Arch ruin. VERY weather dependent - any threat of even minor rain and we'll need to postpone. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 8:00 AM. Leader: Tammy Berrie 435-260-0462 southeasternutahtammyb@yahoo.com.



**June**  
**GCG Sat, 6/10 Peekaboo Spring Through Hike.** Given drive time and hike time, this will be an all-day event. We'll set up a shuttle - leaving vehicles at our exit point at the Horse Canyon entry gate near Cave Spring. We'll start hiking from the Squaw Flat Loop A Trailhead and head towards Peekaboo Spring. Trail

crosses Squaw and Lost Canyons as it continues to Salt Creek Canyon. We'll eventually traverse along high slickrock benches with spectacular views! We will encounter some steep slopes and cliff edges, two ladders must be down-climbed. We'll travel past the rock art panel near Peekaboo camp and up past the spring for approximately 1 mile. There we'll turn around and travel down Salt Creek past the Salt Creek/Horse Canyon confluence to our awaiting vehicles. 10.5 - 11 miles. Strenuous, mostly due to length. Some minor scrambling, mostly along established NPS trail. Salt Creek runs year-round, so you may get wet, but it can likely be avoided with some relatively minor effort. Time permitting, at the Salt Canyon/Horse Canyon confluence, there is an option to travel up Horse Canyon to Paul Bunyon's Potty Arch, but that would add 3 miles. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 8:00 AM. Tammy Berrie 435-260-0462 southeasternutahtammyb@yahoo.com.

### GCG Sat, 6/24 Descent of Burkholder Draw.

Drop a car on the Sand Flats road at the Yellow Machine road. Continue up Sand Flats road into Rill Creek past the paved stretch. Park a little after the little spur over the ridge to the Porcupine Rim road. Skirt the head of the big pouroff of Rill Creek and walk under the cliff along the north and west sides of Balanced Rock Mesa. At the detached southwest tip of the mesa, work down to the lower right bank bench of Burkholder Draw and go down canyon. Cross to the left bank bench at the top of a big pouroff and continue down to the junction with Rill. Scramble down into Rill. At the potholes, go up past the Yellow Machine to the Sand Flats road. About 7.5 miles generally downhill 1500' except for a 200' climb at the end. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 8:00 AM. Thomas J Messenger 435-259-1756 messengertj@citlink.net.

### July

**UC July 16-22, Citizen Science in Glacier National Park.** Join us beginning Sunday, July 16th for a week of Service in beautiful Glacier National Park in northern Montana. We will be "census taking" in the Citizen Science program there, hiking to pre-designated locations and surveying the activities of bighorn sheep, mountain goats, and pikas. For details, please view the Video Invite: <https://youtu.be/7Xem8CAZbQo>. Leader: Par Rasmusson, [parasmusson@gmail.com](mailto:parasmusson@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.



# Dear Friend of Utah's Environment,

## A Look Back at 2016 Accomplishments

### Dear Friend of Utah's Environment,

We are in the middle of the fight for our lives. The nation's leaders, and many Utah politicians see our air, water and public lands as nothing more than profit generators meant to be stripped of value and discarded. **The only chance we have of protecting our precious natural resources are people like you, who have so generously supported the efforts of our chapter in the past.**

With your help, the Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club will be able to stay front and center in this on-going battle. We are relying on dedicated members like you to protect our state's clean air, water, and public lands. Without you and your support, nothing that we do would be possible.

#### Here's what we will be working on in 2017:

- Continuing the push to clean up Utah's air
- Working to block the Public Service Commission and legislature from taxing solar rooftop power.
- Fighting to protect the watershed of the Wasatch, the Book Cliffs from tar sands and oil shale extraction, and the new Bears Ears National Monument.
- Harnessing our volunteer power to build support for cities across the country to be ready for 100% renewable electricity by 2030.

However you voted on November 8th, we know you didn't vote for more asthma attacks because of dirty air or polluted drinking water or impaired public lands, and we'll do everything in our power to fight for you. Your one-time gift of \$100, \$50 or \$25 will help us gather the resources we need to fight all the attacks the new administration will try to make against the environment and your quality of life. **A monthly gift of \$10 or \$20 will help us maintain the fight throughout the next four years.**

After the election, a wave of members and supporters contacted us to ask how they can volunteer and make an impact on the changed political scene. **That outpouring made me tremendously grateful for the dedication of our volunteers.** We've held training events for communications and fundraising volunteers. Our Political Committee and Keeping Public Lands in Public Hands Campaign have recruited many of these volunteers for their teams. And on April 1st, we're holding a training event for new wilderness warriors who want to learn the best techniques for protecting potential wilderness areas.

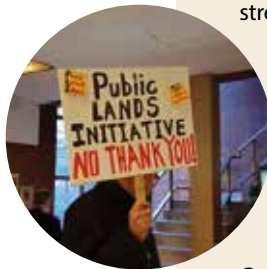
But to empower this influx of volunteers, we need additional help. The Utah Chapter is planning to hire a new organizer to train and support volunteers in 2017, and we'll need extra resources to sustain this position. **Please make your most generous donation this year, and we'll fight for our children's future together.**

Sincerely,



Marc Thomas, Chair  
Utah Chapter, Sierra Club

**P.S. Remember that 100% of your gift stays in Utah to support our local, volunteer-powered advocacy. Thank you!**



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*Contributions and gifts to the Sierra Club are not tax-deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts.*

**1)** The Utah Chapter championed the proposed Bears Ears National Monument throughout the year. Volunteer leader Wayne Hoskisson continued the chapter's participation in planning and co-ordination with the Bears Ears Inter-tribal Council. Sierra Club staff in Washington, DC, lobbied the White House's Council on Environmental Quality and the US Department of Interior in favor of the new monument. Chapter volunteers and National Utah Wilderness Team Leader Anne McKibbin assembled a postcard mailing in Utah to promote Bears Ears with the Obama Administration. **And it worked!**

**2)** Sierra Club support at the local and national levels laid the ground for introduction of the Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area Act, HR 5718, that would limit ski resort expansion, permanently protect critical watershed lands and establish new wilderness lands in the Central Wasatch. **Chapter volunteers played a crucial role in building the Mountain Accord** through which agreement was reached on HR 5718 and will in future be indispensable in the success of the Central Wasatch Commission implementing the Mountain Accord agreements.

**3)** The Utah Chapter launched the Keep Public Lands in Public Lands and the Love the Lands Share your Stories campaigns. The two campaigns have convergent objectives: to build and provide channels for expression of the broad and latent support for retaining and protecting the greatest American heritage—its magnificent public lands. **Visit [KeepPublicLands.com](http://KeepPublicLands.com) and [LovePublicLands.com](http://LovePublicLands.com)** to see how you can build the campaigns' momentum.



**4)** The Utah Chapter's service outing program set new records in 2016. While existing commitments, such as the Ogden Group's work to clean up the Ogden River and root out alien plant species, continued, **new service outings burgeoned.** Will McCarvill leads wilderness monitoring outings in the San Rafael Swell. Jim Catlin orchestrates a citizen science campaign to monitor and control grazing impacts on BLM and US Forest Service land. Par Rasmussen leads service outings in Utah and around the country building and repairing trails and protecting resources in national parks.

**5)** At a time when we need to make the transition away from even the cleanest fossil fuels such as natural gas, Utah's political leaders are transfixed with the idea of promoting dirty fossil fuels such as oil shale and tar sands. **The Utah Chapter drew a line in that tar sand** and commissioned a study to appear shortly evaluating the impacts of oil shale and tar sand development on water consumption and carbon pollution in the Colorado River Basin. The study results will inform our continuing battle against projects such as Enefit's proposed oil shale mine south of Bonanza, Utah.

**6)** The Public Lands Initiative (PLI) was trumpeted three years ago as a process by which conflict over public lands in eastern Utah could be resolved through collaboration that would lead to better conservation outcomes as well as streamlined access for resource extraction. Utah Chapter volunteer leaders participated in most of the county meetings that discussed early proposals. But PLI turned out to be a **gift basket for the oil and gas industry and the ATV lobby.** Representatives Bishop and Chaffetz, co-sponsors of the legislation, blew off comments or participation by the vast majority of Utahns living along the Wasatch Front so the Utah Chapter collaborated with SUWA to produce a citizens' hearing on March 2, 2016, giving the rest of Utah's population a chance to express their opinions. Community leaders such as former Representative Karen Shepherd and former San Juan County Commissioner Mark Maryboy denounced the process.

**7)** Sierra Club and its allies won a major victory through the Environmental Protection Agency's decision on June 1, **to require two of Utah's largest coal-fired power plants to clean up pollution** contributing to regional haze. The Hunter and Huntington plants will have to reduce nitrogen oxide emissions by 76% in line with pollution controls on many other such plants. And the results? **Fewer deaths and asthma attacks as well as increased visibility in our national parks and wildernesses.** It was chapter volunteers making phone calls, submitting comments and attending hearings that turned the tide.

**8)** Sierra Club filed an appeal of the Utah Division of Air Quality's permit for a new coal-to-liquids plant in Wellington, Utah on July 26th. The plant proposed to handle 750 tons of coal per day was licensed as a minor source of pollution and hence was not subjected to a requirement to use best available control technology. The club contends that by measures such as future carbon dioxide output and malfunctions and some start-up and shut-down emissions, **the proposed plant should be considered a major source** and take serious measures to contain pollution.

**9)** Our first annual Utah Sierra Club Jamboree unrolled from August 19 through 21 without a hitch. **Great volunteers, great presentations, great food and great weather.** We were indoors and outdoors at Camp Roger in Soapstone Basin in the Uinta Mountains where we learned about everything from wilderness boundary monitoring to the science of awe and from the club's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion campaign to identifying birds. Join us for the jamboree in 2017!



**10)** Utahns' thoughts are turning more and more to environmental protection. The Utah Chapter's membership is up 5% from 2015, after a 4% increase over 2014. With over 4,200 paid-up members and over 26,600 supporters and digital activists, **the chapter is increasingly a force to be reckoned with.**

