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This Issue

Heard about the 2016 Utah Chapter Jamboree? Well you're invited, and it's going to be fun. We tell you the date and a few other details on page 2.

Does rookie Congressman Chris Stewart have a hidden legislative agenda in HR 4579? Find out on page 5.

Cleaning up coal-fired power plant emissions can help public health and the views at our national parks. Who knew? Read more on page 6.

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Bishop's Public Lands Initiative— Lost Opportunities and a Hot Mess

On February 13, 2013, Rep. Rob Bishop invited the Sierra Club to participate in a new public lands initiative. He claimed he had found a "window of opportunity" to end "gridlock" over the use of public lands in Utah. We pursued the opportunity to collaborate with a broad diversity of interests in the state to create a shared commitment to protecting public lands in Utah; however, after three years it became clear the window of opportunity had been boarded up.

On January 20, 2016, Bishop released a discussion draft of the PLI. Unfortunately, the legislation proposes removing conservation protections from millions of acres of lands critical to wildlife, outdoor recreation and local economies. Our review of the draft disclosed many problems.

WILDERNESS

The Wilderness Act of 1964 eloquently describes the goals and meaning of Wilderness.

In order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States and its possessions, leaving no lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



Alcove in Short Canyon

JEFF CLAY / CLAYHAUS.NET

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

UtahSierran
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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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Mexican Mountain

GET IN SHAPE THIS SPRING WITH A SERVICE OUTING TO PROTECT MEXICAN MOUNTAIN

From Saturday, May 14, through Sunday, May 15, we are going to try again to move the Mexican Mountain Wilderness Study Area (WSA) closure at Prickly Pear Flat in the San Rafael Swell to a more effective location. We've been rained out a couple of times but the third time is the charm.

Mexican Bend on the San Rafael River is one of the most magical corners on the Colorado Plateau. Not far from our campsite is the dizzying chute up which the outlaws in Butch Cassidy's day rode their horses to escape the law when they were being pursued. At over 100,000 acres the Mexican Mountain WSA is the second largest of the proposed wilderness areas in the Swell.

We will be working with the BLM Price Field Office to tear down the current barrier and rebuild it where it will stop vehicle trespass into the WSA. Expect light to moderate manual labor as a buck and rail fence is dismantled and moved. We will dry camp near the barricade so bring water as well as food for the weekend. Access to the campsite is on good quality dirt roads. There are lots of opportunities for hikes after work including one to a nice petroglyph panel. The world famous Buckhorn Wash panel is less than 30 minutes away by car. You can enjoy superb views into the center of the Swell.

Plan on driving down Friday, it will take around 3 hours, and returning Sunday late afternoon. Bring work clothes and gloves. This trip is co-sponsored with the Wasatch Mountain Club. For info contact Will McCarvill, 801-694-6958, will@commercialchemistries.com.

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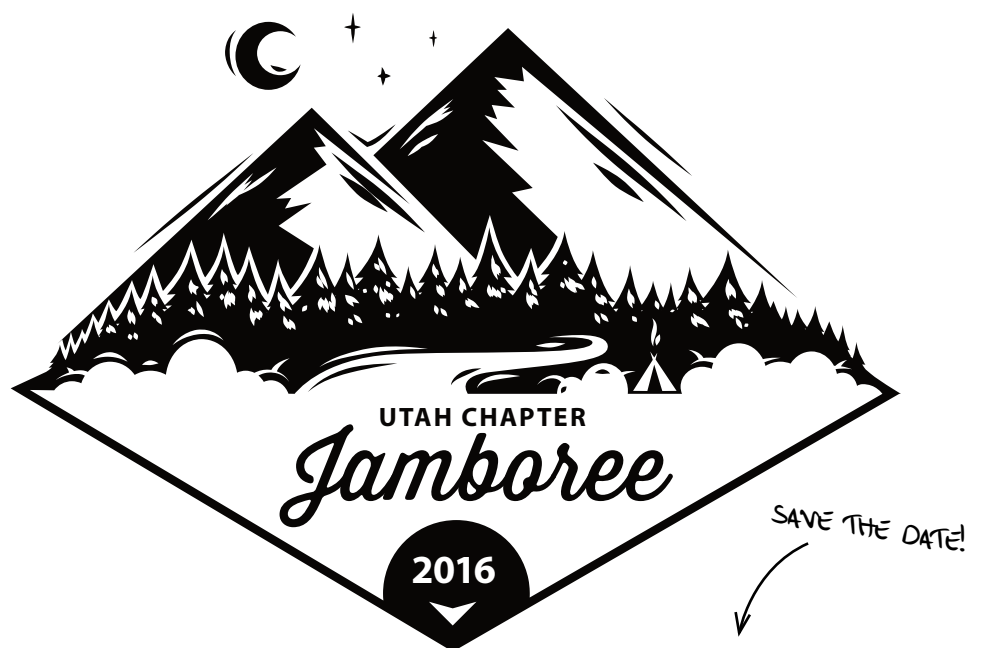
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Lawson LeGate Leadership & Capacity Building team member

Dan Mayhew National Utah Wilderness Team, and Wild Lands and Wilderness BLM Sub Team

Sarah Fields Nuclear Committee



MAXIMUM FUN IN THE UINTAS: 8/19-21

Get ready for the first annual Utah Chapter Jamboree at Camp Roger. You'll enjoy the rustic atmosphere as a setting for socials, outings, workshops and soaking up the glory of the Uinta Mountains in August.

Ideal for newcomers who want to find out a little more about what the Utah Chapter is all about and discover new sights in Utah's largest wilderness area as well as chapter veterans, the jamboree is not to be missed.

Located at over 8,000 feet in altitude, Camp Roger will likely have balmy day-time temperatures and chilly evenings. In the Uinta Mountains, August temperatures average highs of 80 degrees, and lows of 46 degrees. Afternoon and evening rain showers are not unheard of.

We'll provide more details and links for registration as the event approaches.

OurLand

Bishop's Public Lands Initiative—Lost Opportunities and a Hot Mess

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



© Clayhaus Photography

JEFF CLAY / CLAYHAUS.NET

San Rafael Reef

The Public Lands Initiative undermines this legislative intent of Wilderness. The bill would designate only 2.2 million acres of Wilderness from a potential of 5.7 million acres. All of the 2.2 million acres designated by the PLI are currently managed by the National Park Service as wilderness, managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as wilderness study areas (WSAs), or located in designated Forest Service roadless areas. These provisions greatly weaken conservation protections of our public lands. Additionally, the PLI would set precedents for designated Wilderness Area management, prohibiting limits to grazing and no longer prioritizing the protection of native plants and wildlife. It would also violate the spirit of Wilderness protection, allowing helicopters, chainsaws, and new construction.

THE ANTIQUITIES ACT

The draft PLI contains an empty Title XIII with the equivocal header, "Long-Term Land Use Certainty." This appears to be a place holder for some kind of Antiquities Act exemption. The 1906 Antiquities Act has been used by every president in the intervening years to bestow or upgrade protection to the lands and waters of the United States through designation of national monuments. Many of America's best loved parks and protected public lands were first recognized and set aside under the authority of the Antiquities Act, including Grand Teton and Zion National Parks.

NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREAS

The PLI proposes National Conservation Areas (NCAs) that would not allow managing for the diversity and natural abundance of native plants and animals. NCAs would permit new oil and gas development, off road

vehicle routes, and create local advisory council entities that undermine the Federal Advisory Council Act. Such changes would certainly make protecting native American burial sites, artifacts and historical structures much more difficult. The PLI double counts protected acreage since some designated Wilderness Area acres are also counted in the NCA acreage.

FOSSIL FUEL ENERGY ZONES

The PLI designates over two and a half million acres of public lands as energy zones where fossil fuel development is the priority use. None of those zones now exist and sets a dangerous precedent for our multiple use public lands and future Wilderness designations. The Sierra Club participates in BLM master leasing planning (MLPs) as those decisions are developing around the country. The MLPs analyze public opinion and the best available science in process focused on long term consideration of the best use for the largest number of people in lands with myriad multiple uses. Sierra Club supports the continuation of the MLPs. The designation of the energy zones contradicts provisions in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and bypasses the National Environmental Policy Act.

ILLEGAL ROADS

The PLI gives to the state and counties over 10,000 miles of roads, many of them faint trails or wash bottoms, claimed as right of way routes under Revised Statute 2477. All of these routes are currently under litigation, and we are confident a majority will not be recognized by the courts. These routes impact designated wilderness and NCAs. This is a very technical and controversial legal issue best left to the courts.

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS

The Special Management Areas (SMAs) are give-aways to local counties designed to expand motorized access, even if it results in damage to environmental and cultural values. Some SMAs would mandate logging in unsuitable areas.

STATE AND INSTITUTIONAL TRUST LANDS EXCHANGE

In order to protect the interests of all taxpayers, land exchanges between Utah's State and Institutional Trust Land Administration (SITLA) and public lands management agencies such as the US Forest Service should be value for value. The current PLI uses acreage for acreage exchange and still gives SITLA more than it would trade to the BLM. Any land exchanges must be in the best interest of the American people.

CONCLUSION

The PLI does not reflect the values of most Utahns, or the rest of America. The PLI as a whole disenfranchises 95% of Utahns. On a county by county basis less than one percent of citizens were allowed access to the PLI process while the PLI covers 24% of the land in Utah. Nationally 0% of citizens have had any say in the development of the discussion draft PLI. During the past eighteen months when the Utah legislature and congressional delegation have become increasingly adamant about turning over America's public lands to the state of Utah, recent public polling shows that Utahns oppose any such land grab. Conversely, polls show that Utahns support the establishment of the Bears Ears National Monument in southern Utah. This article was adapted from a letter sent by Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune to Representatives Rob Bishop and Jason Chaffetz.

OurLand

Help to Keep Public Lands in Public Hands

YOU CAN BE PART OF THE MOVEMENT TO STOP UTAH'S LAND GRAB

It's time to fight back against the Utah legislature's attempt to seize control of America's public lands in Utah. Anti-public-land lawmakers are willing to spend up to \$14 million on a lawsuit to take over public lands, and they are being cheered on by Utah's governor and congressional delegation.

According to the 2016 Conservation in the West Poll conducted for Colorado College, Utahns oppose the state takeover of public lands by 47% to 42%. On the substance of the policy, Utah lawmakers are closer to the armed extremists who occupied Oregon's Malheur National Wildlife Refuge than they are to their own constituents. That illegal occupation, only recently terminated, served to dramatize the threat faced by our public lands heritage.

In other western states the land grab effort has been running into a brick wall. In Arizona voters turned back their legislature's effort to seize

control of public lands. Idaho's U.S. senators publicly oppose such a move. In Nevada, right-wing Republican presidential candidate Ted Cruz trumpeted his support of the land grab, yet he finished a poor third in the Nevada Republican caucus. In Wyoming the state legislature recently rejected legislation that would have called for the state to take over public lands. And New Mexico's legislature passed a resolution extolling the benefits of keeping public lands in public hands.

It's time to take on Utah's land grabbers. The Utah Chapter, Sierra Club is mounting a campaign called Keeping Public Lands in Public Hands. We will rally people throughout the state to oppose the state's goal of taking control of our public lands.

You are invited to join the campaign. Find out what you can do to protect your birthright by calling Lawson LeGate at (801) 583-1650.



Lakes District, Uinta Mountains

JEFF CLAY / CLAYHAUS.NET

Tempest Williams Expands the Definition of Energy

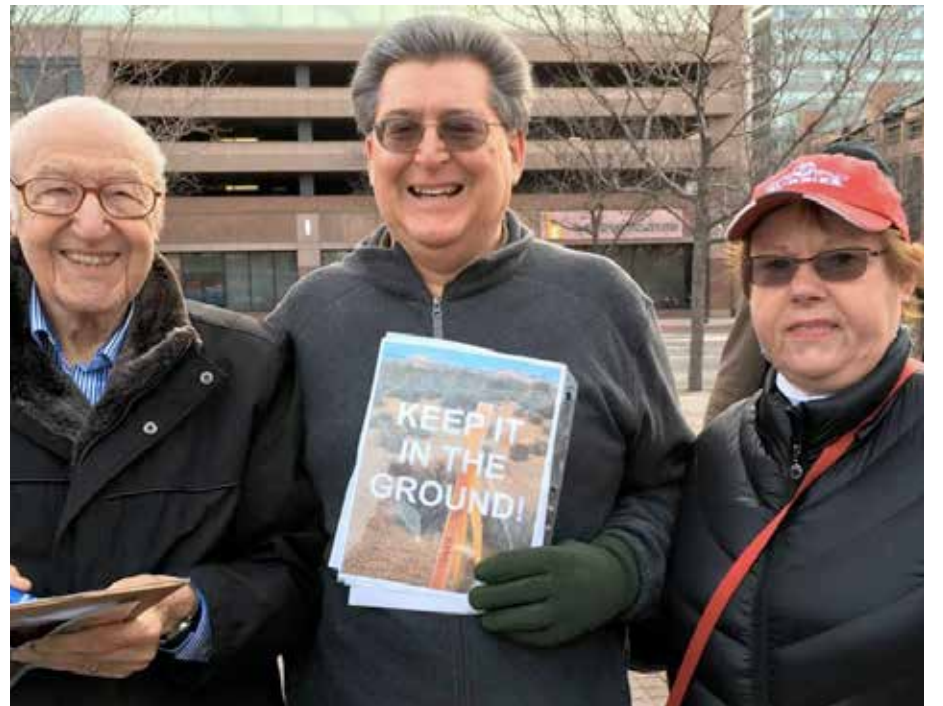
“It is so exciting to imagine how we might engage students, scientists, artists, and activists in this pursuit of a different kind of energy development.”

A routine Bureau of Land Management oil and gas lease auction on February 16th turned into a staging area for climate activists to rally against fossil fuel development on public lands, and was climaxed by the purchase of two leases in Grand County by noted author and ecologist Terry Tempest Williams. Explaining why she and her husband, Brooke, were getting into the “energy development” business on land near their Castle Valley home, Tempest Williams said, “You cannot define our definition of energy. The energy development we are interested in is fueling the movement of Keep It In The Ground, a growing movement that is urging President Obama, the BLM and other federal agencies overseeing our public lands to stop new leasing for oil, gas and coal extraction that only accelerates the negative impacts of climate change.

Tempest Williams, who received the Sierra Club's highest honor in 2014, The John Muir Award, attended the auction in support of Elders Rising, Canyon Country Rising Tide, the Sierra Club and other environmental partners who sang protest songs and chanted “Keep It In The Ground.” Her two leased parcels had not attracted the minimum \$2.00-an-acre bid, and it turns out that parcels that fail to sell can be purchased over the counter from the BLM for only \$1.50-an-acre. “What was so devastating was to witness on the centennial of our national parks that lands adjacent to Arches National Park are being sold for \$2 an acre, and after the fact \$1.50. These are America's public lands that are being sold for less than a cup of coffee,” said Tempest Williams.

The Sierra Club's Utah Chapter Chair, Marc Thomas, took part in the demonstration, along with his 89-year-old father, and was interviewed by Salt Lake City's ABC-TV affiliate. He says that “the BLM's continued auctioning off of our public lands for dirty energy not only calls attention to its poor stewardship, but is also incompatible with reining in the drastic impacts of climate change. With scientists warning that we must leave at least 80% of global fossil fuel reserves in the ground, we can't continue leasing out public lands for a use that is morally indefensible and averts our need to develop clean energy alternatives.”

Eventually the protesters were kicked out of the auction by police, but the good news was that acceptable bids were only received on 21 of the 46 parcels up for auction. Still that amounts to nearly 23,000 more acres in Utah that could be drilled



Don Thomas, Utah Chapter Chair Marc Thomas and Judi Simon attended the protest of BLM's oil and gas leases auction.

regardless of the role fossil fuels play in spewing hydrocarbons into the atmosphere that end up raising global temperatures. Regardless, the protesters vowed to keep turning out for future lease sales. “We will be back every time,” said one. “With more people and more songs, we will continue to fight for a just and sustainable world together.”

We'll let our John Muir award hero, Terry Tempest Williams, have the last word. “Please know we are in the process of carefully figuring out the next steps for Tempest Exploration as we begin exploring all definitions of “energy” that apply to these parcels specifically, and our public lands in general. It is so exciting to imagine

how we might engage students, scientists, artists, and activists in this pursuit of a different kind of energy development. We promise to keep you posted as we progress toward a fuller understanding of how we might work together to make a positive impact on a future based on creativity rather than commerce, where our addiction to fossil fuels might be transformed in this new era of a just transition as we face a changing climate.”

Legislative Update

Congressman Stewart's Hidden Legislative Agenda

by Jim Catlin



© Clayhaus Photography

JEFF CLAY / CLAYHAUS.NET

The Newfoundland Mountains, as wild as they come, would not be protected under Rep Stewart's legislation.

At a hearing on his newly-introduced bill, HR 4579, on February 25th, before the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands, Utah Congressman Chris Stewart argued that "encroachment" threatens Air Force training on the Utah Test and Training Range west of the Great Salt Lake. He explained that new military aircraft need an increasingly large area for testing and training; this makes the existing training area seem too small. HR 4579 would expand the test range, adding over 600,000 acres in eight areas that abut the current test range or Dugway Proving Grounds.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) would continue to manage these lands, and ordinance would not be dropped outside the old test range. The bill also establishes an advisory group to work with BLM and the Air Force in managing these added test range lands. It is notable that there is no committee seat for the conservation community.

The bill description is "Utah Test and Training Range Encroachment Prevention and Temporary Closure Act." This description hides language that would change how public lands are managed in three Utah counties in northwest Utah. In my view it is a back-handed assault on public lands. I argue that Stewart's real reason is first to give the state millions of dollars of mineral-rich lands in exchange for a few acres of salt and alkali flats and second to bypass the legal system and give away 6,000 miles of bogus highway claims to Box Elder, Tooele and Juab Counties.

Stewart was quoted in the Salt Lake Tribune (24 Feb 2016), "...there will be no more wilderness in Utah." His bill lives up to this statement. The training range is surrounded by more than a dozen candidate BLM wilderness areas, but Stewart recommends none for designation. Pilot Peak, the Silver Island Mountains, the Newfoundland Mountains, the Deep Creek Mountains, and the Fish Springs Range are some of the most outstanding proposed wilderness in the Great Basin.

The 1.7 million acres of the Utah Test and Training Range and Dugway Proving Grounds are surrounded by

a larger area called the Military Operating Area. In the airspace above this ten million acre area surrounding the test range the Air Force controls aircraft. In the past, BLM has allowed the Air Force to use electronic equipment placed temporarily on BLM lands in the Military Operating Area to support training. Supersonic flight is allowed on parts of the western side of this Military Operating Area and within the test range. Stewart's legislation would not allow the use of the additional training range areas for dropping ordinance on targets. The issue seems to be about the need for more air space and not changes in the use of the ground. Because air craft use in these newly added areas to the test range is already under Air Force control as part of the Military Operating Area, there is no need for these additions to the Utah Test and Training Range.

The Sierra Club has a long and positive history working with the Air Force concerning the future of the Utah Test and Training Range and the Utah West Desert Military Operating Area. In the past, the Air Force has made a major effort to include wide interests as they explore how to solve problems and learn from each other. The results were positive, and we felt our concerns were seen as important this made a difference.

Stewart's process is different. Without any warning, we first learned about this legislation when it was filed. Unlike Bishop's Public Lands Initiative, this legislation has had no public involvement. At the subcommittee hearing on the 25th, Stewart claimed that there had been dozens of meetings with hundreds of interested people. Unfortunately that did not include us. I am a regular on Stewart's email list and did not see anything about this. His website also did not discuss these meetings.

Future training will change and this will need some changes in how the Military Operating Area is used. This can happen without Stewart's legislation. Changes in how military planes fly in the Military Operating Area can be made to meet all these future needs. Stewart's legislation isn't needed.

If passed, Stewart's legislation would lead to a land exchange that would be a windfall for the state. In concept, land exchanges can be good if they are for equal value and the new state lands don't impact important habitat. The state is asking for roughly 98,000 acres of high-value lands and, in exchange, giving up a smaller number of acres of alkali and salt flats state lands which have almost no economic value. Some of the lands the state wants may have high mineral value. For example in the Drum Mountains, the state wants 14,000 acres that may contain gold ore worth as much as \$200,000,000. Some of the lands wanted by the state also infringe on our candidate wilderness areas (e.g. Drum Mountains) or key shores of the Great Salt Lake.

Stewart's legislation claims any exchange would be on an equal value basis but then his bill lets the state control the assessment of value. Stewart fails to meet his fiduciary obligation as a member of congress to respect the value of federal lands for the whole country. Any fair exchange should follow well-established methods including a federal appraisal. When state and federal assessments reach the same conclusion, then the exchange is fair.

Stewart's legislation would give all the highway claims asserted under the repealed Revised Statute 2477 by Box Elder, Tooele and Juan Counties to the counties. One of these RS2477 highway claims is a hiking trail that goes into the Deep Creek Wilderness Study Area. At the subcommittee hearing on the 25th of February, Congressman Bishop testified that giving the county ownership 6,000 miles of trails, routes, and tracks that cover all BLM land in the three counties would help the Air Force training. No explanation was given for this odd statement.

We hope to continue to work the Air Force on the future of its test and training program. I believe that we can meet the Air Force needs without HR 4579. Stewart's public lands assault clearly conflicts with the stewardship Utahns expect for public lands. *Jen Ujifusa provided important information and ideas for this article.*

LocalNews

Sierra Club's Full Court Press on Regional Haze

by Mark Clemens



Chapter volunteers phone banked to encourage members to attend the hearing.

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Region 8, whose authority covers Utah, is contemplating one of those questions the Buddhists call koans. In order to improve visibility at Utah's national parks, as required by the Clean Air Act, should one do something or nothing?

Although the Utah Division of Air Quality did impose requirements to reduce sulfur dioxide emissions, it proposes to do nothing about nitrogen oxide, the other major component causing regional haze. Citizens and clean air advocates, who don't consider hoping for the best a responsible plan, support the second alternative called the Clean Parks Plan. EPA generated this second proposal to require the Huntington and Hunter power plants to install the industry standard in pollution reduction technology. This system, installed at nearly 250 power

plants nationwide, would reduce the largest component of regional haze, nitrogen oxide, emitted by the two plants by approximately 80%.

The Sierra Club and its allies organized a press conference at the Salt Lake City Main Library on January 26th to make the case that EPA should require adoption of the Clean Parks Plan. Protect Our Winter spokesperson Caroline Gleich and Salt Lake County Councilman Arlyn Bradshaw, among others, spoke out in favor of stronger safeguards and moving into compliance with the Clean Air Act. During the hearing that followed, dozens of witnesses, including Grand County Councilwoman Mary McGann, spoke out in favor of the Clean Parks Plan. We expect a decision from EPA on or before June 1, 2016.

Club Members Across The Country Stand Up For Utah Wilderness

by Anne McKibbin

The emergence of the Rep. Bishop's Public Lands Initiative (PLI) is a reminder that all Americans concerned with conservation need to stand up and work to defeat what may be the worst wilderness bill to ever see the light of day in the U.S. Congress. Fortunately the Sierra Club has a network of folks who are ready to work -- the National Utah Wilderness Team.

This team was originally a project of the Utah Chapter, created in 1995 to facilitate the Sierra Club's role in the Utah Wilderness Coalition (UWC) as it made the red rock cause a national issue. The team now resides within the Sierra Club's Grassroots Network of national and regional issue teams.

For most of the last dozen or so years the National Utah Wilderness Team has been the primary source of the Club's financial contribution to the UWC lobby week. The team's Monday night meetings during the lobby week and the Lands Team participation in the Sunday trainings, have been the primary means by which Sierra Club members participating in that Lobby Week demonstrate the role of Club volunteers. The team also funded the club's portion of last September's fly-in to DC where Utahns previewed the anticipated PLI for key members of Congress.

Each year the team has sent mailings to Sierra Club members, asking them to write a postcard to their legislator, usually targeting America's Red Rock Wilderness Act co-sponsorship. The mailings have been remarkably effective -- well over half the targets have subsequently co-sponsored. While it is generally not possible to tell how many club members send postcards as a result of the mailing, those instances where we have feedback suggest that the response from members is in the range of 50%. I don't know



Vicky Hoover (r) and Anne McKibbin (l) plan their next lobby visit to advocate for Utah Wilderness.

anything else that comes close. One mailing to Interior Secretary Salazar's office apparently generated around 1,000 handwritten notes to the office, which shortly thereafter began ramping up the process that led to the (unfortunately doomed) Wildlands Policy.

The team has also facilitated the collection of Greater Canyonlands post cards by Sierra Club groups nationwide and has a record of hundreds of Sierra Club members across the country who voiced support at one time or another for Wild Utah.

The National Utah Wilderness Team has been a major contributor to keeping the red rock cause visible at the national level of the Sierra Club and looks forward to working hard for the red rock in partnership with Utahns. It is a vivid reminder that the red rock is held precious by Americans across our great land. *Anne McKibbin is the chair of the National Utah Wilderness Team.*



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LocalNews

Great Local Businesses Show the Love for the Utah Chapter

NOW'S YOUR CHANCE TO JOIN THEM!

Creative Energies and Treasure Mountain Inn have joined with former Utah Chapter Chair Marion Klaus to offer a total of \$1,750 in matching grants during the on-line giving campaign called Love Utah, Give Utah. We're proud to be associated with Creative Energies and Treasure Mountain even when they're not giving us money. Creative Energies' Utah and Wyoming offices are net zero buildings. They are also the Utah Chapter's Solar Rooftops Partner. Treasure Mountain Inn (TMI) is a member of the 1% For The Planet organization which encourages members to donate 1% of annual sales to environmental protection. Owners Thea and Andy have made TMI a showcase for sustainability on Main Street in Park City.

OUR LOVE UTAH, GIVE UTAH SITE IS LIVE. PLEASE CHECK IT OUT.

You'll hear about Love Utah, Give Utah through many channels as anticipation builds towards the big day—Thursday, March 31st. You can pledge a donation at any time between now and March 31st. All pledges up to \$1,750 will be matched by our sponsors. Any contribution—even those beyond the matching grants—will help us in the competition for prizes offered to top-performing charities. Thanks to both businesses and to Marion!

The Front, The Stockist and Wasatch Touring have joined forces to promote the Utah Chapter in the lead up to the 2016 Love Utah, Give Utah fundraising event (Thursday, March 31st). Show them some love back and benefit from discounts on your next purchase.

The Front Climbing Club is Utah's premier indoor bouldering and rock climbing facility. Located in downtown Salt Lake City, just off I-15 at 1450 S 400 W, their amazing climbing wall provides nearly 10,000 sq. ft. of world-class indoor rock climbing. The Front also has a facility in Ogden at 225 20th St. Both facilities will be assisting Sierra Club Utah Chapter in promoting Love Utah, Give Utah this month.

The Front's spacious rock climbing area was initially designed for bouldering but has been vastly enhanced with lead climbing walls up to 70' high. There is something for everyone, from the beginner to the hard-core competitive climber. The Front provides the right equipment, training and support to ensure a great rock climbing experience.

In addition to climbing, The Front offers complete Pilates and yoga programs. These complimentary programs are great additions for the competitive climber's training regimen, or activities for the not-interested-in-climbing significant other.

The Stockist specializes in Contemporary Heritage Clothing, the lines and collections are carefully chosen with quality and function in mind. The Stockist, located at 875 E 900 S in Salt Lake City's 9th and 9th neighborhood, is usually the first to bring new brands to Salt Lake, while also sourcing pieces from brands that have deep roots in American history. Club members will receive a 10% discount on non-sale items on presentation of proof of current membership before checkout

A current membership card or the cover with address label of a recent issue of Sierra magazine or the chapter newsletter the Utah Sierran constitutes proof of membership.

For 40 plus years the outdoor community has visited **Wasatch Touring** for the right gear, experienced advice, and expert service in the areas of cycling, hiking, back-country skiing, and paddle sports. In addition to a full service bike, ski and gear tuning and repair, they offer rentals for both mountain and road biking, AT, Tele, and Nordic skiing, Kayak and Stand-Up paddling. Wasatch Touring is located at 702 E 100 S in Salt Lake City.

Wasatch Touring values Utah's priceless landscapes as a sanctuary that must be preserved for future generations to enjoy, and are committed to reducing human impacts in the outdoors and in business. 2015 marks the store's first year generating enough power from their 80-panel roof top solar array to achieve net zero status. Power your next adventure with the right gear and clothing, whether it's redrock backpacking or hiking in powder high in the canyons.

A 10% discount is offered to non-sale merchandise through the end of 2016.

If your business would like to participate in future Love Utah, Give Utah partnerships with the Utah Chapter, please call Ian at 801/560-1287, or Mark at 801/467-9294 x102.

Please donate, follow our Facebook page for LUGU updates and share the heck out of our LUGU message via social media!



Special thanks to these local businesses. Please join them in supporting the Utah Chapter.



CREATIVE ENERGIES



TREASURE MOUNTAIN INN



WASATCH TOURING

THE STOCKIST



CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS!

The *Utah Sierran* needs your help. We're on the prowl for great shots of Utah wilderness to enhance our stock photo library.

Send your high-resolution (at least 300 dpi at 5x7") photos, along with a description of each photo and your name as you would like to be credited, to hello@cecilysakrison.com

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

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.

UtahChapterOutings

APRIL–SEPTEMBER 2016

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

All members and nonmembers are welcome on any of the chapter or group activities listed. Radios, firearms and dogs are not welcome on Sierra Club outings. Interested participants are strongly encouraged to contact the outing leader in advance and inquire as to updates, degree of difficulty, and other outing details. Participants should be prepared for various seasonal weather conditions, temperature changes that occur due to rapid increases/decreases in altitude, and bring enough food, water, and appropriate clothing for the given outing. Outing leaders reserve the right to turn away anyone who appears unprepared for scheduled outings.

ONLINE OUTINGS TOOL!


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

UTAH.SIERRACLUB.ORG/CONTENT/CALENDAR


April

GCG Sat, 4/9, Murphy Point Day Hike.

Take the trail out to the point for a big view into the canyon of the Green River. About 4 flat miles. Those with more ambition might consider the Murphy Loop Trail, 8.3 miles, 1300' of elevation. (Going out and back to Murphy Hogback saves about 200' of elevation with little difference in distance.) Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 8:00 AM. Leader: Michael Stringham 435-259-8579 mikechrista@earthlink.net.

 **SLG Tues 4/19: Mt Olympus/ Bonneville Shoreline Trail.** Check out one of the newest sections of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail! It starts from the new trailhead off Thousand Oaks Drive in Olympus Cove and ascends to the new Bonneville Shoreline Trail on the north flank of Mount Olympus. We will wind our way through ancient oak groves and wildflowers and enjoy amazing views of the city below. Meet at the Skyline High School east parking lot, 3251 E. Upland Drive (3760 S.) at 6:30 pm. Contact Jim Paull at 801-580-9079 or jimpaull@sisna.com for details.

GCG Sat, 4/23, Lower Mineral Canyon. Mineral Canyon, a long canyon with two major forks, ends at Mineral Bottom on the Green River. We will drive to Mineral Bottom (approx. one hour), drive up canyon a few miles on a jeep road, hike to the junction of the two forks, and explore each fork as time permits. Old mines, mining equipment, cowboy art, and petrified wood. Big pour-off up the south fork. North fork is new territory for our group. With our 8 AM start, we expect to be back to town at 3:30 or 4:00 PM. Approx. 10 miles easy hiking. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 8:00 AM. Leader: Albey M Reiner 435-260-8708.


 **SLG Tues 4/26: Mt. Van Cott.** Rising above the University of Utah hospital between Dry Gulch and Red Butte, Mt. Van Cott is a steady uphill walk along a wide trail which climbs up to the ridge below the peak, where we will have a great wide view. The limestone that outcrops here contains visible fossils. We will turn around about 7:30 to be back to the parking lot before dark. Bring a headlamp and water just in case. Meet at 6:15 pm (for 6:30 departure) at the small parking area above the Jeanne Wagner Jewish Community Center, 2 N. Medical Dr. (do not park in the JCC's main parking lot). This is a small parking area immediately below the power substation. Do not block driveways into the substation, and if that parking area is full, park just to the south but just as high on the hill. Leader: Rebecca Wallace (rebeccawallace38@msn.com or 801-557-5261).

OG, Sat, 4/30, Earth Day Ogden River Clean Up. The Ogden Group has cleaned up a section of the river bank for several years. Join us and do a favor for Mother Earth.

Wear old clothes, bring gloves and some tools for pulling weeds, shovels and such. RSVP to Rane Johnson, 801-985-0158, so that she can get a count for free t-shirts and meals. [S]

May


SLG Tues 5/3: Avenues Twin Peaks.

 Little Twin Peaks (aka Avenues Twin Peaks) offers great views of the Salt Lake Valley to the south and the City Creek drainage to the north. The trailhead is located at the upper end of Terrace Hills Drive (890 East), which is accessed from 11th Avenue near the west corner of the Salt Lake cemetery. Meet at 6:30 pm at the cul-de-sac at the upper end of Terrace Hills Drive. Leader: Doug Johnson, 801-888-4183 or doug.johnson@hsc.utah.edu.

GCG Sat, 5/7, Under Dead Horse Point Day Hike.

From the Shafer Road, hike up an abandoned mining road directly below Dead Horse Point Visitor Center. Although the elevation gain is approx. 900ft, the gradual switchbacks make it a tolerable climb. See abandoned mine chutes, remnants of an old building, a big horn sheep watering station (guzzler), and beautiful views of the valley below. Four-wheel drive vehicles recommended. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 8:00 AM. Leader: Barbara Crossan 435-259-0777 blcrossan@gmail.com.

SLG Tues 5/10: Rattlesnake Gulch.

 This trail climbs up to the Pipeline Trail not far from the entry gate to Millcreek Canyon. The hike is relatively easy, a great way to unwind and enjoy nature after a hard day's work. Meeting place is the Skyline High School parking lot, 3251 E. Upland Drive (3760 S.) at 6:30 pm. Call Aaron Jones at 801-467-3532 or email ajonesmvp@msn.com for more information.


OG, Fri, 5/13, Friday Night Lights Hike.

We'll hike up Beus Canyon and follow the Bonneville Shoreline trail past Strong, Waterfall, and Taylor Canyons. We will end the evening trek at the Twenty-first Street trailhead. The night lights are stunning. It will be 2.5 hrs. and 5 miles. Call Larry at 801-690-4335 for time and location. Hike limited to 15 people.

SLG Sat 5/14-Sun 5-15: Prickly Pear Wilderness Protection Service Outing.

This spring we are going to try again to move the Mexican Mountain Wilderness Study Area closure at Prickly Pear Flat in the San Rafael Swell to a more effective location. We've been rained out a couple of times but the third time is the charm. We will be working with the BLM Price Field Office to tear down the current barrier and rebuild it where it will stop vehicle trespass into the WSA. Expect light to moderate manual labor as a buck and rail fence is dismantled and moved. We will dry camp near the barricade so bring water as well as food for

the weekend. Access to the campsite is on good quality dirt roads. There are lots of opportunities for hikes after work including one to a nice petroglyph panel. The world famous Buckhorn Wash panel is less than 30 minutes away by car. You can enjoy superb views into the center of the Swell. Plan on driving down Friday, it will take around 3 hours, and returning Sunday late afternoon. Bring work clothes and gloves. This trip is co-sponsored with the Wasatch Mountain Club. For info contact Will McCarvill, 801-694-6958, will@commercialchemistries.com.

 **SLG Tues 5/17: Jack's Mtn.** Jack's Mountain rises above Salt Lake's East Bench and offers great city views.

We'll climb a fairly steep ridgeline trail above the "H" Rock to one or more high points on the ridge. Sturdy footwear and a headlamp are recommended. Meet at the new Parley's Way Walmart parking lot, 2705 Parleys Way, west of the Bombay House Restaurant in SLC at 6:30 pm. Please contact Colleen at (801) 484-4105 or (801) 554-7153 or email at colleen.mahaffey@gmail.com for questions or more details.

SLG Thurs 5/19: Big Mountain.

For our first Thursday afternoon hike of the season we'll follow the Great Western Trail from Big Mountain Pass above Little Dell Reservoir to 8470' high Big Mountain and its encompassing views. The hike switchbacks up to a scenic ridgeline and continues through lovely aspen groves to the summit. This is a five-mile round trip with 1,000 feet of elevation gain. Be sure to bring rain gear, proper footwear, snacks, and water. Meet promptly at 4:30 pm at the recycling drop-off parking lot at the intersection of Crestview Drive and Sunnyside Ave., directly east of Hogle Zoo. This is on the south side of Sunnyside Ave. where you turn off for the dog park. A stone monument with an eagle on top marks the spot. For info call or email Fred Swanson, (801) 588-0361, fbswan32@msn.com.

SLG Fri 5/20: Little Mountain Blue Moon evening hike. Expect a special treat this evening including a beautiful hike and a rare blue moon as this is the fourth full moon this season. Meet promptly at 6:30 pm at the parking lot east of Hogle Zoo at Crestview Dr. and Sunnyside Ave. The lot is marked by a large eagle statue. Leader: Aaron Jones (801) 467-3532, ajonesmvp@msn.com.

GCG Sat, 5/21, Dinosaur Stomping Ground.


Turn east off US-191 on the North Klondike exit, keep right at the fork. From the parking lot on the Copper Ridge road, start northeast on the Mega Steps bike trail. Just past the junction with Dino-Flow, branch left on the Dinosaur Stomping Ground foot trail. Follow it up the drainage and then the slickrock slab to the stomping ground. A continuation of the trail leads to the rim of Salt Valley for a grand vista. Six hundred gradual feet. Three and a half miles roundtrip. About five miles if a loop

is made via the old copper mine farther northwest along the rim. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 8:00 AM. Leader: Jock Hovey 435-260-0239 jockhovey@gmail.com.


GCG Sat, 5/21, Upheaval Dome.

Start from the Syncline Loop trailhead and go down the crater wall. (Not for those nervous on steep slickrock slopes.) Once we're down to the counter-clockwise wash in the chaotic jumble of the crater bottom, there are several possibilities. Follow the wash to where it meets the spur from the Syncline Loop and return as we came. Do a circuit of the clockwise and counter-clockwise washes and go up as we came down. Follow the counter-clockwise wash to the Syncline spur. Take the spur out of the crater to the Syncline Loop. About 4 miles and a 1500' descent to here. Then either return counterclockwise from the junction on the Syncline Loop, 3½ miles and 1500' climb. Or continue down Upheaval Canyon to the White Rim Road near the Labyrinth campground, another 3½ miles and 200' or so down. This requires finding some folks either willing to drive there and pick us up. Or some folks willing to park there and do the hike all uphill (1700' at least) with a key exchange. More definite plan closer to the event. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 8:00 AM. Leader: Thomas J Messenger 435-259-1756 messengert35@gmail.com.

SLG Tues 5/24: The Living Room.

 The Living Room is an outcropping of rocks carved by nature and assembled by human hands into comfortable living room furniture overlooking the Salt Lake Valley and the Great Salt Lake. From trailhead to destination is about 1-1/2 miles of moderately steep hiking but well worth the effort. Meet at 6:30 pm on Colorow Rd. in the University of Utah Research Park, south of Tabby Lane where Colorow goes uphill. This is about ¼ mile south of the entrance to Red Butte Gardens and north of the entrance to Huntsman International. Leader: Doug Johnson, 801-888-4183 or doug.johnson@hsc.utah.edu.

SLG Tues 5/31: Little Mountain.

 This five-mile round-trip follows a broad, undulating ridge at the head of Emigration Canyon to 7000-foot-high Little Mtn. Wildlife are often spotted along this route. Bring headlamps for the return hike. Meet promptly at 6:30 pm at the parking lot east of Hogle Zoo at Crestview Dr. and Sunnyside Ave. The lot is marked by a large eagle statue. Leader: Fred Swanson (801) 588-0361, fbswan32@msn.com.

June

SLG Thurs 6/2: Salt Lake Overlook. Join us for this Thursday afternoon hike to a much loved vantage point in Millcreek Canyon. A

spectacular wooded hike climbs two miles and 1250 feet in elevation to a rocky outpost near the ridgeline. Meet at 4:30 pm at the Skyline High School east parking lot, 3251 E. Upland Drive (3760 S.). Leader: Nancy Ivy 801-478-1283 or nancyivy@hotmail.com.

GCG Sat, 6/4, Secret Staircase. An easy, little used route goes over a little slickrock and then into Winter Camp Wash. There are beautiful views of Delicate Arch. Continue up the wash and climb out the head. See the slot where the Winter Camp watercourse pours into the canyon. Visit an area of slickrock domes and an arch near Delicate Arch. Not planning to make the short side trip to Delicate Arch. Return over the Moab Member slickrock NW of the Delicate Arch trail to Wolfe Ranch. Spotting cars at the DA trailhead or walking the road back to the DA viewpoint parking lot. 4 miles point to point with another mile on the road if cars aren't spotted. Meet at: Arches Visitor Center Parking Lot, at 8:00 AM. Leader: Jock Hovey 435-260-0239 jockhovey@gmail.com.

SLG Tues 6/7: Mill B North. Climbing above the "S" curve in Big Cottonwood Canyon, the Mill B trail begins along a cool stream, then switchbacks up to a stunning overlook across the canyon to the high peaks of the Wasatch. Meet at the 6200 South Park and Ride lot, 6450 S. Wasatch Blvd. (1 mi north of the canyon mouth) at 6:30 pm. Leader: Rebecca Sears, resears@hotmail.com, (801) 631-6335.

OG, Sat, 6/11, Lewis Peak Day Hike. This will be a strenuous hike covering ten miles round-trip and a 2,300 feet elevation gain. It will take about six hours. We'll start at the North Ogden Divide trail head and hike to tremendous views of Pineview, Mt. Ogden, Ben Lomond, and the Great Salt Lake. Lewis Peak is the highest point between Willard peak and Mt. Ogden. Call Larry @ 801-690-4335 for meeting time and place. Limited to 15 people.

SLG Tues 6/14: Bells Canyon. Awesome cannot begin to describe the hike into Bell Canyon. The trail leads from the edge of the city past glacial moraines and underneath soaring granite cliffs to a series of spectacular waterfalls coming from the Lone Peak Wilderness. Meet promptly at 6:30 pm at the Little Cottonwood Canyon Park and Ride lot, 4323 E. Little Cottonwood Canyon Rd. (mouth of the canyon on the north side). We will carpool to the actual trailhead on Little Cottonwood Rd. where parking is more limited. Leader: Rebecca Wallace (rebeccawallace38@msn.com or 801-557-5261).

GCG Sat, 6/18, Fisher Mesa. Take the Gateway-Castleton road towards Gateway to the 4WD road onto Fisher Mesa. Can park on the side of the road opposite the turn-off. Follow the jeep track past the camp and down the hill (views out the mesa and to the west). At the bottom of the hill there's a kiosk on the right at the start of the singletrack trail. Follow the trail along the rim of the mesa with views of Fisher Valley and occasionally Fisher Towers. The trail is 4.4 miles long one way and descends about 1000' in that distance (starts about 8400'), but we will go only as far as folks want. Return the same way. Then drive a couple of hundred yards towards Castleton for a look at dinosaur tracks on the Moab Tongue. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 8:00 AM. Leader: Barbara Crossan 435-259-0777 blcrossan@gmail.com.

SLG Thurs 6/16 Grandeur Peak from Church Fork. A 2600-foot ascent from the Church Fork picnic area in Millcreek Canyon takes us to this 8300-foot high peak with commanding views over the Salt Lake Valley. The 5-1/2-mile-long round trip hike is a steady climb and takes about 4 hours. Bring snacks, at least 2 liters of water, hiking boots, hat, layers of clothing and optional trekking poles. Meet at 4:30 pm at the

Skyline High School east parking lot, 3251 E. Upland Drive (3760 S.). Leader: Bruce Hamilton (801-819-9435 or bhami@pobox.com).

SLG Tues 6/21: Terraces-Elbow Fork Loop. Beginning at the Terraces picnic area near the winter gate in Millcreek Canyon, we will climb to a ridgeline above Bowman Fork, then descend steeply to the canyon road opposite Elbow Fork. This loop finishes with a saunter down the main Millcreek canyon road, which is closed to car traffic. The trail section covers about 3 miles through a quiet forest which shelters hikers from the nearby urban environs and heat of the sun. Meeting place is the Skyline High School east parking lot, 3251 E. Upland Drive (3760 S.) at 6:30 pm. Please contact Colleen at (801) 484-4105 or (801) 554-7153 or email at colleen.mahaffey@gmail.com for questions or more details.

SLG Tues 6/28: Mt. Aire Saddle from Elbow Fork. This steep but nicely shaded trail provides a wonderful panorama with views down Parley's Canyon. Expect about 1150 feet of climbing. Meet at 6:30 pm at the Skyline High School parking lot (north end), 3251 E. Upland Drive (3760 S.). Nancy Ivy 801-478-1283 or nancyivy@hotmail.com.

July

SLG Tues 7/5: Lambs Canyon/Elbow Fork Cross-Over hike. Up one side and down the other! We'll divide into two groups to traverse the ridge separating Millcreek and Lambs Canyons, exchanging keys at the top. The terrain will range from deep creekside woods to mountainside aspen stands. Meet promptly at 6:00 p.m. (note earlier departure time) at the Skyline High School parking lot, 3251 E. Upland Drive (3760 S.). Participants will arrange carpools to the two trailheads at that time. Bring headlamps. Leaders: Rebecca Sears, resears@hotmail.com, (801) 631-6335 and Jim Paull, (801-580-9079, jimpaull@sisna.com).

SLG Thurs 7/7: Sunset Peak. From Brighton at the head of Big Cottonwood Canyon we will ascend to Catherine Pass and continue on past tree line to Sunset Peak, which offers fine views of the Uinta Mountains to the east as well as the alpine lakes below. Meet at 4:30 pm at the 6200 South Park and Ride lot, 6450 S. Wasatch Blvd. (1 mi north of the canyon mouth). We plan to return to the trailhead about 9:30 p.m. Leader: Bruce Hamilton (801-819-9435 or bhami@pobox.com).

SLG Tues 7/12: White Fir Pass. This pleasant wooded trail begins at the Terraces picnic ground in Millcreek Canyon and takes us along a shady stream and mountainside to the pass, where we are greeted with a vista of Gobblers Knob underneath giant white firs. The trail offers a cool and refreshing hike through lush undergrowth and tall conifers. Meet at 6:30 pm at the Skyline High School east parking lot, 3251 E. Upland Drive (3760 S.). Call Aaron Jones at 801-467-3532 or email ajonesmvp@msn.com for more information.

SLG Tues 7/19: Circle All Peak. Cool streams, tall stands of fir and aspen, and a well maintained trail beckon the hiker to sample the ambiance of Big Cottonwood Canyon. The trail travels up the Butler Fork drainage, where it is not unusual to meet moose browsing the streamside vegetation. Meeting place is the 6200 South Park and Ride lot, 6450 S. Wasatch Blvd. (1 mi north of the canyon mouth) at 6:30 pm. Please contact Colleen at (801) 484-4105 or (801) 554-7153 or email at colleen.mahaffey@gmail.com for questions or more details.

Summer Service Outing



GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PROJECT

Sun-Fri, 7/24 – 7/29

In this centennial year for the National Park Service, join us for a week of Volunteer Service in our nation's most visited national park. We will be doing trail maintenance along the Alum Cave Trail, some invasive species removal, and will have opportunities to explore. This promises to be a fantastic week of service! For details please contact Par Rasmusson, 702-215-9119, parasmusson@gmail.com

SLG Thurs 7/21: Brighton Lakes. Mary, Martha and Catherine are sapphire beauties in a chain of lakes above the Brighton ski area. A moderate five-mile round trip will take us past each of these gems to the flower fields below Catherine Pass. Meet promptly at 4:30 pm at the 6200 South Park and Ride lot, 6450 South Wasatch Blvd. (1 mi north of the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon). Headlamps are advisable. Leader: Fred Swanson (801) 588-0361, fbswan32@msn.com.

SLG Tues 7/26: Greens Basin. The Greens Basin trail leads up through lush aspen and conifer stands, ending in a broad, shady meadow away from the bustle of Big Cottonwood Canyon. Headlamps recommended. Meet promptly at 6:30 pm at the 6200 South Park and Ride lot, 6450 South Wasatch Blvd. (1 mi north of the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon). Leader: Rebecca Wallace (rebeccawallace38@msn.com or 801-557-5261).

OG, Sat, 7/30, Red Pine Lake Day Hike. This will be a seven-mile round-trip, strenuous, four-hour hike with a 2,000 feet elevation gain. It is located in the Lone Peak Wilderness Area. It is a very scenic hike with aspen and pine trees along the trail. While we have lunch at Red Pine Lake, we can enjoy views of Dromedary Peak, Superior Peak, and White Baldy Peak which are all above 11,000 feet. Call Larry at 801-690-4335 for meeting place and time. Limited to 15 people.

August

SLG Tues 8/2: Willow Lake. This delightful hike in Big Cottonwood Canyon starts out steeply, climbing through an aspen forest. The trail then levels out, passing through several

meadows and ending at a serene lake in a peaceful setting below the Wasatch crest. Meet at the 6200 South Park and Ride lot, 6450 S. Wasatch Blvd. (1 mi north of the canyon mouth) at 6:30 pm. Leader: Aaron Jones at 801-467-3532 or email ajonesmvp@msn.com.

SLG Thurs 8/4: Lake Blanche in the afternoon. Lake Blanche is the first of a trio of beautiful small lakes nestled in a cirque under rugged Sundial Peak. Outcroppings of colorful smooth rock soften the jagged alpine landscape and offer pleasant distraction from the steep hike to the lakes. At least one liter of water and ample snacks are recommended along with footwear appropriate for a hike over rocky terrain. The trail is good, but be prepared for a stiff climb of 2700 feet. Meet 4:30 pm at the 6200 South Park and Ride lot, 6450 S. Wasatch Blvd. (1 mi north of the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon). Leader: Bruce Hamilton (801-819-9435 or bhami@pobox.com).

SLG Tues 8/9: Church Fork to the Ridge. From Millcreek Canyon we'll climb nearly 2000 feet through a varied forest of maple, fir and Gambel oak to the ridge beneath Grandeur Peak, which offers fine views across the city to the Great Salt Lake. Bring headlamps to aid in the descent. Meet at 6:00 pm at the Skyline High School parking lot (northwest end), 3251 E. Upland Drive (3760 S.). Leader: Rebecca Sears, resears@hotmail.com, (801) 631-6335.

SLG Tues 8/16: Ferguson Canyon. Ferguson Canyon is small canyon between Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons. This is an out and back hike that will follow a stream bed. There will be several easy stream crossings. We will hike to an overlook and turn around. The trail is shaded until the overlook is reached. This

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

UtahChapterOutings



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 2016.

will be a nice respite from the summer heat. Meet at 6:00 pm at the 6200 South Park and Ride lot, 6450 South Wasatch Blvd. (1 mi north of the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon). Please contact Colleen at (801) 484-4105 or (801) 554-7153 or email at colleen.mahaffey@gmail.com for questions or more details.

SLG Thurs 8/18: Catherine's Pass from Albion. From the high elevation trailhead at Albion Basin, hikers will ascend to Catherine's Pass. If time allows, we will continue on past tree line to Sunset Peak which offers views of the Uinta Mountains to the east as well as alpine lakes below. A full moon may light our return, but headlamps are also recommended. Meet at 4:30 pm at the Little Cottonwood Canyon Park and Ride parking lot, north side of the road at the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon (4323 E. Little Cottonwood Canyon Rd). For details, call Jim Paull at 801 580-9079.

SLG Tues 8/23: Great Western Trail from Big Mountain Pass.

The ridgetop trail which leads east and south from Big Mountain Pass at the head of Little Dell Canyon offers a delightful evening stroll through forest and meadow—and perhaps the chance to see a moose. Headlamps recommended. We'll meet at 6:00 pm at the Skyline High School parking lot (northwest end), 3251 E. Upland Drive (3760 S). Leader: Rebecca Wallace (rebeccawallace38@msn.com or 801-557-5261).

SLG Tues 8/30: City Creek to Davis Co. Overlook. The Bonneville Shoreline Trail climbs out of lower City Creek Canyon to a fine overlook of the Great Salt Lake. The maples may be turning color along the way. Meet by the entry gate to the City Creek Nature Preserve at 6:00 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. Leader: Doug Johnson, 801-888-4183 or doug.johnson@hsc.utah.edu.

September

SLG Tues 9/6: Alexander Creek. Spring-fed Alexander Creek borders Mountain Dell golf course and

runs east into a hidden canyon designated as a county preserve as part of the 2002 Olympics. Beaver ponds and dens are one of the special rewards of this hike. Meet promptly at 6:00 pm at the Parley's Way Walmart parking lot, 2705 Parleys Way, west of the Bombay House Restaurant in SLC. Leader TBD.

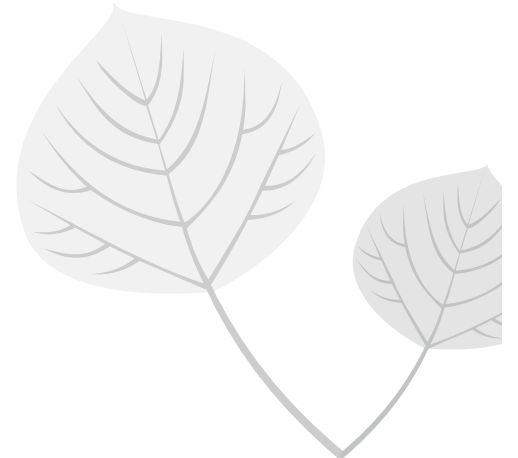
SLG Tues 9/13: Neffs Canyon. Neffs Canyon is the site of an old mill dating to 1847 but now is a prime hiking location just south of Millcreek Canyon and is easily accessible from the valley. Numerous springs and meadows of wildflowers adorn the trail and groves of conifers create a quiet buffer from the nearby Olympus Cove residential neighborhood. The plan is to hike to the second meadow so bring water and snacks for refreshment along the way. Also bring headlamps and trekking poles. Meet at 6:00 pm at the Skyline High School east parking lot, 3251 E. Upland Drive (3760 S.). Leader: Rebecca Wallace (rebeccawallace38@msn.com or 801-557-5261).

SLG Tues 9/20: Mormon Trail. The Mormon Trail (also part of the Pony Express Trail) takes us through the lovely woods and meadows of Little Dell. It is not unusual to see moose in this area. Meet at 6:00 pm at the Parleys Way Wal-Mart parking lot at 2705 Parleys Way, southeast corner, near the Bombay House Restaurant. Please contact Colleen at (801) 484-4105 or (801) 554-7153 or email at colleen.mahaffey@gmail.com for questions or more details.

SLG Tues 9/27: Bonneville Shoreline Trail from North Salt Lake. This 5 mile out-and-back hike traverses the foothills between North Salt Lake and Salt Lake City. We will contour over roller-coaster open terrain on a combination of trails and fire roads, climbing nearly 1,000 feet along the Bonneville Shoreline Trail. This hike features vistas of the Farmington Bay Bird Refuge, Antelope Island, Great Salt Lake, and Wasatch Front summits. We'll reach an end point that is also reachable from City Creek and look down on Ensign Peak before returning. Meet at Tunnel Springs Park, 1080 East Eaglepointe Drive, North Salt Lake, at 6:00 PM. No dogs. Trailhead Information: From Salt Lake City go north

on I-15 and take exit 312 (North Salt Lake/US-89/ Beck Street). Drive north on US-89 1.4 miles. Turn right (east) on Eagle Ridge Drive past the traffic circle and wind up the hillside 1.7 miles to Eaglepointe Drive. Turn right (south) on Eaglepointe Drive and drive south 0.6 miles to the parking lot at the end of the pavement on the right (west) side of the road. This is a small community park complete with tennis courts, a child's play area, picnic pavilion, and restrooms. Leader: Bruce Hamilton (801-819-9435 or bhami@pobox.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.



National Sierra Club Elections are Underway— VOTE!

A DEMOCRATIC SIERRA CLUB DEMANDS GRASSROOTS PARTICIPATION

The annual election for the Club's Board of Directors is now underway. Those eligible to vote in the national Sierra Club election will receive in the mail (or by Internet if you chose the electronic delivery option) your national Sierra Club ballot in early March. This will include information on the candidates and where you can find additional information on the Club's web site.

Your participation is critical for a Strong Sierra Club.

The Sierra Club is a democratically structured organization at all levels. The Club requires the regular flow of views on policy and priorities from its grassroots membership in order to function well. Yearly participation in elections at all Club levels is a major membership obligation. In a typical year less than 10% of eligible members vote in the Board elections. A minimum of 5% is required for the elections to be valid. Our grassroots structure is strengthened when our participation is high. Therefore your participation is needed in the voting process.

How can I learn about the candidates? Members frequently state that they don't know the candidates

and find it difficult to vote without learning more. Each candidate provides a statement about themselves and their views on the issues on the official election ballot. You can learn more by asking questions of your group and chapter leadership and other experienced members you know. You can also visit the Club's election web site for additional information about candidates:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/board/election>

Then make your choice and cast your vote!

Voting Online is Quick and Easy.

Even if you receive your election materials in the mail, we encourage you to use the user-friendly Internet voting site to save time and postage. If sending via ground mail, please note your ballots must be received by no later than election day, April 27, 2016.



GreenNews



ASK MR. GREEN:

Hey Mr. Green,

I HAVE TO FLY A LOT. HOW DO I BUY CARBON OFFSETS TO CANCEL OUT THE CARBON EMISSIONS FROM MY FLIGHTS?

—Marie in San Pedro, California

First, remember that offsets merely offset some of your share of emissions from a flight but don't cancel them out completely. Airlines that offer carbon offsets (not all of them do) allow you to invest in projects like wind farms in Texas and forest protection in Peru. Unfortunately, airline calculators charge too little to cover the cost of canceling out all emissions from a flight. And some ignore pesky details, like the fact that emissions have much more impact at high altitude than at ground level. More rigorous calculators, such as those at carbonfootprint.com and carbonfund.org, do consider the high-altitude factor.

So to be super squeaky-clean, I say set up your own simple program. The highest estimate for airline emissions is about one pound of CO₂ equivalent per mile traveled. Producing a kilowatt-hour of electricity averages a bit more than a pound of CO₂ emissions, so to offset all emissions by wind power, you'd have to invest around three cents per mile traveled. Using this formula, you could invest an appropriate sum in a wind power company. (A 5,000-mile junket would run you about \$150.)

Note that these estimates are for economy class. If you fly first class, offset costs double because all that space for the lounging elite only holds half as many passengers as coach.



ILLUSTRATION BY LITTLE FRIENDS OF PRINTMAKING

People's Hearing Shows Strong Support for Protecting Utah's Public Lands

by Lawson LeGate



Congressman Rob Bishop, chair of the U.S. House Resources Committee, has introduced draft legislation that would weaken protection for wilderness areas and prioritize dirty fuels development in "energy zones" across Utah. Known as the Public Lands Initiative (PLI), the legislation is strongly opposed by Utah Tribes, conservation groups, and Utahns across the state.

After Rep. Bishop refused to hold a public hearing on the PLI along the Wasatch Front, where the majority of the states' residents live, the people organized their own. An overflow crowd filled an auditorium in Salt Lake City to protest the terrible bill.

Speaker after speaker condemned the legislation. Among them was Mark Maryboy, a former San Juan (Utah) County Commissioner and member of the Navajo Nation, who called the bill "a disaster." He noted that the delegation's proposal fails to protect lands in southeastern Utah. A tribal coalition is calling on President Obama to designate the area, known as Bears Ears, as a national monument. The delegation, said Maryboy, "refused to work with us." He received a standing ovation from the crowd of over 600 people.

"This land belongs to your children," [Shepherd] said. "When wilderness is gone, it will not come back."

Former Bureau of Land Management Utah State Director Juan Palma spoke on behalf of HECHO (Hispanics Enjoying Camping, Hunting and the Outdoors). He noted the importance of public lands to Latinos. Spanish explorers blazed trails in the Southwest. "Many of our forebears are buried along these trails." Latinos have a deep connection to the land and know it well, he added.

Former Utah Congresswoman Karen Shepherd also spoke out. Noting the huge number of attendees, she urged everyone to send an email to their congressional representatives, to ask ten other people to do the same, and then to write President Obama to encourage him to protect the Bears Ears as a national monument. "This land belongs to your children," she said. "When wilderness is gone, it will not come back."

Volunteers gathered written comments on the draft bill from hearing attendees to add to a stack of over 2,000 comments already printed and ready to be sent to Congress. Make your voice heard; urge President Obama to designate the Bears Ears National Monument!

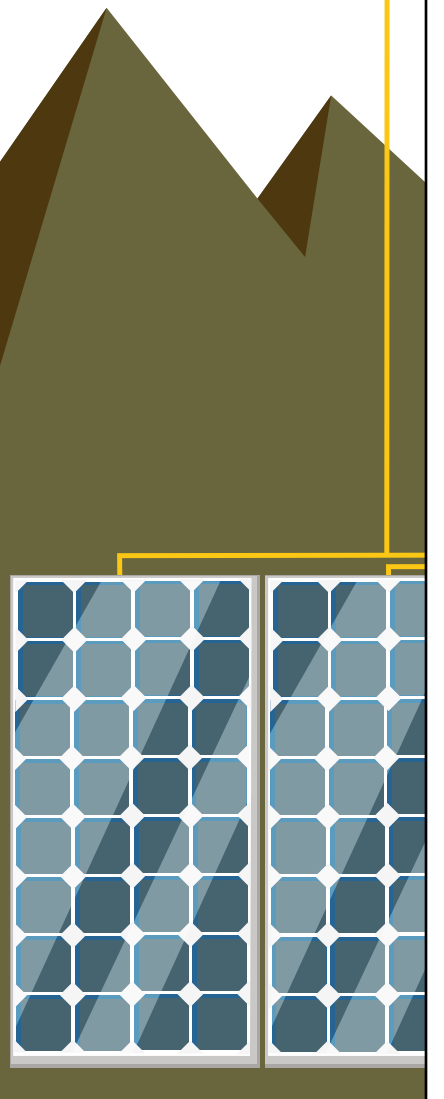
Lawson LeGate is the volunteer leader of the Utah Chapter's Keeping Public Lands in Public Hands campaign team.



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



Dear Friend of Utah's Environment,

Dear Friend of Utah's Environment,

I've lived in Moab for over ten years, and I still have to pinch myself to make sure it's real when I see the beauty of the moon over the LaSals from Sand Flats. Whether you live in Mendon, Marriott-Slaterville, Murray, Mapleton, Manti or Moab, I'm betting you feel the same way about your corner of Utah, and that's why you're a member of the Utah Chapter.

But we can't take clean air and water and our sublime parks and public lands for granted. Expanding oil refineries, coal mines near our national parks, new pipelines, and tar sands mines at the top of critical watersheds are proposed and given the green light by state and local officials without thought for the environmental consequences.

With your support, the Utah Chapter will work in 2016 to protect your health and quality of life through these initiatives:

MOVING BEYOND DIRTY FOSSIL FUELS TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

The chapter will continue to fight oil and gas exploration above Labyrinth Canyon on the Green River, oil shale development in the Uinta Basin, coal mining in Alton, Utah, ten miles from Bryce Canyon National Park, and tar sands mining at the top of the amazing Range Creek watershed.

But the demand side must be addressed at the same time as supply. The Sierra Club is working to support the Clean Power Plan and strengthen a Regional Haze Plan that would both clean up and reduce coal consumption, and point the way toward the retirement of the remaining coal-fired power plants in Utah. We'll also be hard at work convincing the Utah Public Service Commission and the legislature to support expansion of the use of solar and wind power—renewable energy sources in which Utah is so rich. Your help is crucial so we can carry this campaign to success with rallies, outreach and lobbying needed to make our case.

PROTECTING PARKS AND WILDERNESS

In 2016 we are hopeful that the Bears Ears National Monument will be established—1,900,000 acres of spectacular canyons and forests running from the south and east sides of Canyonlands National Park across the Abajo Mountains and Cedar Mesa to near the San Juan River. We'll support the Inter-Tribal Coalition that created the proposal and take our message to every level of government.

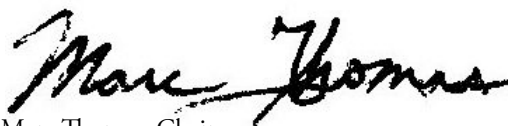
This year, we're also launching a Keep Public Lands in Public Hands Campaign to rally the overwhelming majority who support the American tradition of being able to camp, hike, hunt and recreate in our parks and on our public lands. Volunteers and staff will pitch in on these campaigns, but we need additional resources to support their efforts.

SAFEGUARDING AIR QUALITY

Our intractable urban air quality problems need both big solutions, such as reining in oil refinery expansion, and small, such as better standards for water heaters and other small emitters of pollution. There are now three million Utahns. Many of them have to breathe polluted air summer and winter, and we need to make our strength in numbers count in this fight. With sufficient resources, we'll engage with courts, legislators and other elected officials to make this a top priority.

Please make a gift of \$50, \$100 or \$200 to support our local work. 100% of your investment stays in Utah.

Sincerely yours,



Marc Thomas, Chair

Utah Chapter Sierra Club

P.S. Only about a dollar out of your annual membership dues comes back to support our work in Utah. Please act today and make your most generous contribution to the Utah Chapter.

A Look Back at 2015 Accomplishments

1) On October 6th the Sierra Club concluded an agreement that imposes a **permanent cap on the amount of coal** that can be burned at the Bonanza Plant southeast of Vernal. From 2020 until the plant's closure only 20 million tons may be burned total—meaning a likely closure before 2030. The plant's owners also agreed to a major overhaul **reducing nitrogen oxide emissions**.

2) Glen Canyon Group activists have battled a range of dirty energy development proposals from tar sands in the scenic Book Cliffs to oil and gas production on the doorstep of Canyonlands National Park. Recently the Estonian energy company Enefit announced its intention to suspend indefinitely planned production of kerogen from its White River oil shale leases. Some of these proposed projects will likely continue in 2016 and beyond, but the **group's watchdog role has put fossil fuels proponents on notice** that their projects in eastern Utah will be challenged.

3) After a long campaign, the chapter's Ogden Group won a major victory protecting roadless lands and solitary recreation on the US Forest Service Ogden Ranger District. The Ogden Group appealed a 2003 travel plan that would have opened **roughly 75% of the forest in the Ogden area to motorized recreation**. It took the intervention of Judge Clark Waddoups ruling on our side and nearly twelve years, but the final Ogden Ranger District Travel Plan issued in October withdrew the proposed new motorized trails in roadless areas and pledged to boost signage to protect forest resources such as animals and water quality. The Mollens Hollow roadless area, pictured at left, is one of the areas protected.

4) The chapter's appeal of a new **motorized trail near Indian Creek** in San Juan County succeeded in persuading the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to drop the plan this summer. The approach through Indian Creek Canyon to the entrance of the Needles District of Canyonlands National Park is not only one of the most sublimely scenic national park approaches in the country but it's also rich in Native American artifacts. This natural and archaeological patrimony has been safeguarded.

5) The Utah Chapter maintained pressure on Utah's Public Service Commission (PSC) in 2015 to **avoid new taxes penalizing solar rooftop electrical generation**. Despite a range of benefits to the electrical grid and the environment coming from rooftop solar, monopoly utility Rocky Mountain Power has pressured regulators to impose new monthly charges on solar homeowners—no good deed goes unpunished! We've won a round and lost a round so far before the PSC. And we're planning to keep pressing the case in 2016.

6) The chapter's advocacy for the Mountain Accord helped generate hundreds of comments from members in favor of land and watershed conservation and supporting transportation improvements that won't mar the Wasatch Canyons. The final version of Mountain Accord, with **conservation elements given higher priority**, was signed on July 10th.

7) Thanks in part to the endorsement of the Glen Canyon Group, pro-environmental candidates swept the Moab City Council elections in November. Rani Derasary, Kalen Jones and Tawny Knuteson-Boyd will bring an even **more progressive voice to the council** at a time when Moab is beset with environmental challenges.

8) Sierra Club has taken the lead **opposing expansion of the existing Alton Coal Mine** onto more than 2,000 acres of public land managed by the BLM. Together with our coalition allies we generated 300,000 comments opposing the mine expansion. We'll continue the campaign using every legal means to prevent 49 million tons of coal from being strip mined within 10 miles of Bryce Canyon National Park.



YES!
I want to support the Sierra Club's local work in Utah!



\$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 Surprise us! \$_____

Please make checks out to: Sierra Club Utah Chapter or donate online: www.utah.sierraclub.org

Please select a payment method: MasterCard Visa Discover

Credit Card Number: _____ Expiration (mm/yy): _____

Signature: _____

Email (help us continue to save paper): _____

Send me information so I can include Sierra Club in my estate plans.

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