



SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

Utah Sierran

utah.sierraclub.org

Spring 2011 Vol. 44 No. 2

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO



Highway overpasses for wildlife have lowered vehicle-critter collisions by over 80% in Canada. **Find out about our plans to import them to Utah on page 3.**



Disneyland in Little Cottonwood Canyon. Why isn't that a good idea? **Turn to page 8.**



Our groups have a range of outings to suit any taste. Everyone's welcome. Check out the service outings and the Tuesday Night Hikes. **More details on page 10.**

Utah Wilderness Activists Besiege Congress

by Marion Klaus



Back row L to R: Brook Williams, Steve Trimble, Dede Carpenter, Bransford Briggs, Bob Greenberg, Rep. Matheson, Wayne Hoskisson, Jean Binyon, Mike Binyon. Front row L to R: John Hoener, Carolyn Jackson, Marion Klaus

In the 111th Congress, there were 168 House of Representatives and 23 Senate Cosponsors for America's Red Rock Wilderness Act (ARRWA). During the last week of February, the Utah Wilderness Coalition, of which the Sierra Club is a founding member, sponsored a lobby week in Washington, DC, to contact members of the 112th Congress to encourage them to renew their co-sponsorship of the bill and to gather new co-sponsors.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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IF YOU SUPPORT THE
CHAPTER'S EFFORTS,
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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Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

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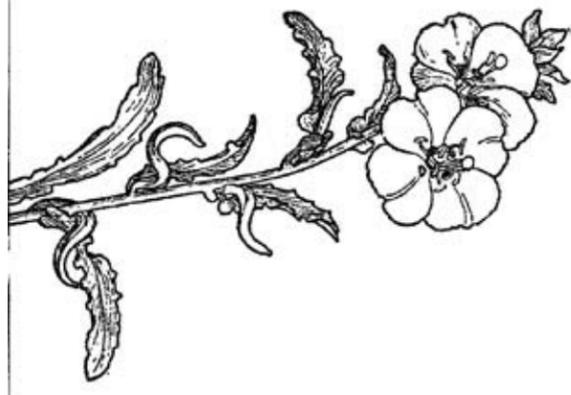
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Wayne's World

Mountain Madness

by Ann Wechsler

The very future of this irreplaceable mountain and canyon resource, unique to a county that has just surpassed a million souls, is at stake.



The mountain in question is Mount Superior in Little Cottonwood Canyon. The madness is Snowbird's proposal for a roller coaster that will snake across the flanks of Superior, requires a bridge to cross Scenic Byway 210, and complete a vertical drop of 383 feet when docking at the Snowbird plaza.

Is there a rationale for Snowbird's aggressive expansion? If you're focused on profit, any new mechanical thrill can be used to increase market share, at least for awhile. Snowbird wants a means to increase its summer visitation, and they own the land on which this coaster is proposed. That's no surprise when they've been expanding their acreage relentlessly for three decades, south of the road, over the ridgeline into Utah County canyons (one canyon wasn't enough!) and now onto the undeveloped iconic Mount Superior. They have also enlisted the help of a member of Utah's congressional delegation – Rob Bishop – who has introduced HR 765, the Ski Area Recreational Opportunity and Enhancement Act, hence, summer thrills. To many of us, the environmental costs and degradation constitute madness.

For decades, valley residents and public officials alike have extolled the east side canyons for their beauty, their unparalleled opportunities for dispersed recreation (no longer abundantly available on the valley floor), and not least for their pure drinking water for a thirsty, growing population. Even more notable, Salt Lake City and

County residents have repeatedly emphasized protection for the canyons, especially for Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons, which have experienced staggering increases in usage over the past two decades.

Summer enhancement legislation would promote even greater usage, and would undoubtedly remove some of those pesky hurdles that local governments are accustomed to. But a particularly irksome feature of this proposal is that there are few hurdles in place to sustain those protections that were so ardently encouraged. The Salt Lake County Planning Commission swiftly and unanimously approved the mountain coaster on January 12, with little public knowledge and severely limited input. Could it be that Darlene Batatian, consultant to Snowbird and a member of the County Planning Commission, had a hand in the process? The proper recourse now is for the County Board of Adjustment to reverse that seemingly capricious decision.

The Utah Chapter has worked with The Citizens' Committee to Save Our Canyons, over many years, to protect the wildness and beauty of the Wasatch Canyons. But for the madness to be curtailed, it will require all valley residents to monitor the actions of elected officials. The very future of this irreplaceable mountain and canyon resource, unique to a county that has just surpassed a million souls, is at stake.

Greater Grand Canyon Colorado Plateau Ecosystem from the Condor's Perspective

The California condor, North America's largest land bird with a wing span of nearly 10 feet, once roamed across the American Southwest and West Coast. But their numbers dramatically declined in the 20th century due to poaching, lead poisoning, and habitat destruction.

By the early 1980s the condor was on the brink of extinction, with a total population of a mere 22 individuals. To save the bird, the most expensive species conservation project ever undertaken in the United States was set in motion, involving the controversial capture of all remaining wild condors in 1987, and captive breeding at the San Diego Wild Animal Park and the Los Angeles Zoo. Despite the long odds, the captive breeding program succeeded, and four years later condors were reintroduced into the wild.

As of February 2010, there are 348 condors known to be alive, including 187 in the wild. About half of these wild condors live in the coastal mountains of California and northern Baja California. The rest fly free over northern Arizona and southern Utah, including a growing number that have been raised in wild nest caves in or near Grand Canyon National Park.

The Greater Grand Canyon - Colorado Plateau ecosystem includes significant biological diversity due to its range of elevations and microclimates. Most of the area is semi-desert, but with elevations ranging from just over 1,000 feet at the Colorado River to 12,600 feet atop the San Francisco Peaks near Flagstaff, the area supports diverse habitats, from cacti and desert scrub to piñon pine, juniper, and spruce-fir forests.

Climate change has caused this already arid region to become even drier, and even with welcome rains in early 2010, Arizona remains in a condition of "severe drought" that has lasted well over a decade. A 2008 scientific study warned that human-induced climate change could result in a 90-year drought for the American Southwest.

The Sierra Club is working with Grand Canyon National Park to reduce the park's carbon footprint, helping different agencies in the region coordinate their efforts to mitigate the impacts of climate change, and working hard to protect old-growth forests that offer critical wildlife habitat. The North Kaibab National Forest, part of the Greater Grand Canyon - Colorado Plateau Ecosystem, contains the most extensive old-growth forest in the Southwest, and represents a prime opportunity to restore the ponderosa pine ecosystem and protect old-growth-dependent species like the Kaibab squirrel, found nowhere else on earth.

Among the Sierra Club's objectives for the Greater Grand Canyon - Colorado Plateau ecosystem:

- Obtain an administrative mining withdrawal for one million acres of public lands near Grand Canyon National Park
- Pass the Grand Canyon Watersheds Protection Act in Congress
- Stop the Warm Fire salvage sale on the North Kaibab National Forest, near Grand Canyon National Park
- Limit off-road vehicle activity on Bureau of Land Management lands on the Arizona Strip, between the Grand Canyon and the Utah border, protecting the monuments' resources including the California condor and the desert tortoise
- Improve or defeat the San Juan County, Utah, Wilderness Bill
- Improve the Dixie National Forest plans on oil and gas leasing, off-road vehicles, and grazing to promote resilient habitats
- Working with Native American tribes to stop the Arizona 1 uranium mine from moving forward

Re-printed from the Sierra Club website, <http://www.sierraclub.org/habitat/ecosystems/condor.asp>

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Salt Lake City office.



CondorCorner

THE RESILIENT HABITAT CAMPAIGN

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

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

GREATER GRAND CANYON-COLORADO PLATEAU ECOREGION

SIERRA CLUB WORKING MAP
Draft August 2010

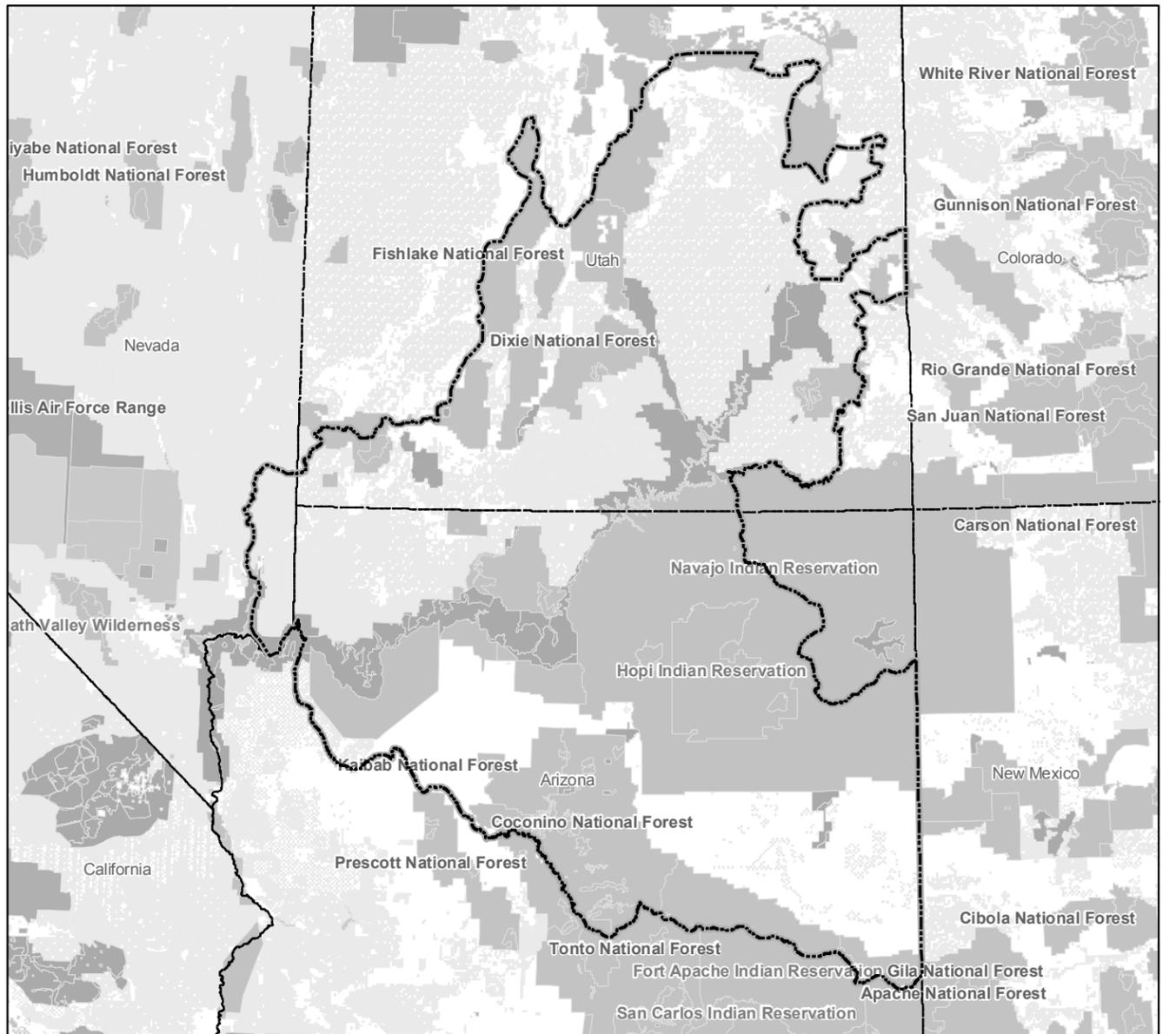


Legend

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

Animals on the Move

by Dr Marion Klaus



0 62.5 125 250 375 500 Miles

Two of my friends were driving home one evening when they hit a beautiful mule deer buck. The buck was thrown onto the hood of their car and his antlers went through the windshield, pinning my friend Vicky in her seat. Fortunately she was a slim woman and the antlers penetrated the seat on either side of her. It did take several hours to get her out. She suffered a broken arm, and their car was totaled.

We plan to investigate and gather information on the number of wildlife collisions on US 6.

In some ways my friends were very lucky. Vicky recovered and insurance helped them replace the car. Many people are not so fortunate. Last November, the Logan Herald-Journal reported the Jack H. Berryman Institute found an increase in deer-vehicle crashes and that more people die in head-on collisions with deer than any other wildlife species ("Deer-vehicle Crash Effect Underestimated," Nov. 26, 2010). Furthermore, the institute found that 30% of deer deaths were from vehicle crashes. In that same article, Terry Messmer, a USU Cooperative Extension wildlife specialist, said this trend was expected to increase as wildlife populations grow and their available habitat declines due to human developments in their winter range and migration routes.

In Utah, about 98% of wildlife collisions are with deer (300,000) and only about 2% with elk (60,000) and moose (4,000). The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources has spent as much as \$156,000 in a year just

to get dead animals off the roadway. Annually, UDOT spends about \$400,000 for carcass removal. This doesn't include the costs to individual drivers from vehicle damage, medical treatment, or death. The population of Utah and the number of licensed drivers is growing. This makes the issue of deer-vehicle collisions a growing safety and conservation priority.

The migration corridor that connects the Wasatch Plateau to the Tavaputs Plateau is separated by dangerous at-grade segments of US Highway 6 between Spanish Fork and Green River. Utahns know many vehicle-wildlife collisions occur there that result in fatalities and terrible injuries to both humans and wildlife.

The Sierra Club's Resilient Habitat campaign is working to help wildlife survive climate change in a variety of ways. One of those ways is to establish and protect corridors between core habitat areas so wildlife can move from one place to another as they need to in order to survive. The establishment of corridors includes helping wildlife cross particularly dangerous highways like US 6.

As part of the 2011 Resilient Habitat campaign goals, we plan to investigate and gather information on the number of wildlife collisions on US 6. We want to quantify financial losses to insurance companies from vehicle damage and human medical treatment. Armed with these facts, we hope to develop a partnership between a variety of interested parties both governmental and non-governmental to fund, construct, and scientifically implement a safe wildlife crossing system across US 6.



A depiction of a proposed I-70 wildlife crossing at West Vail Pass, Colo., reveals the flow of natural landscape features from one side of the highway to the other.

IMAGES COURTESY HNTB AND MICHAEL VAN WALKENBURGH ASSOCIATES, INC.

GetInvolved

Utah Wilderness Activists Besiege Congress

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Besides the Utah volunteers, there were many volunteers from across the country who care about wilderness in Utah and joined us for the lobby effort. My partner, Dr. Art Robins, from Massachusetts, loves to hike, camp and explore the red rock country in Utah with his wife.

Art and I met with the delegations from Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, and New Hampshire. It was a learning experience for me to see just how much nation-wide support exists for ARRWA and Utah wilderness. The senators and representatives from New England were generally enthusiastic in their support for the wild lands of Utah. They supported Secretary Salazar's BLM Wild Lands

Policy and the president's authority in the Antiquities Act to name national monuments, both of which are very important to us.

The wilderness activists from Utah were able to meet with Senator Lee, Congressman Matheson and Congressman Chaffetz as well as staff members from Senator Hatch's and Congressman Bishop's offices. The major thing we asked for from our own Utah delegation was a seat at the table from start to finish when decisions regarding wild lands in Utah are made. Thanks to my fellow volunteers who made time to go to Washington.



Thank You

MARCH 2011 FUNDRAISING DRIVE

Thanks to the members listed below for their contributions to the Utah Chapter's 2010 or 2011 fundraising drive. Additional contributors to the 2011 will be acknowledged in the next issue. Thanks also to the many members who contributed anonymously.

In 2011, the chapter will continue its effective advocacy on behalf of clean, renewable energy. That also means that we have to put the brake on coal and other fossil fuel development that does not use adequate environmental safeguards. We'll be ramping up our work to protect Utah's public lands and wilderness and in focusing in particular on protecting the resilient habitat needed for biodiversity to survive.

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

Fred Adler

Mike & Jean Binyon

Warren Brodhead

Dale Davis

James & Susan Ferguson

Jock Glidden

Ted & Tucker Gurney

Bonnie Hooper

Richard Jirik

Ranee Johnson

Marion Klaus

Allen Labrecque

Ramona Morris

Ted & Kay Packard

Carolyn Pedone & John Rose

Carole Sharp

Susan Stewart & Richard Keene

Duna Strachan

Steven Thiese

James Viney

Ann & Jim Wechsler

To protect our members' privacy, if no publishing preference is specified, we do not publish contributors' names. If you don't see your name listed and would like for it to be published in the next issue, please call Mark at (801) 467-9297. We try hard to spell people's names correctly; please accept our apologies if we misspelled your name!

Volunteer Corner

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

ATTORNEYS WANTED

There are three different roles a legal chair can fill:

Legal COORDINATION

The most important role is chapter litigation coordinator. The litigation coordinator would learn and understand the "new matter procedures," and be able to steer issues activists through the process in a timely manner. This person would also keep track of all the different litigation the chapter is involved in, making sure that the individual case liaisons (issues activists responsible for an individual case) report, as needed, to the chapter ExCom and to the national litigation coordinator. Finally, this person would use legal contacts to help find pro bono attorneys for club litigation.

Legal ADVICE & JUDGMENT

This role involves helping provide legal experience and advice when the chapter finds itself in delicate or sticky legal situations. For example, the chapter may have a suit that is not going well and wonder if the attorney is not doing the job well. An experienced legal adviser can provide invaluable reassurance to the chapter that the lawyer is doing an excellent job or, occasionally, that the chapter's suspicions may be well-founded. Often, our attorneys may suggest a particular legal course that doesn't sound appropriate to lay people activists. An experienced legal adviser can help evaluate the proposed course.

Legal REPRESENTATION

This role is of lesser importance. The purpose of a legal chair is NOT to be the chief litigator for the chapter, but many active legal chairs do at times represent the Club.

The three roles may be filled by one legal chair, or by a legal chair working in conjunction with other legal committee members. Only the second and third roles require experience with environmental law. This position focuses on conservation legal advice, though some chapter legal chairs or legal committees also provide business advice.

For more information, contact utah.chapter@sierraclub.org.

POLITICAL COMMITTEE

Volunteers on the chapter's political committee work to preserve the environment through bipartisan political action, to elect environmentally supportive candidates, and to advance the Sierra Club's legislative program. Frequently we have a lot of fun along the way.

The chapter's political committee is responsible for identifying and supporting candidates for public office who best represent the goals of the Sierra Club on environmental issues and legislation. The chair is responsible for ensuring compliance with Sierra Club electoral policy and compliance with state and federal election laws.

The committee assembles information on candidates through review of legislative records, questionnaires, interviews, past Sierra Club contact, assessment of the campaign, and information of members. The committee makes recommendations and may serve as one of the official voting bodies of the chapter required to review and vote on proposed endorsements or other political action short of endorsement.

The chair and committee are responsible for preparing materials on state level endorsements, and presenting them to the chapter executive committee for approval. The chair is responsible for ensuring that group political committee chairs and volunteer members receive information on compliance with election laws.

The committee sets priorities for chapter effort on endorsed campaigns and assists in training volunteers to participate effectively and coordinate with campaigns, and in all aspects of political action such as fund raising, door-to-door, press releases, and so forth. Political Committee Chair Susan Stewart is happy to be a mentor. Contact her at susan.ryonen@gmail.com.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE,
VOLUNTEER TODAY!

State of the Chapter

Hello! My name is Marion Klaus and I am the new Utah Chapter Chair. Thank you very much for this opportunity to serve the Utah Sierra Club community.

We hope to inspire more people to actively engage with us in order to achieve our conservation goals for Utah.

I have been a Sierra Club member for many years and am an experienced outdoorswoman. I grew up skiing and have enjoyed various forms of this sport throughout my life. In high school, I attended a climbing camp in Estes Park, Colorado, that initiated me to the sport of mountaineering. At the University of Wyoming, I climbed, skied, and backpacked with the Outings Club. I also spent several years kayaking and paddled the Snake River through Hoback Canyon. I have enjoyed sea kayaking in the Kenai Fjords of Alaska and in the Sea of Cortez in Mexico. I have climbed, hiked, or backpacked in Rocky Mountain National Park and the Rawahs of Colorado, The Winds, the Ferris Mountains, the Tetons, Yellowstone, and the Bighorn mountains of Wyoming, the Sawtooth mountains of Idaho, the Bob Marshall Wilderness and Anaconda-Pintler mountains of Montana, and the Uinta mountains, Arches, and Capitol Reef National Parks in Utah.

Internationally, I have climbed, hiked and/or backpacked in the Bugaboos, Banff, and Scapegoat wilderness in British Columbia, Hinchinbrook Island and Kakadu National Parks, Australia, Gunung Leuser National Park Sumatra, the northern hill country of Thailand, walked around the Kerry Peninsula, Ireland and climbed six Munros in Scotland.

Professionally, I am a biologist (B.S., M.S., Ph.D.) and conservation biology is an important part of my work. I conducted field studies in Grand Teton

National Park, the Beartooth-Absaroka mountains, the Wind River mountains and the Bighorn mountains. I spent a month in the upper Amazon basin with a team to describe the primary tropical forest there and almost a year in Costa Rica working on a small mammal survey in the dry tropical forests of the Area de Conservacion Guanacaste where I did find a new mammal.

I am very excited about the opportunities that lie before us here in Utah to conserve the many stunningly beautiful places we are lucky enough to have and to protect them from the onslaught of threats that loom large.

Wayne Hoskisson, my predecessor, served as Utah Chapter Chair for the past three years and is a long time Sierra Club activist in Utah. Fortunately for all of us, Wayne continues his service with the Utah Chapter ExCom in the position of Wilderness Chair and delegate to the Utah Wilderness Coalition. His experience and sage advice remain invaluable in our efforts to protect the places we love.

I would like to welcome some new members to the ExCom; Ron Franklin from the Ogden group (Check out Ron's profile as a national outings leader in the January/February 2011 issue of Sierra Magazine on p 72), Sandy Bassett, Salt Lake Group Delegate, Leslie Hugo, our returning Chapter Secretary, and Steve Thiese, a Beyond Coal activist.

Within the chapter, we have some challenges before us. Membership is declining and along with it, our budget. I hope to bring the conservation and outings communities closer together and feel this is crucial for building membership. Five ExCom members are taking a six month Leadership Team training from national that we hope will make us even more effective in achieving the Utah Chapter purposes, priorities, and increase our success in obtaining our conservation and outings goals. We hope to inspire more people to actively engage with us in order to achieve our conservation goals for Utah.

Gallery

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



MICHAEL STUY | Cedar Hills



MARCTHOMAS | Cedar Mesa

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

GEORGE B. AND OMA E. WILCOX
AND GIBBS M. AND CATHERINE W.
SMITH CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

for its continuing generous support of the Chapter's programs. The Foundation challenges *you* to increase your support for the Utah Chapter in 2011.

OurAir

Beyond Coal

by Mark Clemens and Steve Thiese

Ennecott Utah Copper announced plans on December 15, 2010, to phase out three coal-fired power plants and replace them with a single natural gas fired boiler producing roughly 100 megawatts of electricity. For a number of years, Kennecott had not operated these coal burners during the winter and used electricity from the grid instead.

“Thank you Kennecott for retiring 3 of your 4 coal-fired plants, but please stop burning coal for the health of everyone in our community!”

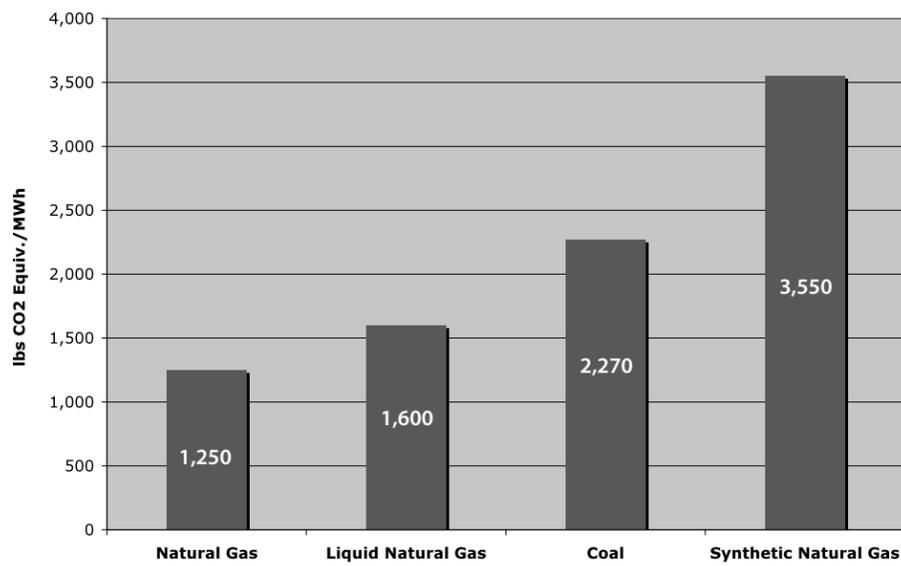
Kennecott's fourth and largest historic boiler, dating from 1959, switches between coal and natural gas depending on air pollution levels and will continue to burn coal during the less polluted months.

Chapter Chair Marion Klaus submitted a letter to the editor of the Salt Lake Tribune in December 2010 in which she observed, “As a person who lives in and consequently is forced to breathe the frequently polluted air in the Salt Lake Valley, I would like to see Kennecott agree to stop burning coal all together. With their planned [Cornerstone] extension, they could end up adding even more pollutants into our often smog filled valley. So thank you Kennecott for retiring 3 of your 4 coal-fired plants, but please stop burning coal for the health of everyone in our community!”

WE THOUGHT COAL IS A CHRISTMAS STOCKING STUFFER

The Utah Supreme Court decided on 11 January 2011, to reject our request for a stay of the start of mining operations at the Coal Hollow Mine near Alton, Utah. This decision is a disappointment but not a complete defeat of our appeal. The substance of our appeal against the mine will be heard by the court at a later, as-yet-unscheduled date. Because the rejection of our stay comprised only two sentences, we don't yet know the justices' thinking on this matter.

Life Cycle Greenhouse Gas Emissions
without CO2 sequestration



Data Source: Jaramillo, Paulina; Griffin, W. Michael; and Matthews, H. Scott. "Comparative Life-Cycle Air Emissions of Coal, Domestic Natural Gas, LNG, and SNG for Electricity Generation." *Environmental Science & Technology* 41.17 (2007): 6293

According to our sources in Panguitch, the coal trucks began rolling in earnest on Monday, 14 February. Happy Valentines Day!

BACK TO THE FUTURE IN KANAB

During part of the 19th century streets were lighted across much of the northern hemisphere with what was called town gas or illumination gas. Town gas was a by-product of coking coal for making steel. Thousands of sites, mostly in older industrial cities, have been or are currently being painstakingly cleaned up from the coal tar residue produced in making town gas.

Even before all the old sites have been cleaned up, new processes are being touted for making what's now called synthetic natural gas that claim to avoid emissions or dangerous contaminants. Time will tell if such claims are reliable. Viresco Inc, supported by federal research funds secured by former Senator Bennett, is proposing to build a model synthetic gas facility in Kanab, Utah, that would process five tons of coal a day according to the *Salt Lake Tribune*.

The Sierra Club supports the rapid phase-out of coal burning in order to avoid catastrophic climate destabilization. Synthetic natural gas fabricated from coal combines the disadvantages of coal, such as coal ash, combustion by-products and acid mine waste, with a level of CO2 emissions at least 180% greater than lifecycle CO2 emissions from coal. (See chart.)

Kanab residents worry about water use and possible waste products that might be generated. They want their questions answered before a conditional use permit is issued by the city planning commission. In January, backers of the proposed plant were notified by the US Department of Energy that they must conduct an

environmental study before it begins operating. A citizen complaint was filed with the agency because no such study was planned.

Federal funds should not be used to promote a new spin on antiquated technologies that worsen current problems. The Utah Chapter is working with groups and individuals concerned about this anachronistic and potentially damaging project to slow or prevent its construction.

A 2011 MILESTONE: 150 COAL PLANTS DEFEATED NATIONWIDE

In early February 2011, Purdue University's Board of Trustees announced its intention to scrap a planned coal boiler and applied to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management for a permit to build a gas-fired boiler instead. In a separate announcement on the same day, the university's board announced its intention to allow development of a wind farm on land owned by the university through a lease agreement with a third party. Purdue University was the only college or university in the US actively pursuing construction of a coal-fired electricity plant.

The Purdue coal boiler makes the 150th coal facility canceled or defeated since the beginning of the coal rush in 2001. Thanks in part to the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign, in the last two years no new coal plants have started construction and the industry has announced the phase out of over 50 plants.

The university context evokes a local connection. In Provo, Brigham Young University operates one of only two coal-fired electricity plants along the Wasatch Front. It's time for that institution's leadership to plan the phase out of coal burning.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Create an Environmental Legacy.

Bequests have played a key role in Sierra Club's environmental successes over the years.

Planning now may make your gift more meaningful and reduce taxes on your estate. We have many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter.

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San Francisco, CA 94105
(800) 932-4270
planned.giving@sierraclub.org

Legislative Update

The Authoritarian Session

by Mark Clemens



2011 CLAYHAUS PHOTOGRAPHY

March 11, 2011 Shine a Light on Government Rally.

Against a background of North Africa and other parts of the world moving towards more democracy, government accountability and openness, the 2011 General Session of the Utah Legislature has moved decisively in the opposite direction. There have been some disappointments and some minor victories on specifically environmental bills, but the most outstanding characteristic of this session has been the pronounced trend in favor of secrecy, authoritarian process and reduction of citizen involvement.

Many bills answer to this description, and even for legislature junkies, the flurry of bills has been too much to handle and remember. Here's a digest of the principal measures.

SB 44, sponsored by Sen Margaret Dayton (R-Orem), makes changes to both the Utah Tax Review Commission and the Utah Constitutional Revision Commission. Utah law formerly allowed a spectrum of legislators, including members of the minority party, to request a review of constitutional amendments and revisions. The bill changes this so only the governor or a resolution of both houses of the legislature can make such a request. The intent of the bill is to make dispassionate legal advice about proposed changes to the state constitution available only when leadership wants it. As we went to press, this bill had passed the senate.

SB 231, sponsored by Sen Mark Madsen (R-Eagle Mountain), and HB 400, sponsored by Rep Mike Noel (R-Kanab), are combined in this analysis because they both seek to reduce the influence of local government and micromanage land-use decisions by county and municipal governments. As described in a Salt Lake *Tribune* editorial, the seemingly non-specific language of SB 231 is intended to force Summit County to accept a monster 320,000 square foot development on a site not currently zoned for such a use. HB 400 seeks to cut cities and counties out of any role in the regulation of mining on state or federally-owned land within their jurisdictions.

As we went to press, SB 231 had been returned to the Senate Rules Committee and HB 400 had passed the house.

HB 220, sponsored by Rep Mike Morley (R-Spanish Fork), would require the public school civics education curriculum to be changed to contrast forms of government such as democracy and monarchy with that identified as the US form of government, a republic. The amended version of the bill dilutes slightly the original bill's artificial polemic between democracy and republic in the description of the US political system. As we went to press, the senate's amendments to the bill were awaiting house concurrence.

HB 399, sponsored by Rep Mike Noel (R-Kanab), would impose a bond on individuals or organizations seeking a stay of an environmental action permitted by three state agencies, the Department of Natural Resources, Department of Transportation and the State Institutional Trust Lands Administration. This financial requirement, which could already be imposed by judges at their discretion, now becomes mandatory, and the bond would be lost by the plaintiff if the plaintiff doesn't prevail in the litigation of the action the stay is requested against. Such a substantial financial requirement would, if it weren't found unconstitutional, bar most plaintiffs from seeking a stay of potentially damaging projects. This bill, similar to others vetoed in past sessions, passed both houses.

HB 477, sponsored by Rep John Dougall (R-Highland), makes extensive changes to one of the cornerstones of open government in Utah, the Government Records Access and Management Act or GRAMA. The bill would put extensive portions of government records off-limits to the press and organizations like the Sierra Club and substantially raise the cost of getting access to the little information still available as well as shifting much of the burden of proof from government to the requester. This bill had sixty-one house co-sponsors including five Democrats.

From the time the bill's language was revealed to its passage by both houses, only seventy-two hours elapsed. The senate took the extraordinary step—used most recently in 2002—of hearing the bill in the Senate Rules Committee rather than sending it to a standing committee such as the Senate Judiciary Committee in order to speed up the process. Media groups, advocacy groups including the Utah Eagle Forum, most Democrats and even some Republicans such as Senator Chris Butters stepped up their protests. As we went to press, the senate leadership had recalled the bill because of public resistance and the governor's threat of a veto.

Not all of these bills will become law. But taken together one can see a pattern or philosophy of the majority party in Utah emerge from the session. Not only are citizens not welcome to petition the government, for example, through litigation, but they will be prevented from acquiring the information they need even to know what government is doing.

Previous sessions made citizen access to change through initiative and referendum difficult because of signature requirements in all twenty-nine Utah counties. Another bill this session, SB 165, which had passed both houses when we went to press, tightened these requirements even further by banning electronic signatures and by preventing qualifying signatures on an insufficient initiative or referendum from being carried forward to the qualification of the same initiative in the next election.

The state, or more specifically, the legislature will devolve power to other bodies whether school boards, counties or cities only to the extent they strictly adhere to the ideology and prejudices of the legislature. And the tension between government representing the people's will on the one hand, or acting in what it considers the people's best interest has been resolved entirely in favor of the latter concept.

Legislative Update

Capitol Action

by Mark Clemens

Two competing bills concerning recycling of consumer electronics were introduced this session. Rep Becky Edwards (R-North Salt Lake) sponsored a bill that would have covered a slightly largely universe of consumer electronics, including for example, telephones and GPS units with a video display of four inches across or greater, as well as computers, peripherals and televisions. Her bill, HB 102, would have established an electronic waste recycling program within the Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste and levied registration fees to support the program. Starting in 2012, manufacturers would be required to pay recyclers to recycle consumer electronics. HB 102 was defeated in committee.

Salt Lake County had the temerity to question whether more mining for copper and gold by Kennecott was the best use of the recently acquired park land in Rose Canyon, and Grand County had the effrontery to pose questions about mining oil shale in its watershed.

The alternative bill forbids manufacturers from selling consumer electronics in the state, limited in this case to computers, peripherals and televisions, unless the manufacturer reports on the recycling and reuse programs available to consumers. The manufacturer must also conduct some public education program, such as a website, about the recycling and reuse programs available. These reports are submitted by the manufacturer or a manufacturers' trade association to the Department of Environmental Quality which in turn must report to the Public Utilities and Technology, and Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Interim Committees.

This latter bill, SB 184, sponsored by Sen Stephen Urquhart (R-St George) is called Disposal of Electronic Waste Program and is a bit of a sham because it's really Reporting on the Disposal of Electronic Waste. The manufacturers and trade associations could comply with every provision and article of SB 184, and yet not one more consumer electronic device would be guaranteed to be recycled by this legislation than in the year preceding passage of the bill. Readers won't be surprised that it's SB 184 that sailed through committee, passed the senate and awaits action in the house as we go to press.

Approximately a third of Utah's rivers and streams are not in compliance with water quality standards established by the Clean Water Act. A substantial portion of these waters suffer from what is called eutrophication or excess presence of fertilizing agents such as phosphorus. To reduce this problem former Rep Christine Johnson succeeded in getting legislation passed in 2008 to reduce phosphorus to .5% or less by weight of consumer-grade dishwashing detergent. The detergent industry endorsed this change.

Johnson's legislation provided for implementation starting in the summer of 2010; some constituents of Rep Stephen Sandstrom (R-Orem) began to complain their glasses weren't getting clean any longer so Sandstrom sponsored legislation to repeal the phosphorus ban. Consumer Reports tested a range of phosphorus-free dish detergents in September 2010 and found several that work as well as or better than detergent with phosphorus, <http://www.greenerchoices.org/products.cfm?product=0810dishdet>.

The House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee entertained this matter three times, and fortunately the effort to report the bill favorably to the full house was defeated each time. Most of the testimony offered opposed passage, but it was almost certainly testimony from Walt Baker, director of the Division of Water Quality, and Jeff Niermeyer, director of Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities, that compensatory efforts to reduce phosphorus in municipal effluent could cost up to \$270 million statewide that swung the vote.

During the past year, Salt Lake County had the temerity to question whether more mining for copper and gold by Kennecott was the best use of the recently acquired park land in Rose Canyon, and Grand County had the effrontery to pose questions about mining oil shale in its watershed. Because all mining is good mining, Rep Mike Noel went to bat against this unconscionable meddling by counties on behalf of park land and water quality by introducing HB 400.

Here's the business end of the bill, "Nothing in this chapter authorizes a political subdivision of the state to impose a condition or restriction on mining operation located on state or federal land that is not imposed by a federal or state agency on the mining operation (d) An ordinance or regulation issued by a political subdivision of the state that is more restrictive than a permit issued under this chapter for a mining operation on state or federal land is unenforceable." As we went to press, HB 400 had passed the house and was awaiting senate floor action.

The ugliest bill of the session, HB 399, was introduced—you guessed it—by Rep Mike Noel (R-Kanab). HB 399 would require plaintiffs seeking a stay of an environmental action permitted by three state agencies to post a bond that would be forfeited if the plaintiff does not prevail in the subsequent litigation. Similar bills were run in 2009, 2006 and 2002.

The hurdles to getting a stay are substantial and usually require the plaintiffs to show they will suffer irreparable harm and that there is a substantial likelihood they will prevail on the merits of the case. For these reason, stays are seldom sought and even more seldom granted. Judges already have the option of requiring a bond, but HB 399 will require one for any individual or organization seeking a stay before the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Transportation and the State Institutional Trust Lands Administration. As we went to press, the bill had passed both houses but hadn't yet been signed by Governor Herbert. Although almost certainly unconstitutional, it might take several years for a test case to arise because stays of actions permitted by these three agencies are rare.



CALLING ALL
PHOTOGRAPHERS!

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

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

OurLands

Striking the Right Balance in Public Lands Management

by Dan Mayhew, Conservation Chair



Todd Christensen, the BLM Colorado Country district manager, defined the multiple use debate surrounding public lands very well recently when he said, “The economic role of public lands is changing. The economy of the West has diversified, and the uses of and demands on public lands have diversified as well. Recreation, scenery, wildlife habitat, solitude and ecological functions are increasingly important economic attributes of public lands.”

We couldn’t agree more with Mr. Christensen’s statement and believe that open discussion, collaboration and an enduring partnership with federal land managers is the best course if we are to successfully manage and preserve our public lands. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (1976) is clear: the BLM has the authority to “preserve and protect certain public lands in their natural condition.”

The public lands of Utah are some of the most beautiful and unique in the United States if not the world, and we are all privileged to live near them and call them our own.

And the nation and world seem to agree. Citizens from across the country and around the world are traveling to Utah in record numbers:

In 2008, 20.4 million visitors traveled to Utah.

Outdoor recreation and tourism represents one of the largest and fastest growing sectors of Utah’s economy accounting for an estimated \$7.1 billion in traveler spending and 113,030 tourism-related jobs in 2008.

Visitor spending generated \$631 million in state and local tax revenues.

If we’re able to preserve the special lands tourists come to visit, tourism and the marketing of our incredible scenic resources will continue to thrive as a renewable, sustainable economic engine that will serve us well into the future.

Looking at the big picture for a moment:

- There are an estimated 100,000 miles of jeep/ORV vehicle routes, trails and old mining tracks in Utah. About 38% of all these routes are on BLM lands.

If we consider just the 6 BLM Field offices in eastern and central Utah that have finalized their travel plans:

- There are an estimated 20,000 miles of designated OHV/ATV routes.
- The vast majority, 85%, do not conflict with areas that have been proposed for consideration as wilderness.
- 70% of areas proposed for some level of wilderness protection is within 8 city blocks, or 1 mile, of a road.
- Nearly every wilderness or wilderness study unit is bounded by a road.
- Nearly 80 percent of BLM land in Utah is open for drilling. Through FY 2009, nearly 5 million acres were under lease.
- In the Uintah basin, Denver-based Gasco Energy Inc. has plans to drill across 206,826 acres of mostly BLM property.
- In fact, the Gasco Energy project is the smallest of four Uintah Basin drilling proposals under review by BLM, which could result in more than 17,000 new natural gas wells.

So what do these numbers tell us? One, that the BLM is clearly fulfilling its obligation for multiple use, and I didn’t take time to mention lands open to grazing permits, which are significant, and support for renewable energy development. And two, that the threats to the health and preservation of southern Utah and the Colorado Plateau ecosystem are real and increasing, especially when considering the projected demands on water systems.

With the threat of ecosystem damage in mind, I’d like to cite a quote from a recent article printed in the Casper, Wyoming *Star-Tribune*. The article refers to the ecological impacts of large-scale gas drilling on the Pinedale Anticline and Jonah Fields and a process known as “off-site mitigation.”

Overall, the mule deer population wintering on the mesa has declined by 60% since drilling operations began in 2001. As a whole, the Sublette deer population is down by about 10,000 animals and still declining today.

Nobody’s making new habitat anymore. In many eastern states, native ecosystems are essentially destroyed. Wyoming’s lands and wildlife, some of the last best ecosystems in the United States, have been dwindling rapidly since the oil and gas industry discovered Wyoming. Since you can’t create new habitat for any amount of money and even making improvements to boost wildlife populations has proven unattainable so far, the real solution is to save the habitat we already have.

As a footnote, a visit to the drilling companies’ websites proclaims that they are dedicated to preserving wildlife and habitat.

I will be the first to admit that as a nation, we need this gas to heat our homes and generate electricity. But the failure to effectively manage the ecological impacts in order to maximize profit is inexcusable and unnecessary.

We believe the public lands discussion in Utah must be elevated to consider the long-term stability and health of the Colorado Plateau Ecosystem as a whole so that we don’t replicate what has happened in Wyoming. Certainly drilling can and will happen, but so can protection of our remaining wild lands—a small price to pay and one that also provides economic and health benefits to all Utahns.

The issues at stake extend far beyond a discussion about the establishment of a new ATV trail, a wilderness area or who wins litigation over an RS 2477 right of way. The scale of those issues does not do justice to the ecosystem although collectively, they have a major impact on its stability. In our view, the discussion must be about:

- Science-based management of an extremely fragile ecosystem that is vital to all users—ATV/OHV riders, hunter/anglers, ranchers and the agriculture community, backcountry travelers and literally everyone who lives in or visits this ecosystem.
- Smart growth development vs. short-term, profit driven decisions.
- Ensuring we have sufficient water to support growth while maintaining the health and integrity of the ecosystem.

As an organization of more than 1.4 million members and supporters, the Sierra Club is dedicated to the preservation of ecosystems and the development of healthy, resilient habitats that can sustain the impacts of climate change. This is our number one priority.

Is wild lands protection not an investment in our future? Do we care enough to preserve the best of the best for future generations or do we think drilling and roads should have no restrictions? Surely the legacy of our generation will not be the destruction of Utah’s natural wonders in pursuit of economic gain at the expense of future generations.

This article was adapted from a speech delivered recently to a Women’s Legislative Council of Utah forum on public lands.

UtahChapterOutings

EXPLORE WITH US! APRIL–JULY 2011

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

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

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

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

NEW

April 2011

4/2 Adopt-a-Highway US-191 Cleanup.

Fifth shoulder cleanup of miles 117-120. Meet at the Spanish Trail Arena at 9 a.m. Expect to be done by Noon. Many hands make light work. Bring work gloves. More information on the group website: <http://utah.sierraclub.org/glencanyon/>. [S]



GCG Tues, 4/5, Dinosaur mega-tracks site.

From Hwy 191 north of the airport, drive a short distance on a dirt road to the bottom of an old mine site. Park, and hike up the old road through all the mine workings to the top of the ridge. Then go along the ridge top on slick-rock with some very mild boulder hopping to view the track site. Return the same way. About 6 miles round trip, with 500 feet elevation gain. Meet at the Moab Information Center, Main and Center, at 9 a.m. Leader: Bonnie Crysedale 259-0246.

GCG Sat, 4/9, Fisher Towers Overlook.

From Dewey Bridge follow the Kokopelli Trail west for a short distance. Where the road gets rough, we'll walk. Visit a viewpoint down the Colorado River towards Fisher Towers and the La Sals. Visit an arch. About 6½ miles and 700'. Another viewpoint possible with another 2 miles of walking. High clearance vehicles for the Kokopelli Trail. Meet at the Moab Information Center, Main and Center, at 9 a.m. Leader: Tom Messenger, 435-259-1756; Information: Ed Brandstetter, 259-9427.

OG, Sat, 4/9, Hike to the Rock Corral on Antelope Island. It's 10 miles round-trip, approximately 600 feet elevation gain, 4-5 hours, and moderate. We will stop at the coral for a break while viewing one of the most beautiful spots in northern Utah. Call Larry Woolsey at 801-731-3701.

OG, Sat, 4/16, Annual Ogden River Clean Up. The Ogden Group will celebrate Earth Day again this year with the annual river clean up outing. Meet at Big D Sports Park on the Ogden River Parkway at 9 a.m. Bring gloves and wear clothing appropriate for hard dirty work. Rane J at 801-985-0158 [S]

SLG Thurs, 4/21 John Muir Birthday Hike & Celebration. Join us as we enjoy the beauty of nature and celebrate the founder of the Sierra Club. We will hike to the stream below Mt. Olympus. Meet at 6 p.m. at the Skyline High School parking lot. Afterwards, we can raise a toast to the visionary naturalist and conservationist. Leader: Aaron Jones, 801-467-3532 or ajonesmvp@msn.com.

GCG Sat, 4/23, Upper Mineral Canyon. This trail drops over the edge of Upper Mineral Canyon (near highway 313) into Upper

Mineral Canyon. The hike dead-ends at a dry fall that keeps us from going further down into the canyon. We use an old cow trail that is in good shape. The cow trail has some switchbacks and does not have sheer cliff exposure. There are several arches in the canyon. We can hike up to 5 miles round trip. There is an immediate 250' elevation loss into the canyon with perhaps another 350' loss as we hike gradually down the canyon. There is a bit of slick rock that can be navigated over about 1/2 mile before the dry fall or folks can choose to stop there for an extended lunch break. Meet at the Moab Information Center, Main and Center at 9:30 a.m. (to let the Jeep Safari convoys clear out). Call leader, Tom Messenger for further information, 435-259-1756.

SLG Sat, 4/23 Bike Ride on Legacy Parkway. The Legacy Parkway bike path is an excellent route for an easy spring bike ride. The plan is to start riding at about 1 pm and cycle as long as the group desires. The total one-way distance of the path is about 13 miles, and there are options to ride off trail as well. Call Jim Paull 801-580-9079 for meeting place and other details.

May 2011

OG, Sun, 5/1 Skyline Trail Hike West of Pineview Dam. We will hike as far as the group wants. Wildflowers should be out at this time. Call Joanie at 801-399-0034.

OG, Fri, 5/6 Friday Night Lights in Beus Canyon. 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 4.5 miles. Call Larry at 801-731-3701.



SLG, Tues, 5/3 Tuesday Night Hike on Parley's Canyon Railroad Grade.

The first Tuesday Night hike of the season, a traditional favorite of the Salt Lake Group. The plan is to hike on the old railroad grade in upper Parley's Canyon. Wild flowers should be in abundance in this section of the canyon. Meeting place is the (old) K-Mart parking area (east side) at 6:30 p.m. Call Ron at 801-292-4040 for additional info or postponement due to weather/trail conditions.



SLG, Tues, 5/10 Little Twin Peaks Hike.

Little Twin Peaks are located in the foothills above the Avenues in Salt Lake City. The trail offers spectacular views of the Salt Lake Valley to the south and City Creek Canyon to the north. Some short steep grades, so be prepared for moderate exertion, but the company and vistas

are worth the effort. Meeting place is the parking circle at the end of Terraces Blvd in the upper avenues at 6:30 p.m. Terraces Blvd intersects 11th Avenue across the street from the north west corner of the SL Cemetery. Call Ken 801-414-6067 for questions for directions and info.

GCG Sat, 5/14, Wild Horse Canyon in the San Rafael Swell north of Goblin Valley.

There are several interesting attractions on this hike: pictographs canyon narrows, high walls, and Skylight Arch. The hiking is moderate. At the head of the canyon, there is a loop hike that is about 4 miles long. To go to the arch and narrows will take an additional 3 or 4 miles, or can be done as a separate hike starting from the canyon's mouth. The canyon is about 90 miles from Moab. On the morning of May 12, Marc Thomas will lead a party of anyone wishing to camp in Goblin Valley State Park for 2-3 nights to explore the area further. Free primitive camping is also available nearby on BLM land. Mike Stringham will lead those who want to drive there and back in a day. We will meet in a predetermined spot before the hike begins. More coordination info later. Marc Thomas, 435-259-2208. Mike Stringham, 259-8579.

SLG, Sat, 5/14 Leaders' Hike in Emigration Canyon. The plan is to hike the ridge between Little Mountain and Mountain Dell. The wildflowers should be in full bloom and views will be spectacular. After the hike a leaders meeting will be held to plan summer outings and indulge in a potluck BBQ dinner at Fred's residence. Although this hike is for leaders, non-leaders are encouraged to attend as well. Please email Fred Swanson fbswan32@msn.com for meeting time, place and directions to his house, or call 801-588-0361.

OG, Sun, 5/15 Native Plants Service Project. The invasive species Dyers' Woad crowds out native plants and reduces browse for species such as deer. The Ogden Group has helped eliminate Dyers' Woad in a number of locations, but the fight isn't over yet. Contact Dan S, 801-393-4603, for meeting time and place. [S]



SLG, Tues, 5/17 Tuesday Night Hike in Lambs Canyon.

Lambs Canyon is a new venue for a Tuesday night hike, but the proximity to the city and ambiance of the canyon renders a worthwhile trail to explore. Meeting place is the old K-Mart parking lot, (foothill drive east side), at 6:30 pm. Call Constance at 801-835-6304 or Ken 801-414-6067.

GCG Sat, 5/21, River Walk Under Dead Horse Point. Rescheduled from 2/19. Scramble down a wash under Dead Horse

Point on the Potash Road. Walk upstream along a rarely visited part of the river bank for a couple of miles before going up another wash back to the road. Some ledge walking along the river. 4 ½ miles with 500' descent and 200' climb. Short car shuttle on the road. Meet at the Moab Information Center, Main and Center, at 9 a.m. Leader: Tom Messenger, 435-259-1756.

SLG, Sat/Sun, 5/21-5/22, Notch Peak Car Camp. Notch Peak is one of the most magnificent peaks in Utah. Huge mountain walls give a whole new meaning to the word cliff. Participants will car camp on Saturday evening and drive back to the base of the peak in car pools on Sunday morning (and back to Salt Lake Sunday evening). The trail is an old wash bed which cuts through a beautiful canyon containing an abundance of desert plant life including ancient bristle cone pines. We may not go the entire way to the top of Notch, but the hike to the saddle will give you one of the most awesome sights in the Rocky Mountains. Round trip distance is about 4 miles of a moderate but steady ascent. Richard Passoth is leader 801-364-3387, co-lead by Ken Evans 801-414-6067. Best to RSVP for this trip, call the numbers above for more info.



SLG, Tues, 5/24 Hughes Canyon Hike.

The Hughes Canyon trail is located in a narrow ravine on the southern flanks of majestic Mt Olympus. The trail is populated with lush vegetation, bordered by a perennial stream, and free of heavy foot traffic. The plan is to hike to the waterfall and back, approximately 3 1/2 miles round trip. Hiking poles and good boots are advised for stability and traction. Meeting place is the 6200 South Park and Ride Lot off Wasatch Blvd at 6:30 p.m. Contact Rebecca Wallace rebeccawallace38@msn.com or 801-557-5261 for more info.

GCG Sat, 5/28, South Rim, South Fork Mill Creek Canyon. Start from the La Sal Loop Road and go cross-country to join a trail down into the South Fork of Mill Creek. Though the trail continues to the creek, we'll leave it at the top of the Navajo and continue down the left rim of the creek. After crossing "Entrajo" Canyon, we'll scramble down to the southeast end of Spanish Valley. Car shuttle between the endpoints. About 5 miles with 1400' net down. Meet at the Moab Information Center, Main and Center at 9 a.m. Call Ed Brandstetter, 259-9425 for information. Leader: Tom Messenger, 435-259-1756.

OG, Sat, 5/28 Middle Fork Ramble. Middle Fork Trail is another favorite of equestrians, although walking it is also a fine way to go. This is a relatively level pathway along the

Middle Fork of the Ogden River. Expect to cross the river in a few places. Also, this trail will be muddy in places in spring. Call Joanie 801-399-0034.

SLG, Tues, 5/31 Mineral Fork Hike. Mineral Fork is a Tuesday Night Hike favorite and for good reason. The outing offers a sublime sampling of the Big Cottonwood Canyon hiking experience. The trail passes through lush pine stands, offers spectacular views of the surrounding peaks, and an abundance of blooming wildflowers. Meeting place is the Big Cottonwood Canyon Park and Ride at the mouth of the canyon at 6:30 p.m. Call Dee 801-718-1970 for more info.

June 2011

OG, Sat, 6/4 Mueller Park Trail Hike. This Davis County favorite is accessible for members from Salt Lake to Weber County. It's 6 miles round-trip and approximately 3-4 hours. We will hike across a clear area where the Kern Creek pipeline crosses the canyon causing a scar on the landscape, and then to a rock called Elephant Head where we will turn around. Call Larry Woolsey at 801-731-3701.

SLG, Sun, 6/5 Salt Lake Overlook and Backpacker Gourmet Experience. A two-part adventure. The first part will be a hike to the Salt Lake Overlook in Millcreek Canyon. Meet at 10 a.m. at the Skyline High School parking lot (3251 E. and 3760 S). Afterwards, we can participate in a grand experiment tasting the gourmet backpacker fare found in ethnic markets. We can tabulate opinions and publish the results. You may participate in one, or both, parts of this activity. Please contact the leader beforehand if you will be joining us for the backpacker gourmet experience. Leader Aaron Jones 801-467-3532 or ajonesmvp@msn.com.

SLG, Tues, 6/7 Jacks Mountain Hike. The Jacks Mountain trail is located just above I-215 near Millcreek Canyon. The hike is far enough away to enjoy nature without the distractions of the city below. Meeting place is Skyline High School parking lot at 6:30 p.m. Call Richard 801-363-3387 for questions.

GCG Sat, 6/11, Miners Basin Rim. From near the Warner Lake Campground, follow the Shuman Gulch trail up to the divide with Miners Basin. Head uphill southeast along the ridge to a cliff-top view into Miners Basin. From there head SSW to the head of a side drainage of Shuman Gulch. Follow the drainage to Shuman Gulch and return on the trail to the starting point. About 3 miles and 1800'. (A simple out and back to the viewpoint could be done from Miners Basin for about the same distance and climb.) A longer hike could be done by heading down a side drainage to Dry Fork and meeting the established trails at about the Dry Fork/Wet Fork junction. Follow the trail back to Warner Lake. About 6 miles and 1800'. Meet at the Moab Information Center, Main and Center, at 8 a.m. Leader Tom Messenger, 435-259-1756.

OG, Sat, 6/11 Skull Crack Hike. Not as painful as it sounds. The trail provides outstanding scenery along Causey Reservoir. It's a short day hike and excellent for your first time out. There is a small dispersed camping site at the end of the trail. The only other access is by canoe. Along the trail you will see the remains of an old shelter and bench 2.4 miles one-way. Call Joanie at 801-399-0034 for info.

SLG, Tues, 6/14 Great Western Trail/Big Mountain. The trail begins near the parking area of Big Mountain Pass and follows a small portion of the Great Western Trail near the Salt Lake/Morgan county line. This hike is a favorite of the leader due to the variety of terrain, meadows packed with flamboyant wildflowers, and the possibility of wildlife sightings. Meeting place is in the parking lot of the old K-Mart shopping center on Foothill Drive at 6:30 p.m. Call Debbie 435-830-9021 for info.

SLG, Sat, 6/18 City Creek/Black Mountain Hike. The hike will begin in the City Creek Nature Preserve and hikers will ascend to Black Mountain summit, the highest peak in the surrounding area. The outing is an excellent opportunity to explore trails close to the city but overlooked in favor of more popular routes. There are steep sections of the trail so be prepared for some moderate exertion. Bring plenty of water, snacks, and plan for an all-day adventure. Call Constance 801-835-6304 or Rebecca rebeccaawallace38@msn.com or 801-557-5261 for meeting time, place and other info.

OG, Sun, 6/19 Hidden Valley Hike. It is a fairly steep trail, but the path is well defined. The hike is about 2.5 miles one-way dead end. It calls for a vertical ascent of about 2,200 feet. Hidden Valley, a substantial mountain bowl, was for centuries a favored hunting ground for Indians, trappers and the early pioneers. Populations of Rocky Mountain sheep, deer, elk and other game animals used the area for spring forage or relief from the heat of the summer. Call Dan H at 801-479-0018.

GCG Tues, 6/21, Hyper Viper Solstice Sun Dagger. Head up Pritchett Canyon and then up a side canyon to the east to the Snake Panel Petroglyph. At about 11:20 a sun dagger points to the head of the snake. (It happens a couple of hours before local apparent noon.) Generally easy walking (some on jeep trails) and gentle grades, but it's a 1200' climb and 9 miles round trip. Bring plenty of water for this long, hot hike. Meet at the Moab Information Center, Main and Center, at 8 a.m. Leader Mike Stringham, 435-259-8579. [E]

SLG, Tues, 6/21 Bell Canyon Hike. The hike through Bell Canyon near Little Cottonwood Canyon will offer a refreshing retreat from the stress of a hard day's work. The trail passes a reservoir and leads to waterfalls, an excellent spot to relax and enjoy the canyon and friendship of the group. Meeting place is the Little Cottonwood Canyon park & ride at the mouth of the canyon. Contact Paul Stratton 801-450-1128, rtg.stratton@gmail.com, for more info.

OG, Sat, 6/25 Ogden Overlook Trail. Approximately 5 to 6 mile round trip hike with 800 foot elevation gain starting at Snowbasin. We'll be on a well-maintained trail with great views of Snowbasin area and Ogden Canyon. Call John B for meeting time and place, 801-985-6854.

SLG, Sun, 6/26 Dry Creek Exploratory Hike. Dry Creek is part of a network of foothills trails near the north end of Salt Lake City. The path is another example of prime hiking destinations bypassed by most hikers. Along with good company and favorable weather, there may be pleasant surprises to explore along the way. Call Robert 801-949-3597 or Chris 919-720-9420 for meeting place, time, and other details.

SLG, Tues, 6/28 Mill B North Fork Hike. The Mill B trailhead is near the S curve in Big Cottonwood Canyon. The trail passes through dense pine

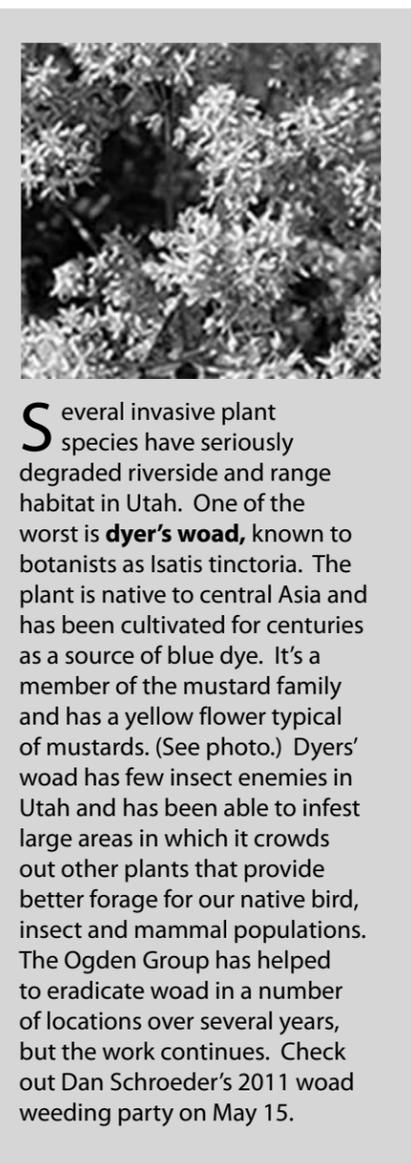
and oak stands and offers splendid views of surrounding peaks. Meeting place is the Big Cottonwood Park & Ride at 6:30 p.m. Call Ken 801-414-6067 for info.

July 2011

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

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

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



Several invasive plant species have seriously degraded riverside and range habitat in Utah. One of the worst is **dyer's woad**, known to botanists as *Isatis tinctoria*. The plant is native to central Asia and has been cultivated for centuries as a source of blue dye. It's a member of the mustard family and has a yellow flower typical of mustards. (See photo.) Dyer's woad has few insect enemies in Utah and has been able to infest large areas in which it crowds out other plants that provide better forage for our native bird, insect and mammal populations. The Ogden Group has helped to eradicate woad in a number of locations over several years, but the work continues. Check out Dan Schroeder's 2011 woad weeding party on May 15.

TUESDAY NIGHT HIKES

Utah Chapter Directory

Chapter Executive Committee

- Ron Franklin ronkailua@yahoo.com, (801) 876-2555
- Wayne Hoskisson..... wyh@xmission.com, (435) 260-9045
- Leslie Hugo, secretary..... coyotespaw@yahoo.com
- Jim Westwater chair@uvel.us, (801) 798-2888
- Marion Klaus, chair..... marionklaus@comcast.net
- Dan Mayhew, vice-chair..... drmayhew@comcast.net, (801) 712-5353

Group Delegates

- Sandy Bassett, Salt Lake Group molygray@me.com, (801) 583-1022
- Marc Thomas, Glen Canyon Group marc_judi@frontiernet.net, (435) 259-2208
- Larry Woolsey, Ogden Group landcrun@hotmail.com, (801) 731-3701

Issue & Committee Chairs

- Dan Mayhew, conservation chair drmayhew@comcast.net, (801) 712-5353
- Sandy Bassett, membership co-chair..... molygray@me.com, (801) 583-1022
- Wayne Hoskisson, membership co-chair..... wyh@xmission.com, (435) 260-9045
- Steve Thiese, fundraising chair sthiese@yahoo.com, (801) 466-2893
- Brian Phillips, treasurer..... briansimple@gmail.com, (801) 837-1317
- Susan Stewart, political chair susan.ryonen@gmail.com
- Chris Plummer, outings chair ChrisP347@gmail.com, (919) 720-8125
- Sarah Fields, nuclear waste..... sarahmfields@earthlink.net
- Wayne Hoskisson, wilderness/UWC delegate..... wyh@xmission.com, (435) 260-9045
- Ron Franklin, CCL delegate..... ronkailua@yahoo.com, (801) 876-2555
- Susan Stewart, CCL alternate susan.ryonen@gmail.com
- Tom Messenger, web master..... messengertj@citlink.net, (435) 259-1756
- Jeff Clay, new media chair jclay@clayhaus.net, (801) 582-3740
- Steve Thiese, communications/PR sthiese@yahoo.com, (801) 466-2893
- Dan Schroeder, ORV impacts dvs@relia.net, (801) 393-4603

Group Chairs

- Tom Messenger, Glen Canyon Group..... messengertj@citlink.net, (435) 259-1756
- Joanie Aponte, Ogden Group..... aponte_83@hotmail.com
- Sandy Bassett, Salt Lake Group molygray@me.com, (801) 583-1022

Utah Chapter Staff

- Mark Clemens, chapter manager mark.Clemens@sierraclub.org, (801) 467-9297
- Steve Thiese..... sthiese@yahoo.com, (801) 466-2893

National Organizing Staff

- Marc Heilesen, wetlands/wildlife..... marc.heilesen@sierraclub.org, (801) 467-9294

The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ridesharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel. If you choose to carpool to the trailhead, it is only fair for fees charged by the US Forest Service to be shared by all participants. Text of the outings liability waiver may be found at <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/signinwaiver.PDF>. CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.



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Specialists in botany, geology, forestry, paleontology, and wildlife lead events both indoors and outside in the National Parks, Forests, Monuments, and on the Public Lands. In the company of a specialist, you can experience how the marvelous and delicately balanced ecosystems of southern Utah and the Arizona Strip support the rich tapestry of life in the desert Southwest.

Embark on an adventure guided by an archaeologist, to discover and appreciate extraordinary Native American cultural sites that reveal pre-historic conditions, lifestyles, and wisdom traditions that have evolved here over thousands of years. Attend a presentation on alternative building techniques, city beautification, or municipal trails development. Participate in a group cycling event, hike, or horseback ride. Share in a day of spring trail maintenance on the Kaibab National Forest with a local ranger.

The events of Amazing Earthfest explore ideas, history, natural sciences, artistic creativity, land ethics, human society, community conservation, and economics that stimulate conversation about stewardship of our planet's natural resources, and responsibility to future generations.

At Amazing Earthfest, families and individuals are expanding their personal relationships with each other and with nature. Through traditional stories and with telescopes for night-sky viewing, journey into the beyond to enhance your understanding of humanity's place in the cosmos. See contemporary award-winning documentary films, hear live performances by musicians and poets, and view exhibits of original work by regional artists. Become inspired by the natural beauty of Southern Utah!

Mark your calendars for the third week of May to join in this exceptional celebration of land and life on the Colorado Plateau. All events are open to the public, and most are free of charge. Pick up your Amazing Earthfest Schedule of Events at the Kane County Office of Tourism, 78 South 100 East, and at Visitor Centers and businesses throughout the region, or go online at www.amazingearthfest.com. A destination for discovery, exploration, and adventure in the heart of America's Grand Circle.

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FIND US ON FACEBOOK

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

Remembering Leo



The chapter gratefully acknowledges a generous gift made in loving memory of **Leo Slowikoski** by his family.

Leo was an avid marathoner whose inspiration came from Utah's pristine landscapes. The Sierra Club will work to fulfill Leo's hope that Utah should remain as beautiful as when he experienced it.

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