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# Utah Sierran



SIERRA CLUB  
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Spring 2012 Vol. 45 No. 2

## WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO



**Volunteer citizen-scientists** are working to protect habitat for grouse, elk and other critters. Read the full story on page 6 and then break out your tape measure.



**Tuesday Night Hikes** are back on the menu. Consider the options on page 10.



**Want to make a difference** in your spare time? Check out the opportunities in our Volunteer Corner on page 12.

## A Victory for Wild Forests

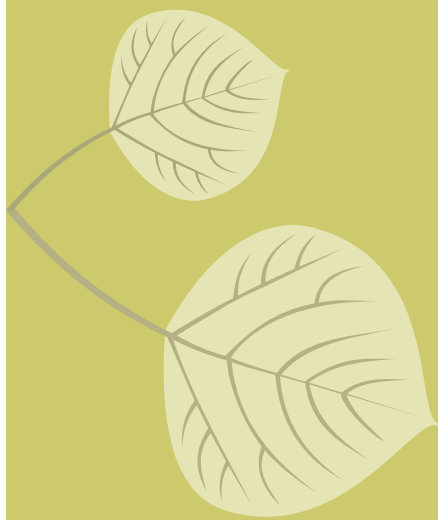
by Dan Schroeder and Mark Clemens



**O**n Wednesday, March 7, United States District Judge Clark Waddoups agreed with the case brought by the Ogden Group of Sierra Club and other plaintiffs that the United States Forest Service's 2007 Travel Plan for the Ogden Ranger District of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest did not satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. The judge ordered the Forest Service to re-instate the previous travel plan until such time as it had complied with his ruling.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.



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Salt Lake City office.

### Our Mission

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

Protect and promote Utah's  
outdoors and natural landscapes;

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

Support the development of  
sustainable renewable energy;

For the benefit of  
present and future generations.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



DAN SCHROEDER

A sample of the crazy quilt of roads and motorized trails on the Ogden Ranger District.

The Ogden Ranger District was officially managed with a substantial network of 244 miles of motor vehicle routes until the issuance of the travel plan that was the subject of the recent ruling. Lax oversight over many years had allowed dozens of new ghost trails and pioneered routes to be created, harming wildlife habitat and diminishing opportunities for quiet recreation.

## Lax oversight over many years had allowed dozens of new ghost trails and pioneered routes to be created, harming wildlife habitat and diminishing opportunities for quiet recreation.

The 2007 Ogden Ranger District Travel Plan allowed a number of these formerly illegal routes to become part of its official network of motorized trails, and even authorized construction of new motorized trails through roadless areas. Under this Plan, fragmentation of wildlife habitat would have continued and the large majority of the Ogden Ranger District would have been dedicated primarily to motorized recreation. Now this process has been halted.

“We appealed this travel plan because it represented a radical change in the Ogden Ranger District,” said Dan Schroeder, Ogden Group Sierra Club conservation chair. “The Forest Service threw considerations of elk and sharp-tail grouse habitat, quiet recreation and wilderness values out the window.”

Today’s ruling found that the environmental study prepared for the 2007 Travel Plan did not adequately analyze the impacts of current and future user-created trails. Furthermore, the Forest Service will have to analyze the potential impacts of its travel plan on the multi-county Shoshone ATV Trail.

“Judge Waddoups supported our argument that the Ogden Ranger District had not fully and fairly analyzed the impacts of its new travel plan,” said Joro Walker of Western Resource Advocates, attorney for the plaintiffs. Besides the Sierra Club, the plaintiffs included the Western Wildlife Conservancy, the Wild Utah Project, and the Citizens Committee to Save Our Canyons.

The Ogden Travel Plan litigation is part of the Ogden Group’s long-term campaign to protect habitat and wilderness values on the Ogden Ranger District of the Wasatch Cache National Forest. The group has worked to improve mapping and education available on motorized versus non-motorized trails and to protect roadless areas so they can be included in future as protected wilderness. More information is available on the Ogden Group website, [www.utah.sierraclub.org/ogden](http://www.utah.sierraclub.org/ogden).



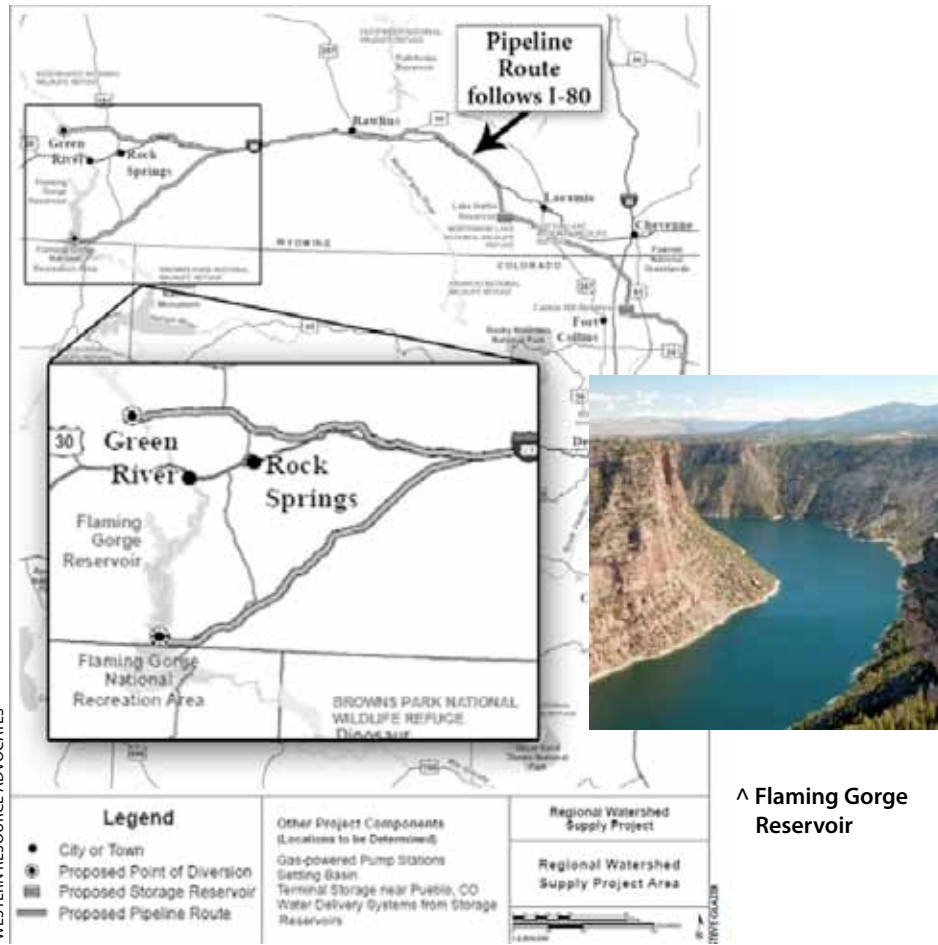
### FIND US ON FACEBOOK

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# On Water

## Timeout or Game Over for Flaming Gorge Pipeline?



On Thursday, 23 February 2012, a scheme to build the proposed Flaming Gorge Pipeline—one of the biggest, most environmentally damaging water projects in the history of the western United States—was dismissed by a federal agency. The pipeline would have devastated the Green River, one of the West’s last great rivers and a sanctuary for native fish and wildlife, and severely harmed the Colorado River downstream. The dismissal of the preliminary permit application by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is a significant setback for the plans of a private developer to turn water into profits.

“FERC made the right call,” said McCrystie Adams, Earthjustice staff attorney in Denver. “This proposal would have drained the Green River, placing local economies, recreation, fish and wildlife in jeopardy. We are confident that this project will never be approved. We will continue to oppose any project that threatens the West’s rivers and way of life like the Flaming Gorge proposal did.”

The applicant, Aaron Million, previously sought a permit for the pipeline from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). In July of 2011, the corps terminated its review of the project because the applicant missed multiple deadlines and did not provide information requested. A few months later, the applicant redesigned the project to include some incidental hydropower components and requested review through the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Despite the modifications, the project remained a huge energy hog – the proposal included at least nine air-polluting natural gas-fired pumping stations that would be required to pump the water uphill across Wyoming

and over the Continental Divide. Million acknowledged that pumping the water uphill would have used more energy than the project would have created through hydropower.

A coalition of ten conservation groups from Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, and Arizona, the Colorado River Protection Coalition, intervened in the FERC review of the pipeline project. The coalition, represented by Earthjustice, called upon FERC to deny the permit on numerous grounds. The coalition’s lead argument—and the one that FERC adopted in its decision—was that the pipeline was a water supply project requiring environmental review and approval of a massive pipeline and diversion, not merely a hydropower project, and thus FERC’s involvement in the process was premature.

The Colorado River Protection Coalition argued that the pipeline was unlikely to gain necessary approvals due to the irrevocable harm to the Green and Colorado Rivers and other extreme environmental damage that would be associated with the pipeline’s construction and operation. Specifically, the proposed Flaming Gorge Pipeline would likely violate the Endangered Species Act, would adversely affect four national wildlife refuges, and would be located in a U.S. Forest Service roadless area, in addition to a number of other impacts. The Sierra Club’s Rocky Mountain, Utah and Wyoming Chapters all joined the Colorado River Protection Coalition in this appeal. This article was developed from a press release issued by the Colorado River Protection Coalition and Earthjustice.



AKIKO KAMIMURA

## win a backcountry guide

MARCH 10, 2012: Scott’s Pass outing. Be the first (before April 15, 2012) to correctly list the first name of four of these trekkers and receive a Guide Book for the High Uintas. Send your list to Ron Younger at 920 East 1500 South, Bountiful, UT 84010-2138.

## Utah Chapter Directory

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 Marion Klaus ..... Resilient Habitat leadership team, Liaison to the Greater Grand Canyon—Colorado Ecoregion  
 Dan Mayhew ..... National Utah Wilderness and Greater Grand Canyon Resilient Habitat Local Delivery Teams, and Wild Lands and Wilderness BLM Sub Team





# 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

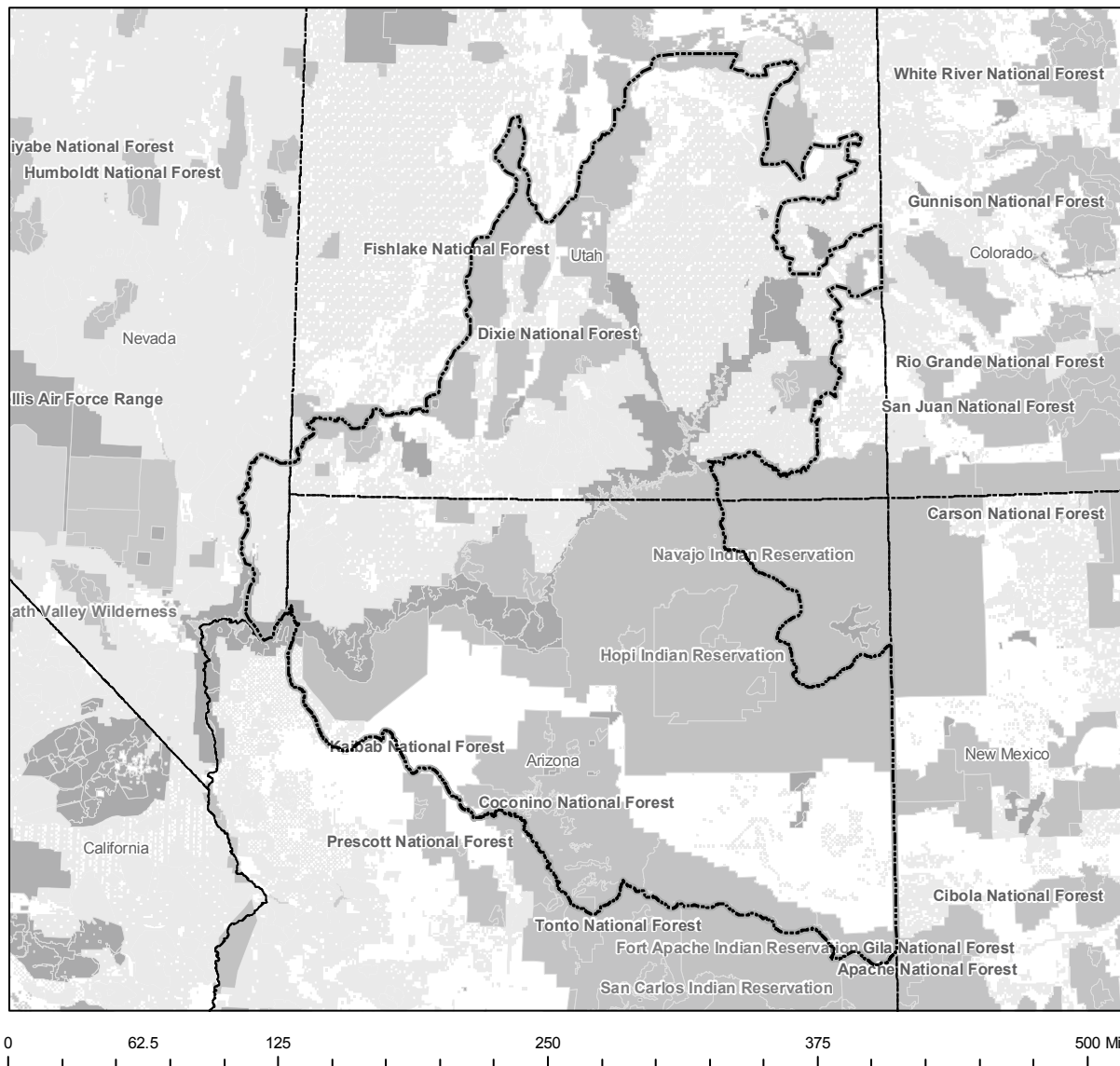
SIERRA CLUB WORKING MAP  
Draft August 2010



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...)

# Public Lands and Habitat Accomplishments

by Dr Marion Klaus



*Climate change is the largest threat our natural heritage has ever faced. The effects of climate disruption are already being felt on even our most pristine landscapes. Setting aside areas where development is restricted is no longer enough—we must now actively work to create resilient habitats where plants, animals, and people are able to survive and thrive on a warmer planet. The Resilient Habitat Campaign works to insure that ecosystems retain their basic function and structure while absorbing the stresses associated with climate change. This includes protecting very large areas of habitat known as core areas, connecting them with corridors through which living things can move from one habitat patch to another, and reducing non-climate stressors that work in synergy with climate change to threaten species with extinction.*

Since the Sierra Club's national Resilient Habitat (RH) campaign began in 2009, we have met with many successes. In 2011, there were many notable achievements in our ecoregion and across the country.

## In 2011, there were many notable achievements in our ecoregion and across the country.

Tim Wagner was hired as a full time RH organizer in the Greater Grand Canyon – Colorado Plateau ecoregion in August of 2011 and has worked very hard to stop the Alton strip coal mine from expanding onto BLM lands only ten miles from Bryce National Park. Tim had a lot of support from Sierra Club activists and gathered over 210,000 signatures to present to the BLM earlier this year urging them not to allow the mine to expand.

Geos Institute and EcoAdapt were hired to develop a science blueprint using GIS data for our ecoregion. Our Local Delivery Team (LDT), especially Jim Catlin at Wild Utah Project, was actively engaged in evaluating and commenting on the development of the science blueprint and the final version will be available to us very soon. This blueprint for conservation will help us in our discussions with management agencies such as the BLM and Forest Service.

Sierra Club activists met with Forest Service officials in Salt Lake City and across the country to comment

on the new National Forest Management Plan, the guidelines the Forest Service uses in managing our forests. The new National Forest Management Act is a major step forward insofar as it includes, for the first time in agency regulations, the goal of managing critical national forestlands and resources within the context of climate change. The Forest Service became the first federal land management agency to have a climate change coordinator for each unit and managing forests for climate change is now listed as a priority in the USDA's strategic plan.

Due to the excellent work of Alicyn Gitlin, Sandy Bahr (both with the Grand Canyon Chapter of the Sierra Club) and Kim Crumbo (Grand Canyon Wildlands Council) as well as the Sierra Club's Washington D.C. Lands Team and many other activists from across the country, one million acres are now off-limits to new uranium mines next to Grand Canyon National Park.

Sierra Club RH activists and employees from across the country lead campaigns that won the following successes in 2011.

- With regard to the Interior Appropriations bill, the House voted to preserve the Endangered Species Act and we successfully fought off the inclusion of a provision to strip away the president's ability to create new National Monuments.
- The Fish and Wildlife Service has released its long awaited draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP). The plan included a full wilderness review and formally considers wilderness designation for the crucial Coastal Plain area in Puerto Rico.
- Protections for the Tongass National Forest in Alaska were reinstated



- The Senate rejected a bill to expand drilling in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans
- The President did not amend the 7 year leasing and drilling ban on new areas.
- The Circuit Court upheld the Roadless Rule.
- The Condit dam came down in Washington State, permitting traditional migratory access for salmon.
- A draft plan was released for additional wilderness and rivers protection for the Olympic Peninsula
- Shell Oil announced it was canceling its Arctic drilling plans for the Chukchi Sea and the Beaufort Sea for the year.
- The president announced a strong multi-year conservation and outdoor recreation report and agenda called America's Great Outdoors: A Promise to Future Generations to protect our nation's lands and waters, connect all Americans to our natural heritage, and empower local communities to accomplish their conservation priorities.
- The final report from the Oil Spill Commission on the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico was very strong. Instead of targeting BP, it pointed to systemic problems throughout the oil and gas industry.
- There was very good press around the one-year memorial of the BP Deepwater Horizon disaster and good coverage of oil company profits. The Chair of the House budget committee, Paul Ryan, came out in support of cutting subsidies for the oil and gas industry. And, fifty-seven senators voted against new offshore oil and gas drilling.
- The National Park Service approved the plan to build 51/2 miles of bridges over the Tamiami Trail.
- Tampa became the largest city in Florida to implement a strong fertilizer ban.

I am hopeful that 2012 will bring an equal number of resounding successes not only to our region, but nationally as well. With increased activism and support we can achieve our 2012 goals. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact me.

## Public Land and Common Sense (or the lack of it) by Mark Clemens



A musical interlude during the Restore Sanity Rally at the Utah Capitol on March 10th.

King James I of England wrote on a range of subjects from literature to witchcraft to tobacco use. He spoke or wrote several languages and commissioned a new translation of the Bible into English. But his critics called him the wisest fool in Christendom because he seemed to lack common sense.

The Utah legislature passed two bills attacking federal ownership and management of public lands during the recently-concluded 2012 General Session that the addled English king would probably have loved—they are heavy on specious legal reasoning and abstruse theory and totally lack common sense.

The fed haters interpret the following sentence from the Utah Enabling Act, which gave Utah statehood in 1894, as meaning the federal government would be committed to disposing of all the lands it held, "That the people inhabiting said proposed State do agree and declare that they forever disclaim all right and title to the unappropriated public lands lying within the boundaries thereof; and to all lands lying within said limits owned or held by any Indian or Indian tribes; **and that until the title thereto shall have been extinguished by the United States....**" [emphasis added]

In the 6 March episode of Radio West on KUER-FM, the sponsor of one of the bills in question, Rep Ken Ivory (R-West Jordan) asserted, "In our [Utah's] enabling act, the same as all the enabling acts of all the states east of Colorado, the federal government promised to dispose of the public lands. Now with all of the states east of Colorado, it honored that promise...."

Let's leave aside the argument by many lawyers including the state's own Office of

Legislative Counsel that the enabling act does *not* require the disposal of public land. Let's further ignore the generosity of the federal government when it gave Utah four sections (square miles) of every township (36 square miles) of land then remaining in federal ownership at the time of statehood—a generosity that exceeded grants made to most neighboring states at their statehood. Instead let's consider the process that many then believed would result in the acquisition of federal public land by the private sector.

That process was the Homestead Act of 1862. Originally the Homestead Act allowed for settlers to take possession of up to 160 acres of public land if they lived on the land for five years and showed evidence of improvements. Over time the bill was amended and expanded so that settlers could by 1916 claim up to 640 acres. The restrictions of the act were weakly enforced and by 1935 270 million acres moved out of the federal estate into private hands. Substantial additional acreage moved into the private sector as a result of the 1872 Mining Act. The Homestead Act was repealed everywhere but Alaska in 1976.

Everyone familiar with these laws and Western history understands that vast areas of Utah and Nevada remained unclaimed because they were too dry, too remote or too infertile. The federal government held the cupboard open *for more than a century*, and these lands still weren't claimed. The United States Congress realized the process had reached its conclusion and terminated it in 1976. But our legislature is appealing against the judgment of climate, geography and history.

But beyond the willful ignorance the

legislature exposes with these arguments, the greatest failure of common sense in this crusade to sell the remaining public lands into the private sector is the terrible blow it would represent to our way of life and heritage. Most of the bills considered during this session would spare the five national parks from privatization, but consider for a moment all the people and uses that would be out of luck as a result of a public lands fire sale.

Thousands of Utah kids learn their first lessons in practical geology by searching for topaz crystals in the extensive rhyolite deposits at Topaz Mountain. Thousands of hunters cherish the pheasant and deer hunting on federal land. The wonder and solitude of a backpack into Coyote Gulch in the Glen Canyon Recreation Area or a day canyoneering in the Upper Black Box of the San Rafael River simply can't be duplicated in the increasingly hectic and managed national parks. The ghost towns of Frisco and Gold Hill would disappear behind locked gates.

The spectacular vistas of Natural Bridges National Monument would become second home sites for rich visitors from Denver and Flagstaff. The paleontological and archaeological riches of Dinosaur and Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument would disappear into a patchwork of coal mines and gravel pits. The thrill of an Easter Weekend of off-roading at Little Sahara would be accessible only to those who could pay the admission charged by new private sector owners. Are we willing to accept these consequences?

*\*\*House Joint Resolution 3, House Bill 148*

## SpecialThanks

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 2012.





# OurLand

## Citizen Scientists Field Check Grazing Impacts to Protect Wildlife Needs by Jim Catlin

Toby, my intern, and I hop across a desert stream and begin a mile climb, meandering around large sagebrush in the heart of sage grouse habitat in northern Utah. Guided by our GPS, we are on our annual trip to collect field samples at one of our 17 field sites. We are collecting data to assess the condition of sage grouse habitat in the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) 25,000-acre Duck Creek Allotment. We began this field work, which I call citizen science, six years ago, in order to obtain data to support one of the most significant legal challenges in decades against the way BLM makes grazing decisions. We expect a ruling next year in our favor requiring that BLM make grazing decisions in deference to wildlife needs.

In pre-settlement times, the Duck Creek Allotment's sage steppe was dominated by native bunch grasses that topped sagebrush. Except for wildlife burrows, biological crusts covered the soil where abundant plants didn't. Streams lined by willows and cottonwoods meandered through beaver-created meadows. Duck Creek had ducks then.

The sage grouse habitat that Toby and I visited today is very different. Silt-laden streams, often deeply eroded, smother aquatic insects and frogs. The ducks are now gone from Duck Creek along with riparian trees and willows. Native grasses today cover only a small fraction of the surface, leaving large bare soil areas. The remaining plants, usually more grazing tolerant species, often grow on small earthen pedestals rising above eroded soils. The reduction of insects and cover from grass and other plants has led to a loss of food and cover for sage grouse, whose population statewide has been in decline for decades.

The Clinton Administration set ecological standards to shape grazing decisions on BLM lands nationally. One of the most significant accomplishments of Bruce Babbitt, Clinton's secretary of the interior, these rangeland health standards call for assessments of habitat conditions to meet measurable thresholds for soil stability, spring-stream function, wildlife habitat needs, and water quality. Importantly, federal regulations describing these standards required changes in grazing when standards were not met and grazing was determined to be a cause. This was a major improvement. BLM generated methods for staff to assess these new standards, which BLM tied to grazing permit renewals.

Somewhere along the way, something went terribly wrong. Based on agency reports, BLM has continued to give most allotments a clean bill of health, even when independent scientists witnessed continued range degradation and declines in wildlife populations. Each year in an online report, [Range Inventory and Monitoring Evaluation](#), BLM summarizes its rangeland health assessments in categories: Allotments meeting standards or making significant progress, allotments not meeting standards or showing progress but action has been taken that promises to help, allotments not meeting standards and lacking progress or needed action, and allotments with problems not caused by livestock grazing. In Utah with 1,019 allotments assessed, only nine allotments were deemed to need change in grazing management. This is only 1% of Utah's BLM assessed allotments. Current management in the other 1,010 Utah BLM allotments can continue as it is (see table).

Before I go deeper into what happened with the Duck Creek Allotment, disclosure is needed. Wild Utah Project along with Western Watersheds Project are the plaintiffs in a legal challenge before the Department of the Interior's Office of Hearings and Appeals. Grazing management varies between states and between BLM field offices within a state. The specific details for the Duck Creek case should not be applied without further field investigation to the California and Nevada deserts, for example. However, a



DAN MILLER

Cattle on the Duck Creek Allotment.

### CUMULATIVE RANGELAND HEALTH ASSESSMENT

BLM rangeland health assessment	Nationwide	Utah	Nevada	California
A. Rangelands meet all standards or are making significant progress towards meeting standards	11,603 78%	813 80%	296 64%	363 71%
B. Rangelands not meeting all standards or making significant progress towards meeting these standards but appropriate action has been taken to ensure future progress.	1,620 11%	132 13%	97 21%	68 13%
C. Rangelands not meeting standards, making significant progress, or have appropriate action taken to make significant progress.	335 2%	9 1%	17 4%	20 4%
D. Rangeland not meeting all standards due to causes other than livestock.	1,318 9%	65 6%	51 11%	62 12%
E. Number of allotments that have been assessed	14,876 100%	1,019 100%	461 100%	513 100%
F. Number of allotments that have not been assessed	6,487	389	333	175
G. Total number of allotments	21,363	1,408	794	688

Source: BLM 2010 Rangeland Inventory and Monitoring Evaluation, Table 7, [http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/rangeland\\_management/rangeland\\_inventory.htm](http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/rangeland_management/rangeland_inventory.htm)



ruling in our favor at Duck Creek may lead to changes in how BLM assesses rangeland health nationwide.

Seven years ago, I was invited by a local rancher to join a county collaboration to improve wildlife habitat and ranching in Rich County (which includes the Duck Creek allotment). I saw this as a good opportunity to discuss data that we'd jointly collect and to work together to design remedies to long standing range management problems. This collaboration of local ranchers, state and federal agencies, and conservationists chose the Duck Creek Allotment to demonstrate new methods to reach, what on paper, seemed to be good goals. My goal was to see significant progress on the ground each year based on monitoring methods we could commonly agree to. With these good intentions, the conservation community submitted a plan for our monitoring to the collaboration.

In its most basic form, range management requires knowing how much forage grows, how much the livestock and wildlife use [utilization], and how many livestock graze. The problem was that BLM normally used mainly visual estimates to get its information. We, the conservation community, chose to carry out quantitative field measurements of forage production and utilization to provide monitoring information not gathered in BLM range management. We used an agency-approved method (the paired plot method) in which 4X4X4 rebar-fence wire cages were placed along several streams and in upland areas. Many of our cage sites were near BLM utilization and trend monitoring locations. We took great care to ensure that our monitoring did not impact the area BLM used for monitoring. One of our goals was to compare the objective, verifiable field data that we collected with BLM's normal visual and subjective estimates of forage utilization.

For most allotments, BLM measures utilization using the "key species utilization method" which visually estimates the amount of forage taken by livestock and other wild grazers. BLM normally uses an important forage grass species to represent utilization for all other plants species. Using the key species utilization method, BLM compares the general appearance of un-grazed key species to grazed plants to visually estimate the percentage of biomass that was removed. This subjective method requires the observer to judge how many leaves and how big the plant would be ungrazed and then mentally guess the percentage that had been taken by grazers. For many reasons including a lack of enough protected and un-grazed plants, this subjective method is generally considered unreliable.

With over 1,700 field samples and five years of data, we had enough before and after data to make a robust critique. We concluded that, on average, BLM's subjective utilization monitoring underreported grazing use in upland areas by 33%. Based on our data, most of the upland areas were at or just above BLM's utilization standard of 50% for allowed grazing use with fewer cattle than permitted grazing. The situation in riparian areas was far worse. Utilization typically was 90% or more along the edge of streams.

Our monitoring program had one additional unique feature. We counted cows. Using crews on the ground and in the air, we surveyed the entire allotment, counted mature cattle and noted their location. Only half of one percent of the Duck Creek Allotment is tree covered and most of the area is gently rolling sagebrush, so it's easily visible from the air. Using methods BLM and others have used to count wild horses, we flew multiple passes, mapping the location for mature cattle. In the early years of our Duck Creek study, we found that, on average, fewer cattle grazed than were noted either in paid grazing bills or in rancher reports on grazing use (actual use reports). Puzzled by this finding, we have conducted similar surveys on nine other BLM allotments in Utah and Wyoming.

Where BLM was unaware of our surveys, we found that the number of cattle that grazed was roughly one quarter of the number reported by the rancher or paid to BLM in grazing fees.

This finding was unexpected and important. Later, as BLM became aware that we were conducting our surveys, additional cattle appeared in the Duck Creek Allotment. This false reporting of the amount of grazing makes meaningful public involvement nearly impossible and environmental analysis based on false grazing number also in error.

In 2008, BLM issued a new grazing permit for the Duck Creek Allotment that promised to solve grazing problems BLM had identified in riparian areas. BLM identified a number of stream segments and springs that did not meet rangeland health standards. To remedy this, BLM renewed the grazing permit at the same number of animals, but divided the allotment into four pastures with rotational grazing (changing each year, livestock spend one month in a different pasture) and developed upland water troughs. BLM argued that these remedies would lead to riparian areas making significant progress towards meeting standards.

In 2008, we (Wild Utah Project and Western Watersheds Project) filed an appeal on the allotment renewal decision before the Office of Hearings and Appeals. Using our field data, we argued that BLM's assessment of conditions fails to measure all the rangeland health standards, especially those for wildlife. Further, we argued that the remedies offered in the new grazing permit generally fail. When the final ruling is issued, probably in the fall of 2012, this will have been the longest and most involved appeal on record for a grazing case. We had twelve weeks of hearings during which I testified under oath for over 200 hours. The transcript of the hearings is over 50,000 pages and there are 20,000 pages of exhibits. I estimate that BLM has spent nearly a million dollars defending their Duck Creek decision. This case is important because the final ruling may require that BLM make wildlife habitat the primary focus in management of grazed lands.

Part of our monitoring was designed to test the effectiveness of BLM's 2008 remedies. With six years of study, we now have adequate data to assess the before and after differences of the four-pasture deferred grazing system. We also have data before and after the upland water troughs were installed. Our data show that heavy grazing above the utilization standard occurred before the four pasture system and after, and with livestock numbers even lower than those permitted. In spite of increased grazing use near the new upland water troughs, riparian areas are still receiving excessive grazing use and generally are still over 90% utilized. Bank trampling continues to dominate most stream banks.

This case demonstrates several difficulties that the conservation community has in participating in the rangeland management administered on public lands. By design, it is only when permits are renewed at ten year intervals that the BLM normally allows public comment.



A wire cage used to evaluate forage production

Additionally, it appears that the data and the analysis which the BLM uses in making renewal decisions are often seriously flawed. There must be accurate counts of animal grazing numbers, and agreed-upon methods for assessing rangeland utilization for correct decisions to be made. In the best of worlds, litigation of rangeland management might be replaced by meaningful involvement by all parties in decision making.

*Jim Catlin is Executive Director of the Wild Utah Project, former Sierra Club board member, and member of the Sierra Club Grazing Team. Special thanks for the substantial work of Dr. John Carter.*

## LearnMore

### Interested in finding out more on grazing?

1. Identify the grazing allotment that covers your area of interest. Go to BLM's geocommunicator [www.geocommunicator.gov/GeoComm/site\\_mapper/home](http://www.geocommunicator.gov/GeoComm/site_mapper/home)  
In Geocommunicator on the left select interactive maps -- rangeland. A map of the US will appear. Zoom in to select your area. On the left, select rangeland allotments to display them on the map.  
Select "identify" and click the cursor inside your allotment. The allotment name, number and field office that manages this allotment will appear in a new window.
2. For more information go to BLM's Rangeland Administration System (RAS) [www.blm.gov/ras](http://www.blm.gov/ras)
3. Contact BLM and ask to be an "interested public" for the allotment you have chosen. BLM has an excellent directory online for the field offices. Go to [www.blm.gov](http://www.blm.gov) and select "contact us - directory."
4. Don't be afraid to contact Sierra Club leaders who work on range management issues for help. Look for the Grazing team on the Sierra Club Activist Network.



# OurAir



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

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## Kennecott versus Clean Air

by Marion Klaus and Dan Mayhew



In a recent Tribune Op Ed, "Kennecott and inversions" by Kennecott Senior Environmental Engineer, Cassidy Kristensen, the author states that her job is to "implement solutions that help our community breathe cleaner air." Apparently those "solutions" involve spinning the facts rather than actually cleaning the air.

Ms. Kristensen depicts clean air advocates as making false claims that Rio Tinto/Kennecott (RTK) is the primary source of inversion pollution. We've never made that claim. She created a straw man to advance an argument that RTK isn't really much of a contributor to our air pollution problem. The issue isn't whether or not RTK is responsible for inversion pollution, it's about the huge levels of pollutants RTK puts into our air throughout the year, not just during inversions. It's also about the widespread heavy metal contamination of our air, water, and soil from RTK's historic and on going operations.

### Rio Tinto/Kennecott is by far the largest single source of air pollution along the Wasatch Front.

According to the data made public by the Utah Division of Air Quality (DAQ), RTK is by far the largest single source of air pollution along the Wasatch Front, emitting ten times more pollution over-all than the next largest industrial source, the Chevron Oil refinery. Inversions or no inversions, the raw data simply say that RTK is responsible for nearly one third of the overall pollution released into the air over Salt Lake County. RTK is now permitted to expand the mine an additional 32%, an expansion of 73% since 1994, which equates to an increase in annual mining from 150 million to 260 million tons. We challenge Ms. Kristensen to provide detail as to how mining an additional 110 million tons of rock per year will not result in increased air pollution.

RTK is one of 1600 national "high priority" pollution violators according to the EPA. They self-report 6,235 lbs of lead emissions a year from just the smelter smoke stack alone. The CDC has stated that no amount of lead is safe, and every bit of exposure permanently harms the brains of infants and children. An entire potpourri of toxic and deadly heavy metals--lead, cadmium, arsenic,

mercury--constantly descends upon Salt Lake County from RTK's operations. Heavy metals do not degrade in the environment, so our exposure to them becomes cumulatively worse every year.

RTK turns off their coal power plants during the winter, drawing power then from the Western grid, and they plan to convert the smallest three of the four coal burners to natural gas. But Ms. Kristensen neglected to mention that this plan comes with the proviso that RTK be allowed to run those new natural gas plants during the winter, i.e. during inversions. Although natural gas is cleaner than coal, it is a huge source of nitrogen oxides, precursors of particulate pollution and ozone. RTK is making the hard sell that this move will reduce their pollution. On average this is true, but unquestionably it will make our inversion pollution worse.

Despite partial conversion to natural gas, the expansion of mining operations, including expanded crusher and tailings impoundments, an additional plan to remine those tailings, and a new molybdenum plant all add up to more pollution. RTK's enormous environmental and public health footprint must be viewed in its totality, not piecemeal, as the company would prefer.

The same must be said about their economic impact. Although RTK pays substantial taxes and wages, their contribution to disease, health care costs and the suppression of "cleaner" economic development all take money out of your wallet. Studies of mining operations in other parts of the country, looking at both sides of the equation, suggest that RTK is actually an overall economic liability.

The Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club joined the Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment, Utah Moms for Clean Air and WildEarth Guardians as plaintiffs in suing RTK for violating the Clean Air Act. The reason is very simple. The increased mining activity that was green lighted by the DAQ, would increase RTK's overall NOx emissions 54% and their particulate emissions 66%--according to their own documents. This violates the Clean Air Act, a critical firewall in protecting the health of Utah citizens from air pollution and corporate abuse. Our intent going forward is to hold RTK accountable to the law.

*This column also appeared in the Salt Lake Tribune on 29 February 2012.*

## START A COMMUNITY SHARES/UTAH CAMPAIGN AT YOUR WORKPLACE

by Mark Clemens

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



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

Fall is usually the season to harvest pledges for workplace giving, and thank you to all of those who already give. If you don't have the chance to contribute to Community Shares at work and would like to, call me at 801-467-9297 or send me an e-mail at [mark.clemens@sierraclub.org](mailto:mark.clemens@sierraclub.org) or Lynne Brandley, the executive director of Community Shares at 801-486-9224 or [lbrandley@xmission.com](mailto:lbrandley@xmission.com).





## 100 Coal Power Plants Set for Retirement; Clean Energy Sees Record Growth

The Sierra Club marked a major milestone on Wednesday, February 29, 2012, in the transition to clean energy as the Fisk and Crawford facilities in Chicago became the 99th and 100th coal-fired plants to announce retirement since January, 2010. These iconic Midwest Gen-owned plants are two of nine coal-fired plants from Chicago to Pennsylvania that announced plans to retire today, including the Portland plant in Mt. Bethel, Pennsylvania.

The Sierra Club's goal is to retire one third of America's polluting coal plants by the year 2020 and replace that power with clean energy like wind and solar. Coal industry executives have called the Beyond Coal campaign "unrelenting and dramatic," with "hard hitting messages that put local officials in uncomfortable positions." A powerful grassroots movement has grown dramatically in recent years, made up of dozens of local and national groups and over a million people taking action around the country.

"We are winning as city by city, communities are standing up and saying no to coal," said Mary Anne Hitt, Director of the Beyond Coal campaign. "Now we must ensure that the transition from coal to clean energy happens in a way that protects workers and communities."

Pollution from coal-burning power plants contributes to a host of health problems, including respiratory illnesses

and asthma attacks, heart disease and cancer. Retirement of these one hundred plants is estimated to prevent more than 2,042 premature deaths, 3,299 heart attacks and 33,053 asthma attacks, according to the Clean Air Task Force.

"The Beyond Coal campaign deserves a big congratulations and thank you from everyone who values clean air," said Michael Bloomberg, philanthropist and mayor of New York City, whose Bloomberg Philanthropies recently donated \$50 million to the Beyond Coal effort. "We are clearly witnessing the end of our dependency on coal and the move toward a cleaner energy future."

In addition to securing retirement dates for coal plants nationwide and continuing to keep a watch on their progress to ensure they phase out on schedule, the Beyond Coal campaign has prevented 166 new coal plant proposals from being built. Preventing new coal plants and retiring existing coal plants has opened the space for clean energy. The U.S. solar and wind capacity is now over 50,000 megawatts, enough to power 11 million homes, and nearly 180,000 people are now employed by the solar and wind industries.

Many energy companies have decided not to invest in new coal plants due to economic reasons. A recent report by the Energy Information Agency, <http://sierraclub.typepad.com/compass/2012/01/new-report-coal-use->

[shrinks-while-clean-energy-expands.html](http://sierraclub.typepad.com/compass/2012/01/new-report-coal-use-), predicts that coal-fired electricity will continue to decline in coming years.

### SINCE THE BEYOND COAL CAMPAIGN BEGAN:

- Proposals for 166 new coal-fired power plants have been abandoned, opening market space for clean energy.
- The campaign has helped secure retirement dates for 106 existing plants, meaning nearly 13% of current coal generation is now slated for retirement.
- New mountaintop removal mining permits have slowed to a trickle.
- 19 colleges and universities have won fights to phase out coal plants on their campuses, thanks in large part to the hard hitting campaigns of Sierra Student Coalition.
- Hundreds of thousands of people have mobilized in support of strong clean air and water protections
- Sierra Club and its allies signed an agreement with the Tennessee Valley Authority to phase out coal plants, representing the biggest clean air agreement in the history of the Southeast.

"As America transitions away from coal, we must ensure that the communities, workers and families who have lived

with and worked with coal will have opportunities to help lead us into a clean energy future," said Beyond Coal campaign lead volunteer Verena Owen.

The Sierra Club's Beyond Coal campaign started as a three-person campaign in 2002 and has quickly grown into a powerhouse effort changing the way America produces energy. In 2001, the Bush administration met with coal industry representatives as part of a closed-door energy task force, to lay plans for the construction of 150 new coal-fired power plants. Had the industry prevailed in building these plants, the nation would have been locked into the use of dirty fuels for decades. The potential for entrepreneurs to develop wind, solar and other clean technologies would have been crippled.

The Utah Chapter initiated its own Beyond Coal Campaign starting in 2004. Since then, the chapter has defeated plans for a third 900 megawatt unit at the Intermountain Power Project near Delta, a 270 megawatt unit near Sigurd in Sevier County, a fourth 800 megawatt unit at the Hunter Power Plant near Castle Dale in Emery County and a 110 megawatt unit at the Bonanza Power Plant near Vernal.

*This article was adapted from a press release circulated on 29 February 2012.*



# UtahChapterOutings

## EXPLORE WITH US! APRIL–AUGUST 2012

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.

**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](http://www.utah.sierraclub.org/email_list.asp)



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

### April

**GCG Sat 4/7, Minesweeper to Amasa Back.** Go 1100' up an old mining road near Hurrah Pass to the west rim of Kane Springs Canyon. Head north among Wingate monoliths. Scramble down into a drainage. Link up with the Cliffhanger jeep trail and descend back into Kane Springs Canyon. Grand views. Car shuttle. Moderate scramble on slickrock descending into drainage. Meet at the Moab Information Center, Main and Center Streets, 9:30 AM. Leader: Tom Messenger, 435/259-1756.

**GCG Sat, 4/14, Highway Clean-Up.** It's time for our seventh highway clean-up of miles 170-120 of US-191 south of town. Meet at the Old Spanish Trail Arena at 9 AM to receive instructions, trash bags, and vests. Bring sturdy work gloves. Should be done by noon when those inclined can adjourn to Paradox Pizza for a dutch-treat lunch. Leader: Mike Stringham, 435/259-8579.


 **SLG, Tues, 4/17, Red Butte Living Room.** Join Dee for the warm season's first Tuesday night hike! This foothills hike (behind Research Park) is a perennial favorite with the Salt Lake Group for its outstanding views of the valley as the sun sets. Sit in your own sandstone recliner and enjoy the magnificent view. Bring a snack to share...Meet at 6:30 pm at the corner of Colorow Rd. and Tabby Lane. Colorow Road runs north-south, and is the highest (furthest east) road in Research Park. Tabby Lane runs east-west and joins the south side of the Fort Douglas Cemetery. Contact leader Dee Husebye at [dhusebye@genetics.utah.edu](mailto:dhusebye@genetics.utah.edu) or 801 718-1970 for more details.

**GCG Sat 4/21, Amasa Back and Pothole Arch.** Hike Jackson trail down river from where Kane Springs enters the Colorado. Connect with Pothole Arch trail to the Arch and return along Rock Stacker and Jackson's trail. Nine mile partial loop easy to moderate hike with about 600 ft total elevation gain. A few arches and petroglyphs to view along the way. Meet at the Moab Information Center, Main and Center, 9 AM. Leader: Mike Stringham, 435/259-8579.

**OG Sat, 4/21, Celebrating Earth Day – Annual River Clean Up.** We will meet at 9:00 at Big "D" Sports Park, on the Ogden River Parkway and break into groups with area assignments. Bring gloves and wear clothes that can get dirty. To participate, or to volunteer as a clean up area leader, call Rane Johnson, 801/985- 0158. [S]

**SLG, Sat, 4/21, John Muir Birthday Hike and Celebration.** Join us as we enjoy the beauty of nature and celebrate the founder of the Sierra Club. We will choose a


moderate hike up Millcreek Canyon. Meet at 9:00 AM at the Skyline High School parking lot (east of the school, 3251 E. Upland Drive (3760 S.) Afterwards; we can raise a toast to the visionary naturalist and conservationist. Contact leader Aaron Jones 801 467-3532 or [ajonesmvp@msn.com](mailto:ajonesmvp@msn.com).

 **SLG, Tues, 4/24 Mt. Olympus Hike (to the creek bed.)** This foothill hike up the Mt. Olympus trail offers a good 2 hour workout and wonderful views of the valley as we make our way through the spring flowers to the creek. Meet at 6:30 Meet at the Skyline High School parking lot, which is east of the school, 3251 E. Upland Drive (3760 S.) Contact leader Rebecca Wallace, 801 557-5261 or email at [rebeccawallace38@msn.com](mailto:rebeccawallace38@msn.com) for more details.

**GCG Thur 4/26 to Sat 4/28, Klingon Battle Cruiser Arch.** Two night car camp just outside a remote section of Canyonlands National Park in Davis Canyon. This will be a dry camp with no facilities, bring your own water. Hike partly on a seldom used trail, and partly cross country to see this very unusual quadruple arch at the top of a wall. The arch hike is 10 miles round trip, about 900 ft elevation gain. For those not wanting to do the long hike, there are other arches in the canyons nearby, plus fine rock art. High clearance, preferably 4WD (sand, steep banks and tippy areas) needed to get to the camping area about 10 miles from the highway. If you would like to join us for happy hour both Thursday and Friday, bring a camp chair and your own drinks, plus a couple of appetizers to share with the group. Meet at the Davis Canyon turnoff off highway 211 at 10 a.m. Thursday. South Six Shooter Peak 7.5 quad. Please register with the leader: Bonnie Crysedale, 435/259-0246.

**SLG, Sun, 4/29 Leader's choice outing to a foothills trail close to SLC.** Depending on snow conditions, we might try Big Mountain from the East Canyon pass or Little Mountain in upper Emigration Canyon. Please arrive at 9:45 to permit a prompt departure at 10:00 A.M. Call or email the leader, Fred Swanson for meeting place, [fbswan32@msn.com](mailto:fbswan32@msn.com) or 801 588-0361.

### May


 **SLG Tues, 5/1 Jack's Mountain.** This foothills hike offers another great workout up five successive hills to a splendid overlook of the valley. Wildflowers at this time of year will be delightful. Meet at the Parley's Way (former K-Mart) parking lot, to the southeast, near the Bombay House Restaurant, 2705 Parleys Way. From Parleys Way, turn north into the parking lot. Contact leader Dee Husebye

email [dhusebye@genetics.utah.edu](mailto:dhusebye@genetics.utah.edu) or phone 801 718-1970 if needed for more details.

**GCG Sat 5/5, Canyon Rims Descent.** We will hike above the beautiful tributaries of the Hart's Draw canyon system, and then descend almost into Hart's Draw, ending at a highly desirable natural feature. (Some people may be glad to have a swimsuit along.) Trailhead is reached by driving 10 miles south of La Sal Junction on Highway 191 and then 8 miles west. The last mile is unpaved and requires high clearance. Moderate 4 hour hike of about 5 miles round trip with about 800 ft descent and minimal exposure. Meet at the Moab Information Center, Main and Center at 9 AM or Bridger Jack Rd. at Highway 191 at 9:20 AM. Hike leader: Albey Reiner, 435/260-8708.

**OG Sun, 5/6, Dyer's Woad Eradication.** Protect our native plants by pulling these noxious weeds in Ogden's foothills. We'll start at 9 am and finish by noon. Call leader Dan Schroeder, 801-393-4603, for meeting location and to confirm the date which may change if spring comes late this year. [S]

**SLG, Sun, 5/6 SL Outings Planning Meeting Potluck.** Fred's house, 5:30 pm. Outings Leaders (and potential leaders!) are welcome to join us for a potluck and planning meeting for the next seasons outings (July, August, September, 2012). Please contact Rebecca Wallace at [rebeccawallace38@msn.com](mailto:rebeccawallace38@msn.com) for meeting details, and Fred at [fbswan32@msn.com](mailto:fbswan32@msn.com) or 801 588-0361 for directions to the meeting.

 **SLG Tues, 5/8 Church Fork to Grandeur Pass.** This trail up the south facing slope of Millcreek Canyon to the ridgeline is strenuous but well worthwhile for the sweeping vistas and spring wildflowers. Meet at 6:00 (note the earlier meeting time) at the Skyline High School parking lot (east of the school, 3251 E. Upland Drive (3760 S.) in SLC. Contact leader Aaron Jones 801-467-3532 or [ajonesmvp@msn.com](mailto:ajonesmvp@msn.com) for more information.

**GCG Sat, 5/12, Rainbow Rocks (Rim).** Start from a spur on the Dubinky Wells road and head west to the colorfully-banded rim of the mesa for views of Redwall Mesa, the intervening white sandstone complex, and broad vistas of more distant open high-desert meadows and red and white sandstone monoliths. A northern outlier of The Needles is an easy scramble for those so inclined. About 5 miles with a 200' elevation range. Meet at the Moab Information Center, Main and Center Streets, 9 AM. Leader: Mike Binyon, 435/259-1633.



### SLG, Tues, 5/15 Little Twin Peaks.

This favorite hike is 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 to the north. There are some short steep grades, so be prepared for moderate exertion, but the company and vistas are well worth the effort. Meeting place is the parking circle at the end of Terraces Blvd in the upper avenue at 6:30 pm. (Terraces Blvd intersects 11<sup>th</sup> Ave across the street from the northwest corner of the SL Cemetery.) Contact Jim Paull at 801 580-9079 for more information.

**GCG Sat 5/19, Hunter-Pritchett Loop.** Starting at Kane Springs Campground, hike on a good but seldom used bike trail that skirts above Hunter Canyon on the east. There is a good view of Hunter arch from above along the trail. In about 5+ miles connect with the Behind the Rocks and Pritchett Canyon road. We'll visit nearby Pritchett Arch. Then walk down Pritchett Canyon on the Jeep road. Several other arches are visible on the hike and some Fremont Indian petroglyphs and ruins can also be seen. A little more than eleven mile loop hike. Easy to moderate hike with a 700 ft to 800 ft elevation gain. Meet at the Moab Information Center, Main and Center, 8 AM. Leader: Mike Stringham, 435/259-8579.

**OG Sat, 5/19, Hidden Valley Hike.** The path to Hidden Valley uses the Indian Trail for approximately one-half mile. At this point a trail leads up into the hills and back to the south, and can easily be missed so watch for words painted on rocks on the uphill side of the trail. This is the beginning of the Hidden Valley Trail. 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. Call Dan H at 801-479-1108.



### SLG Tues, 5/22, Little Cottonwood Creek Trail.

This wooded streamside trail begins at the mouth of the canyon, heading up Little Cottonwood Canyon at a gentle uphill grade. The soaring granite cliffs rise around us as we hike along the creek among the maples and oaks, making this a pleasant respite from the city. Meet at 6:30 pm at the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon at the Park and Ride lot, 4323 E. Little Cottonwood Canon Rd (on the north side of the intersection of Little Cottonwood Canyon Rd. and Quarry Rd at the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon. Call Jim Paull for questions, 801 580-9079.

**SLG Sat, 5/26 to 5/28 (Memorial Day weekend) Jones Hole Car Camping Trip.** Jones Hole is a side canyon off the Green



River near the Vernal-Flaming Gorge area of northeastern Utah. The area abounds in petroglyphs and rock houses of the long-ago Fremont Indians. We will likely camp at Steinaker State Park, which has the added pleasure of a lake and hot showers! E-mail Richard Passoth at repassoth@gmail.com or call at 801 364-3387 if interested.



#### SLG Tues, 5/29, Salt Lake

**Overlook.** The hike begins at the Desolation Trail Head in Millcreek Canyon. The trail winds through dense pine and quaking aspen stands and leads to a magnificent view of the Salt Lake Valley. The slope is moderately steep but expect a relaxed pace to enjoy the ambiance of the forest. Millcreek Canyon is a fee area so bring cash (1 or 2 dollars) to share the user fee with the designated driver. Meeting place is the Skyline High parking lot at 6:30 PM. Contact Ken 414-6067 kce57@q.com for more information.

#### June



#### SLG Tues, 6/5, Killyon Canyon.

This side drainage off Emigration Canyon follows a small creek. There is plenty of shade in the canyon and you might hear song birds along the trail. Meet at 6:30 pm at the "recycling dropoff" parking lot at the intersection of Crestview Drive and Sunnyside Avenue, directly east of the Hogle Zoo. This is on the south side of Sunnyside Ave where you turn off for the dog park. Contact leader Richard at repassoth@gmail.com or call 801 364-3387 for more details.

#### GCG Fri 6/8 to Sun 6/10, Book Cliffs

**Campout.** Primitive camping and hiking to explore terrain on the remote Book Cliffs. Camping offers no facilities and hiking will be without benefit of trails. High clearance vehicles recommended. Camp Friday evening until Sunday afternoon. Hike Saturday and Sunday. Still in development; more details later.



#### SLG, Tues, 6/12, Little Mountain.

Tuesday evening hike on the ridge trail towards Little Mountain at the head of Emigration Canyon. Meet at the "recycling dropoff" parking lot at the intersection of Crestview Drive and Sunnyside Avenue, directly east of the Hogle Zoo. This is on the south side of Sunnyside Ave. where you turn off for the dog park. Leader is Fred Swanson. Please arrive at 6:15 p.m. for a prompt 6:30 departure.

#### GCG Sat 6/16, Fisher Mesa and Dinosaur

**Tracks.** 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 the Moab Information Center, Main and Center Streets, 8 AM. Leader: Tom Messenger, 435/259-1756.

#### SLG Sun, 6/17, Lake Blanche Dayhike.

Lakes Blanche, Lillian and Florence are first of a trio of beautiful small lakes nestled in a cirque under the rugged majesty of Sundial Peak. The lakes offer one of the most scenic destinations among the hundreds of miles of hiking trails threading through the Wasatch Mountains. Outcroppings of

colorful smooth rock and abundant wild flowers soften the jagged alpine landscape and offer pleasant distraction from the steep hike to the lakes. Packing at least a liter of water (or water filtering gear) and ample snacks for lunch is recommended along with footwear appropriate for a hike over rocky terrain. Although not necessary, RSVP would be good prior to day of hike. Meeting place is the Big Cottonwood Canyon Park & Ride (at the mouth of the canyon) at 10:00 am. Contact Ken at 801/414-6067 kce57@q.com for more information about the hike.



#### SLG, Tues, 6/19, Mill B North Fork.

This trail exemplifies the scenic diversity of hiking trails winding through the Mt. Olympus Wilderness area in Big Cottonwood Canyon. Lush pine and oak stands, spell binding views, and camaraderie amongst hikers offer a relief from workday stress and reprieve from the harsh urban environs. Meeting place is the Big Cottonwood Park and Ride Lot (at the mouth of the canyon) at 6:30 pm. Contact Ken at 801/414-6067 kce57@q.com if needed for more info.



#### SLG, Tues, 6/26, Mormon Trail, Little Dell (off Parleys Canyon).

The Mormon Trail (also part of the Pony Express Trail) takes us through lovely woods and meadows of Little Dell. It is not unusual to see moose in this area. Meet at 6:30 at the Parleys Way (former K-Mart) parking lot at 2705 Parleys Way, southeast corner, east of the construction zone, near the Bombay House Restaurant. Contact leader Rebecca at rebeccawallace38@msn.com or call 801/557-5261 for more details.

**GCG Sat 6/30, Moonlight Meadow.** Drive the Geysers Pass road to the Moonlight Meadow trailhead (10530') at the pass. Hike down the meadow among (hopefully) the wildflowers with views of Haystack Mountain, the central La Sals and the canyon country to the west to Clark Lake (9380'; 2&frac12; miles). The hike can be abbreviated by returning to the Geysers Pass road (10000') on the Clark Lake trail (1&frac14; miles for 3&frac34; total, requires a short car shuttle). From Clark Lake, Oowah Lake (8800') is another mile. (Return from

here to the Moonlight Meadow trailhead makes a 7-mile hike; return to the road via the Clark Lake trail is 5&frac34; total.) Can return to Clark Lake over Boren Mesa (9400') 1&frac12; miles making return to the trailhead 7&frac12; miles or the Clark Lake trail 6&frac14; miles. Route is entirely on formal forest service trails with a couple of steep parts not requiring the use of hands. Meet at the Moab Information Center, Main and Center Streets, at 8 AM. Leader: Jock Hovey, 435/260-2033.

#### OG - Sat, 6/30, Bear Hollow Hike.

This is located near Causey Dam and Camp Kiesel. It's about 7-8 miles round-trip, approximately 800 feet of elevation gain, moderate, and will take about 4 hours. This trail is in a wooded area with beautiful rock formations, and moose, elk, and deer in the area. Call joanie at 801-399-0034.

#### July

#### OG, Wed, 7/4, Mollen's Hollow Overlook

**Hike.** This fun family hike has become an Independence Day tradition: Six miles roundtrip, atop a rolling plateau in the cool and remote Monte Cristo Range. Scenic vistas and spectacular wildflowers are guaranteed. Bring a snack, water and insect repellent. Call Dan S at 801/393-4603.

**OG, Sat, 7/14 Skyline Trail.** Start at the North Ogden Divide Trailhead: approx 9 miles. This trail has steep switchbacks, both on its north and south ends. But these are worth your trouble because the trail's main length follows the relatively easy ridgeline or "skyline" running from North Ogden Divide to Ogden Canyon. This trail is popular with hikers, bikers, and equestrians. Bring lunch and water. Call joanie 801-399-0034.

#### OG Sat 7/28, Dog Lake Loop in Big

**Cottonwood Canyon.** 6 miles, 3.5 hours, 1,700 feet of elevation gain, moderate. This hike passes through groves of aspen, spruce and fir trees. Part of the hike is in Mount Olympus Wilderness Area. It is not uncommon to see moose in the area. The lake is located in a forested basin. Dogs are not allowed on this trail. Call Larry 801 690 4335 for more information.

#### August

#### OG Fri, 8/3, Full Moon Hike Ogden

**Overlook.** The Ogden Canyon Overlook trail is a very popular trip because of the wonderful views at the end, into Cold Water Canyon and Ogden Canyon. On a full moon night, a view of the stars on the east side of Ogden. About 5 miles rt. Bring a flashlight/head lamp and water. Call joanie 801-399-0034 for meeting time and place.

#### OG Sat, 8/18 Notch Peak Tail in the Uinta

**Mountains.** 8 miles, 4 hours, most the trail is above 10,000 feet, (flatlanders be warned), moderate. This hike is very scenic with outstanding views of numerous small lakes and exquisite Bald mountain to the east and Trial peak to the west. We should see many wild flowers. Call Larry at 801 690 4335 for more details.

#### September

#### OG Sat, 9/15 Sardine Peak in the Snow

**Basin area.** 8 mile loop, 4 hours, about 800 feet of elevation gain, moderate. We will hike to the top of Sardine Peak on a recently cut trail where we will get stealar views of Ogden Canyon and Pineview Dam. The trail winds through stands of evergreens, aspen and maple trees. Perhaps we will see some wild turkeys. Call Larry at 801 690 4335 for more information.

#### OG Sat, 9/29 Wellsville Mountains

**Dayhike The Deep Canyon Trail ascends rapidly and steadily for about three miles to the divide of the Wellsville Mountains at approximately 8,100 feet.** The total elevation gain nears 3,000 feet. Some past hikers have dubbed the Wellsville's the steepest range on earth, and new hikers will soon become believers. This range reportedly has more raptors winging by during migratory season than any other in America. Call joanie at 801/399-0034.



#### TUESDAY NIGHT HIKES

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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.



# Out&About

## Utah Chapter Accomplishments

With your help and contributions, the Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club made significant progress in 2011. Together, we

- Coordinated with the national Resilient Habitat campaign to fight expansion of the Alton coal strip mine from expanding onto BLM lands next to Bryce National Park;
- Initiated a volunteer-led Utah Water Sentinels Program to monitor runoff from the Alton mine and protect surface water in Kane County—we've trained 24 volunteers so far;
- Laid the groundwork for increased protections and a new campaign for the area surrounding Canyonlands National Park that is threatened by Oil Shale and Tar Sands development, oil and gas exploration and ORVs;
- Provided foundational support for House Bill 70 to form a Legislative Taskforce to find Utah solutions for Utah's Air Quality issues;
- Challenged the expansion of Rio Tinto's/Kennecott Utah Copper Bingham Canyon mine as a violation of the Clean Air Act;
- Fought against multiple water grabs including the Las Vegas proposal to drain water from Utah's West Desert aquifer that would lower the water table affecting Fish Springs Wildlife Refuge, area ranches, and magnify air quality issues along the Wasatch Front and the proposal to pump water from Flaming Gorge Reservoir to Colorado's Front Range;
- Fought against the transfer of water rights for the proposed Blue Castle Nuclear power plant on the Green River;
- Joined other progressive organizations to form Utah Votes, an affiliate of America Votes, to elect more progressive state and local candidates in targeted races;
- Conducted a successful leadership accountability campaign in US House District 1 that resulted in a 10-point swing in our direction in the first six months of the campaign;
- Overhauled our public communications with Convio, a web-based platform for communication with our members, and updated our Facebook page;
- Lobbied at both federal and state levels for increased protection and stewardship of public lands;
- Organized the best state-wide program of outings and hikes; and
- The chapter's Ogden Group settled a precedent-setting lawsuit in a way that ensures better public access to government information.

With your help, 2012 will be a landmark year for the Utah Chapter and Utah's environment. You can make a contribution on-line securely at [utah.sierraclub.org/join\\_volunteer.asp](http://utah.sierraclub.org/join_volunteer.asp)

## 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:

### SALT LAKE GROUP ACTIVISTS

The Salt Lake Group exists to promote the club's conservation, political and outings and social programs in Salt Lake and southern Davis County. The Salt Lake Group includes the largest single number of members in the chapter. We're looking for volunteers interested in supporting the full range of group activities but particularly the conservation and social functions. Responsibilities could include representing group concerns before city and county planning authorities and helping to plan group social functions. If you're interested, please contact Marion. [marionklaus@comcast.net](mailto:marionklaus@comcast.net).

### 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. Volunteers can also help co-ordinate efforts with other progressive groups working on election campaigns. 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. If you're interested in joining the team, please send a message to [utah.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:utah.chapter@sierraclub.org) or call Mark at 801/467-9297.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE,  
VOLUNTEER TODAY!



## Join Us!

### SIERRA CLUB BOOK CLUB

Keep current on environmental issues and meet new friends with the Sierra Club book club. Check out the forthcoming roster below. The location is the Barnes & Noble in Sugarhouse (1104 East 2100 South Salt Lake City, UT 84106) in the Starbucks on the first floor. Everyone is welcome.

#### April 26 (Thu), 6:30

*Deep Survival: Who Lives, Who Dies, and Why*  
by Laurence Gonzales  
discussion leader: Chris

#### June 7 (Thu), 6:30

*Crooked Creek*  
by Maximilian Werner  
discussion leader: Max (author)

#### September (date TBA), 6:30

[book title TBA]  
by Henry David Thoreau  
discussion leader: Aaron

#### November (date TBA), 6:30

*Ethics and the Environment: An Introduction*  
by Dale Jamieson  
discussion leader: Chris L

## We're moving!



After roughly twenty years in Sugarhouse, the joint chapter and national Sierra Club office has made a cross-town move to Salt Lake City's Warehouse District. As of Monday, 2 April 2012, we'll be open for business—although still up to our neck in boxes and packing material—at the new address below.

**UTAH CHAPTER, SIERRA CLUB**  
**824 S 400 W, STE B112**  
**SALT LAKE CITY UT 84101**

Our new digs, Artspace Commons, are functional, handicap-accessible, LEED Gold certified and partially solar powered. We'll also be neighbors with a number of other environmental advocacy and action groups. As always, please feel free to drop by between 9:30 am and 5:30 pm to pick up copies of the newsletter, fix a membership problem, pose a question or volunteer.

ADVERTISE IN THE UTAH SIERRAN AND REACH 4,500 HOUSEHOLDS IN UTAH! CALL (801)467-9297 FOR OUR RATE CARD, OR EMAIL [UTAH.CHAPTER@SIERRACLUB.ORG](mailto:UTAH.CHAPTER@SIERRACLUB.ORG).