

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

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# Utah Sierran



utah.sierraclub.org

Winter 2012 Vol. 45 No. 1

## WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

**How can a simple change** in ammunition protect a flagship species? See the full story on page 4.

**The central Wasatch Range** is under attack as never before. Get the scoop on page 7.

**Want to make a difference** in your spare time? Check out the opportunities in our Volunteer Corner on page 8.

## Air Pollution in Salt Lake County—the History

by Royal Delegge, PhD



Air quality in Salt Lake County is a mixed picture.

As another winter season approaches, the residents of Salt Lake County and the Wasatch Front embark on the cold and shorter days and either revel in or endure what the season offers. The winter season also brings a renewed focus on the acute air pollution events that often accompany this time of year. Local public health officials enter the season knowing it is a potential benchmark that forms lasting impressions of the air quality for the general public. Headlines that present Salt Lake County as having the worst air in the nation remain branded into our psyche long after the pollution conditions returned to the healthful levels that are the norm for most of the year.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Historically, the residents of the Salt Lake Valley were mindful of the quality of the air in the late nineteenth century when the development of mining and other industries produced undesirable impacts on human health and quality of life. The topography of the Salt Lake Valley region and certain weather conditions allowed for the accumulation and containment of the emissions generated

## As early as 1890, anti-pollution regulations were in place, beginning with an ordinance to regulate the burning of soft coal.

then as now. As early as 1890, anti-pollution regulations were in place, beginning with an ordinance to regulate the burning of soft coal. The city's commission hired its first smoke inspector in 1915 to measure the density of smoke clouds and to keep watch over industrial polluters. Salt Lake's urbanized growth was being seen as both beneficial and burdensome to its community.

In 1919, a cooperative study by Salt Lake City, the University of Utah, and the U.S. Bureau of Mines was conducted to research and offer solutions to the problem. By 1922, the air had improved somewhat through education, demonstration, and supervision of industrial and railroad operations. By 1926, residential furnaces were blamed for 75% of the smoke. Residents of that period have recalled the "two-shirt days" when the business men of Salt Lake would take an extra shirt to work to change into should the first one become soiled from the coal soot. From this time on, air pollution became a primary concern due to the use of fossil fuels to heat homes, run factories, and power vehicles.

Advances in furnace and stove technology helped to improve air quality until after World War II when automobiles became one of the primary polluters. Starting in the 1960s, automakers would begin efforts to reduce harmful emissions and states would begin to create emission laws. California was the first in 1960. In 1965, the Motor Vehicle Air Pollution Act created national standards to reduce auto emissions and the Air Quality Act gave the government the authority to set clean-air standards for all the states. The catalytic converter became a new standard feature in cars in 1975.

In 1970 congress established the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to set national standards for pollution control and in that same year passed the Clean Air Act (CAA) which is the comprehensive federal law that regulates air emissions from stationary and mobile sources. Among other things, this law authorizes EPA to establish

National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) to protect public health and public welfare and to regulate emissions of hazardous air pollutants.

In 1976 the Utah Legislature passed the Utah Air Conservation Act and organized a committee with the legal responsibility to monitor and control air pollution in the state. Frequent inspections, and in some cases constant monitoring, are carried out to insure compliance with state regulations and emission restrictions. In the early eighties, the Utah Legislature required counties that exceeded the air quality standards to have an inspection and maintenance program (I/M). The Salt Lake City-County Board of Health had the responsibility for developing an I/M program for Salt Lake County which was implemented April 1, 1984.

Our history addressing the societal and health impacts of air pollution demonstrates our capacity and ability to act on public health problems even when met with the resistance that is inherent in the complexities of a growing community and economy. The combination of sound science, public policy, progressive innovation has succeeded in a reduction of air pollution during a century of substantial growth. Science, technology, and the general population become more sophisticated in identifying the environmental consequences of our developing communities and economies and acting on them.

Now and in the future, public and environmental health officials will need to keep working the problem of air pollution by redefining their regulatory role by fully assessing the potential for regulation to confine or to prod technological and behavioral innovation. They will need to expand their role into community planning and development. The population of Salt Lake County is expected to grow by 50% over the next 30 years. Even to maintain current emissions levels, every person and every entity will need to make substantial changes to our use of energy for our homes, vehicles, and businesses. Our history demonstrates that it is achievable.

*Delegge is the environmental health director of the Salt Lake Valley Health Department.*

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### OurMission

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

Protect and promote Utah's outdoors and natural landscapes;

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

Support the development of sustainable renewable energy;

For the benefit of present and future generations.



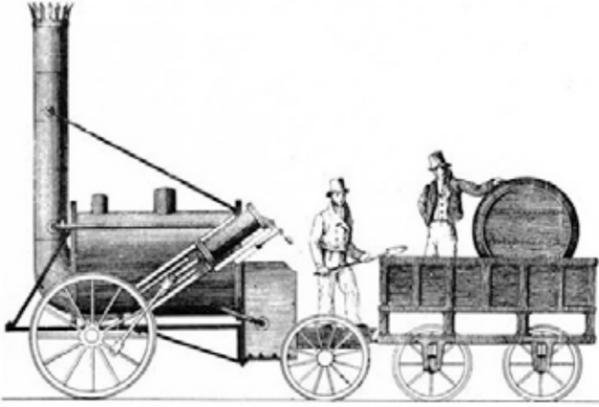
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# OnCoal

## Getting Past The Age Of Steam

by Mark Clemens



The Utah legislature's Public Utilities and Technology Interim Committee celebrated the 18<sup>th</sup> century at its most recent meeting on Wednesday, 19 October 2011. No, the representatives and senators weren't reading the poetry of Alexander Pope, nor the novels of Voltaire. They weren't wearing wigs and lace jabots or dancing minuets. They were, however, toasting and attempting to prolong the Age of Steam.

Scottish inventor James Watt created a design before the American Revolution (1776) that resulted in the first widely successful coal-fired steam engines. The steam engines built by Watt and many others provided the power that ran the Industrial Revolution and fundamentally changed transportation and industry. Without their pioneering work, the age of electricity would perhaps never have dawned.

Fossil fuels, especially coal, have powered boilers and generated steam for over two hundred years. But coal's day is over. Not only is the entire coal cycle destructive, from mountain top removal mining that destroys landscapes in Appalachia, through burning coal with its dangerous emissions, to the bulky and toxic coal combustion wastes that result, but it's not the cheapest form of electricity any longer.

Older coal plants built with no emissions controls might still be able to produce power as cheap as \$.025 per kilowatt hour, but new coal plants produce power at a price that's virtually on par with wind power at between \$.04 and \$.06 per kilowatt hour.

When the full impact of environmental and public health costs—so-called externalities—are factored in, the true cost of coal soars out of sight. According to a 2011 study led by Dr Paul Epstein, associate director of the Center for Health and the Global Environment at Harvard Medical School, the full costs imposed by the coal production cycle could range from \$.09 to as much as \$.2689 per kilowatt hour. (This is in addition to the internal costs of generation billed by the utility to customers.)

Several legislators spoke enthusiastically about coal, but the greatest champion was Rep Chris Herrod (R-Provo). Help us move Utah towards a cleaner and more prosperous energy future by sending a personalized message to [cherrod@utah.gov](mailto:cherrod@utah.gov). You can start with model letter found at [http://www.utah.sierraclub.org/Age\\_of\\_Steam.asp](http://www.utah.sierraclub.org/Age_of_Steam.asp). Please remember that a polite message will change minds better than the most amazing flaming.

### MORE ABOUT THE MEETING

The full recording of the meeting can be heard on the legislature's website, <http://le.utah.gov/asp/interim/Commit.asp?Year=2011&Com=INTPUT>. The transcript of the most telling exchange, with my comments, is below. It occurs several minutes into the meeting. The exchange is between Rep Herrod and Brent Gale, senior vice president, Mid American Energy, the parent company of Rocky Mountain Power.

### REP CHRIS HERROD

*Rocky Mountain Power has given up on trying to even get a coal plant. It's just not—when you do a cost/benefit analysis—that's not realistic. And yet coal is by far cheaper than anything else. So, are the cap rates that you're receiving on your investment in Utah any more than in any other state—I've actually heard that we're less than other states in the amount of return on investment?*

### BRENT GALE, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, MID AMERICAN ENERGY

*The return on equity in Utah is comparable to what we receive in other states.*

Utah gets between 75% to 85% of its electricity from coal. The major plants are Bonanza, Carbon, Hunter, Huntington, and IPP. There are three or four additional minor plants. A prudent perspective on this heavy dependence might be that diversification yields benefits.

### HERROD

*But the only way to keep this trend from going up is instead of building a natural gas plant or a renewable plant, would be to bring a new coal power plant on line, is that correct?*

In a few hundred words, Gale does his best below to explain to Herrod that coal is neither the lowest cost nor the lowest risk source of energy. He hits both demand management and generation choices.

### GALE

*...Let me just explain briefly what we are doing. Because we do have growth, primarily in Wyoming and Utah, we do have to continue to add plant, generating plant, and maintain the plant that we do. We, through a process called integrated resource planning, which Kelly [Francone] mentioned, discuss with all of our states how we propose to meet the load. And that includes, as she indicated, energy efficiency, which I might add when you talk about energy efficiency, most people look at the utility.*

*And we do offer programs for energy efficiency, and we're pleased to do that. But in the end it's us as customers that are responsible for the energy efficiency. That's really what we're talking about. And so we encourage that.*

*We do have programs to reduce demand where we interrupt air conditioners. Both the house and the senate passed a bill a couple of years ago that would have helped, but the governor [Herbert] vetoed that one. But that would have allowed more interruption of the air conditioners which reduces load which reduces our current requirements.*

*Then we look at what our available supply options are. Currently we don't believe that it would be feasible to meet the state requirements—and each state requires that we demonstrate that the resources we select are the least cost, adjusted for risk.*

*And at this point we really can't definitively quantify what the risks associated with a new coal plant is. As a result we believe certainly not all six of our states would approve a new coal plant. So as we look at our options, our options today are natural gas plants and wind. Wind is the most cost effective of the renewables with the federal production tax credit, which is about two cents per kilowatt hour. That federal production tax credit may lapse at the end of this year. That will significantly change the economics.*

*Then we make our decisions on that blend of natural gas and renewables—wind—on the basis of what we think comes up with the least cost for our customers adjusted for risk. And that's what we present and propose for in the integrated resource plan.*

*And then ultimately we make a decision what we're going to actually add and then the regulators review that in a rate case. As Kelly indicated, the integrated resource plans—currently in all of our states commissions do not approve them. They simply acknowledge that we made the filing and went through the process. Hopefully that's helpful, but that's why we're not proposing a coal plant.*

### HERROD

*Is it state regulation, or is it federal regulation that's preventing it? Because the fact of the matter is that with energy costs those that bear the brunt of increases are the poor and the middle class. As one that often gets accused of not caring about the poor or the middle class, when we put these regulations out that specifically hurt that sector that they bear the brunt of it. I know you want to get off the hook, but what's required for a coal plant? What would the state need to do so we could keep the cheapest energy possible...and get a coal plant in the state?*

One of the points Gale doesn't make is that both natural gas and renewables are more scalable and generally faster to build than coal. Smaller, scalable facilities that tie up less capital are very attractive.

### GALE

*The key drivers here in terms of a coal plant are the uncertainty associated with both federal and state regulation of emissions from a coal plant.*

*You hear a lot about carbon, and certainly that's one of them. As you know from your involvement currently in what the EPA's doing. There are proposed restrictions on coal ash and coal ash disposal. There are investments that we're making to reduce mercury and SOx and NOx. And still some uncertainty about the dates on those. All of those have an impact on what a coal unit actually costs in comparison to renewables and natural gas. That uncertainty is what makes it difficult or frankly—in fact impossible for us at this point to quantify exactly what the cost is of a coal plant.*

*Now we can quantify the costs of putting environmental controls on our coal plants. We have done that. We have twenty-six coal plants. And for all of those coal plants we are adding some environmental controls. For twenty-two of them we're adding the full suite of environmental controls for SOx, NOx and mercury to keep those plants operating. Because it is lower cost as we have determined it, than to retire those plants and replace them with either gas or renewable plants.*

*So that's why we are making those environmental investments. We can quantify the costs of the mercury, SOx and NOx controls, and that's about 2.7 billion dollars. Over the past couple of years we've already spent 1.3 of that 2.7.*

Herrod makes a final pitch to establish himself as the most valiant advocate of coal on the committee.

### HERROD

*We may not be able to help with the federal side, but please let me know the state uncertainty that you have.*



# 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

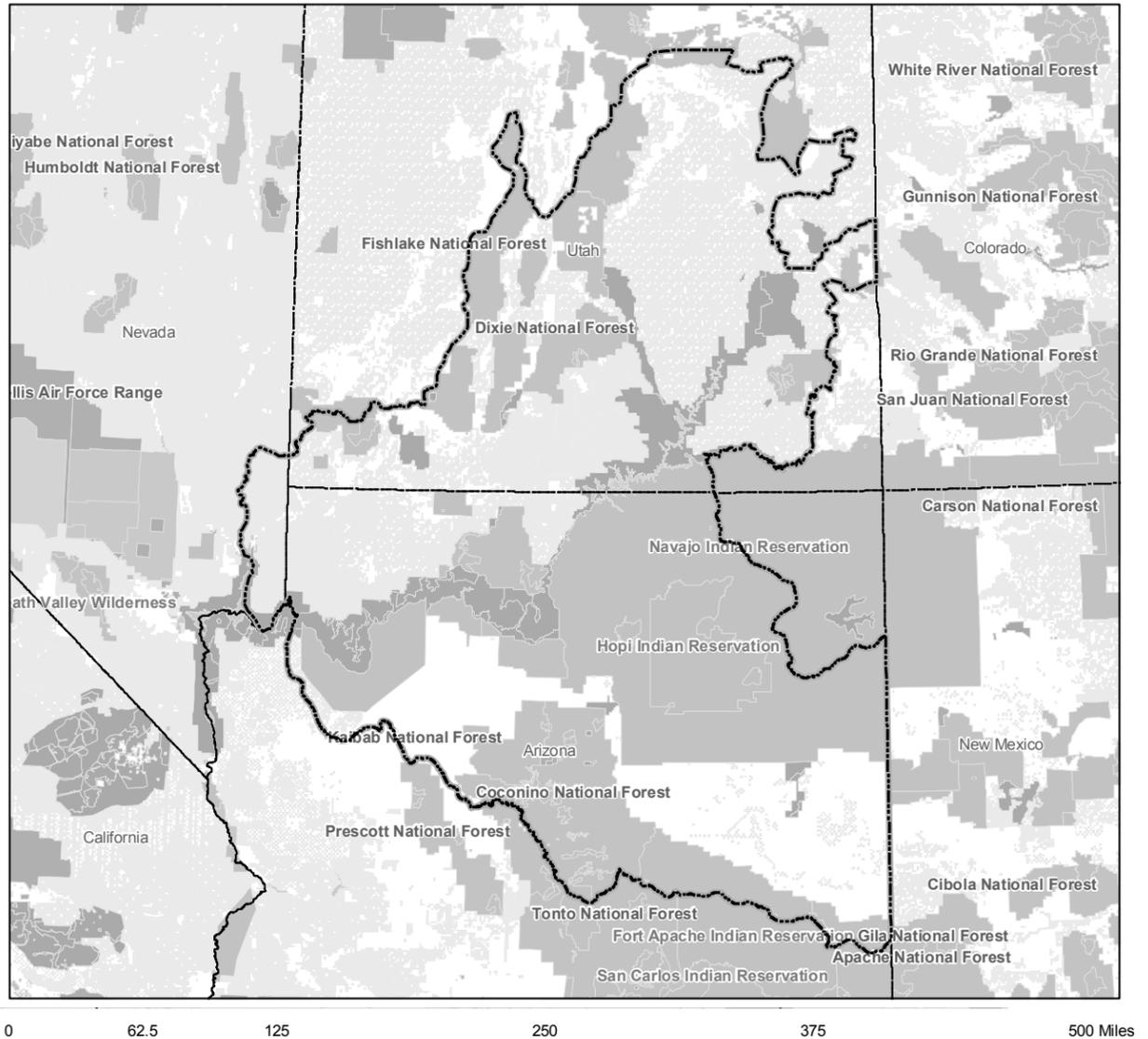
SIERRA CLUB WORKING MAP  
Draft August 2010



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...)

## Get the Lead Out

by Sandy Bahr, Kim Crumbo and 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.

The California Condor, *Gymnogyps californianus*, is the largest bird in North America. It can have a wingspan of 9.5 feet, body length of 4-5 feet, and weigh up to 26 pounds. They can cover long distances in a very short time flying 50 miles per hour when soaring. They sometimes travel up to 200 miles in a day searching for food.

### There are no nesting condors in Utah yet, but observers have seen evidence of nest searching behavior.

In the wild, condors become sexually mature between 6-7 years, are monogamous, and mate for life. The pair selects their nest together, which is usually in an inaccessible cave or overhang on an expansive cliff. They lay just one egg directly on the ground, with both parents taking care of the egg and the hatchling for over a year.

These amazing birds are long lived and can reach an age of 60 years. The condor is critically endangered, one of the rarest birds in the world, and is the mascot for the Sierra Club's Resilient Habitat Campaign in the Greater Grand Canyon – Colorado Plateau.

Condors once numbered in the thousands across North America including Utah. Hunting, poaching, lead poisoning, power line accidents, and habitat loss drove the species to near extinction. By 1982, only twenty-two condors remained alive. They were captured in California and a breeding program started. Through captive breeding, release, radio-tracking, and adaptive management, real progress toward recovery is being made.

With the goal of recovering this magnificent species, a southwestern condor reintroduction program began in 1996.

In October, 2010, there were a total of 381 condors and 76 were flying free from their release site at Vermillion Cliffs, Arizona. Condors are also making themselves at

home in Utah again, feeding and roosting here. They are regularly seen on the Kolob Plateau outside of Zion National Park and they have been tracked as far north as Flaming Gorge Reservoir in Utah. There are no nesting condors in Utah yet, but observers have seen evidence of nest searching behavior.

Since the initial reintroduction, at least fifteen Arizona condors and an unknown number of other animals have died an excruciating death due to lead poisoning. Lead poisoning is now the leading cause of death for the condors in the southwest.

Today, the single greatest threat to recovery of the endangered California Condor is lead poisoning, which contributes to sickness and death in the population. Despite the years devoted to recovery and significant efforts to mitigate the threats, the condors are still threatened by lead poisoning, something that is easily controlled by reducing this toxin in our environment and eliminating lead ammunition. State wildlife agencies in Utah and Arizona have initiated mitigating efforts to reduce the amount of lead available to scavengers.



Hunters can do their part in Utah by voluntarily using non-lead ammunition.

Condors are scavengers providing an ecologically critical role recycling nutrients along with other functions. Research in the last five years has demonstrated that they and other species consume tiny fragments of lead in the remains of gunshot animals.

Increasing numbers of the wild condor population must periodically receive emergency treatment for lead poisoning to save their lives. Just this year, three condors in northern Arizona and southern Utah died from lead poisoning. Condor experts have concluded that as long as lead ammunition is used in the condor range, recovery of the species is unlikely. The effects on other scavengers such as eagles and many hawks, badgers, bobcats and coyotes, can only be guessed.

More than thirty years ago, wildlife exposure to spent lead ammunition compelled the federal government to begin a nationwide program to prohibit the use of lead shot for hunting ducks, geese, and other migratory waterfowl. More recently, scientists have begun to recognize and understand the health threat to humans who consume wild game killed with lead ammunition.

X-rays of deer killed by hunters has revealed that lead bullets explode into dozens of tiny pieces, and half the deer carcasses studied were riddled with at least 100 lead fragments. The toxic effects of lead on humans is well documented and has resulted in the banning of lead gasoline, water pipes, and lead-based paints, among others, and points out the dire risks that ingesting this substance poses to humans, particularly children and pregnant women.

For the past several years the Arizona Game and Fish Department has conducted a very well received voluntary lead reduction program and hunter education campaign, including free distribution of non-lead ammunition to hunters in the condor range. The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources also began a non-lead program for hunters last year in areas around Zion National Park. Despite the efforts, the recent condor deaths and continuing lead poisoning in both Arizona and Utah show that voluntary lead-reduction efforts are not enough to remove the lead threat.

This is not simply a hunting issue. It is a lead toxicity issue and condors face a second extinction if this threat is not addressed. The simplest, most effective and economical remedy is to require non-lead ammunition for hunting. The Sierra Club is asking the Kaibab National Forest to place restrictions on lead ammunition due to the threats to the condors. A legal challenge is also under consideration.

*Sandy Bahr is director of the Grand Canyon Chapter.*

# Top Ten

## FACTS ABOUT THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY

Business is booming, and the oil and gas industry does not need any more government handouts. Here are the top ten facts about energy development in the United States showing that Big Oil is doing better than ever.



10

### Drilling activity is has reached its highest level in 24 years.

Oil and gas activity is higher now under the Obama administration than at any point since Reagan was in office. In fact, there are more active drill rigs in the United States than all other countries combined.



9

### Business is booming for Big Oil.

The top five oil and gas companies made \$101 billion in profits in the first three quarters of 2011.



8

### Oil and gas companies receive \$15 billion each year in special tax breaks.

Taxpayers for Common Sense outlined over \$78 billion in special tax breaks that the oil and gas industry will receive over the next five years.



7

### About 57 percent of lands leased to oil and gas companies for development – covering 21.6 million acres – are idle.

Industry has plenty of access to public lands. The U.S. Department of Interior released a report earlier this year outlining the unused leases.



6

### Industry has yet to develop 7,000 drilling permits.

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management recently testified in committee that the oil and gas industry has about 7,000 undeveloped permits where industry has a green light to drill.



5

### The Salazar leasing reforms are creating more certainty for industry, and the number of protested leases is down nearly 55 percent.

According to the BLM, the number of protested leases dropped over 55 percent from 1,475 in FY09 to 665 in FY10. As of September 15, just 105 parcels had been protested in FY11.



4

### For the last two years, the BLM has approved more drilling permits than applications it has received.

The BLM has been clearing the backlog of permits not processed by the Bush administration and processing those permits at its highest rate in nearly a decade. The trend is expected to continue in 2011.



3

### The oil and gas industry is adding 10,000 jobs a month.

Despite the reported jobs slowdown last month, in 2011 the oil and gas industry has been adding roughly 10,000 jobs per month on average. In fact, *The Wall Street Journal* reported that energy jobs are at a two-decade high and that industry is worried about a shortage of skilled workers.



2

### The United States is a net-exporter of oil and other petroleum products.

While it may sound unbelievable, over the last year the United States has exported more petroleum products than it's imported. That includes the crude oil we important abroad and the refined gasoline, diesel, and other petroleum products we sell to neighboring countries. Experts attribute this to reduced demand for oil in the United States due to the economic downturn and increasingly fuel-efficient cars on the road. In 2010, domestic crude oil production reached its highest level since 2003.



1

### The United States is open for business when it comes to offshore drilling.

In November 2011, the U.S. Department of Interior made 75 percent of estimated undiscovered oil and gas resources available on the Outer Continental Shelf for exploration and development. Shallow water offshore drilling permits averaged more than seven per month since fall 2010, about equal to what it was in 2009.

# On Water

## Flaming Gorge Pipeline...A Bad Idea

by Steve Glazer

**E**PA vetoed the Two Forks water diversion proposal on the South Platte River in Colorado over a decade ago because the impacts were deemed too significant to be adequately mitigated. We thought that might be the end to proposals for large transmountain water diversions. Apparently not!

You may have heard that a private entrepreneur, Aaron Million, and others are proposing to pipe up to 250,000 acre feet (af) (80 billion gallons) of water per year from the Green River and Flaming Gorge Reservoir in southwestern Wyoming over 500 miles to the Front Range of Colorado (see map). The pipeline would likely drain an average of one quarter of the Green River's flow every year, while costing up to \$9 billion or \$30,000 per acre-foot, more than most water users can afford.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has reported, "[t]his project has the potential to alter hydrological ... and ecological processes downstream in both the Green and Colorado Rivers to Lake Powell, affecting riverine and riparian species and habitats ... potentially affected species and habitats are federally listed species, designated critical habitats, species that are candidates for Federal listing, and State-sensitive species." It would also undermine the boating and fishing recreation economy along the Green River from Flaming Gorge Reservoir to Lake Powell.

Colorado has not been able to precisely determine how much of the Colorado River Compact\* allocation we have left to develop. This pipeline could take us over the limit triggering a call from the Lower Colorado River basin states to curtail use of water in Colorado by agriculture and municipalities.

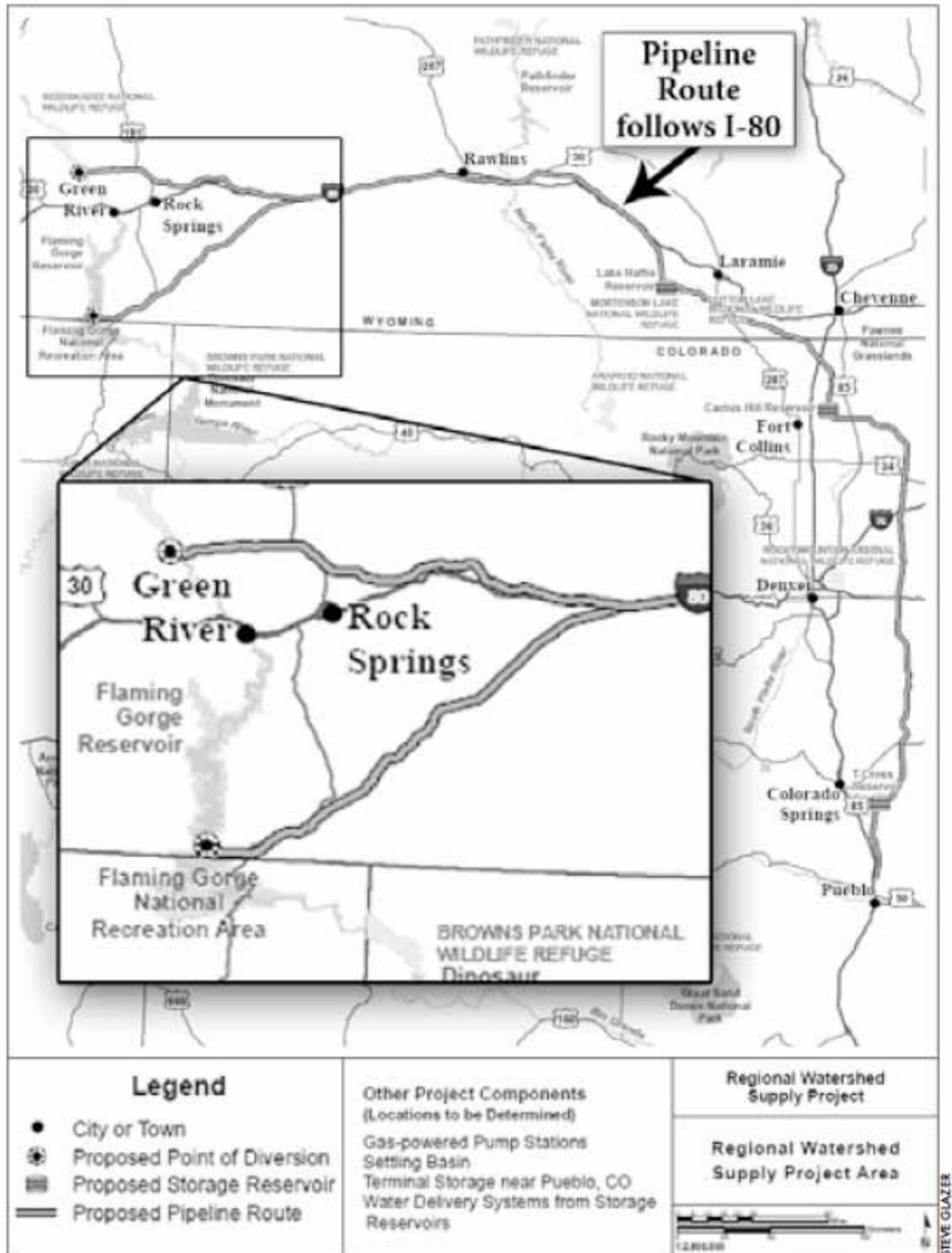
In 2005, the legislature created nine basin roundtables to assess existing supplies and future water needs through 2050 with the assistance of the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB). The Front Range basins show significant shortages in meeting future needs. The three Front Range Roundtables have asked the CWCB to fund a task force to further study this Flaming Gorge Pipeline proposal and have invited all of the other roundtables to participate.

The Sierra Club is among 20 conservation groups expressing opposition to this task force investigation because there are much better alternatives to meet the future water supply needs of Colorado including more aggressive water conservation, strong land-use planning and growth management, increased water re-use and recycling, and cooperative water-sharing agreements with farmers. We will work to again remind water providers that a project of this scope is not worth pursuing.

At a meeting of the CWCB on Sept. 14, the study was dramatically reduced in scope and timeline due to strong public opposition. The funding was reduced from \$240,000 to \$72,000, and the timeline shrank from 18 months to 6 months. Our continued vigilance will be focused to prevent this harebrained idea from gaining any momentum and wasting any more public funds.

*\* The Colorado River Compact was signed in 1922 and ratified by Congress allocating the Colorado River between the seven basin states of Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, New Mexico (Upper Basin states), Arizona, Nevada and California (Lower Basin states). The Compact says that the Upper Basin must deliver to the Lower Basin 75 million acre feet on a 10-year running average (7.5 million af/yr). The Upper Basin states signed a Compact in 1948 that distributes the remaining annual yield of the river (approximately 6 maf) on a fixed percentage. Under this agreement, Colorado gets 51% or about 3 maf/yr.*

Steve Glazer is the chair of the Rocky Mountain Chapter Water and Aquatic Resources Committee.



**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.**

# ChapterNews

## Wasatch Armageddon



MATTHEW ELLIS

We are witnesses today to an unprecedented attack on the central Wasatch presented by a very large array of proposals from ski resorts, private developers, and county government agencies. Rick Steiner, a former Save Our Canyons (SOC) board member and ardent friend of the Wasatch called this a Wasatch Armageddon and the expression is not an exaggeration.

Years ago in 1970s Alexis Kelner put together a slide show that SOC showed around town to garden clubs, scouting groups and anyone who had a monthly meeting that wanted a program. Among the slides was a series of sketched maps showing in red currently existing ski resorts, their known expansion plans at the time and a nightmare extrapolation of a red blob covering all of the central Wasatch. That nightmare is now confronting us in broad daylight.

Jeff Niermeyer, head of Salt Lake City's Department of Public Utilities, recently voiced his alarm as he contemplated a map of the proposals on or soon to be on the table:

- A tram to connect Solitude and The Canyons
- A Park City Mountain Resort's proposed lifts in the Guardsman Pass area connecting to a glide path to Brighton
- A recent proposed expansion of Solitude resort into Silver Fork canyon, rejected for the time being by the U.S. Forest Service but lurking in the wings.
- A Solitude proposed lift from Honeycomb canyon to Alta's Grizzly Gulch
- Alta's proposed lift from Alta to the top of Grizzly
- Snowbird's hope for a tram connecting Hidden Peak to the top of American Fork Twins
- Private landowners' proposal to form a 200-house development in south Cardiff Fork along with a lift up that canyon
- Alta's controversial proposed lift up Flagstaff Peak
- Proposed amendments Salt Lake County's Foothills and Canyons Overlay Zone ordinances (FCOZ) that would eliminate precisely

those requirements the its Board of Adjustment cited in their rejection of Snowbird's proposed mountain coaster on Mt. Superior. (SOC played a significant role in the formulation of FCOZ.)

Intimidating, aren't they?

Individually these projects present immediate and serious threats to the soundness of our watershed, the integrity of our public lands and the wildness and habitat that they provide in Big and Little Cottonwood canyons. Collectively they would prove disastrous.

One of the most recent of these proposals—the so-called SkiLink supported by Solitude and The Canyons—combines bogus environmental claims and high-level political interference. Supporters of SkiLink allege the proposed tram/gondola would significantly reduce car trips between Park City and Big Cottonwood Canyon. Canyons Resort Director Mike Goar claimed in a Salt Lake *Tribune* article the tram would reduce vehicle miles traveled by a million miles with a corresponding reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

However, this analysis is based on a projection from the ten busiest days of the season which overestimates both the number of trips and the likely reduction in trips and emissions. Other claims by the proponents such as the number of new jobs likely to be created suffer from similar distortion.

Representatives Rob Bishop and Jason Chaffetz and Senators Orrin Hatch and Mike Lee have jumped at the opportunity to short circuit local opposition while doing a favor for potential campaign contributors. Jointly they've introduced house and senate bills to force the sale of publicly-owned land to allow construction of the tram.

The Forest Service, Salt Lake City and Salt Lake County have authority and tools to address these issues. They must use them and not undertake to weaken them. *This article was adapted from Gale Dick's recent column in the Save Our Canyons newsletter. Gale Dick is president of Save Our Canyons.*

## Special Thanks



Thanks to the members listed below for their contributions to the Utah Chapter's 2011 fundraising drive. Other contributors who responded during the first month of our fundraising campaign were listed in the Spring 2011 newsletter. Thanks also to the many members who contributed anonymously.

In 2012, the chapter will continue its effective advocacy on behalf of clean air. We continue to fight to put the brake on coal and other fossil fuel development while promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency. We'll be ramping up our work to protect Utah's public lands and wilderness and 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.

Jen Aliprandini	Suzie & Jampe Martinsson
Govert Bassett	Diana Maxell
Bob Bennett	L. E. Modesitt
Emma Camp	Nicola Nelson
David & Inga Chapman	Kathy Olsen
Paul B Choberka	William T & Gayle W Parry
William & Melissa Connelly	Judith B Pechmann
Sean Damitz & Krista Blakely	Harper Randall & Mike Davies
David Ferguson	Doug Roberts
Dorothy & Dwight Finkel	Hugh Roberts
Ronald Franklin	Judy Rogers
Marla Gault	Ted Rokich
Arthur E Griffin	Marc S Ross
Lars K Haar	Janet Shipton
Emily & Chauncey Hall	David R Smith
Bruce Heaton	Robert Smith
David & Jennifer Heldenbrand	Bob & Page Speiser
Jay Henry	Richard Spotts
Allan & Mary Herring	Al Stevenson & Catherine Sharpsteen
Becky Hickox	Jim Strong
Lew & Sandy Hinchman	Jim Struve & Jeff Bell
John & Karen Hinds	Fred & Bessann Swanson
Vern Hopkinson	Richard A Sweet
Martin Houck & Rebecca Chavez-Houck	Barbara L Tanner
Tracy Karp & Jody Heximer	Irene Terry
Randal & Roberta Klein	Richard Toth
Mimi Levitt	John Trout
Chris & Susan Lockwood	Teri Underwood
Ross Loevy	Toni Wall
George H Lower	Chip Ward
Hans Lundgren	Richard H Weber
Colleen & Don Mahaffey	Kitty Wooldridge
Robin Mann	

*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!*

# ChapterNews

## ExCom Election Results

Thirty-two ballots were delivered to the office for the Ogden Group and Utah Chapter Executive Committee elections. No ballots were wholly disqualified. Several had group votes disqualified as a result of ZIP code ineligibility. The ballots will be available for inspection in the chapter office, 2159 South 700 East, Suite 210 in Salt Lake City, during business hours for one year. The results are reported below.

### OGDEN GROUP

Bob Becker received ten votes. Larry Woolsey received eleven votes. Both are elected to two-year terms expiring on 31 December 2013. There were two write-in votes each for Anne Spatola and Karen Thurber.

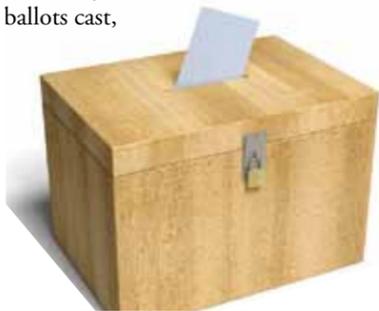
### UTAH CHAPTER

Kim Crumbo received thirty-one votes. Ron Franklin received twenty-eight votes. And Roger Hoverman received thirty-one votes. All are elected to two-year terms expiring on 31 December 2013. Ron Younger received one write-in vote.

Thanks to all our excellent volunteers who are willing to run for the executive committees and improve the environment. Special thanks to Conservation Chair Dan Mayhew for counting ballots and compiling results.

### GLEN CANYON GROUP

The Glen Canyon Group sent its election ballot separately. Kay McLean, Albey Reiner, and Rita Rumrill were elected to two-year terms expiring on 31 December 2013. With 18 ballots cast, the group ballot elicited an approximate 15% return from the 123 group households.



## Spreading the News

The Utah Chapter Communications Team has improved the way chapter leaders communicate with membership. We're half way through our plan to make our communication more effective and impressive.

You might already have received an attractive e-mail message from us created using Convio. This system that allows us to HTML format our e-mail messages with photos, fonts and colors, as well as track the effectiveness of our action alerts and collect RSVPs for events.

The on-line version of the Sierran has been in color since the Fall 2011 issue. Check it out at <http://www.utah.sierraclub.org/newsletters.asp>. The website itself will get a facelift in the next few months. Thanks to Jeff Clay, Tom Messenger, Cecily Sakrison and Steve Thiese for creating and implementing the plan.

If you haven't already, join the conversation on our Facebook page at <http://facebook.com/utahsierran>. You'll find outings updates, photos, book club announcements, and links to environmental articles from diverse media.

Let us know what changes would further enhance your understanding of the issues and your effectiveness taking action at [utah.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:utah.chapter@sierraclub.org).

## 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.

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

*Dave Rust: A Life in the Canyons*, by Frederick Swanson  
discussion leader: Rebecca Wallace

#### February 23 (Thu), 6:30

*Raven's Exile: A Season on the Green River*  
by Ellen Meloy  
discussion leader: Fred

#### March 22 (Thu), 6:30

*Water: The Epic Struggle for Wealth, Power, and Civilization*  
by Steven Solomon  
discussion leader: Akiko

#### 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

## 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 at [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!



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.

For more info and confidential assistance, contact Gift Planning Program  
85 Second St, 2nd Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
(800) 932-4270  
[planned.giving@sierraclub.org](mailto:planned.giving@sierraclub.org)

# OurLand

## Saving Our Crown Jewels

by Tim Wagner



JEFF CLAY, CLAYHAUS.NET PHOTOGRAPHY

Jeep Arch, near Moab.

A small group had gathered, patiently waiting for security's signal that we could come forward. There were parents with small school children, senior citizens, and middle-aged such as myself. The ethnic make-up of the growing crowd was as diverse of any cross-section of America you could find.

Soon the uniformed woman told eight of us we could enter. After removing bags, backpacks, or anything metal, etc. we easily walked through the scanner. Personnel were courteous; everyone was patient; and soon, there we were, inside the visitor's center of our nation's capitol.

Strolling through the US Capitol Rotunda, I was awestruck by the larger-than-life murals, the exquisite stained glass, and the architecture. Coupled with painstaking craftsmanship that has endured for over 200 years, the U.S. Capitol and the many splendid examples of similar design and fortitude throughout this city make up a lasting legacy that my generation and the many that follow me are able to enjoy.

While in the Capitol, I took an hour to sit in the gallery of the senate and witness an increasingly rare moment of bipartisanship over a routine procedural vote. Absent political rants, fist pounding, and tired accusations against the other side of the aisle, each member circulated in quiet discussions and raised their hand as their name was called. For those looking for the usual flare-ups from the usual political egos, it was a disappointment.

It was all part of the experience of visiting Washington, DC – seeing firsthand what we, citizens of the greatest country on earth, can call our own. It's democracy on display, something that makes one incredibly proud, in spite of a degenerated public discourse in 2011.

I was in DC to participate in a gathering of some 200 ordinary citizens from across the country that converged on the hill in support of the Great American Outdoors Week. Specifically, we were there to lobby our respective delegations

over the need to protect public places and to keep them in the ownership of us, the public. Just as the U.S. Capitol or the Hart Senate Office Building are physical icons of the legacy left to us by our founding fathers, so too are of the lands and places that make up our great American outdoors, to be enjoyed by all, no matter one's ethnicity or financial wherewithal.

I thought of this inherited legacy throughout my visit, but even more so as I was returning home later that week. An email from a colleague had caught

### Stealing our 235 yr-old public heritage... under the guise of improving our government and creating jobs. It's the most cynical way to govern that one could possibly imagine.

my eye. It contained a letter that was signed by Senators Hatch and Lee, and Representatives Matheson, Chaffetz, and Bishop sent to Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar. The secretary had requested help in identifying special public lands in Utah that could be called "Crown Jewels."

Sadly, the response from the Utah delegation was zip. None. Out of millions of acres of publicly-owned lands in Utah that are currently not a national or state park, monument, wilderness, or some other formally protected place, our delegation simply stated they wanted no more of these places managed in a way that would be left intact for future generations.

This reckless approach has become blatant in recent months, where our delegation has either introduced bills or taken public positions that add further insult to our public legacy. A case in point is Representative Chaffetz's bill to sell off approximately one million acres of public lands to private interests, saying these lands have no value in current form.

Or consider Bishop's so-called Border Bill that would exempt a 100 mile-wide

of public lands on our northern and southern borders from all environmental laws, in order to allow-- as he claims--our national border patrol do its job without interference from other federal agencies, despite the patrol's senior management saying there are no problems with such enforcement. Knowing Bishop's historical contempt for conservation or environmental protection, it should be quite simple to see that he cares far less in addressing immigration issues than trying to set precedent for future public land bills that will aid those such as the oil and

gas industry that contribute generously to his campaign coffers. But that doesn't stop him from *using* the highly emotional immigration issue erroneously.

Want more? Consider the increasing assaults on the Environmental Protection Agency and our clean air and clean water regulations, with the factually-wrong spin that such regulations are "job killers." Ask the out-of-work boilermaker who is looking at three years worth of steady work installing newly-required pollution-controlling upgrades to the local power plant if clean air regulations are job killers.

These kinds of backdoor deals and political attacks on our public heritage, whether it be public lands or our publicly-owned air and water need to be put in the context of the larger picture. For that, I point the reader to one of the finest researched articles on the current state of politics, "How the GOP Became the Party of the Rich" by Tim Dickson in a recent issue of Rolling Stone Magazine, <http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/how-the-gop-became-the-party-of-the-rich-20111109?link=mostpopular1>.

It details step by step how Grover Norquist and some members of Congress, from both parties, are working to annihilate any government guarantee of our important public heritage.

The basic strategy is this: on the surface, convince the public that government is big, dark, and evil, ineffectual, and far too costly to be able to do anything, that the private sector is much more effective and efficient (regardless that history and the facts prove otherwise), while behind the scenes they starve the government of needed revenues, thereby "proving" that government can't do anything. And those tax dollars that formerly funded our government? They continue to pour into the bank accounts of 1% of wealthiest Americans while the middle and lower class are forced to shoulder more and more of the tax burden. In other words, paint a false picture so the public doesn't really see or understand how their government and public heritage is being pillaged and destroyed before our very eyes.

Stealing our 235 yr-old public heritage and giving it all away to their rich corporate campaign contributors and doing it under the guise of improving our government and creating jobs. It's the most cynical way to govern that one could possibly imagine. But we don't have to accept it.

The Resilient Habitat Campaign Team for the Greater Grand Canyon/Colorado Plateau Ecosystem has developed a plan to enlist volunteers like yourself to protect habitat and promote policies to allow biodiversity to survive and flourish there. If you care deeply about our breathtaking public lands in Utah and are equally concerned at how many of Utah's elected officials are determined to give away your public heritage to private profiteers, then please take action. Please call or write me to help. Today! [tim.wagner@sierraclub.org](mailto:tim.wagner@sierraclub.org) or 801/467-9294. Thanks!

# UtahChapterOutings

## EXPLORE WITH US! JANUARY 2012–JUNE 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. For the most current and updated outings listings, please visit the website [utah.sierraclub.org](http://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](http://www.utah.sierraclub.org/email_list.asp)

### January 2012

**SLG, Mon, 1/2/2012, Beaver Creek XC Ski Trip** **Ski in the New Year in the Uinta Mountain foothills off Mirror Lake Highway.** Join Fred and others for a ski outing on one of Utah's finest cross-country ski trails. The terrain is gentle and rolling, and excellent for beginners. Day use passes (\$6/car) are available at the Forest Service kiosk east of Kamas. Meeting time 10 am. Call organizer Fred Swanson at 801/588-0361 or email at [fbswan32@msn.com](mailto:fbswan32@msn.com) for meeting place and other details.

**GCG Sat, 1/14 Snowshoeing/Cross Country Skiing in the La Sals.** Snowshoeing/skiing (your choice) starts at the cross country skiing parking lot on the road to Geyser Pass and heads toward the Gold Basin area for a round trip of about 3 or 4 miles. Hiking in snowshoes is easy and lots of fun. Meet at Moab Information Center, Main and Center, at 9 AM. Leader: Jock Hovey, 435/260-2033.

**OG Sun, 1/15/2012, Ski /Snowshoe Middle Fork Wildlife Management Area** **This 10,000-acre reserve is crucial winter range for elk, mule deer, and moose.** You can view the animals from the entrance gate or hike in a short way into the area. Wintering bald eagles can also be glimpsed from the feeding grounds. Contact joanie 801/399-0034 for meeting time.

**OG Sat, 1/21, Snowshoe into Wheatgrass Canyon in the South Fork of Weber County.** Six miles round trip, 3.5 hours, moderate. Every January the club snowshoes into one of the most beautiful areas in Northern Utah. It is a narrow canyon with interesting rock formations, high canyon walls, forested slopes and lots of snow. Moose, deer, elk and eagles have been spotted in the area. For information call Larry at 801/690-4335.

**SLG, Sun, 1/22, Dutch Hollow snowshoe/ XC Ski** **Dutch Hollow is located north of Midway, part of Wasatch Mountain State Park.** Its rolling hills and dales are ideal for XC skiing and snowshoes, and wildlife abundant in this area. Expect to share the cost of gas with your carpool driver. Meeting time 12:30 p.m. at old Kmart, mouth of Parley's Canyon. Call Jim Paull at 801/580-9079 for other details.

**GCG Sat, 1/28 Swiss Cheese Ridge.** Start from the Sand Flats road and visit a high slickrock fin peppered with big, deep potholes. Views of Sand Flats fins, Arches NP, Moab Valley, Colorado River canyon. Return or perhaps descend to US-191 north of town (would require car shuttle). Meet at Moab Information Center, Main and Center, at 9 AM. Tom Messenger, 435/259-1756.

### February 2012

**OG Sat, 2/4, Wheeler Creek Loop Snowshoe.** This five-mile tour of the less-developed trails at Snow Basin is always a favorite. This loop starts at the Art Nord trail head and follows the East Fork and Middle Fork Wheeler Creek trails. Call John for meeting place and time, 801/985-6854

**SLG, Sat, 2/4, Full Moon, Bonfire, Potluck, Snowshoe Hike** **The moon will be close to full, high in the sky, lighting our way, and adding a silvery glow from the snowy mountains and trees.** Join Paul who will have a fire roaring for people warming, and a gas stove for food warming. Hot chili or stew will be provided. Bring a drink or dish to share, your thermos will transport hot foods well and win you extra points with your potluck companions. If you are up for the optional snowshoe hike, contact Paul for meeting time and place, [RTG.Stratton@gmail.com](mailto:RTG.Stratton@gmail.com) or 801/450-1128. Otherwise, meet at 6:30 pm in Millcreek Canyon directly across the road from the Desolation Trailhead (2.5 mi from the gatehouse and just beyond Church Fork) where you will see the fire burning.

**GCG Sat, 2/11 Determination Towers.** From near Determination Towers scramble up 500 or 600 feet to the northeast end of Big/Lone Mesa. Wide views to the east. Explore the east end of the mesa on the bench in the lower Moab Tongue. 4WD/high clearance to hike start. Meet at Moab Information Center, Main and Center, at 9 AM. Leader: Mike Stringham, 435/259-8579.

**SLG, Sun, 2/12, Mirror Lake XC ski/snowshoe trip:** **Mirror Lake Highway is closed in the winter, making it one of the most delightful cross country ski trips in the winter.** It is suitable for beginning cross country skiers or for snowshoers. Meeting time 9:30 am, contact Ken Evans at [kce57@q.com](mailto:kce57@q.com) or call 801/414-6067 for meeting place and other details.

**OG Sat, 2/18, Snowshoe into the Mill Creek Canyon area.** This is a must-do adventure for those who like winter activities. Five to six miles round trip, 3 to 4 hours, moderate. We will pick a route that offers the most snow and provides the best views of the snow capped mountains. Perhaps we will see a moose; they winter in this area. Call Larry at 801/690-4335

**GCG Sat, 2/25 Three Penguins.** Scramble up to the top of the cliff from the park road near the Three Penguins. Explore the mesa top with breathtaking views into Courthouse Wash and Park Avenue. Descend near the upper Park Avenue trailhead. Short car shuttle. Meet at Moab Information Center, Main and Center, at 9 AM. Leader: Mike Stringham, 435/259-8579.

**SLG, Sat, 2/25 American Fork Canyon Cross-country Ski.** Richard plans to explore the Tibble Fork/Granite Flats area in scenic American Fork Canyon. Tibble Fork has spectacular surroundings and it is high enough for consistently good snow. Best yet, it's also a good take off point for skiers. Granite Flat Campground is a perfect area for beginning cross-country skiers. And Silver Lake is a good destination for intermediate skiers. Expect about 3 hours round-trip and about 1,150 feet elevation gain to Silver Lake. Expect to share the \$6.00 entrance fee /car to American Fork Canyon and other costs (bring some small bills). Meeting time in SLC is 10:00 am, call Richard Passoth at 801/364-3387 or email [repassoth@gmail.com](mailto:repassoth@gmail.com) for meeting place and trip details.

### March 2012

**OG Sat, 3/3, North Fork Park/Cross-country ski.** Skiing from the South gate of North Fork Park. Approximately 5 miles round trip. Call leader Dan H, 801/479-1108, for details and in case there's a change of plan due to snow conditions.

**SLG, Sun, 3/4 East Canyon: Hike/snowshoe (depending on snow conditions).** Join Sandy and Ken for a pleasant hike/snowshoe through the woods and dales. Meet at 10 am, call Sandy at 801/574-4150 or email [sandyml@q.com](mailto:sandyml@q.com) for meeting place and other details.

**SLG, Sat, 3/10, Mill D North Fork snowshoe / XC ski:** **This wide side canyon off Big Cottonwood Canyon is great for a winter outing.** The avalanche danger is minimal and viewing frozen Dog Lake surrounded by snow flocked pine trees at the top of the drainage is a winter delight. Meeting time 10 am, contact Rebecca at 801/557-5261 or email at [rebeccawallace38@msn.com](mailto:rebeccawallace38@msn.com) for meeting place and other details.

**GCG Sat, 3/17 Herdina Park.** This is a 4.5-5.0 mile moderate hike with one scramble. It is a beautiful route-finding challenge much like Fiery Furnace. We will visit several arches, a cave, and follow several slickrock drainages. This is a seldom visited part of the national park consisting of cliffs, crags, cracks, side canyons, and sculpted boulders. Elevation gain: 400'. Meet at the Moab Information Center, Main and Center, 9 AM. Leader: Tom Messenger, 435/259-1756.

**OG Sat & Sun, 3/17 & 3/18, Moab Utah area Dayhikes.** We'll hike to Corona Arch, an arch large enough to fly an airplane through (if you're a good enough pilot with a small enough plane), on Saturday afternoon. On Sunday, we'll hike the Neck Trail in Canyonlands National Park. This trail offers a good idea of what is in Canyonlands. Call Larry @ 801/690-4335 for meeting place and time. (Please note this is the same weekend as Moab 1/2 Marathon make reservations early for rooms.)

**GCG Sat, 3/24 Poison Spider to the Portal.** Ascend to Poison Spider Mesa from the parking area. Cross Poison Spider Mesa possibly visiting Little Arch. Reach the Portal Trail and descend to UT-279. Car shuttle. Meet at Moab Information Center, Main and Center, at 9 AM. Leader: Mike Stringham, 435/259-8579.

**OG Sun, 3/25, Antelope Island Sentry Peak** **This trail has just been opened up in the last couple years.** One of the Antelope Island trails that's been closed to the public for 100 years! Relatively unexplored, you'll experience awesome views of the Great Salt Lake as well as the scenic southern end of the island. Round trip is 7 miles (10.5 km). Hiking time is about 5 hours. The difficulty is moderate. Elevation gain is 1,114 feet. No dogs are allowed. Call joanie 801/399-0034 for information.



# win a backcountry guide

DECEMBER 4, 2011: Hikers in Neffs Canyon. Be the first (before January 15, 2012) to correctly list the first name of all 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.

**SLG, Sun, 3/25, Salt Lake Overlook Hike or Snowshoe (depending on snow conditions).** Dog friendly hike for well-behaved dogs and their owners. This trail is rewarding in every season, and winter is no exception. We will hike from Milcreedk Canyon up the north facing slope to a rewarding view of the city and valley. Meet at 10 am, call Sandy at 801/574-4150 or email sandym@q.com for meeting place and other details.

## April 2012

**GCG Sat, 4/7 Minesweeper to Amasa Back.** Go 1100 feet 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, 9:30 AM. (Unusual start time to allow jeep safari convoys to clear out.) Leader: Tom Messenger, 435/259-1756.

**OG Sat, 4/14, Rock Corral at Antelope Island.** This hike is 10 miles RT, about 4-5 hours, and moderate intensity. It is on the west side of the island and is one of the most scenic spots in northern Utah. There are great views of the lake and western shore line. We'll take a break at the historic Rock Corral. Call Larry @ 801/690-4335 for meeting place and time.

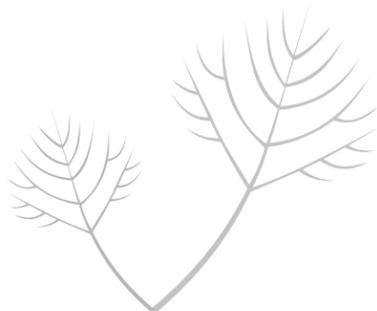
## May 2012

**OG Fri, 5/11, Friday Night Lights.** 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 about 2.5 hrs. and 4.5 miles. Call Larry @ 801/690-4335 for meeting place and time.

**OG Sat, 5/19, The Jardine Juniper Trail.** This is a wonderful hike that climbs over 2,000 vertical feet and approx 5 miles one way through an active avalanche chute, over moraines carved by glaciers 15,000 years ago, and through beautiful aspen and Douglas fir forests. It leads to the Jardine Juniper, an old, gnarled juniper that has maintained its precarious hold on life for over 1,500 years. Call joanie @ 801/399-0034 for information.

## June 2012

**OG Sat, 6/9, Lewis Peak Dayhike.** This will be a strenuous hike covering ten miles round-trip and a 2,300 feet elevation gain. It will take about six hours. We'll start at the North Ogden Divide trailhead and hike to tremendous views of Pineview, Mt. Ogden, Ben Lomond, and the Great Salt Lake. Lewis Peak is the highest point between Willard Peak and Mt. Ogden. Call Larry @ 801/690-4335 for meeting place and time.



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.

# Utah Chapter Directory

## Chapter Executive Committee

Terms Expire 12/31/2012

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 Steve Thiese..... sthiese@yahoo.com, (801) 466-2893  
 Tim Fellow, treasurer..... timfellow@gmail.com, (801) 787-1129

Terms Expire 12/31/2013

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## Group Chairs

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 Bob Becker, Ogden Group..... flatlander@gmail.com

## Group Outings Chairs

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# Gallery

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



JEFF CLAY, CLAYHAUS.NET PHOTOGRAPHY | Moonset on Island in the Sky.

# Out&About

**STEGNER CENTER**

**SYMPOSIUM**



**Wallace Stegner Center**  
for Land, Resources and the Environment  
UNIVERSITY OF UTAH S.J. QUINNEY COLLEGE OF LAW

University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law  
Wallace Stegner Center Seventeenth Annual Symposium

## Silent Spring at 50: The Legacy of Rachel Carson

Friday & Saturday, March 9 & 10, 2012  
University Guest House & Conference Center

Speakers include:

**Susan Avery**, President and Director, Wood Holes Oceanographic Institution

**Rowan Jacobsen**, author of *Fruitless Fall*

**Naomi Oreskes**, author of *Merchants of Doubt*

**Sandra Steingraber**, author of *Living Downstream*

Registration required by calling 801-585-3440 or at [law.utah.edu/stegner](http://law.utah.edu/stegner)

Principal Funding by R. Harold Burton Foundation, Cultural Vision Fund and Chevron

Join us for Wallace Stegner Lecture the day before the Symposium

**The Impact of the Environment on Human Health:  
The Special Vulnerability of Children**

Philip Landrigan, Mount Sinai School of Medicine  
March 8, 2012, 12:15 p.m., S.J. Quinney College of Law  
Free and open to the public. No registration required.

## Get Outside!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR A SPRING OUTING! SEE PAGE 10.



For the second straight year, the Glen Canyon Group of the Sierra Club spent a beautiful fall weekend camping on Cedar Mesa in southeastern Utah. Our campsite, while primitive, was only a couple of miles from the Kane Gulch ranger station and midway between the ruin-rich canyons draining into Grand Gulch to the west and Comb Wash to the east. Members split into smaller groups for day hikes westward into Bullet and Sheiks Canyons and eastward into Road and McLloyd Canyons. Outstanding examples of long-abandoned Ancestral Puebloan structures were found in each one. Perhaps, the Sierra Club in Utah could work on expanding this campout into an annual fall roundup all of its members.

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

by Mark Clemens

**O**n 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).

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