



UtahSierran



This Issue

PAGE 8 One of the strangest reactions to the election in November was a prayer from a coal company executive. Is this a prayer likely to be answered or to be punished with a thunderbolt?

PAGE 10 The Utah Chapter held a successful exploration outside of Canyonlands National Park. It was an opportunity to explore the landscape and talk about the best strategies for protecting it too. Who did we meet while we were there?

PAGE 12 The Outdoor Industry Association sent President Obama a letter asking him to protect the Greater Canyonlands area with a new national monument designation. They've come under attack for their support of conservation. Read in this quarter's Condor Corner about how you can stand with these business champions of Utah's Red Rock Country.

PAGE 16 Get outdoors for a winter season hike or snowshoe. Check out all the options in our outings section.



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Proposed Hatch Point Land Exchange Deserves Scrutiny

by Tim Wagner

A visit to Hatch Point is a must for any visitor to the Canyonlands area. The stunning redrock cliffs and mesas that make up this area south of Moab are some of the region's most admired landmarks.

But like the destruction that would have resulted at Hatch Point had President Bush's last minute give-away leases to the oil and gas industry not been thrown out by the courts two year ago, this beautiful but unprotected area is now targeted by another extractive industry--potash mining.

Roughly two-thirds of that land would be made available for a large scale potash mining operation, and the rest would be leased for oil and gas development, according to the latest information.

As we learned earlier this year, Utah's State Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) is proposing a land exchange with the Bureau of Land Management where they would acquire up to eighty square miles, or more than 51,000 acres, in and around the Hatch Point area. Roughly two-thirds of that land would be made available for a large scale potash mining operation, and the rest would be leased for oil and gas development, according to the latest information.

JEFF CLAY | CLAYHAUS.NET



Vista from Hatch Point into the Canyonlands Basin. PHOTO BY JEFF CLAY | CLAYHAUS.NET

The entire issue of a land swap has been precipitated by a proposal to mine potash in this area by a company known as K2O Utah LLC, a company that is 90% owned by an Australian firm known as Potash Minerals Limited.

A recent article in the Moab *Sun News* detailed some of the company's plans, including the company's speculation that they could harvest roughly two million metric tons of potash per year and that operations would continue for 25-50 years over an area encompassing a total of 100,000 acres.

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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.

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OurLand

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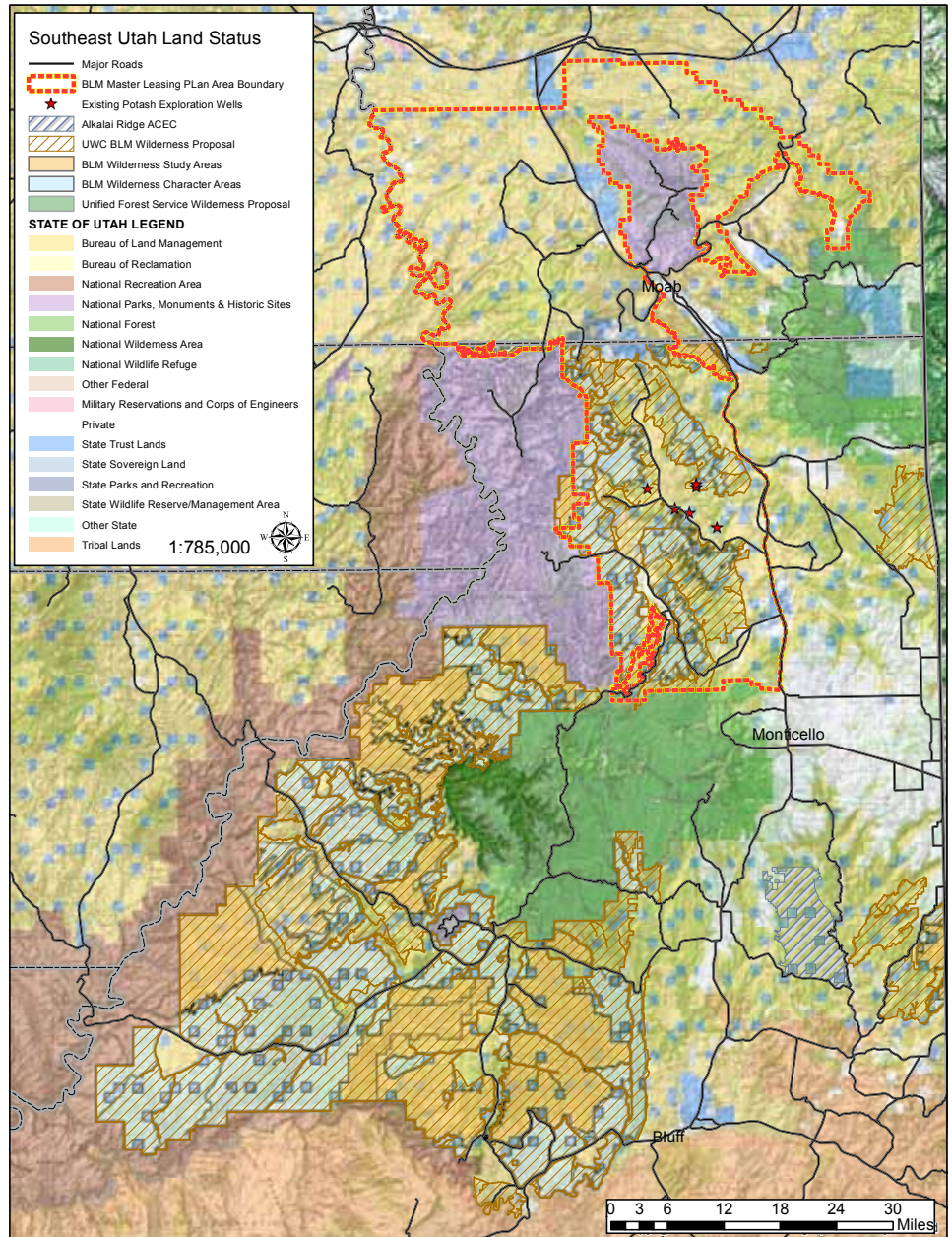
Currently K2O has several test wells on SITLA parcels in the Hatch Point area and recently submitted an application to the Bureau of Land Management for five additional test wells. That application has not been approved as of this writing but it's important to note that the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, Sierra Club, Grand Canyon Trust and National Parks Conservation Association recently submitted comments to the BLM opposing any more test wells.

Since most of the land under consideration for this project is currently owned and managed by the BLM, allowing the lands to be leased for mining will largely fall under the direction of the agency's master leasing plan, or MLP, which is currently being developed by the Moab field office of the BLM. The MLP process is part of a package of leasing reforms ordered by the BLM in 2010 as a way to increase public participation and allow for more thorough environmental analysis of such mining projects.

The MLP for the Moab field office is not expected to be finalized until 2014, during which time there will opportunities for Sierra Club members to express their concerns about this project and others.

In the meantime, SITLA has proposed the land exchange as a way to expedite the availability of some of these lands in order to allow K20 to get their project under way possibly sooner. Like other such land exchanges in the past, SITLA would receive title to those BLM-owned lands in and around Hatch Point while the BLM would receive ownership of SITLA lands elsewhere.

It goes without saying that, compared to federally-owned lands, SITLA has fewer if any protocols for minimizing environmental damage on its lands. And it is no secret that SITLA has one mission: to lease or sell lands to the highest bidder with little regard for what happens afterwards. Within that context, it makes much more sense to keep lands within the ownership of the BLM if at



Land ownership for much of Grand and San Juan Counties.

all possible if conservation is one's main goal. At least most actions by the BLM require some type of public process mandated by the National Environmental Policy Act.

So in the larger context, what does a proposed land swap for the Hatch Point and Canyonlands area mean for conservation

in the region? That depends on what kind of a land trade can be agreed upon. If even portions of the Hatch Point area are given up for lease or sale to be used for potash mining, particularly at the scale that is being proposed, it's reasonable to speculate that one would eventually see the area transformed into an

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OurLand



The eastern side of Canyonlands Basin, looking south from the Needles Overlook.

PHOTO BY JEFF CLAY | CLAYHAUS.NET

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industrial zone, with pipelines, buildings, new roads and lots of truck traffic. With that transformation come spoiled landscapes and viewsheds, worsened air quality, possible impacts to water quality for locals, and negative impacts to wildlife and habitat, to name a few additional negative consequences.

On the other hand, there are many SITLA-owned parcels around the Greater Canyonlands area that could be traded to the BLM, including those in the tar sands triangle area near the confluence of the Dirty Devil and Colorado rivers.

Perhaps even better, the conservation community and the public could simply draw a line in the sand by not letting any lands be swapped around Hatch Point, but instead persuading the agencies to pursue lands elsewhere that are more suited for extractive activities.

On top of this uncertainty is the fact that Hatch Point is part of a larger BLM-managed special recreation management area, which in and of itself is not conducive to large-scale mining and industrial activities. Driving that point home even deeper is the fact that part of this area also lies within the proposed America's Redrock Wilderness Act, endorsed

by the Sierra Club.

Finally, it is noteworthy that this region is also within the larger Greater Canyonlands National Monument, a new monument proposal that recently gained nationwide notoriety after the Outdoor Industry Association submitted a letter to President Obama asking for a designation of the area under the authority of the Antiquities Act.

What this all spells is that the future of Hatch Point is quite uncertain and very complicated. It is absolutely necessary, however, for readers to understand that this region is of unparalleled beauty, one that deserves permanent protection in some form or another. That is a message that the Sierra Club and our members will continue to take to the table as discussions proceed on the issue. Please stay tuned for further alerts and information regarding this delicate process. And don't hesitate to call me to find out how you can get involved in saving Hatch Point and our amazing redrock wilderness.

CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS!

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

OurLand

Alton Mine Threatens Sage Grouse, Tourism Economy and Bryce Canyon

Salt Lake City, UT – In a decision issued October 30, 2012, the Utah Supreme Court upheld a state mining permit that allows Alton Coal Development to strip mine roughly 600 acres of private lands - the Coal Hollow Mine. The Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club reaffirmed its commitment to protect the local environment key to southern Utah's tourism-oriented economy. The Utah Supreme Court's ruling sets the stage for a broader fight over the proposed expansion of the private mine onto 3,500 acres of publicly owned land within a dozen miles of Bryce Canyon National Park.

In addition to impacting local air and water quality, threatening Bryce Canyon National Park's renowned night skies, and decimating North America's southern-most population of sage grouse, the proposed around the clock mining operations would require up to three hundred coal truck trips per day traveling one hundred ten miles one way from Alton to Cedar City, which would result in one truck leaving the site approximately every seven minutes.

"Today's decision is disappointing," said Steve Bloch with Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance. "However, this is too important. We will continue to fight to preserve the water we drink, the air we breathe, and the night skies at Bryce Canyon National Park enjoyed by thousands of tourists each year."

After receiving nearly 200,000 comments from federal agencies, the Hopi Tribe, and concerned citizens - including small business owners, doctors, and environmentalists - the federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM) committed to taking another look at the health and environmental impacts of the proposed expansion onto federal lands, with further environmental review expected in 2013. Earlier this year, both the National Park Service and Fish & Wildlife Service criticized the proposed expansion and urged BLM to reject the project.

"This is simply the wrong place and the wrong time for another coal mine" added Tim Wagner, with the Utah Chapter of the Sierra

Club. "We should be investing in clean, responsible energies instead of doubling down on old, dirty, fossil fuels. BLM should do what is best for Southern Utah rather than what is best for one private company."

"A strip mine is not the sort of canyon tourists are flocking to see," said Natural Resources Defense Council Deputy Media Director Josh Mogerma. "This project needlessly threatens the area's tourism economy. Those jobs are on the line, when a project robs the area of the pristine night skies and beautiful vistas at Bryce Canyon National Park that draws visitors from around the country. They don't come here to see a strip mine. And when our nation is moving towards a clean energy economy to deliver jobs and prosperity, this new coal mine would be a big step backwards."

Although the Sierra Club and its co-plaintiffs urged the court to impose a stay on mining the private and state parcel, the court refused. Mining began in 2011. The coal resource within the state and private lands will be mined out in two to three years. The key to preventing irreversible damage to the community, wildlife and environment in this area is stopping expansion onto surrounding BLM lands.

The Sierra Club has been involved with protecting Bryce Canyon National Park, the Paunsaugunt Plateau and the Long Valley from coal strip mines for over thirty years. The Alton Coal Field extends from the area where mining is currently occurring several miles to the east. In the 1970s a coal strip mine was proposed for the area just east of Bryce Canyon National Park that would have been visible from all the scenic vistas in the park. The Sierra Club worked hard to persuade the Carter Administration to stop the proposal and succeeded in 1980 when Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus put the whole eastern side of the coal field off limits for coal leasing.

This article was adapted from a press release issued by Sierra Club.

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.*

Thursday, January 10, 6:30

Green Intelligence: Creating Environments That Protect Human Health
by John Wargo
Discussion leader: Akiko

Thursday, February 21, 6:30

The Global Forest: Forty Ways Trees Can Save Us
by Diana Beresford-Kroeger
Discussion leader: Chris P

Thursday, March 21, 6:30

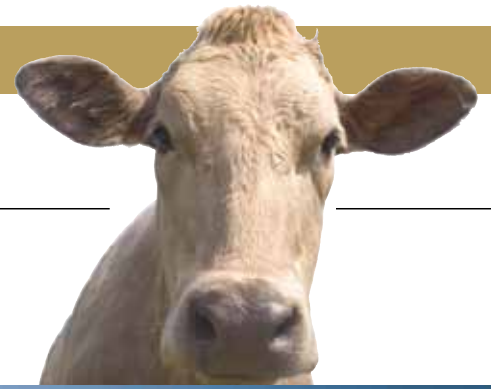
The Third Man Factor: Surviving the Impossible
by John Geiger
Discussion leader: Aaron

Thursday, April 25, 6:30

No Magic Helicopter, An Aging Amazon's Climb of Everest, by Carol Masheter
Discussion leader: Carol (author)

For the most current information about the book club and other activities, check out the chapter's activity tool, <http://www.utah.sierraclub.org/activities.asp>.





OurCommunity

A New Cattle Collaborative

by Mary O'Brien



Reference area: This stretch of Upper Valley Creek has been grazed only lightly and only in the fall for 25 years. Native sedges and rushes capture sediment, and the water table has risen 2.5 feet. PHOTO BY MORGAN HELM

You might not predict this step forward for resilient habitats in conflict-ridden southern Utah: A major, successful, consensus collaboration on how to know ecologically, socially, and economically sustainable livestock grazing when you see it on the Dixie, Fishlake, and Manti-La Sal National Forests. It's a great story.

In November 2011, Utah's Department of Natural Resources—the state agency overseeing management of elk and deer on the forests—and Utah's Department of Agriculture and Food—the state agency working throughout Utah for and with livestock ranchers—convened the Collaborative Group on Sustainable Grazing for Southern Utah Forest Service Lands (Collaboration).

The entities represented by one member each on the Collaboration are worth noting: Brigham Young University, county

commissions, Grand Canyon Trust, Natural Resources Conservation Service, The Nature Conservancy, Trout Unlimited, Utah Cattlemen's Association, Utah Dept of Ag and Food, Utah Dept of Natural Resources, Utah Farm Bureau, Utah State University, Utah Woolgrowers Association, and private landowners. Allen Rowley, supervisor of the Fishlake and Manti-La Sal NFs, was present at all meetings as a technical advisor about the three forests, but didn't vote during consensus-gauging thumbs-up counts. The representative for Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife attended only the first of the nine meetings.

Why go through that list? Because all entities who participated are intensely interested in the condition and uses of these three national forests; and in 2013, these same three national forests will amend their 27-year old forest plans for livestock management via a public process. The Collaboration's work

constitutes the assemblage of some basic features of ecologically, economically, and socially sustainable grazing that the forests could incorporate in their plan amendments, knowing that around these features there has been extensive discussion and broadly-based agreement.

The superb facilitators were Michele Straube of the U of Utah Environmental Dispute Resolution Program and Lorien Belton of the Community-Based Conservation Program of Utah State University. Facilitation included precise record-keeping, bird-dogging of Collaboration members' completion of between-meeting tasks, extensive between-meeting conversations, and drafting of the report that will be issued by December 20, 2012. The report, appendices, and a handbook of 91 simple methods for measuring indicators of ecologically sustainable or poor grazing, will be widely-posted on numerous websites,

including that of Grand Canyon Trust (www.grandcanyontrust.org).

This is not to imply that collaborative work exemplifying these principles is not already on-going in the three forests. The Tushar Allotments Collaboration met 1998-1999 to achieve consensus around improved management of two cattle allotments on the Fishlake National Forest (<http://projects.ecr.gov/tushar/>).

The Utah Forests Restoration Working Group developed consensus *Guidelines for Aspen Restoration on the National Forests in Utah* (http://digitalcommons.usu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=8036&context=aspen_bib 2010).

Currently, a large consensus collaboration, the Monroe Mountain Working Group, is aiming to restore aspen on Monroe Mountain in central Utah, where elk, cattle, sheep, and deer browse aspen sprouts; conifers have overtopped aspen in absence of fire; and numerous private inholdings in combination with Inventoried Roadless Areas, unroaded/undeveloped areas, and a wilderness proposal provide challenges to fire reintroduction.

The Sustainable Grazing Collaboration built on the experiences of these and other efforts, even though they are not named in the report. One eastern Nevada effort proved electric for the Collaboration: recovery of streams in the Elko District of BLM. While no one could claim all Elko District allotments are paragons of ecologically sustainable livestock grazing, hundreds of miles of streams have recovered with grazing under the encouragement of Carol Evans and Patrick Coffin, two Elko District fish biologists. Four of the Collaboration members spent two August 2012 days with Carol, Pat and three permittees on Elko District and private allotments, and were able to return to the Collaboration with a visually-compelling Powerpoint presentation by Carol Evans (http://www.grandcanyontrust.org/news/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/Evans_NV_CollabVisit2012_08_03-04_EvansNotesAdded22.pdf)

For Sierra Club members and friends who are concerned about the impacts of public lands livestock grazing, what will they find in the Collaboration's December 2012 report? Three particular principles articulated by the Collaboration may be helpful for conservation advocacy throughout federal public lands:

Diverse stakeholders have a legitimate place in how livestock are managed on national forests. Anglers, hikers, campers, wildlife-watchers, hunters – all may have suggestions for better grazing, and should be allowed to elbow their way into discussions and planning around grazing.



Collaborative monitoring: Two members of the Monroe Mt Working Group read one of four transects the collaboration established to understand the role of cattle and elk in browsing of aspen. PHOTO BY MARY O'BRIEN

A diversity of grazing arrangements is good for forests. For instance, non-use areas can serve as critical references for how fast recovery from degradation can take place, what goals restoration could meet, and potential conditions on particular soils under our changing climate. Perhaps agency standards could be waived at least temporarily for collaboratively-conceived grazing experiments to achieve ecological sustainability via innovative practices.

Measuring significant indicators of ecologically sustainable or poor grazing management is not rocket science, and federal land management agencies should acknowledge and respond to objective, repeatable data gathered by non-agency entities. To this end, a subcommittee of the

Collaboration assembled a handbook of 91 simple methods, with web links to documents describing those methods that involve particular directions. Citizens and permittees gathering information on allotments by these or other objective methods should expect that the agency will respond to them and their data with discussions on whether and which grazing practices may need to be altered.

That said, the Collaboration's report does affirm the legitimacy of livestock grazing on the three forests, and encourages collaborative work to achieve ecological sustainability, while thinking hard about how grazing changes can be economically feasible for the permittees. The report acknowledges the social importance of livestock grazing within numerous southern Utah counties, and difficulties permittees face in the context of needed change. Reading Appendix 7, "Challenges and Barriers to Implementing Grazing Management and Other Strategies" is an exercise in empathy for all sides.

The big challenge to Sierra Club members and others who are concerned about impacts of grazing on these three forests (and indeed, on any public lands) is to get out on the ground to observe and measure allotment conditions, spend time building relationships with agency staff and ranchers, bring positive proposals to the table, and offer help with implementing proposals.

During 2013, the three forests will be amending their forest plans for livestock management, and broad public support for incorporating the Collaboration's principles will be essential. Grand Canyon Trust is launching in 2013 its Good Allotment Program with numerous entry points and resources for participating in the forest plan amendment process and achieving resilient habitats and climate change adaptation throughout the three forests.

Dr Mary O'Brien (maryobrien10@gmail.com) is a member of the Resilient Habitat Local Delivery Team for the Greater Grand Canyon-Colorado Plateau Ecoregion, and is the Utah Forests Program Director with Grand Canyon Trust.

OurCommunity

A Tarnished Prayer

by Mark Clemens

My regret, Lord, is that our young people, including those in my own family, never will know what America was like or might have been.

The takers outvoted the producers. In response to this, I have turned to my Bible and in II Peter, Chapter 1, verses 4-9 it says, 'To faith we are to add goodness; to goodness, knowledge; to knowledge, self control; to self control, perseverance; to perseverance, godliness; to godliness, kindness; to brotherly kindness, love.'

Lord, please forgive me ... for the decisions that we are now forced to make to preserve the very existence of any of the enterprises that you have helped us build. We ask for your guidance in this drastic time with the drastic decisions that will be made to have any hope of our survival as an American business enterprise. (Excerpts from a prayer made public by a coal company executive on 7 November 2012)

In 1995 a coal mining tycoon acquired Utah's Genwal Mine and renamed it the Crandall Canyon Mine. This executive had been betting big on coal as an energy source since about 1988.

Until it came under new ownership, the Crandall Canyon Mine had been mined according to a fairly conservative and safe practice known as the room and pillar method. As the name suggests, enough coal and rock is left behind to allow pillars to hold up the overburden and keep miners safe.

The new owner introduced longwall mining, a process under which a giant excavator usually operated by a single

employee hollows out an entire coal seam with the expectation that sooner or later—preferably after miners and equipment have left—the excavated area will collapse.

To promote the interests of his coal empire, the tycoon cultivated extensive political connections. According to the website OpenSecrets.org, the corporation that owned Crandall Canyon contributed \$3,546,469 to political candidates between 1992 and 2012. One of the recipients was Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY) who is married to Elaine Chao, US secretary of labor from 2001 to 2009.

The coal tycoon needed high-level protection because his mines were frequently cited for safety problems by the Mine Safety Health Administration (MSHA) over which Secretary Chao presided. At a meeting in Morgantown, WV, in 2002, the tycoon is reported to have roared at a group of MSHA employees, "Mitch McConnell calls me one of the five finest men in America, and the last I checked, he was sleeping with your boss," according to notes of the meeting. "They," [he] added, pointing at two MSHA men, 'are gone.'" ("Two for the money," *Lexington Herald-Leader*, 20 October 2006)

According to the same story, one of the two MSHA employees, Tim Thompson, whom the tycoon considered too hard on his operations, was transferred to another region.

In the meantime the coal tycoon and the Crandall Canyon Mine management were scraping the crumbs and residue of coal from the mine. According to the *Salt Lake Tribune*, they announced to the state of Utah their intention to close the mine in 2008. In their determination not to leave any coal behind, they began to use a mining procedure known as retreat mining.

The pillars made up mostly of coal that had been left in place for years to assure the integrity of the mine and the safety of the miners were mined out in a pattern that

started in the most remote corners of the mine moving towards the mine entrance. The mine managers found a consultant willing to vouch for the safety of the practice.

On 10 March 2007, one of the remaining pillars in the mine collapsed, temporarily suspending operations. Neither the coal tycoon nor the Crandall Canyon Mine management reported the incident to MSHA as required by law. Desperate to continue supplying a lucrative market for low-ash coal, management resumed mining and continued until virtually the entire mine collapsed on 6 August 2007, when six men, whose bodies were never subsequently recovered, were trapped.

On 16 August 2007, another three men participating in a rescue effort were killed and six injured by further rock bursts. After an investigation, Secretary Chao's agency levied a fine of \$1.85 million against the mine management and its engineering consultant—a cost of only \$205, 556 per fatality.

And so we return to the morning after the election. The coal tycoon was faced with an administration and senate less well disposed to continue allowing coals dangers and costs to be imposed on other people. Even worse, the average price of coal—once over \$100 a ton—is now at or under \$80 per ton (<http://www.eia.gov/coal/production/quarterly/pdf/t10p01p1.pdf>). The time had come to cut his losses and lay his burden on the Lord. He offered his sanctimonious prayer and fired 156 employees. ("After Obama re-election, Murray Energy CEO reads prayer, announces layoffs," *Washington Post*, 9 November 2012)

You wonder why I haven't mentioned the coal tycoon's name. You've probably guessed it in the meantime anyway. You're right. It's you and I. As a nation, we've been mostly indifferent to coal's externalities including mining deaths, pollution and climate disruption. There have been reports

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galore and films such as *How Green Was My Valley* that won the Academy Award for Best Picture in 1941. We've repeatedly re-elected presidents who appoint industry lapdogs like Elaine Chao and members of congress who cut the budgets of the Mine Safety and Health Administration and the Environmental Protection Administration.

But perhaps we've turned a corner. In November 2012, we re-elected a president who has begun to acknowledge and even act on reducing dangerous carbon pollution. And you're a member of Sierra Club so you're supporting our Beyond Coal and Clean Energy Campaigns (The Utah Chapter started its Beyond Coal Campaign in 2004). Over two hundred thousand of our friends and neighbors signed a petition against the expansion of a coal strip mine near Bryce Canyon National Park. Maybe we'll even see civil and criminal accountability for coal company executives who endanger workers' lives and undermine children's health. That's my prayer.



PERFECT LIGHT STUDIOS

JOIN
...US...
FEB. 7

Every general session of the Utah legislature opens a world of discussion and controversy.

Some of the likely bills are known in advance; others come at us unexpectedly. Many crucial environmental issues are decided at the legislature.

Join us for a Green Lobby Night Training on Thursday, 7 February 2013, from 6 to 7:30 pm in Room 130 of the State Capitol Building in Salt Lake City. Learn how a bill becomes law or becomes roadkill in the process and how to lobby for or against. We'll also briefly discuss some of the most important issues likely to come up during the session.

Each general session presents opportunities to improve the environment and to fight off bad bills. Bad bills that could come up during the forthcoming session include attacks on public lands and wildlife, further restrictions on planning and zoning authority of counties and cities, and irresponsible subsidies for the most polluting fossil fuels—oil shale and tar sands.

We'll join forces with staff and supporters of HEALUtah and the Utah Rivers Council again this year.

DATE **Thursday, February 7th**
TIME **6:00 – 7:30 pm**
PLACE **State Capitol Building, Room 130,**
350 North State St, Salt Lake City

The TRAX Blue Line City Center Station is only about four blocks south of the capitol. Parking is available on the east side of the capitol complex.



Our WishList

On December 1, 2012, we moved to a new office in ArtSpace Commons, and there are several items we would love to have to make the office more functional. Can you help us with any of the following items for our new office?

- **Cubicle with acoustic panels**
- **Lightly-used laptop**
- **6 lightly-used matching chairs for our conference table**

OurCommunity

Terrorism and Red Rock Country

by Tim Wagner

What do a bunch of ladies in hiking boots have in common with Al Qaeda?

This may seem like a very silly question and in most respects it is. But apparently in some circles it may not be. More on this in a few minutes. But first, allow me to put this in context.

The Canyonlands region of southeastern Utah is home to some of the most stunning and unique geological features on the face on the planet without question. It's where millions of acres of redrock desert canyons, mesas, and spires layered with junipers, sagebrush, rabbit bush, and prickly pear cactus intersect with 11,000' peaks covered in alpine forests rich in conifers and aspen. In the heart of this country is located the 337,000 acre Canyonlands National Park, first designated in the early 60s when it was apparently much easier to find bi-partisan support for the protection of special places.

This is also where the Durango-based Great Old Broads for Wilderness held their annual Broads Walk the last week of September to celebrate this landscape, to learn about old and new threats to the region, and to discuss what many hope will become a future designated national monument. The four-day event was attended by approximately 70 individuals including their women members and a few husbands (referred to as "bros") and roughly 16 Sierra Club members and staff.

It was merely coincidence that the Utah Chapter was also hosting a 3-day outing to the same region, which included several pleasurable and informative hikes. As such, it made perfect sense for the two separate events to merge where feasible, particularly when it came to having as many people as possible

learn about the proposed Greater Canyonlands National Monument and how we could all become advocates for protecting this remarkable region.

The four days included camp-based lectures (including power points – not the easiest thing to do in an area so remote!), field trips to witness impacts from decades of mismanaged grazing, unprotected historic Indian ruins, newly proposed OHV routes through sensitive areas, and the highlight for many of us, an hour-long flight over the entire region courtesy of Ecoflight from Aspen, CO.

The proposed 1.4 million-acre Greater Canyonlands National Monument would in many ways right a wrong perpetrated by politics. Originally dubbed the Escalante National Monument in the 1930s and proposed by then-Secretary of Interior Harold L. Ickes, the designation would have protected approximately four million acres encompassing some of Utah's most stunning unbroken landscapes.

But it would take another 30 years before Congress would find the political will to designate Canyonlands National Park. Even more troubling was the size – 337,000 acres – a mere fraction of what should have been protected.

In the western public lands advocacy world, I've often heard it said that finding victories is like moving mountains, an ironic statement at best. Here in southern Utah, where "it's the way we've always done it so how can it be wrong" prevails over nearly everything else, those victories can only happen *after* attitudes are moved. Moving mountains? Without a doubt.

Those prevailing attitudes were unfortunately presented to us in a very harsh way, *while* we were there. A lovely-



designed banner featuring the Great Old Broads insignia and a hiking female Kokopeli figure attached to the gate of our camp was slashed with a knife the first night we were there. After the banner was repaired with duct tape, it was again desecrated with a red liquid meant to mimic blood. In addition a Halloween mask of an old woman was nailed on a fence posted and also desecrated with a blood-like substance.

If our tormentors were trying to send a message, they succeeded. Did they send the right message? Hardly. Their message spoke volumes about them, that they likely fear a bunch of ladies in hiking boots more than the things they should be concerned about. Hence the comparison to Al Qaeda. Did they intimidate the Great Old Broads for Wilderness or the Sierra Club or any other group advocating for protection of these special places? Not for a second.

Terrorism, no matter who the perceived perpetrator is, has no place in the discussion about protecting such amazing places. For those who think otherwise, they have no place at the table. But having constructive conversations about this issue, whether it is with our choir or our most ardent opponents, is what the GOBs, the Sierra Club, and others are about. We invite everyone.

To work for protecting such special places, whether it be the Canyonlands region or the boundary waters north of Minnesota, is high-road work. It's the positive choice, not one driven by fear, rather one borne out a true love for this special planet we call home and a love of humanity, now and for future generations.

OurCommunity

Year of Decision

by Wayne Hoskisson

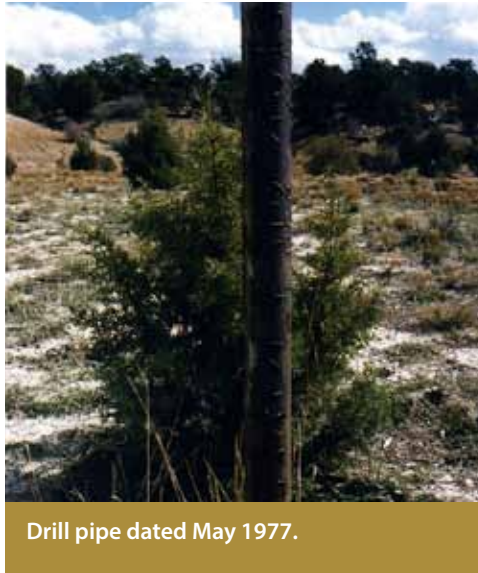
2012 is the big year for RS 2477.

Twenty-one counties in Utah have filed twenty-two lawsuits claiming about 14,000 highway rights of way across lands in Utah.

For decades the issue of Revised Statute 2477 (RS 2477) simmered along. RS 2477 dates back to 1866 and simply states, "The right-of-way for the construction of highways over public lands, not reserved for public uses, is hereby granted." The Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976 repealed the law. A few lawsuits reached the courts, but no decision definitively decided the fate of RS 24477 claims in Utah. A case involving Salt Creek in the Needles District of Canyonlands National Park may resolve some portion of the legal arguments. San Juan County Utah asked for full review by the entire 10th Circuit Court of an appeal they lost before a three judge panel. The decision could come any time.

In the fall of 2012 the Sierra Club along with partners the Southern Utah Wilderness Society, the Grand Canyon Trust, the National Parks Conservation Association and the Wilderness Society decided to seek intervenor status in support of the Department of Interior (DoI) against the suits filed by the counties and the State of Utah. As of December, nine of these cases have entered the U.S District Court for Utah. This is a massive number of cases of this level of complexity to enter the courts at one time. Apparently Utah and DoI agreed to a slow down of the process that would allow a few cases to proceed. It is not clear, but this seems to be intended as an opportunity for Utah to test the validity of the legal arguments for the county claims to this massive number of highways.

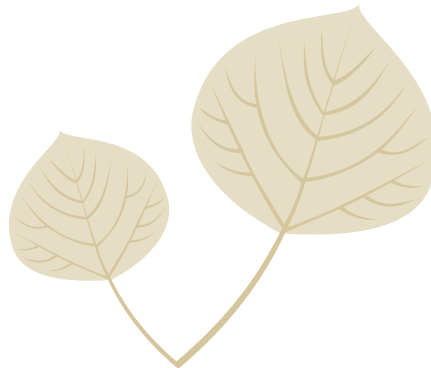
Sometime in 2013 the actual cases will be heard in the courts. Judges have been assigned to nine of the cases so far. But work has already begun. In November and December Garfield County took depositions from individuals concerning their experiences



Drill pipe dated May 1977.

in traveling on the claimed highways in one of two suits filed by the county. These are "preservation of testimony" depositions for the purpose of gathering testimony of elderly individuals for use in trials. Some of the evidence the counties are relying upon is the memory of people driving on a specific route more than 45 years ago.

The Utah Wilderness Coalition documented many RS 2477 claims starting in 1995. One example gives some flavor of the nature of these claims. At the end of one route claimed by Garfield County was an old drill pad. Although it's difficult to make out in this photo, the pipe marking the drill site was dated 1977--one year after RS 2477 was repealed.



The Results Are In

EXCOM ELECTION RESULTS



A total of 29 ballots were delivered to the office for the 2012 Ogden Group, Salt Lake Group and Utah

Chapter Executive Committee elections.

Three were joint ballots and twenty-six single. 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, 423 West 800 South, Suite A105 in Salt Lake City, during business hours for one year.

The results are reported below.

OGDEN GROUP

Ranee Johnson received six votes.

Dan Schroeder and Catherine Sharpsteen each received seven votes. All three are elected to two-year terms expiring on 31 December 2014.

SALT LAKE GROUP

Preston Motes received eighteen votes and is elected to a two-year term expiring on 31 December 2014. Cara Dolan and Chris Plummer received one write-in vote each.

UTAH CHAPTER

Jeff Clay and Dan Mayhew each received twenty-five votes. Marion Klaus received twenty-eight votes and Steve Thiese twenty-six. All are elected to two-year terms expiring on 31 December 2014.

Thanks to all our excellent volunteers who are willing to run for the executive committees and improve the environment. Special thanks to Secretary Leslie Hugo for helping count ballots and compile results.

GLEN CANYON GROUP

The Glen Canyon Group sent its election ballot separately. Tom Messenger received 20 votes, Marc Thomas 14, and Deb Walter 13. Tom and Marc were elected to two-year terms expiring on 31 December 2014.

ChapterNews



Thanks to all our Weber County volunteers and friends for joining us at the Front Climbing Club in Ogden on September 12, 2012 to celebrate Utah's public lands. And thanks to the Front for hosting us!

Sierra Club Office Move

To better accommodate our staff and volunteers, the joint Utah Sierra Club Field and Chapter Office is moving from one suite to another in our current complex, ArtSpace Commons. Shortly after January 1st, we'll be moving from Suite B112, which faces into an internal parking lot/courtyard, to Suites A103 & A105. The new suite faces onto 800 South and should be easier for first-time visitors and volunteers to find.

The postal address of our new location is

Utah Chapter, Sierra Club
423 West 800 South, Suite A103
Salt Lake City UT 84101

The Artspace Commons facility is functional, limited mobility-accessible, LEED Gold certified and partially solar powered. We're 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.

*We are here.
Come visit!*



RALLY TO PROTEST HERBERT'S ENERGY POLICY

We're working with our colleagues in the environmental community and beyond to plan a **rally on the first day of Governor Herbert's Energy Summit in January.**

Please join us as we rally outside of the summit to demand that our elected officials invest in Utah's bountiful renewable energy resources. Inside the summit, lobbyists and state officials will be plotting how they can exploit speculative resources like tar sands, oil shale and nuclear power -- even though those will drain our state's precious water, destroy wildlife, and spoil our fragile wilderness.

Hundreds of Utahns will gather to protest the governor's dirty energy policies, highlighting how our warming planet and choking pollution demand a full embrace of our state's wind, solar and geothermal resources. **Bring your friends, family and neighbors to help send a message to our state leaders that now is finally the time for Utah to adopt 21st century energy technologies.**

DATE Thursday, January 10th
TIME 12:30 p.m.
PLACE The Salt Palace Convention Center,
West Temple & 200 South, Salt Lake City.



ChapterNews

SpecialThanks



Thanks to the members listed below for their contributions to the Utah Chapter's 2012 fundraising drive during the past six months. Contributors who responded in the first three months of the campaign were acknowledged in the Summer 2012 newsletter. Thanks also to the many members who contributed anonymously.

In 2013, 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.

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>Michael & Jean Binyon</i> | <i>Fred Sanders</i> | <i>Ann Wechsler</i> |
| <i>Arthur C Haines</i> | <i>Daniel Schroeder</i> | <i>Archie A Williams, III</i> |
| <i>Susan Huffmyer</i> | <i>Catherine Smith</i> | |
| <i>Leslie Hugo</i> | <i>Marc Thomas</i> | |
| <i>Marion Klaus</i> | <i>Teri Underwood</i> | |
| <i>Carol Lakin</i> | <i>Paul Van Dam</i> | |



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) 467-9294 X102. We try hard to spell people's names correctly; please accept our apologies if we misspelled your name!

LEND A HAND

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.

Contact the Utah Chapter at (801) 467-9294 X102 or mark.clemens@sierraclub.org to learn about current volunteer needs.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Your financial contribution means alot to us. By supporting our Chapter, you support Sierra Club's work in your own backyard. This makes you an important part of our work to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities, and to promote the enjoyment of nature.

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax-deductible.

PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO
Utah Chapter Sierra Club
423 West 800 South, Suite A103
Salt Lake City UT 84101

RememberingLeo



The chapter gratefully acknowledges a generous gift made in loving memory of

Leo Slowikoski
by his family.

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



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.

Now, it is time for the environmental community to step up and support the courage of those who have become the public face of this campaign.

A Love Letter for Greater Canyonlands

by Marion Klaus



View from Gooseneck of the Colorado River below Dead Horse Point along the Potash Road and not far from Canyonlands National Park PHOTO BY JEFF CLAY | CLAYHAUS.NET

On November 13, 2012, over one hundred national and Utah-based Outdoor Industry Association companies made history. They recognized the recreational and economic significance of Utah's public lands and asked President Obama to designate Greater Canyonlands a National Monument.

The superlative recreational and ecological values of Greater Canyonlands have been recognized for decades. In the 1930s Interior Secretary Harold Ickes encouraged President Franklin Roosevelt to create a four million acre Escalante National Monument that would have protected much of Greater Canyonlands. It's in our power to push for the realization of these long-gestating hopes.

Now, it is time for the environmental community to step up and support the courage of those who have become the public face of this campaign. Please let these businesses know that you support them and a National Monument designation for Greater Canyonlands. You can show your support by liking these businesses on FaceBook, writing thank-you notes and patronizing their businesses.



CondorCorner

GREATER GRAND CANYON-COLORADO PLATEAU ECOREGION

SIERRA CLUB WORKING MAP
Draft August 2010



Legend

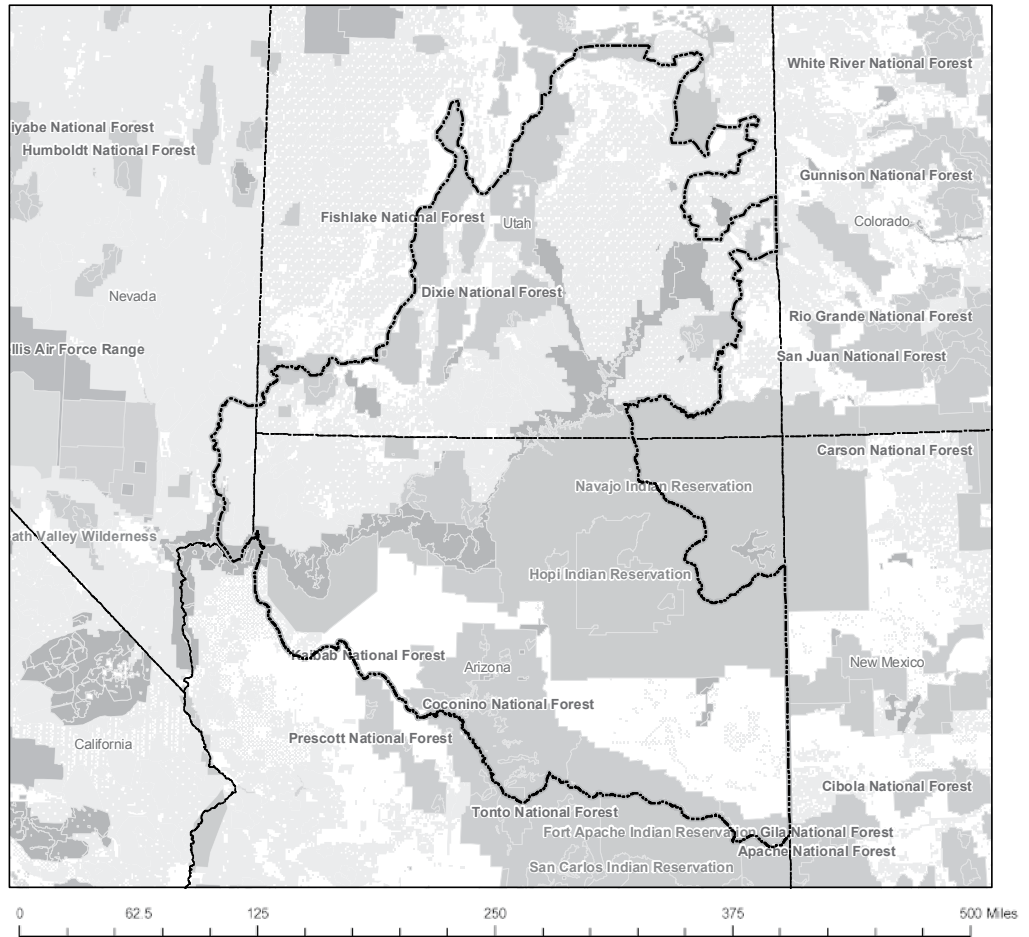
- Grand Canyon Ecoregion (draft)
- US States

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...)

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

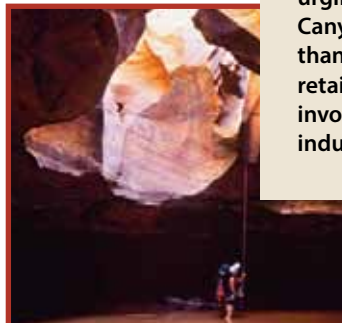
George B. and Oma E. Wilcox and Gibbs M. and Catherine W. Smith Charitable Foundation

for its continuing generous support of the Chapter's programs. The Foundation challenges you to increase your support for the Utah Chapter in 2013.



CondorCorner

A letter to President Obama urging protection of Greater Canyonlands. Signed by more than 100 manufacturers, retailers and other companies involved in the outdoor industries.



President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We are writing to encourage you to protect Greater Canyonlands – the magnificent 1.4 million-acre region of publicly-owned wildlands surrounding Canyonlands National Park in southern Utah – by proclaiming it a national monument.

Greater Canyonlands is without question a world class landscape deserving of the highest levels of protection. It is a place of unparalleled beauty, a geologic wonderland and a treasure trove of ancient cultural and archeological artifacts. Greater Canyonlands also offers superlative recreational opportunities that draw people from around the globe.

Many of us know and love the Greater Canyonlands area firsthand, and would like to see the area preserved because it is a premier part of our nation’s natural heritage. But as people who make their living in the outdoor industry, we also want to stress that preserving landscapes like Greater Canyonlands makes good economic sense. Wildlands are the foundational infrastructure for our industry.

A study recently released by the Outdoor Industry Association notes that outdoor recreation is “an overlooked economic giant,” generating \$646 billion in national sales and services in 2011 and supporting 6.1 million jobs, powering the economy in a manner comparable to the financial services and insurance industries or outpatient health care. As highlighted by the Western Governors Association, in western states alone outdoor recreation spending equaled almost \$256 billion (nearly 40% of the national total) and supported 2.3 million jobs.

The future of our outdoor recreation economy depends on protecting iconic landscapes – such as Greater Canyonlands – where people go to recreate. And monument proclamation is an important and effective way to provide the protection that is needed.

We also turn to you for action because unfortunately, Greater Canyonlands is endangered. Federal land use plans inappropriately open scenic and undeveloped land to drilling and mining and fail to address exploding off-road vehicle use that is damaging riparian areas, cultural sites, soils and solitude. Now, the state of Utah is demanding that the federal government turn over 30 million acres of federal land for potential development and/or privatization and is asserting the right to expand and pave 40,000 miles of dirt routes and trails that criss-cross Utah’s federally-owned wildlands. Both actions would result in the despoiling of Greater Canyonlands.

We hope you will act to protect Greater Canyonlands. Thank you for your vision and leadership.

Utah Chapter Outings

EXPLORE WITH US! JANUARY–APRIL 2013

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

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. You can sort by event type or use a built-in mapping function.



January

OG, Sun, 1/6/2013, Green Pond loop snowshoe/x-country ski. We will take the Green Pond trail loop (about 8 miles) starting at the trailhead near Snow Basin Road. Bring water, a lunch and snowshoe stories to share with the group. Contact joanie for more information 801-399-0034.

SLG, Sun, 1/6/2013, Midway Snowshoe, Ski and/or winter hike. Snowshoe and/or cross country ski on the trails of Wasatch State Park in Midway. Exact route will be leader's choice, depending on conditions. If there is diminished snow, the outing will be a winter hike. Plan on 2 1/2 - 3 hours from the trailhead. Meet at the mouth of Parley's Canyon at the new Walmart parking lot near Bombay House Restaurant at 10 a.m. Hosted social activity in Midway will follow outing. Leader: Jim Paull (801) 580-9079

GCG Sat, 1/12/2013, 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 towards Gold Basin or Geyser Pass for a round trip of 3 to 5 miles. Hiking in snowshoes is easy and lots of fun. Bring your own skis or snowshoes (can be rented locally). Meet at: MIC, Main and Center Sts, Moab, at 9 AM. Jock Hovey 435-260-2033 jockhovey@gmail.com.

OG Sun, 1/13/2013 Ski-Snowshoe North Fork Park. North Fork Park is the premier cross country skiing destination in northern Utah. There are 20 km of trails, groomed five times per week for skating and classic skiing by a dedicated team of Ogden Nordic volunteers. Contact D Harrison at 801-479-1108- for meeting time and place.

Co-sponsored by the Salt Lake Group. Salt Lake rendezvous note: We will join the Ogden Sierra Club at 10 AM (tentative) in Ogden and car pool up the Ogden Canyon to North Fork Park. This is one of the premier x-country ski locations in Utah. Joining the Ogden Group gives us in SLC a chance to see another part of the state. Meet at 8:45 AM at the Utah Tourist Bureau across from the Utah Capitol Building downtown. We will car pool from there to meet the Ogden Group. Salt Lake Group co-ordinator Richard Passoth 801-364-3387; repassoth@gmail.com

OG Sat, 1/19, Wheatgrass Canyon Snowshoe. Wheatgrass Canyon in the South Fork of Weber Canyon is 6 miles round-trip, about 3.5 hours, and moderate intensity. This is 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 more information, call Larry at 801-690-4335.

SLG, Sun 1/20, Millcreek Canyon Snowshoe/Hike. An afternoon outing to enjoy the gentle trails of Millcreek Canyon. Bring snowshoes and/or boot traction devices, depending on snow depth. Our leader will choose the best trail for the day's conditions. Meet at 1:00 p.m. at the Skyline High School parking lot, 3251 E. Upland Drive (3760 S) in SLC. Call or email Dee if you have questions. Leader: Dee Huseby (801) 718-1970; dee648@live.com

GCG Sat, 1/26, Ring Arch Dayhike. Hike from near Tower of Babel parking lot west to Ring Arch. Visit a couple of side canyons to view spectacular ice formations in the high Slick Rock cliffs. Around 5 miles distance depending on exploration in the side canyons. Meet at: MIC, Main and Center Sts, Moab, at 9:00 AM. Leader: Michael Stringham 435-259-8579 mikechrista@earthlink.net.

OG Sat 1/26 Full Moon X-country ski / snow shoe. We shall meet at the Mt Ogden Golf Course for some full moon frolicking. (weather permitting) call joanie for details 801-399-0034

SLG, Sat, 1/26, Emigration Ridge Ski/Snowshoe. Enjoy great views from the ridgetop trail leading toward Little Mountain at the upper end of Emigration Canyon. Skis are feasible here if there's enough snow; call leader for an update. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the parking lot immediately east of Hogle Zoo on Sunnyside

Avenue (800 South). A new stone monument marks the location. Leader: Fred Swanson (801) 588-0361; fbswan32@msn.com.

February

GCG Sat, 2/2, White Rock Dome. Climb to the top of a ridge of Navajo domes for wide vistas before descending an old stock trail into upper Spring Canyon. Explore down the canyon bottom and return. 300' to top of ridge, then less than 1000' down to the turnaround. Meet at: MIC, Main and Center Sts, Moab, at 9:00 AM. Leader: Thomas J Messenger 435-259-1756 messengerjt@citlink.net.

SLG, Sat, 2/2, Beaver Creek XC Ski. The Beaver Creek Trail is groomed for XC Ski, and is a great winter destination with six miles of scenic trails winding through the Uintas Mountains off the Mirror Lake Highway. Meet leader Chris Plummer at 9 am but contact in advance for meeting place and outing details. Good fitness and proper winter sport gear required, with weather and trail conditions permitting. Leader: Chris Plummer (919) 720-8125; chrisp347@gmail.com

OG Sat 2/9 YAY for Mardi Gras. Costumes costumes costumes!!! Get ready for this everyone, prizes awarded for the best COAT / Covering!! Get creative with the winter wear, add sparkle, feathers, even old Christmas decorations! We will snow shoe / X ski through beautiful North Fork Park to the environmental center and back to the bowery for some unhealthy snacks (chocolate, chips, and more!) Call joanie 801-399-0034 for details.

SLG, Sun, 2/10, Alexander Creek Snowshoe/hike. Snowshoe or winter hike depending on conditions. Spring-fed Alexander Creek borders Mountain Dell golf course and runs east up Parley's Canyon. Beaver ponds and dens are one of the special rewards of this snowshoe. Alexander Creek is one of the best areas in the region for wildlife and their winter tracks in the snow. Plan on a 3-4 hour snowshoe with a gradual climb. Bring water, snack/lunch, sunscreen, proper footwear and snowshoes, proper clothing for conditions. If the snow is sparse, we will hike. Time: 9:00am - Contact the leaders for meeting place and more details. Leaders: Don Mahaffey - 801-554-7153 or donm1234@yahoo.com. Colleen Mahaffey - 801-484-4105 or colleen.mahaffey@gmail.com.

SLG, Fri-Mon, 2/15-2/18, President's Day Weekend to Capital Reef. This will be a

AKIKO KAMIMURA



out&about

DECEMBER 15, 2012: Hikers enjoy the snow up Mill D Fork in Big Cottonwood Canyon.

weekend hiking outing down south in Red Rock Country. Snow here is very light and temperatures during the daytime around 45 degrees. There will be no need for skis or snow shoes. The hiking will be sunny, fairly warm, and absolutely magnificent. One day we will offer a day-long loop drive to Castle Valley, one of the sections of the park that is well known for its varied and beautiful scenery.

Room and eating arrangements are being set up. Travel times and costs will be made available as the time draws closer. Contact Richard for more details. Leader: Richard Passoth at repassoth@gmail.com

GCG Sat, 2/16, Above Moab Rim. Up the Moab Rim trail from Colorado River. From the Moab city view point we hike west along the south side of the Navajo sandstone dome and view some petroglyphs and look down into Moonflower Canyon. Then up onto the dome to explore a seldom visited area on top. Distance about 6 miles with an elevation gain of 1500 feet. Meet at: MIC, Main and Center Sts, Moab, at 9:00 AM. Leader: Michael Stringham 435-259-8579 mikechrista@earthlink.net.

OG Sat 2/16 Yellow Pine Snowshoe. This Uinta Mountains snowshoe is approximately 6 miles round-trip, about 3.5 hours, and moderate to strenuous intensity. The trail head is six miles east of Kamas. The trail meanders through an open area before turning into a forested canyon. It is often used for cross-country skiing and snow shoeing. Call Larry @ 801-690-4335 for more info.

GCG Tues, 2/26, Geology Tour. Tour the geologic section, Permian through Jurassic to learn how to recognize the formations. Driving with short, easy hikes at stops. After lunch, if the weather cooperates, we can hike to the Moab Rim to overlook the valley and discuss the geology from that vantage point. Meet at: MIC, Main and Center Sts, Moab, at 9:00 AM. Leader: Bonnie Crysedale 435-259-0246 mikeandbon@citlink.net. [E]

March

GCG Sat, 3/2, Alcove Spring Dayhike. Hike the Alcove Spring Trail, Islands in the Sky District. Descend into cliff-girt Trail Canyon past the spring. About 5 miles from the start, Trail ends in Taylor Canyon near Zeus and Moses monoliths. 1300' descent and ascent, 10 miles

round trip to Taylor Canyon. Meet at: MIC, Main and Center Sts, Moab, at 9:00 AM. Leader: Michael Stringham 435-259-8579 mikechrista@earthlink.net.

SLG, Sat, 3/2, Jeremy Ranch Snowshoe. We'll have our choice of several trails which climb the hills above Jeremy Ranch and traverse oak and aspen woodlands. Seeing moose is a possibility! Bring money for brunch at the No Worries Cafe in Summit Park afterwards. Meet at the parking lot by the Bombay House restaurant, 2700 E. Parley's Way at 9:30, or at the Jeremy Ranch Park & Ride lot off of I-80 at 10:00. Leader: Dana Morgan (435) 640-6740; dana_morgan321@yahoo.com

SLG, Sun, 3/10, Millcreek Canyon Snowshoe/Hike. The late-winter sun will warm the canyon as Dee again leads us on a suitable trail in Millcreek Canyon. Bring snowshoes and/or boot traction devices, depending on snow depth. Meet at 1:00 p.m. at the Skyline High School parking lot, 3251 E. Upland Drive (3760 S) in SLC. Call or email Dee if you have questions. Leader: Dee Huseby (801) 718-1970; dee648@live.com

GCG Sat, 3/16, Trough Canyon Dayhike. Trough Canyon is a tributary into Kane Springs drainage south of the Hurrah Pass road. Drive the 4 wheel drive road down Kane Springs canyon as far as we can go and then hike to the canyon. Up the canyon to the top of the Canyon Rims plateau and then back. Distance about 7 to 8 miles Meet at: MIC, Main and Center Sts, Moab, at 9:00 AM. Leader: Michael Stringham 435-259-8579 mikechrista@earthlink.net.

SLG, Sun, 3/17, Scotts Pass Cross Country Ski and Snowshoe. Scotts Pass straddles Big Cottonwood Canyon and Park City Ski Resort on the other side of the mountain. We will park at the winter gate on Guardsman's Pass Road, and ski/shoe up the groomed road. We pass amazing views of the Brighton Bowl as we make our way through drifts of snow and towering evergreens. The trip will take about 3 hours and is 3.35 miles round trip. Trip difficulty is easy. Meet at 10:00 am at the 6200 S. Park and Ride lot (6450 S. Wasatch Blvd), NOT the Park and Ride lot at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon. Call or email Rebecca or Pete for more information. Leader: Rebecca at 801 557-5271; rebeccawallace38@msn.com, Co-leader: Pete Mimmack at pmimmack@gmail.com

GCG Wed, 3/20, Equinox Petroglyph Panel. See a sun spot move across the panel at the spring equinox. About 2 miles and 550'. Meet

at: MIC, Main and Center Sts, Moab, at 7:00 AM. Leader: Thomas J Messenger 435-259-1756 messengertj@citlink.net. [E]

OG Sat 3/23 Rock Corral on Antelope Island. This hike is 10 miles round-trip, 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.

SLG, Sat, 3/23, Above the Avenues Hike. A nice winter hike on the trails behind the Avenues neighborhood is in order, so let's take the trail (leader's choice) and check out the seasonal changes as we enter into spring. Boot traction devices may be advisable. Meet at 1:00 p.m. at the north end of Terrace Hills Drive (approx. 1000 East) in SLC. Leader: Doug Johnson (801) 521-0704, Co-leader: Dee Huseby (801) 718-1970; dee648@live.com

April

OG, Sat, 4/7, Unicorn Point Dayhike. Join us for an easy long hike (about 10 miles rt) to Unicorn Point on the southern tip of Antelope Island. Antelope Island is home to a variety of flora and fauna native to the Great Basin region. This is a great place to view wildlife. Most likely we will see bison, antelopes perhaps a coyote or two and mule deers. call joanie for more information 801-399-0034

GCG Sat, 3/30, Go Postal. Follow a distinct (moderately graded if frequently pebble- and cobble-strewn) trail down the north side of South Mesa. Start from the Sand Flats road 3 miles or so short of the Loop Road and end at the Yellow Machine or Hidden Valley near the golf course. Wide views from west to northeast from the trail. About nine miles to Hidden Valley with net 2850' downhill. Meet at: MIC, Main and Center Sts, Moab, at 9 AM. Leader: Thomas J Messenger 435-259-1756 messengertj@citlink.net.

OG Sat 4/13 Mueller Park Trail. This Davis County hike is 6 miles round-trip and approximately 3-4 hours. We will hike across a clear area where the Kern Creek pipeline crosses the canyon causing a scar on the landscape, and then to a rock called "Elephant Head" where we will turn around. Call Larry Woolsey @ 801-690-4335 for meeting place and time.

SLG, Sun, 4/14, White Rock Bay Loop Trail. Join us for an Antelope Island classic—a six-

mile loop with great views, bison, and maybe pronghorn and coyotes. If there is interest we can extend the hike and complete the Split Rock Loop for a total of about fifteen miles. Afterwards we can stop off at the Buffalo Point snack bar. Meet at 9:00 am at the Utah Travel Council, 120 East 300 North to arrange carpools. There is a \$9.00 fee per car. Leader: Aaron Jones (801) 467-3532 or ajonesmvp@msn.com.

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

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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 recover, 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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