

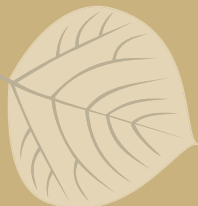


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# UtahSierran

utah.sierraclub.org

Winter 2016 Vol. 48 No. 1



## This Issue

The Utah Chapter Sierra Club made amazing strides in 2015. Count down the Top 10 Accomplishments for the year with us on **PAGE 4**

Join us for a special Sierra Club Social on January 6th. What's special about January 6th—Viva Los Tres Reyes. Get the details on **PAGE 6**

Regional haze, mostly from coal-fired power plants, blights views in national parks and wilderness areas. Find out about the dueling plans proposed to cut back on haze on **PAGE 7**



LikeUs  
on Facebook for the latest!

## Congressman Bishop Threatens Popular Parks Program

by Jim Catlin & Kim Crumbo



JOANIE APONTE

**Beus Pond Park in Ogden, one of many Utah parks created with Land and Water Conservation Fund support.**

**W**ood ducks, perhaps the most stunning and colorful of our waterfowl with iridescent chestnut and green ornate patterns, have returned to northern Utah thanks to a tiny park in Ogden, Beus Pond Park. Tucked against the mountains, the park's pond has small islands where an array of bird species nests including wood ducks. This park exists because of a small matching grant to the city from the Land and Water Conservation Fund almost fifty years ago. Over the years, local staff with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, the city, and Audubon members have adopted this park and brought these beautiful wood ducks to breed on this pond. Their young have spread to establish populations in several states and most of northern Utah.

This example brings home the amplifying benefits from such a small initial investment from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Today, this twenty-two acre park is a hotspot for migrant birds (101 species have been sighted) and provides families recreation almost impossible to be found on private lands. Beus Park was purchased by the city to honor Michael and Marianne Comb Beus who farmed the lands that includes the current park. This is one of 41,000 examples of successes in almost every state due to the Lands and Water Conservation Fund.

This Fund<sup>1</sup> was established fifty years ago to preserve precious landscapes and promote outdoor recreation. A small portion of revenues from offshore fossil fuel extraction is added each year to this Fund. This is a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



## 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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### UtahSierran

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Submit all articles, artwork, photographs, letters and comments to [utah.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:utah.chapter@sierraclub.org). Phone: 801-467-9297. The *Utah Sierran* reaches more than 5,000 members and friends of the Sierra Club in Utah. Display advertising is accepted. For a current ad rate card, contact Mark Clemens, [utah.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:utah.chapter@sierraclub.org) or 801-467-9297. We reserve the right to refuse advertising that we feel conflicts with the goals and purposes of the Club.

Bylined articles represent the research and opinions of the author and not necessarily those of the Sierra Club or the Utah Chapter.

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# OurLand

## Congressman Bishop Threatens Popular Parks Program CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

small payback by the fossil energy industries for the benefits they receive and the impacts they cause. Grants from the Fund help state, tribal, and other local governments acquire and build recreation parks and facilities.

This Fund also supports cooperative wildlife habitat conservation for endangered species, provides funds to secure national battle fields and historic parks, and funds actions to protect Highlands Region in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. Lastly, the fund supports the acquisition of private lands from willing sellers inside national parks and in other conservation areas on national forests and BLM lands. For the year 2015, Congress allocated \$300 million, roughly half of which went to states and other local communities.

For the past five decades, Utah has received \$171 million. Of that amount, \$63 million was spent to acquire lands within public lands conservation units managed by the federal government; \$49 million went to state and local towns for recreation and parks; \$30 million was spent on state acquisition and private conservation easements to promote a working forestry that protects habitat and recreation; and \$29 million was spent by a number of agencies and private land owners for wildlife conservation.<sup>2</sup>

On the Wasatch-Cache-Uinta National Forest that manages public forest lands from Logan to Nephi, this Fund has helped secure access for sections of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail crossing a number of private parcels from willing sellers. As you might guess, it takes time to create for the right circumstances for land owners in order to protect this trail. Funding needs to be available when those circumstances are ripe.

The National Park Service has also benefited from this fund allowing the acquisition of relatively small parcels of private lands inside parks. When a seller is willing, transfer to the Park Service ensures the future of our park values. Across the country, the National Park Service has a backlog 1.6 million acres of inholdings they hope to acquire from will-

*Congressman Bishop would subsidize the oil industry by creating offices that increase oil revenue, technology hubs for oil & gas production innovation, and provide universities with grants for fossil fuel energy education.*

ing sellers within 84 million acres of National Park units.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund expired at the end of September 2015 and legislation to renew this popular program was introduced<sup>3</sup> with bipartisan support of 175 members of the House of Representatives. However, the legislation has been stopped by Representative Rob Bishop (R-UT) through his authority as the chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee.

In a report for the Natural Resources Committee, Representative Bishop argues that in the past too little of the Fund goes to state and local programs. However, the Land and Water Conservation Fund isn't the major reason for this. Congress determines each year what part of the possible \$900 million in the Land and Water Conservation Fund should be allocated. In recent budgets, congress has shifted funds that could be allocated to the Land and Water Conservation Fund to other purposes cutting short what cities and states could receive. Congressman Bishop should offer to fix this problem in the next budget.

In addition to this, declining agency state and local government budgets make it hard for a city or state agency to qualify for a grant. Grants require a match from the state or city and, in recent years, Utah cities have focused on meeting other pressing funding needs and key state agencies in Utah have seen a major drop in funding.

Congressman Bishop criticizes federal land acquisition and suggests legislative changes that will severely restrict acquiring private lands within national parks and other public conservation areas. Under Bishop's plan<sup>4</sup> no more than 3.5% of the Land and Water Conservation Funds can go to federal public acquisitions and of that no more than 15% of the acreage can be in the West. This could impact Utah's parks and the Bonneville Shoreline Trail mentioned earlier.

The new Bishop Land and Water Conservation Fund would abruptly change the recreation and conservation purpose of this Fund. Congressman Bishop would subsidize the oil industry by creating offices that increase oil revenue, technology hubs for oil & gas production innovation, and provide universities with grants for fossil fuel energy education. He would also shift some funds to Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT), a slush fund for local counties. Currently without Bishop's proposal, PILT funding is likely to receive \$452 million<sup>5</sup> from the existing program.

It is odd when a Congressman acts to deny local community funding for extremely popular projects using funding from an independent source, the fossil fuel industry. The Great Falls *Tribune* described Congressman Bishop as "short sighted and extreme"<sup>6</sup> concerning his actions on this issue.

To bypass Congressman Bishop, congress attached language extending the Land and Water Fund program for three more years as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016. This legislation passed and was signed into law by the president. Bishop's recommended changes failed to be included in the law that passed. Bishop promised on his web site to continue to work to change this law, "I am confident that in the coming months, those shortcomings will be addressed and made right." Unfortunately many of the changes that Bishop proposed are contrary to Utah values and our community needs. We

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



# ChapterNews

## Utah Sierra Club's Big 10 Accomplishments in 2015

# 1

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

# 2

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



# 3

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

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

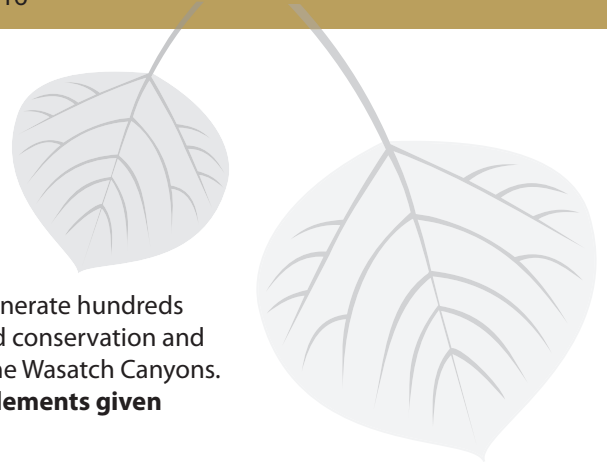
# 4



# 5

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

Sierra Club's Big 10 Accomplishments in 2015  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2



6

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



7

Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune and his family visited southeastern Utah in June 2015. The Glen Canyon Group hosted them for a part of this trip and showed them the impacts of mineral development on lands proposed for national monument status. Brune's meetings with Native American leaders paved the way for a shift in Sierra Club priorities to making support for a Bears Ears National Monument its main public lands campaign in Utah.

8



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

9

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



10

The Utah Chapter continues to maintain the best schedule of outings across the state. Make tracks in the outdoors soon—check out your options.



Please make a generous year-end contribution to the Utah Chapter to ensure we can continue and expand this work in 2016.

# OurLand

SAVE THE DATE!

## SIERRA CLUB JANUARY SOCIAL— VIVA LOS TRES REYES

Join us for our monthly Sierra Club Social on Wednesday, January 6th. We'll meet at Sage's Cafe in the Jade Room at 5:30 pm. Meet new friends, socialize with Sierra Club volunteer leaders and staff, learn about our campaigns. Let's start a new Utah Chapter tradition!

January 6th is the traditional Dia de Los Tres Reyes Magos, and we'll share slices of the delicious rusca de reyes that's a centerpiece of this holiday. Please RSVP so we'll all have enough cake.

Sage's Cafe is a vegan restaurant with a wide variety of food and beverages, located at 234 West 900 South in Salt Lake City. You can order and pay individually for additional drinks or snacks from the menu. Get to know about the Sierra Club community, outings, and campaigns. From protecting our wild places, to acting on climate change, to getting outdoors to exercise, the Sierra Club has a long tradition of connecting people to the causes they love.

**Wednesday, January 6th @ 5:30 PM**

**The Jade Room at Sage's Cafe,  
234 West 900 South, Salt Lake City  
(immediately west of the 900 South TRAX Station)**

Meet & mingle with Sierra Club volunteers and staff and learn about upcoming volunteer opportunities!

### Congressman Bishop Threatens Popular Parks Program CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

have our work cut out for us and hope to work with Congressman Bishop to ensure that the Land and Water Conservation fund is allowed to continue to succeed. Unfortunately for the past weeks, the Congressman and his staff have not made themselves available to us, his constituents, to discuss this important issue.

[http://naturalresources.house.gov/uploadedfiles/nr\\_parc\\_act\\_11.6.2015.pdf](http://naturalresources.house.gov/uploadedfiles/nr_parc_act_11.6.2015.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.doi.gov/pilt> The president's 2016 budget includes \$452 million to be paid in early 2016.

<sup>6</sup> Egan, Timothy. Against Nature. New York Time, The Opinion Pages, contributing OPED writer Oct. 23, 2015

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Code 54 Section 2003

<sup>2</sup> Source: <http://www.lwfccoalition.org/utah.html>

<sup>3</sup> H.R. 1814

<sup>4</sup> Bishop's proposal is titled the Protecting America's Recreation and Conservation Act (PARC)

## GREAT LOCAL RETAILERS SHOW THE LOVE FOR THE UTAH CHAPTER

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

The Utah Chapter, Sierra Club announces a new partnership with WASATCH TOURING. Club members will receive a 10% discount on presentation of proof of current membership before checkout.\* A long time supporter of the Sierra Club, Wasatch Touring will be promoting the chapter's 2016 Love Utah, Give Utah fundraising campaign.



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

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

\*discount applies to non-sale merchandise through the end of 2016.

THE STOCKIST specializes in Contemporary Heritage Clothing, the lines and collections are carefully chosen with quality



and function in mind. The Stockist, located at 875 E 900 S in Salt Lake City's 9th and 9th neighborhood, is usually the first to bring new brands to Salt Lake, while also sourcing pieces from brands that have deep roots in American history. Club members will receive a 10% discount on presentation of proof of current membership before checkout.

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



# OurAir

## Draft EPA Plan to Cut Coal Pollution Offers Cleaner Air for Utah Parks



**OF TWO PROPOSED  
OPTIONS, REQUIRING  
POLLUTION CONTROLS  
FOR UTAH'S TWO DIRTIEST  
POWER PLANTS WILL  
LEAD TO CLEANER AIR;  
WEAKER STATE OPTION  
REQUIRES NO NEW CUTS IN  
POLLUTION**

**Hunter Power Plant, near Castle Dale, Utah, is a major contributor to regional haze that obscures vistas in national parks and wilderness areas.**

**A**ir quality in Utah's five national parks and surrounding communities could improve significantly in the coming years if the Environmental Protection Agency ultimately chooses to require installation of industry-standard pollution controls on the two oldest and dirtiest coal-burning power plants in the state, Hunting and Hunter. Both plants are owned by Utah's largest utility, Rocky Mountain Power.

On Wednesday, December 16, EPA officials released a long-awaited draft plan with two separate options for dealing with nitrogen oxide pollution from coal-burning power plants. Nitrogen oxide is one of the main sources of the haze that often blankets Utah's national parks and sometimes is carried as far south as the Grand Canyon. Coal combustion is Utah's largest single industrial source of nitrogen oxides (NOx). The dual EPA draft proposal puts forth the state's current plan, which would require no NOx reductions from Huntington and Hunter, and also a federal alternative that would require

selective catalytic reduction (SCR) technology be utilized, that could cut NOx emissions by up to 87%. A copy of the plan can be found here, and is currently open for public comment.

By far, the most effective of the two options proposed by the EPA to cut down on haze would require a type of pollution-control technology for Rocky Mountain Power's Hunter and Huntington coal plants that has already been installed on more than 250 power plants around the country, including comparable plants in the West. Pollution from the smokestacks at the two coal-burning plants in central Utah is responsible for 40 percent of all nitrogen oxide emissions from the state's electric sector, according to EPA emissions data. The second option is a plan previously adopted by the state of Utah that would not require any pollution controls on Hunter and Huntington and would allow air pollution from the two plants to continue unabated.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

*Take action!  
Tell the EPA to  
adopt the  
Federal Plan!*



The draft plan will be open for public comment for 60 days under Docket ID No. EPA-R08-OAR-2015-0463. Visit [sierraclub.org/cleanair4utah](http://sierraclub.org/cleanair4utah) to submit your comment now! On **January 26, 2016** the EPA will be hosting a public hearing at the Salt Lake City Main Library, from 1:00 – 5:00 pm, and again, from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. **Mark your calendars now and seize your opportunity to stand up for clean air in Utah's parks and communities!**

# OurAir

## Draft EPA Plan to Cut Coal Pollution CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

A coalition of health, clean air and national park advocates who have pushed for strong clean air protections in Utah said there is no comparison between the alternatives. The only option that offers a path to meaningful improvements to haze problems in Utah's national parks, according to HEAL Utah, Sierra Club and the National Parks Conservation Association, is the one requiring pollution controls known as selective catalytic reduction, or SCR on Hunter and Huntington. Over the past year, petitions with more than 30,000 signatures have been submitted to EPA Region 8 urging the agency to limit coal combustion emissions that degrade air quality in Utah's national parks and communities.

"Toxic pollution from Utah's coal-fired power plants is endangering the health of our communities, our skies, the air we breathe, and the things we love most about our state: our iconic national parks and public lands," said Lindsay Beebe, organizing representative for the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal campaign in Utah. "We are encouraged by the draft plan announced today, which opens a path to protection for our parks and communities by putting forth strong and fair safeguards requiring the installation of modern, industry-standard pollution controls on the Hunter and Huntington plants."

Utah is celebrated for its iconic national parks, stunning visual scenery, and world-class recreational areas. Arches, Canyonlands, Capitol Reef, Bryce Canyon, and Zion national parks are economic engines for the state's economy and the local recreation businesses. In 2014, more than 10 million people from around the world visited Utah's national parks, generating \$730 million for Utah's economy. The tourism industry supports about 132,000 jobs, or about one out of every 10 jobs in the state.

"While EPA has presented two proposals for public comment, there is only one choice for clearing the air in eight of our most prized



**Black Diamond CEO Peter Metcalf speaks about the importance of cleaning up power plant emissions that cause regional haze.**

national parks, including Canyonlands, Arches and Bryce Canyon" said Cory MacNulty, a senior program manager for National Parks Conservation Association. "Only one option would cut roughly 80 percent of the nitrogen oxide pollution coming from four units at the Hunter and Huntington coal plants. The state's alternative would cut none."

Under the Clean Air Act's "Regional Haze Rule," federal and state agencies are required to work together to cut air pollution that shrouds the views at national parks and other wilderness areas. Utah is among the last states in the country to take steps to reduce harmful nitrogen oxide emissions from power plants. A year ago, the state of Utah unveiled its own regional haze plan, but it lacked any requirements for retrofitting the Hunter and Huntington plants with pollution controls that would cut nitrogen oxide emissions.

Monitoring studies referenced by the National Park Service have shown that visibility at Arches and Canyonlands national parks is diminished by human-caused haze 83 percent of the time relative to average levels of natural haze.

Data from Utah's Department of Environmental Quality shows that installing SCR, which is the industry-standard

for cutting haze-causing nitrogen oxide pollutants, would reduce emissions by 80 percent from four of the five coal-burning units at the two plants (one of the three units at Hunter is not subject to pollution controls). EPA's own analysis found that installation of SCR on these units is very effective at reducing nitrogen oxides and can be accomplished at reasonable costs. Installing these pollution controls on the Hunter and Huntington coal-fired power plants present the greatest visibility improvements at some of the lowest costs compared to other plans seen across the regional haze program.

Rocky Mountain Power's parent company, Warren Buffett-owned PacifiCorp, already is or will soon be installing SCR-level pollution controls at four coal-burning plants in Wyoming, one in Arizona and two in Colorado.

"We owe it to Utah's visitors to take every reasonable step to ensure they can enjoy our gorgeous vistas," said Matt Pacenza, HEAL Utah's executive director. "We owe it to Utah's families to take advantage of technology that will help them breathe easier. The best way forward is to make sure Utah's biggest polluters are retrofitted with modern pollution controls."



# OurRegion

## Bears Ears National Monument

### CREATION, GESTATION, IMPLEMENTATION?

by Wayne Hoskisson

The Sierra Club participated in a loose affiliation of organizations we called the Bears Ears Coalition. With the establishment of the Bears Ears Inter Tribal Coalition (BEITC), we dropped the earlier name but will remain part of a support team for the Bears Ears National Monument campaign. The BEITC developed a proposal to send to President Obama asking him to designate the Bears Ears National Monument. The proposal can be found on the [coalition web site](http://coalitionweb.org), [bearscoalition.org](http://bearscoalition.org).

The Bears Ears NM proposal includes about 1.9 million acres north of the San Juan River and east of the Colorado River. The formal proposal for the monument includes a map as well as extensive information about the region. The proposal also incorporates a new idea for co-management of the monument. The proposal thoroughly describes the concept. One essential element would be the creation of a monument board comprised of representatives from five tribes and representatives from the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service and the National Forest Service. The management of the new monument would be determined through a NEPA process.

While the Bears Ears National Monument idea looks like a new development the Sierra Club has been aware of the possibility that Native Americans would propose a new monument in San Juan County. The Utah Dine Bikeyah started work on a monument/national conservation area proposal several years ago. The Sierra Club watched the growth of this new monument proposal and joined a loose coalition to support the tribes in developing the proposal.

The author attended the first inter tribal meeting in Bluff, Utah, in mid April



**Utah environmentalists can't help dancing when they think about a proposed Bears Ears National Monument.**

representing the Sierra Club. At that meeting Mark Maryboy (former San Juan County Commissioner, local Navajo leader and representative to the Navajo Tribal Council) outlined the idea for a proposal. Mark Maryboy greeted the attending tribes with "Welcome home." The tribes spent three days discussing their interest in the area and their ideas for protecting the Bears Ears. The tribes voiced general approval of the idea but no strong commitment other than to meet again.

In mid-July the tribes met in Towaoc on the Ute Mountain Ute Reservation. They formally created the Bears Ears Inter Tribal Coalition with an executive committee with representatives from the Navajos, Ute Mountain Utes, Northern Utes (Uintah-Ourray), Zuni and Hopi. Over the next three

days the tribes gathered at the Bears Ears camping on the edge of a meadow below the twin buttes. Five representatives from federal agencies met for a couple of hours with the tribes just a hundred yards north of the gathering. Once again I attended the gathering with a role more like an outfitter than a participant.

The Sierra Club will continue to support the 1.8 million acre Greater Canyonlands National Monument (GCNM) proposal. The two monuments overlap by about 930,000 acres so much of the same landscape will be protected in either monument. We will continue to support America's Red Rock Wilderness Act that will provide protection for much that would be left out of either monument.

Unfortunately local politics trumped the GCNM. President Obama has stated he wants to declare national monuments with local support. Unfortunately local politicians and our congressional delegation remain parochial in their views and forge forward with their eyes firmly fixed on the rear view mirror. The Bears Ears NM does have local Native American support, would satisfy the needs of an under-served population, and probably would have the support of members of congress from adjacent states. It is probably our best chance to see additional lands protected in Utah in this decade.



# ChapterNews



## ExCom Election Results

The Utah Chapter is governed by a volunteer executive committee or ExCom consisting of eight elected members, and voting delegates appointed by local groups. Terms are staggered so four members are elected or re-elected each year.

Election ballots were distributed in the Fall 2015 issue of the newsletter. There were 75 ballots returned including 60 single and 15 joint ballots. This represents an 83% increase over the 2014 election when 41 ballots were returned. No ballots had to be invalidated.

The vote totals are as follows:

Turner Bitton--40

Jim Catlin--66

Kim Crumbo--64

Wayne Hoskisson--64

Jeff Kramer--68

The four top candidates by votes are elected to two-year terms ending on 31 December 2017. Four ExCom members elected in 2014 continue their terms through

31 December 2016. They are Jeff Clay, Dan Mayhew, Amy Mills and Ian Wade.

Thanks to our excellent volunteers who are willing to run for the executive committees and improve the environment. Special thanks to Jeff Clay and Daniele Dumais for helping count chapter ballots and compile results.

Members are welcome to come to the chapter office, 423 West 800 South, Suite A105 in Salt Lake City, during business hours to review the count. Ballots will be retained for one year.

First ExCom Meeting in 2016

The first ExCom meeting in 2016 will be held on Saturday, 9 January, at 10 am in the TBD, in Salt Lake City. During the January meeting officers are elected for the forthcoming year. All members are welcome, but an RSVP to [utah.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:utah.chapter@sierraclub.org) would be helpful. More details about the meeting are in our on-line Events & Outings Calendar.

## THE GREAT COLORADO SPRINGS FIRE OF JUNE, 2012, FROM JULYNNE AVENUE

by Robert "Archie" Archuleta

Between two houses the scene  
Expands, and the mountain looms  
Into view, the startling spark,  
Stark and burning lies in the height  
Above you. Live flora lost  
To the voracious, super-heated  
Flames, leaping and gushing into  
A volcanic, fiery WHOOSH!  
Of intense, white-hot heat;  
Devouring air and space in  
Great wolfish bites, and hurtling  
Down the slope toward houses, cars  
And me. My God! It's after Me!

## Dan Mayhew

### TEAM UTILITY PLAYER PAR EXCELLENCE



The current major challenges to Utah's environment have evoked leadership among Sierra Club volunteers equal to the fight. For the past three years the chapter has been fortunate to be led by Dan Mayhew as chair. Dan's knowledge of the issues and tenacity in leading campaigns ranging from keeping dirty fuels

in the ground to Wasatch canyons protection have had beneficial impacts for the chapter and the environment

Dan has proved willing to go more than the extra mile by serving as de facto conservation chair or political chair as needed while still keeping up as chapter chair. He has also been an adroit and well-informed liaison between Sierra Club and collaborating environmental groups such as the Colorado River Connected network.

While chapter meetings have to cover lots of ground, Dan usually starts them with a joke that breaks the ice. Dan won't be going anywhere yet—we're lucky that his current term on the chapter executive committee doesn't end until December 2016—but he has announced that he will step down as chair in 2016.



MARK CLEMENS

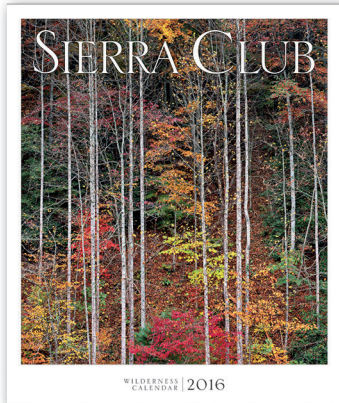


# ChapterNews

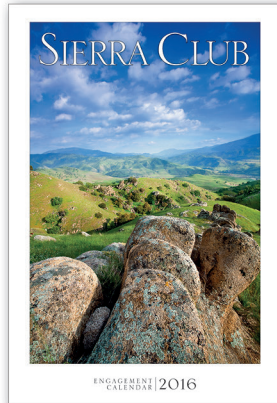


Enjoy, explore and protect the planet

## 2016 Sierra Club Calendars



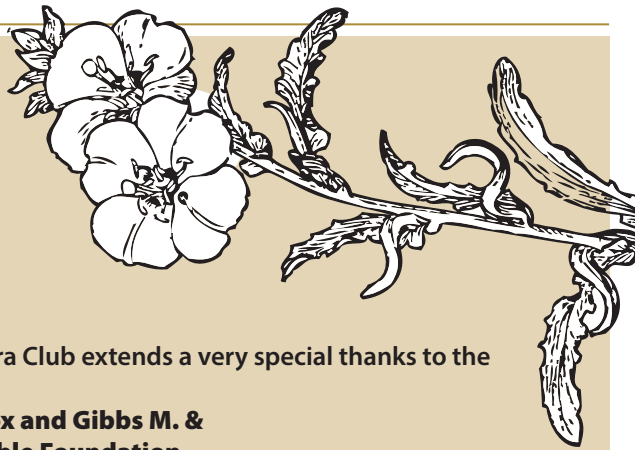
Wilderness Wall Calendar



Engagement Calendar

## Support local conservation and get a head-start on the new year!

2016 Calendars are now available for purchase in the chapter office during business hours. Do drop by, as we are unable to ship. Wall calendars are \$11, engagement calendars are \$12.



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

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

for its continuing generous support of the Chapter's programs. The Foundation challenges you to increase your support for the Utah Chapter in 2016.

## Join our Team

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

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

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

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

The committee sets priorities for chapter effort on endorsed campaigns and assists in training volunteers to participate effectively and coordinate with campaigns, and in all aspects of political action such as fund raising, door-to-door, press releases, and so forth. Chapter Manager Mark Clemens is happy to be a mentor and also serves as liaison with the club's national political committee. Contact him at [utah.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:utah.chapter@sierraclub.org) or 801/467-9294 x102, or Turner Bitton at [turner@turnerbitton.com](mailto:turner@turnerbitton.com).



# Utah Chapter Outings

## EXPLORE WITH US! JANUARY–APRIL 2016

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

All members and nonmembers are welcome on any of the chapter or group activities listed.

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

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

[www.utah.sierraclub.org/email\\_list.asp](http://www.utah.sierraclub.org/email_list.asp)



### ONLINE OUTINGS TOOL!

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

## January

### **SLG, Fri, 1/1/16, Little Mountain New Years Day Snowshoe.**

Celebrate the New Year outdoors with this five-mile round-trip jaunt along the ridge at the head of Emigration Canyon. If conditions allow, we will climb to the top of Little Mountain for views all around. Meet promptly at 10:00 a.m. at the parking lot east of Hogle Zoo at Crestview Dr. and Sunnyside Ave. The lot is marked by a large eagle statue. Leader: Fred Swanson (801) 588-0361, [fbswan32@msn.com](mailto:fbswan32@msn.com). Check with leader if winter conditions are threatening.

### **GCG Sat 1/16 Klonzo-Klondike bike trails.**

Specific destination will depend on the weather. Expect a relatively flat walk of five miles. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 9:00 AM. Leader: Barbara Crossan 435-259-0777 [blcrossan@gmail.com](mailto:blcrossan@gmail.com).

### **SLG, Sat, 1/16, Beaver Creek Ski Tour.**

A favorite easy cross-country ski trail through the pines and aspens along the Mirror Lake Highway east of Kamas. We'll take a relaxed pace for about three miles to a sunny picnic spot and return. Participants should have some experience on cross-country skis. Bring warm clothes, water, lunch, and sun protection. Contact leader, Fred Swanson ([fbswan32@msn.com](mailto:fbswan32@msn.com), 801-588-0361) to sign up and to arrange 9 AM meeting place. Snow or road conditions may dictate an alternate destination.

### **GCG Sat 1/23 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: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 9:00 AM. Leader: Jock Hovey 435-260-0239 [jockhovey@gmail.com](mailto:jockhovey@gmail.com).

### **OG, Sat, 1/23, 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 the area. Larry: 801-690-4335.

### **SLG, Sat, 1/23, Jordan River Parkway**

**Moonglade hike/snowshoe.** Moonglade is a poetic term for the reflection of the moon in water and expect to be moonstruck by it this evening. Savor the silent beauty of winter as we explore a parcel of nature amidst the urban environment. A full moon will rise at 6:46 PM. Meet at 6:30 PM at the Redwood trailhead which is reached .9 mile east of Redwood Road on 2320 South. Dress warmly and bring traction devices or snowshoes as needed. If the weather is questionable call the leader after 4:30 PM to confirm the status of the hike. Leader: Aaron Jones 801-467-3532, [ajonesmvp@msn.com](mailto:ajonesmvp@msn.com).

### **GCG Sat 1/30 Sunshine Wall - Eagle Park.**

Hiking in the extreme north west part of Salt Valley north of Arches NP. Views of the giant painted walls, fins and towers will abound. Hike begins at base of Sunshine Wall after an easy car friendly dirt road drive from 191. We'll follow an old oil exploration road for a while and then walk under some Navajo formation cliffs. We'll loop around the south end of these cliffs and then return to the starting point via a route in a nice wide bench ringed on the east by Entrada formation cliffs. This should be an easy class 1 hike of about four to six miles with about 400 feet elevation gain. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 9:00 AM. Leader: Michael Stringham 435-259-8579 [mikechrista@earthlink.net](mailto:mikechrista@earthlink.net).

### **SLG, Sun, 1/31, Snowshoe or hike in**

**Mountain Dell Bottoms.** We will snowshoe on the trail from the gate on East Canyon Road to Affleck Park picnic area and return on the road. This will be a 3-4 hour trip, moderate. Meet at 9:00 AM in the parking lot at Parley's Way Walmart in front of Bombay House Restaurant. Bring ample drinking water, proper footwear and winter clothing, and lunch that will be eaten in the picnic grounds at Affleck Park. Please contact leaders prior to event for more information and conditions of trail. Colleen Mahaffey 801-484-4105, [colleen.mahaffey@gmail.com](mailto:colleen.mahaffey@gmail.com) or Don Mahaffey 801-554-7153.

## February

**GCG Sat 2/13 Mill-Tusher Mesa.** From Tusher Canyon, ascend the slickrock on the east side 400' to reach the top of the mesa between Tusher and Mill Canyons. At the south end, the Moab Member (biscuit rocks) gives way to an expanse of entertaining Entrada domes. Views of Monitor, Merrimac, Lone Mesa, etc. Four or five miles depending on how much exploring on top we do. High clearance/4WD needed to reach the trailhead. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 9:00 AM. Leader: Michael Stringham 435-259-8579 [mikechrista@earthlink.net](mailto:mikechrista@earthlink.net).

**OG, Sat, 2/13, 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 snowcapped mountains. Perhaps we will see a moose, for they winter in this area. Call Larry at 801-690-4335.

**SLG, Mon, 2/22, Full Snow Moon City Creek Canyon hike/snowshoe.** The Snow Moon, also known as the Hunger Moon, will arise this evening at 6:26 PM. Meet at 6:30 PM at the City Creek Nature Preserve entrance by following East Bonneville Boulevard north for .6 mile. The boulevard starts at the corner of B Street and 11th Avenue. Dress warmly and bring traction devices or snowshoes as needed. If the weather is questionable call the leader after 4:30 PM to confirm the status of the hike. Leader: Aaron Jones 801-467-3532 [ajonesmvp@msn.com](mailto:ajonesmvp@msn.com)

**GCG Sat 2/27 Dellenbaugh Tunnel.** From the Tombstone on the Spring Canyon Point road, visit the Dellenbaugh Tunnel, about four miles round-trip with little elevation change. Or join Albey Reiner for a longer hike in the same area. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 9:00 AM. Leader: Thomas J Messenger 435-259-1756 [messengert35@gmail.com](mailto:messengert35@gmail.com).

## March

**GCG Sat 3/12 Jedi Slickrock.** From the mouth of Bartlett canyon explore the right wall (looking down canyon) Entrada Slick Rock below the Moab Member cap towards the Bartlett-Tusher divide. Change between levels as necessary. While ledges in the upper part of the Slick Rock become more exciting towards the neck to Lone Mesa, the bench on the Moab Member is worry free. About 7 miles with a 700'

elevation gain. Return the same way or down a branch of Tusher Canyon past the Tusher Tunnel. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 8:00 AM. Leader: Thomas J Messenger 435-259-1756 [messengert35@gmail.com](mailto:messengert35@gmail.com).

**SLG, Sun, 3/13, South Fork Provo River.** This is a lovely trail about 3 miles long which leads to a ridge overlooking Wolf Creek Pass along the Little South Fork of the Provo River. There has not been snowmobile activity along this trail in the past. A gentle grade takes us up a switchback then along a private meadow then ascends a slope to a ridge with a lunch spot before heading home. Moderate. Meet at 9:30 AM in the parking lot at Parley's Way Walmart in front of Bombay House Restaurant for carpool from Salt Lake, or at the parking lot at the Kamas Food Town (left side of the road entering town) at 10:15 AM. We will drive through Francis, past Woodland, to a small parking area mile at marker 10 along Hwy 35 toward Wolf Creek Pass. Either snowshoes or cross country skis will work fine on this trail, depending on snow conditions. Call Rebecca Sears at 801-631-6335 for more details and for any last minute changes of plan due to conditions.

**SLG, Wed, 3/23, Full "Worm" Moon Millcreek Canyon hike/snowshoe.** The moon that arises tonight at 8:09 PM is sometimes known as the Worm Moon as the ground softens and worms reappear in the approaching spring. Meet at Skyline High School parking lot (E side of the school), 3251 E. Upland Dr. (3760 S) at 6:30 PM. Microspikes, snowshoes, or skis may be appropriate depending on conditions. Call the leader after 4:30 PM if there is a question regarding the status of the hike. Leader: Aaron Jones-801-467-3532, [ajonesmvp@msn.com](mailto:ajonesmvp@msn.com)

**GCG Sat 3/26 Recapture Canyon.** Hiking in perhaps the largest concentration of Anasazi Ruins in Utah. These ruins are just outside the town of Blanding, about 75 miles from Moab. Any car can drive to the trail head. We'll descend into Recapture Canyon via an illegal ATV road and walk up and down both sides of the canyon. We'll view many cliff dwellings and some buildings in the canyon floor including a huge kiva. Hike should be an easy class 1 hike with only a couple of hundred feet elevation change and be no more than 4 miles in length. If we have time and for those who are interested a side trip to the world class Edge of Cedars museum can be tacked on. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 8:00 AM. Leader: Michael Stringham 435-259-8579 [mikechrista@earthlink.net](mailto:mikechrista@earthlink.net).

**OG, Sat, 3/26, 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.

## April

**GCG Sat 4/9 Murphy Point, Island in the Sky.** Take the trail out to the point for a big view into the canyon of the Green River. About 4 flat miles. Those with more ambition might consider the Murphy Loop Trail, 8.3 miles, 1300' of elevation. (Going out and back to Murphy Hogback saves about 200' of elevation with little difference in distance.) Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 8:00 AM. Leader: Michael Stringham 435-259-8579 [mikechrista@earthlink.net](mailto:mikechrista@earthlink.net).

**OG, Sat, 4/23, Hidden Valley day hike.** 4.5 miles round trip about 3 hrs., strenuous with a gain of 2,100 feet of elevation. This trail branches off of the Indian Trail and climbs into a 'hidden valley' filled with trees and stunning views of Ogden and Taylor Canyon. Call Larry at 801-690-4335 for meeting time and location.

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

**Utah Chapter Sierra Club**  
 423 West 800 South, Suite A103  
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## Bear in mind the consequences.

The Yellowstone grizzly bear is an irreplaceable part of America's natural heritage, a symbol of the independence that defines the American character and an icon of all that is wild and free. The Bush administration set forth a proposal that would remove federal protection for the Yellowstone grizzly bear. Since it was first listed as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act in 1975, the grizzly bear has made a strong 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.

**Get grizzly and JOIN Sierra Club.**

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
<b>Special Offer</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
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Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

**Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!**



Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.



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