



UtahSierran



This Issue

Meet our new Chapter Director,
Ashley Soltysiak
Page 3

Zinke's 'Not Worthy' list"
Page 6

Keep Public Lands in Public Hands
Campaign Comes to Millcreek
Page 9

In the Spotlight: **Wayne Hoskisson**
Page 11

The Life and Legacy of **Gibbs Smith**
Page 12

Congress Should Properly
Fund the National Parks
Page 13

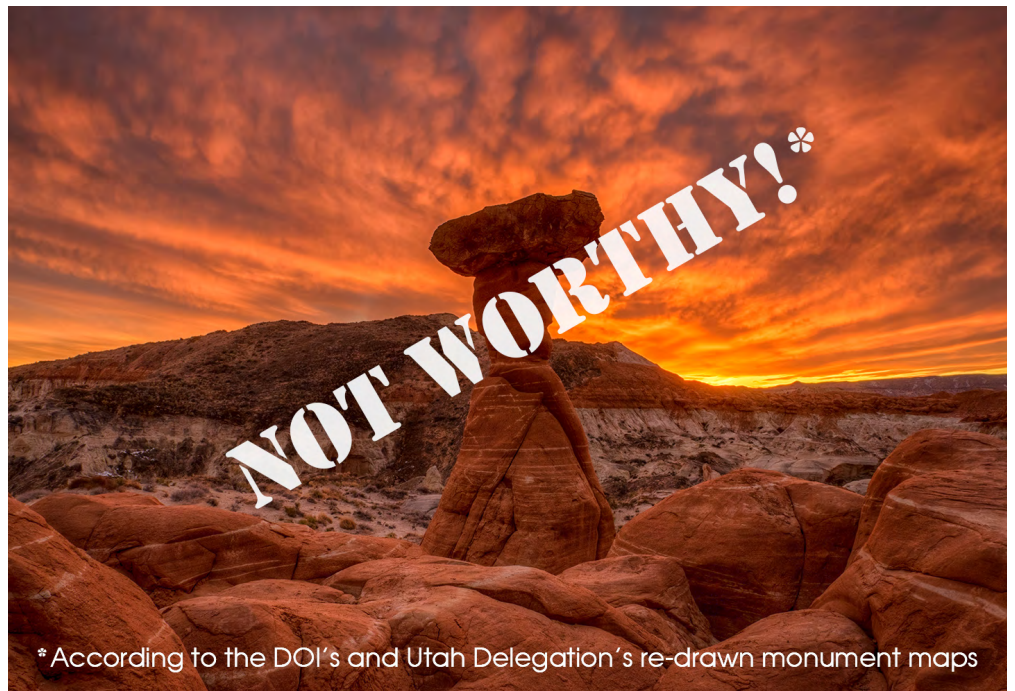
Results of Our
Executive Committee Elections
Page 17



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Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante NMs

by Wayne Hoskisson



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* According to the DOI's and Utah Delegation's re-drawn monument maps

The Rimrocks Hoodoos area of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument is apparently "not worthy" of inclusion in the Administration's re-drawn monumental boundaries.

Pres. Trump announced his intentions to come to Utah in early December to shrink or eliminate the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments. On Dec. 2 members of the Sierra Club, SUWA, Utah Diné Bikéyah, PANDOS, Canyon Country Rising Tide, and the public rallied to support the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante NMs on the steps of the Utah State Capitol. 6,000 to 8,000 people showed up to support our monuments.

On Dec. 4, on a snowy, cold morning 1,500 people again rallied at the Capitol just before

Pres. Trump showed up to do his damage to our monuments, a kind of administrative vandalism. Somewhere within the Capitol building Pres. Trump did the bidding of Sen. Hatch, the rest of delegation, and the Governor. He eviscerated our monuments.

Before the end of the day, the Navajo, Ute Mountain Ute, Zuni, Hopi, and Uintah-Ouray Ute filed a complaint in U.S. District Court in Washington, DC, to stop the actions of the President on the Bears Ears NM.

A coalition of conservation organizations, including the Sierra Club, also filed 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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Will McCarvill, Salt Lake Group
Amy Mills, Wasatch Back Network

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Outings Chairs

Tom Messenger, Glen Canyon
Fred Swanson, Salt Lake Group
Par Rasmusson, Service Outings Chair

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Kim Crumbo | Wildlands Connectivity Committee
Wayne Hoskisson | Grazing, National Utah Wilderness, Wildlands and Wilderness, Wildlands and Wilderness BLM sub-Team
Marion Klaus | Our Wild America co-lead
Dan Mayhew | National Utah Wilderness Team, and Wild Lands and Wilderness BLM Sub Team
Sarah Fields | Nuclear Committee

ChapterNews

Environmental Veteran Ashley Soltysiak Joins Chapter as Director

by Marc Thomas

The Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club is pleased to announce their new Chapter Director, Ashley Soltysiak. She comes to the role with years of experience as an environmental and political advocate in the state. Now, as the leader of the Utah Chapter, Ashley will bring her background, skills, and enthusiasm to our fight for clean air, renewable energy, and the protection of public lands.

As the Chapter Director, Ashley will provide campaign leadership and overall administration, as well as work to engage our powerful grassroots network of volunteers. She will also help to foster key relationships with land managers, elected officials, and regulators to drive the conservation priorities of the Utah Chapter.

“Now is the time for action, amplifying our grassroots power, influencing elections, and prioritizing environmental and public health. In this moment of immense possibility, I am

thrilled to dive into these issues with the Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club,” said Ashley, who holds a BS in Environmental Biology and Zoology and a MPA in Environmental Policy. “With the Sierra Club Utah, I am ready to take on the challenges ahead and to invigorate and inspire positive change.”

Ashley joins the Chapter from a partner environmental organization, Healthy Environment Alliance of Utah (HEAL Utah), where she worked as the Policy Director. With HEAL Utah, she directed clean air campaigns, lobbied lawmakers and regulators, and advocated for better air quality through outreach to the public and media.

“The Chapter is uniquely positioned to transform local politics and policy in defense of the wild,” says the Chapter’s Executive Board Vice Chair, Will McCarvill. “And I am confident with Ashley leading this charge, that’s just what we will do.”



Ashley Soltysiak, enjoying the outdoors

New Website Launched

by Jeff Clay

It has been about five years since the layout and look of the chapter’s website was last revised. Consequently, for the past several months a handful of volunteers have been working diligently to update the website. The new site – launched in time for Christmas -- has a different color palette, is more graphically oriented, easier to update with news posts and action alerts, and is fully mobile device responsive. In addition, we have updated much content as well.

The Chapter is currently seeking an intern who will work with chapter staff and the Communications Team to update the site on a frequent and regular basis – a not insignificant job given the destructive and counter-environmental policies of both the Utah Congressional delegation and the current Federal administration. If you are interested in assisting with maintaining the Chapter’s site, please visit <https://utah.sierraclub.org/comm-intern>

OurLand



JEFF CLAY | CLAYHAUSPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

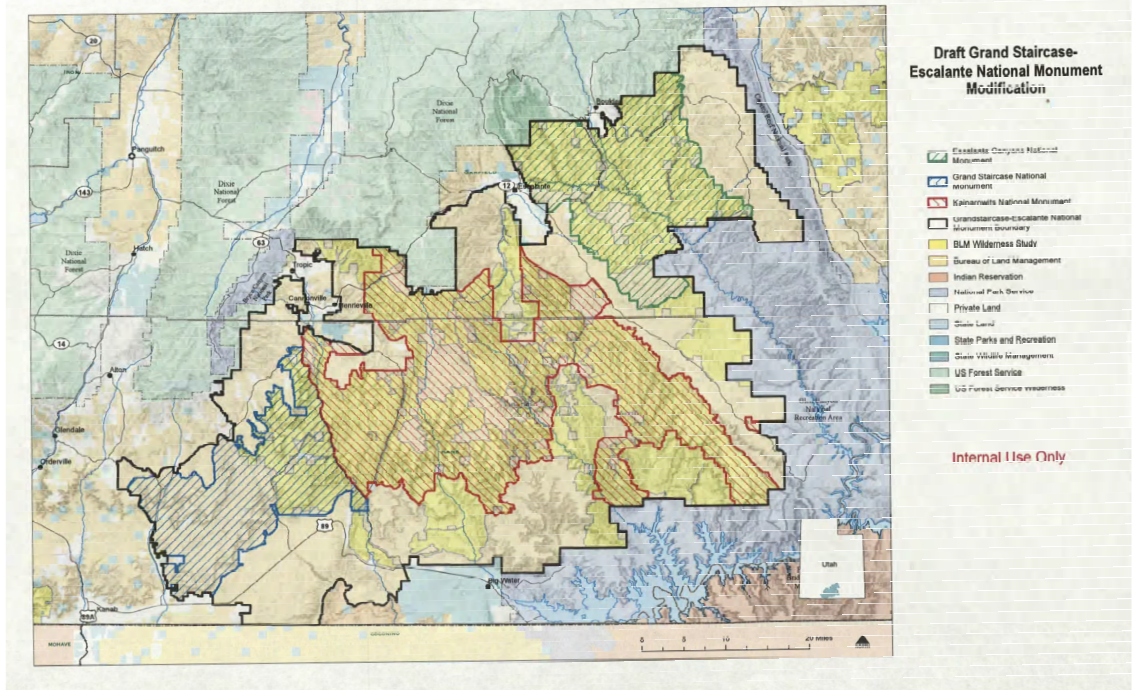
Cedar Mesa is rich with many Native American ruins, petroglyphs and other sites important to the ancestors of the Ancient Ones. Bears Ears National Monument adds protection for these important sites but is apparently “not worthy” of inclusion in the Administration’s re-drawn monumental mistakes boundaries.

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complaint to stop the President’s actions on the Grand Staircase-Escalante NM on Dec. 4. This same coalition filed a complaint to stop the actions against the Bears Ears NM on Dec. 7.

For now we will have to wait on the rulings of the courts. We cannot predict how long this will take. If the President takes similar steps on other National Monuments around the country the cases could take years to reach the final decisions and appeals. We have little doubt the President’s action will stand up in the courts. His actions are illegal and follow no legal precedent.

Apparently our Utah Congressional delegation agrees with us. Rep. Stewart introduced HR 4558 the “Grand Staircase Escalante Enhancement Act.” He was even kind enough to put the



48% of GSENM is proposed to be cut from monument designation and protection.

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OurLand

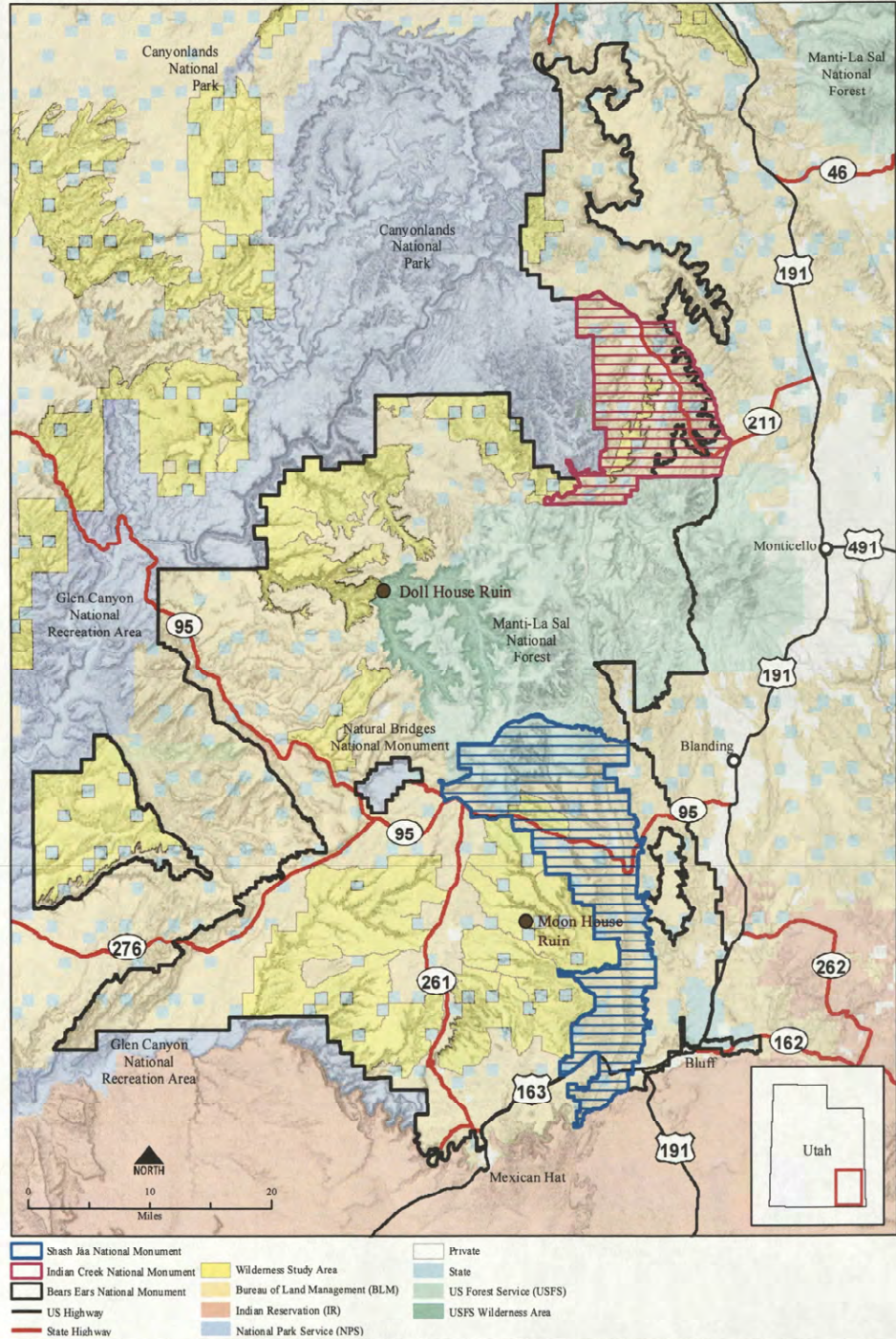
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Both of these acts were introduced without public input, without a single public meeting, without even a phone call to conservation groups. I guess acting unilaterally is OK when you are an extremely conservative Republican congressman from Utah.

title in quotes in the legislation since it does not enhance anything. The legislation designates three National Monuments (one of which apparently contains a National Park) that reduce the GSENM by about half. Rep. Curtis introduced HR 4532, the "Shash Ja 'a National Monument and Indian Creek National Monument Act." The legislation designates replaces the Bears Ears NM with two new monuments totaling about 200,000 acres or about 15% of the Bears Ears NM.

Both of these acts were introduced without public input, without a single public meeting, without even a phone call to conservation groups. I guess acting unilaterally is OK when you are an extremely conservative Republican congressman from Utah.

Draft Bears Ears Boundary Modification



The administration and Utah congressional delegation propose to completely eviscerate Bears Ears NM by 85% and in its place leave two offensive rumps-of-national monuments.

The Monumental Showdown

by Carly Ferro



It has been a trying year; our government is diligently working to divide us. In turn, we are uniting more than ever. Utah is experiencing a renewal and revitalization of spirit that on December 2, 2017, surfaced on the south steps and into the streets surrounding Utah's State Capitol. The "Rally against Trump's Monumental Mistake," marked the largest public lands rally in

Utah history with over 5,000 people standing in solidarity to honor tribal rights and public lands. Even more astounding, two days later, thousands of heartbeats, again, lined the streets and sidewalks outside the Capitol where President Trump signed a proclamation to eviscerate protections for 85% of Bears Ears and 48% of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments.

To add insult to injury, on December 5, 2017, Utah Rep. Stewart and Rep. Curtis delivered two bills that would wrongly codify the newly proclaimed boundaries of the two national monuments.

The message resounds, while our hearts are heavy, our spirits are high! And while the obstacles

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



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continue to build, I am met with optimism as Utahns demonstrate their tenacity and refusal to be silent as the government continues to ignore the voices of its people. The Sierra Club Utah

continues to help organize, stand in solidarity, and amplify the voices in opposition to this unprecedented and unfathomable disgrace to our democracy. The rally was a pivoting point. We are now defending the monuments in court and must continue to inform our Representatives that we,

the people, will not let this stand.

As one of the many organizers of the events over the past nine months, your engagement and continued support is what energizes the work we do as we continue to face turmoil. We will prevail because of supporters like you!

OurLand

The Administration's Monumental Mistakes Proposals

by Jim Catlin & Jeff Clay

On the 4th of December 2017, President Trump announced he was reducing the size of the largest national monument in the continental U.S. from 1.7 million acres to 1 million acres.

Removed from protection were many areas of the Circle Cliffs-Wolverine Loop area, large parts of the Kaiparowits Plateau, numerous slot canyons accessed via Hole-In-The-Rock Road, and the monument's western pinyon-juniper forests.

Approximately a week later, Congressman Chris Stewart whose district includes the Grand Staircase-Escalante NM introduced a bill to further weaken the stewardship for this monument. Stewart's bill, H.R. 4558, opens most of this monument to mineral entry (e.g. coal mining) only protecting part of the Escalante Canyons (his proposed National Park) from mining.

In order to resolve conflicts caused by grazing in the Escalante, grazing permit holders willing sold their permits and with livestock removed from these canyons, an amazing recovery had occurred. Stewart's bill would return cattle to many canyons of the Escalante.

One of the most alarming aspects of Stewart's bill is language that gives the county primary management control of these public lands and hands over the Hole-in-the-Rock road to the state. Imagine that road paved with the corresponding traffic and noise damage to the surrounding



* According to the DOI's and Utah Delegation's re-drawn monument maps

Road Canyon on Cedar Mesa and now part of Bears Ears National Monument abound with ruins and petroglyphs. This is just one area that is apparently "not worthy" of inclusion in the Administration's re-drawn monumental mistakes boundaries.

wilderness areas.

Below is a partial list of the places and features removed from GSENM protection:

Wahweap Hoodoos
Rimrocks Hoodoos
Peek-a-boo slot canyon
Spooky slot canyon
Brimstone slot canyon
Sooner Rocks
Hole in the rock road
Buckskin Gulch (70%)
Wolverine loop
Circle Cliffs
Egypt Bench and slot canyons
Sunset Arch

At the same that Trump eviscerated Grand Staircase-Escalante NM he thumbed his nose at

Native Americans (with the gleeful backing of the governor and majority party leaders of the state congressional delegation) by slashing Bears Ears National Monument up to 85% and forming two rumps of national monuments. These jokes-of-monuments leave out vast swaths of lands rich in natural beauty and scared to the Native Americans who live near there. Large blocks of this monument have in the past been targeted for mineral, oil and gas leasing (Lockhart Basin and Valley of the Gods) and tar sands and uranium exploration (White Canyon complex). Without monument protection one can expect a repeat of the

past exploitative initiatives.

Below is a partial list of the places and features removed from BENM protection:

Lockhart Basin
Gooseneck of Colorado
Valley of the Gods
Hart's Draw
White Canyon Complex
Beef Basin
Dark Canyon
Most of Cedar Mesa including:
Grand Gulch
Road Canyon
Slickhorn Canyon
Fish Creek
Owl Creek
Bullet Canyon

OurLand

Keeping Public Lands in Public Hands

MILLCREEK CAMPAIGN

by Steve Knox

As part of the statewide campaign to “Keep Public Lands in Public Hands”, Sierra Club volunteers throughout Utah are engaging their neighbors, city officials, and county officials in an effort to push back against the Legislature’s and the Governor’s attempt to seize ownership and control of 31 million acres of public lands. In past issues of the Utah Sierran we have reported on the good work and success of local volunteers working with city and county officials to pass resolutions opposing the State’s land grab. In addition to our objective of obtaining resolutions from city and county governments, the campaign is also working hard to spread the word and expand the conversation about this ill-conceived idea.

One on-going effort is in Millcreek, Utah’s newest city. Almost 1 year ago, Millcreek’s new Mayor and City Council representatives were sworn in. At that event, Sierra Club member and KPLPH volunteer

Steve Knox engaged the Mayor to raise the importance of the public lands to residents of Millcreek. Since that time Steve has made a presentation at a City Council meeting, asking the Mayor and Council to pass a resolution supporting public lands and opposing the State’s land grab. While the Mayor and Council did not agree at that meeting to pass a resolution, they didn’t say “no” either. So, this summer Steve tabled at multiple community “Venture Out” events discussing the importance of public lands and the campaign with his neighbors in Millcreek, and asking that they contact their City Council representative to pass a resolution. There was substantial interest in the issue and Steve discussed the issue with many people.

This fall, Steve and a number of Club volunteers have begun knocking on doors in each of Millcreek’s City Council Districts, with the same objectives in mind – share

campaign information, expand discussion of the issue, request residents contact their Council representative to pass a resolution, and increase visibility of the issue in the City via placement of KPLPH yard signs. Thus far, volunteers have canvassed in two of Millcreek’s four City Council Districts. Again, interest has been substantial and they’ve shared a lot information. Steve commented “it’s satisfying to engage a resident who says they don’t have much time to talk, then realize 10 minutes later they are still asking you questions about the campaign. This clearly is important to citizens of Millcreek.”

What we have discovered, however, is that knocking on

doors to discuss this important issue takes time. Steve says “... we don’t cover as much territory as we thought we could. We have a solid core of 8 – 10 volunteers, but could still use more help. Thanks to Lawson, Lauri, Nancy, Natalie, Valerie, Kristen, Jen, and Julie for your support and good work.”

Remember, Public Lands belong to ALL Americans! Anyone interested in joining the campaign in Millcreek, contact Steve Knox at knoxsltktcty@aol.com or 801-414-0687.



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 2018.



ChapterNews

Wilderness Monitoring

by Will McCarvill



Google Earth image shows illegal Stansbury North WSA routes – Sites 3 & 4 – that have been closed to vehicular traffic by the BLM in collaboration with Sierra Club Utah.

Thanks to all the volunteers (over 50!) who made the four Wilderness Study Area (WSA) remediation trips to the San Rafael Swell a roaring success in 2017. The enormous sandstone block called Sid's Mountain WSA got many new WSA/No Vehicles signs as well as the rebuilding of many broken down buck and rail barriers that prevent vehicles from riding into wilderness quality land. We responded to a BLM request to work on a brand new, user created illegal RV park that sprung up on the north side of the Crack canyon WSA. Fire rings were knocked down and the usual left over junk was raked up and taken away. Tracks were raked out, trash was picked up and legions of signs were installed. Finally, an obscure part of the Reef WSA received a solid dose of WSA/No Vehicle signs and several illegal routes were blocked with rocks and branches. I believe the Sierra Club gained credibility with the Bureau of Land Management Price Field Office by consistently

I believe the Sierra Club gained credibility with the Bureau of Land Management Price Field Office by consistently delivering a motivated, enthusiastic and productive crew. This reflects well on everyone who contributed.

delivering a motivated, enthusiastic and productive crew. This reflects well on everyone who contributed.

I spent a day with a member of the Salt Lake Field Office in October on the west side of the Stansbury North WSA. This WSA unit is about an hour west of Salt Lake City. It was a test of the Sierra Club Google Earth based screening process as I had never been to

the WSA before. During the home screening process several problem areas were found where vehicle routes entered the WSA. Site 4 is an illegal route that we added closure signs and some rocks and branches to close. Site 3 is an illegal route that had already been closed and signed. The red line is the WSA boundary. The inside of the WSA is where the words Google Earth appear. The main route into the WSA by Site 3 is an allowed route for servicing watering facilities for grazing.

So how about next year? There are still WSA boundaries in the Swell that need attention. I would like to get another BLM field office involved and help them protect their WSA's. I would also like to see other screen, survey and mitigate leaders step forwards to expand this process. I will be conducting a training session on the process in early spring 2018.

ChapterNews

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

Wayne Hoskisson

by Patty Becnel

In 1964, Congress designated The Wilderness Act with these words...

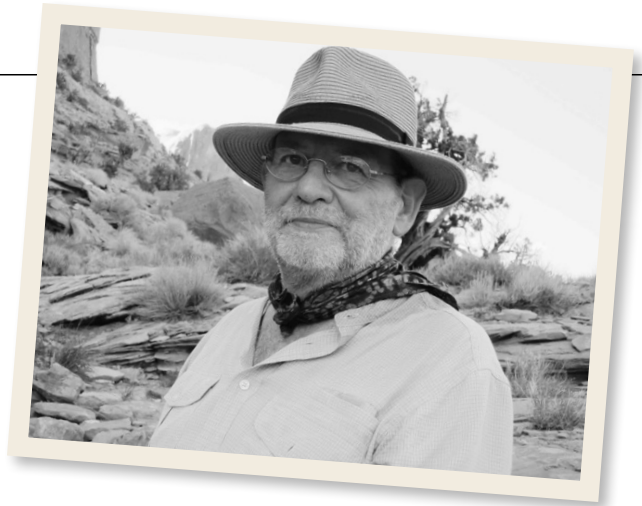
“In order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States and its possessions, leaving no lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness.”

Wayne Hoskisson, a long time Sierra Club volunteer and Utah Chapter Executive Committee member worked to make sure a lot of that land was preserved. Over the course of twenty-four years, he has been instrumental in increasing or establishing designations for around 5 million acres, though he's reluctant to take much of the credit. “I don't think I did it alone,” he said, “a lot of people were involved.” But if you trace Wayne's history since joining the Sierra Club in 1993, you'll see his influence.

Two years after becoming a Sierra Club member, Wayne became an activist, a term he finds difficult to describe: “someone who wants more than just paying dues,” he says, laughing, and the conversation then delves into the reason he joined the Sierra Club. “I wanted to work on Utah wilderness,” he explained, “and just jumped in whole hog.” In 1995, Wayne and his then wife Gail Hoskisson traveled to Washington, DC to lobby for what became America's Red Rock Wilderness Act and against ill-conceived legislation by Utah Rep. Jim Hansen that would have designated an extremely small amount of wilderness, making future designations in Utah difficult. That experience cemented his commitment to Utah wilderness.

Wayne preferred the Sierra Club among the many environmental groups (though he has been/is an active member in many conservation/wild lands groups involved in protecting land) because it had both a national Board of Directors elected by the members and an elected chapter executive committee, which acts “like a board of directors for the Utah chapter.” Almost immediately, he joined the Conservation Committee. Soon he was on the Utah Chapter Executive Committee. Not long after that he became the chapter delegate to the S.C.'s Southwest Regional Conservation Committee. He was then elected to chair that committee. In 2001, he chaired the S.C.'s first National Public Lands Grazing Committee. He continues to serve on a few national S.C. committees. He became so involved in conservation work that he changed careers, from working at Holy Cross Hospital to running the conservation non-profit, Red Rock Forests in Moab, Utah.

Mention a conservation group and Wayne has probably worked with them. He lists: Utah Wilderness Coalition, Grand Canyon Trust, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, Natural Resource Defense Council, and many others. Working together they have increased protection for many areas including wilderness designation, national monument designation, and administrative designations of “lands with wilderness character.” Along with others, he worked with Rob Bishop to create the Cedar Mountains Wilderness Area, west of Salt Lake City. That legislation – though not exactly what the Utah Wilderness Coalition wanted -- was reasonable and worth supporting. That success led Wayne to believe that the Sierra Club could work with Rep. Bishop on his Public Lands Initiative. In the end, PLI process became toxic with a



disastrous

piece of legislation. This reaffirmed his growing general distrust of the Utah Congressional delegation to do the right thing with our wild heritage and the fragments of real wilderness remaining in our state. “To them it's all about how people can use things for their own financial benefit,” he says, adding that many Utah legislators “have no conservation ethic. There is no sense that people need a natural world without the noise and distractions of our modern society. In the end, each generation will not be judged by how much it used, but by how much it saved.” One example is the recent secretive push to open Antelope Island to mechanized vehicles, something studies show will disturb the refuge for the wildlife for which it was set aside to provide.

But Wayne is hopeful about our national monuments. Many groups have joined to preserve lands and he expects the current attempt to rescind monument designations will go through many lawsuits before a final determination is made. He believes in the end our monuments will remain because Americans love our National Parks and Monuments. He'll continue to work for wilderness protections, and probably finish some of the things he hasn't done yet, like work with the Forest Service to inventory and maintain more wilderness.

“The key to success is public interest and public support,” Wayne says. With his guidance and know how, the Sierra Club will continue to be an active participant in this effort. Thank you, Wayne.

ChapterNews

The Life and Legacy of Gibbs Smith

by Jean Binyon

The Utah Sierra Club lost one of our most iconic and influential members last October – Gibbs Smith.

Gibbs was a grassroots activist and committed environmentalist. Our longest and most ardent members will remember Gibbs serving as Chair of the Utah Sierra Club and an Executive Committee Member the 1980's. He was best known for his larger-than-life personality and generosity to the Utah Chapter and its mission.

A long-time member and close friend of Gibbs wrote the below piece about his life and legacy. In celebration of his life and his commitment to Utah Sierra Club, his wife Catherine kindly suggested a Gibbs Smith Memorial Fund be established.

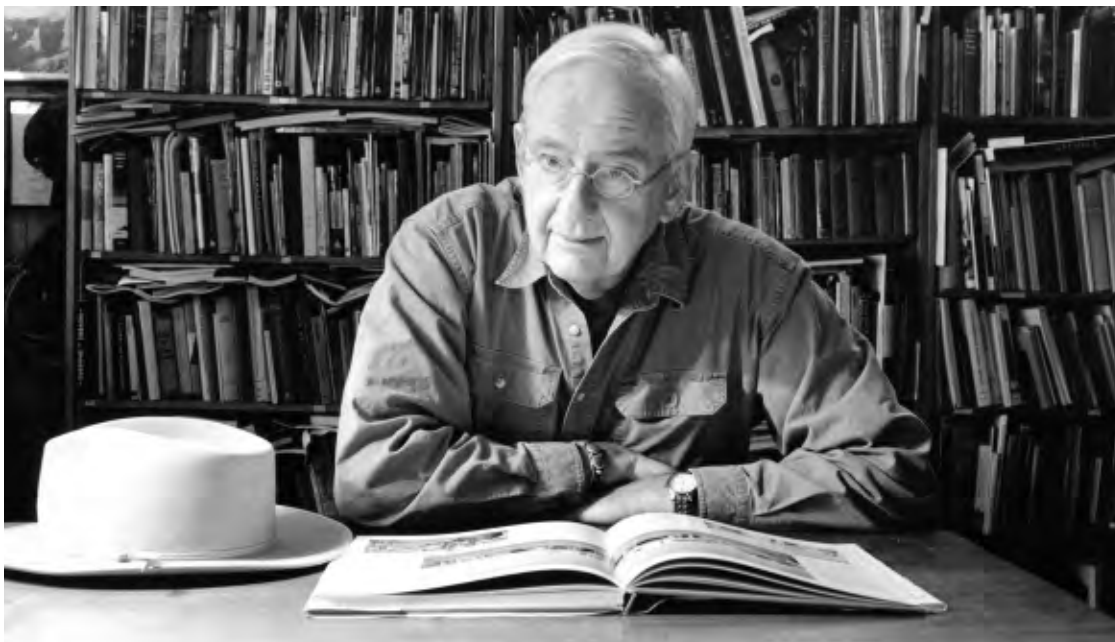
Donations can be made at <https://utah.sierraclub.org/gibbs-smith-memorial>

or by mailing a check to the Utah Chapter office.

Gibbs, thank you for your years of service. You will be sincerely missed.

Sincerely,

*Marc Thomas
Utah Sierra Club, Chairman*



GIBBS M. SMITH (1940-2017)

Gibbs often described himself as an anarchist. But he was no bomb-thrower. No, Gibbs was a romantic. In addition to being a publisher, he was a cultural historian, an artist, an intellectual, an environmentalist, and – not last, an organizer.

Gibbs loved the Utah landscape, and he loved the rhythms and passions he found in nature, and in cowboy poetry, in music – all kinds of music – opera, folk music, and especially the songs of the Wobblies (IWW) and the American labor movement. Like Everett Ruess -- that “vagabond for beauty,” Gibbs exalted in the nature he found in Utah.

I met Gibbs in the mid-80's when I preceded him as chair of the Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club. Elected to that position in 1986 (he served until 1990), Gibbs took it upon himself to research the origins of the Chapter in order to design letterhead stationary. Gibbs listed himself as the 15th chair of the Chapter, but he was more than a figurehead for the Club.

He organized a Sierra Club Group in southwestern Utah called the Kolob Group.

He commissioned a symphony by John Duffy – Symphony #1 – “the Utah Symphony” which premiered in Lincoln Center in 1989.

Gibbs started what he called the “Archdruid Lecture Series”, in 1986 at the University of Utah’s Kingsbury Hall. Featured speakers in the series were David Brower, Stewart Udall, Bruce Babbitt and Ed Abbey. Other notable speakers included the photographer Stephen Trimble, author of *Blessed by Light*. General themes were “Glen Canyon Before the Dam”, “The Colorado Plateau as a Sacred Place”, and “BLM Wilderness in Utah”.

To ensure the future of the Utah Chapter, Gibbs started a tax-exempt Foundation and, with his wife Catherine, was been a generous Sierra Club supporter for nearly three decades. You’ll note that his obituary asks for donations to the Chapter.

Gibbs was a great one for memorials – he hung an Everett Ruess plaque at Dancehall Rock on the Hole in the Rock road in southern Utah, and one in Santa Fe outside La Boca, the restaurant he co-owned, noting the beginning of the Santa Fe Trail.

Gibbs wrote, as his University of Utah Master’s thesis, what would come to be regarded as the definitive book on Joe Hill – “the man who never died”. Joe Hill was the labor activist who was executed at the Utah Territorial Penitentiary in 1915.

The thesis which became a book and a movie was

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

ChapterNews

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

the start of Peregrine Smith Publishers. He was always proud to export culture from Layton, Utah, to the world. Gibbs was an artist who painted stylized urban imagery and landscapes. He was well known for his paintings of bookstores, which appeared on the company catalog cover.

With John Sillito, Hal Cannon and others, he organized a major commemoration in 1990 of the 75th anniversary of Joseph Hillstrom – i.e., Joe Hill's death. Gibbs knew the singers who performed there – Pete Seeger, Faith Petric, Utah Phillips, and “labor troubadour” Joe Glazer.

Gibbs lived life uniquely. His larger-than-life personality exuded can-do positivity, and “can't be done” was not part of his vocabulary. He was a classic Renaissance man, intrigued by ideas and cultures; he could converse on any subject. An astute observer of nature who enjoyed the world through the vivid colors of flowers, sunsets, redrock, and forest landscapes, he relished the music of the changing seasons.

He loved car trips and train travel. His yearly routine included New York or points east for the book conventions, Santa Fe for the opera and Indian Market, Cody and Jackson Hole for the Western Design Conference, Boulder, Utah, for Thanksgiving and hiking with Sierra Clubbers over New Year's. Favorite places away from home were New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Palm Springs, Santa Barbara, Santa Fe, Kelly, Wyoming, and the redrock country of southern Utah.

Among his loves were midcentury modern design, vintage silver trailers, impressionist art, and the culture and spirit of California. He enjoyed cross-country skiing, hiking, painting, 8x10 photography, and cowboy poetry; theater, symphony orchestras, folk music, jazz, and contemporary pop; and he relished a good discussion.

One of Gibbs' dreams was to create a retreat for writers in Utah's redrock country. The Mesa, which is the fulfillment of this dream, is currently under construction near Zion National Park.



JEFF CLAY | CLAYHAUSPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

Sierra Club Objects to National Park Entrance Fee Hike

by Amy Mills

The National Park Service is proposing a \$70 fee per car for entry into 4 Utah National Parks during peak season. That's a drastic increase over the current \$25-\$30 fee to enter Arches, Canyonlands, Bryce, and Zion National Parks. The increase to \$70 would also apply to 13 other National Parks, including Grand Teton, Yellowstone, Glacier, Rocky Mountain, and Grand Canyon. NPS' justification for this extreme fee increase is a need to improve facilities and address a maintenance backlog. We agree that maintenance and improvements are critical, but we're concerned that a \$70 entrance fee will deter visitation by those with limited incomes. In addition, when Congress appropriates the NPS budget, it

should provide sufficient funds to support Park maintenance. Entrance fees should not be viewed as a substitute for a responsible annual appropriation. Further, it should be noted that the justification for extra fees to use public lands has not been uniformly applied: Grazing fees for cattle have been reduced in 2017 to cover only about 10% of the cost of maintaining grazed public land, while cattle grazing is conducted for private profit.

While the comment period ended December 22nd, we will keep you updated on the Park Service's decision and any additional actions that Chapter members may be able to take.

ChapterNews

Building a New Political Movement

by Nathan Gilbert



After the legislative session, our attention must shift to the 2018 elections... We need more volunteers – people to draft questionnaires and interview candidates, volunteers to canvass, phonebank, and draft social media posts on our endorsements. We need event planners, artists, and those that wish to research issues or candidates.

MOMENTUM

The past year has been marked by change for the Political Committee just as it has been for the Utah Chapter as a whole. The year began with an influx of volunteer energy after the November 2016 elections. As the volunteer team stabilized and the group found our footing, we capitalized on this momentum by holding a (nearly) day-long strategic planning session with help from our Chapter staff. This meeting focused on the long-term vision of the committee but also what we hoped we could do in 2017 with such a new team.

One objective that came out of that planning was to build and train our volunteer team to do the work necessary for endorsing candidates. This is an essential function of the political committee, and our processes needed updating given the new volunteer interest. It requires strategic thinking, research, and adherence to Chapter and State law.

Another goal is to develop plans for mobilizing our volunteers to make a difference in the races where the Chapter has made an endorsement. An endorsement from the Sierra Club must mean something more than simply a logo for a candidate's website. To grow the Club's political influence, we must mobilize our volunteers to take part and support our endorsements in races where we can make a difference. Critical work such as

phone banking, canvassing or talking with our neighbors is invaluable to candidates. This step is crucial for promoting a fact-based, equitable and inclusive environmental program through elected officials endorsed by the Chapter.

Lastly, we need to build our base of support within Salt Lake County, where the majority of political volunteers are currently located. We must develop new, fresh ways to reach out to the public such as political events, open houses, and hikes. Utah is a big state though; we also must start building infrastructure beyond the would-be castle of Salt Lake County.

2017 ELECTIONS

To build an effective team of political volunteers, some assembly is required. This assembly takes the form of the training and experiences the political squad would acquire by working through the endorsement process. The 2018 elections contain a lot of high visibility races; Congressional races, UT Senate and the entirety of the UT House, and 2017 provided ample opportunity to hone our skills and develop and refined a process of endorsement and candidate support.

Before the SLC Council primaries in August, we developed a set of 10 questions

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

ChapterNews

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

focusing on different issues the Chapter has identified as priorities ranging from public lands to clean air and zoning issues within Salt Lake City. We always send the questionnaire to all candidates in a race and give a deadline for their completion. Next, we await replies or scheduled meetings with individual candidates who requested it. Last, we debated and voted on endorsements within the committee. The Chapter's Executive Committee must also vote to affirm an endorsement before it is official.

The result of this was three endorsements for the SLC Council General Election. Chris Wharton for District 3 (the Avenues, Capitol Hill), Erin Mendenhall for District 5 (Central City, Ballpark) and Amy Fowler for District 7 (Sugarhouse). Wharton and Fowler were running for open seats where the incumbents were not seeking reelection. Mendenhall is the current councilor from District 5. All have taken ambitious positions on sustainability, preserving public spaces, clean air, clean water and on building a more livable city. We were able to field volunteers to phonebank or canvass in several of these races for Salt Lake City Council thus fulfilling another hope from our early year planning session. On election day, each of these three candidates won their respected contests. The positions they took during the endorsement process are now issues by which the Chapter can hold the councilors accountable in their upcoming term.

After working these endorsements and our process, the committee decided to expand our area of focus from outside of Salt Lake City but staying within the County. We reworked the questionnaire to be more general and not specific to Salt Lake City. We ended up endorsing seven candidates throughout the county, and four ended up winning: Harris Sondak, Alta Mayor; Sharla Beverly, South Salt Lake City District 3; Tali Bruce, Cottonwood Heights District 3; Dustin Gettel, Midvale Council 5. Overall, seven of the ten candidates endorsed by the Utah Chapter were victorious.

In the final weeks before the general

election, the Chapter held an event to advertise our endorsements at the Beer Bar in downtown Salt Lake. We invited each of our endorsed candidates to attend and speak. Our new director, Ashley acted as Master of Ceremonies. The event was a success, well attended and offered an excellent opportunity for our members and the public-at-large to interact with local candidates. Again, fulfilling another hope of ours to extend the types of outreach by the committee to our membership and the public.

2018 PLANS / CONCLUSION

The next legislative session begins on January 22nd, and we need to hit the ground running. The political team is currently evaluating our legislative priorities and devising our lobbying strategy. Look for citizen lobbying training nights to be advertised by the Chapter at the beginning of the year. We're going to explore new ways to communicate to our membership the happenings on the hill, highlighting crucial environmental legislation and what you can do about it.

After the legislative session, our attention must shift to the 2018 elections. There will be many more races and ballot measures vying for our attention this year, and therefore we need more volunteers – people to draft questionnaires and interview candidates, volunteers to canvass, phonebank, and draft social media posts on our endorsements. We need event planners, artists, and those that wish to research issues or candidates. The Chapter can provide training and job descriptions for many of these roles.

In my first year as chair of the political committee, I have been working to increase our volunteer capacity, strengthen our strategic planning and grow our political effectiveness. I believe we have made strides in each of these areas, but much work remains to build the grassroots force in Utah politics we want the Chapter to be.



WHERE



HAVE



YOU



BEEN?

INSPIRE US!

Where have your boots taken you lately?

We love seeing how our members *explore, enjoy & protect the planet.*

Email photos to utah.chapter@sierraclub.org or post to our Facebook page. Your image may be published in an upcoming issue of the UtahSierran!

ChapterNews

Sierra Club Utah's Vision

by Will McCarvill

The Utah Chapter has had a mission statement from its inception in 1969. What was missing was an aspirational view of what we want the chapter to become. This view or vision is a series of environmental and organizational goals that will guide our decisions and our work. If what we are doing does not lead towards our vision, then we must reconsider our actions. Conversely, the vision is a living document and can be changed by a vote at the executive committee. You are likely seeing a change in the chapter. It is becoming more vibrant, more vital, more engaged in protecting our local environment. As part of that effort, we are asking our membership to also be engaged with us, either by taking action, volunteering to help address our many Utah issues, or providing financial help. If you have any questions about our vision, please contact us. We love to hear from you. (utah.chapter@sierraclub.org or 801-467-9294)

UTAH CHAPTER VISION (AS OF NOVEMBER 2017)

Mission Statement: Make significant, measureable progress toward our mission.

Membership: We have a growing membership for political heft, volunteer activism and financial power. Our membership demographics will more closely reflect that of Utah.

Financial capability: We have increasing funding success in raising money for c3, c4 and PAC and use professional fundraising strategies to achieve a balanced budget.

Staffing: We have a Chapter, Fundraiser, Outreach, Media, and Political directors as well as additional organizers in different parts of the state. Staff and volunteers work together in a respectful, productive relationship.

Effective in accomplishing conservation goals: A high degree of success in making major impacts through our key campaigns on a state and local level.

Depth and breadth of conservation goals:

Conservation priorities are established for 2-3 selected major campaigns and secondary activities addressing critical issues and utilizing the chapter's strengths. For each campaign or activity a leader is chosen, goals and achievable objectives are clearly defined, and needed resources are available.

Roles and responsibilities versus other organizations: We seek a 'brand' with at least some campaigns or activities where we are unique or primary among conservation organizations. We also bring our name, weight, expertise, membership and volunteers to help partner organizations with similar goals and objectives. We determine strategically which partnerships to enter into and at what level of engagement.

Equity, Inclusion, Justice: We find common ground in solving environmental issues with people from all walks of life.

Volunteer capacity: We have a culture of volunteer recruitment and commitment with a deep and diverse bench. The chapter is the venue for volunteer activism in Utah.

Political power: The chapter is respected as a player and is able to get environmentally supportive candidates elected and kept in office. We propose legislation or are asked to review pending legislation.

Visibility in Utah: We are visible to the majority of Utah residents. We are recognized as a major contributor to improving Utah's environment in our strength areas.

Relationship with national organization: We communicate often and in a mutually respectful and open manner with national. We take advantage of all funding opportunities from national with a high success rate in competitive grant opportunities.

Organizational depth: All executive positions are filled for the chapter and groups by holding competitive elections. All volunteer committees, including the committee chairs, are filled and are fully functional.

Wasatch Master Plan Update



Salt Lake County is updating the Wasatch Canyons Master Plan which was adopted on September 27, 1989. So after nearly 30 years this critical document is being updated. At that time a Sierra Club member, Ann Wechsler, served on the Citizens Advisory Committee. Currently, citizen input is being solicited via open houses and surveys. You can find information at <http://slco.org/planning-transportation/wasatch-canyons-general-plan-update/>.

After receiving input, a vision will be developed during the winter of 2018. There will be additional opportunities for us to provide input over the summer. It is critical that we ensure that the new Master Plan protects the natural resources of the Wasatch. Times are very different from 1989, pressures and impacts have increased since then, and will only get worse. The current schedule calls for the adoption of the new Master Plan in the winter of 2019. We will be keeping you informed as this process unwinds through 2018. The Sierra Club also submitted comments saying "no" to the tram proposed from Germania Pass to the top of Mount Baldy in the Alta ski area.

ChapterNews

2017 Executive Committee Election

by Jeff Clay

Typically by the end of every calendar year we can expect vacancies on our executive committee. (Terms are for two years with the possibility of being reelected no more than 3 times in a row.) This year was no exception with five slots opening up and only one incumbent whose term was up able and/or willing to run for reelection. We had an incredibly strong palette of nominees with six candidates vying for the five positions. All polled quite strong. The newly elected winners are Kirsten Johanna Allen, Katie Davis, Nathan Gilbert, Stan Holmes, rounded out with returning Legal Chair Jeff Kramer. Congratulations to all!

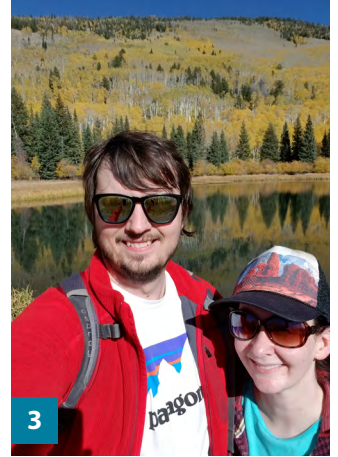
This year's election was also a first in that we utilized an electronic balloting system in addition to our usual paper ballots. We received several positive comments about the e-system. Using that capability increased our response rate over two-fold. Based just on that, we will definitely be using electronic voting again next year.



1



2



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5

1 Kirsten Johanna Allen (Newly Elected)

"I'm honored to serve with such an excellent team to help protect wild wonders. I look forward to working with the great folks on the staff and Ex-Com of Utah Chapter Sierra Club to continue the fight for clean air, public lands, and beauty. Thank you for electing me to the post!"

2 Katie Davis (Newly Elected)

"I'm thrilled to be joining the ExCom at a time when the Utah Chapter is growing and becoming an even stronger force for positive change in Utah. I'm looking forward to bringing my legal and policy expertise to the table for the Utah Chapter by working with our local and state elected officials to implement better environmental policy outcomes that will measurably improve everyone's quality of life."

3 Nathan Gilbert (Newly Elected)

"I am extremely honored and humbled to be given this chance to serve on our Chapter's Executive Committee. I promise to work hard, have an open ear and to continue to build our Chapter's political strength."

4 Stan Holmes (Newly Elected)

"Thanks for letting me join the Ex.Com team! I look forward to sharing ideas and energy as the chapter's inspired young leaders connect the Sierra Club with new community partners in pursuit of environmental justice for all Utahns."

5 Jeff Kramer (Reelected Incumbent)

"The Utah Chapter's work in our State is so important, now more than ever with our wild places under such serious attack. I am honored to have another term on the Executive Committee to help in the fight to protect these irreplaceable wonders."

Utah Chapter Outings

EXPLORE WITH US! JANUARY–MARCH 2018

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.

Abbreviations in capital letters signify the group planning the outing.

[E] = educational content, [C] = conservation focus, [S] = service activities.



ONLINE OUTINGS TOOL!

All the outings, book club meetings and socials for the chapter and all three groups are now found in one place, <https://utah.sierraclub.org/content/calendar.asp>. You can sort by event type or use a built-in mapping function.

Glen Canyon Group Outings

GCG Sat 1/6 Snowshoeing or 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.

GCG Sat 1/20 Day Canyon Rim. Explore the peninsula forming the left rim of upper Day Canyon and the right rim of a south spur of the Dry Fork of Bull Canyon. We drive UT-313 to the Long Canyon Road near Dead Horse Point State Park, east on the Long Canyon road, then north-east on a bumpy dirt side road to an abandoned drill hole near the head of Day Canyon. The hike will not have big ups and downs to climb but will be exploratory in nature. Length around 5 to 6 miles. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 9:00 AM. Leader: Michael Stringham 435-259-8579 mikechrista@earthlink.net.

GCG Sat 2/3 Cache Valley Arches. We will enter through Arches National Park, but will exit on a spur trail that leaves from the Delicate Arch Viewpoint parking lot and ascends Cache Valley Wash. The road runs along the wash, crossing it frequently. The trail then turns to the south and climbs toward Dry Mesa. We

will park in the valley and head towards the bench in a wash to locate and (hopefully) view multiple enchanting and elusive arches above Cache Valley Wash: Jagged, Overlooked, Little Pinyon, Reclusive, Bonus Triple, NABS, and Cache. Once high on the bench, expansive views over beautiful Cache Valley and Castle Valley. Hiking will involve hiking along a fairly level bench with scrambling, some hand over hand climbing and route finding. Because of this, hike is rated strenuous. High-clearance required, 4WD helpful. Expect a rough road surface. Patches of deep sand are possible, but should be negotiable. There may be sections of single-lane shelf road, moderate grades, and sections of loose road surface. PLEASE NOTE: The hike itself will be OUTSIDE of Arches National Park boundaries, but we will enter through the park, so park entrance fees applicable. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 9:00 AM. Leader: Tammy Berrie 435-260-0462 southeasternutahtammyb@yahoo.com.

GCG Sat 2/17 Canyonlands National Park, Needles District - Horse Canyon. We will hike into Horse Canyon, a major tributary of Salt Creek Canyon. From our trail head, the route heads south along Salt Creek for 2.2 miles to the confluence between Salt Creek and Horse Canyons. 1 mile east of the junction, we will visit Paul Bunyan's Potty, the best known arch in the canyon. Nearby, is a picturesque Anasazi ruin. 1 mile further we will come to the spur road that leads to Tower Ruin, a well known

and amazingly well preserved archeological site. We must hike 3/4 of a mile further, to the large alcove 200 feet above the canyon floor where the ruin is located. The site consists of at least three well preserved structures, including a square tower about 8 feet wide and 10 feet high. The tower is in excellent condition, with several 800-year-old juniper rafters still in place near the top of the walls. If anyone chooses, after returning to the main canyon, we can continue south (up canyon) for up to 5 more miles (one way) to visit more ruins, Fremont pictographs and astonishing arches such as Castle Arch and Fortress Arch. Round trip to/from Tower Ruin will be around 10 miles. Anticipate hiking in a canyon bottom with deep, soft sand. During colder weather, sand is firmer and is much more pleasant to hike on. Short days in February, so early start! Please bring head lamps just in case, especially if you plan on continuing up canyon! Due to length, duration and hiking surface, this hike is rated as strenuous. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 7:30 AM. Leader: Tammy Berrie 435-260-0462 southeasternutahtammyb@yahoo.com.

GCG Sat 3/3 Porcupine Rim Trail, River Rim, Grandstaff Canyon. Starting at the base of the Porcupine rim trail near Grandstaff Canyon the hike climbs to the top of the mesa about 2.5 miles. From there walk west along the Colorado River rim of the mesa eventually connecting

Continued on page 19

Outings, continued from page 18

with the route that links up with the Grandstaff Canyon trail. This is a seldom used route that that will be somewhat exploratory. Length on the order of 9 miles with a thousand-foot initial climb followed by lots of ups and downs over domes. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 9:00 AM. Leader: Michael Stringham 435-259-8579 mikechrista@earthlink.net.

GCG Sun 3/18 Above Corona Arch. Hike the Culvert Canyon trail that curves eastward and connects with Poison Spider trails. Loop to an overlook directly above Corona Arch. From there the hike connects with the Portal Trail to highway 279. Length around 9 miles. Thousand foot climb to start. Three hundred foot descent to the Bootlegger rim, then back up on the way out. Auto shuttle will be required. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 9:00 AM. Leader: Michael Stringham 435-259-8579 mikechrista@earthlink.net.

GCG Sat 3/31 Hurst Bridge San Rafael Swell. Travel to the San Rafael Swell to visit three spectacular natural bridges. The trailhead is 19 miles south of I-70 and 3 miles west of Utah 24 on an easy high clearance road. The trailhead is about an hour and a half from Moab. There is primitive camping available at the trailhead. We'll hike a mile up Ernie Canyon to Ernie Arch, a 40' by 12' arch. We leave the canyon here to start climbing up the Swell. After another mile and a

half we reach Hurst Bridge, a 55' span over the wash we've been hiking in. From here it is a half mile scramble over slickrock to spectacular Exclamation Bridge, with its triple opening. If time permits, we can ramble another half mile to the crest of the Swell with great views to the west. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 8:00 AM. Leader: David Alexander alexdavi@isu.edu.

Salt Lake Group Outings

SLC Sun 1/7 Little Dell to Affleck Park snowshoe. We will park at the winter gate at Little Dell Reservoir and walk along the trail to Affleck Park, where we will take a break and eat lunch. The return will be along the road, which is closed to cars. The trail is mostly level and traverses a variety of winter habitats for animals including moose. Meet at 9:00 AM in front of the Bombay House on Parley's Way. Please bring water and lunch. Proper winter clothing and snowshoes are mandatory. Plan on being on the trail for 4+ hours. We will return to SLC in the early afternoon. Leader: Colleen Mahaffey colleen.mahaffey@gmail.com, (801) 484-4105 or (801) 554-7153.

SLC 2/4 Scotts Pass Ski/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/snowshoe 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: pmimmack@gmail.com or cell 801 376-5823, rebeccawallace38@msn.com or 801 557-5261.

2/18 Beaver Creek X/C Ski Trail. A favorite easy cross-country ski 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. Bring warm clothes, water, lunch, and sun protection. Contact leader, Fred Swanson (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.

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.

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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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