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# Utah Sierran

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## Victory!

see map on page 3

# The Happy Conclusion to the Cedar Mountains Wilderness Story

by Mark Clemens

**H**undreds of volunteers from Utah and around the US have worked for years on protecting Utah's spectacular wild lands as Wilderness. Two of those volunteers, Vi and Bill Corkle, have logged many miles for Utah's wilderness. They've traveled twice to Washington, DC, to lobby members of congress from all over the country, and many miles on Utah's back roads to work on service trips to protect those landscapes.

On the evening of Friday, December 9, however, they and other chapter volunteers were stationary in the Utah Chapter office phoning Sierra Club members in Virginia and Michigan urging them to call their senators to support more Wilderness in Utah. Senators Levin (D-MI) and Warner (R-VA) have strong influence on legislation passing through the Senate Armed Services Committee, and the volunteers must have succeeded in influencing those influencers because the provision creating a new wilderness in the Cedar Mountains stayed in the Defense Authorization Bill.

When Vi learned that the new Wilderness had survived the conference committee she said, "It just makes you feel great. You do a lot of things, and it seems like it's never going to come to fruition. And then it just bombs in, and it makes you feel like you want to do even more."

### NEW STRENGTH FROM NEW ALLIANCES

Representative Rob Bishop (R-UT) has promoted this proposal tirelessly. Not only will the new wilderness protect crucial habitat for mule deer, raptors and the occasional cougar, but it will also make it much more difficult for Private Fuel Storage (PFS), a consortium of Midwest electricity producers, to build a railroad spur to carry high-level nuclear waste for storage at the Goshute Indian Reservation.

Senator Ensign from Nevada had blocked consideration of our bill, but

recently Bishop had a chance to sit down with Ensign and other members of the Utah congressional delegation to work out their differences. Some provisions included in earlier versions of the bill that served only the function of preventing nuclear waste storage had to be dropped, but the compromise is still a potent message to PFS.

### PROXIMATE SOLITUDE

The Cedar Mountains offer solitude and spectacular vistas only a short distance from Salt Lake City. Because of the somewhat lower altitude compared to closer ranges such as the Wasatch or the Stansburys, hiking in the Cedar Mountains is possible earlier in the season.

But winter recreation is a possibility too. "We went out to the Cedars--not this past Christmas--but Christmas Day of 2003. We went snowshoeing and saw wild horses," said Vi Corkle, "Just as we were leaving, we saw a wild horse up on the ridge. It was great to see him silhouetted up there. It was lovely."

In *Wilderness at the Edge*, Mike Medberry described some of the characteristics of the range.

Blonde grasslands at lower elevations in the Cedars are broken by many interesting outcroppings of limestone. The limestone occurs in colorful layers, an iron-gray stone alternating with rusty brown hues. An eagle-nesting site was recently identified on one of these outcrops, and many raptors are known to winter in the area. At higher elevations the mountainsides are steep and peppered with junipers, which, because they resemble cedar trees, gave this range its name. Tabby's Peak is a colorful volcanic peak at the southern end of the unit.

With the signing of the bill, Bureau of Land Management Wilderness in Utah increased by approximately 100,000 acres or more than 440%. Because the Cedar Mountains are contiguous to a US Air



RAY BLOKHAN



MARK CLEMENS

**Top: A view of the new Cedar Mountains Wilderness Area. Above: Representative Rob Bishop announced the introduction of the Cedar Mountains Wilderness bill at a press conference on March 31, 2005.**

Force training site, the Utah Test and Training Range, the wilderness provision was included in the Defense Authorization Act. This must-pass legislation cleared the US House of Representatives by 374-41. And just before this issue went to press, President Bush signed the bill.

If one considers the overall statutorily-protected Wilderness (both that managed by BLM and US Forest Service) in Utah, the new Cedar Mountains Wilderness still increases total acreage by a respectable 13% from 767,000 to 867,000 acres.

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

Utah Chapter Sierra Club  
2120 South 1300 East, Suite 204  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84106-3785

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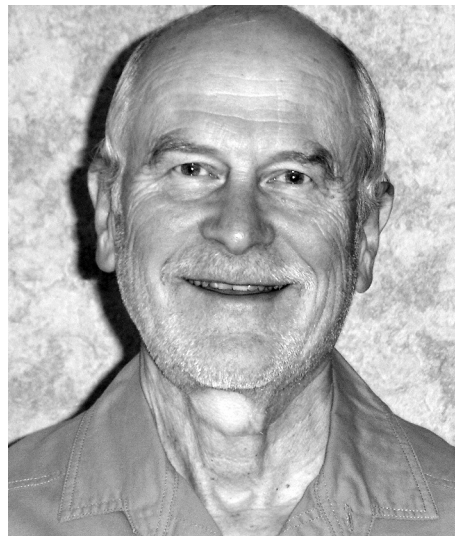


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## AIAI

## 2005, A Year to Celebrate for the Utah Chapter

by Al Herring, Chapter Chair



There is much to celebrate. However, at the same time we know that the challenges will just keep coming. Through the good work of our dedicated volunteers and staff, I am looking forward to having 2006 as another year to celebrate.

Members of the Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club should take pride in what was achieved during 2005. In this column I will reflect on some key accomplishments.

The Legacy Parkway settlement, although bittersweet, was a milestone for the club and its partners. As a result of our efforts (Mark Heilesen and Lawson LeGate plus volunteer activists) over most of the last decade, the Wasatch Front is going to have a true parkway next to a true nature preserve. And perhaps more importantly, I think that those who care deeply about the environment and smart growth are going to be taken more seriously as future transportation plans are being developed. Although we did point out many flaws in the original Legacy plan, we stayed focused on developing and promoting better options. And finally, we demonstrated that we can negotiate and compromise.

Many years ago we started campaigning for Transit First and, indeed, transit is going to be first. It is exciting to watch work progressing on the new rail bed for commuter rail whenever I drive south on I-15 from my home in Layton. I look forward to the day when I will be able to take the train down to Salt Lake City and then transfer to TRAX to get to my destination. (As you can tell, I prefer trains over buses.)

As I write this it appears certain that the Defense Authorization Bill will pass, and in the process protect nearly 100,000 acres in the Cedar Mountains as wilderness, protect Utah residents from more nuclear waste storage, and preserve the Utah Test and Training Range. This bill was originally written and introduced by my very own congressman, Rep. Rob Bishop. I thank him and the rest of the Utah delegation for making it happen. Additionally, I thank him and his staff for listening to the Sierra Club and others in the Utah Wilderness Coalition and heeding advice provided on language and details of the bill. Designation of the first new wilderness area in Utah in 21 years is certainly reason to celebrate. Another reason to celebrate is that the Cedar Mountains will become the first wilderness area in Utah on public lands managed by the BLM in Utah. I can only hope that many more will follow.

Another bright spot was the chapter's Utah Smart Energy Campaign. 2005 was our first full year for the campaign and,

under the able direction of Tim Wagner, the club made great progress in educating the general public and elected officials on the advantages of clean, renewable energy and the problems, (especially of mercury contamination, haze, and greenhouse gas releases) associated with coal-fired plants. Tim has become the go-to guy for the media when they need information concerning clean energy, and seldom a week goes by that I don't see him quoted on our behalf.

2005 was also the first year that Mark Clemens, Chapter Coordinator, served as our Utah State government lobbyist. (We previously contracted this work.) Mark did an excellent job and is continuing to become grow in this position. This change made our lobbying efforts more effective and measures were passed which, as Mark put it, would make John Muir smile, such as banning the disposal of Class B and C radioactive wastes in Utah, and putting more teeth in State water laws. In addition, the legislature thankfully met our goal of do no harm to the environment.

Speaking of nuclear issues, the Glen Canyon Group proposed and the chapter approved a preferred alternative for dealing with the Atlas Mill tailings located along the bank of the Colorado River just outside Moab. We can take considerable satisfaction that the club's recommendation (remove the material and transfer it by rail to the Crescent Junction disposal site) was the one selected by the Department of Energy.

Road issues other than Legacy also demanded chapter time, effort, and funds. Thanks primarily to the efforts of Nina Dougherty and Mark Clemens, the chapter raised numerous important concerns regarding the Southern Corridor FEIS. In addition, the State of Utah and some counties continued to make right-of-way claims under Revised Statute 2477 (or RS 2477), and we joined the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance and The Wilderness Society in contesting the legality of all these claims. In fact, during 2005 the Chapter Executive Committee approved participation as an intervener in three more RS 2477 cases.

Water is another area worthy of mention. Chapter volunteers played a key role in forming the new Southwest Waters Committee and in voicing our concerns

regarding an ill-conceived proposal by the Southern Nevada Water Authority to pump massive quantities of groundwater from western Utah and eastern Nevada.

Finally, we also had a good year administratively. The Utah Chapter continued to run with basically a balanced budget, membership numbers continued strong, we upgraded layout of the Utah Sierran, we sent five delegates and one staff member to the Sierra Summit in San Francisco, and we created a new Southwest Group covering Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane, and Washington Counties.

There is much to celebrate. However, at the same time we know that the challenges will just keep coming. Through the good work of our dedicated volunteers and staff, I am looking forward to having 2006 as another year to celebrate.

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## THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION CONTINUING WAR ON THE ENVIRONMENT

by Mark Clemens

In the timeline that runs along the bottom of this issue of the Utah Sierran, you'll find a digest of actions the Bush Administration has taken administratively on environmental matters. The selection is arbitrary, it's true, but I tried to include actions from throughout both George W Bush's terms, and that cover a number of environmental fields.

For someone not familiar with the administration's record, it might ap-

pear that the ratio of negative actions (23) in our timeline versus actions that benefit the environment (1) reflects a bias on our part. It does. We've probably overstated the positive part of this administration's record. It was necessary to omit dozens of changes and new regulations that harm the environment.

The Bush Administration has suppressed or re-written the science on issues from global warming to air

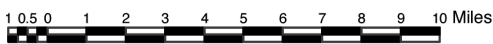
quality in Manhattan following the September 11 terrorist attacks in ways that harm public health or diminish public welfare. This administration has invited industry lobbyists into sessions closed to all other groups to write legislation or re-write regulation to reduce or eliminate controls on pollution. The administration has also substantially reduced fines and enforcement actions issued by the Environmental Protection Agency.

### Cedar Mountains Wilderness

This map prepared at the request of Congressman Rob Bishop



- Legend**
- CEDAR MOUNTAINS PROPOSED WILDERNESS
  - BLM
  - FOREST SERVICE
  - WILDERNESS AREAS
  - MILITARY RESERVATIONS
  - NATIVE AMERICAN RESERVATIONS
  - PRIVATE
  - STATE



March 13, 2004

Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Salt Lake Field Office



This data may not meet BLM standards for accuracy and content. Different data sources and input scales may cause misalignment of data layers.

# A Different Kind of Rural Road

by Michaelann Nelson

Whenever I come up to visit my family in Layton from wherever I happen to be living at the time, I enter the entanglement of Other People's lives—home projects run amok, teenage dating angst, new babies, and family politics. To escape the crazy house (as I affectionately call it), I like to go for a run. I have found a network of old farming roads, connected by subdivision streets, to run on. They keep me from being splashed by cars and sucking in exhaust fumes, but they also keep me safe. I have been running on these roads for 15 years, and my favorite road has always been what I call Muddy Lane, a ½ mile dirt road bordering some of the last remaining farmland in East Layton. I love to look over the rolling hills of fields, watching cattle in the pasture. Stands of trees and tall grasses insulate the road from the sounds of traffic nearby. I can hear my feet crunch the gravel as they hit the ground and listen to my rhythmic breathing. If I'm lucky, I'll get to see a flock of Canadian Geese in the fields, honking and pawing at the ground for food, as they rest their wings from their migration. Many of my life's problems have been worked out over this stretch of land, and I feel connected to my agricultural heritage and the land that sustains us all. Running on this land has brought me appreciation for the hard work of farming and respect for the people—the families—that farm this land.

**Blocking access to Muddy Lane—and its associated network of other farming roads—robs all of us of the safety, quiet, and nurturing of the farmlands around it.**

Several years ago, a corner of land bordering Muddy Lane was sold, and a subdivision built in its place. Muddy Lane now runs between two houses, ending on a subdivision street. About a year ago, a police officer moved into one of the homes and put up a fence, essentially blocking access. Not only has Muddy Lane been my respite, but countless numbers of neighbors and community members use Muddy Lane for their own enjoyment as well. Kids ride their bikes to buy candy at a nearby grocery store, families use the road for Sunday afternoon strolls, and countless numbers of walkers and joggers use it, no doubt, for the same reasons I do. Occasionally, teenage kids will try to drive on it for adventure and trouble-making.

Blocking access to Muddy Lane—and its associated network of other farming roads—robs all of us of the safety, quiet, and nurturing of the farmlands around it. Exposure to any type of open space and more natural space (including farm land and ranches) can foster a connection to and love of the natural world, as well as a greater understanding of the life processes that sustain all of us.

In our rush to subdivide every scrap of land, we have done little to preserve real, sustained open space. The connections to our agricultural heritage are being stripped away. When Henry David Thoreau, one of the patron saints of environmentalism, walked out his front door in Concord to go sauntering, he didn't go but a few miles from his home. He walked in the pastures and fields of his neighbors and fellow Concordians. I think Thoreau would have stood up for the right of every American to access open space within a few minutes of walking out their front doors, and so should we.

Michaelann Nelson has been a club member for ten years and now lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

# Selling the Parks

by Al Herring

Time to act! Feb. 18, 2006, is the deadline for public comment on proposed revisions to the National Park Service Management Policy.

Early in 2005, Paul Hoffman, deputy assistant secretary at the U.S. Department of the Interior, covertly attempted to implement a new management policy giving recreation and commercial development in National Parks priority over preservation. His radical proposals were leaked by an anonymous employee and shelved shortly afterward amid a storm of protest. An Interior spokesman said that Hoffman's rewrite, "was only crafted to spark a dialogue within the Park Service." Sure.

Now the administration is back for another try, but not much has changed. As Pete Parry of Moab recently said in a letter to The Salt Lake Tribune, "These draft policies open the door for commercialization of the parks and could force park employees into begging from the public and businesses for support. How does renaming the new Arches Visitor Center 'The McDonald's Visitor Center

sound?"

To see concerns expressed by retired senior National Parks personnel, go to [www.npsretirees.org/05\\_1130-ExecutivelevelletteronMP.htm](http://www.npsretirees.org/05_1130-ExecutivelevelletteronMP.htm).

The position of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition can be seen at <http://greateryellowstone.org/issues/alert.php?alertID=17>. They conclude that this rewrite abandons the Park Service's primary conservation mission and puts our parks in jeopardy, and they ask the Park Service to abandon this revision.

You can read and comment on the document by going to <http://www.nps.gov/> and clicking on the button titled "Draft 2006 NPS Management Policies: Review and Comment Here."

We encourage Utah Chapter members to comment on the Draft NPS Management Policy, and we agree with the position of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition that this revision should be abandoned. "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

# Our Water

## When Wells Run Dry

by Richard Nielson

Rapid population growth in the Salt Lake Valley and South Valley Sewer District's (SVSD) efforts to gain approval for construction of another wastewater treatment facility in the Jordan River Valley has awakened public awareness to the need for additional wastewater treatment capacity. Unfortunately, current and anticipated growth has so far failed to awaken public awareness to the enormous increase in demand for culinary water supply that will be necessary for the needs of the added population. Housing densities of four single-family units per acre, on historically un-irrigated land, creates a 400% increase in demand for culinary water compared to previous usage on the same acreage. Kennecott Land alone intends to develop over 70,000 acres of previously un-irrigated land along the west side of the Salt Lake Valley.

South Valley Sewer District's request to continue traditional methods of disposing of wastewater, also referred to as return water, is being supported by Kennecott Land and Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District (JVWCD). These two organizations have developed a plan to provide culinary water to satisfy their own growth needs. Placing at least one other, and likely several more, return water treatment facilities in the river valley is an essential element in their long-range culinary water supply plan. This long-range plan is, however, seriously flawed in that it will result in perpetual consumption of groundwater storage reserves. Placing another wastewater treatment facility at any location in the river valley will only serve to perpetuate a century old groundwater management policy that has been complacently maintained despite 60 years of scientific urging that changes are necessary. (See Marios A. Sophocleous web site: Sophocleous, M.A. 1998. Concluding comments on managing water resources systems: Why "Safe Yield" is not sustainable. In: Sophocleous, M. A. (ed) Perspectives on Sustainable Development of Water Resources in Kansas.

Kansas Geological Survey, Bulletin 239, p.211-213. And Sophocleous, M.A. and Devlin, J.F. 2004. Discussion of "The Water Budget Myth Revisited: Why Hydrogeologists Model" by John D. Bredehoeft. Ground Water, 42(4): 618.)

JVWCD wants to preserve the traditional method of placing return water in the Jordan River because it will provide them with an increasing and continuous water supply for their hundreds of approved culinary water supply river-bank filtration wells. Kennecott Utah Copper wants to preserve the traditional method in support of their partner JVWCD who has assumed responsibility for the removal of mining operation contaminants the copper company introduced into the southwest Salt Lake Valley aquifer. Assuming responsibility for removal of contaminated groundwater is a means of controlling additional culinary water supply.

Our current groundwater management policy places absolutely no financial value on the storage capacity of the aquifer. Construction costs in today's dollars, for creation of surface storage capacity equivalent to the underground aquifer storage capacity contaminated by Kennecott mining operations, would be approximately \$6 billion dollars. Unless plans are changed, Kennecott will be required to pay damages for only treatment of the contaminated water over a period of 40 years to make it usable for culinary supply. At the limited rate contaminated water will be utilized, it will require more than 400 years to process the total volume of aquifer water resource that has been contaminated. If the current groundwater management policy remains in place, aquifer storage capacity will continue to be neglected and undervalued.

We must begin to manage the aquifer as a valuable storage reserve and water distribution system rather than simply a container for the annual pass-through of precipitation resources. Allowing continual withdrawal of groundwater from aquifer storage, as a result of "safe-yield" manage-



The site proposed for a new sewage treatment plant between 13100 and 13400 South on the Jordan River.

JOHN HOMER

ment, implicates living generations of Salt Lake Valley adults in the unfortunate process of irresponsibly consuming historic groundwater storage reserves to which all generations are entitled as part of the public trust. If continued, our present management policy will lead to impoverishment of our own posterity. Consuming aquifer storage reserves is a process that is ecologically unsound and morally unethical. Both scientific papers and recorded physical damage to other aquifer systems over the past 60 years support this assertion. Continually diminishing aquifer storage reserves with the subsequent result that oxygen infiltrates into aquifer storage areas originally occupied by water is an unnecessary, potentially hazardous and uncontrolled experiment being conducted with the aquifer. (See Scientific American, August 2004, Article on Groundwater in Bangladesh)

Those participating in the wastewater public hearings are arguing the pros and cons of the so-called alternatives being proposed. Both special interest groups and all members of the public must comprehend that all the options they are debating involve the same solution. The only discus-

sion allowed in the hearings involves just the choice of location. These same limiting tactics were employed in all public hearings dealing with the environmental damage settlement between the State of Utah and Kennecott Copper Corporation resulting from contamination of groundwater resources.

There is one realistic and preferable alternative that the public should have an opportunity to consider. That alternative involves dedication of all return water to recharging the aquifer. This is an alternative that will require decades to fully implement. It is the only alternative that does not perpetuate total consumption of groundwater storage reserves. Initiation of aquifer recharge is an alternative that will require retention of return water from Kennecott Land development on their own property where there are numerous strategic locations for aquifer recharge. It is an alternative that can utilize neighborhood-friendly greenhouse technology and other new technologies for return water treatment that will produce both jobs and marketable products. Initiating aquifer recharge will require Kennecott Land to sacrifice some of their own developable land

<p><b>10/25/02:</b> The Administration denied funding for cleanup work at 55 high-priority toxic waste sites in 25 states, despite warnings that the sites continue to pose serious environmental health risks. For 22 years, the Superfund program used the "polluter pays" principle to clean up hundreds of the worst toxic waste dumps across the country. The Administration shifted cleanup costs from industry to taxpayers by refusing to reinstate the Superfund tax.</p>	<p><b>11/1/02:</b> At the 8th UN Convention on Climate Change, the Administration worked to strip out all references to Kyoto Protocol ratification and renewable energy in the final declaration text, and did not seek commitments from developing countries to stabilize and reduce emissions. <b>Also:</b> A U.S. District Court rejected the Administration's plan to allow oil exploration, seismic testing and drilling across 20,000 acres near Utah's Arches and Canyonlands National Parks.</p>	<p><b>11/25/02:</b> The Administration proposed new regulations to free public lands in the Northwest from court rulings that require the BLM and Forest Service to show that timber sales will not harm fish. This weakens salmon protections in order to increase logging.</p>	<p><b>12/31/02:</b> The Administration issued final regulations to weaken the Clean Air Act's New Source Review program. The program, established in 1977, requires utilities, refineries and other industrial facilities to install modern pollution control equipment whenever modifications are made to existing plants that would result in increased emissions.</p>	<p><b>1/10/03:</b> The Administration proposed changes for managing waterways under the Clean Water Act. The proposed rules affect Clean Water Act enforcement by removing 20 million acres of wetlands from protection.</p> <p><b>1/29/03:</b> The Administration released a draft proposal to increase logging in 11 million national forests acres in California's Sierra Nevada mountain range. The Administration proposed several changes to the Sierra Nevada Framework Plan, adopted by the Clinton Administration after 10 years of planning and scientific review. The new proposal allows all trees up to 30 inches in diameter to be cut.</p>	
<p>2002</p>				<p>2003</p>	
<p>September</p> <p><b>9/27/02:</b> The Administration approved an open-pit gold mine on sacred Quechan Indian tribal land in California after the Senate passed an amendment to the Fiscal 2003 Interior Appropriations bill prohibiting funds to examine the mine's impact. In 1/01, the Clinton Administration rejected the project due to the irreparable damage it would cause to cultural and religious sites.</p>	<p>October</p>	<p>November</p>	<p>December</p> <p><b>2/8/03:</b> The Administration approved 52 applications for exemptions for methyl bromide under the Clean Air Act and the Montreal Protocol. Methyl bromide, which accounts for 7 percent of depletion in the ozone layer, is an ozone-depleting substance used to sterilize the soil before planting and to kill pests in stored food products.</p>	<p>January</p>	<p>February</p>

# OurAir

## My Personal Call to Repentance

by Mark Clemens

in exchange for preservation of the natural environment of the river valley to replace partially treated wastewater flow levels in the Jordan River with clean aquifer discharge. It would provide Kennecott a profitable means of mitigating a portion of the aquifer environmental damage resulting from past mining operations. Kennecott Land could accomplish their real estate development plans without additional environmental damage to either the Jordan River Valley or the aquifer.

Return water is currently our only year-round unallocated water resource. That total resource must be dedicated to year-round recharge of the aquifer. Return water can be temporarily utilized for secondary water resources over the coming decades. Portions of the distribution system initially constructed for delivery of secondary water resources can be ultimately converted to convey secondary water resources from existing wastewater facilities to new facilities strategically located for additional purification and injection back into the aquifer.

With creative financing, all generations benefiting from a healthy aquifer can share the financial burden of recharging the aquifer. Current generations must, however, make the decisions necessary to provide opportunity for that process to begin. Continual postponement of aquifer recharge is not an alternative. Our current plight with groundwater resources is not the result of lack of understanding on the part of our water management officials. After a century of following the perniciously ill-named safe yield groundwater management theory we have diminished our aquifer storage reserve by a volume of water sufficient to supply our current municipal and industrial water resource needs for approximately 10 years. In the face of anticipated rapid population growth, dedication of properly treated return water for aquifer recharge would restore and maintain necessary groundwater storage reserves, and prevent further ecological damage from development and continued mining of aquifer resources.

**W**hen I wandered down to the intersection of 400 South and State Street in Salt Lake City, on the afternoon of Monday, December 19th, Andy Eisenberg had been demonstrating there for six days. He's been there from 8 to 10 am and in the afternoon from 3 to 5. His crusade is pretty obvious from the sign in the photo. It does get him noticed as he walks the unending square of the crosswalks surrounding this intersection. While we're there, a woman alone in a Ford Excursion rolls down her window to explain, quite politely, that she needs all 4.6 tons of that vehicle for convenience. Other shouted comments are less polite, but the most common reaction is curious and quizzical.

The other placard Andy has been showing most of the day is more informative and reads, "Today AQI 106—unhealthy to breathe." Andy concedes that the issue involves too much technical detail to get across easily on a placard. The AQI or Air Quality Index is a numerical rating that converts a physical measurement—in Salt Lake City's case the offending pollutant is usually fine particulates measured in micrograms per cubic meter of air—into a standard rating on a scale of 1 to 500.

A score of between 0 to 50 is considered good; 51 to 100 moderate; 101 to 199 is unhealthy; 200 to 299 very unhealthy; and the worst score, anything between 300 to 500, is considered hazardous. You can find out much more about the Air Quality Index and other air pollution issues at [www.airmonitoring.utah.gov](http://www.airmonitoring.utah.gov).

Eisenberg is a sophomore at the University of Utah studying urban planning, and he understands the link between his discipline and air quality, "To solve it [air pollution] permanently, you have to look at the design of our cities." Andy has traveled in Europe and found that narrower streets, urban design favoring pedestrians and bikes, and above all, superb public transportation, improve the quality of life and air quality in places like Geneva, Switzerland, and Amsterdam.

Imagination is the word Andy conjures as the key to individuals acting to improve air quality, "If we think the future will look at all like it does today, then we must stop thinking and start imagining, before nothing changes. This problem cannot be fixed by continuing to engage in the practice that causes it. The future is now; it is in our [currently] primitive version of public transit."



Andy Eisenberg's protest of air quality in Salt Lake City during December 2005 provoked lots of gestures, and perhaps, some introspection.

Design inspired by imagination will make public spaces more accommodating for pedestrians and bicyclists and make public transportation faster, more convenient and more inviting, according to Eisenberg.

Eisenberg realizes that his demonstration can only have a limited effect, but he heard from a friend who works at Wild Oats that a customer insisted on a plastic bag for his

few purchases. He needed the bag he said, "because I'm on foot today since I saw a guy protesting about air pollution over on State Street."

Andy's placard is also a call to repentance for me. I commute to Sugarhouse most days by car. My commitment for 2006 is to use public transportation at least once a week to get to work.

**4/9/03:** The Administration signed a memorandum of understanding with Utah Governor Leavitt that allows Utah to claim thousands of miles of highways across public lands. The memorandum ignores both law and precedent to allow the state to claim cow paths and jeep trails as highways, even in areas with wilderness qualities.

**4/11/03:** The Administration agreed to settle a lawsuit with Utah dropping protection for over 2 million acres of wilderness-quality lands. Interior Secretary Norton also agreed to forbid the BLM from considering future wilderness resources in its planning process.

**8/21/03:** The EPA Inspector General issued an air quality report for the post-9/11 World Trade Center area, finding that the White House Council on Environmental Quality pressured the EPA in the weeks after the attacks to downplay risks to public health.

March	April	May	June	July	August
		<p><b>5/29/03:</b> The Department of Interior announced suspension of endangered species critical habitat designation under the Endangered Species Act. Despite a 1995 National Academy of Sciences report that concluded habitat conservation "is absolutely crucial to species survival," the Administration has not yet indicated how it will promote the recovery of imperiled plants and animals.</p>			

# SmartEnergy



DEREK LILLY

## Nothing But Blue Skies from Now On

from a 29 December, 2005 press release

The owners of the Mohave Generating Station, led by Southern California Edison, agreed not to operate the plant after December 31, 2005 without installing modern air pollution controls according to a court-approved consent decree signed in 1999 with the Grand Canyon Trust, Sierra Club and the National Parks Conservation Association. Edison, which operates the plant, has not invested in pollution controls called for in the decree, choosing instead to close the plant after the deadline. The plant is owned by Edison, Salt River Project, Sierra Pacific's Nevada Power, and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

Mohave Generating Station has been operating without significant pollution controls since it opened in 1971. Local protests and legal actions over emissions began soon thereafter. However, operations continued unchanged until the end of the 1990s when the conservation groups sued the plant's owners for violating air quality and health standards under the federal

Clean Air Act.

The conservation groups showed that the plant violated its pollution limits over 400,000 times between 1993-1998. Because the maximum fine for each violation is \$27,500, the maximum potential penalty was \$10 billion. After intensive negotiations, the owners and the conservation groups signed a consent decree in 1999, that provided six years for the plant to install pollution controls or shut down, allowing sufficient time to not only install the controls but also to negotiate new coal and water contracts with the Navajo and Hopi tribes and with Peabody Coal Company.

Since 1999 the owners have failed to negotiate new contracts for coal and water, and have made no attempt to install the required pollution control equipment, which could have been done in less than three years. There are also expensive repairs and upgrades which have not been made for the coal slurry pipeline used to transport the coal from the Black Mesa Mine

in northern Arizona to the power plant in Laughlin, Nevada.

Over the last six years since the consent decree was signed the power plant has spewed 240,000 tons of sulfur dioxide, 120,000 tons of nitrogen oxide and 60,000 tons of particulate matter into the region's air, putting the respiratory health of area residents at risk and obscuring visibility at Grand Canyon National Park.

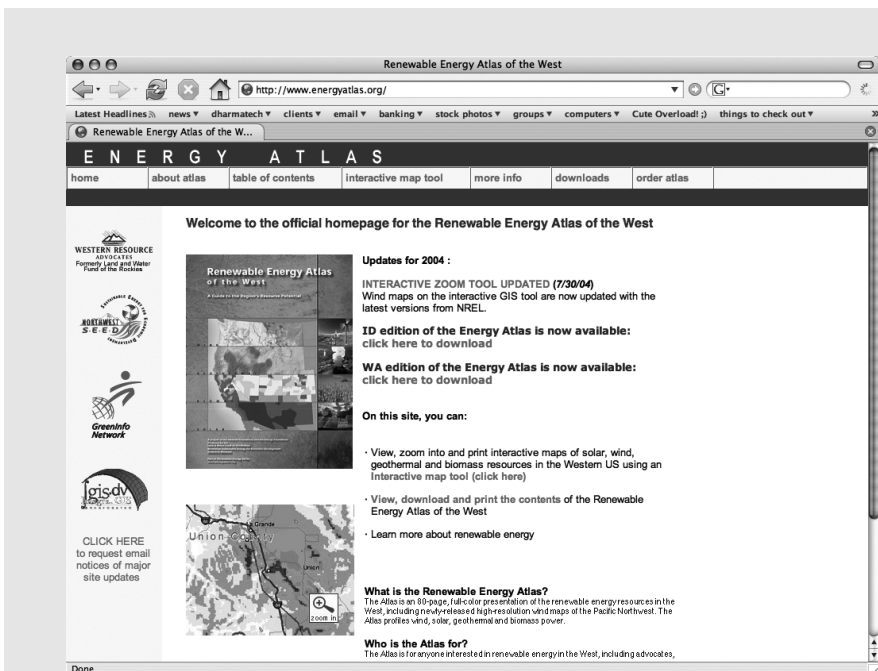
"As of the New Year, Mohave Valley residents and Grand Canyon visitors can breathe easier because Mohave's owners chose to shut down their old polluting plant," said Rob Smith, Southwestern representative for the Sierra Club.

"Pollution from the Mohave plant fouls some of the most scenic vistas on the planet," said Mark Wenzler, Clean Air Program Director at the National Parks Conservation Association.

This news is almost unalloyed good news for the state of Utah both from the perspective of diminished haze and a reduced health threat. However, could the

loss of that generating capacity create a market opportunity for other coal-fired power plants? Four such plants have been proposed in Utah, and the chapter has appealed the permit recently granted by the Utah Air Quality Board to one of them, Intermountain Power Project (IPP), near Delta. Utah Chapter Clean Air Activist Nina Dougherty observed, "I do fear, however, that IPP management is eagerly waiting to take up any Mohave slack for the IPP add-on."

Recent restrictions by California's Energy Commission and Public Utilities Commission put a brake on additional carbon emissions from electricity destined for the California market—even if produced outside the state. "[T]hey would likely have to prove that they can meet California's new greenhouse gas restrictions," reassures Smart Energy Campaign Co-ordinator Tim Wagner, "and we know that the proposed IPP#3 will not meet that standard under its current permit."



### ENERGY ATLAS

Western Resource Advocates has developed an atlas at [www.energyatlas.org](http://www.energyatlas.org) that uses GIS technology to inventory the renewable resources in eleven Western states, mapping the high-potential areas for wind, solar, geothermal, etc., in color. In Utah, the atlas identifies wind resources totaling 23 million megawatt-hours per year, solar resources totaling 69 million megawatt-hours per year, and geothermal resources of 9 million megawatt-hours per year. Utah's solar resources are over 300 percent of the state's current energy consumption; these three sources together have the potential to generate over five times the state's current energy consumption needs.

The advocates point to the economic benefits of renewable energy development: "The revenues from renewable power generation stay close to home," says Heather Rhoads-Weaver. "They're a powerful force for economic revitalization, particularly in rural areas." Since producing the atlas, Western Resource Advocates has also written "A Balanced Energy Plan for the Interior West" available through their website, [westernresourceadvocates.org](http://westernresourceadvocates.org).

**2/3/04:** The Bush Administration proposed to cut \$35 million for the lead hazard control program managed by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The program pays for expert home evaluations and repairs to prevent young children from being exposed to paint particles, dust or soil containing lead.

2004

September

October

November

December

January

February

**1/31/04:** According to a Washington Post article, the Bush Administration's proposed new rules to regulate power plants' mercury pollution includes language identical to the recommendations of a law firm representing the electric utilities. The Washington Post found that "at least a dozen paragraphs were lifted, sometimes verbatim, from the industry suggestions."

# Snap Up Those Renewable Energy Incentives

by Tim Wagner, Utah Smart Energy Campaign Co-ordinator

So you've replaced those old windows and installed more insulation in your attic, replaced that antiquated furnace with a highly efficient model, purchased an Energy Star rated refrigerator, and replaced those old-fashioned light bulbs with new, high-efficient compact fluorescents. But you want to do more as a responsible citizen in order to lesson our dependence on fossil fuels and perhaps reduce the emissions of global warming-causing CO<sub>2</sub> gases into the atmosphere.

What can you do? How about installing an electricity-generating solar system on that sun-soaking roof of yours? Expensive? Yes, a photovoltaic panel system adequate to provide a major portion of electricity used by an average home can easily cost between \$15,000 and \$20,000 installed. But with available tax credits and other incentives, the cost can be reduced significantly.

First is the Renewable Energy Tax Credit, a Utah program that allows tax credits for residential-installed renewable energy systems including solar electric, solar thermal, passive solar, wind, and hydropower. The credit is worth 25% of the total equipment and installation cost of the project up to a maximum of \$2,000.

In addition, you can take a federal tax credit that was part of the 2005 energy bill. Credits are available for 30 percent of the cost--up to \$2,000--on a qualified solar water heating and photovoltaic system that are "placed in service" in 2006 and 2007.

Utah's regulated utilities such as Utah Power and Light participate in what's known as net metering, or sometimes referred to as reverse metering. This program allows you to sell back to the utility the excess power produced by your renewable system, whether wind or solar. As required by the state, the utility in this situation is required buy from you, at market rates, the power that your system produces but you don't use. And yes, your meter actually runs backwards under such a scenario.

If you're a business owner or planning to start a business and want to have a less energy intensive footprint, there is also assistance for implementing a renewable energy system for that business. The Solar and Geothermal Business Tax Credit, an

The Solar and Geothermal Business Tax Credit allows a 10 percent corporate tax credit, up to a maximum of \$25,000 per year, plus 25 percent of the total tax remaining after the credit is taken, for commercial or industrial facilities using solar water heat, solar space heat, solar thermal electric, solar thermal process heat, photovoltaics, or geothermal electric technologies.

IRS program enacted in 1978, allows a 10 percent corporate tax credit, up to a maximum of \$25,000 per year, plus 25 percent of the total tax remaining after the credit is taken, for commercial or industrial facilities using solar water heat, solar space heat, solar thermal electric, solar thermal process heat, photovoltaics, or geothermal electric technologies. Commercial applications are also eligible for the Renewable Energy Tax Credit similar to residential installations, with slightly different terms. Business owners can claim a credit of 10% of the cost of equipment and installation up to \$50,000. Again, this would apply to solar electric, solar thermal, passive solar, wind, hydropower, and biomass systems.

Other online sources for financial assistance or incentives regarding renewable energy development, whether a homeowner or entrepreneur, include the Database of State Incentives for Renewable Energy (DSIRE) at [www.dsireusa.org](http://www.dsireusa.org), or the Stepp Foundation, a national organization that puts renewable energy or energy efficiency projects in touch with funding sources, located at [www.steppfoundation.org](http://www.steppfoundation.org).

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**CONFERENCE THEMES INCLUDE:**

Wise land use that mirrors carefully forged community values

Transportation options that free citizens from car-centric mobility and dependence on rising prices at the pump

New energy sources and uses that save money for our communities

**SPEAKERS INCLUDE:**

Ted Turner, invited  
Bruce Babbitt, former Secretary of the Interior

Torbjorn Lahti, The Natural Step on Sweden's municipal development

Mike Bowman, 25 x 25 agricultural energy initiative

Luther Propst, Sonoran Institute

Sue Zielinski, Moving the Economy

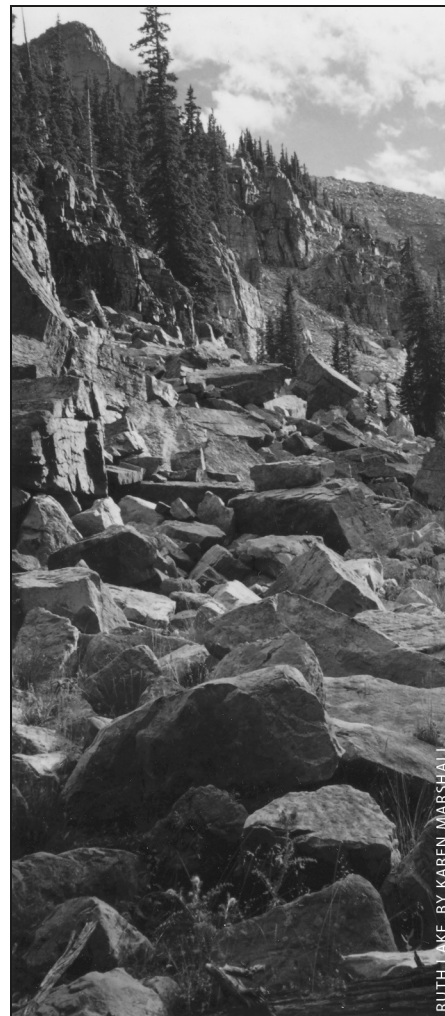
Richard Swett, Former Ambassador to Denmark

Hon. Earl Blumenaer, invited

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REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47

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Enclose check and mail to:  
Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

**5/11/04: THE ADMINISTRATION GETS SOMETHING RIGHT!** EPA Administrator Leavitt signed a new Nonroad Diesel Rule, which steeply cuts pollution from diesel engines used in construction, agriculture and other industries and require the removal of 99 percent of the sulfur in diesel fuel.

March

April

May

June

July

August

**6/22/04:** The Bush Administration announced that the amount of toxic pollutants released into the air, water and land increased by 239 million pounds or five percent in 2002. This is only the second time that toxic pollution has increased since the yearly Toxic Release Inventory began in 1987.

# UtahChapterNews

## Utah Chapter Annual Election of Officers

by Jean Binyon, Gordon Lind and Brad Yates, Election Committee Officers

This year the chapter and groups sent out ballots separate from the chapter newsletter. The Glen Canyon Group sent out its own separate group ballot. As a result of the change, participation increased substantially. Seven percent of the ballots sent out by the chapter were returned. The highest return in the past was approximately two percent.

### CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Five candidates ran for four two-year seats on the chapter executive committee, and the candidates receiving the highest vote totals were elected. The totals are listed below.

- Scott Daniels ..... 225
- Ranee Johnson ..... 206
- Wayne Hoskisson ..... 204
- Kathleen Jones ..... 193
- Jim Case ..... 171

Al Herring, Gordon Lind, Lois Mansfield and Brad Yates continue on the chapter ExCom in terms that expire at the end of 2006.

### OGDEN GROUP

Three candidates ran for three two-year seats. The vote totals are below.

- Larry Wolsey ..... 50
- Bob Becker ..... 47
- Karen Thurber ..... 43

### SALT LAKE GROUP

Two candidates ran for two two-year seats. Two write-in votes were also cast for candidates not on the group ballot.

- Ann Wechsler ..... 188
- Ken Evans ..... 160
- Ron Younger (write in) ..... 1
- Scott Daniels (write in) ..... 1

### SOUTHWEST UTAH GROUP

The new Southwest Utah Group elected a permanent executive committee to replace the interim executive committee that had served since the group's recent establishment. Group by-laws require ExCom members to serve staggered terms so no ExCom will consist exclusively of newly-elected members. All five candidates below

will serve on the group's executive committee. The three candidates receiving the most votes will serve two-year terms; the next two will serve one-year terms.

- Jim Case ..... 29
- Mary Belle Royer ..... 27
- Douglas Reynolds ..... 26
- Lois Mansfield ..... 25
- Judy Allison ..... 23

Three hundred twenty-one chapter ballots were returned. One ballot was voted as an abstention. Six were disqualified. Some only voted for chapter ExCom candidates, others on group ExComs only. Votes were counted by Gordon Lind and Brad Yates, assisted by Mark Clemens on December 11, 2005.

### GLEN CANYON GROUP

The Glen Canyon Group distributed 130 ballots of which 37 were returned. The participation rate was 28%. Because some of the ballots submitted were for joint memberships, 46 members voted, or 31% of 148 members. Mike Binyon, Ed

Brandstetter and Mary Suarez were elected. Continuing ExCom members are Tom Messenger, Bonnie Crysedale. The GCG ExCom will meet in January for election of officers, appointment of committee chairs, etc. Ballots counted by Jean Binyon, Tom Messenger and Bonnie Crysedale.

### Elected Chapter Executive Committee member Kathleen Jones.



## Thank You to Our Volunteers

by Al Herring

Publicly thanking people is always done at the risk of offending someone through oversight, but we feel moved to take that chance. We thank the following people, in no particular order, for their exceptional contributions during the past year.

**Angelika Davis**, our treasurer, for getting trained and successfully managing our transition to a new and more rational accounting system. January is the month that, like Janus, faces backward and forward so in addition to thanking Angelika for helping us get the chapter finances in order for 2006, we should also thank a volunteer, now departing, who has been helping us keep our website looking good for more than three years now. Thanks to **Gregg Frohman** for that help and good luck with version 1.0 of the next generation of Frohmans.

**Jean Binyon, Ann Wechsler, Jim Case, Brad Yates, Gordon Lind, Lois Mansfield, and Wayne Hoskisson** (regular members); and **Mike Binyon, Ken Evans,**

**Judy Allison, and Larry Woolsey** (group delegates) for their effective service on the Utah Chapter Executive Committee.

**Dan Schroeder, Mike Binyon, Ken Evans** (chairs), and **Jim Case** (interim chair) for effectively leading their respective Sierra Club groups. We especially appreciate that they led involvement on local issues and kept their outings programs strong.

**The Wechslers** cover the waterfront. **Jim Wechsler** for taking the lead in organizing the Southwest Waters Committee and then serving as chair. **Ann Wechsler** for serving as chair of the Conservation Committee, for representing the chapter in the Council of Club Leaders, and for organizing our participation in the Sierra Summit.

**Nina Dougherty** for her many years as a chapter officer and activist. Our battle cry Transit First and the Legacy Parkway settlement are both monuments to her leadership and involvement. She also led club efforts to make our air more breathable and to reduce haze in our parks and

wild areas.

**Sarah Fields** for serving as chair of the Nuclear and Hazardous Waste Committee of the Glen Canyon Group for the past several years. It is largely through her efforts that the club has had a voice in these matters.

**Gibbs and Catherine Smith** for establishing the Utah Chapter Endowment Fund and then becoming regular contributors. **Tony Musset** has supported the chapter for several years now because he loves the places that the Utah Chapter is fighting to protect. It is worth noting that Tony lives in Europe. **Liz Kinne** has put her considerable fundraising skills at the service of the Smart Energy Campaign to tap into foundation funding.

**Wayne Hoskisson** for serving as our Public Lands Chair and for all the work he does on National Sierra Club committees. **Jim Catlin** for investing the time and energy to stay involved in Utah Chapter issues even though he is on the National Board of Directors. **Jim Case** for leading

formation of the SW Group and for being a tireless representative at land-use and other hearings in the region.

**Joey Caputo** is the volunteer who never turns us down and has collaborated both with the Building Environmental Community campaign to fight sprawl, and to make the Smart Energy Campaign a success along with other Smart Energy volunteers including **Susan Buffer, Jack Greene, Jed Jackman, Harold Jones, Rob and Kathleen Jones** (not related to Harold), **Jim Kennon, Kim Korinek, Greg Libecchi, Katherine Logan, Insa Riepen, Cindy Roberts, Nick Stackelberg, and Kate Stevens.**

Everyone else who wrote a letter-to-the-editor, commented on a government proposal, contacted an elected official, attended a hearing, talked to a friend or neighbor, made a financial contribution to the club, volunteered on a specific issue of interest, etc. Your support and involvement has been essential to our success.

**9/15/04:** A non-partisan public policy group issued a study showing that the criminal enforcement of environmental laws has declined during the Bush Administration. The Transactional Record Access Clearinghouse (TRAC) report concludes that prosecutions declined by 23 percent, convictions declined by 18 percent, and prison sentences declined by 28 percent.

**1/22/05:** The Washington Post reports that the Department of Energy has illegally delayed issuing energy efficiency standards for many household and commercial appliances.

2005

September

October

November

December

January

February

**2/3/05:** the EPA's Inspector General issued a report admonishing the Bush Administration for ignoring scientific data to support a predetermined outcome on the mercury pollution rule. The EPA's proposed mercury rule regulates mercury emissions from power plants. The report says the EPA did not analyze the full costs and benefits of regulatory alternatives or the effects of the rule on children's health.

**2/7/05:** The Administration proposed to cut funding for environmental programs by 10 percent, including a \$373 million cut to clean water and safe drinking water programs.



# 2005 Contributions

Special thanks to the members listed below for their contributions to the chapter's 2005 fundraising drive. Thanks also to other members who contributed anonymously. These contributions make possible our conservation programs to protect air and water quality in Utah, our crusade to protect Utah wild lands, the Smart Energy Campaign and our ability to reach out to you and other Utahns.

- |                              |                  |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| Fred Adler                   | Wayne J Peay     |
| Al Campbell                  | Loretta D Petrie |
| John D & Constance J Clemens | Debra A Roberts  |
| Ronald Dunn                  | Dan Schroeder    |
| Richard Jirik                | Jim Sinclair     |
| Ann M Johnson                | Gary A Thorne    |
| Ross Loevy                   | Lennox Tierney   |

To protect our members' privacy, if no publishing preference is specified, we do not publish contributors' names. If you don't see your name listed and would like for it to be published, please call Mark at (801) 467-9297. We try hard to spell people's names correctly; please accept our apologies if we misspelled your name!

### IN MEMORIAM

The chapter gratefully acknowledges a generous gift made in loving memory of Leo Slowikowski by his family. Leo was an avid marathoner whose inspiration came from Utah's pristine landscapes. It was Leo's hope that Utah should remain as beautiful as when he experienced it.

The following contributors donated to the Utah Chapter in memory of Dan Eden. Eden, who died on October 4, 2004, loved nature and particularly enjoyed boating on San Francisco Bay.

- Jeannette E Eden
- Mr & Mrs Arthur Mazzochi
- Loretta D Petrie
- Jode Yablonsky



**Leo Slowikowski running the Pocatello Marathon.**

### 1% FOR THE PLANET

Treasure Mountain Inn and Conference Center in Park City has been a major supporter of the Utah Chapter during 2005. As a member of 1% for the Planet, Treasure Mountain Inn donates one percent of sales to benefit the natural environment. For more information about 1% for the Planet, check out [www.onepercentfortheplanet.org/ourmembers.htm](http://www.onepercentfortheplanet.org/ourmembers.htm).



*The Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club thanks the George B. and Oma E. Wilcox and Gibbs M. and Catherine W. Smith Charitable Foundation for its continuing generous support of the Chapter's programs. The Foundation challenges you to increase your support for the Utah Chapter in 2005.*



### BEYOND OUR BORDERS

by Ann Wechsler

An important ecological wetland has been preserved in eastern Canada, thanks to Jocelyn (Jock) Glidden and his family. Jock has been a long-time activist with the Ogden Group. What is Jock's connection with that neck of the continent? The Glidden family has owned property and vacationed for decades in Tabusintac, New Brunswick, on the Atlantic Shore south of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Their rustic 85-year-old summer place, the Grey Goose Lodge, overlooks the Tabusintac estuary, a sanctuary for thousands of migrating birds and wildlife.

Jock and his three sisters donated four properties at Jacko's Point and on the barrier beach within the Tabusintac Lagoon and Estuary. In addition to its importance as a nesting area for the endangered piping plover, it was designated an important ecological wetland by the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in 1993 (Telegraph-Journal, N.B., June 25, 2005). The Gliddens donated fifty-three acres of private land to the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) which will safeguard it for wildlife. Their twenty-one hectares augment the already protected 355 hectares in the estuary.

As part of a campaign called Gifts to Canadians 2005, this generous gift was announced by the NCC on Canada Day. According to *The Miramichi Weekend*, each year the NCC highlights the protection of one key property from each Canadian province and presents them to Canadians in celebration of the country's birthday.

As a former Canadian, with family ties to New Brunswick, and a visitor to Grey Goose Lodge during one of my trips home, I salute Jock and his family for their conservation ethic and their vital contribution to the region. Birds have no borders, and neither should we.

### The Tabusintac Estuary



COURTESY OF RON GARNETT/ARSCAPES

**3/29/05:** The EPA issued new guidelines to determine whether a chemical causes cancer. The new guidelines require more evidence of the link to cancer and would generally allow higher exposure to toxic substances.

March

April

May

June

July

August

**5/5/05:** The Bush Administration repealed the Roadless Area Conservation Rule, replacing it with a rule requiring state governors to go through a two-stage petition process to protect pristine national forests. In January 2001, the Clinton Administration issued an administrative rule protecting 58.5 million acres of roadless national forest lands with a ban on new roads.

# UtahChapterOutings

Abbreviations in capital letters signify the group planning the outing. [E] = educational content, [C] = conservation focus, [S] = service activities. All members and nonmembers are welcome on any of the chapter or group activities listed. Radios, firearms and dogs are not welcome on Sierra Club outings. Interested participants are strongly encouraged to contact the outing leader in advance and inquire as to updates, degree of difficulty, and other outing details. Participants should be prepared for various seasonal weather conditions, temperature changes that occur due to rapid increases/decreases in altitude, and bring enough food, water, and appropriate clothing for the given outing. Outing leaders reserve the right to turn away anyone who appears unprepared for scheduled outings.

The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ride sharing 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 U.S. Forest Service to be shared by all participants. For the most current and updated outings listings, please visit the website [utah.sierraclub.org](http://utah.sierraclub.org) and look at the outings under the Salt Lake, Ogden and Glen Canyon Groups.

**Glen Canyon Group (GCG)**  
Participants are requested to call leaders in advance for outing details & to give the leader an idea of group size.

**Ogden Group (OG)**  
P.O. Box 1821, Ogden, UT, 84402  
[utah.sierraclub.org/ogden](http://utah.sierraclub.org/ogden)

The public is welcome on all outings. Participants are requested to call the leaders in advance for outing details. For information related to outings in general, contact John Besbekos, 801-985-6854.

**Salt Lake Group (SLG)**  
Call the trip leaders for meeting times, places, & other details regarding the outings.

## February

**OG Sat 2/4 George Schrader memorial Waterfall Canyon Hike.** If you've never seen the waterfall in winter, this is your chance. If you have, you already know what a great you're in for. The late George Schrader, a long-time Ogden Group volunteer, used to lead this outing every February to celebrate his birthday. This year we'll discuss what developments the future may bring to this privately owned canyon. Poles will be essential for traction; snowshoes are optional unless there's new snow that isn't packed down yet. Call leader Dan Schroeder (393-4603) for meeting time & place. [C]

**SLG Sun 2/5 Snowshoe North Fork Provo River.** Scenic views, plenty of snow, quiet ambiance of the forest, & relatively easy terrain. The trail begins just off the Mirror Lake Highway about 11 miles east of Kamas. Part of this roadless area has been proposed by the US Forest Service for Wilderness. Come see what makes this trail so special. Call Rob (485-3262) for meeting time, place, & other

details. [C]

**GCG Sat 2/11 Double-O &/or Black Arch, Arches NP.** A moderate 7-mile hike in Arches NP to Double-O Arch, returning via Black Arch. May shorten to Black Arch only depending on weather, feeling of the group. This is a good winter hike as there is usually no snow on the ground in Arches in the winter, or at least not enough to make a difference. Meet leader Leland Jonas, 435-636-6261, at Star Hall at 8:30 am. Some participants might chose to form car pools there, or meet the group later at the Devils Garden/Landscape Arch parking area.

**OG Sat 2/11 Snowshoe.** A trip on the Pipeline Trail & Bowman Fork in Mill Creek Canyon, Salt Lake County. 4 to 6 miles, 3 to 4 hours for this favorite trail for outdoor enthusiasts. Larry Woolsey, 731-3701.

**SLG Sat 2/11 Moonlight Snowshoe in Millcreek Canyon.** A gibbous moon will light the way for snowshoe trekkers for this quixotic winter evening adventure. An opportunity to enjoy the forest from a nighttime perspective. Leader will consider several possibilities for exploring trails near the road above the gate in Millcreek Canyon. Rebecca, 487-4160.

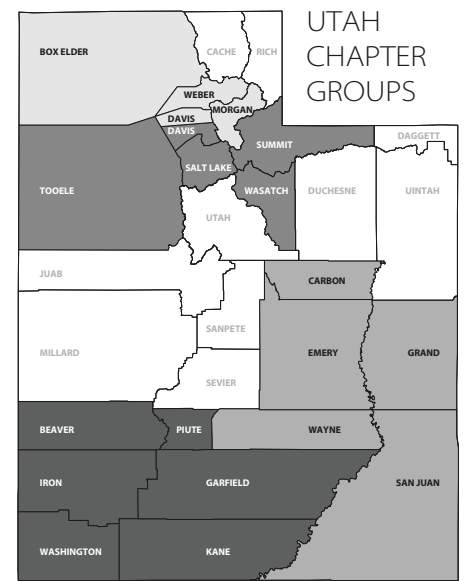
**OG Sat 2/18 Snowshoe Sardine Peak.** Starting at the lower Snowbasin parking lot, hike though Maples Campground then up to the saddle. Depending on snow depth, there could be minor brush to work through as we go from the saddle to the peak. Spectacular views of Ogden Canyon, Pineview Reservoir & Snowbasin area from the summit. John Besbekos, 985-6854.

**SLG Sat-Mon 2/18-20 Presidents Day Weekend In Boulder.** This annual extended weekend getaway has been one of the feature Salt Lake Group outings of the year. Boulder is near Capital Reef NP & borders the Grand Staircase Monument. Recreation possibilities include hiking, biking, horseback riding, x-country skiing, & snowshoeing through pristine red rock country. Past outings have featured music, storytelling, & succulent Dutch oven dinners around a warm fire inside the lodge. Also tour Anasazi State Park in Boulder. Participants are encouraged to book accommodations at the Boulder Mountain Lodge well in advance due to the popularity of the outing. Kurt Al-loway, [desertquest99@yahoo.com](mailto:desertquest99@yahoo.com). [E]

**SLG Sun 2/26 Norway Flats Ski Tour.** The Norway Flats ski trail is an old logging road that starts by the 10 mile mark of the Mirror Lake Highway. It winds through quiet quakenasp & pine stands & offers excellent opportunities for wildlife encounters. The turnaround point will be an overlook offering a panoramic view of the Uinta Mountain range. One-way distance is about 3 miles & 1000 feet of elevation. Intermediate level x-country ski skills are most suitable for the outing & metal edge skies & skins are recommended for the tour. Avalanche danger is minimal. Ken, 484-3112.

## March

**GCG Sat 3/4 Gold Bar Arch/Poison Spider Mesa.** A mostly slickrock hike to Gold Bar



- NO GROUP AFFILIATION
- GLEN CANYON GROUP
- OGDEN GROUP
- SALT LAKE GROUP
- SOUTHWEST UTAH GROUP

Arch & up across Poison Spider Mesa, then descend via the spectacular (exposed) Poison Spider Trail overlooking the Portal area of the Colorado River. Hiking distance about 6 1/2 miles, with 1,000 ft elevation gain. A short car shuttle is required. Bring lunch, water & warm extra clothing. USGS 7 1/2 minute maps: Moab & Gold Bar Canyon. Meet at Star Hall at 9 am. Bonnie Crysdale, 435-259-0246, for further information.

**OG 3/18-19 Hiking In Moab.** Great time to see the slick rock. Get an early start on the hiking season. Call early for motel or camping info. Larry Woolsey, 731-3701.

**SLG Tues 3/14 Moonlight Hike/Snowshoe.** A full moon will light the way for trekkers enticed by a late winter/early spring hike &/or snowshoe, a great way to relax after work. Exact location TBD by trail & weather conditions, but will take place in the foothills nearby Salt Lake City. Dee, 718-1970.

**GCG Sat 3/25 Williams Bottom Loop.** Short hike into the fins of Poison Spider Mesa. Hike length is about 3.8 mi; elevation gain about 500 ft. We will see a couple of nice rock art sites & an arch & we will need to use a rope to assist on a down climb between fins. Rated as moderate-difficult due to mild exposure in places. Meet at 9am at Star Hall. Sandy Freethy, 435-259-0253.

**SLG Sat 3/25 Leader & Wilderness First Aid Workshop.** Learn how to organize & safely conduct Sierra Club outings. This workshop is intended for current leaders/members interested in leading Utah Chapter, Salt Lake, & Ogden Group outings in the future. It covers basic wilderness first aid including applying splints, treating sprains, & first responders treatment of wilderness injuries. It will also include establishing pre-outing procedures to assist leaders in organizing an enjoyable experience for & ensuring the safety of participants. Outing Leader Handbook & How to Lead a Hike CDs will be available to participants. The workshop runs from 9am-1pm at the Sierra Club offices. Refreshments will be served. A hike or snowshoe adventure is planned after the workshop, time/weather permitting. Ken, 484-3112 or Rebecca Wallace, 487-4160.

**SLG Sun 3/26 Antelope Island Hike.** There are many hiking opportunities on Antelope Island, & early spring is an excellent time of year to explore the island. Although the trail has not been determined, Frary Peak & Elephant Rock are two of several possibilities. Meet 10am at the leaders residence, or 10:30 at the causeway parking lot before passing the gates to the island. Margaret, 292-7602.

# UtahChapterDirectory

### Chapter Executive Committee

Scott Daniels .....sctdaniels@aol.com, (801) 582-8080  
 Al Herring, chair .....al.mary.herring@worldnet.att.net, (801) 444-9574  
 Wayne Hoskisson .....w.y.hoskisson@frontiernet.net, (435) 259-0328  
 Rane Johnson .....ranejohnson\_27@msn.com  
 Kathleen Jones, secretary .....galbuplace@yahoo.com  
 Gordon Lind .....gordylind8@cs.com, (801) 571-4185  
 Lois Mansfield .....lem@virginia.edu  
 Brad Yates, vice-chair .....bnyslc@earthlink.net, (801) 521-4185

### Group Delegates

Judy Allison, Southwest Utah Group .....judithallison@msn.com  
 Tom Messenger, Glen Canyon Group .....messengertj@citlink.net, (435) 259-1756  
 Ann Wechsler, Salt Lake Group .....awechsler@sa.utah.edu, (801) 583-2090  
 Larry Woolsey, Ogden Group .....landcrun@hotmail.com, (801) 731-3701

### Issue & Committee Chairs

Jean Binyon, membership chair .....binyon@sisna.com, (435) 259-1633  
 Angelika Davis, treasurer .....apgconsulting@hotmail.com  
 Ken Evans, outings chair .....kcestdust@qwest.net, (801) 484-3112  
 Sarah Fields, nuclear waste .....sarahmfields@earthlink.net  
 Claire Gardner, training .....ClaireGar@msn.com  
 Wayne Hoskisson, forest issues/grazing .....w.y.hoskisson@frontiernet.net, (435) 259-0328  
 Ken Johnsen, legal chair .....kencjohnsen@hotmail.com, (801) 272-5622  
 Gordon Lind, CCL delegate .....gordylind8@cs.com, (801) 571-4185  
 Tom Messenger, web master .....messengertj@citlink.net, (435) 259-1756  
 Dan Schroeder, ORV impacts .....dschroeder@weber.edu, (801) 393-4603  
 Kevin Walker, public lands .....kwalker@xmission.com, (435) 259-7540  
 Brad Yates, UWC representative .....bnyslc@earthlink.net, (801) 521-4185  
 Scott Daniels, political/leg co-chair .....sctdaniels@aol.com, (801) 582-8080  
 Kathleen Jones, political/leg co-chair .....galbuplace@yahoo.com

### Group Chairs

Mike Binyon, Glen Canyon Group .....binyon@sisna.com, (435) 259-1633  
 Dan Schroeder, Ogden Group .....dschroeder@weber.edu, (801) 393-4603  
 Ann Wechsler, Salt Lake Group .....awechsler@sa.utah.edu, (801) 583-2090  
 Lois Mansfield, Southwest Utah Group .....lem@virginia.edu

### Utah Chapter Staff

Mark Clemens, chapter co-ordinator .....mark.Clemens@sierraclub.org, (801) 467-9297  
 Tim Wagner, Smart Energy Campaign .....tim.wagner@sierraclub.org, (801) 467-9294

### Southwest Field Office Staff

Marc Heilesen, Legacy Highway .....marc.heilesen@sierraclub.org, (801) 467-9294  
 Lawson LeGate, Wilderness, Public Lands .....Lawson.legate@sierraclub.org, (801) 467-9294

## April

**SLG 4/1-3 Yellowstone Country Bike Ride.** From April 1 through 20, Yellowstone Park is closed to public motorized vehicles. During this period the Park Service plows the roads & welcomes bikes into the park, offering an excellent opportunity for cycling enthusiasts to tour the park almost free of vehicle traffic. No entrance fees. Lodging in West Yellowstone is reasonable, thus a unique alternative to view wildlife & explore Yellowstone in relative solitude before the park opens to summertime crowds. Ride to Madison Junction from West Yellowstone, then to Norris Hot Springs & beyond depending on the will of participants. Optional cycling in areas outside the park with scenic Yellowstone ambiance. If extra cold or snowy weather is forecast, the outing may move to one of two following weekends. Road bikes preferred, mountain bikes welcome. Ken, 484-3112.

**SLG Sat-Sun 4/8-16 Escalante River Kayak.** The Escalante is a shallow, rocky river canopied with lush cottonwoods & flows through sheer red-orange cathedral-like canyon walls. Launch boats from Utah Hwy 12 & spend 7 days exploring, by boat & on foot, numerous side canyons that merge with the river. The boating ends at the Coyote Canyon/Hole In The Wall Trail. Takeout requires a strenuous 4-mile hike to the shuttle vehicles. This is a self-supported, 10 river miles/day adventure. Participants provide their kayaks—a sturdy, inflatable craft is highly recommended. Previous kayaking experience is recommended, not required. The trip is dependent on water levels & weather. Robert Jennings, 801-949-3597.

**SLG 4/14-16 Canyonlands Car Camp.** Take advantage of an outstanding opportunity to explore the Needles area of Canyonlands National Park in Southern Utah. Abundant hiking opportunities include Big Spring canyon & scenic points overlooking a gorge where the Colorado & Green Rivers merge. Expect moderate level hiking pace & distances of up to 11 miles round trip. A camp group will be reserved, bring camping supplies & essentials needed for an extended weekend of hiking & camping. The number of participants is limited & dates may change, so contact the trip leader ASAP to reserve a space & to be notified of relevant information regarding the trip. Margaret, 292-7602.

**GCG Sat 4/22 Upper Mineral Canyon Hike.** This a repeat of the December 10 hike, hoping for greater attendance in warmer weather. The three of us liked it a lot, & we think you will too. This trail drops over the edge of Upper Mineral Canyon (near highway 313) into Upper Mineral Canyon. The hike dead-ends at a dry fall that keeps us from going further down into the canyon. We use an old cow trail that is in good shape. The cow trail has some switchbacks & does not have sheer cliff exposure. There are several arches in the canyon. We can hike up to 5 miles round trip. There is an immediate 250ft elevation loss into the canyon with perhaps another 350ft loss as we hike gradually down the canyon. There is a bit of slick rock that can be navigated over about ½ mile before the dry fall or folks can choose to stop there for an extended lunch break. Meet at Star Hall at 9am. Tom Messenger, 435-259-1756. [E]

**OG 4/22 Antelope Island Hike.** Approx. 8 mile hike to Elephant Head overlook. Great views of the Western side of the island & Great Salt Lake. Larry Woolsey, 731-3701.

**SLG 3/4 to 3/8, West Yellowstone Exploratory Ski Tour.** Don't miss this opportunity to explore terrain near the nation's oldest national park on skis in the winter, just a few hours drive from Salt Lake City. There are over 35 kilometers of gently rolling, beautifully groomed trails that wind through tall stands of lodgepole pine & open meadows in close proximity to West Yellowstone. To sooth weary bones, a day-hike is planned to



RON YOUNGER

**JULY 6, 2004: Tuesday Evening Trekkers at Mineral Fork Trailhead, Big Cottonwood Canyon.** Be the first (before February 15, 2006) to correctly list the first name of seven of these trekkers and receive a Backcountry Guide Book for the High Uintas. Send your list to Ron Younger at 920 East 1500 South, Bountiful, UT 84010-2138.

# win a backcountry guide

a hot springs. Depending on interest, participants can take a snow coach into the park as an alternative to skiing. Whatever the venue, opportunities abound to view buffalo, deer, elk & other wintering animals. In addition to reasonably priced & comfortable lodging, West Yellowstone offers a vibrant nightlife with numerous cafes, restaurants, & nightclubs. Rebecca, 487-4160.

**SLG 4/29-5/8 Snake Gulch/Kanab Creek Backpack.** A splendid opportunity to explore this rarely visited Southern Utah gem on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. Backpackers will trek through developing canyons & steep canyons adorned with ancient rock art. This is a cooperative group backpack & participants should be prepared

for hikes up to 12 miles per day at a moderate pace. The number of participants in the wilderness is limited & co-organizers approval is required, thus contact the leaders by April 5 to be included on the trip. Al, 801-444-9574 or Rob, 801-485-3262. [C]

## May

**GCG Sat 5/6 Hike in Nash Wash, Book Cliffs.** 7-8 miles easy walking on a seldom-used road up a canyon with abundant trees & a perennial stream at 5700'. The canyon, managed for wildlife protection, leads into a Utah Wilderness Coalition proposed wilderness area. We hope to see spring foliage. Meet 8am at Star Hall. Trailhead is about 90 minutes from Moab. Bring lunch & plenty of

water. Mike Binyon, 435-259-1633. [C]

**SLG Tues 5/2 Leader's Choice Hike.** An after-work hike on a nearby lower elevation trail. Destination determined by weather & trail conditions. Dee, 718-1970.

**SLG Sun 5/7 City Creek Bike Ride.** A leisurely mid-spring ride up one of Utah's most scenic canyons, void of motorized traffic. The ride is about 5¾ miles long with about a 1500' elevation gain. The ride begins in SLC a few miles from the canyon. Tim, 484-4334.

**SLG Sun 5/14 Leader's Choice Hike.** The destination for this hike will depend on weather & trail conditions at the time. The outing will probably take place at a lower to mid elevation level. Ken, 484-3112.

STEGNER CENTER

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—Sheila Watt Cloutier

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**Sheryl Carter** Natural Resources Defense Council  
**David Chapman** Geology and Geophysics, University of Utah  
**Sheila Watt-Cloutier** Inuit Circumpolar Conference  
**William B. Curry** Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution  
**Paula J. Dobriansky** U.S. Department of State (*invited*)  
**Henry N. Pollack** Dept. of Geological Sciences, University of Michigan  
**Lonnie G. Thompson** Byrd Polar Research Center  
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# Thanksgiving in Harris Wash

by Al Herring

**V**icky Hoover, Sierra Club activist par excellence, and Bill Wolverton, Russian olive exterminator par excellence, led another of their exercises in invasive plant removal, camaraderie, and masochism last Thanksgiving weekend in Harris Wash. Mary and I were rash enough to join them.

Harris Wash flows into the Escalante River and, like every other waterway in the area, Russian olive and tamarisk, also known as salt cedar, are trying to take over. The result is that native willows and other plants are being crowded out, and backpackers like us find it challenging going. Did I mention that Russian olives have large, sharp spines?

We joined Vicky and Bill and the other participants, our own Jim Catlin and Ken Evans, Kathy Glatz from Denver, and John Michels from Oakland, late on Thanksgiving Day, set up camp next to our vehicles, and then enjoyed a full turkey dinner with all the trimmings prepared by Vicky. That evening we got to know each other better with the aid of liquid refreshments, warming fires, and Ken's guitar serenade.

After a brisk night—the temperature dropped to 16 degrees—we carried gear in about four miles to our work site and camping area. Long story short: we got a lot of work done during the next two days; we had lovely, and warmer, camping in a spectacular rock amphitheater; and we got to enjoy more of Vicky's delicious meals. I got stabbed by Russian olive thorns only about 40 times.

I also enjoyed the opportunity to spend time with Bill. He works seasonally for the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, lives in Escalante, and is on a crusade to rid the Escalante canyons of Russian olive and tamarisk. He is also an ardent conservationist and knows the area like the back of his hand. Through Bill's individual effort and with periodic help from volunteers, work along almost thirty miles of the Escalante has been completed. (Only twenty-two more miles to go!) Harris Wash is the last Escalante side canyon in the National Recreation Area with any Russian olive remaining. (Only six more miles to go!)

One of the many things I learned from Bill was that a bill has been introduced in the US Congress, H. R. 2720, to establish a Russian olive and tamarisk control demonstration program. It is aimed at developing long-term solutions for control of the invasive species, together with reintroduction of native vegetation. Tamarisk and Russian olive have also been much in

the news these days because it is estimated they drink more water from the Colorado than the city of Las Vegas. I encourage Sierra Club members to contact their representatives and senators and promote support of this important bill.

Want to help Bill finish his work in the Escalante canyons? You can sign up through [www.wildernessvolunteers.org](http://www.wildernessvolunteers.org) or keep an eye open for announcements in this publication or Utah Chapter web postings or email announcements.

**I got stabbed by Russian olive thorns only about 40 times.**

**It's not all hard work—volunteers soak up a little autumn sun. Right: Ken Evans gives an invading plant species forty whacks. Below: Vicky Hoover with the Thanksgiving turkey.**



## SIGNATURES NEEDED TO FIGHT WAL-MART IN CENTERVILLE

by David Putnam

**W**e are gathering 1,200 signatures for a referendum petition. We need help! We will be working steadily to gather these until July. The purpose of the referendum is to require the Centerville City Council to do additional environmental impact studies concerning the proposed Wal-Mart super store in Centerville.

If the referendum gets on the ballot in November, and the citizens vote yes to stop the development agreement with Wal-Mart, then Centerville will need to do additional impact studies on (1) widening Main Street including the harm caused to pioneer homes and local businesses, (2) air pollution, and (3) flood plain and storm water drainage.

Can you take a few hours on a Saturday to help us? Please call Ralph or Grace Webb in Centerville, at 801/298-7135. Thank you so much!

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2006					
September	October	November	December	January	February
	<p>10/4/05: The EPA proposed a rule that would raise industry's reporting exemption for certain types of toxic chemicals from 500 pounds a year to 5,000. The agency estimates 3,849 businesses would no longer be subject to full reporting requirements under TRI (the Toxics Release Inventory) and instead would be able just to list the chemicals they use. EPA had already notified congress separately of its intent to change the frequency from annual TRI reports to reports in alternate years.</p>				