This summer, I had the pleasure and honor to again join the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Gathering in southern Utah. The Gathering is an annual assembly of the five tribes who came together in an unprecedented and historic way to ask President Obama to protect and designate these beautiful and sacred lands as Bears Ears National Monument -- lands now under threat due to Trump and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's de-designation of the monument. This year the gathering was held in the majestic meadow that expands out at 9,000 feet between the two buttes that make up the Bear’s Ears.

This year, the theme of the Gathering was “Bears Ears Heals,” which was truly fitting. The Gathering, where hundreds of Native leaders and their allies come together in this sacred
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.

Utah Chapter Directory

Utah Chapter Staff

Ashley Soltysiak, Director ............... ashley.soltysiak@sierraclub.org, 801-467-9294 x102
Carly Ferro, Organizer .................. carlyferro@sierraclub.org, 801-467-9284 x100

National Organizing Staff

Lindsay Beebe, Beyond Coal ........... lindsay.beebe@sierraclub.org, (801) 467-9294 x101

Chapter ExCom

Will McCarville, chair
Kirsten Johannina Allen
Jeff Clay
Katie Davis
Nathan Gilbert
Stan Holmes
Jeff Kramer
Amy Mills
Marc Thomas
Ian Wade

Group Delegates

Marc Thomas, Glen Canyon Group
Will McCarville, Salt Lake Group
Amy Mills, Wasatch Back Network

Issue & Committee Chairs

Mayne Haworth, conservation chair
Jim Cattin, grazing/public lands/wildlife
Jeff Clay, communications chair
Ian Wade, treasurer
Jeff Kramer, legal chair
Lawson Legate, keeping public lands
Sarah Mills, nuclear waste
Amy Mills, CCL delegate
Marc Thomas, CCL delegate alt
Wayne Hoeppnik, wilderness/public lands
Will McCarville, Central Wasatch Commission
Kirsten Johannina Allen, fundraising chair
Lawson LeGate, nominating comm co-chair
Dan Mayhew, nominating comm co-chair
Jeff Clay, webmaster
Jeff Kramer, personnel manager
Ian Wade, climate change chair
Katie Davis, pol compliance officer
Marc Thomas, membership chair
Dan Schroeder, ORV impacts
Morgan Byrne, secretary
Ian Wade, election co-chair
Jeff Clay, election co-chair
Nathan Gilbert, political chair
Stan Holmes, clean energy lead

Group Chairs

Marc Thomas, Glen Canyon Group

Outings Chairs

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

Volunteers Serving on Sierra Club National Committees

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

Top | Lena learns traditional hand games from leaders at the Gathering. Bottom | The Bears Ears Totem Pole Watches the Sunset.
OurLand
CAMPAIGN UPDATE
Join the Campaign to Keep Public Lands in Public Hands

A few years ago Utah's legislature passed a law demanding that the United States turn over most publicly owned lands in Utah to the state. The federal government, as the representative and land manager for the American people, has so far declined to do so.

Federal law and the U.S. and Utah state Constitutions all come down on the side of supporting the ownership of public lands by the American people. However, while this might seem like a case closed, unfortunately the anti-public lands sentiment persists among many Utah politicians. Utah Senator Mike Lee has made it clear that he supports a state takeover of public lands.

There have been numerous attempts in proposed law and administrative processes to give the state land use authority of federal lands, to facilitate the transfer of federal land to the state of Utah, or to even offer public lands for private sale. Recently, Sec. of the Interior Ryan Zinke was forced to countermand a provision in a proposed alternative for managing the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument that would have sold some land within the GSENM. In the proposed Emery County bills bill now before Congress a portion of the beloved San Rafael Swell would be given to Utah to manage.

With these examples in mind, the movement to Keep Public Lands in Public Hands is as important as it has ever been. Through this campaign public land owners across Utah work with local elected officials to put their cities and counties on the record in support of keeping our public lands public. Thanks to the efforts of campaign volunteers, last year first Summit County and then Park City adopted resolutions in support of continued public land ownership. By working with governments closest to the people we want to send a message to state officials that Utahns oppose the state's proposed seizure of America's public lands.

We are currently organizing in other Utah communities. What about yours? You can play a role in pushing back against the anti-public lands politicians. The Keep Public Lands in Public Hands campaign can help by providing fact sheets, yard and shop signs, bumper stickers and more. In addition, we can help by sharing organizing ideas that have worked elsewhere. If you are interested in starting an effort in your community, or you would simply like to know about the campaign, write to Lawson LeGate at lawson.legate@gmail.com or Becky Yih at bbyh@yih.com. And be sure to check out the website at https://keeppubliclands.com/ and our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/keeppubliclands/.

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Mishka Banuri

Braised in a simple, off-the-shoulder sundress, Mishka and I met recently where she explained her passion for environmental justice. Raised in her tiny frame is an intelligent, articulate, beautiful Pakistani Muslim young lady who is breaking all stereotypes and is a powerful voice for equity. Raised in Texas, Chicago, and then Utah, she attended Rowland Hall when she arrived here about six years ago. She is now a senior at West High, a move she made in order to pursue the IB program. (The International Baccalaureate is a prestigious program that teaches students to think critically and independently.) She thinks it will help as she applies to out of state universities in her pursuit of a career in law, or politics, and/or as an activist. Currently she is an intern, a volunteer position with Sierra Club, and was recently awarded the Brower Youth Award, an award given to only six individuals each year who are making strides in the environmental movement. She lives in SLC with her parents, twin brother and younger brother.

WHEN DID YOUR ACTIVISM BEGIN?

Both of my parents instilled in my two brothers and me a sense of service. As a Muslim, helping our community is a pillar of Islam and I worked with my mother, an activist, as she set up technologically available schools in Pakistan. Since I was a young woman, I always felt connected with the earth and was fascinated by the environment. I started being an activist in seventh grade when I went on a camping trip with an interfaith group and I realized the earth is something we all have in common.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF YOUR ACTIVISM CAREER?

A friend of mine, Piper Christiansen, and I worked with Lindsay Beebe on the Utah People’s Climate March in 2016 because “Utah needed something like the People’s Climate March.” That and the Youth Environmental Summit are two of the biggest projects. We have also begun The Utah Youth and Environmental Solutions group which now has about 60-70 members. We meet through Google Hangout, social media and in-person meetings. I’d like to draw a more diverse group, but when kids see our success, they want to get involved and we have conversations on the changing narrative.

WHAT IS THE NARRATIVE?

The health of a community is directly connected to the health of the land. We don’t realize the impact of racism and the way the poor and marginalized are more affected by the environment. As an example, the pipeline near Standing Rock was originally routed through Bismarck, an almost all white community, but when they protested, it was rerouted through the Native American reservation. There are many examples, in our country and globally, where environmental issues are related to racism. The conversation of environmental justice is missing.

WHAT DIFFICULTIES HAVE YOU FACED?

I could go on forever about that. Being a youth activist is really frustrating. There is a lot of tokenism. People let us organize, and wave us in front of others, but then they don’t give us a voice. They think we’re misinformed or they don’t think our ideas are our own.

Utah’s legislators are not friendly to climate change. One example is laws passed to limit access to SITLA information. We have begun a SITLA campaign. (SITLA stands for School and Institutional Trust Lands, the organization that manages about 6% of Utah’s federal lands generating revenue through oil, gas, and mineral leases, rent, royalties, real estate development and sales, leases and easements. This money is invested, and the dividends are distributed to beneficiaries: public schools and higher education). We are still in the preliminary process of researching SITLA. We would like to work toward transforming the way SITLA evaluates their work. We have three goals; we would like SITLA to be: (1) more transparent, (2) transition away from selling lands for fossil fuel development and (3) to allow for more public input in their decision-making process. After some agitation at a meeting, not caused by my group, we are no longer able to attend meetings. When asked if her teachers are on board, Mishka explains that many educators are afraid to question SITLA’s practices because they don’t want to risk losing the funding it provides. But “we should not be able to compromise a healthy education for a healthy lifestyle.”

HOW DO YOU KEEP GOING?

Success in the big picture is difficult so we have to celebrate every small success. We also have adult allies. I take time off. Things like SPROG help. (SPROG is a Sierra Club youth program, run and organized by teens, focusing mostly on the history of major environmental and justice issues as well as teaching ways to become an activist and get others involved.) And I think of my dad’s words as I was growing up, “Life isn’t always fair, but that’s the way it’s going to be.”
Southern Utah is ground zero for environmental assault
By Lisa Rutherford

Are you frustrated with the current environmental situation in our country? So am I. Living in Southern Utah near St. George for eighteen years has taught me a lot about the community, the environment and our leaders – local, state and national. First, a first background. I'm seventy years old and am a retired twenty-year oil company employee. I worked in Alaska for thirty years before moving back. The U.S. Energy Information Administration ranked Utah 11th and 13th in crude oil and natural gas production, respectively. Utah has approximately 11,700 producing oil and gas wells. But all of Utah's economic successes are apparently not enough. How much more do we need to achieve before leaders quit putting pressure on our public lands and resources? Last year, BLM planned to offer leases outside of Zion National Park. Fortunately, after substantial feedback from citizens and, amazingly, even government officials, including Utah's Governor Herbert, the BLM deferred offering the parcels. However, even as I write, BLM is seeking public comments under NEPA for over 500,000 acres of federal lands for oil and gas leasing.

We were fortunate last year to stop the Zion Park leases but what if, as is being desired by many in Congress, the Republican president with strong Republican congressional support, but that was then. This is now and we have many challenges ahead.

Salt Lake City is updating its 1999 plan which protects drinking water sources for over 850,000 residents. Public workshops are supposed to start in September. You can see the old plan at http://www.clcwatershedplan.com/project-description. No new web site is available yet.

OurLand

Protect the Wasatch
By Will McCarvill

Besides the Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Act bill (addressed in a separate article) here is a brief summary of the issues we are working on to preserve and protect the Wasatch. There is much in play as development forces increase, recreation impacts multiply and ongoing climate change affects our important watershed.

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Wasatch Canyons General Plan
The draft plan has appeared in front of the Mountainous Planning District Planning Commission several times but nothing new is available to the public. The web site is https://slco.org/planning-transportation/wasatch-canyons-general-plan-update/.

Salt Lake City Watershed Management Plan
Salt Lake City is updating its 1999 plan which protects drinking water sources for over 850,000 residents. Public workshops are supposed to start in September. You can see the old plan at http://www.clcwatershedplan.com/project-description. No new web site is available yet.

Alta Master Development Plan
The Forest Service approved both the proposal to build a tram from the top of Collins lift to the top of Mount Baldy and disturbing an alpine riparian area to build a lift from the basin below the Sugarloaf lift terminus to the top of Collins. We participated in an objection meeting with the Forest Service in August, now we wait for their decision. You can get information at https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=68903.

Little Cottonwood Canyon Environmental Impact Statement
We are expecting the draft purpose and need statement to come out this fall. Here is the web site https://www.udot.utah.gov/littlecottonwoodcanyon/.
Bears Ears Heals
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2
going; that we can bolster each other through solidarity and our belief in one another.
Over the weekend, we were also lucky enough to learn from and be fed by Chef Karlos Baca, owner/founder of Taste of Native Cuisine and co-founder of the I-Collective, and Cynthia Wilson, traditional foods program director for Utah Diné Bikéyah, who cooked many of the meals for the Gathering in the Indigenous Healing Kitchen at the camp (note, big thanks to Josh Nett, who also cooked for the entire camp the first night of the Gathering). Not only was the food amazing, but on Saturday afternoon, Karlos and Cynthia led us on a foraging walk (pictured below), telling us about the history of the plants around us, what we should and shouldn’t eat, and how we can expand our relationship with food to be more holistic, recognizing where it comes from and the land that it grows on. Karlos shared that all the food he cooks in his kitchen is either foraged, cultivated through Indigenous farming techniques, or hunted. He talked about the ways in which food can control dialogue, and how we can rethink the way we approach what we consume—ways that we could contribute to a healthier planet, healthier lives, and healthier society.
I am proud that we were again able to lend support and help recruit volunteers for the Gathering—I’ve never seen our partners go beyond that. Through time spent together at countless rallies, hearings, and events like the Gathering, where people really get to know each other, many of us have become friends. While at the Gathering, some of my Sierra Club colleagues and I were discussing how we can build strong, trust-based partnerships with our Native allies, and one of my wisest colleagues noted that it starts with kindness. Especially in these hard times, we have a chance to rebuild our faith in one another, growing our movement one connection at a time—and it starts with respect and kindness. Thank you to my Sierra Club family for giving us the support to do this critically important work and showing how healing it truly can be. I have faith that if we stick together, ultimately, we will prevail.
Lena Moffitt is the Senior Director of the Sierra Club’s Our Wild America Campaign, which is dedicated to protecting our lands, water, and wildlife, so increasing equitable access to the outdoors, and to keeping fossil fuels in the ground. Lena most recently served as the Director of the Sierra Club’s Dirty Fuels campaign, a key initiative of the Our Wild America Campaign, where she focused on protecting our climate, communities and special places from fossil fuel development. As Senior Director, Lena is excited to engage people from all walks of life to get outside and protect special places near and far. Lena hopes to lead the Campaign in bringing forth the groundswell of activism and engagement needed to ensure our communities, wildlife and wild places thrive in the face of climate disruption and other threats. She is excited to help broaden the tent of advocates engaged in protecting our natural world and inspire a new generation of environmentalists. She is originally from New Mexico where she developed a love of the outdoors that she maintains in Washington, D.C. through regular visits to Rock Creek Park and the wild places beyond.
S P R O G is a program through the Student Sierra Coalition to train young activists to give them the tools needed to create tangible change. One core principle of the program is that it is run by youths for youth. This is an integral part of the program, young activists are the only ones who really know what we need to grow.

The organizers of West SPROG had experience in many different areas of organizing: animal liberation, grassroots political campaigns, BDS, queer liberation, decolonization and climate justice. The trainers had a huge interest in making us as independent as possible as organizers. One way that they did this was by teaching us more about American history than we were taught in school. They taught us the realities of the Civil Rights Movement and the Black Panthers, and the governmental involvement that eroded those movements.

One of my favorite sessions at SPROG was on colonization and breaking down borders. The session got into historical examples of colonization and how the painful and violent effects of it are still seen today all over the world. After the lecture, many other attendees shared their stories of colonization. There were stories from the border, and of indigenous resistance. Because the content was so heavy for so many people in the room, we had optional healing circles for people of color, bicultural/multiracial people, and white people. It was a very cleansing experience; there was so heavy for so many people in the room, we had optional healing circles for people of color, bicultural/multiracial people, and white people. It was a very cleansing experience; there was so heavy for so many people in the room, we had optional healing circles for people of color, bicultural/multiracial people, and white people. It was a very cleansing experience; there was so heavy for so many people in the room, we had optional healing circles for people of color, bicultural/multiracial people, and white people. It was a very cleansing experience; there was so heavy for so many people in the room, we had optional healing circles for people of color, bicultural/multiracial people, and white people. It was a very cleansing experience; there was...
Nordic Valley Proposes Massive Expansion into Roadless Area
by Dan Schroeder

Nordic Valley is currently Utah’s smallest ski resort, located on 140 acres of private land near the town of Eden in Weber County. But in June, its owners proposed a massive 2,700-acre expansion, up and around the mountain into roadless National Forest lands. The Utah Sierra Club now stands poised with our allies to defend these pristine roadless areas from the profit-seeking Mountain Capital Partners.

WHAT EXACTLY IS BEING PROPOSED?
The proposal published at nordicvalleyproject.com calls for an expansion of about 2,700 acres, encompassing a huge swath of the Lewis Peak Inventoried Roadless Area, in the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest. A drawing shows dozens of new ski runs and 14 new ski lifts, including a pair of gondolas connecting the current ski area base to North Ogden, on the other side of the mountain.

WHAT WOULD THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS BE?
The mountain between Nordic Valley and North Ogden would be completely transformed, with many miles of maintenance roads, clearcuts for ski runs, and excavation for snow-making equipment. Watersheds would be polluted, wildlife habitat would be fragmented, air quality would be further degraded and opportunities for solitude would be lost.

WOULD THIS EXPANSION BE LEGAL?
In short, no. Under the Roadless Rule, a federal regulation enacted in 2001, road construction is prohibited in National Forest inventoried roadless areas. However, Utah’s elected officials have proposed weakening the Roadless Rule throughout the state, and the process of changing the regulation is already underway. If the Roadless Rule is weakened, approximately 4 million acres of currently protected lands in Utah would be at risk.

IS THIS PROJECT EVEN FEASIBLE?
We very much doubt it. The cost of the ski area expansion would be well into the nine-figure range, while the setting isn’t favorable enough to justify such an investment. Even with the proposed expansion, the maximum elevation of the ski area would be only 8,100 feet. Ski conditions are often marginal, and summers are nearly as hot as in the nearby cities. Annual snowfall at Nordic Valley has averaged only about 100 inches in recent years, and the resort often struggles to open by Christmas and to stay open into March. In future decades, we can expect global climate change to shorten the ski seasons even further.

DO LOCAL RESIDENTS SUPPORT THIS PROJECT?
Most do not. At recent public meetings held in Nordic Valley, Ogden, and North Ogden, opponents have greatly outnumbered supporters of the boondoggle. Besides the impacts to the mountain itself, residents are concerned about impacts to water sources, increased traffic, and the commercialization of what are currently quiet residential neighborhoods.

WHO IS PROPOSING THIS PROJECT?
Since 2014, Nordic Valley has been owned by Skyline Mountain Base LLC. Recently, however, the owners brought in Mountain Capital Partners, a company based in Durango, Colorado that manages Purgatory Ski Area and several smaller ski areas in the Southwest. The current CEO and spokesperson for Mountain Capital Partners and its Nordic Valley endeavor is James Coleman.

DO THESE PEOPLE KNOW WHAT THEY’RE DOING?
Although Mountain Capital Partners has received favorable press coverage for recent improvements at its other ski areas, Coleman admits that they have never attempted a project even close in scale to this one.

WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT THIS PROPOSAL?
The best way to make a difference is to contact your elected officials. If you live near Nordic Valley or North Ogden, contact your city and county officials regarding the Nordic Valley proposal. If you live elsewhere in Utah, contact the Governor’s office or members of Congress to express your views on the National Forest Roadless Rule and tell them you oppose the adoption of a Statewide Roadless Rule.
OurLand

LITIGATION CONTINUES OVER TRUMP’S NATIONAL MONUMENT REDUCTIONS

Jeff Kramer

The wheels of justice often turn slowly, and so it is with the lawsuits filed by the Sierra Club and other environmental organizations, together with a coalition of Native American tribes, challenging Trump’s effort to revoke national monument status from two million acres of public land in the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase Escalante National Monuments. Although the lawsuits were filed in December 2017, they are still in the very early stages of litigation. In part, the progress of these cases has been slowed by the Trump administration’s motion to transfer the cases from the federal court in Washington D.C. to the federal court in Utah, in the hope that political pressure in Utah will provide a forum more receptive to Trump’s unprecedented gutting of these national monuments. On September 24, 2018, nine months after the lawsuits were filed, the court rejected the Trump administration’s arguments and ruled that the lawsuits should be heard in the Washington D.C. court where they were filed.

In other good news for the plaintiffs in these lawsuits and all those who care about these special areas, the court ordered the Trump administration to notify the plaintiffs of any proposals for hard-rock mining or other surface-disturbing activities planned within the original monument boundaries. This is especially important because the Trump administration has been moving ahead with plans to auction mining rights in areas Trump purported to carve out of the monuments, and a Canadian firm has announced its intention to mine copper and cobalt on some of these iconic public lands east of Boulder, Utah.

The Sierra Club and other plaintiffs are closely monitoring these areas for any significant ground disturbance or other mining-related activity. If any such activity occurs, our attorneys are prepared to seek an injunction to stop it so that no irreparable harm will be caused to the monuments pending the outcome of the litigation.

The Sierra Club and the other plaintiffs contend that Trump’s proclamations are without legal authority. The Antiquities Act authorizes presidents to designate national monuments to protect important historic, cultural, and scientific national resources. The Act does not authorize presidents to revoke these protections, which would be contrary to the Act’s purpose. We and the other plaintiffs contend that the Trump administration’s arguments are without legal authority. The Antiquities Act authorizes presidents to designate national monuments to protect important historic, cultural, and scientific national resources. The Act does not authorize presidents to revoke these protections.

Sharing Smoke and Story on America’s Public Lands

by Kirsten Johanna Allen

A year ago, I watched the total eclipse of the sun with my spouse, Mark Bailey, on a narrow ridge in a strip of BLM land in central Wyoming. Keen to avoid crowds, we set up our tent on a perch of our choosing in an oasis of beauty in the heart of oil and gas country. For the first day or so, pronghorns and the occasional hawk were our neighbors, but eventually several other human parties found the ridge, too, coming from all over the West in all kinds of vehicles to stake their claim to wonder on land we all own. Mining scars marred some of the viewshed, but our days camped out on Cyclone Ridge were near sublime, and it seemed so perfect that we would go a long way towards helping to curb the ground would go a long way towards helping to curb the

sinks, spew unhealthy particulate matter, and obscure vistas around the West. But instead of reducing the risk of fire and other dangers presented by climate change, today we see expanded fossil fuel development threatening public lands that once enjoyed robust protection, like the areas cut from Bears Ears and Grand Staircase National Monuments or those that would lose Wilderness designations in the Emery County Public Land Management Act, a terrible bill recently introduced in Congress by Sen. Orrin Hatch and Rep. John Curtis.

These protection rollbacks on America’s public lands matter for climate, a lot, since federally managed land accounts for 40 percent of the nation’s coal production and a quarter of oil and gas production. Keeping that stuff in the ground would go a long way towards helping to curb America’s oversized fossil fuel emissions. But we know that, and, really, so does the fossil fuel industry and even the current administration.

So how do we get through what seems like an impenetrable wall of truth obstruction to reach some real action on climate? Fact sheets don’t do the job, nor do reams of peer-reviewed scientific research. But story and connection can, and perhaps these apocalyptic fires have offered us an opening to reach across divides in communities and even state houses and county governments. No matter one’s political leanings, no one likes their skies clouded with eye-stinging, throat-scratching smoke. No one wants the horror of losing a home or the fear of its possibility. Everyone agrees that the scale of these fires is scary, and the words we use to describe smoke and fire aren’t loaded with political triggers, so there’s a common ground for talking about a collective experience with communal language—and possibly finding some policy areas where we can move forward with shared values. We got a glimpse of that earlier this year in the Utah State Legislature, which adopted the students’ climate resolution acknowledging climate change. The students had unsuccessfully petitioned the legislature the year before, but they found willing champions on both sides of the aisle by omitting any reference to human causation. Define progress. Though the worst wildfire season in memory is no match for a total eclipse of the sun as a groundbreaking common experience, it seems the time is ripe to look for opportunities for conversation around what we all love and value. What’s your smoke story?
OurAir

Air Quality Overhaul
UTAH’S INLAND PORT AUTHORITY BOARD CONTROVERSY

By Ashley Soltysiak

Two major issues impacting air quality along the Wasatch Front have come to a head in the last quarter and have sent politicians, community leaders, environmentalists, and business juggernauts reeling.

UTAH SIERRA CLUB GETS SERIOUS ABOUT AIR QUALITY

The first is the rollout of the Serious Area State Implementation Plan for Particulate Matter Pollution (PM2.5) which is every bit as critical as the name suggests. The plan will direct a path forward for how the state will improve air quality in Salt Lake and Provo counties, which have failed to meet federal health standards for the last decade and were deemed areas of “Serious” non-attainment by the EPA in December of 2016.

On September 5th, 2018, the package of new rules was presented to the Air Quality Board and made recommendations to target pollution sources in two key areas - area sources like buildings and woodsmoke and point sources like small businesses. This kicks off a public comment period to see whether the state’s analysis of the Best Available Control Measures (BACM) are adequate.

On October 1st the public will have a 30-day opportunity to comment on the state’s proposal, which leaves out some critical pieces in its analysis. The Utah Sierra Club will be submitting technical comments targeting the following four areas among others.

1. Create stronger enforcement and better education programs to reduce wood burning
2. Utah should adopt cleaner standards for off road and non-road vehicles
3. State regulators should require Low-Emission Vehicle standards and Zero Emission Vehicle standards (LEVIII and ZEV) for passenger cars and trucks
4. Utah must more stringently regulate fugitive dust emissions

The part of the SIP that regulates major industry was already revealed in a section called Subpart H earlier this summer. The Sierra Club and our allies at Western Resources Associates and HEAL Utah submitted joint technical comments urging the state to apply the most strict standards when it came to air quality regulation of these major sources. You can view our comments on our website at: https://utah.sierraclub.org/sites/utah.sierraclub.org/files/SubpartH_Comments_HEAL_WRA.SC.pdf

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No matter how chaotic, complicated, and even calamitous things may seem, a walk among natural patterns reaffirms the beauty and simplicity that surround us. For me, little expresses this better than sand dunes.

The pure art and natural law of forms and shapes, lines and curves, filled with light or the absence of it, with patterns — sand ripples or waves — everywhere you look...these are the dunes. Especially when the sun is low and its rays angular, it is a glorious place to wander with the branch clusters of the creosote bush or the pattern of its leaves.” — Frank Herbert, Dune

“Nothing else, but the grandeur and the majesty of the dunes...Nothing else, but the grandeur and majesty of the dunes...Nothing else, but the grandeur and majesty of the dunes...” — Frank Herbert, Dune

The God in Dunes

By Jeff Clay

“The God in Dunes

UTAH’S INLAND PORT AUTHORITY BOARD CONTROVERSY

The newly appointed Inland Port Authority Board met on August 29th amid more controversy. According to state lawyers, the Utah Open and Public Meetings Act did not apply to the subcommittees created by the Board, but pressure from community groups and even Governor Herbert brought the transparency issue to a head at the meeting. The board voted, 9-2, to keep the three committees it had created private, despite public outcry.

Prior to the meeting the Utah Sierra Club and 26 other allied groups, along with Salt Lake City Mayor Jackie Biskupski, signed onto a letter urging the board to reconsider and encourage transparency in this decision-making process. The letter stated, “We’ve learned through experience that transparency and accountability are critical elements in ensuring the public’s understanding and long-term support which are essential for the future success of this monumental undertaking.”

As the Inland Port Authority Board, continues its process the Utah Sierra Club will continue to work with our community and environmental partners to encourage the use of the best technology to reduce air quality emissions, to protect critical habitat and watersheds, and to demand transparency in this already dubious process.

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UTAH’S INLAND PORT AUTHORITY BOARD CONTROVERSY

The newly appointed Inland Port Authority Board met on August 29th amid more controversy. According to state lawyers, the Utah Open and Public Meetings Act did not apply to the subcommittees created by the Board, but pressure from community groups and even Governor Herbert brought the transparency issue to a head at the meeting. The board voted, 9-2, to keep the three committees it had created private, despite public outcry.

Prior to the meeting the Utah Sierra Club and 26 other allied groups, along with Salt Lake City Mayor Jackie Biskupski, signed onto a letter urging the board to reconsider and encourage transparency in this decision-making process. The letter stated, “We’ve learned through experience that transparency and accountability are critical elements in ensuring the public’s understanding and long-term support which are essential for the future success of this monumental undertaking.”

As the Inland Port Authority Board, continues its process the Utah Sierra Club will continue to work with our community and environmental partners to encourage the use of the best technology to reduce air quality emissions, to protect critical habitat and watersheds, and to demand transparency in this already dubious process.

No matter how chaotic, complicated, and even calamitous things may seem, a walk among natural patterns reaffirms the beauty and simplicity that surround us. For me, little expresses this better than sand dunes.

The pure art and natural law of forms and shapes, lines and curves, filled with light or the absence of it, with patterns — sand ripples or waves — everywhere you look...these are the dunes. Especially when the sun is low and its rays angular, it is a glorious place to wander with much to photograph and more to see.

Someone (in-)famously quipped that if you have seen one sequoia tree you’ve seen them all. I suppose someone could say the same about a dune. But did that person ever look at the bark and branches, trunk and root of any sequoia? Or high on a dune, at the sand ripples stretching beneath his feet, beetle tracks leading to an inky pool of shadow below, while bright lines of light play above, across the wind-swept high ridge crests? These are unique things and moments, if not to the insensitive mind, to those experientially open.

For surely if the devil is in the details, the god is as well.
Current State of the Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area Act

by Will McCarvill

T he Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area Act was originally introduced into the House in 2016 by then Utah Representative Jason Chaffetz. At that time the Sierra Club endorsed the legislation. Now, Representative Mia Love will reintroduce it after the Central Wasatch Commission (CWC) has reviewed it and made changes it deems necessary. Over the last several months there have been a number of contentious comment periods at CWC meetings and here is the current state of these issues.

Over the last several months there have been a number of contentious comment periods at CWC meetings and here is the current state of these issues.

A new wilderness area was proposed in the original bill. The Grandeur Peak Mount Aire Wilderness would be an important 6158 acre addition to the three existing wilderness areas in the Central Wasatch. The CWC is considering a new boundary to allow for staging fire control operations and establishing a buffer from adjacent private property. Because bikes are not permitted in wilderness the Bonneville Shoreline Trail would not be bike-able unless the current boundary of the Mount Olympus Wilderness was pushed up hill. The Forest Service has preliminary GIS data on a bike-able alignment but it has not been finalized. So the final number of acres to be removed from wilderness is not known at this time. The Forest Service recently acquired about 400 acres of land from the Boy Scouts. It is on the south side of Mill Creek Canyon and is surrounded on three sides by current wilderness. Its eligibility for wilderness is unknown and is being explored.

Language has been incorporated to authorize funds for the Forest service to implement the legislation.

Originally, Alta had agreed to participate in a land exchange along with Brighton, Snowbird and Solitude. This exchange would trade ski area private land outside the ski area boundaries for Forest Service land at the base of the ski areas as well as providing culinary water and water for snowmaking. This was part of the Accord signed by all the ski areas in 2015. Alta has now backed out of this agreement and instead, plans to expand its ski area into the lands it owns in Grizzly Gulch.

Although we supported this bill in 2016, we will have to see if the changes being proposed by the CWC are acceptable. The final CWC language will be ready for the next CWC meeting September 17. In addition, the bill may be further modified by Representative Love. It remains unclear whether the Sierra Club will endorse the legislation at this time.

NEW STAFF SPOTLIGHT

James Stolhand

2018 continues to be an exciting year for Sierra Club Utah. While we continue to face environmental obstacles and roadblocks thrown up by anti-public lands legislators, an anti-science administration, and drill-baby-drill business interests, our Chapter continues to fight back by expanding our team to protect Utah’s life outside.

Our newest asset is James Stolhand, Utah Chapter’s Development Coordinator. We could ramble about James and how excited we are to have him, but we would like to let you hear from James himself:

“Hello, Utah Sierra Club members and supporters. My name is James Stolhand, and I’m pleased to have joined the Sierra Club team. I started working for non-profits four years ago when I joined the team at Peace House. During my employment at that amazing organization, I discovered my passion for advocacy and using my skills and resources to help defend and raise up the most vulnerable among us in the community.

I’m thrilled to be the Sierra Club’s newest employee, since environmental advocacy is near and dear to my heart. I am a Utah native and have lived in the Ogden area almost my entire life, which has given me a front row seat to some of Utah’s foremost environmental battles. I’m excited to work for an organization striving to defend our beautiful landscapes, public health, and environment. I’m looking forward to working with you to help protect and promote Utah’s outdoors and natural landscapes.”

We hope you will join us at an upcoming event or volunteer with us to find an opportunity to meet James and the rest of Team Utah. We have a host of opportunities for you to help steward the values of a healthy environment for healthy communities!
A 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. Rated hiking 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.

All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the Liability Waiver before you choose to participate on an outing, please go to: http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/ or contact the Outings Department at (415) 977-5528 for a printed version.

OUTDOING TIPS TOOL. All the outings, and socials for the chapter 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.

September
SLG 9/25 J.J. Martha’s Mt. Our final Tuesday evening hike of the season will be Jack’s Mountain, which rises above Salt Lake’s East Bench and offers a great view for your next climb over rocky terrain. We’ll meet at the alpine landscape and offer pleasant reward. Most spectacular views. We’ll hike 6.6 miles roundtrip with 2,100 feet elevation gain. We will only ask that folks cover their own site costs, which we will firm up by mid-August and estimate it to be no more than $30/person. For more information and other adjustments. Please check calendar for mid-September meeting date. We will camp in Escalante either at Escalante Campground or online at https://utah.sierraclub.org/

October
GGG Sat 10/6 South Mountain Trail from Medicine Lakes. Follow the east side of La Sal Pass road to Medicine Lakes. Take the new Forest Service trail along the east side of South Mountain to join up with the Trans La Sal Trail. Follow that trail to a saddle between the summit and a southeast spur at 10,000 feet, 800 feet above trailhead. From there it’s a thousand feet to 16,000 and another 0.5 miles to the summit. It will depend on conditions and inclinations on the day. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 8:00 AM. Leader: Tammy Berry (435) 260-0462 southeasternutah@m Domingo@yahoo.com.

SLG 10/6 Lake Blanche. Lake Blanche, Lillian and Fishing gear! Lake Blanche is a beautiful small lakes nestled in a cirque under the rugged majesty of Sundial Peak. Outstanding views of the lake and surrounding mountains and abundant wildflowers soften the jagged alpine landscape and offer pleasant reward after a long day in the field. The round trip distance is 5.1 miles with 2700 feet of elevation gain. Pack at least a liter of water (or fishing gear) and ample snacks for lunch, along with footwear appropriate for a hike over rocky terrain. Meeting place is the

SLG 10/20 Delicate Arch of the San Rafael Swell. Drive to the campground at the river bridge in the San Rafael Swell. Follow the dirt road downstream along the left bank of the river towards Spring Canyon. When the road gets rough, hike to the mouth of Spring Canyon and then a mile up Spring to the arch. Perhaps eight mostly flat miles. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 7:30 AM. Leader: Thomas Messina (435) 259-1756 messin365@gmail.com.

SLG 10/20/21 Mexican Mtn WSA Services. The Sierra Club Mountain Conservation Study Area contains some old vehicle routes deep in the San Rafael Swell near Mexican Mountain. These old routes accessed the upstream and downstream parts of the Lower Black Box of the San Rafael River. The old barbed wire barriers and new vehicle intrusions are bypassing them. So we will rehab the old barbed and build some new ones. There is 6 miles of good dirt roads after leaving pavement to the camp site, but we’ll need high clearance 4X4s to reach the work sites. Expect a dry camp, bring plent of weather as well as work clothes, gloves and a sun hat. Saturday will be a work day and Sunday will be a play day. Limit 7 people. These two barricades are among the most isolated in the Swell. For more info and to register, contact Will McCawill (willi@commercialcabinries.com, 801-694-6958). Sierra Club sponsorship of this outing is limited to the days, not time in camp or while driving or from the activity.

November
SLG Sat 11/3 Leader Training. Details to be announced. Contact Rebecca Wallace (rebellaw @aol.com) for information.

SLG 11/3 Lone Mesa from Bartlett Wash. Take the sandstone fence road (4WD imperitive) in Bartlett Canyon its end just underneath a direct route to the mesa top. Climbing steeply this slope gives us the spectacular views in the biscuits and boulders to the mesa top. Explore along the rim for great views of the surrounding countryside. Four or five miles. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 9:00 AM. Leader: Michael Stringham (831) 375-8854 mikechrista@email.net.

SLG Sun 11/4 Church Fork to Grandeur Peak. From Millcreek Canyon we’ll climb 2600 feet in 3.2 miles to reach Grandeur Peak at 8300 feet. We’ll eat lunch at the top and enjoy the views across the city to the Great Salt Lake, and several Wasatch peaks including Mt. Olympus, Mt. Aire and Mt. Raymond. Bring lunch/snacks, at least 2 liters of water, hiking boots, sunscreen, hat, layers of clothing and optional trekking poles. There are a couple of rocky areas near the top which require footwear with good traction. This is intended as an “autumn hike” - if conditions are overly wintery we’ll turn back at the saddle or make other adjustments. Please check calendar for latest info. Lead: sheep dog are welcome; please follow all applicable Millcreek Canyon rules regarding dogs. Meet at 8:30 am at the Skyline High School parking lot (northwest end), 3251 E. Upland Drive (730 E). Leader: Scott Svatso (svatso@comcast.net, 310-873-7316).

SLG 11/10 Fray Peak - Antelope Island. Fray Peak is the highest mountain on Antelope Island and offers the island’s most spectacular views. We will hike 6.6 miles roundtrip with 2,100 feet elevation gain. Microscopes recommended in case snow is on the upper part of the trail. Near the top, there is a short section of trail with a bit of exposure. Bring lunch, layers of clothing, 2 liters of water minimum. Permission to: $10.00/vilw $5.00/vilw $30+ 62 years +, $45+ State Park pass. Meet at 9:00 AM at Salt Lake City VIA West Valley Park at the 8000 South (300-West NW corner of lot). Leader: Jim Paul (jim.paul@g4mail.com, 801-580-9079). If weather or cold weather, leaders will decide to lead easier Sentry Loop, half the elevation gain and about 2 miles shorter. If you plan to go on the trip please contact Jim to see you may be notified of any weather related changes.

SLG 11/17 Holsom Spring Basin. Down the White Rim to the Holsom Spring Basin below False Kiva. Continue on very faint trail around to the west and up between the main cliff and “The Jug”. Continue over the pass to Holsom Spring. Return the way we came or scramble up to the False Kiva trail. Six or eight miles. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 9:00 AM. Leader: Michael Stringham (831) 375-8854 mikechrista@email.net.

December
SLG Sat 12/1 Hurrah Pass — Minneewas. Take a safe scouted route along the ridge from Hurrah Pass to the uranium mine on the top of Minneewas. Maybe explore the southwest part of Amasa Back, 4 or 5 miles roundtrip. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 9:00 AM. Leader: Michael Stringham (831) 375-8854 mikechrista@email.net.

SLG 12/8 Oil Wall Bottom. Hike down Pyramid Canyon (our usual exit from the fossil tree hike) and then head upriver to Tunnel Bottom. We tried this one before, but everyone chickened out for no good reason. Easy walking because the river is really low. Explore the bottom and then try to get into the canyon just downriver from Pyramid Butte. 6 miles, easy hiking. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 9:00 AM. Leader: Michael Stringham (831) 375-8854 mikechrista@email.net.

SLG 12/16 Snowhike or hike in the Unita. Details to be announced. Contact: Jim Paul (paul.james.f@gmail.com, 801-580-9079) for meeting place, time, and outing destination.

The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and does not assumes liability for them. Carpooling, ridersharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement between the participants. The Sierra Club is not responsible for the risks associated with this travel. If you choose to carpool to the trailhead, it is only fair for fees charged by the US Forest Service to be shared by all participants. Text of the outing liability waiver may be found at http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/sierraclaw PavelinaCDF.PDF. CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval of the State of California.
Utah Chapter
ExCom Elections 2018

I is that time again! The Utah Chapter is hosting elections for their leadership committee known as the Executive Committee (ExCom). This year, we have four spots available. The Chapter ExCom assures that the Chapter activities and services provided are for the benefit of our members and supporters. You may vote via the below ballot or use our new e-balloting system at https://utah.sierraclub.org/2018-excom-elections.

SUE CORTH
My name is Susan Corth. I migrated from New Jersey to Utah in the late 1970’s. Like so many others who came to Utah for college, I fell in love with the water canyons, desert landscapes and the glorious mountains of Utah. Working for the Forest Service as one of the first female firefighters, I got to explore more of the state.

I recently retired from working as an Audiologist. I loved my job helping families identify and deal with hearing impairment in their babies and school children. I previously served on the boards of Art Access and HEAL Utah for many years. I have enjoyed my role with these wonderful organizations. Over the years I have savored living and playing in Utah with my husband, Dennis, and our two grown kids, Gabe and Sosha.

NATHAN GILBERT
I have been a member of the Sierra Club since 2012 and have served on the Executive Committee since January 2018. I started out as a volunteer on the Political Committee and now serve as that committee’s chair.

I am a strong proponent of the “big tent” organization of the Sierra Club and the grassroots power that it can wield on the local political scene. As the current chair of the Political Committee it is my goal to increase our local political impact. I want the Utah Sierra Club to be a place where volunteers are a part of shaping local politics and engaging our elected leaders in supporting our State’s environment.

As an ExCom member, I want the Sierra Club to be a leader in the State on conservation issues, to expand and promote our Outings programs and to become a more equitable, inclusive and just organization. These things won’t happen overnight, but by continuing as a member of the Executive Committee I can more effectively work towards these goals.

I live in the Ballpark area of Salt Lake City with my wife, Sonya. I am a software engineer and have a Masters degree from the University of Utah in Computer Science. I love camping and backpacking in Utah, and getting more Sierra Club allies elected to local offices across the State.

AMY MILLS
I’m pleased to be running for re-election to the Excom. In these difficult times for the Utah environment, I think I bring the experience, ideas, commitment, and continuity that the chapter needs. I currently serve as vice-chair of the Excom. and chapter delegate to Sierra Club’s Council of Club Leaders. I also serve as co-lead of the chapter’s Wasatch Back Network.

I served as conservation committee co-chair for the chapter from January 2016 to August 2017. I’ve been involved in various public outreach activities in addition to supporting the internal functioning of the chapter.

My main focus has been on environmental conservation. Over the past 5 years I’ve been involved in advocacy around protection of public lands, wilderness, and impacts of fossil fuel development. Locally in Park City where I live, I’ve hosted public meetings and educational speakers on conservation issues and provided input to local decision-makers.

As background, I hold an MS in Environmental Protection Agency for 28 years as a staff scientist, regulatory analyst, and national program manager. Aside from volunteering for several non-profits, I enjoy xeriscape gardening, skiing, and hiking.

LAUREN WOOD
Hey folks! I am a community organizer and have spent my life working with Holiday River Expeditions as a 3rd generation raft guide trying to honor my family’s commitment to healthy ecosystems.

I hold a BS in Environmental Studies and have co-founded multiple Climate Justice organizations: Peaceful Uprising and more recently Wasatch Rising Tide. As a queer person, I am caught in between the often siloed worlds of “Environmentalism” and “Social Justice” as if these things are not fundamentally connected. I have always approached this work systemically hoping to build broader movement power.

As the Green Riverkeeper, I work with dozens of groups across the region, including this chapter of the Sierra Club. If elected I hope to support the broad based coalition work being done by the chapter. Let’s focus on bringing more people on board to for an abundant and climate-adapted future.

This chapter has immense potential to affect meaningful change and I want to be part of that. To continue to strengthen this chapter we need an active and passionate board with varied backgrounds and perspectives to lead with a holistic and justice informed strategy. I hope to be a part of that team.

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Election Ballot

Your ballot must received by Friday, November 23, 2017. Mail your completed ballot in the enclosed envelope. The second set of boxes below are for the second member of a joint membership only. Blank lines are for write-in candidates. Please vote for no more than 4 candidates, including write-ins.

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YOUR ZIP CODE: 

THANKS FOR YOUR VOTE!
Local News

October 1-7 is Utah Climate Week

Stan Holmes

The full season of environmental justice events sparked by Sierra Club’s “Rise” (on September 8) and climate action (on September 13) programs continues into October with the second annual Utah Climate Week (UCW), October 1-7. The week will include climate change documentary films at Clark Planetarium (SLC), Park City, and Weber State University. There will be tours of sustainable buildings, and workshops by members of the Utah Climate Action Network (UCAN), which is sponsoring the events schedule. The Sierra Club is partnering with HEAL Utah for a climate justice workshop (Oct. 3) on the art of storytelling. Impact Hub will end the week with a climate action celebration party on Oct. 6. According to UCAN organizer Josh Craft, the goal of Utah Climate Week is to connect climate change experts and advocates with the general public. Craft says that the week’s events “will give the public a picture of how our state is changing as result of climate change. And it will spotlight the broad range of people and organizations working to address this challenge.” Each event will feature education and civic action components. Highlights of the week are listed at right but the full list of events will be posted on UCAN’s Utah Climate Week 2018 website. For Sierra Club specific info, contact Carly Ferro at carly.ferro@sierraclub.org.

The Utah Climate Action Network includes Utah Clean Energy, Salt Lake City and Park City municipal governments, Salt Lake County Public Health, the Utah Sierra Club, HEAL Utah, the University of Utah, Brendle Group, Alta and Brighton ski areas, POWDR, Garbett Homes, and more. For more info about UCAN, contact: Josh Craft, at joshuacraft@gmail.com.

A few Utah Climate Week highlights include:

- OCTOBER 1 Climate change legal issues, Brendle Group
- OCTOBER 2 Martin O’Malley at Impact Hub, Utah Clean Energy
- OCTOBER 3 “Cowspiracy” film at SLC library, Plant based Utah
- OCTOBER 4 ‘Green’ Campus tour, Weber State University
- OCTOBER 5 “Extreme Weather, Climate Change, and You” film, Clark Planetarium
- OCTOBER 6 Solar homes tour, American Solar Energy Society

Community Stewardship with a Canoe of Fun!

by Carly Ferro

The Jordan River is about 51-miles of meandering waters supporting recreationists, conservationists, wildlife, and the general public alike. Communities that live along the river relish in the opportunities that the water and its bank offer. Albeit the current appreciation of the Jordan River, historical mistreatment has left stretches of the river impaired, but local efforts like the “Environmental Stewardship and Outdoor Adventure,” programs led by Hartland Community 4 Youth and Families (HC4YF) are a lifeline for the river and a tool for developing community stewards.

This past July, Sierra Club Utah, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, the USFWS, The Jordan River Commission and Splore supported the efforts of HC4YF to clean up a 2-mile stretch of the Jordan River that exists within their community. With over 50 people, folks received canoes, garbage bags, gloves, saws, and additional tools to remove trash from the river. Over 850 lbs of waste and over 20 bags later, the community removed heaps of obstructive branches, clothing, cinder blocks, water bottles, and toys from the river.

As the Executive Director of HC4YF said, “We are a part of the river, and the river is a part of us.” HC4YF holds river clean-ups and environmental activities to build community, offer children an exciting way to learn and collectively spotlight folks’ pride in their neighborhood.

Hartland Community 4 Youth & Families works to promote education with responsibility, respect, and self-discipline through afterschool and summer programming. These programs include sports, environmental and river stewardship, outdoor education and adventure and place-based activities. You can learn more about them and donate to their work here - https://www.hc4yf.org/donate.html