

The Last Great Wilderness Project

What: "The Last Great Wilderness" show is an interactive multi-media presentation depicting the threats facing the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge – home to the most spectacular and awe-inspiring gathering of wildlife in the United



States. The presentation places participants on the tundra of the far northeastern corner of Alaska where oil development threatens the survival of 129,000 caribou, musk-oxen, dall sheep, polar bears, grizzlies, millions of migratory

birds, and a subsistence Native American culture. Members of the Gwich'in Nation continue to practice their 20,000-year-old subsistence lifestyle in harmony with their sacred animal, the caribou. Both the caribou and this ancient culture will be irreparably impacted should oil development occur on the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge.

Who: Presented by renowned wildlife photographer and activist **Lenny Kohm** and native Gwich'in tribal member **Sandra Newman**. Lenny has been traveling throughout the United States for the past 14 years telling people of the dangerous threats facing one of America's most magnificent treasures. Sandra Newman speaks on behalf of the Gwich'in Steering Committee, the native body formed to represent native interests in the face of oil development.

When: **Monday, July 9, 2001** at 7:00 pm

Where: The Saltair Room in The Olpin Student Union Building on the University of Utah Campus

Sponsored by the Sierra Club.

Utah Chapter Sierra Club

2273 Highland Drive, #2D
Salt Lake City, Utah 84106-2832

Non-Profit Organization
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Permit No. 4050
Salt Lake City, UT



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Utah Sierran

Journal of the Utah Sierra Club

Summer 2001 Vol. 34 No. 3

Utah's and Energy Policy: Over Whose Dead Body?

by Steve Erickson and Winston C. Weeks
See page 5

In This Issue

Adopt-a-Wilderness Program	02
What the Bush-Cheney Energy Plan Would Mean for Utah	03
Sierra Club Endorses Wind Energy	04
Utah's and Energy Policy: Over Whose Dead Body?	05
Sierra Club and Other Groups File Lawsuits to Stop the Legacy Highway	06
Things You Can Do To Conserve Our Precious Resources	07
Utah Chapter Activities Summer Outings	08
High Stakes: Utah to be a Nuclear Waste Dump?	12
Trip Talk	13
Your Chapter Needs You	14
Utah Sierra Club Leader Directory	15
HR1461 — Alert	16
Thanks for the Donations	17
Protect Roadless Areas in the Wasatch-Cache National Forest	18
Express Yourself	15

Harris Wash in Grand Staircase
Escalante National Monument.
Photo by Amber Ayres

Adopt-A-Wilderness Program

"Wilderness needs no defense, only more defenders."—Edward Abbey

Currently 9.1 million acres of Utah land are being proposed as wilderness. Without your help and care, these areas will be subject to overgrazing, mining, and off-road vehicle abuse. This is an exciting and crucial time to be a wilderness activist. The future of these awe-inspiring lands lies in your hands. We hope you will join us in protecting these lands by adopting a proposed Wilderness Area.

Why Adopt?

The public lands of the United States are exactly that—Public Lands. These are our lands; as such we have a responsibility to participate in the process determining how these lands will be managed. We know these lands, we love these lands, we have an attachment to our special places. The Adopt-a-Wilderness Program is based on the philosophy that the best advocates for wilderness are those who actually know the land.

The Adopt-a-Wilderness Program provides a practical means through which people can use their personal knowledge about these places to advocate their protection.

Working with the BLM

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is charged with managing our public lands. Particularly because we are so close to many of these areas, we have the unique opportunity to work closely with the BLM to ensure their protection. Time and time again it has been the voices of educated and informed citizens that have made the difference in how these lands are cared for. The Adopt-a-Wilderness Program is designed to help facilitate dialogue between citizens and the BLM. The BLM is



Harris Wash in Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument. Photo by Amber Ayes.

entrusted with maintaining these lands, but if we are serious about protecting wilderness it will require all of our efforts.

Spreading the Word

One of the important goals of the Adopt-a-Wilderness Program is to spread the word about the need to protect these lands across the country. We hope to pair each Utah adopter with an out-of-state adopter. Wilderness is something that belongs to all Americans, and we need national support if we are to protect these lands.

Adopting-a-Wilderness is a serious and rewarding undertaking. We hope you will enjoy the work, and the land. Thank you for becoming an Adopter of a special place in Utah's Wilderness.

Send this card in now to ensure that you get the wilderness unit of your choice.

Adopter Information Card

Yes, I am interested in adopting a piece of Utah Wilderness. Please send me additional information.

Name _____
Last Middle First

Address _____
Street Name

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

E-Mail Address _____

Send to: **Adopt-a-Wilderness**, 2273 South Highland Drive #2D, Salt Lake City, Utah 84106 or e-mail us at: **Utah.Wilderness@Sierraclub.org**



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The Utah Sierran is published quarterly (January, April, July, & October) by the Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club. Views expressed in this paper are the opinions of the individual authors, unless otherwise noted, and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Sierra Club.

Submit all articles, artwork, photographs, letters, and comments to: Editor, Utah Sierran, 2273 South Highland Drive #2D, Salt Lake City, Utah 84106-2832, phone (801) 467-9297.

The Sierra Club dues are \$35 per year, of which \$1 is for Utah Sierran. Discount membership rates are available for senior citizens, students, or individuals with limited income. The subscription rate for non-members is \$8 per year.

Third-class postage paid at Salt Lake City, Utah, Permit No. 4050

On The Web

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Utah Chapter

<http://www.sierraclub.org/chapter/ut>

Adopt-A-Wilderness

<http://www.wildutah.org>

Legacy Highway

<http://www.stoplegacyhighway.org>

Online News

<http://www.sierraclub.org/news/>

Sierra Club Magazine

<http://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/>

The Planet

<http://www.sierraclub.org/planet/>

What the Bush-Cheney Energy Plan Would Mean for Utah

by Dan Schroeder, *Chapter Treasurer*

In mid-May, with great fanfare, President Bush and Vice President Cheney released a new 170-page national energy policy: "Reliable, Affordable, and Environmentally Sound Energy for America's Future." The plan's title is a perfect description of what it isn't.

The implications of this short-sighted plan for the country as a whole have been covered well in the national press. Among other things, the plan would threaten our air quality and public lands, increase our dependence on foreign oil, and ensure that America's contribution to the global warming problem continues unabated.

But what would the plan mean specifically for Utah and the Intermountain West?

Perhaps the greatest threat will be to our public lands. In Chapter 5, the plan claims that as much as 29 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, plus unspecified amounts of oil, may be recoverable from public lands in the Rocky Mountain area that are currently off-limits to drilling (national parks, national monuments, wilderness areas, and so on). The plan then directs the Secretary of the Interior (James Watt protegee Gale Norton) to "examine land status and lease stipulation impediments... and modify those where opportunities exist."

One would think that such a drastic measure must be motivated by a severe shortage of gas and oil elsewhere. Is there a shortage? Yes and no. In a few decades, world supplies of oil and gas will indeed run short, and if alternative energy sources are not developed, perhaps Americans will be desperate enough to sacrifice our most treasured public lands.

Currently, though, it's much cheaper to just import oil from Canada, Mexico, Venezuela, and the Persian Gulf than to drill in most of the unexplored parts of the U.S. For better or for worse, our country contains less than 5% of the world's reserves of oil.

Our natural gas reserves, however, are much more extensive, and are projected

to easily meet our demands for a few decades, supplemented by modest imports from Canada, without opening any currently protected public lands.

To put the situation into perspective, consider this: Those 29 trillion cubic feet of off-limits gas that are supposedly under the Rocky Mountain states would last our country barely over a year, at our current rate of consumption. Is a one-year supply really worth the sacrifice?

Ironically, Congressman Jim Hansen, who strongly supports the Bush/Cheney plan, was recently quoted saying that our country has enough oil and gas to last "four or five centuries." Perhaps the Chair of the House Resources Committee should go back to school and take a course in geology. But if you really believe this, Jim, why are you so eager to open up public lands that contain only a one-year supply?

A second major threat of the Bush/Cheney plan in our area would be to our air quality, especially in our scenic deserts and national parks. The haze that currently blankets these places so much of the year comes mostly from the coal-fired power plants that provide nearly all of our electricity. The Bush/Cheney plan would provide further subsidies to the coal industry, encourage the construction of more long-distance transmission lines between power plants and cities, and relax air quality standards to encourage more coal burning.

Unfortunately, Governor Leavitt is also working to promote the construction of more coal-fired power plants in Utah. From the news reports, one would get the impression that Utah faces an imminent power shortage and will soon be experiencing rolling blackouts. The truth is, Utah currently uses only about 70% of the electricity generated here; the rest is sent westward, mostly to California. Our excess is even greater if we include Wyoming, where our largest electrical utility, PacifiCorp, owns even more coal-fired generating capacity than in Utah.

The current push to build more power plants in the Intermountain West is pure profit-seeking opportunism. California relies heavily on natural gas for generating electricity (because it is so much cleaner), and is now constructing several new gas-fired plants. But gas prices in California are currently sky-high, so large profits may await anyone who can send cheaper coal-fired electricity westward.

Or maybe not. California's high gas prices are a result of market manipulation, and should come down once true competition among gas suppliers is restored. At that point, Utah could be stuck with new, expensive coal-fired power plants that we don't need. Utahns would end up paying the bill, both economic and environmental, for these plants.

Eventually, of course, Utah and even Wyoming may be consuming so much electricity that new power plants in our region would be needed. The best solution to this long-term challenge is two-fold: clean energy (such as wind-generated electricity--see the accompanying article on the Blue Sky program) and efficiency.

A recent report commissioned by the Utah Public Service Commission concluded that a very limited set of efficiency incentives, based on available technology, could reduce Utah's peak electricity consumption by 15% in just six years, at much lower cost than new power plant construction. Over the long term, better technology and better design can achieve still greater efficiency gains.

Even the Bush/Cheney energy proposal admits that U.S. energy consumption

continued on page 13

Sierra Club Endorses Wind Energy

by Dan Schroeder, Chapter Treasurer

The Utah Chapter Sierra Club has recently endorsed Utah Power's "Blue Sky" program, which allows customers to purchase wind-generated electricity for a small additional fee. We encourage all Utah Power customers to participate in this program to the extent they can afford.

The Blue Sky program, introduced last year, gives customers the option of buying wind-generated electricity in units called blocks. A block is 100 kilowatt-hours, enough energy to power an average household for a few days, or to power a very efficient household for about a month. Recently, Utah Power lowered the cost of each block of wind energy from \$4.75 to \$2.95. This price covers the additional cost of wind-generated electricity over more conventional sources, mainly coal. You can choose to buy any number of blocks of wind energy, regardless of how much electricity you actually use.

Each block purchased in the Blue Sky program commits PacifiCorp, Utah Power's parent company, to generate that amount of electricity from wind and add it to the electrical grid. Because the grid combines energy from many different sources, it is impossible to send only wind-generated electricity to any particular customer. The first wind turbines funded by the Blue Sky program are located in southeastern Wyoming.

Currently, only about 1/1000 of the electricity generated in the United States comes from wind. Although the intermittent nature of wind will eventually limit its contribution to our electricity supply, there is huge potential for expansion before that limit is reached. Denmark, for instance, already gets more than 10% of its electricity from wind, and plans to raise this fraction to 50% in the

coming decades. The U.S. has tremendous untapped wind resources, especially in the western states and the Great Plains.

Among all ways of generating electricity, wind is one of the most benign. Wind turbines produce no pollution or greenhouse gases, and do not depend on exhaustible fuels that must be mined or pumped from the ground. When properly sited, wind turbines have only minor effects on wildlife and natural ecosystems.

The cost of wind turbines has decreased dramatically in recent years, to the point where wind-generated electricity can almost compete economically with coal. By investing in wind power now, we can help the industry develop more quickly and bring the cost of wind power down further. Perhaps, in a few more years, power companies will choose to build wind farms instead of coal-fired plants for purely economic reasons.

For more information about wind power, visit the Utah Wind Campaign web site at utahgreenpower.org, or call 801-673-7156. You can sign up for the Blue Sky program at this web site or by contacting Utah Power at 1-800-842-8458, www.pacificorp.com/bluesky.html. ■

The Utah Wind Campaign is a grassroots, non-profit campaign funded by the Land and Water (LAW) Fund of the Rockies to increase public awareness and the use of clean renewable wind power.

“When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe.”
— John Muir

Utah Power's 20/20 Challenge: A Win-Win Proposal

by Dan Schroeder, Chapter Treasurer

This summer, Utah Power (PacifiCorp) is offering its customers a challenge: cut your electricity use by 20% compared to the same month last year, and they'll give you an additional 20% off your bill.

Yeah, they're doing this to make money. Due to the high wholesale electricity prices around the West, they can sell whatever power their customers don't use to other utilities, at great profit. But so what? Conserving energy is still a good idea.

What can you actually do to cut your power consumption?

The PacifiCorp web site (www.pacificorp.com/energyhm/efficiency/) has several good suggestions. Here are a few of them, and a few others:

- Hang your clothes to dry.
- Unplug that extra refrigerator or freezer.
- Use window shades, awnings, and trees to keep the house cool.
- Open windows at night to let the cool air in.
- Resist the urge to replace the swamp cooler with central air.
- Cook with the microwave instead of the stove or oven.
- Replace your most-used light bulbs with compact fluorescents.
- Use motion detectors to control outdoor lights.
- Turn computers and other electronics completely off when not in use.

Every household is different, so it may take some effort to determine where you can save 20%. But the payoff is worth it: You'll save money, reduce pollution from power plants, and let decision makers know that Utahns can conserve electricity. ■

Eco-tip:
Set Your Computer
to Sleep Mode
Ad

“Turn Memory Into Legacy”
Planned Giving
Ad

Utah's and Energy Policy: Over Whose Dead Body

by Steve Erickson and Winston C. Weeks

Unfortunately Utah Republican politicians have given their blessing to the Cheney-Bush energy plan, trumpeting potential benefits to Utah's economy. Their support for burning more coal may be predictable but in another key area - reviving nuclear power - one would expect them to recognize that this plan is a prescription for disaster for the state and the nation that Utah leaders should resist vigorously.

The President proposes a massive additional subsidy initiative to build new nuclear power plants to address the worst "energy crisis" since the 1970's. Touting nukes as clean and green, new and improved, stopping just short of "too cheap to meter," Bush promotes construction of enough new reactors to create enough nuclear waste to guarantee that Utah and Nevada will be dumped on for decades.

The nuclear industry and the President know that their expansion plans are doomed without a dump site for spent fuel rods. The industry wants to build 50 new n-power plants in the next 20 years, which means a 50% increase in nuclear waste that will need to be stored and buried. So it's no surprise Bush and his nuk_u_lur buddies want the waste problem "resolved" soon.

However, even if BOTH the Yucca Mt., Nevada burial grounds and the Private Fuel Storage "temporary" storage pad in Utah open for business, the existing waste coupled with newly generated waste will exceed their combined capacity.

It's widely publicized that Utah's Governor says nuclear power plant waste will be stored in Utah over his dead body, that our boys in Congress back him up on that, and that 84% of Utahns agree. It hasn't been reported that Bush used the Xcel Energy headquarters as a backdrop for his St. Paul energy policy press conference. Xcel, formerly Northern States Power, is the driving force behind Private Fuel

Storage (PFS), the limited liability corporation that wants to park its spent fuel rods on Skull Valley Goshute land until the government rams it down Nevada's throat. It's largely ignored that Governor Leavitt is lukewarm in opposing Yucca Mountain and that our Republicans in Congress wholeheartedly endorse the "screw Nevada" deal.

It should be understood that Utah will be affected negatively even if the high level nuke waste goes directly to Nevada without stopping here. The transportation of spent fuel rods poses unacceptable risks, and the creation of more nuclear power means more low level nuclear waste will be landfilled here.

Beyond the waste problem, there is an extensive menu of reasons why nuclear power is bad policy. The nuclear energy cycle is anything but clean and green. Four Corners uranium miners, millers and transporters suffering from cancer and fighting for compensation can attest to that. Contrary to the President's claims that nuclear power is free of greenhouse gas emissions, mining and fabricating nuclear fuel is highly energy intensive, using 4 to 5 times more polluting fuels per kilowatt produced than wind power and other renewables. Radioactive emissions are routine; they do not require an accident.

Nuclear power is not economically competitive. Studies reported in 1999 (Worldwatch Institute) have estimated that each kilowatt of nuclear power cost

continued on page 13

Sierra Club and Other Groups File Lawsuits to Stop the Legacy Highway

by Marc Heilesen, *Sierra Club Associate Southwest Representative*

Shortly after the US Supreme Court halted the presidential recount in Florida, the US Army Corps of Engineers "rolled over" and issued an illegal permit to destroy 114 acres of wetlands of the Great Salt Lake. The Great Salt Lake wetland ecosystem has been designated a Western Hemispheric Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) site recognized by governments ranging from Argentina to Canada. The mix of fresh and salt water ecosystem of the south and east shorelines provides staging and breeding habitat for 6-9 million birds a year.

Immediately following the Army Corps cave-in, the Sierra Club along with the broad coalition group Utahns for Better Transportation, and Mayor Ross "Rocky" Anderson filed lawsuits under the Clean Water Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and Clean Air Act to halt construction. The Clinton Administration's EPA also took a massive parting shot at the Legacy Highway. Because a more hostile administration was taking over, a lengthy "veto" process seemed unlikely to accomplish. They then issued a stinging 14 page report to the Army Corps exposing several legal problems associated with the project. This added tremendous ground for a solid lawsuit. The parties involved with opposition of Legacy Highway have put together an amazing legal offense and our confidence is strong. The court date for the Legacy Highway is July 26th.

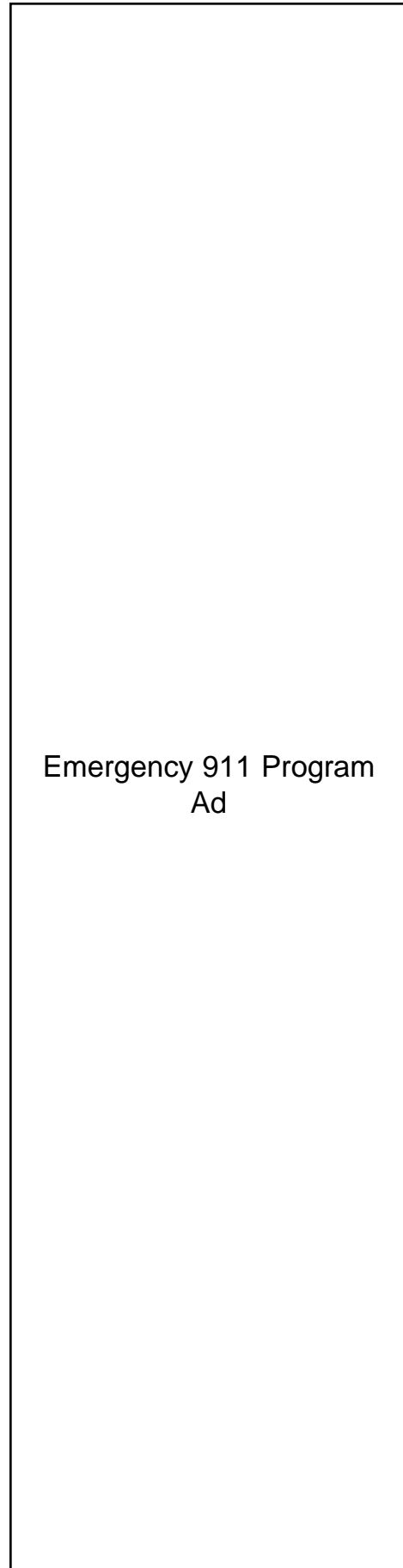
No Construction Until Legacy Court Case is Heard

In the beginning of May, the Legacy

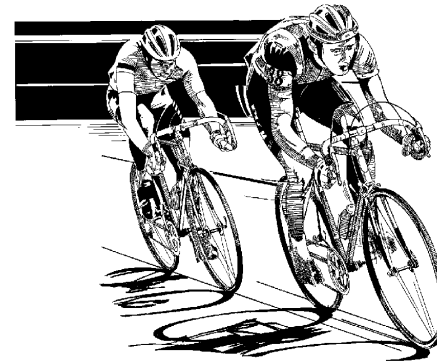
groups and UDOT reached a mutual agreement that the state will refrain from ANY construction activities in the Legacy Highway corridor until the case is heard in court. Some non-damaging surveying and geo-technical testing can be done, but no earth moving. In return, the groups will refrain from seeking an injunction against the project and UDOT can begin work on an east/west access road at Burke Lane that Farmington City has wanted for years independently of Legacy Highway. Burke Lane is north of the Legacy corridor and could eventually connect south into Legacy Highway if it was built, but they have agreed not to build anything at this time that would constitute a connection to Legacy. The Legacy Highway has not begun and will not until the case is heard in court.

The War is Being Won

As the sprawl inducing Legacy Highway is fought and delayed, the momentum of mass transit is snowballing. The first light rail line was an incredible success and ridership did not decline with the opening of the new I-15. The second light-rail line will be completed by the end of this year. A corridor for a new commuter rail system has been secured and will be up and running in a few years. Four more light rail lines are set for construction and possibly others are on the way. This boom towards transit has some developers beginning smart growth style projects. A positive future is possible! However, as long as the proposed Legacy Highway is on the maps, sprawl developers will try and derail this success and subdivide along Legacy's western path. This will continue the road towards Los Angeles and Phoenix of sprawl, traffic, and smog. We will keep up this fight for Utah's future! ■



Emergency 911 Program Ad



Bicycling Advocacy

Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Committee Meeting

Second Wednesday of every month at 5:00 p.m.

Salt Lake City/County Bldg.
451 South State, Room 325

Call 535-7735 or 359-8238 for more information.

Weekly Environmental News on KRCL - 91 FM

Sierra Club Environmental Update
Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m.

Sierra Club Environmental Update
Sundays at 9:55 a.m.

Save Our Canyons Report
2nd & 4th Thursday
12:30-1:00 p.m.

KRCL is Salt Lake City's non-profit, listener-supported community radio station, at 90.9 FM. Phone (801) 363-1818 for information and a sample bimonthly program guide. KRCL plays a wide variety of programming, ranging from folk and bluegrass to new wave and new age. The Sierra Club's "Environmental Update" is produced by Utah Chapter volunteer Teri Underwood.

Things You Can Do To Conserve Our Precious Resources

by Liz McCoy, *Title*

Most Sierra Club members are aware of the impact we have on the earth. Recently, primarily because of the "energy" crisis in California, I have been paying more attention to my "consumptive" habits than I normally do. Honestly, I am rather horrified by my own actions.

It is important that we as Sierra Club members educate others, but it is also important that we set a good example and try our best to conserve as well.

Following you will find some VERY basic thoughts about ways to conserve our precious resources. Add to the list, share it with others, hang it up in a highly visible place. Challenge those who are less to implement at least 5 of the actions into their life style.

1. Turn off your computer at the end of the workday and especially over the weekend.
2. Recycle at the office and at home.
3. Do not use paper towels, napkins or plates.
4. Bring your own mug to the coffee/tea shop, work, events, and camping.
5. Bring cloth bags to the grocery store.
6. Ride your bike to work. If this is difficult pick one day a week to ride to work — encourage everyone at the office to do the same. Organize a work challenge — provide a prize to the person who drives the least.

7. Do not drive at all at least one day of the week.
8. Carpool
9. Turn off the water while brushing your teeth, shaving or lathering up with soap.
10. Buy low flow showerheads and faucets.
11. Turn the water off while washing dishes.
12. Do not water the lawn in the middle of the day. Green grass does not need as much water as you think. Remind your neighbors to do the same.
13. Do not water the sidewalk.
14. Plant drought resistant plants - get rid of the lawn or at least some of it.
15. Buy locally produced food.
16. Dry at least one load of clothes outside rather than in the drier.
17. Buy second hand "stuff" - it is less expensive and less consumptive.
18. Write a letter to the editor and tell others what you are doing to conserve.
19. VOTE for conservation minded candidates.
20. Roll your own black out.

Please email Liz McCoy, mccoy@xmission.com, with conservation stories, ideas, challenges and or complaints! ■



UTAH CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Summer
2001

Receive a backcountry guide book to the High Uintas by being the first to submit five of the names of these hikers. Send list of names and your address to Ron Younger at 920 E. 1500 S., Bountiful, Utah 84010.

Note To Participants:

All members and nonmembers are welcome on any of the chapter or group activities listed. Interested participants should contact the outing leader in advance to 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 given outing. Fees charged by the Forest Service are expected to be shared by those carpooling to trailheads in US Forest Service areas. Outing leaders reserve the right to turn away anyone who appears unprepared for scheduled outing. Dogs are not invited on Sierra Club outings. Call the Sierra Club office (467-9297) for a recorded message on unlisted, updated, or upcoming activities.

Salt Lake Group

JULY

Tuesday Night Hike, July 3rd Lake Solitude Hike

Take a pre-holiday excursion on a cool trail at the top of Big Cottonwood Canyon. The hiking path loops around Lake Solitude near the Nordic Center. Bring flashlights in case the hike extends into the post dusk hour. Meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Big Cottonwood parking lot at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon. Leader: Dick (531-7830).

Saturday, July 7th Smith Creek Lakes

Hike to three alpine lakes from Francis Peak via the Farmington Canyon Mountain road. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the north east corner of the Davis County Court House on Highway 89 in Farmington City. This outing

is co-listed with the Ogden Group. Leader: Ron Younger (292-4040).

Tuesday Night Hike, July 10th Ferguson Canyon Hike

This hike is another traditional Tuesday night favorite. The hike explores the foothill area just south of the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon. Bring a flashlight along with water and hiking gear. Meet at the parking lot at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon at 6:30 p.m. Leader: Larry (944-0945). Refreshments will be served after the hike at the Schoeff residence.

Sunday, July 15th Day Hike

Broads Fork Meadow

Enjoy a moderately paced hike on a shaded trail starting at the S-Curve In Big Cottonwood Canyon. The meadow is surrounded by Twin, Dromedary, and Sunrise Peaks. The hike will be approximately 4.5 miles round trip distance with an elevation gain of 2040 feet. Bring water, lunch, insect repellent, and other essentials for a day hike. Meet at the Big Cottonwood Park and Ride at the mouth of the canyon at 10:30 a.m. Leader: Margaret (801-292-7602).

Tuesday Night Hike, July 17th Brighton Lakes Loop

Join Dick for an intermediate level hike at the top of Big Cottonwood Canyon. The trail loops around a series of scenic lakes at the top of the canyon near the Solitude Nordic Center. Meet at the Park and Ride at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon at 6:30 p.m. Leader: Dick (531-7830).

Tuesday Night Hike, July 24th Willow Lake

Celebrate the 24th Of July with an exodus out of the city and into the cool splendor of Willow Lake in Big Cottonwood Canyon. The trail begins across the street from the Silver Fork Restaurant just before Solitude Ski Resort. Although the hike will be relatively short in distance, the trail is steep so be prepared for an intermediate level hike. Meet at the Big Cottonwood Park and Ride at the mouth of the canyon at 6:30 p.m. Leader Bill: (582-9223).

Sunday, July 29th Day Hike In The Uintas

Gaynelle and Jon will lead a hike to a yet-to-be-determined destination in the

Uintas. Whatever the location, hikers will be treated to the beauty and ambiance of the Uintas. Bring plenty of water and snacks and be prepared for an intermediate/advanced level hike. Call for meeting place and time. Leader: Gaynelle (1-435-649-8917).

Tuesday Night Hike, July 31st City Creek Canyon

Join Ken for a relatively easy hike on a trail that parallels the paved road up City Creek Canyon. Round trip distance is about 5 miles and there are plenty of places to stop and enjoy refreshments along the way. Meeting place is the City Park at the northeast corner of Virginia Street and 11t Avenue (Across the street from the Shriners Hospital in the Avenues) at 6:30 p.m. Leader: Ken (484-3112).

West Shingle Creek Lake
Jehan, Gaynell and Dick.

Photo by Ron Younger, August 27, 2000.

AUGUST

Sunday, August 5th North Canyon to Mueller Park

This intermediate hike of about 8 miles round trip begins in North Canyon (5600'), ascends to Rudy's Flat (7120') and descends to Mueller Park (Bountiful). Bring water, lunch, and other hiking essentials. Meet at the southwest side of the Woods Cross K-Mart parking lot just off the 318 exit on I-15 at 10:00 a.m. Leader: Margaret (801-292-7602).

Tuesday Night Hike, August 7th

Holbrook Canyon Trail

Join Ron Younger for an intermediate level hike into Holbrook Canyon which is located in the east foothills of Bountiful. Meet at the K-Mart parking lot, South West side at 6:30 p.m. Take exit # 318 off I-15. Leader: Ron Younger (292-4040).

Tuesday Night Hike, August 14th Silverfork

An intermediate hike to an old mining area in Big Cottonwood Canyon. Meet at the Park and Ride at the mouth of the canyon at 6:30 p.m. Leader: Bill (582-9223).

Tuesday Night Hike, August 21st Greens Basin

Join Ann for an easy paced hike to Greens Basin in Big Cottonwood Canyon. The hike is about 4 miles round trip with approximately 1000' of elevation gain. Meet at the Big Cottonwood Park and Ride at the mouth of the canyon at 6:30 p.m. Trailhead begins at the Spruces Campground.

Tuesday Night Hike, August 28th Scotts Hill via Scotts Pass

The destination of this hike offers a grand view of mountain peaks and valleys in Big Cottonwood Canyon. Prompt departure from the meeting place is necessary to finish the hike before sundown. Meet at the Big Cottonwood Park and Ride at 6:30 p.m. Trailhead begins in the Guardsman Pass area. Leader: Bill (582-9223).

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday Night Hike, September 4th Ward Canyon Trail

The Ward Canyon Trail is another trail on the east side of Bountiful. Be prepared for an intermediate level hike and bring water, snacks, and other essentials for the trek. Meet at the southwest side of the Bountiful K-Mart at 6:30 p.m. Take exit #318 off the I-15 freeway. Leader: Ron Younger (292-4040).

Tuesday Night Hike, September 11th Little Mountain Summit

Enjoy the waning days of summer with a short but steep hike on a trail just off the road at the Little Mountain Summit in Emigration Canyon. This trek will be the last Tuesday Night Hike of the season. The evening may include a stop for refreshments after the hike depending on

the will of participants. Meet at the east part of the Hogle Zoo parking lot at 6:30 p.m. Leader: Bill (582-9223).

Sunday, September 16th Day Hike to Alexander Basin

This loop begins at the Alexander Basin trailhead in Millcreek Canyon, branches to the Bowman Fork, and ends at the Terraces Picnic area. The hike is about 6 miles round trip and gains 1600' in elevation. The leaves should be changing into their fall splendor at the time of the hike. Meeting place is the Skyline High parking lot at 9:30 a.m. Leader: Margaret (801-292-7602).

Sunday, September 23rd

Goshutes Mountain Hawk Watch

Join Mr. Dick Dougherty for an advanced day hike into a West Desert wilderness area southwest of Wendover. Because this is a Wilderness Study Area, the number of hikers will be limited to 13 and must RSVP to Dick prior to the hike. Meeting place is the DWR at 1590 West North Temple at 8:30 p.m. Please RSVP in advance. Leader: Dick (531-7830).

OCTOBER

Sunday, October 7th

Day Hike to Soldier Creek Canyon

Enjoy an intermediate level hike under fair autumn skies in the Ochre Mountains west of Salt Lake City. Soldier Creek Canyon is east of Stockton, which is just south of Tooele. Meeting place for the trek is the DWR parking lot at 1590 West and North Temple at 9:00 a.m. Leader: Dick (531-7830).

Sunday, October 14th

Bike Ride Up City Creek Canyon

Enjoy some easy fair-weather fall cycling with a tour of City Creek Canyon. Mountain or road bikes are appropriate for this ride. Bring water and snacks and plan on resting at one of the many picnic areas along the way. Meeting at the northeast pavilion of Liberty Park at 10:00 a.m. Ride will begin at the park, continue through city streets, up Memory Grove to City Creek Canyon, then return via the same route. Helmets are required. Leader: Ken (484-3112).

Outings, continued on page 10

Outings

continued from page 09

Ogden Group

P.O. Box 1821, Ogden, UT, 84402
<http://utah.sierraclub.org/ogden/>

OGDEN GROUP

The Sierra Club is dedicated to conservation of the environment through recreational outings, monthly educational meetings and advocacy on local issues. These activities help us appreciate the remarkable outdoor opportunities we have near Ogden City. The public is welcome on all outings. Participants are advised to call the leaders in advance for outing details.

The public is welcome on all outings. Participants are advised to call the leaders in advance for outing details.

RATINGS: 1-easy
 2-moderate
 3-good fitness required
 4- demanding

JULY

Saturday, July 7th
Smith Creek Lakes 2
 Joint outing with the SLC group. See their writeup for details. Meet at the northeast corner of the Davis County Courthouse parking lot in Farmington on Highway 89 at 9:00 am. Leader: Ron Younger (292-4040).

Saturday, July 14th
Deseret Peak 3
 This peak is the "Jewel of Utah." A 9 mile, 3,600' climb in a wilderness area. Bring water & lunch, 6-7 hours. Meet at the Layton Walmart, just west of I-15's

exit 334, 6:30 a.m. Leader: Larry Woolsey (731-3701).
Sunday, July 22nd
Old Ephraim grave site 3-4
 Mountain bikes will be best for this 18 mile trek. There's a long, steep uphill grade going out. The last grizzly bear shot in Utah was shot on this route. 8:00 a.m. Call for details. Leader: Al Stockland (479-9597).

AUGUST

Sunday, August 5th
North Canyon to Mueller Park 3
 See the SLC group schedule for details. Those of us coming from up north will meet at the Woods Cross K-Mart (take exit 318 from I-15), southwest corner of the parking lot at 10:00 a.m. Call for carpool coordination from Ogden. Leader: Mike Morrison (475-4845).

Saturday, August 25th
Ben Lomond from Mantua 2-3
 We'll need 4WD vehicles for this one. We'll drive up the dirt road from Mantua to where it's cool enough for us to exert ourselves. Then we'll hike to Ben Lomond – maybe beyond. On the way, observe how ATV users have treated the land. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Ogden High School. Bring lunch. Please call in advance; coordination necessary. Leader: Mike Morrison (475-4845).

SEPTEMBER

Saturday, September 8th
Snow Basin tour and hike 1-3
 What have Earl Holding and the Olympics done to Snow Basin? Here's your chance to join Sierra Club leaders for a tour of the area, examining the recent construction projects and environmental mitigation. After touring the base area, a subgroup will hike up the mountain to see the mountaintop restaurants and communication towers. This will be an afternoon trip (after the morning Chapter

ExCom meeting); please call for exact time and meeting place. Leader: Dan Schroeder (393-4603).

Sunday, September 16th
Bike to ranch on Antelope Island . . . 3
 Bike from the Syracuse parking lot across the causeway, then to the ranch and back. Expect about a 40 mile trip. Bring lunch. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the parking lot on the mainland end of the causeway. Please call to confirm. Leader: Jock Glidden (394-0457).

Sunday, September 23rd
Hawk Watch in Goshute Mountains
 See the SLC group's writeup for details. To carpool from Ogden, meet at Ogden High School at 7:30 a.m. Leader: Mike Morrison (475-4845).

Saturday, September 29th
Mount Naomi 3
 We'll hike to Mount Naomi from Tony's Grove in Logan Canyon, through a gorgeous wilderness area. This is about a 9 mile hike, probably about 4 hours. Meet at 6:30 a.m. in the parking lot of the Comfort Inn just South of 21st Street off the east side of I-15. Leader: Larry Woolsey (731-3701).

OCTOBER

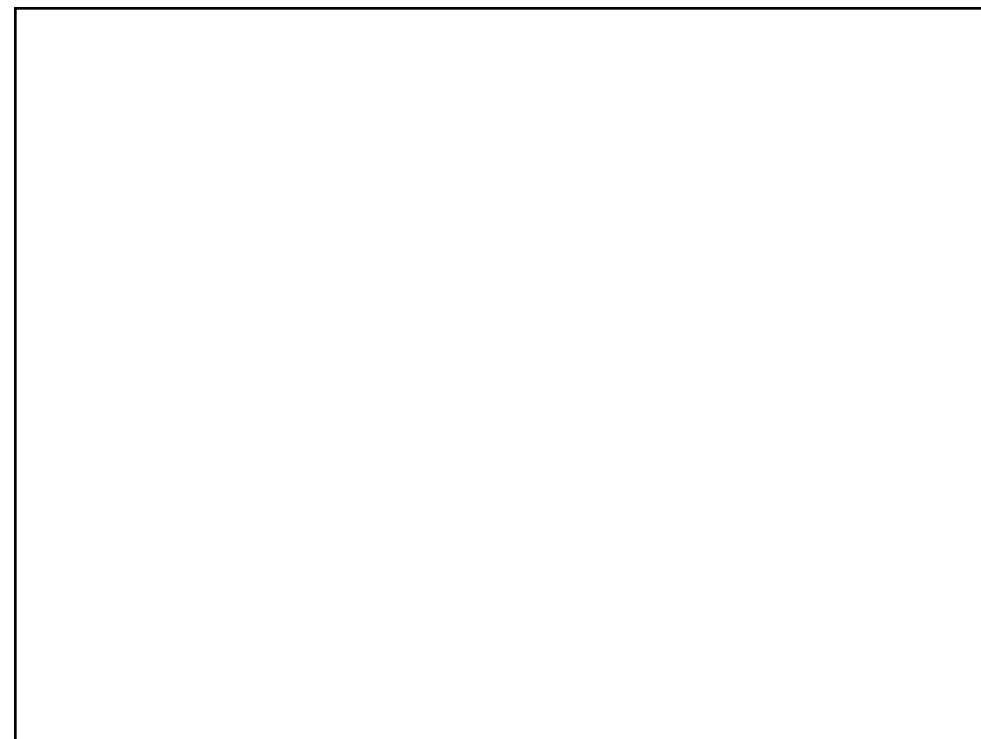
Saturday, October 6th
Hike the northern Wellsvilles 3+
 This should be a lovely (but strenuous) fall colors hike. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in Salt Lake City, 9:00 a.m. in Ogden, or 10:00 a.m. in Mendon. Bring lunch. Leaders: Mike Morrison (475-4845) and Ron Younger (292-4040).

Saturday, October 13th
Monte Cristo 2-3
 We'll hike down Sugar Pine Creek and come out of Peggy Hollow. Meet at 7:30 a.m. in Salt Lake City or 8:30 a.m. in Ogden. Leaders: Mike Morrison (475-4845) and Ron Younger (292-4040). ■

Dave Foreman
 to present
"The River Wild"

Thursday, September 13
7:30 pm
 at the
 Rose Wagner Theater
 138 W. 300 S., SLC
 Tickets on sale through Art Tix:
 355-2787 or www.arttix.org
 Cost: \$15- Lecture appearance only
 \$30- Lecture and post lecture social and
 book signing with Dave Foreman
 (includes 1 free drink ticket)
 Mark Your Calendars TODAY!

Event to benefit the Sierra Club-Utah Chapter Foundation



*View of Devils Castle (10,930') from Catherine Pass Trail at 10,000'
 Photo by Ron Younger, April 15, 2001*

Save Us! Grizzly ad
 Ad

"The love of wilderness is more than a hunger for what is always beyond reach; it is also an expression of loyalty to the earth, (the earth which bore us and sustains us), the only home we shall ever know, the only paradise we ever need — if only we had the eyes to see."
 — Edward Abbey

High Stakes: Utah to be a Nuclear Waste Dump?

by Robynne Kirkpatrick, *Utah Chapter Nuclear Waste Committee*

Polls show that eighty some percent of Utahns say, "No!" to storing nuclear waste (Deseret News, 1/04/01). Utahns turned out in high numbers at hearings in July and August on the proposal by Private Fuel Storage, LLC, and at hearings in January and February on the proposal by Envirocare. Both companies aim to make Utah a national nuclear waste dump site.

On January 4th, well over 100 people packed a public hearing on Envirocare's proposal. The stated purpose of the hearing was to gather public input on whether it is in the best interests of Utahns to give Envirocare a land use exemption to allow the company to bring nuclear waste to their dump site in Tooele. Prior to the hearing, William Sinclair, Executive Secretary of the Utah Board of Radiation Control, had given his tentative approval of the land use exemption (Deseret News, 1/04/01). At the hearing, the overwhelming majority of speakers stated that they did not accept Utah becoming a dump site for nuclear waste. On January 5th, Envirocare stated that it would not ask lawmakers to vote on their proposal this year, (Deseret News, 1/06/01).

At the hearings in February on the Draft Safety Evaluation Report on the proposal, people spoke to the only Radiation Control Board member present, William Sinclair. Comments made to the "Board" included: 1) You would be risking the public health if you support allowing nuclear waste to be stored in an earthquake zone; 2) You would be transferring financial liabilities to Utahns if you choose to approve the proposal.

Especially since the public is aware that "low level" waste is a misnomer for "high risk" waste that should be reclassified as "high level," the public has been insisting that the proposal by Envirocare follow schedules that honor the public process.

However, lawmakers may choose to vote

on Envirocare during a special session this summer!

It is well known that during the past two years, Envirocare has made political contributions on an unprecedented level (Deseret News, 10/10/01). The public has also learned that Utah is charging fees many times less than "market value" for storing radioactive waste (Deseret News, 2/09/01), and that this is likely the reason we are being targeted.

Given that Utah wishes to maintain an image of being an attractive and family-oriented state, especially with the world focused on our Capitol City, our legislators should represent their constituents and enact legislation that says, "Don't target our state!"

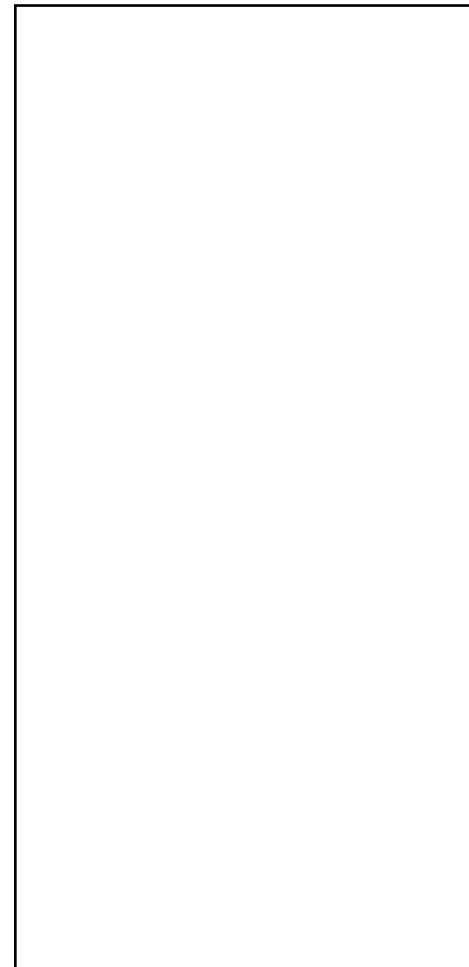
What is the bottom line for Utah? Ultimately, ownership of the Tooele facility would be transferred to the State of Utah or the Federal Government, i.e., the taxpayers. In the wake of learning that large amounts of Plutonium had been buried at the ostensibly "low level" waste facility in Beatty, NV (Las Vegas SUN, 6/26/98), in 2001, California said "No!" to opening a waste repository in Ward Valley (www.banwaste.envirolink.org). The only facilities that currently accept similar waste are located in Richland, WA, and Barnwell, SC. Public pressure to refuse to take waste at these facilities has been mounting.

Since the nation's some-100 nuclear power plants are due to be decommissioned, Utah would facilitate

waste being transported across the country on an unprecedented scale if lawmakers allow Envirocare to take higher level wastes. (See cbsnews.com and look for the May 15th 60 Minutes II feature story on railroad accidents, then go to the link, "Railwatch" for details on rail accidents involving toxic materials.)

From a strategic standpoint: It is *no* accident that the Beatty dump is adjacent to Yucca Mountain. Nor is it any accident that Beatty and Yucca Mountain are on or near Indian Reservation Lands and homelands. If Utah political leaders want to succeed in the campaign to keep nuclear waste out of Skull Valley, they can't promote dumping nuclear waste next to Skull Valley!

Watch for alerts on these web sites: sierraclub.org/chapter/ut, and fair-utah.org. Send questions or comments to rwkirkpatrick@yahoo.com. ■



Adams Canyon Waterfall - 1/2 mile from trailhead.
Photo by Ron Younger, April 17, 2000

Bush-Cheney Energy Plan

continued from page 03

would be about 40% higher today, without the efficiency improvements that were initiated in the 1970's. Unfortunately, the plan is extremely vague about the role of improved efficiency in the future. But because efficiency is so cost-effective, we should hope for another 40% improvement over the next generation. Provided, of course, that Bush and Cheney don't get in the way.

For more information, see the following web sites:

www.whitehouse.gov/energy/

(text of the Bush/Cheney report)

www.sierraclub.org/energy/

(Sierra Club energy website)

www.wilderness.org/eyewash/energy/
(Effects of the Bush/Cheney plan on public lands, from The Wilderness Society)

www.lawfund.org

(Land and Water Fund of the Rockies-- how the Bush/Cheney plan would affect our region)

www.tellus.org/energy/publications/nichols1.pdf
(The Tellus Institute report on energy efficiency in Utah)

Trip Talk

by Bee Lufkin

Car trip to Lehman Cave and the Great Basin National Park.



This trip was co-listed with the Sierra Club on Wasatch Mountain Club. The Participants were a mix of both clubs. The Sierra Club participation gave a bit more of a consertavite twist than usual with Wasatch Mountain Club activities. We drove down the Saturday morning of the President's Day holiday with some people car-pooling from Tooele, some from Salt Lake. The group began to gather on the highway outside of Delta or in Baker, Nevada at the motel. The trip leader, Jurt Alloway, stopped the caravan at points along the way and pointed out peaks with associated hikes of interest e.g. Notch Peak) and a few stories.

At the visitor center we met Roberta Moore, the Great Basin National Park Interpreter, who gave us a personalized tour of Lehman Cave. it was a fabulous extensive tour of an amazing cave. Afterwards we met with Neal Darby, Great Basin National Park Wildlife Biologist, and heard him speak about his experiences as the first Wildlife Biologist at the park. He described the inventory of species in the park that he managed as well as the reintroduction of some native species that have been extirpated.

Baker, Nevada, has one bar for every twenty people so our social group dinner Saturday evening at the Outlaw Cafe (great burgers) helped the city's numbers. The next morning we broke into three groups to pursue various activities. The showshoe group was led by Tad M. John Free and his partner led the cross-country skiers. The hikers were independent. All had a wonderful time and reluctantly left this gorgeous place to return home. The trip was very well organized with lots of information from the trip leader about what to expect up front.

Participants were: Kathy Woodbury, Peter Hansen, Lynn Karr, Mike Allred, Scott Edwards, Stephen skartred, L.E. May, Carla Tuke, Dianna Reminton, Carole Murnin, Silvana Pulca, Kelly Buckley, Claudia Bauleth, and the leader, Kurt Alloway. ■

Utahn's and Energy Policy: Over Whose Dead Body?

continued from page 05

\$3000 to \$4000 to build, with new natural gas-fired plants costing \$400 to \$600 per kilowatt and wind turbines \$1000 per kilowatt. Public Citizen reported in 1998 that 42 of the 108 then operating nuclear power reactors are more expensive to operate and maintain than the cost of replacement power in their own regions. No utility company has ordered a new reactor for more than two decades because they can't compete in a deregulated energy environment, and 89% of 400 utility executives surveyed in 1996 said they would not consider doing so. Most of these execs recall the WHOOPS financial meltdown in Washington state,

and are well aware of the \$28 billion bailout (disguised as deregulation) of California's nuclear utilities' "stranded costs."

The Cheney-Bush energy package calls for renewal of the Price-Anderson Act, which limits the liability of the nuclear Industry in the event of an accident. Taxpayers would pick up the tab above \$7 billion (a serious accident could result in more than \$300 billion in damages). Without that public subsidy shielding their liability, not even the most pro-nuclear utility would dream of building or operating a new reactor. Limited liability should sound familiar to our PFS-watchers in Congress.

Lastly, in spite of industry claims to the contrary, the risks of a catastrophic reactor accident are still quite real. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission testified in 1986 that there was a 45% chance of a meltdown at a U.S. reactor by 2006. In 1994, former NRC Chairman Ivan Selin stated that economic pressures give utilities "incentive to cut corners" with safety, increasing the potential for accidents.

"If Utah's leadership supports the nuclear initiatives of the Administration's energy plan, they may some day have to look in the mirror and ask, "over whose dead bodies?" ■

Utah Chapter Needs Nominees for Executive Committee

The Nominating Committee is currently seeking candidates to run in the upcoming fall ExCom election. Candidates should be able to serve for a two-year term beginning in January, attending bimonthly meetings (normally on Saturdays) and occasionally conducting business by phone or email.

If you would like to be a candidate, please submit a ballot statement of no more than 150 words which outlines your experience, qualifications, and what you wish to accomplish by serving on the ExCom. Include a phone number and/or email address where members can contact you for more information.

Send your name and ballot statement to: Nominating Committee, Utah Chapter Sierra Club, 2273 S Highland Drive, Suite 2D, Salt Lake City, Utah 84106-2832. You can also email the information to any

member of the nominating committee: Jean Binyon, Claire Gardner, Wayne Hoskisson, or Dan Schroeder (see page 15 for email addresses). Nominations for this year's election must be submitted by August 15.

The Salt Lake, Ogden, and Glen Canyon Groups are likewise governed by ExComs of elected volunteers. Contact any of the group officers listed on page 15 to find out how to run for your group's ExCom. ■

Meet Your Local Chapter?
Ad

Your Chapter Needs You!

Volunteers are needed in all areas: issues, outings, administrative work, and chapter governance. Whatever your level of experience or skill, there are always ways that you can contribute.

Conservation issues: To work with the Sierra Club on a conservation issue of interest to you, please contact Chapter Conservation Chair Scott Endicott, or the group conservation chair in your area (see list of officers on page [FILL IN PAGE NUMBER]).

Outings: If you would like to lead a Club outing, contact the Outings Chair in your local area (see list of officers on page [FILL IN PAGE NUMBER]).

Administrative work: We can always use help in the chapter office, located at 2273 Highland Drive, #2D, in the Sugarhouse neighborhood of Salt Lake City.

Please contact Amber Ayers (801-467-9297, amber.ayers@sierraclub.org) if you would like to volunteer.

Chapter governance: The Utah Chapter is governed by a volunteer Executive Committee (ExCom) consisting of eight elected members plus an appointed representative from each official group. ExCom meetings, open to all Club members, are held bimonthly, usually on Saturdays; upcoming meetings this year will be on July 14, September 8, and November 10. Call 801-467-9297 for meeting times and places. ■

“Man can lose his ability even to survive in the natural environment by lack of contact with it. I like to keep my hand in and be sure that even though I utilize asphalt and the gasoline engine, I haven't sold myself to them.”

— P.T. Reilly

Have You Been A Recent Victim of Multiple Mailings?

The Utah Wilderness Coalition (ie the Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club, the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, the Wasatch Mountain Club, and other groups) periodically sends out conservation alerts on public lands issues. We do “merge and purge” the membership lists of the member groups, to save on paper and postage. However, the computer only deletes exact duplicates. This means that if your name is listed as “Jane Doe” on one organization's membership list and “Ms. J. Doe” on another, you'll get duplicate mailings. The best way to prevent this is to make sure that both your name and your address are listed exactly the same way with all the local and national environmental groups to which you belong (The Wilderness Society and National Parks and Conservation Association are both members of the UWC, but do not have local offices). Sorry for the bother. If you do get extras, why not share them with friends, relatives and neighbors! ■



Statement of Purpose

“To explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the Earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the Earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.”

Utah Sierra Club Leader Directory

Utah Chapter Volunteer Leaders

Chair: Nina Dougherty, 801-322-4610, nina@inconnect.com

Vice-Chair: Tony Guay, 801-487-4650, tpguay@hotmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer: Dan Schroeder, 801-393-4603, dschroeder@weber.edu

Conservation Chair: Scott Endicott, 801-596-1325, scott.endicott@cores.utah.edu

Fundraising Chair: Nikki Sharp, 801-296-6316, nikki@utahpet3.org

Membership Chair: Teri Underwood, 801-484-3132, diethelp@home.com

Political Chair: Claire Gardner, 801-583-1650, cgardner@media.utah.edu

Public Lands: Wayne Hoskisson, 435-259-0328, wayne@moci.net

Air Quality/Transportation: Nina Dougherty, 801-322-4610, nina@inconnect.com

Nuclear/Hazardous Waste: Cindy King, 801-486-9848, cynthia_king_84109@yahoo.com

Newsletter Layout: Andrea May, 801-771-9104, amay110468@aol.com

Note: Please send all e-mail to the Chapter Coordinator: Amber Ayers, 801-467-9297, amber.ayers@sierraclub.org for approval.

Staff

Chapter Coordinator: Amber Ayers, 801-467-9297, amber.ayers@sierraclub.org

Southwest Regional Representative: Lawson Legate, 801-467-9294, lawson.legate@sierraclub.org

Associate Regional Representative: Marc Heilesen, 801-467-9294, marc.heilesen@sierraclub.org

Glen Canyon Group (SE Utah)

Chair: John Weisheit, 435-259-8077, john@drainit.org

Vice-Chair: Jean Binyon, 435-259-1633, binyon@lasal.net

Conservation Chair: Tori Woodard, 435-826-4778, toripat@scinternet.net

Membership Chair: David Orr, 435-259-1063, davidorr@aol.com

Outings Chair: John Weisheit, 435-259-8077, john@drainit.org

Newsletter Editor: Patrick Diehl, 435-826-4778, toripat@scinternet.net

Ogden Group

Chair: Dan Schroeder, 801-393-4603, dschroeder@weber.edu

Vice-Chair: Al Herring, 801-444-9574, al.mary.herring@worldnet.att.net

Conservation Chair: Jock Glidden, 801-394-0457, jglidden@burgoyne.com

Membership Chair: Suzanne Storer, 801-479-5035, ssorer@utah-inter.net

Outings Chair: Mike Morrison, 801-475-4845, ex46driver@networld.com

Newsletter Editor: John Hinds, 801-621-0196, hindsj@webpipe.net

Salt Lake Group

Chair: Dick Dougherty, 801-531-7830, genres@sisna.com

Vice-Chair: Kurt Alloway, 435-882-6888

Conservation Chair: Ann Wechsler, 801-583-2090, awechsler@saff.utah.edu

Outings Chair: Kenneth Evans, 801-484-3112, kcestardust@uswest.net

HR1461 — Alert

by Dave Simon, Outdoor Activities, Sierra Club, dave.simon@sierraclub.org

Two bills in Congress seriously threaten the ability of non-profit institutions to carry out educational and recreational programs on public lands. The first threat, the repeal of a key provision of the 1998 National Parks bill, is the most time-sensitive, so this message will focus on that threat. However, Larry Craig's proposed Outfitter bill is also a significant threat, so you may receive more information about that bill in the coming weeks.

The First Threat — HR1461

HR 1461 has a self-explanatory title -- "To amend the National Parks Omnibus Management Act of 1998 to remove the exemption for non-profit organizations from the general requirement to obtain commercial use authorizations." That is the title, purpose, and content of this bill introduced by Rep. Joel Hefley (R-CO).

Background

Late in the 1998 congressional session, the Congress passed a bill that preserved the right of non-profit organizations to run trips on NPS lands. This bill governs concession and outfitter activities in the parks and exempts non-profits from the requirement to obtain commercial use permits for trips that do not earn taxable income. Unfortunately, while the NPS has reissued many of their regulations affected by the 1998 bill, the NPS has not reissued the key sections related to commercial use permits that would have implemented this exemption. And, continuing the trend of many years, some non-profits are finding it increasingly difficult to obtain access due to commercial classification. This classification puts non-profits in competition for a limited number of permits with established commercial outfitters -- even if no more commercial permits are being issued by a Park and even if the volume and impact of non-profit activity is a small fraction of the commercial outfitter activity. Accordingly, some non-profits have been forced to hire a commercial outfitter in order to gain access to conduct activities for their members.

Now, before the law can ever be properly enacted, Rep. Hefley's bill would cut off the promised relief and permanently burden all non-profits with the likelihood or certainty of reduced access and the certainty of unnecessary paperwork and expense of complying with the regulations designed for large recreational businesses. At a hearing on June 7, both the National Park Service and the Sierra Club testified in opposition to this bill.

So, What Can You Do?

There are several things you can do:

1) Send a letter (on your organization's letterhead if appropriate) to the Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Parks, Recreation and Public Lands, Rep. Joel Hefley (R-CO), copying Rep. Donna Christensen (D-VI), the ranking democrat on the subcommittee. Explain how the Hefley bill would prevent your organization and other non-profit environmental education, children's, and civic groups from working in the National Parks.

Please copy or write a separate letter to your representative. Letters to representatives are especially important if you are represented by a member of the subcommittee (Republicans -- Hefley, Gallegly, Duncan, Gilchrest, Radanovich, Jones, Thornberry, Cannon, Schaffer, Gibbons, Souder, and Simpson; Democrats - Christensen, Kildee, Faleomavaega, Pallone, Udall [NM], Udall [CO], Holt, McGovern, Acevedo-Vila, Solis, McCollum)

2) If you represent an organization, join the Sierra Club and others and get your organization to sign on to the letter below that will be sent to the bill's sponsors and the members of the House Resources Committee.

3) Pass this alert on to other individuals and organizations affected by HR1461.

REFERENCES

The full text of HR 1461 is located at:

[http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d107:h.r.01461:](http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d107:h.r.01461)

The mailing address for Representatives is: The Honorable _____
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Members of Congress
Washington, D.C.

The undersigned organizations oppose HR 1461. This bill seeks to rescind a key provision of the National Parks Omnibus Management Act of 1998. That Act ensured a better balance of backcountry use in the National Parks made by bona fide non-profit institutional groups and the use made by outfitter and guide concessionaires. Over the years, institutional groups that make no taxable income from Park use have been increasingly required to use outfitter and guide concessionaires to access several National Parks. In other cases, these groups have had to compete with for-profit ventures for commercial use authorizations. These requirements are increasingly burdensome for groups without the resources or staff of large commercial outfitters. The reality is that institutional groups and commercial outfitters are not in competition for commercial recreation users. Unlike commercial outfitters, groups conduct far fewer trips involving far fewer visitors to the Parks. And, institutional groups engage in educational and civic activities that are generally not offered by for-profit travel organizations.

These groups have often supported designation of units to the National Park System. And many have even conducted service trips to improve Park resources. It would be ironic and unfair to preclude these institutions from continuing this type of use in the National Park System. These groups have the competence to guide their own trips and do not need the services of concessionaires and guides - and should not be forced to pay for them.

The 1998 Act does not confer a preference for groups nor does the Act lead to misuse of resources, as non-profit institutional groups still must still compete for wilderness permits and must still conduct their trips in accordance with land management plans and regulations. Accordingly, we urge you to reject HR 1461 so that continued existence of valuable children's, educational and civic programs are not endangered.

Signed

HR 1461 -- LETTER TO CONGRESS

Thanks for the donations!

Friends (\$1-19)

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James Allred
Earle Bevins
Phillip Bimstein
Mike & Jean Binyon

John Bogart
Sharon
Christenson
Hal Compton
Ted & Bonnie
Cookson
Dale Davis
Tom Davis
Merrill Day
Sharon Fisher
Diane Fosnocht
Chris Gay
Laura Milliken
Gray
Bill Habel
Emily and
Chauncey Hall
Anne & Joel
Hatch
Wayne Y.
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Jay Jacobson
Vinson Johnson
Christopher R. Jones
Roberta R. Jorgensen
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“Make A Difference
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Al Stevenson
Dan Thorp

Gaurdians (\$250+)

Naomi C. Franklin
Roxane Googin
Al & Mary Herring

Protect Roadless Areas in the Wasatch-Cache National Forest

by Dan Schroeder

From Lone Peak to the Bear River Range, from the Stansbury Mountains to the north slope of the Uintas, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest (WCNF) encompasses much of the wild land in northern Utah, and is constantly under pressure for competing uses in this heavily populated region.

In May, the WCNF issued its long-awaited draft management plan, which will govern activities in the Forest for the next 15 years. The most controversial parts of the plan are the future management of the many roadless areas that are not yet designated as wilderness. Unfortunately, the draft plan would recommend only limited areas for wilderness status, and would allow destructive activities such as motorized recreation to continue and increase in many roadless areas.

Now is your chance to speak up on behalf of these roadless areas! The Forest Service is hosting open houses for public questions and comments, in various locations. Most of the open houses will be over by the time you read this, but two still remain:

Monday, July 9, 5 to 8 pm, City Building (170 N Main), Kamas;
 Tuesday, July 10, 5 to 8 pm, County Court House (47 S Main), Tootle.

In late August, oral comment meetings will be held (at locations yet to be announced) in Salt Lake City (8/28) and Logan (8/30). Written comments on the draft plan will be accepted until September 1. They may be sent to Pam Gardiner, Acting Forest Supervisor, Wasatch-Cache National Forest, 8236 Federal Building, 125 S. State Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84138. You can also email comments (or questions) to kamurray@fs.fed.us.

You can read the draft plan and much related information at the WCNF web site, www.fs.fed.us/wcnf.

Please make your voice heard!

Welcome, Amber!

by Nina Dougherty, Chair, Utah Chapter

Please welcome Amber Ayers as the new face and voice in the Utah Office of the Sierra Club. Amber started work on May 9 half time as Coordinator for the Utah Chapter and half time as Administrative Assistant for the Southwest Field Office.

While Amber is new to the Sierra Club staff, she is a familiar face. She has been an active Sierra Club member.

Amber was born and raised in Utah, spending much of her childhood along the shores of the Great Salt Lake. The environmental threats posed by the Legacy Highway are what initially led her to join the Sierra Club and to become

involved in the Legacy Highway campaign. She attended public hearings on the Legacy Highway, "Roadless Forests," and the Wolf Restoration Project. At the Legacy Highway public hearing in Woods Cross last fall, Amber was interviewed by Fox 13. Amber was one of the candidates in last year's election for the Utah Chapter Executive Committee.

Amber is passionate about preserving wild places and a healthy earth. She also has the requisite experience and computer skills for the two jobs, and is a great worker. She is excited to be a member of the Sierra Club staff and we are glad to have her. Welcome aboard, Amber! ■

Thank You, Linda!

By Nina Dougherty, Chair and Ann Wechsler, Immediate Past Chair, Utah Chapter of Sierra Club

What can one say when the mainstay of the chapter leaves her position after 13 years? First, "No, you can't do it!" Then, as it's apparent it's really going to happen, "Good luck and thank you, thank you, thank you!"

Linda Wilburn resigned from the Utah Chapter Coordinator position in May after 13 years of being the backbone of the Utah Chapter. Volunteers have come and gone, and yet the Chapter has thrived. This has been possible because Linda provided the needed continuity over the years as she ably took care of the daily business, patiently answered or referred thousands of requests for environmental information, helped the chapter volunteer leaders to meet their obligations, generally kept the Chapter on track and handled a myriad of other matters.

Linda is humble about her background and capabilities. She holds a Ph.D. in neuro-endocrinology but chose not to pursue work in that field because it would have meant a lifetime of research. Instead, she returned from the University of California at San Francisco and began devoting her time to volunteering for the Sierra Club. Her loyalty goes well beyond our circle of activists. She is devoted to her family (her paternal grandmother is now over 100 and she has enriched her life enormously). Her loyalties beyond her family extend to animals. She was regularly feeding and nurturing a homeless cat outside the Sierra Club office - a task which is not in the job description.

Those of us who know her well are not saying goodbye; we're saying "good luck" and hope to continue as the beneficiaries of her friendship, dedication, and loyalty to those around her. ■

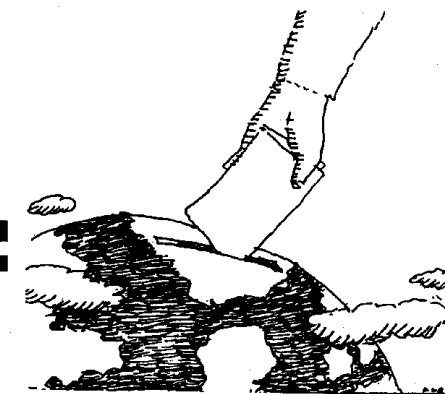
Send a Letter to the Editor



One of the best ways we can get our message out on the environment is through having letters to the editor published in your local paper. This is one of the best read parts of the paper, and you can bet that your member of Congress pays attention to letter to the editor in his or her local paper.

1. Send one in. If you don't mail it, they can't publish it. Don't let another day go by...send your letter in today.
2. Check out what your local paper prints in the letters column. You will probably find some similarities. Try to incorporate some of these features in your letter.
3. Try to reference an article or editorial that has appeared in the paper. It may not always be easy to find an appropriate segue into the point you want to make, but it is worth trying.
4. Keep your letter short, 250 words, or better yet, even fewer.
5. Make your local, personal, specific.
6. Be sure that your letter is well written and easy to read.
7. If your first letter doesn't get published send in another one.
8. If you are not able to get a letter published in the big daily, try a smaller circulation weekly. ■

Express Yourself



To make your voice count on environmental issues, write or call your U.S. senators and representatives at:

Your Congressperson:
 (Dear Representative _____)

1st District:
 The Honorable James Hansen
 2466 Rayburn House Office Bldg.

Washington, DC 20515
 (202) 225-0453

2nd District:
 The Honorable James Matheson
 1431 Longworth House Office Bldg.

Washington, DC 20515
 (202) 225-3011

3rd District:
 The Honorable Christopher Cannon
 118 Cannon House Office Bldg. (202) 225-7751

Your two Senators:
 (Dear Senator _____)

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
 131 Russell Bldg.
 Washington, DC 20510
 (202) 224-5251

The Honorable Robert Bennett
 431 Dirksen Bldg.
 Washington, DC 20510
 (202) 224-5444

President George W. Bush
 (Dear Mr. President)
 The White House
 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
 Washington, DC 20500
 (202) 456-1111
president@whitehouse.gov

White House Comment Line
 (202) 224-3121

Vice President Dick Cheney
 The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
 Washington, DC 20500
vice.president@whitehouse.gov

Generic addresses to give your out-of-state friends and family when encouraging them to write or call their senators and representatives:

The Honorable _____
 House Office Bldg.
 Washington, DC 20515

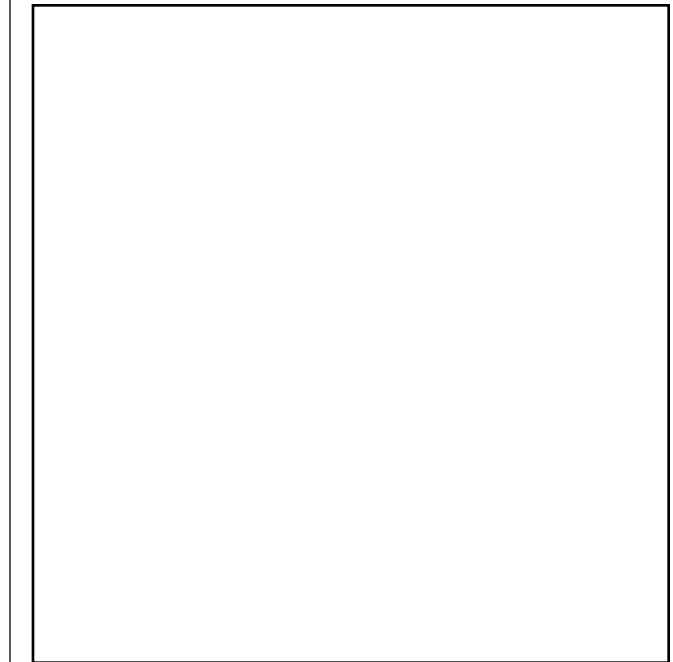
The Honorable _____
 Senate Office Bldg.
 Washington, DC 20510

US Capitol Switchboard
 (202) 224-3121

For writing a letter to the editor (read by thousands whom you may be able to educate/influence and closely monitored by elected officials):

Public Forum, Salt Lake Tribune
 PO Box 867, SLC, UT 84110

Reader's Forum, Deseret News
 PO Box 1257, SLC, UT 84110



Middle Fork Mskrat Canyon, Stansbury Mountain, Arrow Leaf Balsam Root in Flower. Photo by Karen Marshall, May 13, 2001