



# Utah Sierran

www.utah.sierraclub.org

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## Energy Issue

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## Utah Chapter Sierra Club

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## On The Web

### Utah Chapter

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

### Sierra Club Homepage

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

### Utah Wilderness

<http://www.uwcoalition.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/>

### Volunteer Opportunities

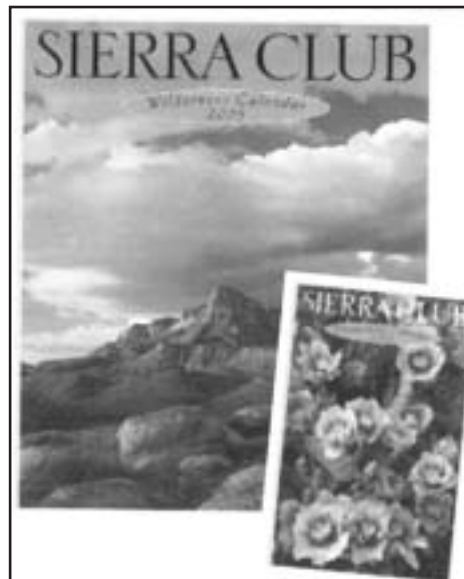
<http://utah.sierraclub.org/questionnaire.asp>



**Cover Photo:** The so-called Baneberry test involved a 10-kiloton weapon that was detonated approximately 900 feet underground and blew out. The picture was used in a *Scientific American* article with the note, "This surface venting testifies to the difficulties involved in containing subterranean detonations." **Courtesy of National Nuclear Security Administration, Nevada Site Office.**

## 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."**



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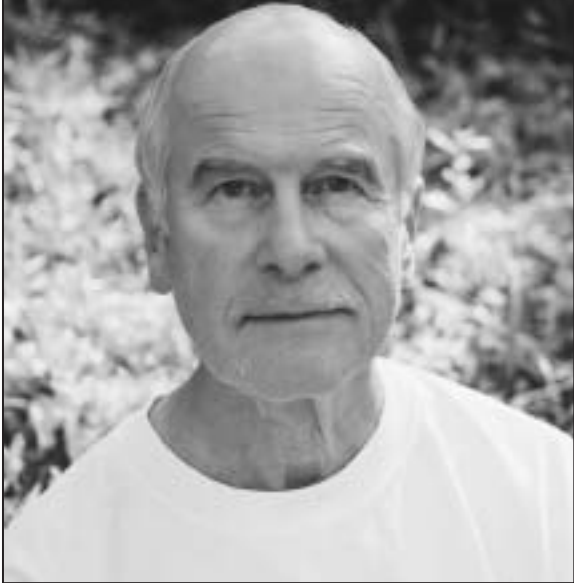
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# ALL AI

by Al Herring, Chapter Chair



*Al Herring, Chapter Chair*

Nuclear weapons, nuclear power plants, and radioactive waste storage are, to say the least, hot issues. This is especially true in Utah where so many people were downwinders of nuclear tests performed in Nevada not so many decades ago, and where PFS and Envirocare keep the pot boiling with efforts to store hotter wastes in Utah. And now we have the escalating battle over future disposal of high-level nuclear wastes (much of which would pass through Utah) at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, and the possibility of resumed testing of nuclear weapons at the Nevada Test Site to develop a new generation of mini-nukes and underground bunker busters. Other issues of concern to Utah Sierra Club members are the storage and treatment of radioactive materials at the White Mesa mill, and how to deal with tailings from the Atlas uranium mill on the banks of the Colorado River in Moab.

Because of all these issues, chapter leaders selected nuclear wastes as one of our top five conservation priorities for the year. Articles contained in this issue of the Utah Sierran will show what our some of our activists are doing to address these concerns and how you can get involved.

People have asked me in the past about Sierra Club policy on nuclear issues, mistakenly thinking that the Utah

Chapter Chair is a walking repository of such knowledge. Wrong! But I have been working to educate myself by checking Sierra Club resources on the internet. Let me share what I found.

First off, it takes a bit of searching. Go to the Club's home page at <http://sierraclub.org/> and then follow the path: Select an Issue >> More Issues >> Nuclear Waste >> Sierra Club Policies on Nuclear Issues. There you will find policies on high-level and low-level radioactive waste, nuclear weapons, nuclear power, decommissioning nuclear reactors, and a few other topics.

I was a bit surprised to see that the newest of these policies was dated 1991, with most of them going back to the 1970's and 80's. I suppose this reflects the heightened concern over nuclear

Mile Island days. Nevertheless, the policies struck me as still perfectly appropriate. For example, "The Sierra Club supports an international ban on all nuclear testing of bombs, including explosions underground" (1972); and the Sierra Club "urges all nations by bilateral and multilateral agreements to halt any further development, testing, and further deployment of nuclear weapons" (1981).

I also read the policies regarding nuclear power generation with interest. A key policy from 1974 states: "The Sierra Club opposes the licensing, construction and operation of new nuclear reactors utilizing the fission process, pending: (1) Development of adequate national and global policies to curb energy over-use and unnecessary economic growth. (2) Resolution of the significant safety problems inherent in reactor operation, disposal of spent fuels, and possible diversion of nuclear materials capable of use in weapons manufacture. (3) Establishment of adequate regulatory machinery to guarantee adherence to the foregoing conditions."

If I may paraphrase, thirty years ago the Sierra Club took the position that it is not opposed to nuclear power plants per se but did essentially say, "Don't put the cart before the horse." I think this was—and is—an enlightened position. The day may yet come when people decide that the benefits of nuclear power (especially the benefit of

not corrupting the earth's atmosphere with climate-changing gasses) outweigh the risks, if conservation, safety, and environmental concerns have first been realistically addressed.

As announced elsewhere in this issue, I am extremely pleased that our Utah Smart Energy Campaign is now under way (thanks to funding from the Western Clean Energy Coalition) with Tim Wagner in the role of coordinator. This effort is aimed at finding clean and renewable alternatives to new or expanded coal-fired plants in Utah.

Coal is about the dirtiest fuel on the planet. Its only advantage is that it is plentiful and cheap. Contaminants pumped into the atmosphere by burning coal include particulates (causing respiratory problems in some people and haze problems in all our western National Parks), sulfur and nitrogen gases (the cause of acid rain), carbon dioxide (a leading cause of global warming), and mercury (a dangerous toxin). But coal-fired power plants release something else that most people never think about: radioactive elements.

Worried about radioactivity? Then worry about coal. Coal contains significant amounts of naturally-occurring uranium, radium, thorium, and polonium. During burning these radioactive elements are either released into the atmosphere or they end up in fly ash that is disposed of as solid waste. These radioactive releases are basically unregulated and unreported because the levels are low. However, as Robert Morris has written, "Surprisingly, coal-burning power plants release several hundred times more radioactivity per day than do nuclear power plants." We may not see or read about radioactive releases from the coal-burning power plants, but they are there, day after day after day.

Does Utah need more coal-burning power plants? A Balanced Energy Plan for the Interior West, published earlier this year by Western Resource Advocates, answers this question with a resounding NO! By generating additional energy from renewable resources and combined heat and power projects, together with improved energy efficiency, we could actually lessen our dependence on coal-burning plants, lower consumer costs, and reduce air pollutants (including those radioactive culprits). Does Utah need more coal-burning power plants? I think not.

A brief and gentle postscript. I hope you will have voted as a citizen when you read this. Please exercise your right as a Utah Chapter member and vote in our chapter elections. You'll find the candidates' statements beginning on page 15.

# Nuclear Madness

by Mendel Peterson, PE, retired

Forty years of bipartisan effort in the United States and world community with respect to arms control and the Non Proliferation Treaty are in jeopardy. Resumption of testing of a new class of mini nuclear bombs at the Nevada test site appears certain. Is this a replay of a bad movie? No, unbelievably it is real

We are developing the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator (RNEP). It is a mini nuclear bomb in the kiloton range. An article in the August 2004 issue of Scientific American discusses why the administration wants it, what it does, and the concerns of scientists and arms control experts.

According to the article, the current administration sought repeal of the 1993 Spratt-Furse ban prohibiting development of small yield nuclear bombs. The law was repealed in May 2003 in a near party-line vote.

"Under the auspices of the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration, \$6.1 million was spent in 2003 for research on an RNEP bomb, followed by another \$7.5 million in 2004. The administration plans to raise these appropriations sharply and spend \$484.7 million between 2005 and 2009....To many observers, these substantial spending allocations and this breadth of research suggest that the administration has already tacitly committed to building RNEPs and is actively considering developing other types of nuclear bombs." ("Nuclear Bunker Buster Bombs,"

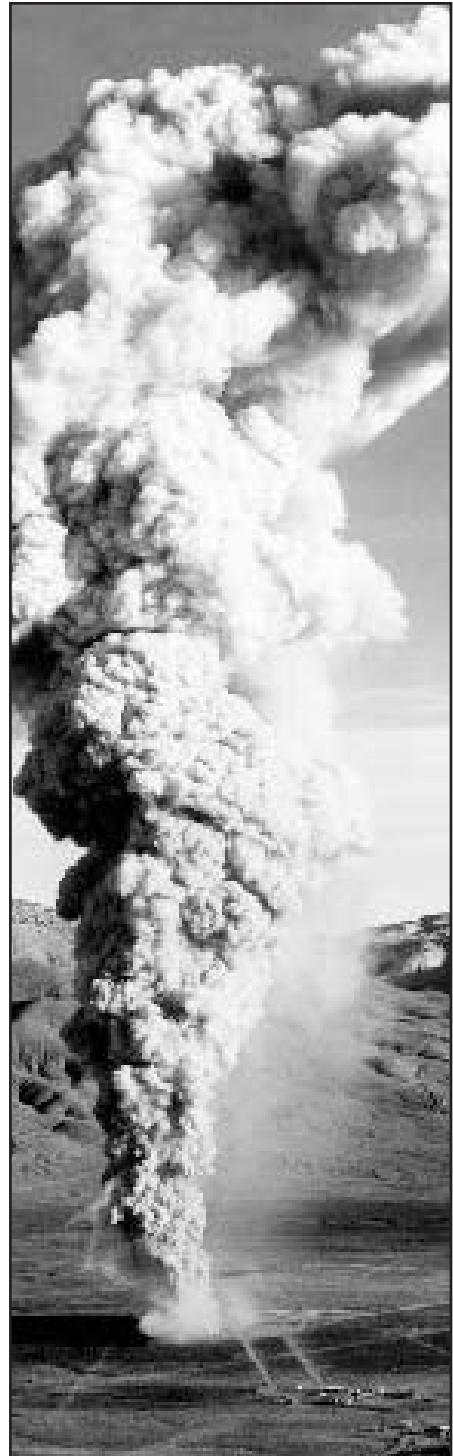
Michael Levi, Scientific American, August 2004, p 68)

Program funds in 2004 were \$48.2 million consisting of \$7.5m for RNEP, \$6.0m Advance Concepts, \$10.0m Modern Pit Facility for manufacture of plutonium cores, and \$24.7m Site Readiness at Nevada. Requests for 2005 funds in the above order are \$27.5m, \$9.0m, \$29.8m and \$30m for a total of \$96.3 million.

Claims of limited size and limited collateral damage of RNEP make many worry about the temptation to use these nuclear bombs. However if RNEP were used against an underground bunker, there would be extensive deaths from both intensive radiation within 5 miles of the blast and downwind from low-level fallout.

In his article Michael Levi says, "Consider a one-kiloton bunker buster bomb set off at a relatively shallow depth – less than 10 meters– in wind conditions averaging 10 kilometers an hour....If it takes six hours for people in the vicinity to evacuate, then calculations show that nearly everyone downwind of the blast within approximately five kilometers would still be killed by fallout, and half the inhabitants eight kilometers away would die. Only if the nearest population center is 10 or more kilometers downwind will the fallout lead to few if any rapid fatalities." Rapid fatalities means kill outright from the intense radiation.

In his article, Levi notes those living downwind within 70 kilometers would



*The so-called Baneberry test involved a 10-kiloton weapon that was detonated approximately 900 feet underground and blew out. The picture was used in a Scientific American article with the note, "This surface venting testifies to the difficulties involved in containing subterranean detonations." Courtesy of National Nuclear Security Administration, Nevada Site Office.*

need to evacuate for months or years or become "rapid fatalities" from the radiation. However, he says nothing about the thousands who would die and suffer the effects of low-level radiation: induced cancers, infant deaths, stillbirths, deformities and mutations.

Haven't we learned yet there are more than rapid fatalities? The military planners forget to count the downwind fatalities as in the case of Nevada test site.

Is RNEP to fight terrorism? The first lesson we learned in Iraq was command and other high value targets were located near civilians, hospitals, mosques, and religious shrines. Can you imagine what would have happened if we used the RNEP in Iraq? We would have killed tens of thousands of civilians with nuclear radiation and thousands more from the low-level fallout. We would have rationalized the use of nuclear weapons by terrorists and others. If we ever use RNEP to fight terrorist, it will be the worst day in our history.

Senator Bennett (UT) voted for the 2004 program. However, the senator claims he did not vote for resumption of nuclear tests in Nevada. The senator says there is no need to test the current bunker buster bombs, there are controls on the development of the RNEP, and the present administration honors the 1992 moratorium on underground testing. He is correct as far as he goes.

On the need for testing, it is true we currently have megaton range bunker busters for which the warheads are being redesigned for deeper penetration. The new hardware can be tested without the need to detonate a nuclear bomb.

The RNEP is a new class of mini nuclear bombs and needs to be tested.

However, scientists who know RNEP say the bomb cannot be safely tested.

With respect to resumption of testing, Senator Bennett is introducing bill S 2777 requiring an act of congress to authorize resumption of underground testing. However, as with the Spratt-Furse's ban on mini nukes, if enacted the ban could be swept away. Additional protections include environmental impact statements, public hearings, advance warnings, etc. We are given a wall of words to protect us against blowouts and nuclear fallout. The only real protection

is to stop funding the RNEP.

There is a little good news. Requests for 2005 funds for the RNEP in the House subcommittee were rejected. However, voting in the Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee has been delayed probably until after the elections.

The battles have just started. Please write or call your congressmen. It doesn't matter if they are Republicans or Democrats or on the subcommittees. We need all congressmen and senators of conscience to speak out on this.

It is time to stop the nuclear madness.

### Senate and House Energy and Water Appropriations Sub-committee

Republicans	Democrats
Pete Domenici (NM) - Chairman	Robert Byrd (WV)
Thad Cochran (MS)	Ernest Hollings (SC)
Robert Bennett (UT)	Patty Murray (WA)
Conrad Burns (MT)	Byron Dorgan (ND)
Larry Craig (ID)	Diane Feinstein (CA)
Christopher bond (MO)	
Harry Reid (NV) - Ranking Member	

### House Energy and Water Sub-committee

Majority Members	Minority Members
David L. Hobson, OH (R - Chairman)	(D - Ranking Member)
Rodney P. Frelinghuysen, NJ (R)	Chet Edwards, TX (D)
Tom Latham, IA (R)	Ed Pastor, AZ (D)
Zach Wamp, TN (R - Vice Chair)	James E. Clyburn, SC (D)
Jo Ann Emerson, MO (R)	Marion Berry, AR (D)
John Doolittle, CA (R)	
John E. Peterson, PA (R)	
Michael K. Simpson, ID (R)	
Peter J. Visclosky, IN	

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# Renewable Energy on Public Lands?

## BLM Wind Energy Study Asks for Public Comment

by Ivan Weber

This is a question we've neglected.

We need to talk.

### Cost of Carbon

We've paid the premium for convenient hydrocarbon energy, all along, in human health impacts, urban air quality degradation, regional haze, acid rain, direct fossil fuel extraction impacts, roads where no roads would otherwise be, boom-and-bust local economies—on and on. Under the second Bush administration, oil has even taken us to war in Iraq, likely to cost US taxpayers hundreds of billions of dollars, and more than a thousand US lives. Stimulating almost universal fears of terrorism that one could argue are side-effects of oil dependence, America's carbon empire threatens to spread far and wide, employing preemptive war doctrines and other policies invented and invoked by the current Oil Patch Presidency to justify whatever seems expedient for the carbon-gluttonous mega-corporations that prop up the Republican congress and the presidency. When public funds made precious by economic slowdown are diverted to the machinery of war over oil on the far side of the world, the true cost of our carbon economy begins to emerge. Mix \$50/barrel crude, \$2+/gallon gasoline and diesel for \$2.10/gallon and rising, nationally, and the critical public eye turns to our energy paradigm again, for the first time since the mid-1970s. Money talks.



### Global Climate Change Screams

Despite the Bush administration's refusal of the Kyoto Protocol, worldwide agreement may be given binding force if Russia endorses the pact, as now appears likely. Science supporting global warming veracity has snowballed as glaciers and ice sheets have melted, and a landmark analysis of climate change implications for the Rocky Mountain/Great Basin region has warned of dire consequences for our own region, especially for water resources and water as a 'carrying capacity' constraint.

Loss of snowpack-as-storage, increased wildfires, plant community shifts toward Southwestern floral assemblages, rapid onset of desert conditions where semi-desert has historically prevailed, mudslides, flashfloods, and possible Great Salt Lake level fluctuations (down and up) beyond the range of historical variability: These and other effects may imply future costs of carbon dependent economies far beyond our ability to "get used to it," in the words of President Dubya. But money talks. Soaring oil prices may, at long last, stimulate investment in energy conservation, efficiency of equipment, buildings and industrial processes, and even in industrial agriculture's use of petroleum-derived chemicals.

### Government Leadership? Ain't That One uh Them Oxymorons?

It's always hard to say what's driving the Bureau of Land Management. Still, BLM has recently posted a very elaborate and extensive programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS) for wind energy development on BLM's 260 million+ acres of public lands. Using GIS mapping, BLM applied basic site-appropriateness parameters to propose wind energy development locations for further screening. Combined with electrical power grid information, a spotty pattern was identified through areas with both sufficient wind and sufficient proximity to the power grid (25 miles each way, as a general rule). Of Utah's 23 million acres of BLM lands, only a very small percentage was identified as potentially worth further study—still a very significant potential resource. One of a series of scoping meetings on the PEIS was held in SLC last November.

The Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) was interested, and has since acted on that interest to explore wind energy as a sustainable revenue stream for schools—a lesson worth teaching to our children. Just as federal government agencies have quietly led the charge toward highly energy efficient buildings, it seems appropriate that federal agencies take the lead toward a renewables-based economic future.

### No More Bird-o-matic

Obviously, screening criteria beyond wind and transmission feasibility need to be applied, with caution. The PEIS website summarizes those considerations very well. Wind generator technology has improved very dra-

matically in the past 20 years, becoming more dependable, more efficient, safer, less vulnerable to mechanical failure, less costly, less noisy and less likely to kill birds. Far larger than in the past, generators are higher and use blades that are enormously longer. Geared down by many factors, blades move comparatively slowly, greatly reducing bird kills. By reducing or eliminating perching and nesting opportunities, wind generator structures further cut avian mortality by reducing the attraction for raptors to be in harm's way. Still, it may not make sense to place wind generators in critical migratory bird pathways, especially areas seasonally frequented by raptors. This realization should be balanced by visualization of a landscape altered by climate change impacts if we fail to shift away from carbon energy.

**Eyesore, or Delight?**

In view areas, wind generators may not be appropriate, though many of us argue that they beat looking at smokestacks. The same is true of solar-photovoltaic arrays, such as those at Dangling Rope Marina or Rainbow Bridges National Park; solar-thermal installations like



the SEGS projects in southern California; or other developing forms of solar energy. For example, to some, there may be beauty in the prospect of seeing the lands around Page, Arizona's Glen Canyon Dam covered with thousands of acres of solar PV panels, IF this is conducive to dam decommissioning AND the consequent green energy can replace all the dam's power output in daylight hours, producing valuable peak energy in the bargain.


**What's Possible That Is Also Sustainable?**

Are there not, among Utah's Colorado Plateau and Great Basin canyons, plateaus, valleys and ridges, some certain, identifiable BLM

lands on which 1) wind resources are adequate AND 2) transmission grids are nearby AND 3) bird mortality for a given generator technology is low AND 4) viewsheds are not unacceptably impaired AND 5) generator noise is not excessive? Are we at the point at which we are sufficiently concerned about global climate change, urban air quality, regional haze, regional acid deposition, and other consequences of burning fossil fuels to think this through, talk this through.

**Wind PEIS Comments**


Please review the programmatic EIS, most easily accessed at the following URL: <http://www.windeis.anl.gov/eis/index.cfm>. Comments are solicited in accordance with instructions at <http://www.windeis.anl.gov/involve/index.cfm> until December 10, 2004. The web-based materials are extensive and provide links of great utility for understanding the state of wind generation today. These are not your father's windmills, and this is not your father's planet. Perhaps, through taking this step responsibly, we can turn it part way back that direction.



America needs a smart energy policy that increases our energy security and protects the environment. There is a better way. Congress should pass legislation that cuts our country's dependence on oil, increases our use of clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power, protects our public lands, and modernizes the electricity grid to prevent future blackouts.

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**Explore, enjoy and protect the planet**

# Bill Van Moorhem – Dedicated Outings Leader

by Ann Wechsler

The Salt Lake Group Outings Program will miss Bill Van Moorhem. He and his wife Julie, and an assortment of automobiles, are relocating to Oregon, a state he sees as environmentally friendly and more favorably aligned with his political views than his Utah home of more than 30 years. Bill has been a Sierra Club member for 35 years, and has participated in outings with the Salt Lake Group of the Chapter since the mid-1980s.

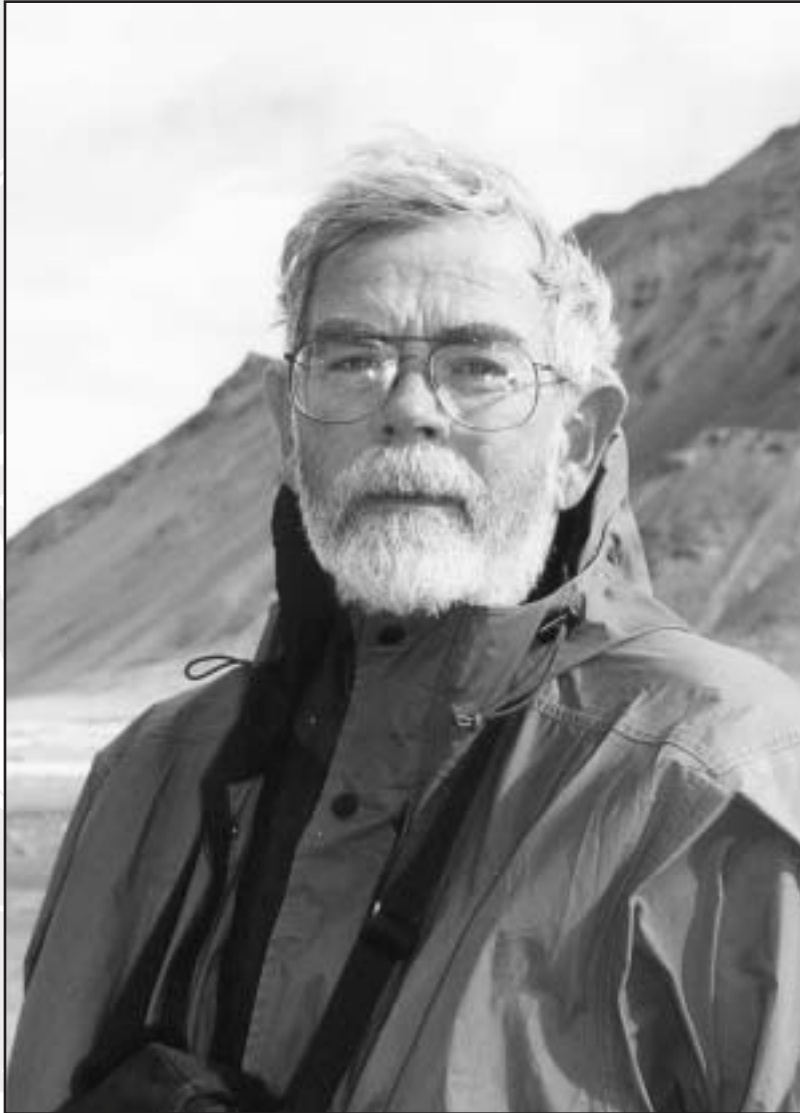
Hardly a Tuesday night summer hike went by without Bill participating in or leading it, or filling in for another leader with a last minute conflict. In winter, we followed his lead into the backcountry blizzards to attempt to telemark, a futile effort on my part but fun nonetheless. As snowshoeing became more popular among our Group participants, more leaders emerged and the club became less dependent on Bill. But he still "nagged" us into providing first aid training for outings leaders, ably conducted by Rebecca Wallace last winter, and was always available for the quarterly planning meetings. Oh, those tedious newsletter deadlines!

Bill's outdoor interests were never limited to the Wasatch. An aficionado of the Canadian Arctic, he has been to Greenland twice, Ellesmere Island three times, Alaska three times, and Axel Heiburg. Closer to home, his

southern Utah canyon trips with friends from around the country are famous for their exploratory nature and camaraderie, especially during the University of Utah spring break. Bill has taught in the Department of Mechanical Engineering since 1973 and has brought his slide shows back to a faculty thirsting for new experiences. Students and faculty are equally sad to be losing a highly

respected teacher and colleague to other pursuits.

Now that Bill has retired from the U., we know that tinkering with his British cars won't be sufficient, as adventurous and unpredictable as that hobby can be. I will expect to see a future email broadcast to his wide network of friends announcing a new adventure – anyone want to take a hike? Count me in, Bill.



# Utah Chapter Launches Utah Smart Energy Campaign

by Tim Wagner, Conservation Co-ordinator

It's no secret that the current administration has made fossil fuel production the centerpiece of much of its platform. It's driving our energy policies, our environmental policies, and many would argue our foreign policy as well.

In a state that closely aligns itself with George W Bush, it's also no secret that coal is king when it comes to the electricity consumed by Utahns. Nearly 94 percent of the electricity generated in our fair state comes from traditional coal-fired power plants. As if that isn't enough, the state is now looking through the potential soot of four newly proposed coal-fired plants totaling 1,900 additional megawatts of electricity production. A brand new 270 MW facility is planned for the community of Sigurd, and additional production units are planned for Intermountain Power Plant in Delta (950 MW), the Hunter plant near Castle Dale (400 MW), and the Bonanza Plant south of Vernal (110 MW).

Clearly, Utah does not need more coal-fired power plants, considering that a large portion of this new electricity production would be shipped to the west coast and the fact that several large natural gas-fired facilities are expected to come on line in the state in the near future. But the larger issue is the dramatic increase in health risks posed to Utahns by these proposed plants. Fossil fuel power plants are major sources of air and water pollution including sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), and mercury. SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> are responsible for serious respiratory and cardiovascular diseases in this country while mercury is directly linked to birth defects where humans have consumed fish from mercury-laden waters. Coal combustion also contributes to our atmosphere significant amounts of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), the main greenhouse gas responsible



*Tim Wagner with daughter Alexa.*

for large-scale climate change. It is estimated that these four projects alone will produce a whopping 9 million tons of carbon dioxide per year!

While many cities and states around the nation are forging ahead with their own plans to address global warming, in spite of the president's refusal to address the issue, Utah appears to be going in the opposite direction. To make matters worse, Nevada has also announced plans to build several coal-fired plants, including a 500-800 MW unit near the Utah/Nevada border.

The Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club has said, "Enough is enough!" A coalition of environmental organizations known as the Western Clean Energy Campaign (WCEC) recently awarded a generous grant to the Utah Chapter, which has enabled us to launch the Utah Smart Energy Campaign, a program designed to organize public opposition to these proposed plants, and to also build public support for non-hydro renewable energy production such as wind and solar. I'm proud and excited to have the chance to lead the chapter's campaign.

I originally hail from Iowa but lived in Logan for nearly ten years, where I obtained

a BS in Environmental Studies with a minor in Journalism from Utah State University. While in Logan, I helped co-found the Logan Canyon Coalition; a grass roots organization dedicated to the protection of Logan Canyon. I also co-founded the Bear River Watershed Council, another grass roots-based conservation group from Logan. I worked as a NEPA specialist and environmental consultant for Bio-West, Inc. for five years before moving to Salt Lake City in 2002 to take a position as Resource Planning Coordinator for the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance.

I saw the Smart Energy Campaign organizer position as something where I could make an immediate difference in the lives of a lot of people. And as a parent of a small child, I am firmly committed to the right to breath clean air for all of Utah's kids. I look forward to getting out across the state to help educate our citizens on the right choices when it comes to energy.

In addition to working for a better environment, my finer life pleasures include my eight year-old daughter Alexa, bicycling (both road and mountain), hiking, x-c skiing and snowshoeing, writing, reading, music, and carpentry.

I encourage all of our members to stop in and say hello. I'll be working out of the chapter's office at 2100 S. 1300 E., Suite 204 in Salt Lake City.

The WCEC includes the Sierra Club, the Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies, the Clean Air Task Force, Environmental Defense, the Grand Canyon Trust, the Montana Environmental Information Center, and Western Resource Advocates. We thank all of our gracious partners in this endeavor. For more information about the Utah Smart Energy Campaign, go to <http://utah.sierraclub.org>.

<http://utah.sierraclub.org> • WINTER 2004

# UTAH CHAPTER OUTINGS

## Winter 2004

### Note To Participants:

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

The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel. If you choose to carpool to the trailhead, it is only fair for fees charged by the US Forest Service to be shared by all participants. For the most current and updated outings listings, please visit the website <http://utah.sierraclub.org> and look at the outings under the Salt Lake, Ogden and Glen Canyon Groups

### Liability waiver policy:

In order to participate on one of the Sierra Club's outings, you will need to sign a liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver prior to the outing, please see <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/> or call the Outings Department at (415) 977-5528 for a printed copy.



On September 21, 2003, Sunday hikers at North Canyon Trailhead (Bountiful) on the way to Ruby's Flat. Be the first (before November 15, 2004) to correctly list the first name of six of these trekkers and receive a Back Country Guide Book for the High Uintas. Send list to Ron Younger at 920 East 1500 South, Bountiful, UT 84010.

## SALT LAKE GROUP

### NOVEMBER

#### November 21st, Sunday Leaders Choice Snowshoe or Hike

Snow, weather, and trail conditions at the time will determine location and whether the outing will be a snowshoe or hike. Regardless of location meeting time will be 10:30 am. Call Margaret (292-7602) for more information.

### DECEMBER

#### Ski Clinics During The Month of December

Recommendation for X-country skiers who would like to fine tune skiing tech-

nique for the upcoming ski season. Check out the cross-country clinics being given by the chapter's Ogden Group in December. Or contact your favorite ski resort and inquire about telemark ski clinics. Most resorts offer telemark clinics at reasonable prices and accommodate all skill levels beginning to intermediate. An excellent way to prepare for Sierra Club ski outings.

#### December 5th, Sunday Leaders Choice Snowshoe, Ski or Hike

There should be enough snow to allow for a snowshoe or ski excursion but if not plan on a hike. Snow, weather, and trail conditions at time will determine the type of outing. Meeting time will be 10:30 am. Call Margaret (292-7602) for more information about the outing.

**December 12th, Sunday**  
**Millcreek Canyon**  
**X-Country Ski**

Snow conditions permitting, the trek will begin at the gate and follow the paved road (hopefully covered with abundant snow) up Millcreek Canyon. We will ski at least to Elbow Fork and possibly descend on a trail parallel to the road. Meeting place will be the Skyline High School parking lot. Call Ken (484-3112) for meeting time and other information.

**December 19th, Sunday**  
**Little Cottonwood Canyon**  
**X-Country Ski**

Snow conditions permitting, this ski trail follows an old road between the main road and Little Cottonwood Creek at the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon. The course offers surprising quiet, solitude, and winter ambiance in spite of its proximity to urban development near the canyon. Meeting place is the Little Cottonwood Canyon park and ride at the mouth of the canyon. Call Rebecca (487-4160) for meeting time and other details regarding the outing.

**JANUARY**

**January 2nd, Sunday**  
**Uintas Snow Trek**

Snow and weather conditions permitting, snowshoe or x-country ski along the North Fork Provo River. The route is north of the Mirror Lake Highway about 11 miles east of Kamas Utah. Meet at the trailhead parking area at 11:00 am or the K-Mart parking lot (2100 South and Foothill Drive) at 9:45 am for a 10:00 am departure. Arrive prepared for a day long winter outing. Call Ron Younger (292-4040) for more information.

**January 10th, Sunday**  
**Wild Horses of the West**  
**Desert Family Outing**

Weather permitting, the trip will include a Sunday drive toward Simpson Springs and the historic Pony Express Trail in search of wild horses. Each winter these magnificent animals migrate into the valleys nearby Dugway to escape snows in the higher elevations. Although participants will not venture far from cars during the trip, bring warm clothing along with lunch, binoculars, and cameras. Children invited. Contact Kurt Alloway (801-550-4674) or preferably e-

mail desertquest99@yahoo.com for meeting time, place and carpool arrangements. All families welcome!

**January 15-17, MLK Weekend**  
**Winter in Great Basin**  
**National Park Motel Camp**

We will carpool to the park near Baker, Nevada, to experience winter silence and the magic of the west desert. The trip may include a ranger-guided tour of Lehman Cave (fee required), then depending on weather conditions we may hike, snowshoe, or ski near the visitors center. Accommodations by reservation at the nearby Border Inn. Contact Kurt Alloway (801-550-4674) or preferably e-mail desertquest99@yahoo.com for meeting time, place, carpool information, and other info regarding the outing.

**January 23rd, Sunday**  
**Norway Flats Ski Trek**

The trail to Norway Flats follows an old logging road that winds through pine and quaken aspen stands in the Uinta National Forest. The trail begins on the Mirror Lake Highway and the turn-around point offers a spectacular view of several surrounding peaks. The outing is appropriate for intermediate level x-country skiers. It is planned to ski approximately 5 \_ miles round trip. Meeting place will be the south-east section of the K-Mart parking lot on 21st South and Foothill Drive. Call Ken (484-3112) for meeting time and other details regarding the outing.

**January 30th, Sunday**  
**Dutch Hollow Snowshoe**

Snow and weather conditions permitting, this will be an intermediate level snowshoe adventure through Dutch Hollow which lies between Midway and Heber City. The trek may include a dip in the Sacred Hot Springs depending on accessibility to the springs. Come prepared for cold temperatures with appropriate winter gear. Call Rebecca (487-4160) for meeting time, place, and other info regarding the outing.

**FEBRUARY**

**February 5th, Saturday**  
**X-Country Ski**  
**Beaver Creek Trail**

Weather and trail conditions permitting. X-country ski the groomed Beaver

Creek Trail east of Kamas, on the south side of the Mirror Lake Highway. Good fitness and appropriate winter sport gear necessary. Call Ron Younger (292-4040) for meeting time, place, and other info.

**February 19-21st, Presidents Day**  
**Valentines Day Weekend**  
**In Red Rock Country**

The trip will begin with a tour of the Anasazi State Park in Boulder, Utah on Saturday afternoon. Saturday evening will include a Dutch oven dinner and a conversation/history discussion led by the former park superintendent (and wonderful storyteller) Larry Davis. The rest of the weekend will include options for x-country skiing on Boulder Mountain, hiking near the lodge, a visit to nearby Capital Reef via the Burr Trail, and horseback riding. This is an excellent opportunity to explore the Escalante Grand Staircase and enjoy one of Utah's largest unprotected Forest Service road-less areas in Utah. Contact Kurt Alloway (801-550-4674) or preferably e-mail desertquest99@yahoo.com for meeting time, place, and other information. All families welcome!

**February 19th, Saturday**  
**X-Country Ski or Snowshoe**

Snow and weather conditions permitting, the group will follow the Mine Trail from the Mirror Lake Highway east of Kamas. Mostly on trail but expect some x-country terrain. Call Ron Younger (292-4040) for meeting time, place, and more info.

***GLEN CANYON***  
***GROUP***

With few exceptions, Glen Canyon Group outings are held on the first Saturday of each month. Participants are requested to call leaders in advance for outing details and to give the leader an idea of group size.

**November**

**Saturday, November 6th**  
**Hike through Jeep Arch**

This is a moderate hike lasting 4 hours. It is 4.2 miles with 1000' elevation gain. This is a loop hike through Gold Bar and Culvert Canyons that is a favorite of

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many locals though it is largely unmarked. There is a beautiful view of the La Sals framed by Jeep Arch. We'll meet in front of Star Hall at 9AM. We should return about 3PM. Bring a lunch and water. Call Dave Stolfa (435-259-1721) for information regarding this outing.

## December

### Saturday, December 4th Hike to Amasa Back

This is a moderate hike lasting 4 hours. It is 8 miles with 1100' elevation gain. This is a great hike across Kane Creek up onto Amasa Back with a panorama view of Jackson Hole and the Colorado River. This is a hike on a 4WD trail so it should be relatively easy except for the elevation gain. We'll meet in front of Star Hall at 9AM. We should return about 3PM. Bring a lunch and water. Call Dave Stolfa (435-259-1721) for information.

## January

### Saturday, January 1st Hike in Sand Flats

This is an easy hike lasting 3 hours. It will be approximately 4 miles with minimal elevation gain. This is a hike for those of us needing to recover from the previous night, who are not interested in parades or football. Hopefully this will be a hike over crisp snow on the Fins 'n Things jeep trail without the 4WDs. We'll meet in front of Star Hall at 10AM (for late risers.... not our usual time.) We should return about 2PM. Bring a lunch and water. Call Dave Stolfa (435-259-1721) for information regarding this outing.

## February

### Saturday, February 5th Hike the new Richardson Amphitheater Loop

This is an easy hike lasting 4 hours. It is 3 miles with 400' elevation gain. This is the new loop trail created through collaboration of the Trail Mix organization and BLM in the area just north of Fisher Towers. We'll meet in front of Star Hall at 9AM. We should return about 3PM. Bring a lunch and water. Call Dave Stolfa (435-259-1721) for information regarding this outing.



**Photo:** Are you ready for winter snow sports? This merry group started last November 2nd near the Trial-Crystal Lake area (Unitas).

## March

### Saturday, March 5th Hike traversing Behind the Rocks

This is a strenuous hike lasting 7 hours. It is 6 miles with 1800' elevation gain. A cross-country hike just behind the Moab Rim, we'll find our way between sandstone fins from near the mouth of Pritchett Canyon to the Hidden Valley Trailhead. There is some exposure on this hike. We'll see Teardrop Arch and plenty of steep fins. Near the end we will have a top of the rim View of Moab and the La Sals. We'll meet in front of Star Hall at 9AM and set up a shuttle. We should return about 6PM. Bring a lunch and plenty of water. Call Dave Stolfa (435-259-1721) for information regarding this outing.

## **OGDEN GROUP, SIERRA CLUB**

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

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

## NOVEMBER

### November 6th, Saturday: INDIAN TRAIL HIKE

Day-hike in Ogden Canyon 5 miles, about 2.5 hours. We'll snack at the shelter and enjoy views from Nevada viewpoint. Call Larry Woolsey for meeting time and place. 731-3701.

## DECEMBER

### December 8th Wed., 6:30pm CROSS COUNTRY SKI & SNOWSHOE CLINIC Session #1

Weber County Library, auditorium 2464 Jefferson Ave.

This session covers technique, equipment and where to ski & shoe.

The newest equipment will be on display.

Leader: Jock Glidden, 394-0457

### December 11th, Saturday CROSS COUNTRY SKI & SNOWSHOE CLINIC Session #2

**10am to Noon [alternate date, 18  
Dec] On-the-Hill Clinic.**

Free to the public. Suggested donation for environmental protection: \$10.

Leaders: Jock Glidden, 394-0457 & John Hinds, 621-0457

**December 18th, Saturday: SNOW-SHOW OR XC SKI**

Bring your skis or snowshoes for a trip in the SnowBasin area. 2-3 hours. We'll go where the snow is best. Meet 9am. Call Larry Woolsey, 731-3701.

**JANUARY****January 8 & 9. WINTER SNOW CAMP & TOUR**

Ski or snowshoe up Liberty/Avon road. Camp NW of Powder Mountain. More touring from camp as time permits. Check with leader on departure place and time. Leader: Jock Glidden, 394-0457.

**January 15th, Saturday: XC-SKI TOUR**

Ski North Fork Park. We will tour along the rolling terrain of the park roads for approximately 6 or 7 miles round trip (Weather permitting). Call John Besbekos for meeting place and time, 985-6854.

**January 22nd, Saturday: SNOW-SHOE**

A trip on the Pipeline Trail and Bowman Fork in Mill Creek Canyon, Salt Lake County, 4 to 6 miles, 3 to 4 hours. Call Larry Woolsey for meeting time and place. 731-3701

**January 23rd, Sunday: MOONLIGHT SKI TOUR.**

Ski groomed trail on old Snowbasin road from Wheeler Creek to Snowbasin in moonlight. Meet Ogden High School, 5:00pm. Leader: Jock Glidden, 394-0457.

**January 29th, Saturday: WHEELER CREEK LOOP XC-SKI / SNOWSHOE.**

This five-mile tour of the less-developed trails at Snow Basin is always a favorite. Skis are more fun, but beginning skiers might prefer the stability of snowshoes. Meet in Ogden at 9:30 or at the trailhead at 10:00; please call for directions and other information. Leader: Dan Schroeder, 393-4603.

**FEBRUARY****February 19th, Saturday: SNOW-SHOE WHEATGRASS CANYON**

Start from Causey dam area. Nice scenery and a chance to see wildlife. About 5 miles, 3 to 4 hours. Call Larry Woolsey for meeting time and place. 731-3701.

**February 26th, Saturday: SNOW-SHOE TREK UP SARDINE PEAK.**

From SnowBasin we will hike to the Maples campground, then off trail up to the summit of this small peak (Weather

and snow conditions permitting). Call John Besbekos for meeting place and time, 985-6854.

**MARCH****March 19-20. Enjoy a weekend of Hiking in Moab.****Saturday afternoon: Corona Arch hike.**

(An arch so large a plane once flew under it.) Approx, 3 miles, 2 hours. Sunday morning: Hidden Valley hike, 5 to 6 miles.

Both hikes offer breath-taking views. Also see petrified sand dunes, the Scott Matheson Wetlands area, and grand views of the Colorado River. Call Larry Woolsey ASAP for room and camping information, 731-3701. (Early reservations may be required due to marathon race also being held in Moab).

**APRIL****April 3rd, Sunday. GOURMET SKI TOUR**

A low intensity cross-country ski or snowshoe up to an inspiring location to share delectables and poems. Conditions permitting. Meet Ogden High School, 9:30am. Leader: Jock Glidden, 394-0457.



**Photo by Karen Marshall:** *Two hikers traverse Cutthroat Lake Meadow (elevation 10,350') from Ruth Lake Trailhead in the Uintas on Saturday, Sept. 11, 2004.*

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# Tell Bush Administration to Protect National Forests

by Mark Clemens, Chapter Co-ordinator

On July 12, 2004, the Bush Administration dealt a severe blow to one of the most popular conservation measures of the past half-century. The Roadless Area Conservation Rule that protected roughly 58 million acres of the most pristine roadless forests was gutted.

In just sixty days following the proposed change, more than 1 million Americans have submitted comments on the administration's proposed repeal of the landmark rule. This brings to 3.5 million the total number of comments submitted since the original rule was first being developed in 1999.

It is clear that Americans care deeply about these forests and continue overwhelmingly to support a strong national policy to protect their last wild places, a fact the Bush Administration can no longer ignore. Last week, the administration decided to extend the public comment period to November 15. However, the administration still has not scheduled any public hearings.

**Take a moment to fill out and send the postcard to protect our national forest heritage before November 15th.**

Elsewhere in this issue, you'll find a postcard you can send to tell the administration not to rip up the roadless rule. Take a moment to fill out and send the postcard to protect our national forest heritage before November 15th.

Here in Utah our roadless forest heritage includes majestic Boulder Mountain and the Aquarius Plateau. This is the largest single completely unprotected US Forest Service roadless area in the state. Boulder Mountain's forests shelter bear and elk and the beautiful yellow Aquarius paintbrush, found nowhere else in the world. By tearing up the roadless rule, President Bush has opened up the tranquil spruce-lined lakes and rolling alpine meadows of Boulder Mountain to the bulldozer and the chainsaw.

The changes the administration proposed include canceling the roadless rule completely for Alaska's forests. In the rest of the country, indi-



vidual state governors would have to go through a complex, two-stage petition process to ask the Department of Agriculture to retain the roadless rule in their states. Even after going to the trou-

ble of making this petition, the governors face rejection; the secretary of agriculture retains the authority—under the administration's proposal—to overrule the governors' requests.

# Thank You!

## For Remembering the Sierra Club!

Your financial contribution means a lot to us. By supporting this Chapter, you support the Sierra Club's work in your own backyard. This makes you an important part of our work to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities, and to promote the enjoyment of nature.



**Explore, enjoy and protect the planet**

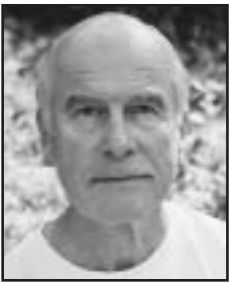


# CHAPTER ELECTIONS

## The Candidates for Executive Committees

### Utah Chapter Executive Committee

#### Al Herring



I am just completing my first two-year term on the Chapter Executive Committee. Last year I served as Secretary and Vice-Chair; this year it has been my privilege to serve as Chapter Chair. I believe I have

been able to help the various diverse factions in the Chapter work more effectively together, and I have tried to keep us focused on what I think matters most: protecting Utah's wilderness and protecting the health of all Utahans by working for clean air, water, and land. To serve effectively on the ExCom takes commitment and active involvement. My record shows that I have been willing to invest the time and energy required. I would welcome to opportunity to represent Utah members for another two years. Questions or comments? My e-mail address and phone number are listed on the back of the Utah Sierran.

#### Wayne Hoskisson

It is an honor to be nominated to run for the Utah Chapter Executive Committee. I have been a Sierra Club member since 1993. I previously served on the Utah Chapter Executive Committee for six years. During the last eleven years I have held many positions with the Sierra Club including Utah Wilderness Coalition representative, Conservation Chair, and Public Lands Chair. For three years I chaired the Club's National Grazing Committee. I currently serve on the Wild Planet Strategy Team. I am a firm believer in Sierra Club and its mission. I also believe in the concept of a conservation organization governed by the members. As an executive committee member I would focus on Utah wilderness and other public land issues. I support

the Sierra Club developing a campaign to restore the Colorado River including the decommissioning of Glen Canyon Dam.

#### Gordon Lind



I decided to run for a place on the Utah Chapter Executive Committee because of my environmental expertise, and my belief that I can bring a fresh perspective to the group. I have a fervent confidence in the NEPA

process. However, that process only works well when there is someone there ready to hold the agencies' "feet to the fire." I believe I have the knowledge, experience, and expertise to help the Utah Chapter do that.

I have a BS and MS in wildlife biology. My hobbies are birding, photography, and backpacking. I have lived in Utah for the last 23+ years. After working for 25 years as an environmental specialist, I retired from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in 1997. During those years, I was involved as an author/editor of several major NEPA documents, and literally hundreds of minor ones.

#### Lois Mansfield



Lake City. Subsequently I earned a PhD in mathematics at the University of Utah in 1969. The rest of my working career was spent as a professor in several universities, including 22 years as professor of applied mathematics at the University of Virginia. I retired in 2001 and moved to

Washington in the St. George area in 2002.

I have been a Sierra Club member since 1969, and have been on numerous national outings and service trips with Wilderness Volunteers including three in Utah. In Virginia I was an active member of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, serving as district manager for volunteer maintenance of Blue Blazed Trails in the South District of Shenandoah National Park and leading numerous hikes for the local Charlottesville Chapter.

Since moving back to Utah, I have attended meetings of the Technical Committee of the Virgin River Resource Management and Recovery Program as a Sierra Club observer. I am interested in preserving Utah Wilderness as well as open space and quality of life. My knowledge of Southern Utah and the problems we face will be a useful addition to the Utah Chapter.

#### Brad Yates:



I'm currently completing my first two-year term on the Utah Chapter Executive Committee. During this term I served as conservation chair for the 2003 calendar year, and this year I am the

chapter political committee chair. Prior to my time on the ExCom, I was an active member of the political committee and co-chair in 2002. In the conservation arena my primary focus has been on the BLM wilderness issues.

I have also served on the boards of other Utah conservation/outdoor organizations, primarily the Wasatch Mountain Club serving two terms as hiking director, three as conservation director and two terms as president. Due to my positions with the Wasatch Mountain Club, I was an active member of the Utah Wilderness Coalition Executive Committee for 5 years. I offer the executive committee a wide range of experience in various conservation and political issues. I also will bring continuity to the process; I intend on concentrating on the political end of the agenda in my next term.

## Salt Lake Group Executive Committee

### Rebecca Wallace



My name is Rebecca Wallace. I have been an active member of the Sierra Club for over three years. I've led a number of hikes and camping trips for the club, in addition to teaching

a workshop on first aid for this year's annual Leader's Training Workshop. My contributions have been to help organize trips for people who enjoy and respect the wilderness, and I would work to ensure that the outings program continues to grow and prosper.

My goals for the future also include service projects, especially with trail rebuilding and maintenance, and in preservation and reclaiming trailhead access along the Wasatch Front. Our urban wilderness is a source of joy and renewal for many of us. I will work to provide opportunities to explore beautiful places in Utah, as well as hopefully combine forces with other community organizations to continue to protect and preserve our urban wilderness. In addition, I would also like to see greater communication between the recreational and the political arms of our local Utah Chapter. This may help facilitate more environmental activism on the part of our recreational members.

### Preston Motes

I have been a Sierra Club member for 17 years, serving on the Salt Lake Group ExCom and Utah Chapter ExCom in several capacities. Most recently, I have been coordinating the calendar sales as a fundraising project for the Salt Lake Group and have served as its treasurer for the past several years. I support many organizations that work to protect the environment, such as SUWA, the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, and the Wilderness Society, and would be delighted to continue to serve on the Salt Lake Group's Executive Committee.

### Kurt Alloway

Currently Kurt Alloway works as a staff environmental scientist and renewable energy specialist

for a prominent engineering/consulting firm. Kurt is deeply committed toward conservation of our natural resources. In this vein he has spent nearly twenty years directly involved and employed working on natural and cultural resource management.

Kurt served for two years as the president of his college hiking club, was founding president of the West Desert Chapter of the State Archeological Society, and served as vice chair of the Sierra Club's Salt Lake Group's Executive Committee. He loves sharing the intrinsic magic and solace attainable in Utah's wilderness. Many of you have probably hiked on one of the outings Kurt has led.

## Ogden Group Executive Committee

### Sandy Davies



Sandy Davies has been interested in nature and environmental issues for many years. This is a result of her enjoyment of the outdoors where she participates in hiking, running and cross-country skiing.

She was born in Utah and has lived in California, Michigan, France and Belgium. She returned to Utah twelve years ago. Sandy has attended universities in many parts of the United States. She graduated from Weber State University. For several years, Sandy has been involved with Weber Pathways which focuses on trails and green space in Weber County. Sandy is looking forward to working with the Sierra Club.

### Al Herring

I am currently Vice Chair of the Ogden Group Executive Committee, I represent the Group on the Chapter Conservation Committee, I have served for many years as the Sierra Club representative on the Hill Air Force Base Restoration Advisory Board, and I lead the occasional outing.

I would welcome the opportunity to continue serving on the Ogden Group Executive Committee.

### Chris Gerken



Chris grew up in the chaparral biome near San Diego. His environmentalism was awakened during his activist college days. Realizing that the Sierra Club was the most effective envi-

ronmental organization, he worked for the successful passage of the California Desert Protection Act. Having witnessed clear-cutting in Oregon and Alaska, he says, "The logging industry has had over 40 years to see the handwriting on the wall." He wants congress to outlaw the export of US lumber. Chris moved to Utah in 1996.

### Ranee Johnson



I am a Licensed Professional Counselor who was born and raised in a rural Utah community. I work for a state agency and have years of volunteer service as a board member for various community-

based, non-profit organizations. I have been a member of the Sierra Club off and on for at least 12 years and consistently for the past three and support its goals and objectives. I look forward to contributing in any way I can to preserving the natural beauty that we enjoy in this state and area.

### Susan Matt



Susan Matt has been on the executive committee of the Ogden Group for four years. She has most recently served as the newsletter editor and secretary.

Before coming to Utah five and a half years ago, she worked to fight sprawl as a lobbyist for the Colorado Public Interest Research Group. She was also on the steering committee of the successful STOP Wal-Mart Campaign in Ithaca, New York. She is a professor of American history at Weber State University.

### Dan Schroeder *d Schroeder@weber.edu*



I've been a Sierra Club member for 17 years and an active member of the Ogden Group for 11 years. During this time I've served as Ogden Group Chair, Outings Chair, Webmaster,

Newsletter Editor, Outings Guide Editor, and delegate to the Utah Chapter ExCom, where I was secretary and treasurer for two years. Recently I was appointed to the club's national Recreational Issues Committee. For the last two years I've worked especially hard to protect our local mountains from inappropriate off-road vehicle use. If re-elected to the Ogden ExCom, I hope to maintain and expand our role as Ogden's leading environmental voice.

## Glen Canyon Group Executive Committee

### Gail Hoskisson, Moab



I have been a member of the Sierra Club since 1993. Shortly after joining I became active in the campaign to protect the outstanding wilderness quality lands in Utah as a volunteer with several conservation organi-

zations. Since 1994 I have volunteered to coordinate the RS 2477 documentation project, lobby members of congress and serve as co-chair of the Utah Wilderness Coalition.

In 2000, after retiring from a long career in health care I began working for SUWA with their grassroots team. Later, I became their representative in Washington where I coordinated or participated in legislative campaigns with multiple conservation organizations and extensively lobbied members of Congress until retiring in January 2004.

I am honored to be asked to run for the Glen Canyon Group Ex-com and if elected am looking forward to working on local and national conservation issues within the Sierra Club.

### Bonnie Crysdale, Moab

I am running for a position on the Executive Committee of the Glen Canyon Group because I finally decided it was time to stop giving lip service to the organization and get involved. The direction this country has been heading the last few years in regard to protecting our remaining wilderness and environmentally sensitive areas has me very concerned. We need all kinds of recreational playgrounds: for hiking, climbing, skiing, mountain bikes, jeeps, and ATVs. We also need wilderness, where we can enjoy solitude and get away from wheeled vehicles, and preserve some (hopefully) pristine land for future generations.

I have been a member of the Sierra Club off and on for many years. I feel it is important to develop working relationships with many types of organizations to define issues and goals, and work towards beneficial solutions. We will accomplish a lot more if we listen and talk (and compromise if need be), rather than just butt heads with people who disagree.

I was a geologist in my former life, which my husband and I left behind when we moved to Moab 2 1/2 years ago. I volunteer in several organizations, including the half marathon, two music festivals, quilt group, plus we regularly hike and climb in local canyons/mountains. I have climbed the highest 100 peaks in Colorado, and frolicked in the wilderness at every opportunity. I don't want it to go away.

### Tom Messenger, Moab



I want to help the Glen Canyon Group increase interaction among its members to provide more input to the managing agencies on SE Utah issues and expand recreational opportunities. In my three years in Moab, I have met surprisingly few other

Sierra Club members and have found it difficult to find others interested in local outings. Of course, not everyone has the leisure for outings, but I'm confident there are quite a few retired persons who do.

I have been assisting in OHV monitoring efforts by Red Rock Forests and Great Old Broads for Wilderness, both in the field and in communicating the results. I have developed prototype database-backed dynamic web content for an OHV monitoring website. I maintain a site of static content. I hope to use these skills to advance the goals of the Glen Canyon Group.

# Preserve The Future.

**N**ot everyone can make a large gift to protect the environment during their lifetime, but you can preserve the environment for generations to come by remembering the Sierra Club in your will.

There are many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter.

For more information and confidential assistance, contact:

John Calaway  
Director, Gift Planning  
85 Second Street, 2nd Floor,  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
(415) 977-5639 or e-mail:  
[planned.giving@sierraclub.org](mailto:planned.giving@sierraclub.org)



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# 2004 Elections VOTING BALLOT

Cut out the ballot *and the address label with your membership number on it* and place them in an envelope addressed to:

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

**Ballots must be postmarked  
By December 1, 2004**  
Watch for the Spring 2005 issue  
of the Utah Sierran for results.

## Utah Chapter Sierra Club Elections - Instructions

This is the annual ballot for the leadership of the Sierra Club in Utah. As a Sierra Club member, you have the opportunity to select the individuals who will serve on your Group and Chapter Executive Committees during the 2005-2006 term.

**Both members of a joint membership may vote with this ballot.**

Instructions:

1. Review the biographies of the candidates for your Group, if applicable, and for the Chapter.
2. Enter your ZIP code in the space provided.
3. Vote for up to four candidates for the Utah Chapter Executive Committee. Individual members use the first box before a candidate's name; the second box is for use by the second member of a joint membership.
4. If you live within the boundaries of one of our Groups (check ZIP codes list for each Group), find your Group below and vote for as many candidates as you like, for your Group only.
5. Members in ungrouped areas vote for Chapter Executive Committee candidates only.
6. Cut out the ballot and the address label and place them in the envelope provided. Since you must be a Sierra Club member to vote in this election, we must see a membership number for each voter. To ensure secrecy of ballot, we will remove the address label from each envelope as it is received (feel free to ink your name out if you wish). Ballots will be counted only after the closing date for the election.
7. Ballots must be postmarked by December 1, 2004. Ballots postmarked later than December 1, or ballots not accompanied by a membership label, will not be counted.

Cut out the ballot *and the address label with your membership number on it* and place them in an envelope addressed to:

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

Please enter your zip code here

### Utah Chapter Executive Committee

Term Length: 2 Years.  
(Vote for no more than four.)

- Al Herring
- Wayne Hoskisson
- Gordon Lind
- Lois Mansfield
- Brad Yates
- \_\_\_\_\_

### Salt Lake Group Executive Committee

84006, 84010, 84011, 84014, 84017, 84020, 84022, 84025, 84029, 84032, 84035, 84036, 84044, 84047, 84049, 84054, 84055, 84060, 84061, 84065, 84068, 84070, 84071, 84074, 84084, 84087, 84088, 84090-95, 84098, and all 841\_\_\_\_  
(Vote for no more than three.)

- Kurt Alloway
- Preston Motes
- Rebecca Wallace
- \_\_\_\_\_

### Ogden Group Executive Committee

84015, 84037, 84040, 84041, 84050, 84056, 84067, 84075, 84089, 84302, 84307, 84309, 84310, 84312, 84315, 84317, 84324, 84334, 84337, 84340 all 844\_\_\_\_,  
(Vote for no more than three.)

- Sandy Davies
- Chris Gerken
- Rane Johnson
- Al Herring
- Susan Matt
- Dan Schroeder
- \_\_\_\_\_

### Glen Canyon Executive Committee

(Vote for no more than two.)

- Bonnie Crysdale
- Gail Hoskisson
- Tom Messenger
- \_\_\_\_\_

# Energy Department Studies Mill Tailings Disposal

by Sarah Fields, Chair, Nuclear Waste Committee

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Department of Energy's (DOE's) Moab Mill Project will be released for public comment sometime this fall. It may be as early as October.

The Draft EIS will evaluate the remediation alternatives for the approximately 13 million tons of uranium mill tailings—sometimes called the Atlas Mill Tailings—on the flood plain of the Colorado River. The DOE will consider the cap-in-place option and three off-site disposal options. Two of the off-site disposal options would involve transporting the tailings via truck or rail to Klondike Flats or Crescent Junction in Grand County, north of Moab. The other option is slurring tailings to the International Uranium Corporation Mill, on White Mesa, south of Blanding in San Juan County. DOE has stated that they will not identify a preferred alternative until the Final EIS is released.

The Nuclear Waste Committee of the Glen Canyon Group (GCG) is opposed to the on-site and White Mesa disposal options. The committee will carefully evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of disposing of the tailings at Klondike Flats or Crescent Junction.

The State of Utah, Grand County, and the City of Moab are opposed to capping the Moab Mill tailings in place. Grand County and the City of Moab are opposed to slurring the tailings to White Mesa.

Disposal of the tailings at White Mesa would cause at least nine prehistoric archeological sites to be destroyed. Eighteen archeological sites were excavated when the mill was built in the early 1980s; most were destroyed. These archeological sites on White Mesa are beautiful underground pit-house and storage structures, kivas, and burial sites.



*White Mesa archaeological site destroyed by disposal cell construction.*

The GCG recently published a report on the White Mesa archeological sites (funded by a grant from the national Sierra Club). For a copy of White Mesa Archeological Sites: A Report, please contact the GCG Nuclear Waste Committee, or go to <http://utah.sierraclub.org/>.

After the announcement in the Federal Register, there will be a comment period of at least forty-five days that may be extended in response to public requests. (The chapter Executive Committee already approved a motion to request a 90-day comment period for what will no doubt be a detailed and complex document.) Public hearings to receive oral comments will be held in Moab, Blanding, White Mesa, and a Navajo community site. Documents cited in the Draft EIS will be placed in the DOE reading rooms at White Mesa and the public libraries in Moab and Blanding.

To receive a copy of the Draft, send your request to Wendee Ryan: Wendee Ryan <[Wendee.Ryan@gjo.doe.gov](mailto:Wendee.Ryan@gjo.doe.gov)>; call 1-800-637-4575; or write Wendee Ryan,

Grand Junction Office, U.S. Department of Energy, 2597 B 3/4 Road, Grand Junction, Colorado 81503. Give your name and address and indicate whether you want a paper copy or a CD. For updates and information on the Moab Mill Project and Draft EIS: <<http://gj.em.doe.gov/moab/index.htm>>.

The Nuclear Waste Committee will be submitting comments. For a copy of those comments, please contact the committee (below). A copy of the GCG's EIS scoping comments (25 pages) is also available.

Sierra Club members and friends are encouraged to read the draft DEIS and make comments. If you have questions or wish to be put on distribution list to receive updates, please contact the Nuclear Waste Committee.

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