



# Utah Sierran

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## Outings Issue

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**SIERRA CLUB**  
FOUNDED 1892

## Utah Chapter Sierra Club

Newsletter Editor, Mark Clemens

Newsletter Layout, Cindi Hansen

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Editor, Utah Sierran  
2120 South 1300 East Ste. 204  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84106-3785

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#### Legacy Highway

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#### The Planet

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**Cover Photo:** November 4, 2001, Sunday at Silver Glance Lake. 10,000 feet, 3 p.m. and 58°.

## 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.”**

**Make a gesture that lasts a lifetime.**



A Sierra Club Life Membership is a gesture on behalf of all life—from our oceans to our forests, and from the tiniest insect to the largest sequoia. As a Sierra Club Life Member, you’ll be helping to support programs and campaigns that protect endangered species and preserve threatened wilderness areas (and all the life that they support)—not only for today, but for decades to come.

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# Wild Horses of the West Desert

by Kurt Alloway

Sunday morning, good omens. The temperature was 27 degrees F rather than the 17 degrees F it was on Saturday morning. The sun was shining, no storm, maybe we could get on the back roads we needed to go on to find the Wild Horses of the West Desert.

Twenty-three assorted adults and children braved the freezing, breezy weather to see the wild horses on the free range. Trip leader, Kurt Alloway, met us all at the Smith's in Tooele. We determined carpools, and then with high excitement, followed Kurt out of town, south, to Dugway Valley. We were on the trail of the wily wild horse herds! We first encountered three wild

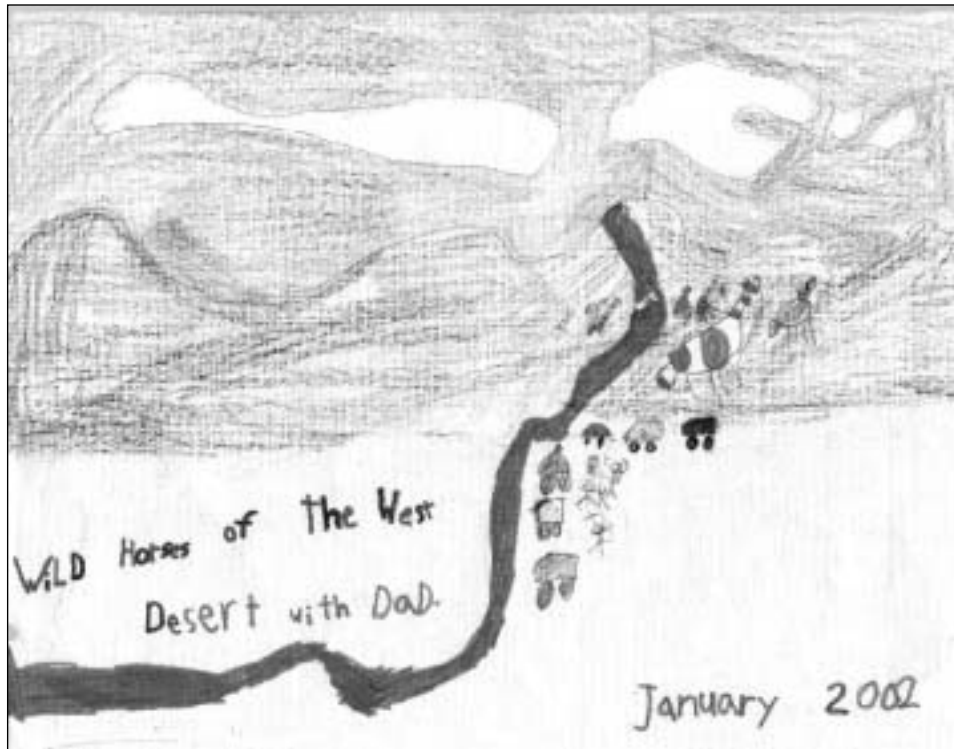
turkeys crossing the road, reminding us we weren't in town anymore.

Over paved and dirt roads we drove, seeing cattle and sheep. Then the lead vehicle stopped. Eagerly searching for horses, my daughter Jessica almost overlooked a pair of bald eagles perched in a dead tree. The eagles calmly surveyed the 4-wheel drive caravan, knowing they belonged here not us.

We were crossing a long valley, and suddenly part of a herd of cattle started running across the plain! They were the horses we were

searching for! Binoculars and cameras with telephoto lenses came out. It seemed the horses were running for sheer joy, they were so beautiful, powerful, and free. In reality they were being herded by the lead stallion.

Simpson Springs is an historical pony express and stagecoach stop. It is part of the Pony Express Historical Trail. The station still stands and there is a monument with historical plaques explaining the significance of the site.



"Wild Horses", drawing by Kaio Alloway

We took a short hike to a shallow cave. We had the most incredible view! Gold tinged clouds, streaks of blue sky, with the afternoon sun shining through made a magnificent panorama. The entire valley and a few mountain ranges, including the Fish Springs Mountains and the snowy Deep Creek mountains, were ours in that moment.

As we drove back towards Tooele, a pair

of mature bald eagles winged slowly toward the west. A fitting end to a day we will all remember for a very long time.

We were able to slowly creep closer in our vehicles. We watched and took pictures, marveling that there were 23 humans watching 23 wild horses. The cold and wind no longer seemed to matter. The herd was mostly comprised of dark brown and brown/sorrel colors. The lead stallion was a dun buckskin with a brown dorsal stripe. There was also a light, almost white dappled gray.

We felt privileged to see this living history of the American West, still wild and free ranging.

Onward to Simpson Springs in the Simpson mountains and lunch.

of mature bald eagles winged slowly toward the west. A fitting end to a day we will all remember for a very long time.

Trip participants; Richard Carrey, Bonnie Carrie, Janice Jones Schroeder, Kurt Alloway, Saige Alloway, Kaio Alloway, Lori Major, Jessica Ure, Pat Colfer, John Lockhart, Martha Lockhart, Silvana Pulca, Kathy Woodbury, Chris Gerlen, Kelly Howard, Carol Anderson, Tad Mrozowski, Dana Morgan and her daughter and her daughter's friend, Derek Hover, Ben Everitt, Dudley McIlhenney, Carol Ann Langford, Cindy Everitt. 🍌

# Wayne Hoskisson's Road to Wilderness

by Mark Clemens, Utah Chapter Co-ordinator

Just because you might have to lean forward to hear the comment that Wayne is about to make, doesn't mean you can afford to miss what he says. Wayne speaks quietly and in a mild manner, but what he says is often passionate, sometimes fierce. What kindled Wayne's interest in the environment?

Wayne's commitment as a volunteer for environmental causes developed slowly. He was aware of environmental issues for many years—did not join organizations—but would occasionally write letters, attend a rally, attend public meetings of various agencies, and similar activities. The January 1995 press conference during which Governor Leavitt and Utah's congressional delegation announced they were going to solve the wilderness "problem" galvanized Wayne and his wife Gail to commit to a higher level of activism.

They could not even get into the room where the press conference was held. Instead they were stuck in a small reception area outside of the room. Wayne recognized the only other person in the reception area as Leavitt's chief of staff. In the press conference the delegation announced there would be a series of public meetings in the counties where citizens would be able to voice comments to the governor and congressional delegation. Wayne asked Leavitt's chief of staff if he should contact his county commissioner to make comments. He asked where we lived. When Wayne said Salt Lake City, he replied that would not do us any good.

They were only planning hearings in about thirteen of the twenty-nine counties in Utah and that if Gail and Wayne wanted to participate they would have to travel to meetings in distant counties. Since they recognized that this was not a good example of democracy in action, Gail and Wayne decided to get more involved. They traveled to meetings, wrote comments, and traveled to Washington, DC, to lobby for wilderness. Ultimately they did everything citizens could do to make sure their concerns were heard. In a sense



Wayne with his wife Gail enjoy the scenery and each others company.

they owe their inspiration to Governor Leavitt's Chief of Staff, now Judge Ted Stewart in the Federal District Court for Utah.

In order to thwart wilderness designation, the State of Utah has encouraged anti-wilderness, rural county commissioners to gin up claims to pixie rights-of-way and imaginary roads across Bureau of Lands Management (BLM) lands. The legislature has appropriated tax money to help counties draw up these claims and to defend them in court. The more outlandish of these claims go over cliffs or run in slot canyons narrower than a Connestoga wagon. These wilderness-wrecking claims have been filed under an obscure 19th century law, RS 2477. Although repealed in 1976, a subsequent law allows Utah counties to make these claims if they can prove the roads had been constructed before 1976. Wayne and Gail decided to survey these claims to find out if there was any evi-

dence of these roads on the ground. The RS 2477 project began in 1995 but did not really get into full swing until 1996 when Wayne Hoskisson, Will McCarvill, Gordon Swenson and other club volunteers decided to push the project along. They decided to make it a UWC project because that enlarged access to volunteers and resources. They advertised for volunteers in the spring of '96 and were soon swamped with more people than they could handle. In order to get fieldwork packets into the hands of volunteers Gail, Will, Gordon, and Wayne spent almost every weekend in the summer of '96 preparing packets for fieldwork. Their efforts paid off in the fall of '96 and the next two years as they recruited about 300 hundred volunteers to complete fieldwork. While Gail and Wayne did most of the managing from '97 on there was never a time when there were not other volunteers deeply involved. In addition to Gail's superb ability to draw in volunteers she spent countless hours arranging the completed fieldwork in an easily understood format. As the fruit of their labor, we have an incredible snapshot of the backcountry of Utah at the end of the 20th century: about fifty-five three-inch binders full of fieldwork.

Wayne served as the chapter delegate to the Southwest Regional Conservation Committee (SWRCC)-a forum in which Sierra Club chapters in the Southwestern United States work on regional conservation problems. Although not originally elected to SWRCC, Wayne simply agreed to go to a meeting on short notice since no one else in the chapter was able to. He's been a SWRCC delegate since 1998.

Wayne also now chairs the Sierra Club National Grazing Committee, established at the start of 2002. In addition the national Conservation Governance Committee asked him to act as interim chair until the committee could elect officers. He was chosen by the committee to be chair in May 2002. Wayne just completed his last term, a total of six years of service, on the Utah Chapter ExCom.

# Support a World of Change

## in Your Own Backyard



**Community Shares / Utah**  
*In Utah ... Serving Utah*

Community Shares/Utah 2003

### 1 - **What is Community Shares/Utah?**

Community Shares/Utah (CS/U) is a fundraising consortium providing support for community improvement, citizen empowerment, animal welfare and environmental issues (including the Utah Chapter of Sierra Club) through member nonprofit groups.

Founded in 1988, Community Shares/Utah now participates in 35 workplace campaigns.

In 2001 the gifts that Utah employees pledged and gave to Community Shares/Utah agencies enabled the work of these member groups to touch the lives of more than 450,000 people in Utah.

### 2 - **May I choose which agencies receive my contributions?**

Yes, absolutely! All contributions that you designate for a particular CS/U member(s) go entirely to that organization. If you don't specify, your donations are divided among CS/U member organizations.

### 3 - **Why should I contribute to Community Shares/Utah?**

CS/U represents 26 nonprofit organizations that work on a wide variety of issues here in Utah. Our members provide support for community improvement, social change, citizen empowerment, animal welfare and environmental issues. By giving to CS/U, you can demonstrate your concern for those issues and groups who work to make life better here

at home, for the people of Utah.

### 4 - **How often will an organization get my money?**

Once CS/U receives your donation, we disburse funds on a quarterly basis to member organizations.

### 5 - **How is Community Shares/Utah structured?**

CS/U is governed by a board of trustees consisting of representatives from all member organizations. This participation helps to ensure equitable, accountable and timely distribution of your gift. Day-to-day operations are carried out by an executive director assisted by committees made up of member volunteers.

### 6 - **How does Community Shares/Utah raise money?**

CS/U participates in public and private workplace payroll deduction campaigns that allow you, the individual employee, to make charitable contributions. We also sponsor an annual golf tournament.

### 7 - **How much of my donation does the charity of my choice really get?**

An important question! 100% of all donations designated to a particular charity will reach that charity. Member agencies cover CS/U's administrative costs.

### 8 - **What if I have other questions?**

The Executive Director of CS/U will be happy to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to call the CS/U office, (801) 486-9224, anytime during normal business hours. Please also refer to our web site, [www.communitysharesutah.org](http://www.communitysharesutah.org).

THE UTAH SIERRAN • WINTER 2003

# UTAH CHAPTER OUTTINGS

## Winter 2003

### Note To Participants:

All members and nonmembers are welcome on any of the chapter or group activities listed. 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 given outing. Outing leaders reserve the right to turn away anyone who appears unprepared for scheduled outings. Children are discouraged and dogs are not invited on Sierra Club outings. Call the Sierra Club office (467-9297) for a recorded message on unlisted, updated, or forthcoming activities.

Also, it must be noted that, although a very effective way of reducing air pollution and fossil fuel consumption, the Sierra Club cannot recommend carpooling as a safe means of transportation. If you choose to carpool, fees charged by the US Forest Service are expected to be shared by participants carpooling to trailheads. For the most current outings listings, please visit the website

<http://utah.sierraclub.org> and look at the outings under the Salt Lake and Ogden Groups.

## Salt Lake Group

### JANUARY

#### Sunday, January 5th Snowshoe Outing



January 6, 2002, Sunday Sierra Club snowshoes starting out on North Fork Provo River. Be the first (Before January 15, 2003) to list the first name of seven of these trekkers and receive a back country guide book of the High Unitas. Send list to Ron Younger at 920 E. 1500 S., Bountiful, UT 84074-2138.

Come explore part of Utah's wolf country! Snow and weather conditions permitting, this will be the 2nd annual snowshoe (or X-Country Ski) trek on the North Fork of the Provo River. The route parallels the North Fork of the Provo River north of the Mirror Lake Highway about 11 miles east of Kamas. Meet at the trailhead parking lot at 11:00 a.m. or carpool from the Parley's Way K-Mart (2100 South) at 10:00 a.m. Bring all the essentials for a day-long snow sport outing. Call outing leader Ron Younger (292-4040) for more details about the outing.

#### Sunday, January 5th Annual Wild Horses of the West Desert Family Outing

Weather permitting. Similar to last year, the trip will include a Sunday drive toward Simpson Springs and the historic Pony Express Trail to search for wild horses. Each winter these animals move into the valleys south of Dugway to escape the snow in higher elevations. This trip will be

a chance to see wildlife and inspect range conditions on your BLM lands. Bring your lunch, binoculars, camera, and warm clothing, although participants will not venture far from the vehicles during the day. Children invited! Contact Kurt Alloway at 435-882-6888 or preferably via e-mail: [desertquest99@yahoo.com](mailto:desertquest99@yahoo.com) for carpool information and details about the outing. Co-listed with the Wasatch Mountain Club.

#### Sunday, January 19th Snowshoe Or Hike

Ann Wechsler will lead an easy snowshoe trip or hike (depending on snow) from the gate at the Little Dell reservoir "into the woods". The area is Salt Lake City watershed, and the trip will have some conservation material available pertaining to water and the abundant wildlife in the area. Meet at 9 a.m. at the K-Mart parking lot on Parley's Way.

**Saturday and Sunday  
January 18th and 19th  
Presidents Day Weekend  
Winter In Great Basin  
National Park Motel Camp**

Let's do it again! Weather permitting. We will carpool to the park near Baker Nevada once again to experience winter silence and the magic of the West Desert. The trip will include a ranger-guided tour of Lehman Cave (fee required). Then depending on snow conditions, we may do some light hiking, snowshoeing, or X-country skiing on trails near the visitor center. Accommodations by reservation at the nearby Border Inn. Contact Kurt at 435-882-6888 or preferably via e-mail: desertquest99@yahoo.com for carpool information and other details about the outing. Co-listed with the Wasatch Mountain Club.

**Sunday, January 26th  
West Desert Hike**

This will be an intermediate hike exploring the desert area west of the Salt Lake Valley. The hike will include examination of damage caused by inappropriate ATV use in the West Desert areas. Meeting place will be the Division of Natural Resource Building at 9:00 a.m. Call Dick (531-7830) for more information about the hike.

**FEBRUARY**

**Saturday, February 1st  
Snowshoe: Great Western Trail**

Snow and weather conditions permitting. Snowshoe the Great Western Trail northwest from Parley's Summit towards Bald Mountain. Time on outing determined by trekkers but come prepared for an all day outing starting at 11:00 a.m. Call Ron Younger (292-4040) for more information.

**Sunday, February 9th  
Jordan River Urban Outing**

Along the Jordan River Parkway, we will walk north on a paved trail enjoying the peaceful beauty of the river, scenic open views, birds and the boardwalk. We will then stop at the Kennecott Environmental Center. Although it will be closed, we can stop at the outdoor amphitheatre to discuss local wildlife, watershed areas, and Native American

history. This hike will be great for youngsters, so dress warmly and bring your children. Total distance is approximately 2 miles; meet at the parking lot at 5300 South in Murray on the east side of the river. The river is between 900 and 1100 West. Contact outings leader Shannon Gillespie (801) 363-2235 or Ann Wechsler (801) 585-3296 for further information.

**Saturday, February 15th  
X-Country Snowshoe Trekking**

Snow and weather conditions permitting. Snowshoe to Beaver Creek Ridge from Mirror Lake Road east of Kamas, Utah. Mostly on trail but expect some X-Country trekking. Good fitness and proper winter sport gear necessary. Call Ron (292-4040) for time and other information.

**Saturday and Sunday,  
February 15-16  
Valentines/President's Day  
Lodge Weekend in Redrock Country!**

We'll meet at Anasazi State Park in Boulder, Utah on Saturday. Spend a casual afternoon around that area and stay at the Boulder Mountain Lodge. Boulder Mountain is one of Utah's largest unprotected Forest Service roadless areas; see why we need to protect it from the chainsaws. We'll XC-Ski a little on Boulder Mountain or see Capital Reef in the winter on Sunday. Contact Kurt at desertquest99@yahoo.com for more information.

**Sunday, February 23rd  
Dutch Hollow Snowshoe**

Snow and weather conditions permitting. We will snowshoe an intermediate trail beginning in Wasatch Mountain State Park. This outing will provide participants with an opportunity to discuss the environmental issues and user conflicts associated with a multiple use area. Call Gaynell (435-649-8917) for meeting time, place, and other information about the outing.

**MARCH**

**Saturday, March 1  
X-Country Ski on Trail**

Snow and weather conditions permitting. X-Country ski (or snowshoe) Little South Fork Provo River from the Willow Hollow trailhead east of Woodland, Utah. Call Ron (292-4040) for more information.

**Sunday, March 9th  
West Desert Hike**

This late winter outing provides hikers with an opportunity to explore the scenic and rugged expanse of the West Desert. The hike will also include examination of damage caused by inappropriate use of ATVs in desert areas. Meeting place is the Division of Natural Resource Building at 1590 West North Temple at 9:00 a.m. Call Dick (531-7830) for more information about the hike.

**APRIL**

**Saturday, April 5th  
X-Country Hike**

A moderate all day trek up Left Fork Muskrat Canyon in the northern Stansbury Mountains. Mostly on an old trail but expect some off-trail trekking. Part of our hike will be through one of the units proposed for Wilderness in America's Redrock Wilderness Act. Come see a part of the wild and learn how to protect it. Call Ron at 292-4040 for more information.

## *Ogden Group*

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 Mike Morrison, 475-4845, ex46driver@networld.com or check out our website, <http://utah.sierraclub.org/ogden/>. For membership information, contact Suzanne Storer, 479-5035, or write to Ogden Group, Sierra Club, P.O. Box 1821, Ogden, UT, 84402.

Please note that all participants, or their legal guardian, must sign a waiver, recognizing the possibility of injury during an outing. Below are the ratings for difficulty levels & conservation aspects of outings:

- 1-easy
- 2-moderate
- 3-good fitness required
- 4-demanding
- C - Outing has a conservation orientation

## THE UTAH SIERRAN • WINTER 2003

**JANUARY****Saturday, 4**

Ski/snowshoe the Middle & Lower Wheeler Creek Trails, 2. There will be some short, steep descents that are navigable via side stepping, otherwise it'll be a fun, moderate tour. Meet, 9AM. About 4 hours. Leader, Mike Morrison, 475-4845.

**Saturday, 11**

Snowshoe trek from Snow Basin to Pineview Dam, 2. We'll trek over towards the Maples, then follow the Art Nord trail and finish up with Wheeler Canyon. This 3 mile trip should last around 3 hours. Meet 10AM. Leaders, Larry & Chris Woolsey, 731-3701

**Skull Valley Outing**

*by Dick Dougherty, Salt Lake Group Chair*

A small band of Sierrans headed west on 13 October for Skull Valley. Our goals were to check out the proposed nuclear waste dump site on the Goshute reservation and have some fun scrambling around White Rocks.

I must admit we didn't get very close to the dump site. The reservation is very securely fenced and posted with no trespassing signs. So we had to be satisfied with a drive-by view. White Rocks, actually a cluster of light gray rhyolite-porphry buttes offered no access problem. Since a couple of us including myself rated as senior citizens by any standard, we avoided the highest summit. Instead we worked up a crevasse and climbed up a lower knob a bit to the north. We then hiked around the north side of the rocks, stopping for lunch along the way. White Rocks offer a challenge to the Sierra Club on a couple of counts. Rebecca Wallace suggested a weekend outing next spring combining rock climbing and a clean up.

I am not a rock climber, but the idea sounds good. The area around White Rocks is littered with beer cans and bottles and is badly in need of a clean up. Watch your Spring Sierran for details.

**Sunday, 12**

Ski/Snowshoe the Liberty Avon Road, 3, C. After a 1,000' ascent, there's lots of public land to tour. Come see the fence we built to keep ATV's out of Public Grove, and decide whether this area should remain open to snowmobiles. Meet 9AM. Leader, Al Stockland, 479-9597.

**Saturday, 18**

Leader's choice, 2, C. Depending on snow conditions, we'll hike, snowshoe, or ski, either at Snow Basin or elsewhere near Ogden Valley. Regardless of location, this will be an educational trip to observe impacts from recent or proposed developments. If we go to Snow Basin, we'll check out the new trail system and the aftermath of the Olympics. Bring lunch. Meet 09:30. Leader, Jock Glidden, 394-0457.

**Saturday, 25**

Cross-country ski tour at North Fork Park, 2. Another favorite, with many, mostly packed roads to ski. Meet, 9:00AM. Leader, John Besbekos, 985-6854.

**FEBRUARY****Saturday, 1**

Snowshoe the Great Western Trail w/ SLC, 3. (See outing description under Salt Lake Group.)

**Saturday, 8**

Snowshoe Wheatgrass Canyon, 2. This is a beautiful canyon in a proposed wilderness area, with a good chance of seeing wildlife. The contrast between the cliffs, blue sky & green conifers is often striking. 3-4 hrs. Meet, 9:30. Leaders, Larry & Chris Woolsey, 731-3701.

**Wednesday, 12**

Cross-country ski tour in the Ogden area, 2-3. Suzanne will lead us in a weekday tour whose location will depend on local snow conditions. Meet 11am. About 4 hours. Suzanne Storer, 479-5035.

**Saturday, 15**

Sardine Peak ski/snowshoe, 3, C. We'll go from the lower Snowbasin parking lot, through the Maples Campground, to the saddle, then to the peak. Along the way, we'll check out the Olympic aftermath including the drainage features and abysmal design of the bridge over the creek. About 5 hours. Meet 10AM. Leader, Mike Morrison, 475-4845.

**Sunday, 23**

Snowshoe Dutch Hollow w/ SLC, 3. (See outing description under Salt Lake Group.)

**MARCH****Saturday, 1**

Cross-Country Ski the Little South Fork of Provo River w/ SLC, 3. (See outing description under Salt Lake Group.)

**Saturday, 8**

Pineview Reservoir, North to the Skyline Trail, 3. We'll start at the trailhead near the lake's western end and head up and North. Expect a great view of Ogden Valley from the ridge. 3-4 hours. Meet, 9:30. Leaders, Larry & Chris Woolsey, 731-3701.

**Saturday, 15**

Leader's choice ski/snowshoe, 2-3. Mike will try to find a ski/snowshoe outing that he hasn't done before. Meet 10AM. Leader, Mike Morrison, 475-4845.

**Saturday, 22**

Birding Ogden Bay, 2. Wetlands, waterfowl, hopefully, some eagles. Be prepared for mud. Meet 10am. Please call leader Cliff Nowell, 393-8530.

**APRIL****Saturday, 12**

Elephant Head on Antelope Island, 2-3. Get a lovely view of Split Rock Bay. Praised by Dave Thomas & Doug Miller. 3-4 hours. Meet 9:00. Leaders, Larry & Chris Woolsey, 731-3701.



# Kanab Center for Field Studies

by Carolyn Hamblin

Environmental science is a real conundrum in Kanab, Utah, a town well known for hanging Robert Redford in effigy during the environmental battle to save the Kaiparowits Plateau and opposing the establishment of Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument. But studying the environment has been the focus of Kanab Center for Field Studies (KCFS) for the past three years. Founded in 2000 by a group of educators and professional wilderness guides, KCFS has been taking local teachers and students into the wilds that surround Kanab and working to change the connotation of "environment" from a curse word to a something more closely associated with science and discovery.

Participants in KCFS field programs have located dinosaur tracks and bones that were deposited when the ocean lapped the shore that is now the Tropic Shale formation near Lake Powell. Archaeological sites of the Virgin River Anasazi have been mapped and damage done by pot hunting has been assessed in relation to knowledge lost and knowledge

gained at sites left undisturbed. Reintroduced wildlife species, such as pronghorn antelope and desert bighorn sheep, have been studied by tracking them in the field to determine health and transplant success. And everyone who goes into the field with KCFS learns about cryptobiotic soil and its importance to the arid desert environment. Rock walking to avoid this fragile soil crust is our specialty!

This year KCFS is expanding our Summer and Fall field programs to include participants from outside the area. Field studies planned for Summer 2003 include more geology, paleontology, archaeology, wildlife biology, ecology and local history.

For more information, or to register for one of our field programs, please visit our web site at [www.kanabfieldstudies.org](http://www.kanabfieldstudies.org) or contact us at Kanab Center for Field Studies, PO Box 294, Kanab, Utah 84741.

## Tenth Circuit Court Overturns Permits for Legacy Highway

by Marc Heileson, Southwest Region Associate Representative

On September 16th, the Sierra Club won a massive victory in Denver when the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the US Army Corps of Engineers had illegally issued permits for the construction of Governor Leavitt's Legacy Highway. The court stated that the corps of engineers acted "arbitrarily and capriciously" by failing to adequately consider different alternatives, mass transit, and impacts to wildlife from the wetland-destroying freeway.

This is huge win for our efforts to achieve better transportation and development patterns along the Wasatch Front. Now, the state must go back to the drawing board and begin a new supplemental EIS process for the project. However, they must now look at different

mass transit options and especially, consider the order in which they are built.

This is wonderful news because current trends have affirmed the acceptance of transit. With the overwhelming success of TRAX and the transit tax, UDOT can no longer get away with shrugging off transit alternatives to move forward the boss' freeway. Although the state is still attempting to spin away and trivialize their defeat, make no mistake, this decision will make change happen. The Sierra Club is committed to this campaign for better transportation, smart growth, clean air and open space. The state must do it right this time, or they will find themselves in the same predicament as before. Please take a moment to celebrate this humongous victory.

## Calendars Available!

Sierra Club engagement calendars and wall calendars are available for 2003. Beautify your hours with superb wilderness photography. They are available from the Salt Lake Group at the following prices:

**WALL CALENDARS \$11.00**  
**ENGAGEMENT CALENDARS \$12.00**

Profits benefit the programs of the Salt Lake Group. To get your calendars, please call or e-mail Preston Motes at 566-8145 or [skamotes@aol.com](mailto:skamotes@aol.com) or Dick Dougherty at 531-7830 or [genres@sisna.com](mailto:genres@sisna.com).

# The Endless Saga of the Provo Canyon Road

by Mark Clemens, Chapter Co-ordinator



In the late 1970s, the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) began planning to widen Highway 189 through Provo Canyon. They used the pretext of improving road safety to begin building-stealthily-an alternative to I-80 as the main truck route from the east onto the Wasatch Front. The four-lane portion of the highway now reaches to the turn-off to Sundance Resort at Wildwood.

In 1995 UDOT completed an environmental impact statement that recommended rebuilding and widening US 189 from Wildwood to Deer Creek State Park on its current alignment next to the Provo River. But in September 2002, they changed their minds and announced plans to widen and realign this highway through the Canyon Meadows subdivision, located on an old landslide. Geologists tell us the landslide under Canyon Meadows is currently stable but threatened. After destabilizing the slopes below Canyon Meadows, UDOT now plans to place the highway on the stable, but threatened portion of the slide through Canyon Meadows. The weight of construction and the resulting heavy traffic could reactivate the entire slide with catastrophic consequences to homeowners, wildlife, the proposed new highway, and Provo River. Think Thistle Slide.

Canyon Meadows was designed to be a sanctuary for wildlife. Common areas will always remain open with-

out buildings and preserve natural wildlife corridors. Perimeter fences are not allowed. It is home to deer, moose, cougars, and other animals, and provides the winter feeding-ground for a herd of over two hundred elk. Wild turkeys feed and breed here, and Sandhill cranes raise their young on the meadow. The relocated highway slicing through Canyon Meadows would replace this habitat with the noise, disruption and mortal danger to wildlife of pounding traffic.

At considerable taxpayer expense, the Middle Provo River, from Jordanelle Dam to the upper end of Deer Creek Reservoir, has been restored to a nearly-natural condition with inviting streamside vegetation and meanders that mimic a river's natural state. Habitat for birds and fish has been improved, and the newly restored river is once again one of the natural wonders of the West. Most of us are now accustomed to the irony of one branch of government destroying the environment while another tries to restore it. UDOT, untroubled by the irony, is now doing its best to degrade the Lower Provo with the questionable widening of US 189. For more information about the restoration of the Middle Provo, see <http://www.mitigationcommission.gov/pr/prp.html>.

During the 1980s, the Utah Valley Group of Sierra Club was actively involved in fighting the Provo Canyon Road widening. At that time, UDOT was using the same technique of push-

ing an environmentally-destructive road widening on the dubious and still-to-be-proved grounds that it would improve public safety.

UDOT continues to justify the widening of US 189 by insisting on the need to improve the highway's safety. We challenge UDOT to produce the evidence to prove that each mile traveled on the four-lane por-

tion of the highway is safer-by a statistically significant margin-than each mile traveled on the two-lane portion of the highway. Without that evidence, the gigantic expense, the potential geologic hazard and the environmental degradation all demand a stop to the widening of the road. For more information, contact Vic Orvis at [vorvis@accountlan.com](mailto:vorvis@accountlan.com), or visit the Utah Chapter web site at <http://utah.sierraclub.org>.

Please let the following officials know that you oppose the expense and environmental degradation of the widening of US 189.

The Honorable Mike Leavitt  
Office of the Governor  
210 State Capitol  
Salt Lake City UT 84114

(801) 538-1000  
[governor@utah.gov](mailto:governor@utah.gov)

John Njord, Executive Director  
Utah Dep't of Transportation  
4501 South 2700 West  
Sat Lake City UT 84119

(801) 965-4000  
[jnjord@dot.state.ut.us](mailto:jnjord@dot.state.ut.us)

Glen Brown, Chairman  
Transportation Commission  
P.O. Box 253  
Coalville UT 84017

(801) 355-6079  
[gbrown@gov.state.ut.us](mailto:gbrown@gov.state.ut.us)

# Fall Fundraiser Breaks Records

by Nikki Sharp, Fund raising Chair

Our Fall Fundraiser and Social raised a record amount for the Sierra Club Political Committee this year. We couldn't have done it without the generous support of our sponsors, Oasis Café and Uinta Brewing Company, and our donors listed below. The evening was an enjoyable and informal atmosphere to socialize and hear from some of the candidates endorsed by the political committee. We had some of our best auction items ever at this year's event—a fact one can see from the tension in the faces of the guests in the accompanying photo. Thanks are also due to the volunteers, guests and candidates who made this wonderful night possible!



The bidding was intense for many items at the Annual Fundraising Social and Auction

- Alta Lodge
- Beer Nut
- Boulder Mountain Lodge
- Brewvies
- Dog and Cat Clinic of Moab
- Doggy Day Care
- Earth Studio
- Fats Pool & Pub
- The Front
- Gibbs Smith, Publisher
- International Bear Center
- Craig Jenkins, Digital Artist
- Kreiser
- Mekan Custom Made Outdoor Footwear & Repairs
- Mountain Brew
- Myotherapy College of Utah
- No More Homeless Pets in Utah
- Oasis Café
- Park City Mountain Resort
- Patagonia
- The Pub's Desert Edge Brewery
- REI
- Red Cliffs Lodge
- S7
- Salt Lake Pizza & Pasta
- Salt Lake Roasting Company
- Squatter's Pub Brewery
- Sundance
- Super Fly Paragliding Academy
- Tom Till Gallery
- Tower Theatre
- USANA Inc.
- Uinta Brewing Company
- University of Utah Press
- Utah Escapades
- Utah College of Massage Therapy
- Wasatch Touring
- Wild Oats
- Colleen & Bryan Wooten
- Ron Younger



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## Turn inspiration into preservation.

Like Ansel Adams before him, photographer Clyde Butcher turned a spiritual experience with nature into images that not only capture the beauty of America but promote the actions to save it. For millions of people, the Sierra Club turns that same passion for nature into something just as moving—successful protection of our natural treasures. Maybe that's why Ansel Adams was a member for over 50 years. Insure tomorrow is filled with scenes that inspire. Join us. You'll be in good company.

### Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag

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Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32



Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.



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

# ExCom Election Results for 2002

By Claire Gardner, Election Committee Chair



Jean Binyon

Your chapter election committee, comprising Claire Gardner, Wayne Hoskisson and Nikki Sharp, is pleased to announce our new chapter and group executive committee members. The four candidates listed below will serve terms on the chapter executive committee ending on 31 December 2004.

Utah Chapter Executive Committee

Jean Binyon  
Al Herring  
Sarah Lundstrum  
Brad Yates

Jean Binyon has belonged to the Sierra Club for 30 years and served on the Utah Chapter ExCom in several positions during her 25 years in Utah. She was chapter chair, conservation chair and chair of legislative and political committees. Jean has also participated in national Sierra Club workshops. Recently she was vice-chair of the Glen Canyon Group ExCom and is currently treasurer.

Al Herring will be serving his first term on the chapter ExCom, but he's been a Sierra Club member for over 25 years. He's currently Utah Chapter representative for the Hill AFB Restoration Advisory Board,



Brad Yates

Ogden Group newsletter editor, and Deep Creek Mountains WSA adopter. He's got a lot on his plate since he's on the Ogden Group ExCom too.

Sarah Lundstrum has packed a lot of work into her years of volunteer activism including lobbying in Washington DC, being an adopter in the Adopt-A-Wilderness Program and working to defeat the Legacy Highway. As an outings leader for the Sierra Student Coalition (SSC) she was involved with the first Utah Activist Field Training for students. Sarah has held national SSC leadership roles as Utah State Coordinator, Southwest Regional Coordinator and a leader for the SSC Outings Subcommittee.

When we talk about Brad Yates, we try not to use the word fixture, to avoid taking him for granted. But Brad is a fixture of the Utah environmental movement. He's a Utah native who has volunteered extensively with environmental groups including the Wasatch Mountain Club for which he was president in 1999-2000 and conservation director in 1996-97. He has served on the Utah Wilderness Coalition Executive Committee for six years and several



Sarah Lundstrum

years on the Sierra Club Political Committee.

The three candidates listed below will serve two-year terms on the Ogden Group Executive Committee ending on 31 December 2004.

Ogden Group  
Al Herring  
Susan Matt  
Dan Schroeder

The three candidates listed below will serve two-year terms on the Salt Lake Group Executive Committee ending on 31 December 2004.

Salt Lake Group  
Kurt Alloway  
Dick Dougherty  
Preston Motes

Seventy-four ballots were submitted, of which five were invalid for lack of membership numbers, and one was invalid because it was sent after the postmark deadline. The ballots will be retained on file in the chapter office. If you have any questions about the election or the ballots, please send a message via e-mail to [mark.clemens@sierraclub.org](mailto:mark.clemens@sierraclub.org). The Glen Canyon Group distributed its election ballot via US Mail and will announce its results separately. 🌍

# Measuring the November Outcome

By Claire Gardner, Election Committee Chair



Senator Patrice Arent

Sierra Club members had some good election news this past November. To begin at the national level, our endorsed candidate in Utah's 2nd Congressional District, Jim Matheson, won in a very close contest in a newly-redistricted and gerrymandered area of the state. The new district includes only a small part of the former 2nd District and all of southern Utah and reaches into the east central and south-east part of the state. The 2nd District retained a portion of Salt Lake City and County where Matheson received around 60% of the vote. This offset some areas, like St. George, where the vote went heavily toward the Republican opponent.

The Matheson campaign strategy in the new district called for a different, less obvious and less vocal role for the Sierra Club Political Committee. We were more behind the scenes. Matheson's support for environmental issues was no less and no more than in the past. Jim Matheson stands with us on numerous environmental issues, but to be elected in Utah requires more conservative approaches on some issues. The political committee focused on



Senator Ed Mayne

Matheson's incumbency, credibility, viability, his relative strength, and his chance of winning. There were unknowns in the new district with a new demographic makeup. The Sierra Club enjoys a very good working relationship with our congressman. Although we occasionally disagree on the environmental positions he takes, we are usually included in his discussions and decisions of issues. Throughout the campaign the focus was on the big picture—increasing or maintaining a strong environmental voice in the US House of Representatives.

In Utah's 3rd Congressional District, Nancy Jane Woodside fought the good fight against the incumbent but did not take home the prize. The club endorsed Woodside following the national club guidelines for endorsement of a candidate who has little chance of winning but has the support and enthusiasm of members in the area and who might build long-range public support for our issues in the future. Woodside campaigned upon and maintained positions favorable to Sierra Club positions on issues like nuclear waste transport and storage, wilderness and forest protection, smart growth,



Jackie Biskupski

and clean air and water.

## LEGISLATIVE RACES

In the Utah House, the Sierra Club endorsed eighteen candidates during this election. Half of those candidates were successful. Ralph Becker, David Litvak, Jackie Biskupski, Ty McCartney, Judy Ann Buffmire, Scott Daniels, Roz McGee, and Carol Spackman Moss won handily over their opponents in Salt Lake County. Jim Bramble, Jackie Lassen, Mike Olsen, and Tim Cosgrove ran strong races in the county but, unfortunately, did not win. Neil Hansen was successful in the Ogden area. Dennis Austin, Gibbs Smith, George Hall, Rob Weyher, and Phil Bimstein made unsuccessful bids for seats in other areas of the state.

In the Utah Senate, the margin of victory was significantly higher. Five of the seven endorsed candidates racked up significant wins. The most highly publicized race was in Senate District #4 where Representative Patrice Arent—redistricted out of her former house seat—chose to run in the Senate race to represent her same constituents, and chalked up another decisive win. Impressive

## THE UTAH SIERRAN • WINTER 2003

wins by Ron Allen, Gene Davis, Paula Julander, and Ed Mayne were very important to Utah's environment. Bennion Spencer and Nisa Sisneros ran effective Senate campaigns but did not emerge victorious.

**SALT LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
Sierra Club previously-endorsed incumbents Joe Hatch and Randy Horiuchi scored wins in District 1 and At-Large A. Newcomer Manuel Romero, a remarkably strong environmental candidate, put up a good fight in District 3 while increasing voter enthusiasm and education on our issues.

**WIN A FEW... LOSE A FEW...  
BUT KEEP VOTING**

It is appropriate to say thank you to all of the endorsed candidates running for office during this past election cycle. Sierra Club members appreciate the time and energy and commitment it takes to run an effective campaign to represent us and the environment in the democratic electoral process. As in all elections,

voter turnout really made the difference in all races. There were several extremely close races where the difference of 20 to 200 votes would have changed the political make up of the Utah legislature. We must help to improve electoral participation and year-round support and discussion with the elected officials. The activities of the Sierra Club Political Committee and the many Sierra Club members who were out there working in campaigns and educating their friends and neighbors do not go unnoticed by the candidates—both winners and losers and by the general public. We were able to contribute somewhere between \$5,000 and \$7,500 in actual campaign donations. The money is appreciated, but the strength is really in the volunteers who donate their own time and money to assist candidates of their choice. Sierra Club members do make a difference.

**SOME COMMENTS FROM  
ENDORSED CANDIDATES:**

"I wanted to express my sincere appreciation for your financial support

and endorsement. Though we fell short of a victory we still won. I made great friends and equally important, we make new people aware of how important our environment is. Thank you so much." Manuel Romero

"I am honored to be endorsed by the Sierra Club." Senator-elect Patrice Arent, "I greatly appreciated your informed participation in the legislative process." Representative-elect Roz McGee

## Have E-mail—Can Lobby

*by Jean Binyon,  
incoming member, Utah Chapter  
Executive Committee*

One can never be sure just what the Utah Legislature will actually do when they convene. This year radioactive waste regulation and taxes, energy and wildlife issues will likely come before them. The Sierra Club will hope once again to put its thumb in the dike on some of these issues; however, we have the chance to make real progress on a few fronts. You can help us influence your legislator as part of our citizen-lobbyist team. If you're interested in working for positive environmental change through the Utah Legislature, call Mark at (801) 467-9294 or register your volunteer interests on our web site, <http://utah.sierraclub.org/questionaire.asp>.

The 2003 General Session will run from January 20, to March 5, 2003. Our legislative committee will co-ordinate our effort to influence legislation with other environmental groups, determine our legislative priorities, and work with other volunteers to call and e-mail their legislators. Residents of Salt Lake County can find out who their state representative and senator are by logging on to the county clerk's web site, <http://www.co.slc.ut.us/cl/cfml/election.cfm?reqType=2>. We also have a pointer to this web site on the chapter web site, <http://utah.sierraclub.org>. Anyone living outside of Salt Lake County may call Mark at (801) 467-9294. We will also try to keep a current list of high priority bills, the chapter's position on them and sample e-mail messages to send your legislators on the chapter's web site throughout the legislative session.

# 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 back yard. 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.

**Thank you.**

# When it Comes to Excavating, Salt Lake County Decision-making is the Pits

by Ann Wechsler, Conservation Chair, Salt Lake Group

An unsightly gravel pit, about 11 acres in size, sits at the lower end of Parley's Canyon, a major gateway to Salt Lake City. What drivers on I-80 may not have noticed in the past will certainly be more prominent in the future if Harper Contracting Inc. obtains a conditional use permit to expand Parley's Canyon Rock Quarry to 62.2 acres.

Harper obtained a conditional use permit to expand the quarry. In fact, the county was so accommodating to Harper that it violated its own ordinances. Although Save Our Canyons (SOC) pointed that out to the Salt Lake Board of Adjustment and Planning Commission, it took two years of administrative protests and finally a lawsuit, to arrest this development. The Sierra Club, and one other excavating company on the west side, protested the first expansion back in 1992, but that conditional use permit was never

formally appealed. Last summer, Judge Sandra Peuler of the Third District Court ruled in favor of Save Our Canyons, declaring, "the Planning Commission failed to follow the requirements of the county ordinances relative to approving or denying conditional use permits" (Case No: 010906284 MI). This effectively granted SOC's (the plaintiff) motion for Summary Judgment and shut down the quarry expansion. Harper would then be expected to initiate the public process of filing another permit application, but County Mayor Nancy Workman has intervened.

Contrary to the County District Attorney's advice, Workman has decided to appeal the court's decision. Nancy Workman has an agenda. Prior to her political life, she ran a contracting business; she has also made public statements recently that indicate her business leanings. In recent radio com-

mentary, she said that government needs to get out of the way of business or do everything it can to support business activities.

Parleys Canyon, as a gateway to Salt Lake City, may go the way of our other city approaches—the excavation south of Davis County, and the Point of the Mountain—both massive ugly cuts in what were once beautiful mountain slopes and Lake Bonneville shoreline. In addition, huge trucks spewing sand and gravel will spill onto this increasingly congested major highway. Safety and aesthetic concerns aside, deteriorating air quality in Parley's Canyon should be a major concern of our politicians.

Do we, as citizens, deserve the kind of decision-making we are getting from Salt Lake County, with Nancy Workman at the helm? I think not. It's the pits.

## Public Lands Bombs Turn Out To Be Duds

By Lawson LeGate, Senior Southwest Regional Representative

Members of Utah's Congressional delegation introduced legislation that was at odds with the protection of America's wildlands. Fortunately, most attempts failed. Three of the most notable bad Utah bills are profiled below:

### DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION LEGISLATION

Utah Congressman and U.S. House Resources Committee Chair James V. Hansen added a dangerous provision to the Defense Authorization bill that would have weakened wilderness protection for lands in Utah's West Desert. Mr. Hansen surprised and angered many members of the House Armed Services Committee by bringing up Title XIV in committee without any hearing. He told the public that his goal was to designate wilderness in order to block the path of a railroad that would serve the proposed above-ground nuclear waste facility on the Goshute Reservation in Skull Valley. But Mr. Hansen overreached, loading Title XIV with several unprecedented wilderness-weakening provisions. In the end, a House-Senate conference committee rejected Title XIV.

### SHOSHONE ATV TRAIL

Mr. Hansen also attempted to pass legislation that would have

established a network of motorized vehicle trails on national forest land in northern Utah. Dubbed the James V. Hansen Shoshone National Trail, the bill would have permitted trails in national forest roadless areas and would have declared motorized use the dominant use of the trail system. The bill died in the U.S. Senate.

### SAN RAFAEL SWELL LAND TRADE

This bill would have traded state school trust lands in the San Rafael Swell for federal land in the Swell and in the Book Cliffs. While the idea of removing the threat of state land development within proposed wilderness is a good one, this particular trade had some serious problems. First, the state sought to acquire sensitive wildlife habitat in the Book Cliffs as well as a portion of the proposed Molen Reef Wilderness unit in the Swell. In addition, the legislation was widely criticized—even by BLM officials—for grossly overvaluing the state land to the tune of a hundred million dollars. This bill passed the House but died in the Senate.

That none of these bills became law is a cause for celebration.

# Utah Chapter Sierra Club

## Executive Committee Members or Officers 2003

Name	Office	E-mail address	Phone #
Jean Binyon		<a href="mailto:binyon@sisna.com">binyon@sisna.com</a>	(435) 259-1633
Patrick Diehl*		<a href="mailto:toripat@scinternet.net">toripat@scinternet.net</a>	(435) 826-4778
Dick Dougherty	outings chair	<a href="mailto:genres@sisna.com">genres@sisna.com</a>	(801) 531-7830
Claire Gardner	political committee co-chair	<a href="mailto:ClaireGar@msn.com">ClaireGar@msn.com</a>	(801) 583-1650
Al Herring		<a href="mailto:al.mary.herring@worldnet.att.net">al.mary.herring@worldnet.att.net</a>	(801) 444-9574
Wayne Hoskisson	public lands chair	<a href="mailto:mailto:wayne@moci.net">mailto:wayne@moci.net</a>	(435) 259-0328
Cindy King		<a href="mailto:cynthia_king_84109@yahoo.com">cynthia_king_84109@yahoo.com</a>	(801) 486-9848
Sarah Lundstrum		<a href="mailto:wildfrogs@hotmail.com">wildfrogs@hotmail.com</a>	
Dan Schroeder*	sec'y/treasurer	<a href="mailto:dschroeder@weber.edu">dschroeder@weber.edu</a>	(801) 393-4603
Nikki Sharp	fundraising chair	<a href="mailto:nikki@utahpets.org">nikki@utahpets.org</a>	(801) 296-6316
Teri Underwood	membership chair	<a href="mailto:teriunderwood@earthlink.net">teriunderwood@earthlink.net</a>	(435) 940-1161
Kevin Walker	conservation chair	<a href="mailto:kwalker@xmission.com">kwalker@xmission.com</a>	(435) 259-7540
Ann Wechsler*		<a href="mailto:awechsler@saff.utah.edu">awechsler@saff.utah.edu</a>	(801) 583-2090
Ivan Weber	chair	<a href="mailto:phyto@utah-inter.net">phyto@utah-inter.net</a>	(801) 355-6863
Brad Yates	political committee co-chair	<a href="mailto:bnyslc@earthlink.net">bnyslc@earthlink.net</a>	(801) 521-4185

\*group delegates

### Utah Chapter Sierra Club

2120 South 1300 East Ste. 204  
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